



Examples of geodiversity – biodiversity interactions in the concise guide Inspiration Treasure House Earth, a tool for spatial planning with geodiversity and geoheritage at community level

Hanneke van den Ancker (1), Pieter Dirk Jungerius (1), Evert van der Graaff (1), Arthur de Groof (3), and Gerard Doornbos (4)

(1) Geoheritage, Netherlands (info@geoheritage.nl), (2) KNGMG, The Hague, Netherlands, (3) SIKB, Gouda, Netherlands, (4) Grontmij, Houten, Netherlands

SIKB is a Dutch network organisation, set up to guarantee a minimum quality of soil management. The network encompasses both the private and the public sector. Their activities include the development of decision-making procedures and rendering of services for soil remediation and soil handling, i.a. through standardisation and certification. Each year SIKB produces concise hand-outs to assist and improve soil management.

In 2000 the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture then responsible for earth heritage management, commissioned the Stichting Geomorfologie & Landschap to find out how geoheritage and geodiversity were cared for at the community level. The conclusion was that concern for geomorphology, geology, soil and their importance for landscape management and spatial planning was minimal in most Dutch communities. They were only mentioned in the descriptive paragraphs of the local community plan, often very short and using complex terminology not to be understood by any community member. Only in few communities it had resulted in geoheritage protection or attention for preserving the geodiversity of the area.

Therefore, in 2007, SIKB and Geoheritage NL produced a hand-out to improve attention for geoheritage and geodiversity at the level of the local community. They produced a concise guide to get geoheritage and geodiversity within the different levels of the spatial plan of the local communities, then called bestemmingsplan now named structuurplan. This hand-out was a success: it had four re-prints and people are still interested in receiving a copy, although it is out of print. Yet, those working with it explained in a special meeting to evaluate the hand-out that it was too thorough a product to inspire decision makers and their colleagues in the local community. Apart from this, SIKB preferred not to make a reprint, but to come with a new product to revive attention. In 2013 we started to develop a hand-out which focusses on examples clarifying why attention for geoheritage and geodiversity helps in finding more sustainable solutions, in maintaining landscape quality and history and improving the health of the local population. They are also meant to inspire policy and decision makers of local communities, and to make them think how to apply these best practices in their community. The set-up and format of the hand-out are explained and examples of how to maintain geodiversity for purposes of biodiversity are shown.