



Sustainable holiday in an old willow worker's home

Final report Biesbosch actions in the CaRe-Lands project phase 2 (actions 2, 4, 5)

Introduction

This report describes the results of the Biesbosch actions in phase 2 of the Care-Lands project. These actions concern the theme of sustainable building. In the application for CaRe-Lands phase 2 they are described as follows:

Action 2: Buildings: inventories of technologies to reduce energy consumption of new and existing buildings, including financial aspects and renewable energy.

Action 4: Local actions (f.e. workshops) to engage local stakeholders (businesses, communities, governments) in projects supporting the reduction of GHG-emissions through the management of local landscapes using the ideas developed during Actions 1 to 3.

Action 5: Development of action plans, based on lessons from Actions 1-4, to support GHG-reduction through landscape management.

Aim

The main aim of the CaRe-Lands project is, to find effective ways to reduce GHG-emissions in valuable nature, landscape and rural areas. In phase 2 of the Care-lands, Biesbosch focused on the theme of sustainable buildings. Staatsbosbeheer is associated partner of the project in phase 2.

Contents	Page
Action 2: - First Step: sketches for a willow worker's cottage	- 2 -
Action 4: - Local workshop March 12, 2015 - Biesbosch partner meeting April 1, 2015	- 3 -
Action 5: - Care-Lands meeting Marquenterre - Follow up Biesbosch - (Cross-border) cooperation CaRe-Lands	- 4 -
Appendices: Action 2:	
	1. Presentation Bongers Architecten
	2. Presentation Ingenieursbureau Drechtsteden
	3. Presentation Orga Architect
	4. Presentation De Vos Architecten: A. Pictures, B. Text, C. Finances
Action 4:	5. Presentation workshop results to partners April 1, 2015
	6. Invitation and program local workshop March 12, 2015
	7. List of participants local workshop March 12, 2015
	8. Report local workshop March 12, 2015
Action 5:	9. Local action plans Biesbosch: A. Cottages, B Toilets



Action 2

Staatsbosbeheer owns 53 buildings in the Biesbosch. Most of them are old willow worker's cottages, of which twelve are nominated for recreational use. Most of them are far out in the Biesbosch, only accessible over water and lacking electricity and sewage. How can you renovate these buildings in such a manner that they can be used in a sustainable way, and thereby contribute to reduction of GHG-emissions, while at the same time they will have to become profitable? This is the question that we like to have answered in the near future.

First step: sketches for a willow worker's cottage

To start a discussion on the possibilities for these cottages with different stakeholders, our first step was to invite four architect bureaus with experience with designing and realizing sustainable buildings, to make sketches for one of the Biesbosch cottages. On February 4, 2015, we made a boat trip to the cottage with all architects and let them experience the Biesbosch in a way future cottage guests could probably experience the same. We then asked them to make sketches and present these in a workshop with stakeholders of the Biesbosch.

The following architects were invited because of their experience and / or their sustainable approach on their website:

1. Bongers Architecten, Oud-Alblas
2. Ingenieursbureau Drechtsteden, Dordrecht
3. ORGA architect, Nijmegen
4. De Vos Architecten, Loenen.

All four of them were pleased to be invited and all of them took a lot of effort to make creative and useful sketches. The results of these sketches are in **appendix 1 – 4**. A summary of the results was made for the Care-Lands partners (**appendix 5**).



Action 4

Local workshop, March 12, 2015

On March 12, 2015 a workshop was held to present the sketches and discuss the ideas about the cottages with Biesbosch stakeholders. As there were only Dutch speaking persons present at the workshop, presentations were held in Dutch.

Appendix 1 – 4 has the presentations of the sketches.

Appendix 6 is the invitation and program for the workshop.

A wide range of stakeholders was invited. All together 28 people were present:

8 partners in CaRe-Lands:

- 2 Parkschap Nationaal Park de Biesbosch
- 4 Staatsbosbeheer
- 1 Grevelingen
- 1 Provincie West Vlaanderen

20 stakeholders, 2 from Grevelingen:

- 8 architects
- 1 technical installations
- 2 knowledge institute building
- 2 local government
- 5 entrepreneurs
- 2 advisors

Appendix 7 is a list of stakeholders present at the workshop.

After the presentations there was a lively discussion in 2 groups.

In the second part of the workshop the joint CaRe-lands study about isolated self-sufficient toilets was presented by IcDuBo. The feedback given by the people present was used to complete the study. The report of this study is available separately. The input given for the toilet study is described in the report of the workshop (**Appendix 8**). One of the scenario's IcDuBo describes in their report is a possible (dry) toilet facility in or near a Biesbosch cottage (**Appendix 9B**).

Biesbosch partner meeting, April 1, 2015

During the meeting of the CaRe-Lands partners in the Biesbosch on April 1, 2015, the results of the workshop were shared with the partners and there was a discussion with the partners about the concepts. Partners showed especially interest in the 'mobile comfort unit', a prefab installation with water, toilet, heating and cooking facilities. This concept maybe useful in other nature areas as well.

Appendix 5: presentation of workshop results to partners.



Action 5

CaRe-Lands workshop Marquenterre, May 20

On May 20, a final CaRe-Lands workshop was held in Marquenterre, to discuss possible future projects as a result from CaRe-Lands and to look for cooperation among interested partners and stakeholders. Again the theme of sustainable building was one of the the CaRe-Lands themes discussed. Biesbosch presented an action plan on Biesbosch cottages for the near future (**Appendix 9A**). Biesbosch is looking for partners who have a common interest in renovating old buildings into sustainable recreation homes.

Follow up Biesbosch

- A feasibility study is being done on a concept called 'scattered tavern', in which twelve cottages and possibly other recreational homes, e.g. B&B's, become part of one concept to rent these cottages. The result of this study has to be in accordance with nature, sustainable, and economically profitable. If this study has a positive result, then Staatsbosbeheer will look for ways to make investments to realize their plans.
- An application for a European Interreg project about restoring old buildings with natural materials and new techniques is made by a group of English, Dutch, Flemish and French organizations. This may be an opportunity for the Biesbosch to cooperate.
- Kent County Council is involved in a cycle path project which has old buildings along the paths so they are interested in keeping contact for future cooperation. All other CaRe-Land partners focus more on the subjects of biomass and mobility.

(Cross-border) Cooperation CaRe-Lands

Involvement of entrepreneurs and other stakeholders was positive in the local workshop. One entrepreneur is building floating holiday homes so there is a common interest.

Cross-border cooperation on this local Biesbosch study in the CaRe-Lands project is mainly from the feedback in discussions in the workshops by means of questions and remarks. The participation of Grevelingen and West-Vlaanderen in the workshop of April 1 was very useful.

So we need to engage entrepreneurs by involving them in an early stage, as happened in the workshop and in the feasibility study. All depends on the feasibility study about 'scattered tavern' whether the project of the cottages is to be continued.

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