



The Wadden coast awakens!



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Man and
the Biosphere
Programme



Sustainable
Development
Goals

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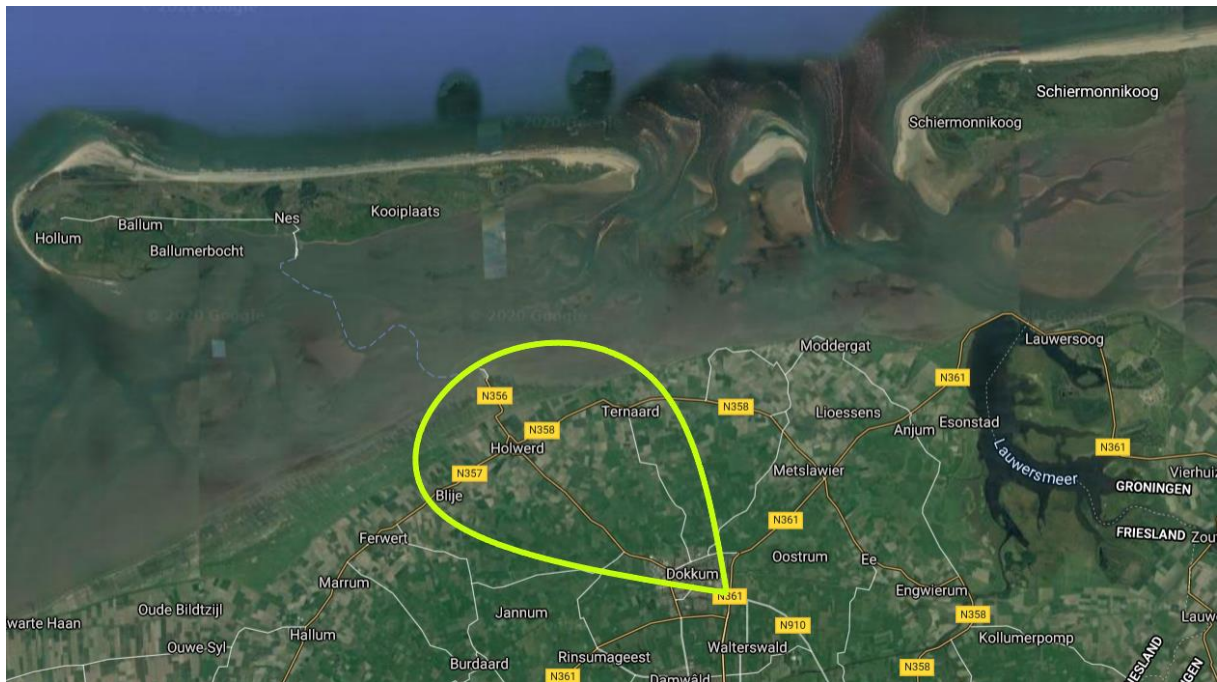
Unesco Man & Biosphere symposium

Online, February 5th 2021

Introduction

Candidate Unesco Biosphere Area

The area of Blije, Holwerd, Ternaard up to and including Dokkum, plus the seven terp villages Hantum, Hiaure, Aalsum, Waaxens, Brantgum, Foudgum, Bornwird, Raard, is currently exploring the candidacy for the special Unesco 'Biosphere status' for this part of the Wadden Sea coast. This is one of the reasons to organize a symposium on the Unesco 'Man & Biosphere Programme' on February 5, 2021, together with the Dutch Unesco Commission.



The Wadden coast as a destination: recognizable, findable and bookable!

The Wadden coast as a tourist destination, that is the purpose of the 'scale jump' of Holwerd aan Zee. The spin-off. This requires that the area becomes recognizable, findable, experienceable and bookable. The Unesco Biosphere status is an important carrier for this. The nomination is not an end in itself; it is a means to work together on the identity and positioning of the area along that wide stretch of the Wadden Sea coast. The cooperation process is therefore just as important as the result.

Unesco as a strong brand

The starting point is that everyone benefits from the Unesco status. Immediately from the moment of candidacy. The label is a nice bonus and a strong brand that not only attracts national but also international attention. Germans, for example, are very keen to visit these Biosphere areas. In that sense the Unesco status is part of the development of the area as a tourist destination. A top destination!

Not for the mass, but for the sustainable quality tourist

The idea is that more 'sustainable quality tourists' will see our area as a travel destination. The quality tourist is the tourist who, with respect for nature and our identity, comes to enjoy the cultural history, the characteristic agricultural open landscape, the mounds, the salt marshes, the views and a day trip to Ameland, Dokkum or the Lauwersmeer area. To name one or two. And of course, this quality tourist also comes for the hospitality, friendliness and openness of the locals. By matching supply and demand as well as possible, we can prevent the area from being overrun by mass tourism.

No restrictions and no extra rules!

The 'Biosphere status' does not impose any additional restrictions, rules or supervision. This also applies to the agricultural sector, which is so important for the identity of the area. Unesco 'Biosphere areas' are areas where people work together to achieve sustainable socio-economic development in balance with nature. More info via:

<https://www.unesco.nl/nl/dossier/unesco-biosfeergebieden>

Worldwide network

There are currently 714 Biosphere Areas in 129 countries. The Netherlands has only one Biosphere area (Maasheggen) and one candidate Biosphere area on the border with Belgium (Kempen-Broek). The Wadden Sea was at first also a Biosphere area, but lost this status in 2018, partly because the nature reserve is not inhabited by humans.

Difference with the World Heritage Wadden Sea

A Unesco Biosphere area is very different from a Unesco 'World Heritage'. The difference with, for example, the Wadden Sea World Heritage site is that the World Heritage site is about 'protecting, showing and preserving' (pure nature), while in a Biosphere area the focus is more on sustainable development and cooperation between man (Man) and the environment (Biosphere).

The Unesco Biosphere status as an important carrier, but there are more!

In addition to the Unesco status, the area has several carriers that are important for the identity and positioning of the area. Carriers and projects, which are also interesting in the context of Unesco's objectives and the 'Sustainable Development Goals' of the United Nations. We are currently working hard on a number of these carriers. And that is much more than just Holwerd aan Zee.

Carriers and subprojects that are already being worked on, are the following.

- The current cooperation between 11 villages and Dokkum, innovative entrepreneurs, schools, nature parties and the agricultural sector in a cultural-historical and ecologically valuable area.
- Dokkum, 'Fortified City of the Wadden Sea'. The Stronghold of the Wad with a unique city centre, (national) monuments, special retail, beer breweries, a wide range of catering, mills on the imposing strongholds, etc.
- The upgrading of the Holwerter Feart to a recreational connection between Holwerd aan Zee and the hinterland. Incl. the renewal of six bridges and the construction of a sluice gate. With an ecological plus, and recreational docking opportunities for the villages in the neighbourhood.
- The transformation of the pier near Holwerd into the Green Carpet of the Wadden Sea. This is a make-over of the ferry dam into a tourist recreational area and the perfect place to experience the dynamics of the Wadden Sea.
- A future-proof Agricultural Agenda. Together with the farmers, Fjildlab, Waadrâne and schools we are building an area in which there is room for a strong agricultural sector. The nature parties are also seated at the table.

- A Nature Agenda for the area. Together with the large nature organizations in the Netherlands we are working on strengthening nature through development. High priorities are the transitions of the Holwerter Feart and the make-over of the pier. The agricultural sector is also at the table.
- Economic Development Agenda. In collaboration with Dokkumer and Amelander entrepreneurs. With the goal to make the area experienceable and bookable.
- Projects in which farmer and nature work together: 'Holwerd, fascinating and flourishing' for the connection within the dykes - outside the dykes and 'Boeren Meten Water' to map the salinization in both areas.
- Living Lab for the development of the Wadden coast, with again in 2020 about 50 students working on the area (including opportunities for a clay ripening plant, the MAB status, Identity and positioning, Arrangement for the Dokkum - Ameland region, Dark Sky opportunities, Architecture tourism, the transformation of the business park and the pier near Holwerd/ Ameland, salt marsh expansion with CO2 storage, make-over of 't Skoar etc.).

Currently, together with the area, we are looking at how successful projects in the villages can be scaled up to other villages. Such as the sustainability project Eltsenien Grien, the fruit trees of Blije, the food forest or for example the sloop routes of Raard, Hantum and Ternaard.

Testing ground

Because of the area-based integral approach and the co-creative way of working, the area is seen by various parties as a potential testing ground for, for example, the new Environment Act, the Dutch Top Sector Water and Maritime, the Top Sector Food & Agri, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Center on Adaptation. In a living lab where the area (bottom-up) is working for the future of the Wadden coast of Noardeast-Fryslân, together with governments (top-down) and the external expertise of interest groups, integrally and in balance with the environment.

On behalf of the Dutch Unesco Commission and the area,

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Unesco
Nederlandse Commissie

MY BIOSPHERE, MY FUTURE

