

# MANAGEMENT PLAN

WORLD HERITAGE SCHOKLAND AND SURROUNDINGS 2020-2025  
PUBLIC VERSION



Werelderfgoed  
Schokland



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Schokland  
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# Management Plan

## World Heritage Site Schokland and Surroundings 2020-2025

This is the public version of the 2020-2025 Management Plan for the UNESCO World Heritage Site Schokland and Surroundings. This summary contains the main conclusions from the management plan. You may be wondering why Schokland needs a management plan. There is an important reason for this. For each World Heritage site, UNESCO wants to know how the parties involved work on the management, conservation and public awareness of that site. Following the 2010 Management Plan and the 2014-2019 Management Plan, this is the third management plan for Schokland. This plan aims to look ahead to the next six years.

### Why World Heritage?

Schokland is a unique combination of cultural history and nature. People have been living and working in the area that is currently referred to as Noordoostpolder for some 10,000 years. It is a place between land and water, in the heart of Noordoostpolder, which is rich in archaeological resources. Not surprisingly therefore, in 1995, UNESCO decided to upgrade the status of Schokland and surroundings to a World Heritage site. The Schokland World Heritage site is proof that people have been living on Schokland from prehistoric times to the reclamation of Noordoostpolder.

### Living with and the struggle against water

Schokland symbolises the special relationship of the

Dutch with water. Despite impending floods and poverty, people have always lived on Schokland. Thousands of years of Dutch historic living lie hidden in the soil of Schokland. Just over 160 archaeological sites reveal the development and culture of the residents of Schokland; from hunter-gatherer and farmer to islander and polder resident.

Schokland had also been an island in the Zuiderzee for centuries. Land erosion meant that Schokland became smaller and smaller over the course of time. In 1859, the danger of flooding and persistent poverty made the government decide to evacuate the island. Since Noordoostpolder was reclaimed, Schokland has been part of the mainland again. Like an island on dry land.

### What are our objectives?

This plan contains the administrative agreements for the period from 2020 to 2025. It describes how we arrange sustainable conservation and maintenance of the Schokland World Heritage site. The World Heritage site Schokland and Surroundings is of exceptional universal value, or Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), as referred to by UNESCO. The management plan shows how the site holder (the general manager) and the area partners ensure that this value is preserved. In addition, it explains how we effectively implement new developments in the management of the Schokland World Heritage site.

In the management plan, we also take the UNESCO objectives into account. They are:

- Protecting, enhancing and developing cultural-historical, ecological and scenic values;
- Increasing the recognisability and public awareness of Schokland;
- Strengthening the local economy.

To achieve its objectives, UNESCO applies the 5 Cs:

- Credibility (the Outstanding Universal Value – each World Heritage site is unique)

- Conservation (preservation of World Heritage values)
- Communication (providing information on the World Heritage site)
- Capacity building (developing knowledge, economy, employment)
- Communities (collaboration with the environment)

## We are proud of our beautiful World Heritage!

### Our approach

Schokland was awarded the World Heritage status in 1995. During the first decade after obtaining this special status, we worked on the restoration of buildings and other elements. The decade thereafter, we focused on conservation, in particular of archaeological values.

We have now reached the end of 2019. In the coming years, we will focus our attention on development and recreation. Promoting a sense of pride in our beautiful World Heritage is one of our key objectives! We first consulted the residents to hear what opportunities they can see. We would like to involve them in the plans. We subsequently organised work sessions with the area committee.

A management plan has been written based on these meetings. This is the summarised (public) version of it.



# Dream, target flowcharts & tasks

**Our dream**  
We have a dream for 2026. In 2026, Schokland can proudly call itself UNESCO World Heritage site. Schokland is an icon of the struggle against the water. A rock-solid brand! A place where cultural-historical values have been preserved and where nature grows and flourishes. A place characterised by a healthy balance between living and tourism. And a place where farmers can continue to do their work, maybe even in new ways. All this can be attributed to the joint efforts of everyone involved in Schokland. Collaboration is the basis. And whatever we do, we do it sustainably.

## Target flowcharts

We have incorporated this dream and what we need to do to achieve that dream into target flowcharts, distinguishing regular tasks (what we **have** to do) and specific tasks (what we **want** to do).

## Regular tasks

We prepare regular reports for UNESCO and pay attention to the topics of sustainability and emergency. Regular tasks deal with the management of roads, watercourses, green areas and open areas. The implementation of spatial policy and building permits are classed under this as well. In short, everything that concerns the actual management and conservation of the World Heritage values. The table below provides a total overview of regular activities and the responsible organisations. These tasks have not been incorporated in the target flowcharts.

Regular work	Responsible organisation
Annual inspection & maintenance of the Lighthouse Keeper's House and the Foghorn House	Municipality of Noordoostpolder
Annual inspection of church ruins, beacon and draw well	Het Flevo-landschap
Archaeological management P13/14	Het Flevo-landschap
Terps & harbour: regular management	Het Flevo-landschap Municipality of Noordoostpolder
Terp Middelbuurt and Schokland Museum	Cultuurbedrijf Noordoostpolder and municipality of Noordoostpolder
Regular management and maintenance of the grounds of the Flevoland landscape	Het Flevo-landschap
Monitoring wildlife and vegetation	Het Flevo-landschap
Supervision and water level management	Zuiderzeeland Water Board
Maintenance of waterworks	Zuiderzeeland Water Board
Groundwater monitoring	Zuiderzeeland Water Board
Consolidation of quays on the Northside	Zuiderzeeland Water Board
Monitoring ground subsidence	Province of Flevoland
Monitoring (nationally) listed buildings	Province of Flevoland
Monitoring hydrological zone	Cultural Heritage Agency
Regular management & maintenance Gesteentetuin ('rock garden') visitor centre	Het Flevo-landschap
Regular maintenance of through roads	Municipality of Noordoostpolder and province of Flevoland
Regular management and maintenance of private and agricultural land	Residents, farmers and landowners



## Specific tasks

The specific tasks related to the Schokland World Heritage site are aimed at strengthening the economic development and matters such as management, collaboration, education and awareness.

An initiator is appointed for each part. This is a person who or an organisation that, on behalf of the site holder group, pays attention to the actions undertaken by organisations. To this end, the initiator and the chairman of the area committee maintain regular contact.

## Initiators:

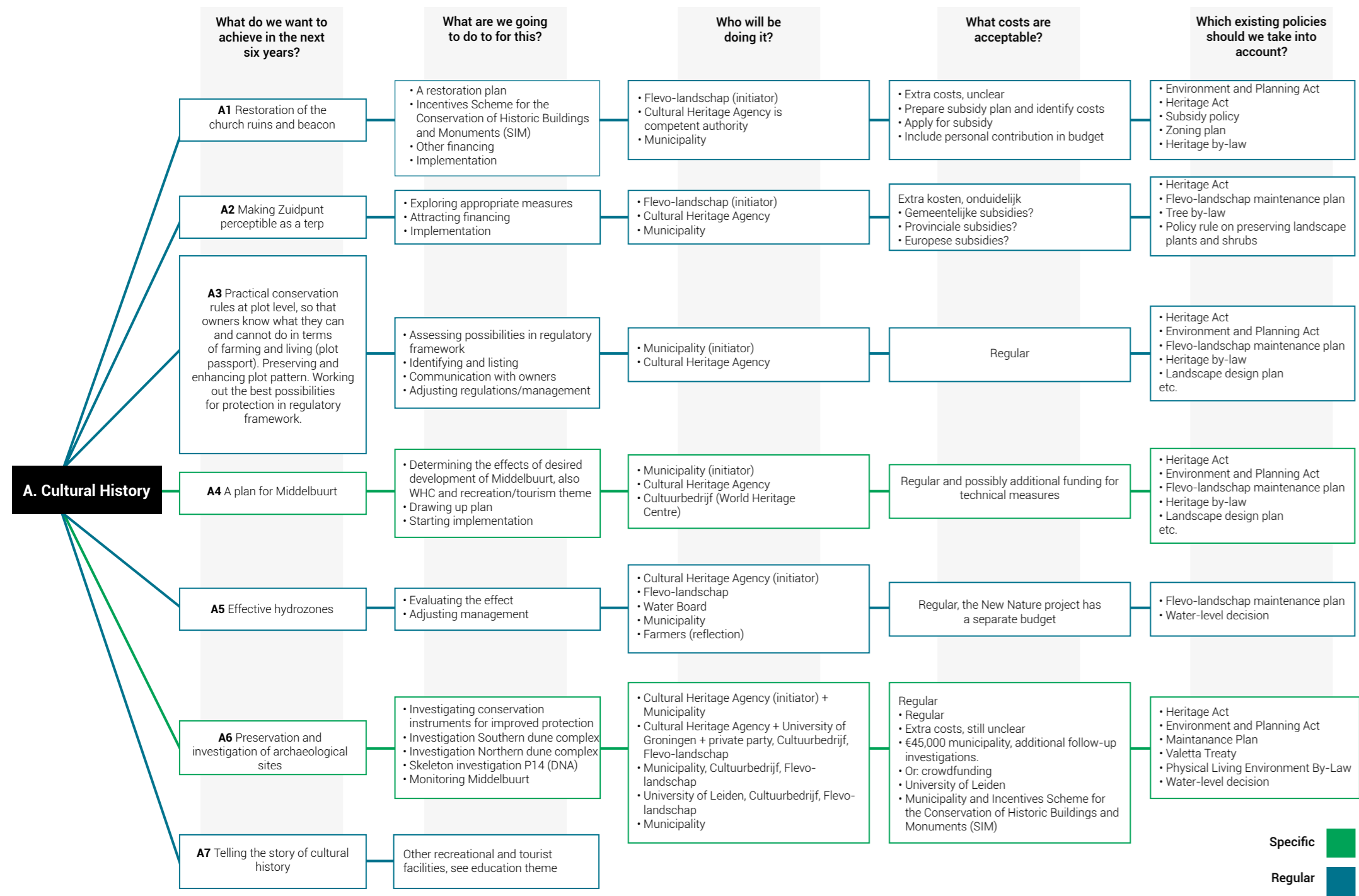
- A. Cultural history**  
Cultural Heritage Agency
- B. Tourism and recreation**  
Province of Flevoland
- C. Nature and landscape**  
Het Flevo-landschap
- D. Agriculture**  
Schoklands Boerengoed (Farmers of Schokland association)
- E. Communication**  
Chairman of the area committee
- F. Education and presentation**  
Cultuurbedrijf Noordoostpolder
- G. Collaboration**  
Site holder, municipality of Noordoostpolder



CULTURAL HISTORY







### Cultural history

In the coming years, we will be carrying out maintenance, renovation and restoration work around the church ruins and the beacon at Zuidpunt. We will transform Zuidpunt into a visible and perceptible site as a terp by (partially) removing the forest around the terp. We are also developing a plan for the redevelopment of the Middelbuurt terp. Furthermore, we look at how the protection of Schokland as a World Heritage site is embedded in rules and regulations and which regulations need to be applied, in order to ensure the best legal protection.

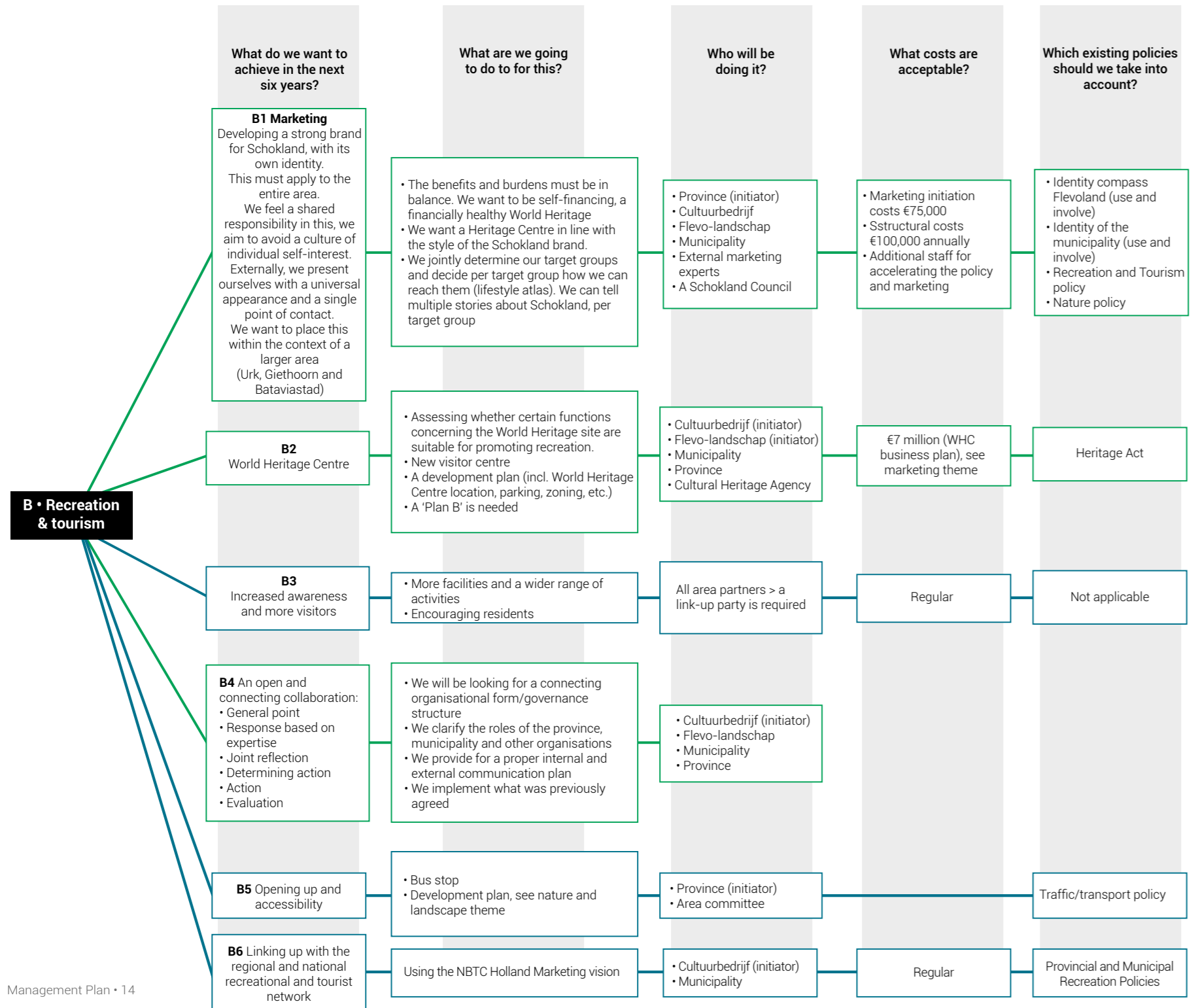
A properly functioning hydrozone (an area where the groundwater level is raised) is important for the conservation of Schokland and its archaeological remains. We are currently investigating the effectiveness of the current hydrological zone on the east side of the former island. The results will provide us with information for the new hydrological zone to be constructed on the south side, among other things. This is where we are working on the New Nature project. In the coming period, we will focus our attention on the research of archaeological sites. We expect to start a long-term research project, in which we will involve schools in higher professional education, universities and the public. Our agenda for the coming years further includes telling the story of our World Heritage. We aim to realise this by setting up a new World Heritage Centre and by joining the Foundation of Dutch World Heritage Sites. Schokland is a World Heritage site to be proud of!



# RECREATION & TOURISM







Specific ■  
 Regular ■



### Recreation and Tourism

It is our objective to raise awareness and attract more visitors appropriate to the area. That is why we want to develop a strong brand for Schokland. Externally, we present ourselves with a universal appearance and a single point of contact. All parties involved work together when it comes to tourism and recreation. We determine our target groups together. A marketing plan describes how we aim to reach them. Promotion is something we do together as well. We participate in the Foundation of Dutch World Heritage Sites and carry out joint activities to raise awareness of our World Heritage. Cultuurbedrijf Noordoostpolder wants to take the lead to set up a new Schokland World Heritage visitor centre, and will do so in collaboration with Flevo-landscape and the other World Heritage partners. This World Heritage Centre is expected to open its doors to the public at the end of 2025. Meanwhile, we are working on improving the accessibility of Schokland. We will also examine the options for a structural solution for public transport.

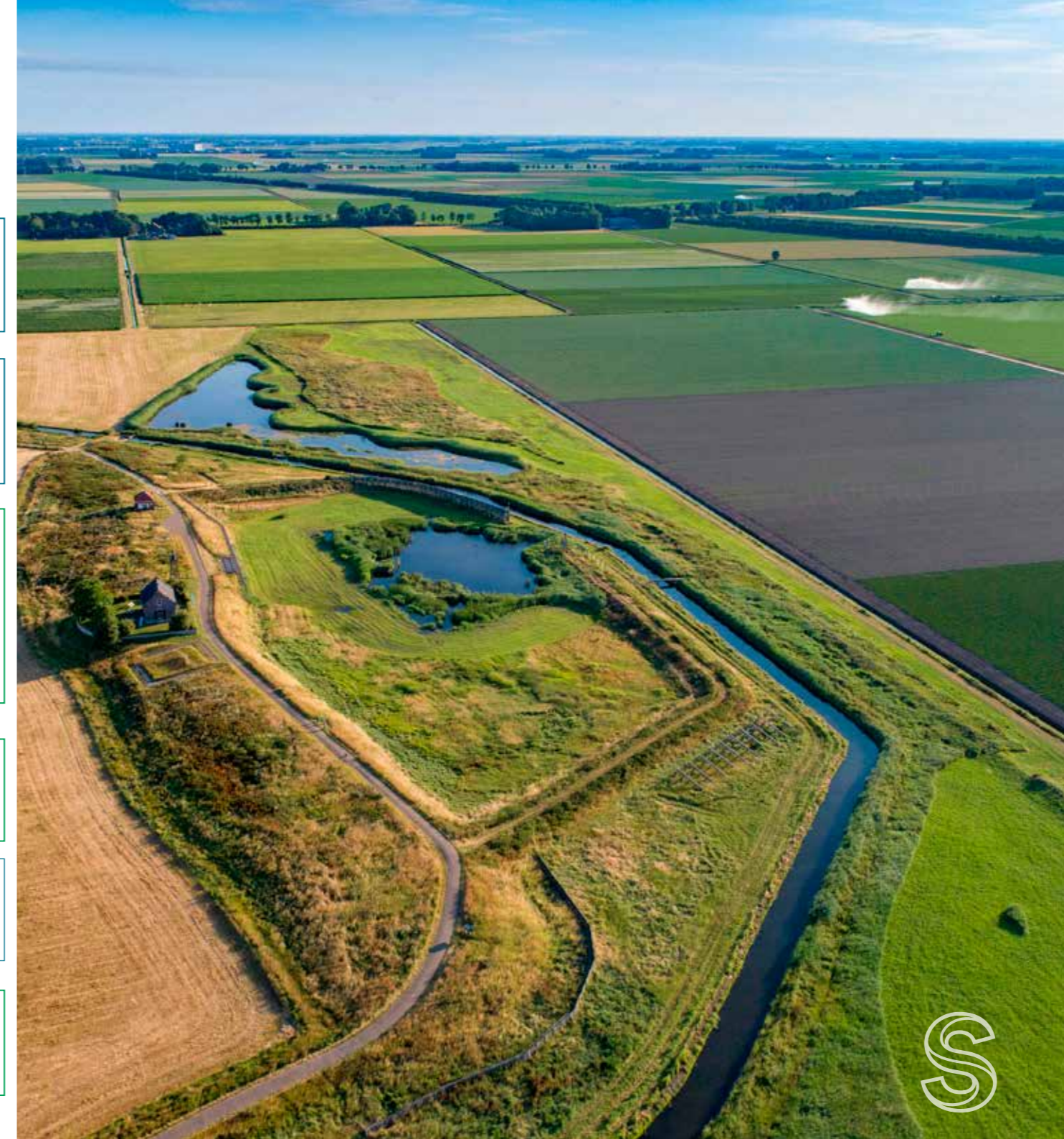
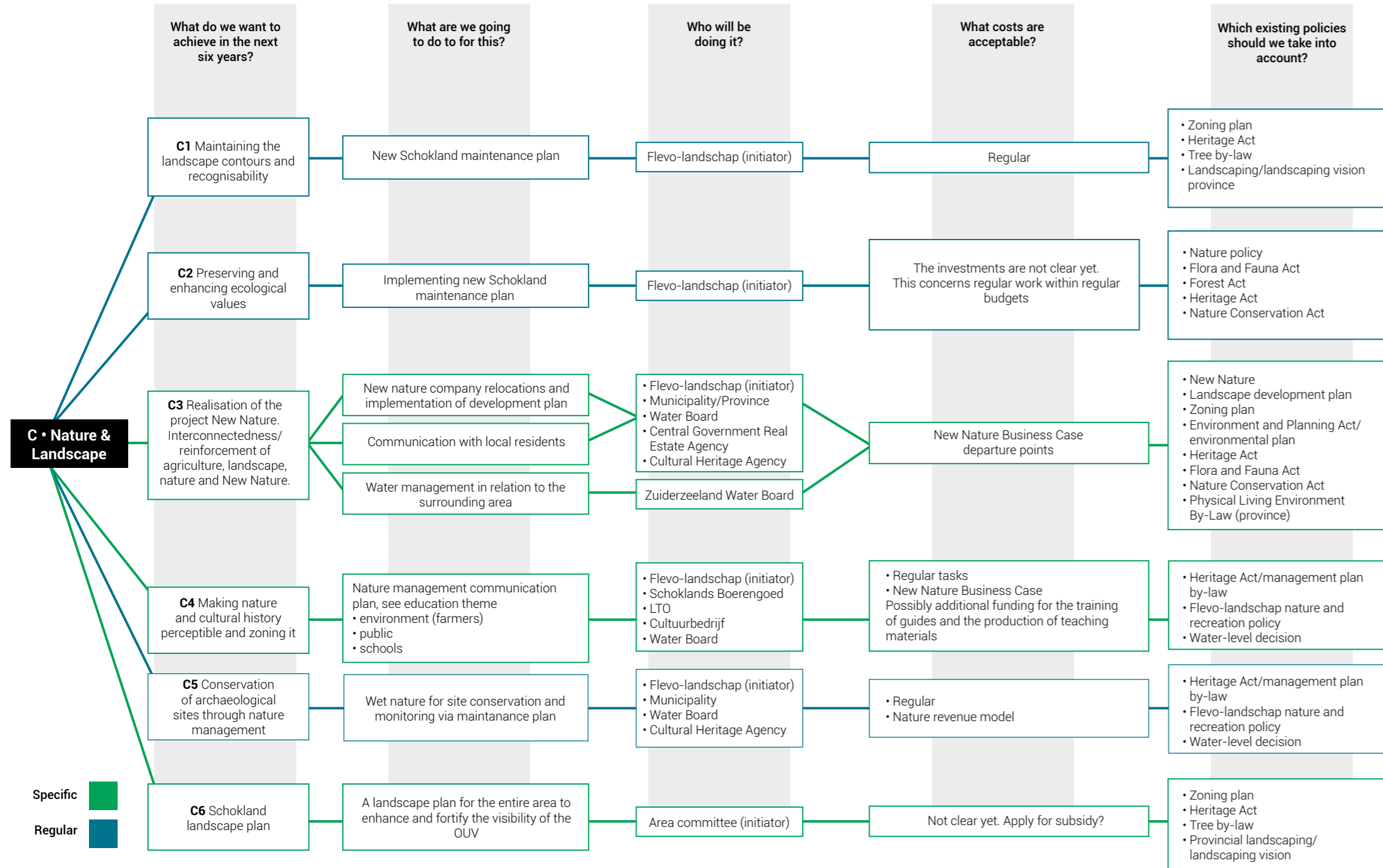




**NATURE & LANDSCAPE**







## Nature and Landscape

Schokland used to be an island. We aim to protect the visible reminders of its shape and size. We do this by keeping the island and its surroundings open and ensuring clearly visible vegetation on the outskirts. We tell the story of Schokland through its landscape, for example in the form of recognisable terps on the island and historic-styled agriculture.

Our regular management ensures the conservation of nature on Schokland. We will assess what else we can do to further enhance those ecological values throughout the World Heritage site.

Around 200 hectares of new nature are planned south of Schokland. It concerns grasslands where meadow birds and other animals have their habitat and nature-friendly fields. This new nature area will protect the archaeological values in the soil of our World Heritage site. We expect the New Nature project to be completed within the term of this management plan.

Schokland's nature is there also to be experienced. That is why footpaths and cycle tracks have been laid out throughout the area. In addition, excursions and activities for both young and old are organised on Schokland on a regular basis. This way, we can tell both the nature story and the Schokland story.



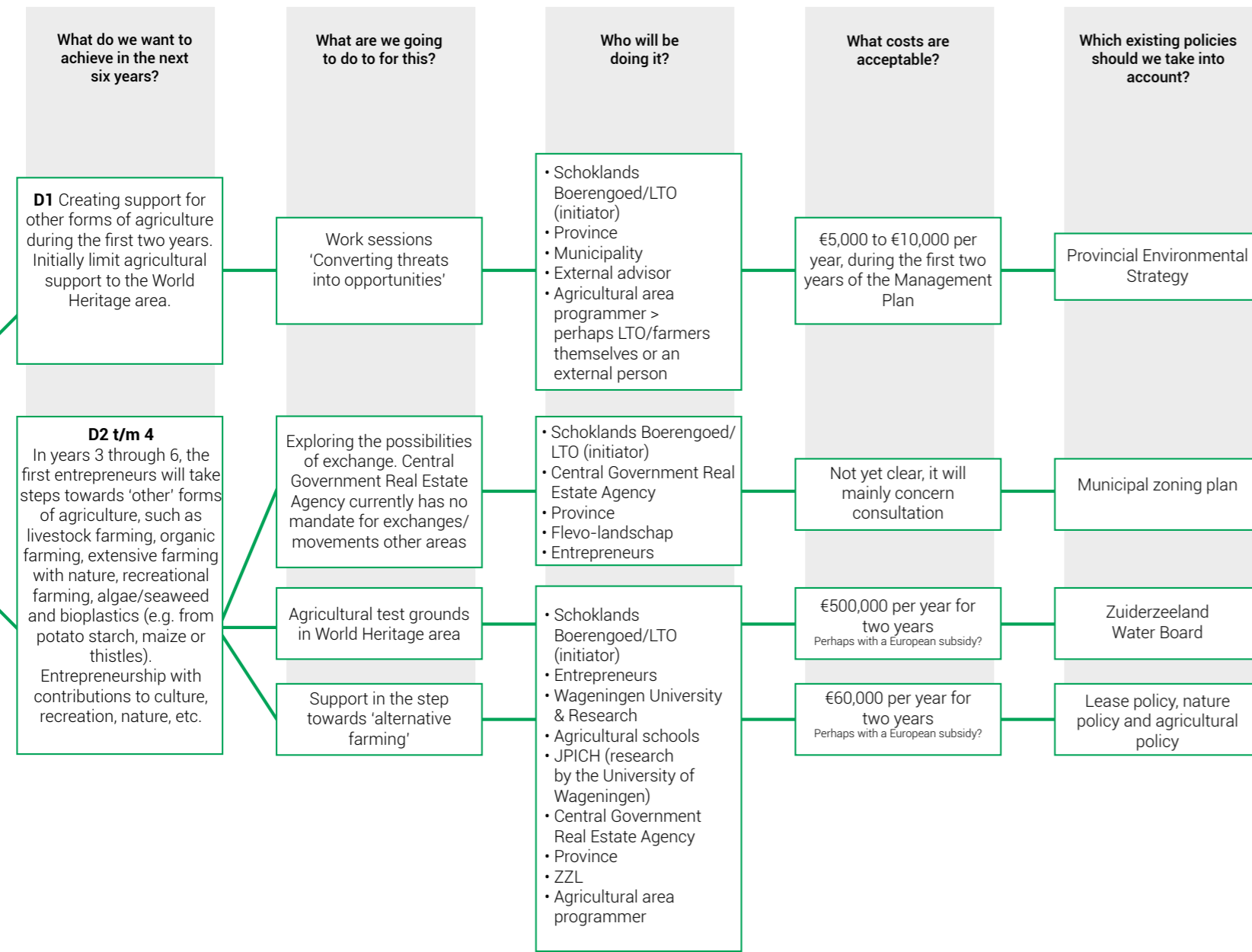


AGRICULTURE





**D • Agriculture**



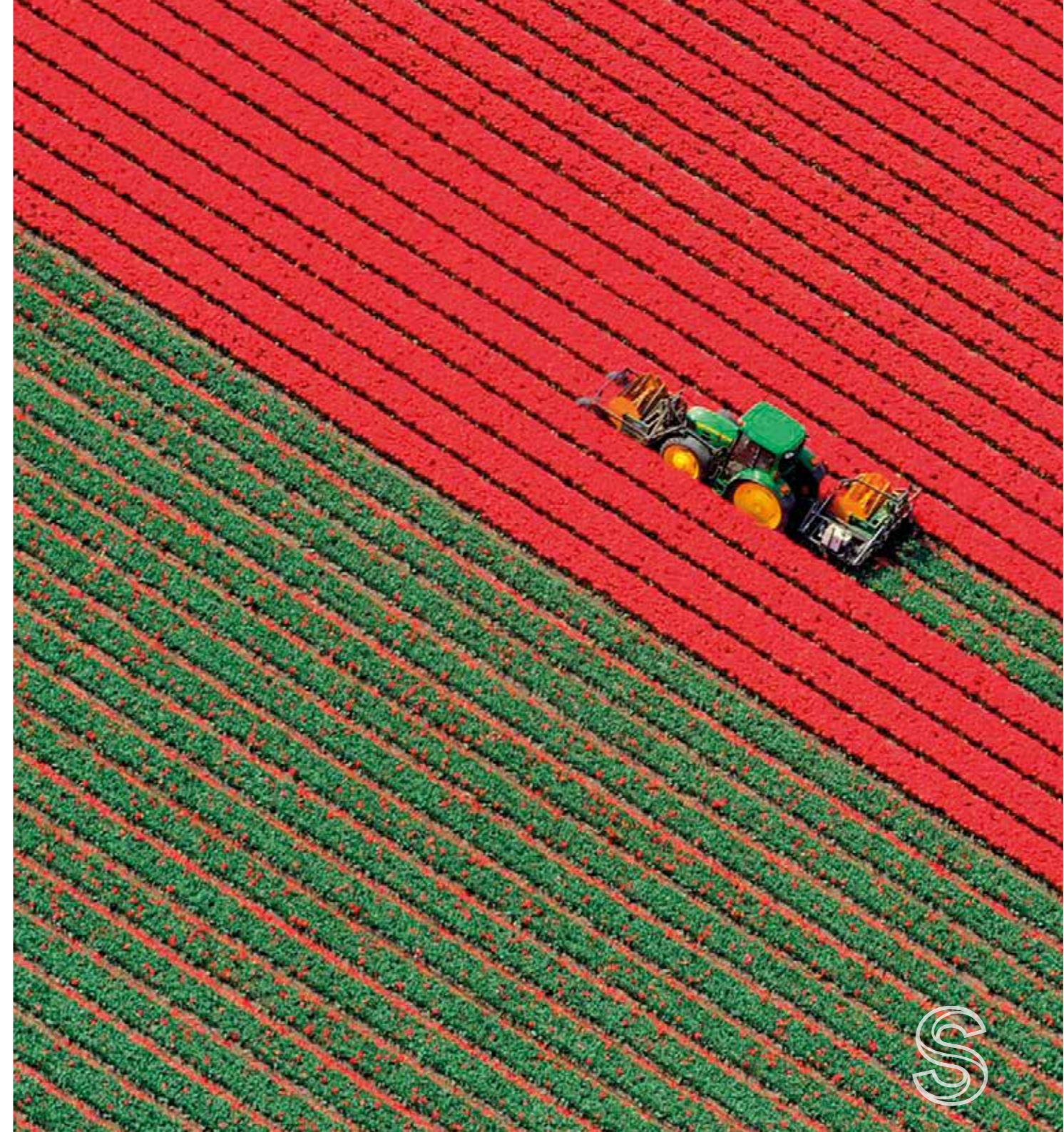
Specific ■  
Regular ■

**Agriculture**

The farmers on and around the island want to continue to do their work in the future, even though there may be limitations. That is why we want to make a joint assessment as to whether other forms of agriculture are possible. Conversion is a possibility to start with new forms of agriculture. We want to exchange such opportunities and ideas with farmers through work sessions.

In addition, we would like to set up test grounds. This gives us the opportunity to try out new things and show them to the public. Furthermore, we can see opportunities in the sale of a genuine Schokland product.

These new forms of agriculture must be given room to develop. We understand that these new forms may not produce the desired results, or at least not straight away. Knowledge support helps with this. In the current national agricultural vision, the minister embraces circular agriculture. She also enthusiastically welcomed the National Biodiversity Delta Plan. All this means that agriculture and nature on Schokland, as in other places, are faced with a major challenge to jointly create added value for the landscape in this area.

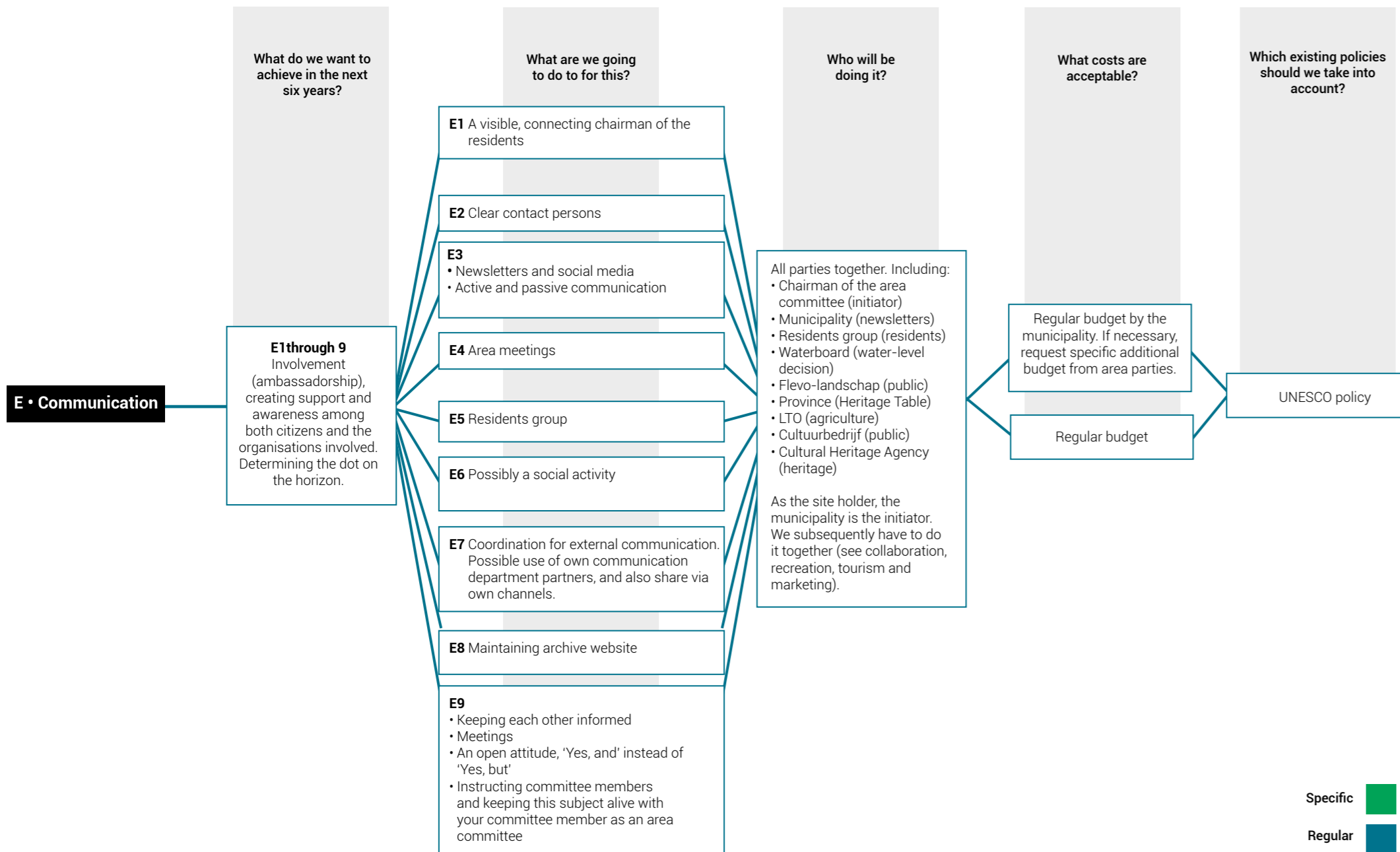




COMMUNICATION







## Communication

The chairman of the Schokland area committee combines his chairmanship with the ambassadorship for World Heritage Schokland in the region. As an ambassador, he is the link between the various organisations involved (official and administrative), the area committee and the site holder group. He also represents the World Heritage site externally. Together with the organisations/stakeholders involved, he generates support with the surroundings of Schokland. He does this by, among other things, attending the World Heritage Cafés and through contacts with the Schokland Focus Group.

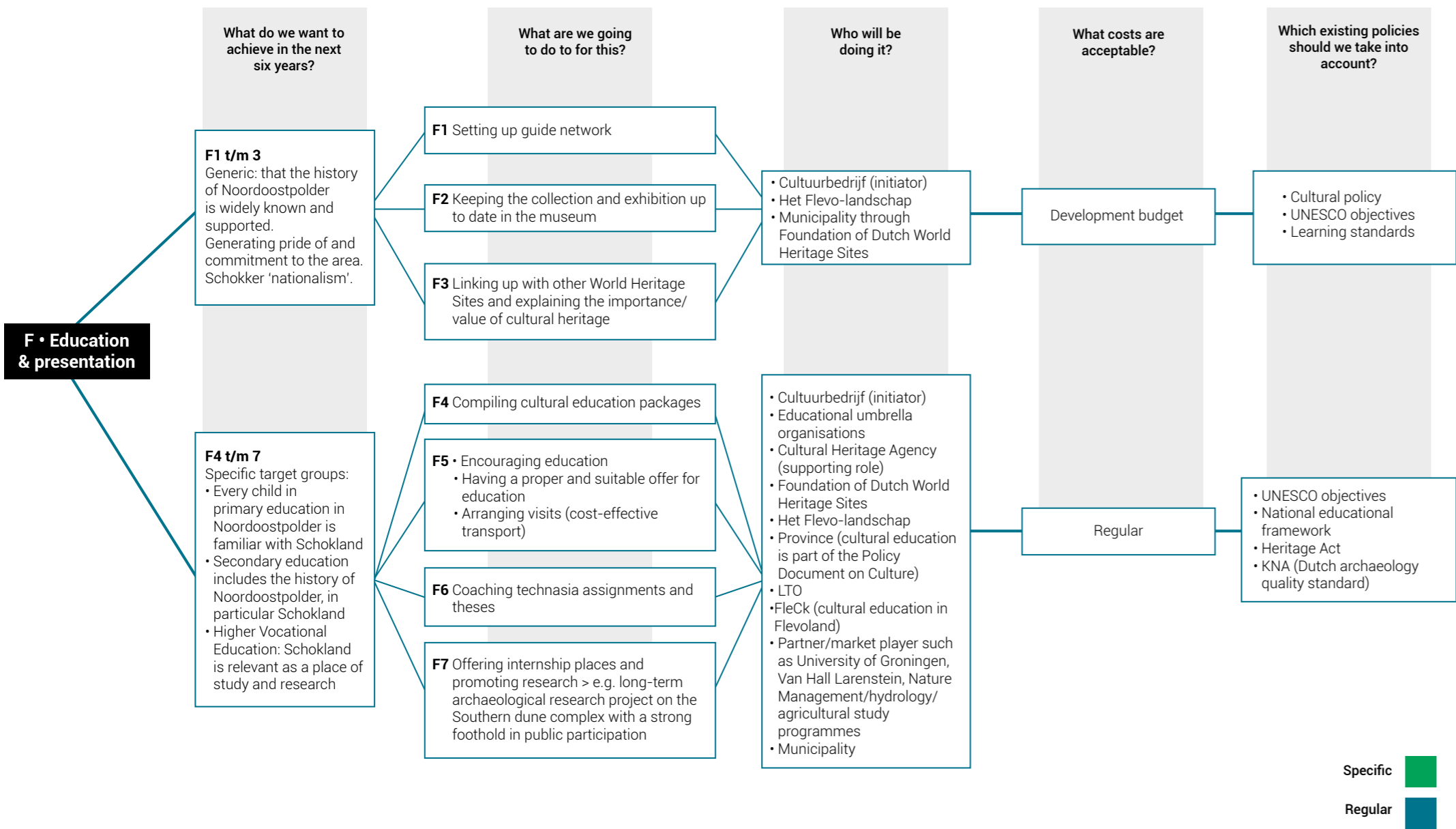
The residents of the World Heritage area have a say and think along. About twice a year, everyone involved receives a newsletter about developments within the World Heritage site. Residents receive regular invitations for interactive area meetings, the World Heritage Café. They also have a say through the Schokland Focus Group, which includes five residents. The Focus Group maintains contact with the managers of the public space. This enables quick responses to questions or comments from residents. The Focus Group has also been formed to strengthen solidarity within the World Heritage site.



EDUCATION & PRESENTATION







### Education and presentation

It is important that the history of Schokland and the entire Noordoostpolder is known to a wide audience. Our wish is that more and more people feel a sense of pride of and commitment to this beautiful area!

At all primary schools in Noordoostpolder, the Schokland World Heritage site forms a permanent part of cultural education, so every child in primary education knows about Schokland. Cultuurbedrijf Noordoostpolder prepares teaching programmes for the schools and organises Cultural Education Days. We offer students who opt for vocational education a wide range of internship and research positions. Schokland is an interesting learning place for students of higher vocational and university education. Archaeology on and around Schokland offers opportunities for long-term research projects. Involving the public in this is also possible.

We are affiliated with the Foundation of Dutch World Heritage Sites. The foundation helps the 10 Dutch World Heritage sites with activities such as developing teaching packages and promoting tourism.

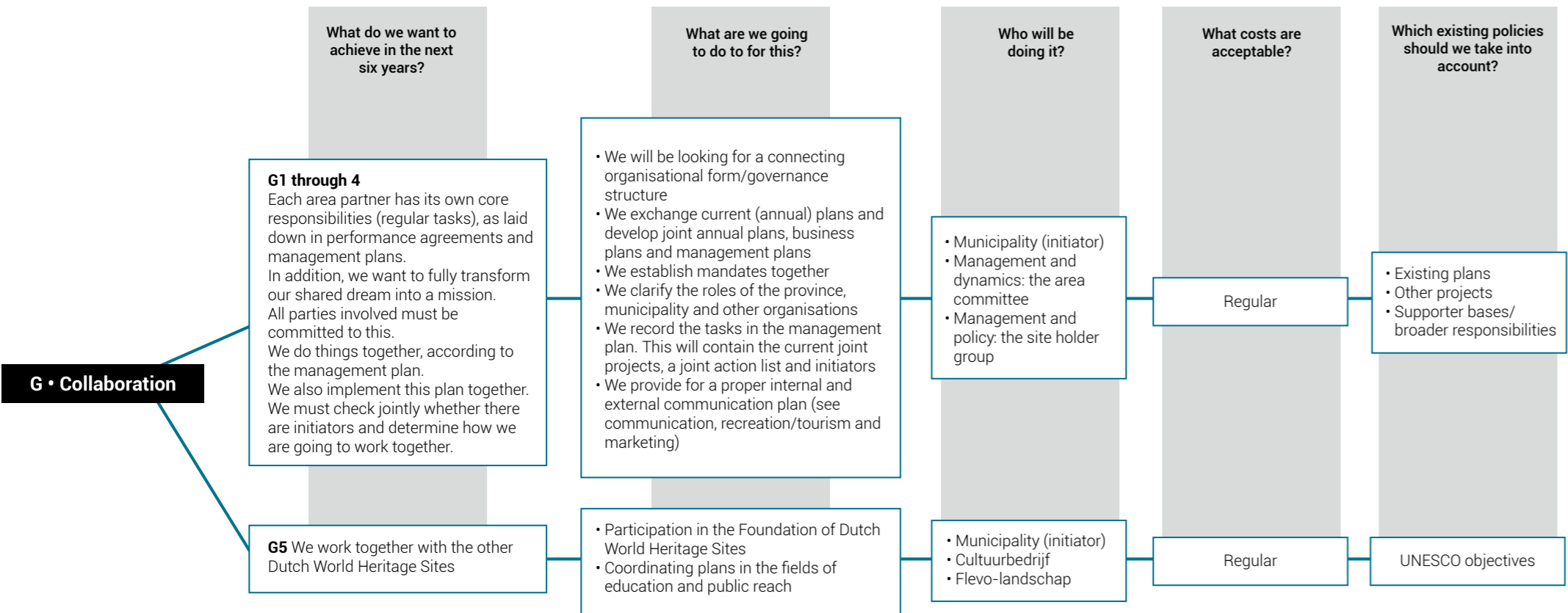
The new presentation in Museum Schokland ensures more visitors. Cultuurbedrijf Noordoostpolder also develops new art and theatre projects to entice a culturally interested public to visit Schokland.



COLLABORATION







Specific ■  
Regular ■



### Collaboration

Every organisation involved has its own responsibility. Together, the organisations convert Schokland's dream into actions. They discuss their management plans and other activities in the area committee and site holder group. They also combine forces to look for solutions for the extra investments.

As a site holder, the municipality of Noordoostpolder encourages this collaboration. An important objective therein is the mutual sharing of knowledge. All organisations working with the public within the World Heritage site do so together. This provides a common entrance to the World Heritage site. A World Heritage Centre plays an important role in this. Additional revenue is generated through that World Heritage Centre and the public. This can be used for the management of the World Heritage site.





## World Heritage Site Schokland and Surroundings Management Plan 2020-2025

Site holder: Municipality of Noordoostpolder

Area partners: Stichting Het Flevo-landschap, Province of Flevoland, Cultural Heritage Agency, Zuiderzeeland Water Board, Stichting Cultuurbedrijf Noordoostpolder, Central Government Real Estate Agency, Stichting Schoklands Boerengood, Northern Netherlands Agriculture and Horticulture Organisation and the Schokland Focus Group.

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### Photographers

Andre Prins, Arjan Keers, Anneke Ellen, Carin van der Meijden, Cobie Reuvers, Evelien Sikkema, Freddy Schinkel, Ina Bosma, Hille Monster, Jasper Pluim, Jos Stöver, Jos van Straalen, Koos Mast, Meindert Koffeman, Michel van Rooijen, Peter van den Hurk, Peter van Breugel, Stichting Werelderfgoed Nederland, Hans Veldman, William Vercreaeye and all the other photographers.

### Advice, text and design

Vonc Communicatie

### Gebiedspartners



Northern Agriculture and Horticulture Organisation



Province of Flevoland



Cultuurbedrijf Noordoostpolder



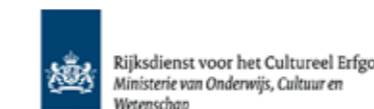
Zuiderzeeland Water Board



Municipality of Noordoostpolder



Farmers of Schokland association



Cultural Heritage Agency



Het Flevo-landschap



Central Government Real Estate Agency



Schokland Focus Group

Final version, december 18th 2019











# MANAGEMENTPLAN

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