

## Minutes – Workshop Sustainable tourism concept

Workshop leader: Hans Thiebou, Vice Director of the Nature and Recreation Authority  
Hollandse Biesbosch

Participants: 14

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After a presentation about sustainable tourism in the Biesbosch, we discussed 3 questions about this subject.

### **A. How can we find the right balance between nature and recreation?**

During the discussion we faded away from the original question, we discussed more about the feeling people have experiencing nature so they realise more how to protect nature. Better invite people in parts which are not vulnerable then to exclude them completely. For example closure during breeding season but no limitations for the rest of the year. Closure often leads to vandalism. To break this habit, invite tree molesters for example to help cutting the trees in cutting season.

The intensity of tourism should depend on the scale and the location. Small excursions with a guide can take place within the national park, large recreational groups, for example a campsite, should be placed outside the national park. Direct your flow of information, do not tell everybody where to find a birdsnest or a seldom seen tree.

### **B. What is the best moment to involve particular initiative in the progress, from the beginning, in the middle or at the end? And in what way do we have to do that?**

New initiatives should be communicated in an early as possible stage, all stakeholders should be informed and activated but make sure the area of development is protected from developers or speculators. While developing the area there should be a good combination of information, food/drinks and public toilets.

### **C. Is it possible for nature, culture and heritage to let people enter the pure nature area for recreation, or must we keep these people out of this area?**

Let people experience nature; better build a tent from where you have an excellent view (for example a beaver lodge) than a luxury hotel without any view.

Summarising you can say that nature should not be closed off; the public should have controlled access to protected areas. Luxury is not the goal, experiencing nature is.