COVER PHOTOGRAPH AND FRONT MATTER: FOREDUNES IN WINTER NEAR HOOK OF HOLLAND, THE NETHERLANDS

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From “white dunes” to “grey dunes”: these dynamic foredunes with Marram grass near Hook of Holland will undergo a new development as more inland and stable dunes. Between 2008–2009, a new dune area of 250 m wide and 1500 m long was created between them and the North Sea (top left) by beach nourishment. The nourishment (6 million m$^3$) was constructed as a compensation for the loss of rare dune environments nearby, which are under protection of the European Natura 2000 network. These losses were predicted as amongst the impacts of the new harbour developments of the port of Rotterdam (extension Maasvlakte 2). In the management plan for the new dune area, these foredunes (at present named “white dunes” with mobile sand and Ammophila arenaria, Marram grass) will gradually develop into “grey dunes” (mainly stable with species-rich short moss- and grassland). Besides grey dunes, the new dune area also aims at the development of rare moist dune valley vegetation.

(Photograph by Frank van der Meulen, Deltares & UNESCO-IHE, Delft, The Netherlands, February 2010)
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