

**De Boschplaat Nature Reserve
(Terschelling Island, Netherlands)
&
Teide National Park
(Canary Islands, Spain)**

On-the spot visits from 1 to 5 July 2018 (De Boschplaat) and from 28 to 31 August 2018 (Teide)

SIMILARITIES

1. Both EDPAs form a large proportion of the island on which they are located:

(De Boschplaat NR on the island of Terschelling
and Teide NP on the island of Tenerife)

2. Both are undergoing long-term processes, involving extensive public consultation, so as to revise their management plans (more about this later).

DIFFERENCES

1. Altitude

- Most of De Boschplaat Nature Reserve is less than 10m above sea level, and the maximum elevation is about 30m on top of the tallest dune.
- Most of Teide National Park is above 2000m, with the maximum on Pico del Teide at 3718m, and a small amount of the area dropping to 1650m.

DIFFERENCES

2. Number of visitors per year

1. In a densely populated country like The Netherlands, De Boschplaat Nature Reserve is visited by relatively few people (not more than a few tens of thousands during a year) – it is the closest approach to what might be thought of as a ‘wilderness area’ in The Netherlands.
2. Teide National Park is Spain’s most visited national park, with an estimated 4.3 million visitors in 2017.

De Boschplaat Nature Reserve

CRITERION 1

EUROPEAN INTEREST

- c. 4000 ha of sand dunes, dune grassland, saltmarsh and inter-tidal habitats.
- Continuous natural processes of accretion and erosion.
- I judge that it is probably gaining in European interest.

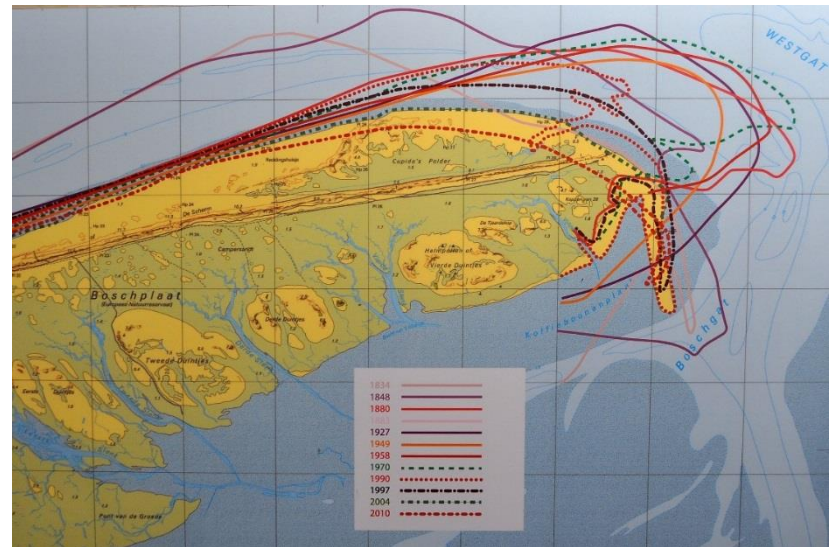


De Boschplaat Nature Reserve

CRITERION 2

EXEMPLARY MANAGEMENT

- Management of naturally occurring processes of erosion and accretion.
- Support for Wadden Sea World Heritage Area.
- Good grazing management in De Groede.
- Public consultation on the 'new vision' and hence revised management plan.



De Boschplaat Nature Reserve



ASSESSMENT OF THE PREVIOUS 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Numbers 1 to 3: satisfactory, especially progress towards a new vision.
- Number 4: largely outwith the control of the Nature Reserve or Staatsbosbeheer.
- Number 5: no action, but there are benefits to the *status quo*.
- **Current management question: intervention or no intervention?**

De Boschplaat Nature Reserve

Suggested recommendations if EDPA is renewed



1. Communicate the final version of the 'Vision for De Boschplaat' to the Council of Europe, together with information about the revised management plan for the EDPA and Natura 2000 area, by December 2022.

De Boschplaat Nature Reserve

2. Review annually the grazing in De Groede, and adjust intensity and boundaries as necessary so as to retain the biodiversity value of this section of De Boschplaat Nature Reserve.



De Boschplaat Nature Reserve

3. Assess the requirements for additional financial resources to undertake targeted and time-limited research, monitoring and educational activities.



De Boschplaat Nature Reserve



4. Devise a strategy for the management and control (or eradication) of invasive alien species on De Boschplaat, to be included in the future management plan.

(note: by December 2022).

De Boschplaat Nature Reserve

- 5. Maintain liaison with all agencies involved in marine accident prevention and, if an incident does occur, with agencies involved in the amelioration of the effects of the incident on De Boschplaat.
- 6. Review the information available to both Dutch and international visitors, stressing and demonstrating the conservation and heritage importance of De Boschplaat.

(Note: importance of liaison and co-ordination, and the role of volunteers in the 2018 incident)

(Note: this would best be within the context of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Area)

DE BOSCHPLAAT NATURE RESERVE

Conclusion

- De Boschplaat Nature Reserve has been an EDPA since 1970.
- This is the 8th on-the-spot visit.
- Subsequent to previous visits, no conditions have been made due to favourable comments about European importance, conservation and management.

I therefore recommend that the EDPA be renewed for 10 years, and that 6 recommendations are attached to the renewal.



TEIDE NATIONAL PARK

CRITERION 1

EUROPEAN INTEREST

- Earth science features.
- Astronomical research.
- Botanical interest (16% endemism).
- Zoological interest (considerable endemism).
- Archaeological and cultural interest.



TEIDE NATIONAL PARK

CRITERION 2

EXEMPLARY MANAGEMENT

- Clear aims for the National Park.
- The management plan (PRUG) dating from 2002 has been the guiding document (but probably over-ambitious).
- Paths & centres for visitors.
- Research on endangered endemic species.
- Control of invasive alien species.
- Broadly based consultation on revised PRUG.



TEIDE NATIONAL PARK



ASSESSMENT OF THE PREVIOUS 8 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Number 1: restoration of area in progress.
- Number 2: being effectively implemented.
- Numbers 3 & 4: work in progress.
- Numbers 5 & 6: implemented.
- Numbers 7 & 8: implemented to a degree, but public use plan still required.

TEIDE NATIONAL PARK

Suggested recommendations if the EDPA is renewed



1. Undertake further research on the ecology and genetics of endangered and vulnerable species of the National Park's fauna and flora so as to assist in their conservation in a rapidly changing climate.

TEIDE NATIONAL PARK

2. Establish (and annually update) a register of all non-native species which occur within the National Park, and either continue, enhance or commence control measures so as to ensure that these non-native species have a minimal effect on the Park's native flora and fauna.



Question: use of lead shot?

TEIDE NATIONAL PARK

3. Prepare and implement an action plan for beekeeping, within the National Park, which aims to reduce the impact of honey bees on both the native flora and the native species of pollinators; and undertake research on the guild of native pollinators to determine its species composition and conservation status (endemic to the Canary Islands, endemic to Tenerife, native, and whether endangered or vulnerable) of the component species.



TEIDE NATIONAL PARK



4. Maintain and expand (as appropriate) the targeted programmes of monitoring the climate and both the biological and geological resources of the National Park.

TEIDE NATIONAL PARK

5. Identify actions in the PRUG which have either not been undertaken or have not been completed and include them (as appropriate) in the new PRUG.

6. Ensure that the new PRUG contains appropriate management indicators and targets and supports the European Diploma for Protected Areas; management must inform the Council of Europe when the new PRUG has been completed and formally adopted by the Canary Islands Government.

TEIDE NATIONAL PARK

7. Demolish all buildings (and other non-natural structures) in the National Park which are no longer in use; and restore these areas and their surrounds to as natural a condition as is possible.



TEIDE NATIONAL PARK



8. Prepare and begin to implement guidelines for public use and mobility within the National Park within one year of the new PRUG being adopted.

TEIDE NATIONAL PARK

Conclusion

- Teide National Park has been an EDPA since 1989
- The EDPA has been renewed in 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2009.
- No conditions have been attached to the award or renewals, but on each occasion several recommendations have been made.

I therefore recommend that the EDPA be renewed for 10 years, and that 8 recommendations are attached to the renewal.

