

THE SAND MOTOR DeltaDuin

June 2012

In 2011, the Dutch coast was expanded by a unique area of new nature that is protecting us against the sea: the Sand Motor. The Sand Motor is a sand peninsula. Because of wind, waves and sea currents, the sand is slowly spread along the coast of South Holland between Hoek van Holland and Scheveningen. This is called building with nature. In this way, we work towards a safe coast and at the same time, create a dynamic nature and recreation area. If the working of the Sand Motor is effective, it can be applied in other areas as well.



BUILDING WITH NATURE

The Sand Motor consists of 21.5 million cubic meters of sand. Dredging ships have obtained the sand 10 kilometre from the coast and used it to create a peninsula between Kijkduin and Ter Heijde in the shape of a hook. The Sand Motor will gradually change in shape and will eventually be fully incorporated into new dunes and a broader beach. Through this principle of “building with nature”, the coast will grow in a natural way.

NATURE AND RECREATION

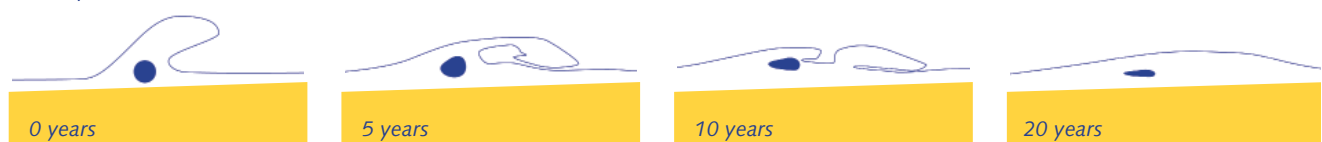
With the Sand Motor, a unique nature and recreation area is created which continually changes through the influence of wind and sea currents. The area is attractive for a wealth of plant and animal species. Visitors can enjoy nature, surf and hike on and around the Sand Motor.

RESEARCH

The Sand Motor is a pilot project. Scientists study this new way of coastal reinforcement and coastal maintenance. They study weather effects and the effects of waves and currents on the distribution of sand. They also study the ecosystem, the ground water level and the effects on the surroundings such as recreation and swimming safety.



Development of the Sand Motor



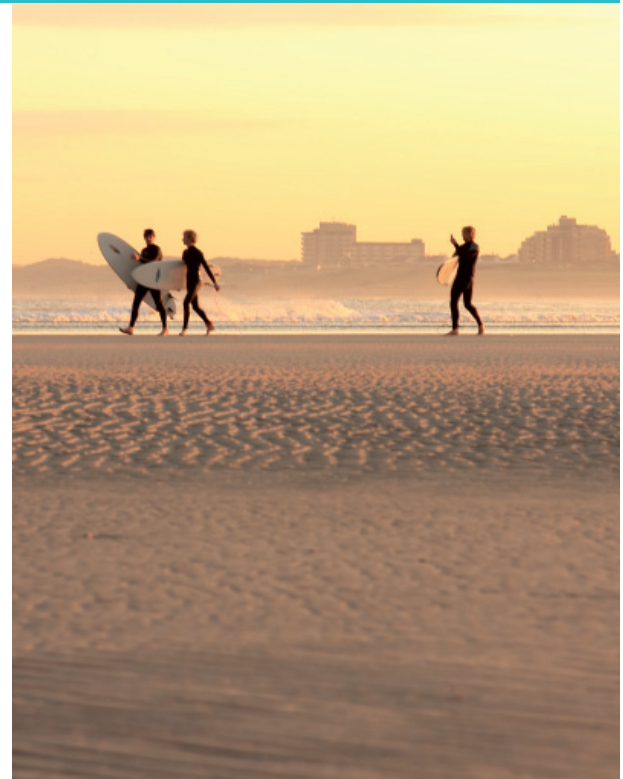
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MANAGEMENT AND FACILITIES

The Foundation Het Zuid-Hollands Landschap is the daily manager of the Sand Motor. Since 2011, they are welcoming many visitors on the Sand Motor: hikers and water sporters, but also special birds and even seals.

Unsafe situations

Because of the dynamic character of the Sand Motor, unsafe situations can occur, such as a soft underground or strong local currents. The province of Zuid-Holland and Rijkswaterstaat together with the communities Westland and Den Haag keep a sharp eye on safety. Lifeguards monitor swimming safety. There is a swimming prohibition all round the Sand Motor, marked with No swimming signs. If it turns out that swimming in certain areas is safe, the swimming ban will be lifted in those areas. At the north point of the Sand Motor, the swimming prohibition will probably remain.



THE SAND MOTOR IN BRIEF

- Coastal reinforcement and coastal maintenance
- More room for nature and recreational activities
- Knowledge development
- 21.5 million cubic meter of sand
- Surface area at construction: 128 hectares = 256 football fields
- Result: 35 hectares of new beaches and dunes
- Unique in the world



More information?

www.dezandmotor.nl

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The Sand Motor is a pilot project of the province of Zuid-Holland and Rijkswaterstaat.



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