

Insight – Overview – Outlook

Update Management World Heritage Kinderdijk-Elshout
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1 Preface

Motivation

Kinderdijk-Elshout was placed on the World Heritage list in 1997. The World Heritage committee has required a management plan since 2005. In 2015 a management plan for Kinderdijk-Elshout was drawn up. The goal of the management plan is to show how the preservation of the universal value of the site and regulated and reinforced. The plan makes statements about management, execution programs, monitoring, resources and the division of roles and responsibilities of the involved parties. The current management plan has a time horizon of 10 years and continues until 1 January 2026.

Although the Management Plan is a dynamic document that is reviewed every ten years, the Civil Service for the Cultural World Heritage and the Dutch World Heritage Organization decided during the Capacity Building for UNESCO knowledge exchange meeting in 2019 that an update of the plan would occur every six years. Therefore the site operator, Kinderdijk World Heritage Foundation, was given the assignment of updating the management plan which was drawn up in 2015. In August 2019 The Key Points for Updating the Management Plan for UNESCO World Heritage was drawn up. In this instructional manual components will be discussed so that this update can be executed.

Task

Certain elements of the current management plan have become outdated. Since its conception there have been various developments that have taken place at Kinderdijk, such as a new Visitors Centre, an elaborate management plan and the introduction of the Area Perspective 2030. Other elements of the management plan still apply. A starting point of this update is that there is already a working plan. This plan is an update of the current management plan. The update consists of, among other ideas, the execution program which will be elaborated upon in the coming years. The established Area Perspective 2030 and the Execution Program 2020-2025 form the basis for the mandatory management plan for UNESCO status. Aside from the positive developments that Kinderdijk has undergone over the past several years, Kinderdijk has also been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020. Certain elements of Kinderdijk were closed to paid visitors due to the pandemic.

Purpose of this plan

The purpose of this update is to strengthen the current management plan with the newest insights so that the values, authenticity and integrity of the World Heritage site will be

preserved for the future. A management plan is a site specific working document for the site operator where the relevant information and actions regarding the preservation and management of the World Heritage site are short and powerfully included. Therefore it is important that the plan be updated but also appealing and workable. For these reasons this plan includes a retrospect, the current situation and a preview specifically looking at the terms: insight, overview and outlook.

Guide

The plan is written with the three principles insight, overview and outlook in mind. All eight components will be discussed from the The Key Points for Updating the Management Plan for UNESCO World Heritage by C. Westrik (2019). The plan begins with component 1 which gives an overview of Kinderdijk as a World Heritage site. To keep and protect the World Heritage site, in other words, to manage the World Heritage site, chapter three will discuss components 2-8 which will give insight into the current situation and the developments that have taken place over the last several years. Completed projects from the current management plan are included in the attachment. Current actions from the Area Perspective 2030 will be discussed in the last chapter where an view will be given with a look at the future and an overview of the ongoing projects.

2 Overview: Kinderdijk as a World Heritage Site

Component 1: Practical and Specific

The windmill complex of Kinderdijk-Elshout was named as part of the World Heritage List in 1997. The mill complex is a group of buildings in an outstanding natural area of beauty, made by man, to keep the surrounding area dry and protect the area from flooding. The century long fight with water is clear to see in this spectacular landscape. This is due to the important elemental systems that have been built to keep up the fight. The construction of hydraulic systems that began in the middle ages still continue to this day. These systems are meant to drain the surrounding land for agricultural purposes and to be able to inhabit. One can see all of the typical elements that are connected to these technologies such as high and low polders, drainage canals, dikes and quays, 19 windmills, 3 pumping stations, 2 locks and 2 water authority buildings. The beautifully kept windmills are divided into 3 types: 8 round brick ground sail mills, 10 octagonal thatched mills and 1 hollow post mill (de Blokker). The facilities within the grounds of Kinderdijk uniquely demonstrate the extraordinary contribution the Dutch have made to the technology of water management. The landscape catches the eye through the interplay of the horizontal elements represented by canals, dikes, reed and meadows and the vertical rhythm of the windmill system. Nowhere in The Netherlands or in the surrounding region is there a comparable water management system of this kind and this is the reason that Kinderdijk is a World Heritage site.

(Retrospective) Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

World Heritage site status requires a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) which keeps the sites values. These exception, universal values of the World Heritage are written in the (Retrospective) Statement of Outstanding Universal Value ((R)SOUV). These values are the basis of the registration of site to the UNESCO World Heritage Register and form the frame of the Management plan. The World Heritage Committee registered the windmill complex on the basis of 3 of the 8 cultural criteria:

Criteria (i): The Kinderdijk-Elshout windmill network is an extraordinary man-made landscape. In the last millennium, Kinderdijk has intertwined human ingenuity and steadfastness by developing and applying a hydraulic system that drains and protects this area.

Criteria (ii): The Kinderdijk-Elshout windmill network has a historic high and low polder area with natural drainage through waterways, mills, mill construction, pumping stations, drainage and water management buildings. This system is a unique example of Dutch technological development of water drainage which has been copied and applied to many places around the world.

Criteria (iv): The Kinderdijk-Elshout windmill network is an extremely, ingenious hydraulic system that functions to this day. This system has made it possible for people through the centuries to inhabit the area and to cultivate much of the peat landscape. It is the only example of this scale both nationally and internationally. For this reason it is a unique and special example of both an architectural ensemble and cultural landscape. Kinderdijk illustrates a typical Dutch prototype as well as a significant stage in human history. The committee determined that this site was an exceptional man-made landscape. This landscape is a powerful mark of human ingenuity and steadfastness in water drainage, management and protection helped by hydraulic engineering techniques which has continued for nearly 1000 years.

In 2014 the ((R)SOUV) of the Kinderdijk-Elshout World Heritage Site was submitted to the World Heritage site committee. The ((R)SOUV) of the last management plan was not formally submitted to the committee. It was submitted in 2016.

Core Qualities and Attributes

To get a better grip on the area, the abstract concepts out of the ((R)SOUV) have been instantiated in core qualities. The core qualities have been expressed as so-called attributes. These are the structure, elements and visual aspects where the universal values of the site are represented. The map on the right page shows the different objects (attributes) that are named in the ((R)SOUV). The ((R)SOUV) attributes fall under the limits of the protected rural area and the largest sector of the attributes are included in the description of the protected rural area. Many of the objects from the ((R)SOUV) also have a protected monument status. Essentially, Kinderdijk has 3 core qualities: the ingenious hydraulic system, the rhythm of the 18th century windmills and the typical man-made Dutch landscape.

Protection, Actions and Future Perspectives

In the management plan the OUV is protected and enforced through monitoring and preparedness of core issues and projects. The core issues and projects from the 2015 Management plan are a helping tool to ensure the conservation of the OUV. Many of these projects have been completed or are being implemented. There are also new projects being formulated which have come from the Area Perspective 2030 and the Execution Program 2020-2025. This will be discussed further in chapter 3.

Kinderdijk World Heritage Foundation (SWEK), Molenlanden municipality, Alblasserdam municipality, the province, water management authority and the kingdom have collectively established the ambition for the following: “Kinderdijk UNESCO World Heritage site will be the first landmark in the world to show how the development of a tourist hotspot goes hand in hand with the improvement of the quality of life, preserving the appearance, authenticity, tranquillity, space and reinforcing nature.” In order to accomplish this, there

must be collaboration between management, employees, volunteers and governmental parties. Everyone has different positions, different roles and different possibilities, but together SWEK has one common goal: safeguarding and propagating the World Heritage site.

Not only are the core qualities and attributes as written above protected, but the surrounding area is also examined. Even though Kinderdijk does not have a buffer zone in World Heritage site terminology, the wider setting and possible sight lines are protected. This is accomplished through the execution of Heritage Impact Assessments by new developments in the surrounding area. It is not however, self-evident that the value of the World Heritage site is seen in new plans. Therefore it is important that there is continual attention to this fact with all stakeholders. It is also important to note that the different key views that have come forth in the last several years will receive attention in the new Surrounding Area plan. It is noted that within this area the OUV will apply and the sight lines must be secured. In Article 7.4 of the Conclusion of the Quality of Living Environment (Bkl) it is necessary that essential qualities of the present landscape and cultural heritage site remain preserved.

In chapter 3, component 5, new laws and regulations will be discussed further. Topics such as transfer of knowledge, research, education and risk assessment will also be discussed in the different components in the next chapter.

3 Insight: Current Situation and Developments

Component 2: Action-oriented

Since the setup of the management plan in 2015, there have been many different developments. There is an Area Perspective 2030, a new Visitors Centre has been built, a competitive entry price has been introduced, a long term vision for water management in the Alblasserwaard has been developed and research has been done on the effects of the development of different Heritage Impact Assessments. On top of that many municipalities have merged and the planned project list from 2015 has by and large been completed. Aside from the positive developments that Kinderdijk has undergone in the last several years, Kinderdijk has suffered negative effects due to the Corona pandemic which started in 2020. Unfortunately many of the paid attractions have needed to remain closed to visitors.

A large part of the above named developments have come from the Area Vision (2013) and are included in the core issues that were drawn up for the conservation goals for the World Heritage site. In attachment 1 these issues are summarized and the status of each core issue project is given. The core issues that are still being worked on are listed in chapter 4. Kinderdijk is continually looking towards the future. An Area Perspective with corresponding Execution program was drawn up in 2019. The plans that preserve Kinderdijk for the future, make sure Kinderdijk is in balance with the surrounding areas and continues to develop are all described in the Area Perspective.

Area Vision Kinderdijk 2013

The ambitions of the Area Vision of 2013, in which many of the projects have been included in the management plan, have been executed and completed. Throughout the last several years, there has been an attempt to improve guiding visitors through the area by implementing visitor management measures. This was necessary due to the increase in the number of visitors. This has led to different ad-hoc solutions. For example there are packages to encourage visitors to arrive via water transportation. This has led to more visitors arriving via the river the Lek. The logistical problems of the increase in tourists has made it necessary to improve the entrance of the area.

In 2014 the Kinderdijk World Heritage Foundation (SWEK) introduced a competitive entry fee for the area. This entry fee would transform the organization into an attractive, world heritage worthy reception area focusing on visitor flow. The previous set-up of the reception area was not received as world heritage worthy and there was the possibility of improving the reception of visitors by connecting the sustainability and conservation of the area. It was important to have the internal visitor management be more detailed and have

concrete measurements to affect the site. When too many visitors visit the site, the true character of the site would suffer and visitors would not be able to have a genuine experience. It was important to ensure that damage would not occur to the OUV because of too many tourists in the area.

The goal of the entry fee was a draft proposal for a detailed development plan for the entry zone of the area and the visitor's building. The new entry zone for groups began to be used in the Overwaard in 2019. A new crossing connects the entrance area with the Middelkade. The current entrance area in the Nederwaard is still accessible for individual visitors. The improved infrastructure and facilities have allowed for increased tourist volume in all directions.

One component of the entrance area is a new Visitors Centre. This forms an important link in logistics in separating the entrance area. According to the designers, the complete glass building offers views of the World Heritage site while having a minimal impact on the area. This is reinforced with elongated volume – accented by the girders in the roof – that is in line with the long quays in the polder landscape. On the rooftop there is a viewing platform with a panoramic view of the mill landscape. The aluminium façade cladding has a reflecting light effect where the building subtly blurs into the vast landscape and the Dutch sky.

Area Perspective Kinderdijk 2030

Kinderdijk as landmark where the development of a tourist hotspot goes hand in hand with the improvement of the quality of life, preserving the appearance, authenticity, tranquillity, space and nature. That is the ambition that is drawn up in the Area Perspective 2030 with the associated Execution Program Kinderdijk 2020-2025 that was published in 2019. This Area Perspective emerged from the observation that it would be impossible to have sustainable tourism with the number of tourists rapidly growing within the mill area and the immediate surroundings. In that respect, the Area Vision (2013) and the Visitor Management Plan (2015) would be completely inadequate in terms of instrumentation. As described above, important improvements have been implemented and started. There was a radical change necessary to the accessibility of the World Heritage site if tourism was going to continue to grow. At the same time, increasing the quality of life in the region has been worked on while reducing the disturbance to the immediate surrounding area of the mill complex.

The ambition of the Area Perspective is further elaborated on via three lines in the Execution Program. The Administrative Platform Kinderdijk (BPK) (formally known as the steering committee, see component 4) has the roll of implementing these activities and projects, namely reconciling and coordinating and they advise the decision making authority. Some of these projects have been completed, others have just begun or have been delayed due to the Corona pandemic. The current statues of all the activities of the Execution program are listed in attachment 2. A complete overview of the Execution program is listed in attachment 3. Here is listed who is responsible for which activity. The

activities in which action is still necessary is listed in the new project list in chapter 4. Additional information on the specific measures of the Execution plan is also included in the fourth line; the reinforcement of partnership and a new financial package. This is, however, not included in the overview because it has been drawn up as a prerequisite. All of the lines and activities are further described in the following descriptions.

Line 1: Experience – the story that the landmark Kinderdijk would like to tell

UNESCO World Heritage requires that landmarks have an educational component. Kinderdijk fulfils this requirement by having an appealing story that strives by working towards the future. Kinderdijk's storytelling needs to have an international high standard and be focused on an international qualified audience. This is accomplished by working out Kinderdijk's definitive story, undergoing a load bearing capacity study to research the maximum capacity of visitors allowed to visit the World Heritage site, research focusing on the consequences of living in the surrounding areas for the maintenance and management of the mills and a nature assessment nature protection regulation in the context of the Natura 200 Boezems Kinderdijk management plan. Natura 2000 is a regulation (nature protection law) where all (developing) activities in and around the area need to be assessed.

Line 2: Villages in the shadow of the flow of tourists

There are concerns for regional villages such as Kinderdijk, Alblasterdam and Nieuw-Lekkerland for the future. The ability of these villages to continue developing as pleasant places to live could be hindered by the inundation of tourists. For this reason, the management of sustainable tourism in relation to the purpose of the World Heritage is an integral part of the management plan. It is important to note the infrastructure, parking situation and control of the flow of tourism and Kinderdijk continues to look at these challenges and explore possibilities. It is also important to note the commitment and involvement of the local population.

Accordingly, an environmental plan will be drawn up. In addition, the last component of the entrance zone will be redeveloped. This will be done with the help of an urban plan for the public entrance, formulating the design for the water entrance and the renovation of the J.U. Smit pumping station. There will also be a number of refurbishments on the Molenstraat, an alternative access for the Molenkade/Blokweerschekade and the relocation of the pedestrian walkway of the Boezemkade. In conclusion, there will be a Future Vision drawn up for the village of Kinderdijk.

Line 3: Complete control of all tourist flow

Complete control over all of the visitor flow, individual and collective, organized and unorganized, on land and over water, in the direction of the World Heritage site. This can be accomplished through entry fee to the mill complex. But this will be to the detriment of its public access. There needs to be more research done on this topic. The following could also be implemented for visitor management: parking spaces on the western edge of Nieuw-Lekkerland, a transferium, the development of last-mile transportation, introduction of permit parking and the optimization of public transportation. In addition, there needs to

be a clear management structure with an entrepreneurial site holder who is rooted in the local DNA.

NB: Continued Development of Governance

The continued development of governance is supplementary to the specific measures. This concerns the strengthening of the participation between parties in the Managerial Platform Kinderdijk. New financial agreements will be implemented between the site holder and the local governments. The agreements between parties will be documented in a partnership agreement.

There is a desire to continue to develop the progression that has been reached in the last several years. This has been communicated in a letter from the Managerial Platform Kinderdijk (formally known as the steering committee) to the local municipal councils. All parties continue to feel responsible for the World Heritage site and the implementation of the obligations of the World Heritage treaty. They have established that nobody wants to infringe on the choices that have previously been made, where SWEK as site holder is responsible to manage and operate the area. There will be new agreements made about the mutual participating and the continuity of the organization and the strive to reach financial goals.

“Kinderdijk as an icon where the development of the tourist hotspot goes hand in hand with quality of life, experience, authenticity, tranquillity and space and nature”

Component 3: Stakeholders and the Local Population

In general terms, the organization structure (the participating stakeholder and the local population) that is in the current management plan is still the same. The Kinderdijk World Heritage Foundation (SWEK) is as World Heritage site holder, within the Management Platform Kinderdijk established framework, responsible for sustainability of the World Heritage and the safeguarding of the World Heritage status and all other arising duties.

Since the Management Plan has been drawn up all of the participating parties have grown used to each other and know where to find one another. The governmental parties that make up the Management Platform Kinderdijk are the National office of the Cultural Heritage (RCE), Water Management Rivierenland, the Province of South Holland, the municipality of Molenlanden (formally known as Molenwaard) and municipality of

Alblasserdam. Each of these parties is either a leader of or participates in activities or programs that have been written about in the Execution Program. In the Execution Program (Attachment 3) it states who is responsible for what and what the most important tasks are. Because stakeholders are part of the Execution Program, they are also part, either constructively or structurally, of the Management plan. Each stakeholder is further described in the following section.

The Kinderdijk World Heritage Foundation (SWEK) is the site holder and therefore responsible for sustainability of the World Heritage and the safeguarding of the World Heritage status. SWEK is also responsible for the daily management and operation of the World Heritage site and the facilities involved in receiving and guiding tourists. SWEK is also responsible for renting the mills and the housing facility on the World Heritage site.

The National Office of the Cultural Heritage (RCE) is the executor of the World Heritage policy and World Heritage regulations. The RCE reports to UNESCO and is the enforcer when it comes to the knowledge institute and advising.

Water Management Rivierenland is owner of a large portion of the land and the water at the World Heritage site and road authority of a portion of the roads in the area. Water management is the functional government that is responsible for the water management (levels, quality, safety), maintenance and authority of the high and lower chambers, waterways, quays and roads and park terrain in the area. They are also responsible for maintenance and authority of the still working pumping stations in the area. Water Management will be carrying out large changes in the water system in the Alblasserwaard in the coming years. A notification for this was done via a SOC report by UNESCO in 2020.

The province of South Holland is the competent authority responsible for the nature policy, Regional Spatial Authority (such as the POVI), the safeguarding of the windmill biotope, regional tourist authority, Provincial Cultural World Heritage authority, permit granting, enforcement and granter of public transportation. Additionally, the province safeguards the regional and (inter)national importance of Kinderdijk as a national landmark.

Molenlanden and Alblasserdam Municipalities are the competent authorities for a portion of the area and are therefore responsible for establishment of the development plan, permit granting and enforcement, public safety and order, establishment of the General Local Regulation (APV), the implementation of the World Heritage regulations and the authority and the design of the public area which is not under the authority of the water management or has been transferred to SWEK. Therefore the municipality of Molenlanden is the owner of the mills and a single setup.

The municipalities, SWEK and water management continually communicate with one another to make better arrangements about the daily management in and around the entire area. This also includes the areas not open to the public and the closed tourist locations.

Lastly, the needs and interests of the **local population** is also taken into consideration. The local population includes inhabitants of the village of Kinderdijk, inhabitants of the World Heritage site and the inhabitants of the mills. The needs and interests of these various inhabitants varies greatly.

The inhabitants of the mills are extremely important to the World Heritage site. Kinderdijk cannot do without them. They are an undeniable part of Kinderdijk, but are also under pressure from various sides. If the pressure increases, it is possible that no one will want to reside in Kinderdijk. If this occurs the soul of the area will disappear. There is, therefore, continual attention necessary for the millers. Additionally, some millers are employees of SWEK and run their mills for the organization. They are considered millers and have a miller's agreement. They are very involved in the history, the area and their own mills. They are the true keepers of the OUV that they manage.

The rest of the inhabitants of the World Heritage site live in the area, but not in a mill. The number of residences in the area is two times as large as the number of mills that are resided in. The inhabitants have in essence accepted tourism and their interests and needs have been included in the visitor Management plan.

Transportation and tourism have implications for the inhabitants of and quality of life of the village of Kinderdijk. Others profit from the tourism through their restaurants, place of work (specifically the shipyard) or bike hire. To keep this on track, a visitor's management plan has been drawn up. The inhabitants that live in the area are also included in the plan and the inhabitants are represented in the Kinderdijk Association, with participation from the municipality. Part of the Execution Program is line 2 "Villages in the shadow of the flow of tourists". Positioning of tourism related entrepreneurs are aimed at the entrance of the World Heritage site.

Visitor management is not only about ensuring the local population does not experience any disturbances. It is also about the entire client experience that visitors have. SWEK feels responsible for this and would like to safeguard all of the elements involved in visitor's experiences, such as the communication and the trip to and from the World Heritage site. Management of the tourist flow is not only about preventing disturbances, but also about literally being able to spread out visitors over time so that visitors can qualitatively enjoy all that is offered.

Finally, there are many volunteers involved at Kinderdijk. In the Management Plan 2015 it is noted that most of the reception, cash register and guided tours are done by volunteers. Additionally there is a group of volunteers that is specifically involved with educational activities. In 2014 there were approximately 170 volunteers. Today that number is 232 volunteers. There are also a group of volunteers who are guides, but there are also volunteers who have a role in helping refugees become volunteers so that they can integrated into Dutch society.

“Since the introduction of the management plan, parties know how to find each other better.”

Component 4: Monitoring

The OUV is protected and enforced through monitoring and preparation of core issues and projects through the Management plan. The core issues and projects from the Management plan 2015 are a tool to ensure maintenance of the OUV. As stated earlier, a portion of these projects have been completed or are being implemented.

The Management Platform Kinderdijk (BPK) consists of the SWEK management, management and official contractors from the The National Office of the Cultural Heritage (RCE), Water Management Rivierenland, the Province of South Holland, the municipality of Molenlanden (formally known as Molenwaard) and municipality of Alblasserdam (see component 3). The BPK reconciles and coordinates for the management platform and they advise the decision making authority. The decision making authority determines the BPK and Area Perspective every four years. Accordingly the Execution Program is drawn up and is determined by the BPK. In the Execution Program are only the projects and activities that are from the current area perspective. These are the so-called projects. The responsibility of the execution of these projects falls under the individual members of the BPK.

The BPK safeguards (monitors) the progression of the execution of the current execution program and formulates advice to make adjustments. Previously, the BKP was known as the steering committee. The adjustments worked out well. Misunderstandings about the role of the steering committee as being formal and direct management as opposed to the SWEK have been removed.

The necessary efforts of the Execution Program in the BPK are matched with one another. Because the different projects intervene and influence one another, there are consequences to management. Due to this, coordination and cooperation between all parties are extremely important. It is important to find a balance between the freedom the organization needs and the management, framework setting and direction role that governmental parties need.

This manner of working together has led to a number of important decisions in this area of the last period. These include the Area Vision, the Execution Program, the environmental impact assessment for the entrance area, and the main points for the financial agreement. All of these are important to ensure a solid basis for the future of Kinderdijk in the coming years. This in turn ensures political clarity and certainty for SWEK.

Every project has one management contractor and one project leader from the BPK. These explain the suggestions in the BPK when a piece is ready for discussion. The project leader and the management contractor then make an agreement about when a project will be delivered, plans, necessary resources (capacity and money), manner of coordination with other projects and parties and the necessary steps to be taken (such as eventual formal management paths via councils and management). A project shall begin the moment the contractor has enough certainty that the resources can be covered through the BPK. The Core team (formally known as the Official Guidance Group) is the official preliminary consultation for the BPK, which is a platform for operational consultation and for informal coordination. The Core team is charged with the daily program coordination and cooperation. The Core team qualitatively prepares the meetings of the BPK. The Core team is also the central consultation group which discusses all of the permit requests that are submitted to the concerned competent authority. These are all discussed with one another before the competent authority renders their decision.

Every six years, the government must submit a periodical report to the World Heritage committee concerning the application of their territory. Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 and 2 has occurred in 2006 and 2013 respectively. The third cycle will take place between 2018 and 2024 and the Netherlands will more than likely occur between 2022 and 2023. Alongside these monitors in the context of the required six year reports for UNESCO, SWEK provides additional and midterm monitoring activities. Annual and multiannual maintenance schedules have been drawn up for all the components that are managed and maintained by SWEK. In addition, SWEK monitors the number of visitors per year and the reports annually on the financial situation.

Monitoring also takes place through the possibility of the site holder utilizing the Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA's). All of the large developments that have been taken place in the last several years have been analysed in relation to the OUV. By implementing HIA's, unwelcome developments have been prevented. Examples of this include wind turbines coming in direct site of Kinderdijk, large changes in the water system and resident developments at the Mercon Kloos property.

Not only the current impacts can have influence at the World Heritage site, but also changes and challenges in the future. Although the impact of climate change is not yet visible, monitoring the situation will allow these changes to be signalled and identified as fast as possible.

Because Kinderdijk is closely connected with the hydraulic water system, water management monitors the state of the hydraulic engineering and examines which long term risks could occur over the next 50 years. In 2017 it was found that due to climate change Kinderdijk could not be the only area in the Alblasserwaard which could drain the excess water into the river. Taking preventative measures, such as combining pumping stations, has been anticipated.

Another risk of a sudden change is the collapse in the international market. Kinderdijk is not only financially dependent upon the government, but also on the market. Kinderdijk's

position could become very vulnerable if the market were to collapse. This has happened in the last couple of years due to the Corona pandemic. The pandemic has been detrimental to SWEK due to the collapse of international tourism. It is therefore important that the return of visitors is visible and that tourist flow is dispersed. The continual monitoring of the influence of the international market helps so that measures can be taken on time.

Component 5: New Legislation and Regulations

New legislation and regulations such as the new Vicinity legislation can have an effect on the management plan for the World Heritage site. It is also important to note that not all legislation and regulations have an impact on Kinderdijk. In paragraph 3.2 of the current management plan is an overview of the current legislation, regulations and policies ranked by government level. This legislation and regulation is still valid. A number of new laws and regulations will be explained.

Vicinity Legislation

The legislation for urban planning, environment, nature, water, archaeology and soil management from 26 different laws are combined into 1 piece of legislation in the Vicinity Legislation. This piece of legislation is comprised of nearly all laws that are important to the establishment and management of the physical surroundings. As summarised in “The World Heritage and Vicinity Legislation Capacity Building Session II” (November 2019), the Vicinity Legislation was started as an overarching goal to make better use and protect the environment by making decision making easier. In this new system, the World Heritage site would be addressed in an integrated way: management and the development of a world heritage location is not just about a physical location per se but also about all of the activities that are planned within the site and in the surrounding area. Purpose and activities would be brought together as one.

The Vicinity Legislation uses a broad definition of cultural world heritage in the physical surroundings. This concerns built and landscaped monuments, cities and villages and cultural landscapes. With the implementation of the Vicinity Legislation, the World Heritage became explicitly enshrined in legislation for the first time. There is a risk that people may think: there is legislation so everything will be okay. It is important for managers to guide active policy when it comes to the World Heritage. Small world heritage sites are in principal able to enjoy a monument statues (on the basis of the World Heritage legislation). Larger areas are protectively planned at a regional level (comparable to the current ruling via Barro). The new Vicinity Legislation will have an impact on the management around the World Heritage. In addition, all governmental agencies (except water management) are required to draw up a Vicinity vision. All governmental agencies are also required to have general rules. For the municipality that is a Vicinity plan and for the provinces and water authority that is an ordinance. The Vicinity Vision makes it clear which goals the city

council or provincial state would like to reach for their own land and also for and with the world heritage. This is also true for the area that is outside of their land.

Due to the repeated delays, the current expected date of the Vicinity Legislation is 1 July 2022. In the last few years, current pieces of legislation have been adjusted to be able to adapt to the new Vicinity Legislation.

Parking Policy

People who live in Kinderdijk and Alblasserdam North experience much disruption from the visitors who park around Kinderdijk. It is necessary to regulate parking in Kinderdijk (including West Kinderdijk) to put an end to the disruption. It is also important to make it possible to optimally operate an alternative car park around the harbour in Alblasserdam. Therefore, in September 2020 the “Designation Decision about parking in Molenlanden 2020” came into effect. This decision states exactly where people are able to park using a permit from 1 April until 1 November between the hours of 10:00 and 18:00. This permit is required on the Beatrixweg, Christineweg, Ireneweg, Lekweg, Lekdijk, Margrietweg, Molenstraat, Nederwaard, Overwaard, Schansweg, Veerdam and Vrij and Blijstraat.

Natura 2000 Management Plan Storage Basins Kinderdijk

The high storage basins and the surrounding meadows are a part of the Natura 2000 area. The Natura 2000 Management Plan Storage Basins Kinderdijk were supposed to be adjusted according to the agreement in 2021 but the current plan has been extended for another four years. Accordingly, this has created space for researching how the surrounding landscape can be strengthened in relation to Kinderdijk. And also how inversely the improvement and reinforcement of spatial and landscape quality of the region can contribute to strengthening of the natural values in the area. Thereby it should be mentioned that all (deployed) activities in and around the Natura 2000 Storage Basins Kinderdijk should be tested against the Nature Conservation Act so that the legal conservation objectives will not be harmed. Every new development around the Natura 2000 area is required to have a Natura 2000 test before it is begun. This is executed through a consultancy firm that is connected to the “Network Green Offices”. Completing the test may reveal whether or not a new project requires a nature conservation legislation permit.

Permits and Enforcement at the World Heritage

It is stated in the current management plan that process agreements are needed between the site holder and the competent authority about how granting permits and enforcement should occur. This is important so that a response can be handled swiftly. These agreements have been partly reached but have not been observed. A clear plan and process agreements are still missing. An important prerequisite is a clear vision about how

the site holder and stakeholders look at all of the developments within the World Heritage. The site holder and stakeholders need to work on a better vision and policy that deals with developments in the area and specific vicinity policy. A policy plan and enforcement plan will ensure clarity between the two municipalities and an effective enforcement policy. This plan needs to be drawn up for the municipalities of Molenlanden and Alblasserdam, RCE and SWEK so that parameters can be set and inspirational knowledge is gained. By doing this, there will be a sense of community and awareness created. Enforcement will then come from the municipalities and the site holder. The RCE can then see if the policy is followed through with and enforced. The municipalities, SWEK and the water authority will continue to discuss how to make necessary arrangements on how to manage the entire area daily. This will also include outside the non-public areas and the situation around the closed visitor locations.

Partnership Agreement (SOK)

On June 10, 2021 members of the BPK spoke with one another about the continuing developments concerning the management of the World Heritage. They also spoke about agreements and how all parties participate with one another in and around the World Heritage. One of the results of this discussion was that agreements that have been made earlier would be built upon and would be drawn up in a partnership agreement. This will be an overarching document. Agreements that have been drawn up will recur in the legislation and laws from the different parties and will be safeguarded in this manner.

Component 6: Sustainable Tourism

The UNESCO program for sustainable tourism represents a new approach based upon consultation and collaboration with stakeholders. Hereby the plans for tourism and heritage management at the destination level will be integrated, the natural and cultural details will be protected and suitable tourism will be developed. The most important goals are their frames and policy that support sustainable tourism as an important tool for management of the world heritage and focused on strengthening the local communities.

The management of sustainable tourism in relation to the world heritage location needs to be an integral component to the management plan. Important components to this are infrastructure, parking and guidance of the tourist flow. Challenges and possibilities need to be examined. Involvement and opinion from the local inhabitants is also necessary. The Area Perspective is drawn up with sustainable tourism as a starting point. It has been the ambition to have Kinderdijk be the first landmark where development of tourism is integrally connected to quality of life, the ability to preserve the experience, authenticity, tranquillity and space and the strengthening of nature. Line 2 and 3 from the Execution Program contributes largely to sustainable tourism. In line 2 there are details about the redevelopment of the entrance area, through help of urban planning and implementation of the design of the water entrance. Line 3 speaks about visitor management with the

creation of car parks and a transferium, introduction of permit parking, limiting public accessibility and coordination of public transportation destinations.

Component 7: Sustainable Development Goals

For a long time, the subject of heritage was missing from the debate on sustainable development, despite the crucial importance for societies and the broad recognition that heritage contributes to social, economic and environmental goals. Cultural heritage has now been labelled as a driver of sustainable development. World Heritage can provide a platform for this by developing and testing new approaches that assess the relevance of heritage for establishing sustainable development.

A drawn up Area Perspective ensures that World Heritage Kinderdijk, as well as the surrounding villages, will further develop in a sustainable manner. As it is written in the Execution Program that Kinderdijk and the surrounding villages will be committed to a future of continual developments in the shadow of the tourist flow. In addition to this, by getting a grip on visitor management, the site can focus on the balance between tranquillity and hustle and bustle. These are both examples of sustainable developments in (the surrounding area of) Kinderdijk.

Residency in the mills forms an essential component to the story of Kinderdijk. By conducting research into the consequences of habitation for the maintenance and management of the mills, long term effects of residency can be examined. As a result, there will be a shared view created on the long-term effects term of habitation of the monumental mills, resulting in a secured sustainable development goal.

Component 8: Intangible World Heritage

Intangible world heritage is an alive world heritage. It consists of sociable municipalities, performances, rituals, traditions, statements, special knowledge and skills that the municipalities and groups (and sometimes individuals) recognize as a form of a cultural world heritage.

The Dutch miller's trade has joined the UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural World Heritage of the People in 2017. The majority of the mills are rented out and many of the millers are volunteer millers at the site. The continue to run the mills and also perform maintenance. Due to this, the millers are an integral part of the site.

SWEK carries out a transfer of knowledge and continually works on expanding and improving educational materials. Because the mills are no longer part of the working hydraulic water management system, and because the higher storage basins are also not a part of the system, SWEK allows the mills to run as part of an educational component when the working hydraulic system allows this. The mills then adorn the landscape and

give the landscape value. Due to the changes, the mills are not functional and it is important to have a vision about if and when the mills run. If the mills do not run or do not run enough, technically they will begin to deteriorate. When the storage basins are not part of the water system anymore, it is important that SWEK and the water authority agree about when the mills run.

Furthermore, the organization performs diverse projects in the area concerning education and awareness. For example, there are mills that have become museum pieces which are opened for visitors. Information is given about Kinderdijk World Heritage through visual materials which gives the public insight about the working of a wind-driven mill. Other educational visitor buildings are the miller's work shop and the Wisboom pumping station where information is shared about how mills are built, maintained and the trade of being a miller. By doing this, information is shared with visitors and knowledge is preserved.

When the J.U. Smit pumping station is completely renovated, a decision can be made about whether rooms in the building can be used for educational purposes.

In addition to the status of the world heritage site, the area is filled with unique flora and fauna. The organization has worked hard on also including a piece about education about nature. By doing this, the value of the high storage basins are an integral component of sharing the complete story of Kinderdijk.

4 Outlook: Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusion

UNESCO World Heritage Kinderdijk can become the tourist landmark in the world where sustainable development of a tourist hot spot goes hand in hand with improvement of quality of life and preservation of nature. The execution of the core issues in the current management plan and the drawn up Area Perspective 2030 and Execution Plan 2020-2025 that SWEK and its partners have carried out have led to success. Many projects of the current management plan and new projects from the Execution program have been started and even completed. If the execution of current projects continue as planned, then they can be completed in the next five years.

A number of these projects need attention. These will be further explained especially because these projects are rooted into the Execution program.

Project List

Research of the consequences of residing in, maintaining and managing the mills

What and why: Residency in the mills is an integral part of the story that Kinderdijk tells. This research project is focused on the long term effects of residency. This research focuses on what it means when modern families reside in, maintain and manage the mills. In addition, this research looks at what the adjustment of the water level means to the maintenance and management of the mills. It also focuses on the fire safety requirements for the maintenance and management of the mills and the monumental value of the mills.

Impact: The results of this research will help deciding which measures, if any, will need to be included concerning fire safety requirements and adjustment of the water levels. The effects of long term residency of the mills will also be taken into consideration.

Project: When “The Story of Kinderdijk” is completed, this project can begin. In this way, it can be examined to see which commitments Kinderdijk will have and what the consequences will be.

Natura 2000 Management Plan Storage Basins Kinderdijk

What and why: The storage basins and the surrounding fields are in the Natura 2000 area. The Natura 2000 Management Plan Storage Basins Kinderdijk must be in accordance with the agreement and be adjusted in 2021. This can lead directly to research about in which way the relationship with the surrounding landscape can be reinforced and how the improvement and reinforcement of the spatial and landscape qualities can lead to the strengthening of the value of nature in the area.

Impact: By adjusting the management plan, the relationship between the surrounding region can improve landscape and spatial qualities, value of nature and biodiversity. In addition, the adjustment of the consolidation of the Natura 2000 conservation objectives helps improve the unique experience of the natural area for visitors to Kinderdijk.

Who: The province of South Holland is responsible for the Natura 2000 Management Plan Storage Basins Kinderdijk. The province will introduce the management plan to the BPK at a number of important moments (such as evaluation and the beginning of renovation) so that there will be a connection with the other components of the Execution Program. For now, the current management plan has been extended.

Vicinity Plan Kinderdijk:

Research must be conducted of the current zoning plans in the short term to see if they offer enough possibilities to prevent unwanted developments. It is necessary to identify which criteria stem from the World Heritage status, Natura 2000 status and the Area Perspective ambitions. In the long term it is important that the developments of the area vision in the Vicinity plan are endorsed by all of the parties in the Management Platform Kinderdijk plan. The Vicinity Plan needs to offer the necessary framework and protection for the World Heritage, in the area as well as the platform and horizon. There also needs to be enough possibilities offer to establish accessibility, conditions about opening hours, and use of facilities. In addition it needs to demonstrate consistency and establish a connection with other communities, spatial and economic developments at a local, regional and national level. Examples of this are Waterdriehoek, Krimpenerwaard, and Ridderkerk. This could also include climate adaptation, nature management, biodiversity and the expansion of the natural area.

Impact: The different governmental agencies (authority with jurisdiction) maintain the same principles and frameworks for their responsibilities. Safeguarding of the world heritage, including the so-called platform and horizon, is guaranteed. Therefore the monumental, industrial and landscape value will be examined. There is an answer to the question whether or not this environmental plan sufficiently provides and administrative and legal basis for avoiding undesirable developments and ensuring that governmental agencies provide commitment.

Intended Result: The Vicinity Plan leads to the adjustments in the existing developmental plan. A definitive list of criteria will be presented so that developments and initiatives can be examined. A Vicinity Plan has been created so that the municipalities, the Provincial State and the water management board can be established.

Project: Pending the elaboration of the urban development plan for the entrance zone, this can be tackled.

Permits and Enforcement at the World Heritage Site:

What and why: the Kinderdijk World Heritage Foundation (SWEK), as site holder of the World Heritage site, is responsible for the preservation of the world heritage site. It is also

responsible as host for providing education and recreational activities to share Kinderdijk's story. The Authority with Jurisdiction deals with other parties about permits and enforcement. SWEK is therefore always dependent on other parties for granting permits and enforcing the site. SWEK is approached about these issues when they are not responsible for them. There are often undesirable things that happen at the site and SWEK would like to take action. To formalize this, there have been discussions to get things started but unfortunately everything is currently inactive.

Influence at the site: When it comes to enforcement, SWEK speaks to people about their undesirable behaviour even though they have no authority to do so. SWEK is required to let the governing authority know what is happening. They are then required to take action. Responsibility lies with many different agencies when it comes to enforcement and it is not clear who should actually be responsible. Speed is often required when it comes to enforcement, but often intervention is late. In many cases, enforcement is often not the first priority where a report is not always firmly taken up. The fact that reports are taken up late or sometimes not at all has consequences for the maintenance of the site.

Intended Result: Concrete agreements between the site holder and the authority of jurisdiction about the handling of granting permits and enforcement so that there can be decisive intervention.

Project: Initiation of a management plan and/or enforcement plan for clarity between the two municipalities to ensure effective enforcement. This plan will be implemented together with the municipalities of Molenlanden, Alblasserdam and SWEK and the water authority as road authority so that frameworks can be provided and there can be inspiration. By doing this, there will be a sense of community and awareness created. Enforcement will take place through municipalities and the site holder. The Province of South Holland can ensure that the planned management is followed through with and enforced. The municipalities, SWEK and the water authority need to make better agreements about the daily management in and around the entire area, also the areas where the public is not allowed and the situation with the closed visitor locations.

Operation

What and why: The daily operational management and maintenance of the world heritage site is mostly determined by SWEK and the water authority of Rivierenland. Other parties are also involved in the preservation of the site: the municipalities of Alblasserdam and Molenlanden, the province of South Holland and the RCE. SWEK's goal is to be independent when it comes to finances. It is important then to increase profit from visitors and to start reduce dependence on subsidies. In the last few years results have been achieved. Until last year, there was a definitive operational plan and wealth creation, there was a solid basis. COVID-19 turned the world upside down for Kinderdijk, but luckily only temporarily. SWEK's positioning was strong and thanks to the support from the government, management and activities were able to continue and liquidity could be safeguarded. As a result, the current financial status, as presented in the current budget and annual accounts which can be found on Kinderdijk's website, is not representative of previous years. However, the BPK has concluded that the survival of the World Heritage site must

not be endangered. That is why agreements will be made about what role the BPK will have in regards to, for example, the desired financial reserves, the financial reports and the multiple year budget and charges from SWEK. It is important that SWEK first becomes financially sound.

New financial arrangements are momentarily being sought for activities and projects from the Execution Program. New financial agreements are being executed between the site holder and the local governmental authorities. The agreements will be drawn up between parties in a partnership agreement. This will happen because there will be large investments in the next few years concerning a transferium, establishing an entrance zone for individual visitors and last-mile transportation. In addition, Kinderdijk's story can be elaborated upon, as recorded in the Execution Program, which could also lead to new investments striving to improve tourist quality that will preserve and enhance the quality of life. This ensures that further agreements are necessary about the method in which these investments are financed, temporarily halted and prioritized.

Intended Result: A definitive operation plan, including multiple year perspective, with an end result so that SWEK can execute its goals and management tasks.

Project: When the process is completed in reaching new financial agreements and it is clear in which manner and by which deadline resources from SWEK are returned from both municipalities, in order to incur costs and implement investments to compensate for programs. There are necessary agreements about in which way these investments will be financed and temporarily halted. The BPK has an important consultancy roll. This requires a kind of participation between all parties, clarity in everyone's roll, responsibility and intentions and where there are clear arrangements about the manner in which the organization deals with investments, operations and risks.

View

The approach for the projects listed above is embedded in the various Execution Programs from the responsible authorities. The Management Platform Kinderdijk and its Core Value Team are focused on monitoring the execution of the core issues. Completion of projects that are currently underway can be completed within the next five years.

The universal value and strengthening of the site is possible through projects, stakeholders, monitoring, sustainable tourism, sustainable development objectives and intangible world heritage. Kinderdijk can successfully recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and can continue to be successful through this management plan.

1. Attachments

Attachment I: Core Issues projects Management Plan 2015

In the current Management plan it states that developments could have an influence on the conservation objectives. That is why core issues and projects were drawn up for the conservation of the world heritage site in 2015. In the following section, a short summary will be given of the current status of projects. The core issues where action still needs to be taken are listed in chapter 4.

Organization

1. **Management commitment/support:** All parties that are responsible for the site agree with the contents of this management plan by signing the document.
Status: Completed
2. **Structure of the organization of the World Heritage site:** Setting up an administrative consultation platform, supported by an official working group for a transparent assessment process.
Status: Completed. The Management Platform Kinderdijk (formally known as the steering committee) is founded. The platform includes management of SWEK and management and the bureaucratic clients of the municipalities of Molenlanden (formally known as Molenwaard) and Alblasserdam. The Management Platform Kinderdijk is a coordinated management platform for substantive coordination and the competent authority's preparation of decision-making. The platform uses its role to discuss all activities and projects from the Execution program, establishes the Area Perspective and corresponding Execution program every 4 years, and monitors the execution of the Execution program. The Core team (formally known as the administrative supervisory group) is tasked with the daily programmatic coordination and consultation. Throughout this capacity, the Core team prepares meetings of the Management Platform Kinderdijk. The Core team is the place where all actual applications for permits etc. are submitted with the relevant competent authority, are discussed with one another before being determined by the competent authority.
3. **Permits and Enforcement at the World Heritage site:** Concrete agreements between the site holder and the authority of jurisdiction about the handling of granting permits and enforcement so that there can be decisive intervention.
Status: Stalled, these agreements have been partially made, but are not are followed through upon. Clear plans and process agreements are still missing. The first step that has recently happened is that the municipality, water authority and SWEK will meet with one another to make better agreements about the daily management in and around the area of Kinderdijk, also outside of public areas and the situation around the closed visitor locations. Follow-up action: Management plan and Enforcement plan that is drawn-up that ensures clarity between the two municipalities and effective enforcement management. This plan needs to be drawn-up between the municipalities of Molenlanden and Alblasserdam, and SWEK so that joint frameworks can be set and inspiration can be gained. This will ensure a sense of community and awareness is created. Enforcement will occur through the municipalities and the site holder which will then be able to ensure the policy is followed through upon and enforced. Projects for this will be written up in the partnership agreement by SWEK in participation with the various governmental bodies.

Definition of the site:

4. **Perspective and visual references:** Planning/legal assurance of relevant visual references and perspective of the OUV.
Status: relevant visual references and perspective are protected through the execution of the Heritage Impact Assessments new developments in the surroundings. In addition, the different key views that have come forward in the last several years will get a place in the new Vicinity Plans. Here is indicated that within these areas the OUV applies and the sightlines must be secured. Also in article 7.4 in the Management Quality Surroundings it is stated that is important that essential characteristics of the landscape and cultural world heritage will remain.

Instrumentation and Quality Assurance

5. **Legal and Planning Assurance in Zoning Plans:** Clear legal frameworks and clear procedures for a transparent assessment of cultural/historical values in relation to the spatial developments in and around Kinderdijk.
Status: In the new Vicinity legislation it is stated that any developments in the vicinity of the World Heritage site must take into account the values of the World Heritage. The RCE is busy with awareness and has granted Kinderdijk the status of a protected city and village. Building in protected cities and villages are bound to certain rules. These rules are contained in the zoning plan and relate primarily to respecting the local character. Within the new zoning plans, a unambiguous assurance is guaranteed.
6. **Adjustments to the exhibits within the site:** Concrete agreements about the way in which the Steering Committee (current Management Platform Kinderdijk) and the official working group (current Core team) weigh necessary adjustments against each other concerning the exhibits within the site.
Status: It has been agreed that with every major development the effects on the World Heritage are tested through the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). In this way, integrity and authenticity are carefully considered in regards to the OUV. In addition, everyone is kept in the loop when it comes intended developments to the Execution Program. This program is procedurally integrated so that everyone is kept informed. When risks have been detected, an HIA is ordered.
7. **Spatial Qualities:** In the steering committee and the administrative working group determines the procedure for the guarantee of the spatial quality. Spatial qualities is a component of the planning.
Status: By drawing up an urban development plan and image quality plans and taking into account the OUV, the spatial quality principles will be safeguarded in the development plans. Hereby is the spatial quality component of the development plan.

Spatial Developments for Reinforcing the World Heritage

8. **Renovating the Entrance Zone:** Realization of the renovating of the entrance zone and the new Visitors Centre and the intended quality level.
Status: the execution of the project Renovation Entrance Zone from the area deal Kinderdijk is 98% completed and achieved. The last components (bike path and shed) are planned and will be executed in the short term. At the moment an urban development plan is being worked on for the entrance area for the individual visitor.
9. **Additional Developments from the Area Vision:** Realization of other ambitions from the area vision for the purpose of bringing back/strengthening the recognizability of the original components and functions, adding attractions and the expansion and optimization of water transport.
Status: Realization of the Contra mill, restoration and refurbishing the Blokker hollow post mill and the developments of the provided mooring facilities have been completed. The restoration of the Nieuw-Lekkerland low storage basis is being planned. Developments have not begun concerning the location of mill number 20. This will become a component of the execution about the story of Kinderdijk. Other ambitions have received a space in the Area Perspective 2030.

Additional Spatial Developments within the World Heritage

10. **Reed Buntings exit of the High storage basis Overwaard:** Agreements about and implementation of measures to prevent calving, so that the classic image of the reed lands in the high storage basin of the Overwaard remains experienceable.
Status: Being executed by the water authority, in cooperation with the province.
11. **Additional spatial developments within the site:** Ensure that spatial developments ensure the maintenance and strengthening of the OUV through good cohesion between cultural-historical values and the intended development.
Status: Measures in the framework of water and nature will be transparently coordinated within the preservation of cultural historical values of the zoning plans, controls and permits. Procedures involving the Execution Program are focused. Developments will be discussed within the core group and when there is clear perspective the developments will be passed on to the management platform.

Safety, Management and Maintenance Attributes

12. **Safety:** Development of a safety plan where the universal values of the World Heritage is ensured.

Status: There is a safety plan that has been developed and updated in regards to COVID-19. In participation with the municipality and the safety region there has been an accessibility safety plan that has been added, including follow-up plans. An execution plan for the safety plan has been prepared. In the next several years all of the mills will have adjustments such as adjustments to fuse boxes and smoke detectors.

13. **Restoration of the Wisboom pumping station:** Restoration of the Wisboom pumping station so that the preservation is ensured.
Status: Research about the constructions status of the pumping station has been completed. Resources have been collected and the permits have been granted. The project will be started shortly and completion will be within the next 2 years.
14. **Overdue maintenance of the mill heritage:** Safeguarding the recommendations of the planning from the Study mill yards and restoring objects from the mill heritage that are suffering from overdue maintenance.
Status: The restoration of the first mills has been completed. Afterwards the rest of the heritage will be started. Subsidies have been reduced and there is now an idea of what needs to happen in the heritage. SWEK has this responsibility.

Tourist Developments and Education

15. **Visitor Management – external:** Solutions for logistical problems, so that the World Heritage site remains accessible for visitors.
Status: many of the problems have been resolved, such as a new parking spaces for campers and buses and an adjustment for parking in Molenlanden where a limited number of people are allowed to park with a permit at Kinderdijk between 1 April and 1 November between 10:00 and 18:00. The developments of the transferium with the last-mile transportation is the last component which needs to happen. This is implemented in the Execution Program.
16. **Visitor Management – internal:** Getting the visitor flow on the right track so that visitors can experience Kinderdijk optimally and prevent any negative effects.
Status: To get a better grip on visitor flow there has been development of a new website for visitors of Kinderdijk and developments around a new entrance zone and also walking routes for guests. Last year the Contra mill was opened as a new visitor attractions and soon there will be additional visitor locations added so that there is sufficient space for all groups. By buying a ticket visitors also have access to the touring boats that connect to all of the visitor locations. A good internal visitor management has been established with the realization of the new entrance area.
17. **World Heritage Performance:** Agreements are needed to guarantee that the mills periodically run and pump so that they remain technically sound and visitors are able to experience how the water system works.
Status: SWEK has more influence about when the mills run because the mills and the high storage basis (in the long term) are no longer a part of the working hydraulic water system. When the hydraulic water system allows it, SWEK can have the mills run for educational purposes. There are very good agreements made for this. When the high storage basins are no longer a component of the water system, good agreements will be needed between SWEK and the water authority.

Operations

18. **Operations:** Operations: The definitive operations plan, including multiple year perspective, with a positive outcome, so that SWEK can execute its targets and management tasks.
*Status: The corona pandemic and the subsequent governmental measures caused a dramatic decrease in tourism in 2020 and beginning of 2021. Because the Netherlands was in a lockdown at the beginning of 2020, tourism was discouraged and museums and attractions were temporarily closed. This resulted in Kinderdijk temporarily having no income specifically because 96.4% of its income comes from paying customers. Additionally, SWEK continued to have expenses for the maintenance of the cultural world heritage site and to pay its employees. Much of the wages were covered through aid packages from the government, but loans were taken out for capital expenditures and maintenance costs. Until last year there was a definitive operational plan and capital formation and there was a solid basis. COVID-19 turned Kinderdijk's world temporarily upside down. Nevertheless, SWEK's positioning was strong and thanks to the help and support from the government, projects for management could continue and liquidity could be secured. Due to the pandemic, the financial status of Kinderdijk is not representative of previous years.
*Project: When the process of a new financial package has been completed, it will then become clear in what time frame resources from SWEK will be returned to either municipality**

to compensate for the previously incurred costs and investments in the implementation program. Additional agreements are necessary for the manner in which these investments will be financed and temporarily halted. The BPK has an important consultancy role in this. This requires a kind of participation, intentions and responsibility between all parties, with a clear role for each individual party, where clear agreements are made about the manner in which investments, management and risks are dealt with.

Attachment II: Activities Execution Program 2020-2025 Future of Kinderdijk

The above-mentioned ambition from the Area Perspective in the Execution Program is made clear through three lines. Each line includes activities and projects. The Management Platform Kinderdijk has an appropriated role in the implementation, coordination and specifically giving advice to the competent authority concerning the projects and activities. Some of these projects have been completed, others have just begun or have been postponed due to COVID-19. The activities in which no action has been taken are discussed in the new action/project list in chapter 4.

Line 1: Experience – The Story that the Landmark Kinderdijk Wants to Tell

Aiming to the future, where Kinderdijk has an appealing story that also fulfils UNESCO educational requirements. Storytelling from Kinderdijk has to have an international level in which there is attention for an international quality audience.

Two of the four corresponding activities have already been set in motion:

- 1.1 **Drawing up the definitive story:** The story of Kinderdijk will be elaborated upon and integrated into everything which is noticeable, tangible, visible and audible. This will be done locally, regionally and internationally both physically and virtually over the next several years. A similar, consistent story is necessary to ensure that Kinderdijk is visited by the kind of visitors that are aimed at and these visitors experience an inspirational, education and fun day out.

Status: The project is being drawn up and will be coupled on the “Story of the Polder”. This project should be completed at the end of 2021.

- 1.2 **Research about Capacity:** There is an insufficient image about the maximum number of visitors who can visit the world heritage without leading to irreparable loss of quality (nature, tranquillity and space, quality of life for inhabitants and people who live in the surrounding area). Research needs to be able to give an indication about how many visitors can responsibly visit the world heritage and the quality of life for inhabitants but also with regard to the natural assets in the area and for tranquillity and space.

Status: being executed but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the planning is uncertain.

Interviews and surveys have been delayed until the COVID-19 measures are removed.

- 1.3 **Research about the consequences of living in, maintaining and managing the mills:**

Residency in the mills is an important component to the story of Kinderdijk. This research looks into the long term effects of residency and the effects on management and maintenance.

Status: research still needs to begin. First, the “Story of Kinderdijk” needs to be completed so that it is clear what the story is and what the consequences are.

- 1.4 **Natura 2000 Management Plan Storage Basins Kinderdijk:**

The high storage basins and the surrounding meadows are a Natura 2000 area. The Natura 2000 management plan needs to therefore be adjusted. This may be a reason to investigate the relationship between how to improve the surrounding landscape and reinforce the spatial landscape quality of the region. It may also be able to contribute to processing the natural values in the area.

Status: Delayed. The current management plan has been extended for 4 years.

Line 2: Villages in the shadow of tourist flow

Ensuring that a future where the villages Kinderdijk, Alblasterdam and Nieuw-Lekkerland can continue to develop as a beautiful place to live in the shadow of tourist flow. Also that unwanted developments can be effectively blocked. Management of sustainable tourism in relation to the World Heritage destination must be an integral component to the management plan. Infrastructure, the parking situation and direction of the tourist flow are of importance. It is necessary to look at the challenges and possibilities. The position and involvement of the local population is also important. This can be accomplished by having a welcoming parking facility on the border of the area. This is how the residential cores come into the shadow of tourism and how the small dike roads are spared.

- 2.1 **Environmental Plan Kinderdijk:** In the short term, research the current development plan to prevent unwanted developments and to see if it offers sufficient opportunities. Also assess the criteria that result from the World Heritage status, Natura 2000 status and the ambitions that have been discussed in the Area Perspective. In the long term, drawing up the area vision in an environmental plan that is from all parties in the Management Platform Kinderdijk. A. They offer sufficient frameworks and protection for the World Heritage. B. They offer the opportunity to ensure accessibility, regarding provisions for opening hours

and use of facilities. C. They show the participation and connection with other social, spatial and economic developments at a local, regional and national level (Waterdriehoek, Krimpenerwaard, Ridderkerk) and also with climate adaptation, nature conservation, biodiversity, and expanding natural areas.

Status: on-hold. Awaiting the urban plan entrance zone to be drawn up.

- 2.2 **Redevelopment of the Entrance Zone:** The appearance of the area has drastically changed over the last several years. In 2019 Kinderdijk received a new Visitors Centre. The new Visitors Centre formed an important link to the logistic separation of the entrance area. The building consists of two glass areas: a reception room offering information and ticket sales and a second room which has the exit with a souvenir shop and café. These spaces offer the opportunity for a better separation between the village in the shadow and the business of the tourism in and around the main entrance. In 2019 the new group entrance began being used at the Overwaard. A new passageway links the entrance area with the Middle Quay. The current entrance at the Nederwaard is all that remains for individual visitors. The improved infrastructure and facilities will ensure that the growth of tourism will be better organized. Herewith an overarching urban plan will be written with three component projects:
- 2.2.1 **Urban planning plan entrance area (for the individual visitor):** The area between the Molenstraat near the old Waardhuis of the Nederwaard, the new Visitors Centre and the drop-off point for the tourist buses offers developmental possibilities so that they can become an integral component to the entrance zone. Imagine amenities that involve the Story of Kinderdijk such as logistical solutions for individual visitors, bike hire, parking spaces for bikes, (water) bus stops, room to relocate restaurants/café in the village and space for education.
Status: The planning is being executed. The basis for the new environmental plan must be completed in 3-5 months so that the new urban zoning plan or the environmental plan can be implemented in the entire village in 2 years.
- 2.2.2 **Implementing the water entry design:** In 2018 the municipality of Molenlanden organized a competition to better guide the flow of tourists, create a safe entry and achieve a world heritage worthy entrance. In 2019, Witteveen and Bos were chosen as the winners. They designed an elevated crossing for traffic on the Lekdijk for pedestrians that visit the mill area coming from the water.
Status: planning is being executed. This plan is being further drawn up by Voorlopig Ontwerp.
- 2.2.3 **Renovation J.U. Smit pumping station:** In 2017 the Rivierenland Water Authority developed a long-term vision (till 2050) for a future-proof design for the water authority in regards to climate change in Ablasserwaard. The mills and pumping stations in Kinderdijk are an important part of this water system plan. An important result of this vision was that Kinderdijk would not be the only location in the Ablasserwaard for drainage of excessive water to the river. This would have an effect on the pumping capacity for the pumping stations at Kinderdijk. In addition, the J.U. Smit pumping station also needed to be renovated. To get the best result for the world heritage, a Heritage Impact Assessment was executed to assess the effects of the exceptional and universal value of the World Heritage. The water authority decided to thoroughly renovate and to electrify the pumping station. To make sure that the capacity did not have to be increased, an opening in the middle quay was dug out so that the pumping stations can work together. The quay will then be repaired with a bridge. After the renovation is completed, agreements can be made to bring the pumping station into the story of Kinderdijk and when possible also for education.
Status: Being executed, responsibility lies with the water authority.
- 2.3 **Reconstruction Projects**
- 2.3.1 **Reconstruction Molenstraat:** Renovation of Molenstraat where insights are taken into consideration that already exists with regards to traffic safety (risk-driven traffic safety management), the effects of introducing permit parking and the urban planning of the entrance area.
Status: planning began at the beginning of the summer 2021
- 2.3.2 **Reconstruction/Alternative Accessibility Molenkade/Blokweerschekade:** Reconstruction of the Molenkade, so that automobiles that are not from residences in the area can be banned; local traffic for Biokaas Kinderdijk the Molenkade can be safely used and the Molenkade– Blokweerschekade will receive an image that is worthy of the stature of the World Heritage.

Status: completed

- 2.3.3 **Relocation of the pedestrian walkway Storage Basis Quay:** The continuous pedestrian walkways around and along the mill property causes increased visitor numbers which causes more disturbances for the residents of the mill and nature (free roaming dogs). In 2018, an agreement was reached with residents, SWEK, the water authority and the municipality to redirect the path.

Status: planning is underway

- 2.3.4 **Future vision Kinderdijk: village in the shadow:** Residents of Kinderdijk have expressed that they would like to create an integral future vision for their village: what is a village in the shadow to them? What does that look like?

Status: Has begun. The village community is responsible for the initiative; the municipality facilitates and supports

Line 3: Complete control of all visitor flow

To get complete control of all tourist flow, individual and collective, organized and unorganized, on roads and over water, in the direction of the World Heritage. This can be achieved with paid entrance to the mill complex at the expense of public access. In addition, clear management structure is needed with an entrepreneurial site holder that is rooted in the DNA.

Visitor management:

- 3.1 **Westrand Nieuw-Lekkerland:** A parking area is being arranged on the Westrand in Nieuw-Lekkerland, specifically for campers and touring busses. Campers will be allowed to park here while they visit Kinderdijk. This will be paid parking. Tourist busses will be able to park here temporarily (also paid) after drivers drop off their visitors.

Status: Being executed; delayed because of the Flora and Fauna research. Goal is to be completed at the end of 2021

- 3.2 **Transferium Alblasserdam:** The waterfront south in Alblasserdam is being reconstructed for residency properties and parking with respect to the surrounding businesses, visitors to Alblasserdam and also the visitors to the World Heritage. An alternative location for the transferium could be the Nedstaal terrain. Visitors to Kinderdijk can by an entry ticket via the internet in the near future. They will also be able to reserve a parking space and arrange transportation to Elshout.

Status: The choice of location is decided by the council in Alblasserdam. Execution of letter of intent and planning is in 2022 and 2023.

- 3.1/3.2 **Last-mile Transportation:** Ensuring that for visitors and their cars/campers on the Westrand and/or in Alblasserdam can go by shuttle bus, public transportation, water bus, water taxi, bike or link via boat.

Visitors receive all necessary information and can plan their entire trip via the internet, physical signage from the A15, transfer spaces for public transportation indicate to what extent the World Heritage is still accessible for visitors that did not arrange their trip beforehand. Visitor flow will be separated from one another: touring busses, campers, automobiles and slower traffic receive specific information about where to park and how to arrive. From the moment that visitors begin orientating about their visit via the internet, they will start receiving the story of Kinderdijk. The app has relevant information and background information that is a component of the story of Kinderdijk.

Status: Being executed. SWEK is responsible for the last-minute transportation in 2022.

Finances will be shared between the 3 parties, SWEK and the two municipalities.

- 4.1 **Permit parking:** Residents of Kinderdijk and inhabitants of Alblasserdam North experience many disturbances due to visitors of Kinderdijk who park in the village. To get rid of these disturbances, and to make an alternative parking area in the waterfront area of Alblasserdam possible to manage, it is desirable to regulate the parking in Kinderdijk (including West-Kinderdijk).

Status: implemented for in the high season

- 4.2 **Limit Accessibility to the area:** Visitors who do not pay can be denied access to the World Heritage. The digital information features will help to ensure that fewer individual visitors will just show up by chance at Kinderdijk. But to get a handle on the visitor flow, it also needs to be possible to limit access to the area. The aim is to provide access to the area by giving priority to paid visitors. In this way, visitors contribute to the conservation of the property and also make use of the educational opportunities. By limiting access to the area, the number of visitors can be limited to quality visitors, residents and their visitors and the immediate residents in the area. Residents of the world heritage and their visitors and immediate residents of the area will receive free access to the property.

Status: Research about the possibility of closing of the property is being conducted. This research will be completed at the end of 2021.

- 4.3 **Public transportation to Elshout:** Public transportation via road and water plays an important role in transporting visitors throughout the entire country to Kinderdijk. This can be improved and better optimized.

Status: The pier for the water bus will be adjusted in the fall of 2021.

Uitvoeringsprogramma Kinderdijk 2020-2025

Het gebiedsproject 'T' oekomst Vrelderigoed Kinderdijk' en het Uitvoeringsprogramma 2020-2025 vormen voor de leden van de stuur groep de basis voor hun beleid en de daaruit voortvloeiende maatschappelijke opgaven voor alles wat in en rondom het werelderfgoed te Eibout speelt. Alle toekomstige ontwikkelingen en initiatieven in en rondom Kinderdijk worden door de leden van de stuur groep vanuit dit perspectief o-actief met elkaar besproken en beoordeeld. Op basis daarvan wordt de stuur groep advies uit aan het bevoegd gezag dat vervolgens in principe zal handelen conform dat advies.

Als een advies van de stuur groep om wat voor redenen dan ook door het bevoegd gezag niet opgevolgd kan worden, wordt dit in de stuur groep besproken en wordt gezamenlijk gezocht naar een uitkomst die voor de stuur groep opgevolgd kan worden.

Het UNESCO werelderfgoed Kinderdijk wordt het eerste icoon in de wereld waar het ontwikkelen van de toeristische hotspot samengaat met verbetering van de leefbaarheid, het behouden van de beleving, authenticiteit, rust en ruimte en het versterken van de natuur

lijn 1

Wij streven naar een toekomst, waarin het icoon Kinderdijk met een aansprekend beeld wordt ingebed in de leefbaarheid van de UNESCO status van Eib. Deze herziening zal in de toekomst worden.

lijn 2

Wij zorgen voor een toekomst, waarin de dorpen Kinderdijk, Ablasserdam en Nieuw-Lekkerland zich in de luwte van de toeristenstrøm kunnen blijven ontwikkelen als prachtige plek om te wonen en ongewenste ontwikkelingen af te baken kunnen worden gebakend.

lijn 3

Om onze ambitie waar te maken, gaan we ervoor zorgen dat de optimale gip krijgen op alle aspecten omen, individueel en collectief, goed gemanaged en ongewenst overleg, over weg en over water, richting het werelderfgoed.

Het UNESCO werelderfgoed Kinderdijk wordt het eerste icoon in de wereld waar het ontwikkelen van de toeristische hotspot samengaat met verbetering van de leefbaarheid, het behouden van de beleving, authenticiteit, rust en ruimte en het versterken van de natuur

Beeldrijke trekker (namingen de stuur groep)	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	Herontwikkeling Entreezone	Herfichtingsprojecten	Visitors management	Vergunningen parkeren
Verhaal	Draakzichts-onderzoek	gebiedsstuurgroep	RCE	Behoeften Nieuw 2020 gebied (e.o.)	Stedenbouwkundig plan entreezone	Stedenbouwkundig plan entreezone	Stedenbouwkundig plan entreezone	Veranderingen parkeren Kinderdijk
Direct betrokken stuurgroepen	gebiedsstuurgroep	gebiedsstuurgroep	RCE	SVEK, Molenlanden, Ablasserdam, Waterschap	SVEK, Waterschap, Provincie, RCE	SVEK, gemeente, Ablasserdam, Provincie	SVEK, Molenlanden, Waterschap	SVEK, Molenlanden, Ablasserdam
Ovige te betrekken partijen	bezoekersomroepen, dekluidigen	bezoekersomroepen, dekluidigen	bezoekersomroepen, dekluidigen	bezoekersomroepen, dekluidigen	bezoekersomroepen, dekluidigen	bezoekersomroepen, dekluidigen	bezoekersomroepen, dekluidigen	bezoekersomroepen, dekluidigen
status	start 2-2020	start 2-2020	start 2021	start 2021	gebied	ontwerp in uitvoering	ontwerp in uitvoering	in uitvoering

SVEK

In alle werkdagen tot en met zaterdag van 10.00 tot 17.00 uur. Het gebiedsproject 'T' oekomst Vrelderigoed Kinderdijk' en het Uitvoeringsprogramma 2020-2025 vormen voor de leden van de stuur groep de basis voor hun beleid en de daaruit voortvloeiende maatschappelijke opgaven voor alles wat in en rondom het werelderfgoed te Eibout speelt. Alle toekomstige ontwikkelingen en initiatieven in en rondom Kinderdijk worden door de leden van de stuur groep vanuit dit perspectief o-actief met elkaar besproken en beoordeeld. Op basis daarvan wordt de stuur groep advies uit aan het bevoegd gezag dat vervolgens in principe zal handelen conform dat advies.

Alle toekomstige ontwikkelingen en initiatieven in en rondom Kinderdijk worden door de leden van de stuur groep vanuit dit perspectief o-actief met elkaar besproken en beoordeeld. Op basis daarvan wordt de stuur groep advies uit aan het bevoegd gezag dat vervolgens in principe zal handelen conform dat advies.

Als een advies van de stuur groep om wat voor redenen dan ook door het bevoegd gezag niet opgevolgd kan worden, wordt dit in de stuur groep besproken en wordt gezamenlijk gezocht naar een uitkomst die voor de stuur groep opgevolgd kan worden.

Kernteam

In een ambtelijk overleg, waarin met de stuur groep wordt overlegd over de voortgang van de uitvoering van de stuur groep. Het kernteam wordt gevormd door de stuur groep en de ambtelijke medewerkers van de stuur groep. Het kernteam wordt gevormd door de stuur groep en de ambtelijke medewerkers van de stuur groep.

In het overleg wordt alle (actuele) vragen voor de stuur groep besproken. Het kernteam wordt gevormd door de stuur groep en de ambtelijke medewerkers van de stuur groep.

Als een advies van de stuur groep om wat voor redenen dan ook door het bevoegd gezag niet opgevolgd kan worden, wordt dit in de stuur groep besproken en wordt gezamenlijk gezocht naar een uitkomst die voor de stuur groep opgevolgd kan worden.

Werkwijze bij de aansturing van de projecten en activiteiten:

- elke project krijgt vanuit de stuur groep een 'bestuurlijk opdrachtgever' - deze ligt de voorstellen in de stuur groep toe op het moment dat hij/zij wordt door de stuur groep is voor bespreking (niet projectleider, maar OG bestuur als stuur groep)
- elk project krijgt één projectleider - deze ligt de voorstellen in de stuur groep toe op het moment dat hij/zij wordt door de stuur groep is voor bespreking (niet projectleider, maar OG bestuur als stuur groep)
- projectleider en bestuurlijk opdrachtgever maken afspraken over te lever en resultaat, planning en noodzakelijke middelen (capaciteit en geld), wijze van afstemming met andere projecten, partijen en vervolgacties (zoals eventuele formele besluitvormingsprocedures en zaken en bestuur)
- een project start op het moment dat opdrachtgever via stuur groep dekking voldoende zekerheid heeft dat middelen gedekt kunnen worden

De kerngroep is het ambtelijk overleg voor de stuur groep, een platform voor operationeel overleg en informele afstemming.



Attachment IV Milestone Schedule Kinderdijk version April 14 2021

		2020		2021				2022				2023				2024				2025	
		11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	1	2
	vanuit BPK verantwoordelijk	status																			
LJN 1: BELEVING VAN HET WERELDERGOED KINDERDIJK																					
1.1	Verhaal	SWEK	in uitvoering; wordt gekoppeld aan uitwerken "Verhaal van de Polder"																		
1.2	Draagkrachtonderzoek	gemeente Molenlanden	in uitvoering; door Corona is planning ongewis																		
1.3	Onderzoek consequenties bewoning	SWEK																			
1.4	Beheersplan Natura 2000 gebied (e.o)	Provincie	uitgesteld																		
LJN 2: DORPEN IN DE LUWTE																					
2.1	omgevingsplan	BPK	on-hold - in afwachting van uitwerking stedenbouwkundig plan entreegebied																		
2.2.1	stedenbouwkundig plan entree gebied	gemeente Molenlanden	planvorming in uitvoering																		
2.2.3	J.U Smitgemeal	waterschap	in uitvoering; verantwoordelijkheid Waterschap																		
2.3.1	Hermirching Molenstraat	gemeente Molenlanden	start zomer 2021 met planvorming (?)																		
2.3.2	Molenkade/Blokweerskade	Waterschap																			
2.3.3	Verplaatsten Boezemkade	gemeente Molenlanden	verwachte definitieve planvorming en afronding																		
2.4	Toekomstvisie Kinderdijk dorp in de Luwte		initiatief bij dorpsgemeenschap; gemeente faciliteert en ondersteunt																		
LJN 3: VISITORSMANAGEMENT																					
3.1	Westrand Nieuw Lekkerland	gemeente Molenlanden	in uitvoering; verraagd door Flora en Fauna onderzoek																		
3.2	Transierium Albiasserdam	gemeente Albiasserdam,	besluit lokalekeuze raad Albiasserdam; uitwerking interieuvierkering en planvorming																		
3.1&3.2	Visitorsmanagement / Last Mile vervoer	SWEK	in uitvoering; overdracht verantwoordelijkheid naar SWEK																		
3.3.	Vergunningparkeren	gemeente Molenlanden & Albiasserdam	geïmplementeerd																		
3.4	Beperken toegankelijkheid	BPK	onderzoek in uitvoering																		
3.5	Openbaar vervoer (aanpassen stieger)	gemeente Molenlanden	aanpassen stieger waterbus najaar 2021																		