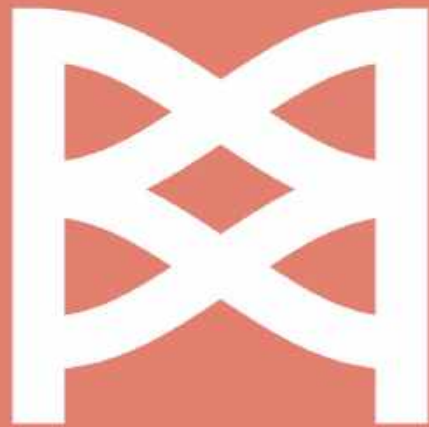


UNESCO  
Man &  
Biosphere



Maasheggen

Unique man-made landscape  
in the Netherlands

A close-up photograph of several pink flowers with bright yellow centers, likely from a flowering shrub. The flowers are in sharp focus against a blurred background of green leaves and other flowers.

The Netherlands' oldest  
cultural landscape

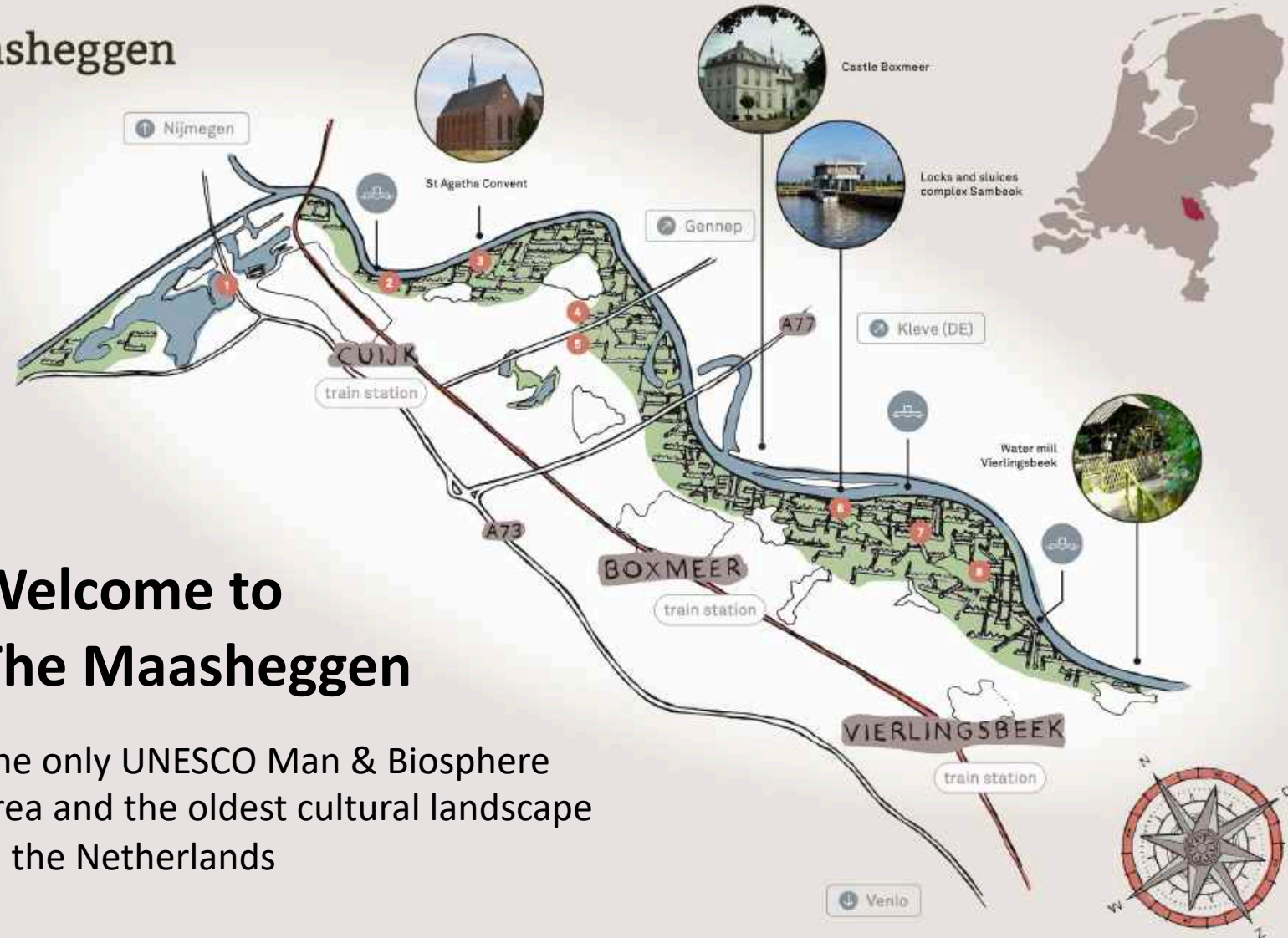
Discover what makes Maasheggen so special

## INTRODUCTION

### Maasheggen

## Welcome to The Maasheggen

The only UNESCO Man & Biosphere  
area and the oldest cultural landscape  
in the Netherlands



Maasheggen

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## INTRODUCTION

# Maasheggen UNESCO: essential facts

- 2000 hectares and a total of 275 kilometres of woven hedges;
- Since 2018 UNESCO Man & Biosphere. In biosphere reserves, the relationship between people and their living environment is the central focus;
- The Maasheggen UNESCO biosphere reserve stretches along the Maas river in the municipality Land van Cuijk;
- In the Maasheggen area, like a string of beads, there are 11 villages (about 60,000 inhabitants)



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## THE MAASHEGGEN NOWADAYS



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### Unique man-made landscape in the Netherlands

[illegible]



## THE MAASHEGGEN – NORTH (environment Oeffelt – Beugen)

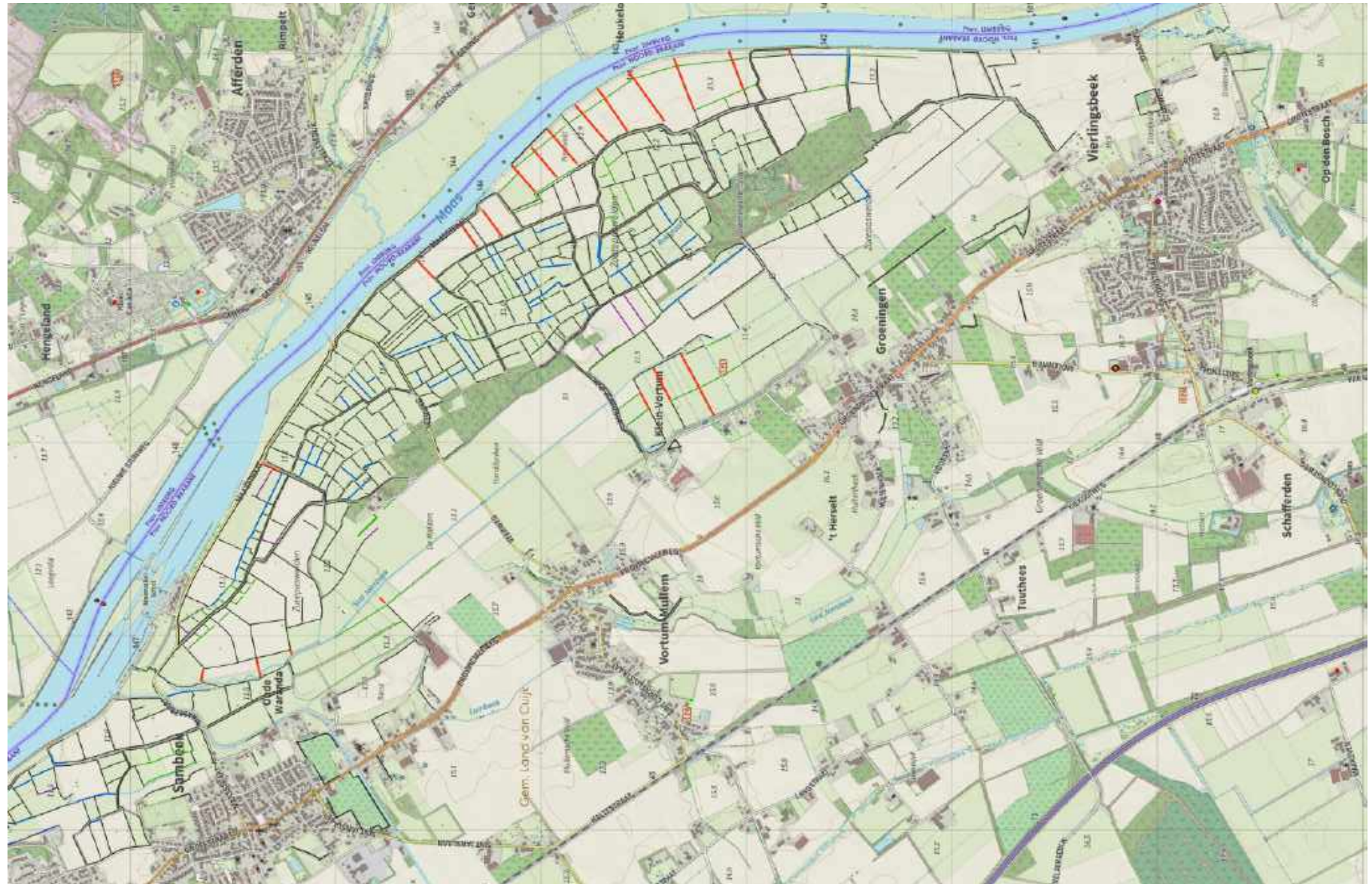


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## THE MAASHEGGEN – SOUTH (environment Sambeek - Vierlingsbeek)



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No barbed wire,  
but hedges:  
that's what Maasheggen  
is famous for





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Every 2nd Sunday in March  
**Dutch championship  
Maasheggenvlechten**



## WEAVING HEDGES

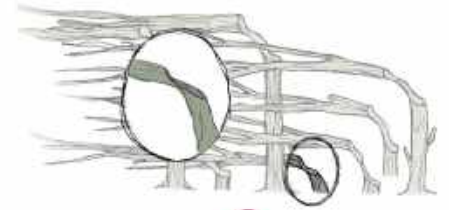
# Weaving hedges: a thousand-year-old technique

Farmers weave the hedges using a special technique. The hedges form an rock-solid boundary for livestock, but also protect against predators. They are so strong that they remain standing at high tide and retain fertile river clay. The hedges also provide shelter from rain, wind and sun, allowing grass to grow harder and cattle to stay outside for a month longer.



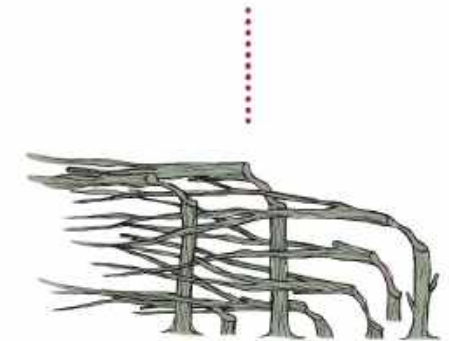
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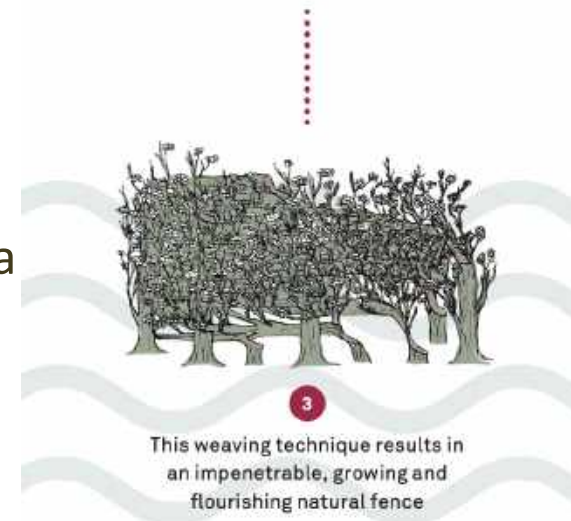
1

In early spring, the bare wood of the hedges is manually sawn and bent using an ancient technique



2

The sawn trunks and branches are then woven together



3

This weaving technique results in an impenetrable, growing and flourishing natural fence



Farmers create and  
maintain the landscape  
Nature-inclusive farming  
is gaining ground



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## FLORA AND FAUNA

# Life in the Maasheggen



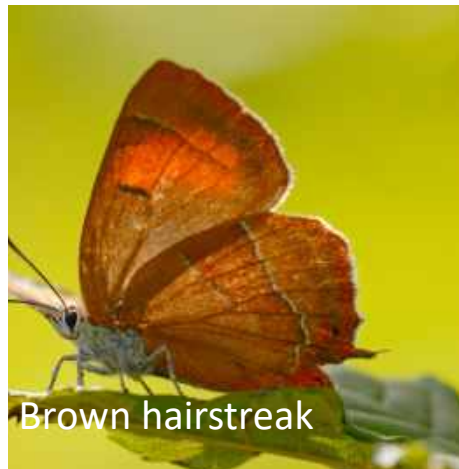
Badger



Hawthorn



Crested newt



Brown hairstreak



Beaver



Redwing



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## REGIONAL PRODUCTS

# Taste the Maasheggen

Many different regional products, under the name Taste of the Maasheggen:

- gin,
- beer,
- syrup,
- honey,
- bread,
- fruit juice,
- tea blend





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Biosphere

# Experience the Maasheggen!

Cycling, hiking, horse riding, sailing and running

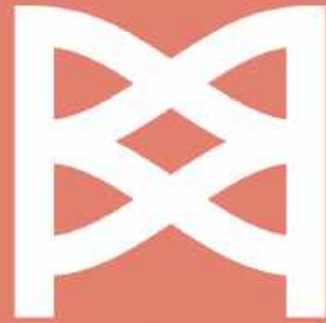


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[maasheggenunesco.com](https://maasheggenunesco.com)



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Maasheggen  
Biosphere Reserve since 2018  
Man and the Biosphere Programme