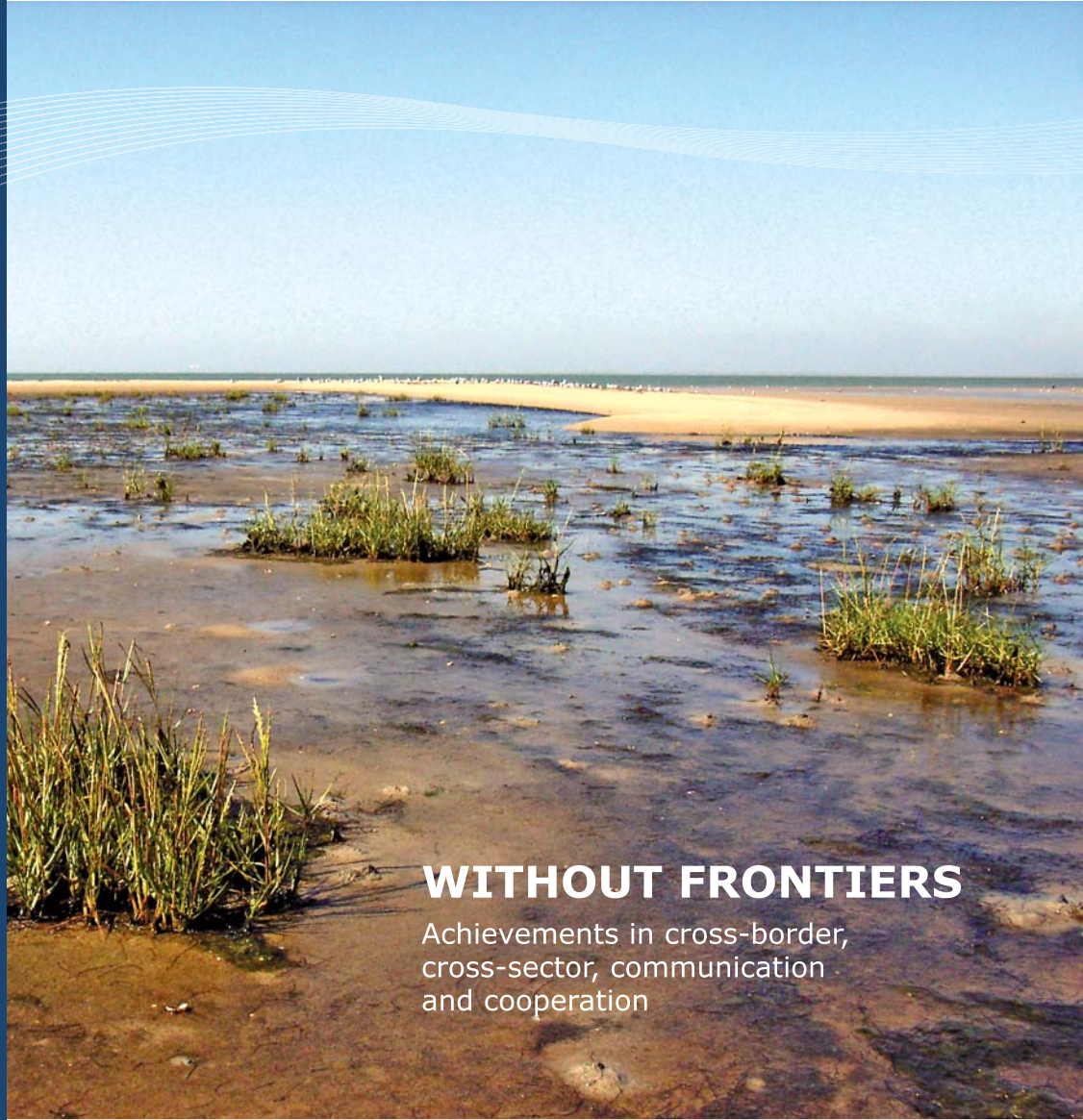




WADDEN SEA FORUM
WADDEN SEA FORUM



WITHOUT FRONTIERS

Achievements in cross-border,
cross-sector, communication
and cooperation

WADDEN SEA FORUM

Report on achievements in transboundary and cross-sectoral cooperation with an emphasis on the period 2008 - 2009

Colophon

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Wadden Sea Forum (WSF), an independent platform of stakeholder organisations in the Wadden Sea Region (WSR) of Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands, was established in 2002, following a decision by the 9th Governmental Conference of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC).

The central goal of the WSF is to contribute to an advanced and sustainable development in the Wadden Sea Region. In particular, this means integrating specific cross-sectoral and transboundary strategies, actions and techniques which are environmentally sound, economically viable and socially

acceptable. Due to the outstanding natural values of the Wadden Sea ecosystem, the Wadden Sea Forum acknowledges the Targets of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) for the protection of the Wadden Sea.

Based on the recommendations of a comprehensive external evaluation of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation, it was decided to support a WSF secretariat and to clarify the collaboration with the WSF. Subsequently, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed to establish a working arrangement between the WSF and the TWSC. The collaboration aims at finding



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solutions to minimize conflicts and safeguard nature by common approaches. Essential in this work is an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) approach as well as the implementation of Integrated Maritime Policies (IMP). The Wadden Sea Forum has succeeded in widening the sector and cross-sector dialogues across the boundaries of Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands. The cross-border collaboration is an intrinsic value of the Forum as the structure and organization is applied trilaterally. At the political level, the Forum has contributed to decision making processes and forwarded recommendations and resolutions.

The WSF has also been active with regard to information and knowledge exchange. This has strengthened the partnership within the Forum as well as the cooperation and net-working with other organizations and institutions. The WSF has implemented several workshops and symposia on meadow birds, goose management, ICZM implementation and development and energy production in the WSR. Furthermore, the WSF and its working groups have organized expert presentations on off-shore wind parks, container shipping, shipping safety, marine litter, harbor development and concepts to market the coastal region.

The Wadden Sea Forum has initiated and started activities and projects to contribute to an environmental friendly development of the Wadden Sea Region as well as to support the preservation of the Trilateral Cooperation Area. In the future the WSF will further develop ICZM implementation, adapted to the Wadden Sea Region and aimed at a land-sea interaction. The currently elaborated sustainability indicator tool is intended to measure the progress and success.

A quite new issue, which becomes more and more important, is the further elaboration on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) as an

instrument in Integrated Maritime Policies (IMP) on a trilateral level. Based on the 2009 expert symposium on development of energy production in the region, the WSF will initiate activities or projects with regard to the consequences of the development in the energy market. It is the intention to put a particular emphasis on the issues of renewable energies, sustainable grids and energy efficiency. Shipping safety issues with a particular view on the PSSA and container shipping in close cooperation with KIMO have been worked on and will be an important issue also in the future.

The WSF functioned also as a platform to minimize conflicts with regard to topical issues. An example was the elaboration of guidelines for goose management plan in the Wadden Sea Region. In the future it is intended, together with TWSC, to develop this further into a trilateral Goose Management Plan.





INTRODUCTION

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2.1 The Wadden Sea Forum

The Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) is an independent platform of stakeholder organizations in the Wadden Sea Region (WSR) of Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands. The WSF was established in 2002, following a decision by the 9th Governmental Conference of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation.

The central goal of the WSF is to contribute to an advanced and sustainable development in the Wadden Sea Region. In particular, this means integrating specific cross-sectoral and transboundary strategies, actions and techniques

which are environmentally sound, economically viable and socially acceptable.

As the WSR is a peripheral region with lower economic potentials than average and with consequent social issues, the Forum also strives to achieve economic and social cohesion through implementing its strategic tasks.

Due to the outstanding natural values of the Wadden Sea ecosystem, the Wadden Sea Forum acknowledges the Targets of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) for the protection of the Wadden Sea and welcomes the inscription

of the Dutch-German Wadden Sea on the World Heritage List.

2.2 Task of the WSF

On the basis of the decision made in 2001 at the 9th Trilateral Governmental Conference (Esbjerg): *"To convene, therefore, in accordance with the Terms of Reference in Annex 6, a Trilateral Wadden Sea Forum, as a consultation project, with the participation of the governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, with the task of developing proposals for sustainable development scenarios and strategies for their implementation, respecting the existing*

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protection levels, and ensuring economic development and quality of life. This will be done on the basis of the Shared Vision, the Wadden Sea Plan Targets and the Shared Principles, and as a contribution to the further development of the Wadden Sea Plan" and on the statements made in 2005 at the of the 10th Trilateral Governmental Conference (Schiermonnikoog): *"We highly appreciate and accept the Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) as a valuable partner in achieving sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region and contributing to an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Strategy"*

"We highly appreciate the identification of prioritized actions by the WSF as represented in the Action Plan, and the WSF member's clear willingness to contribute to its implementation"

The Wadden Sea Forum has formulated main tasks to reach the goals of contributing to a sustainable Wadden Sea Region. The WSF will

- foster sustainable development in the Wadden Sea Region through exchange of information on experiences and best practice;
- try to bring together the sectoral interests of its members;
- exchange views on general themes and topical issues;

- initiate and implement projects and actions on topical issues;
- prepare advice on issues related to sustainable development and integrated coastal zone management;
- serve as a consultation body for governments.

2.3 Composition of the WSF

The WSF consists of representatives of the Agriculture, Energy, Fisheries, Industry and Harbour, Nature Protection and Tourism sectors, as well as local and regional governments. National governments are represented as observers (Annex 1).

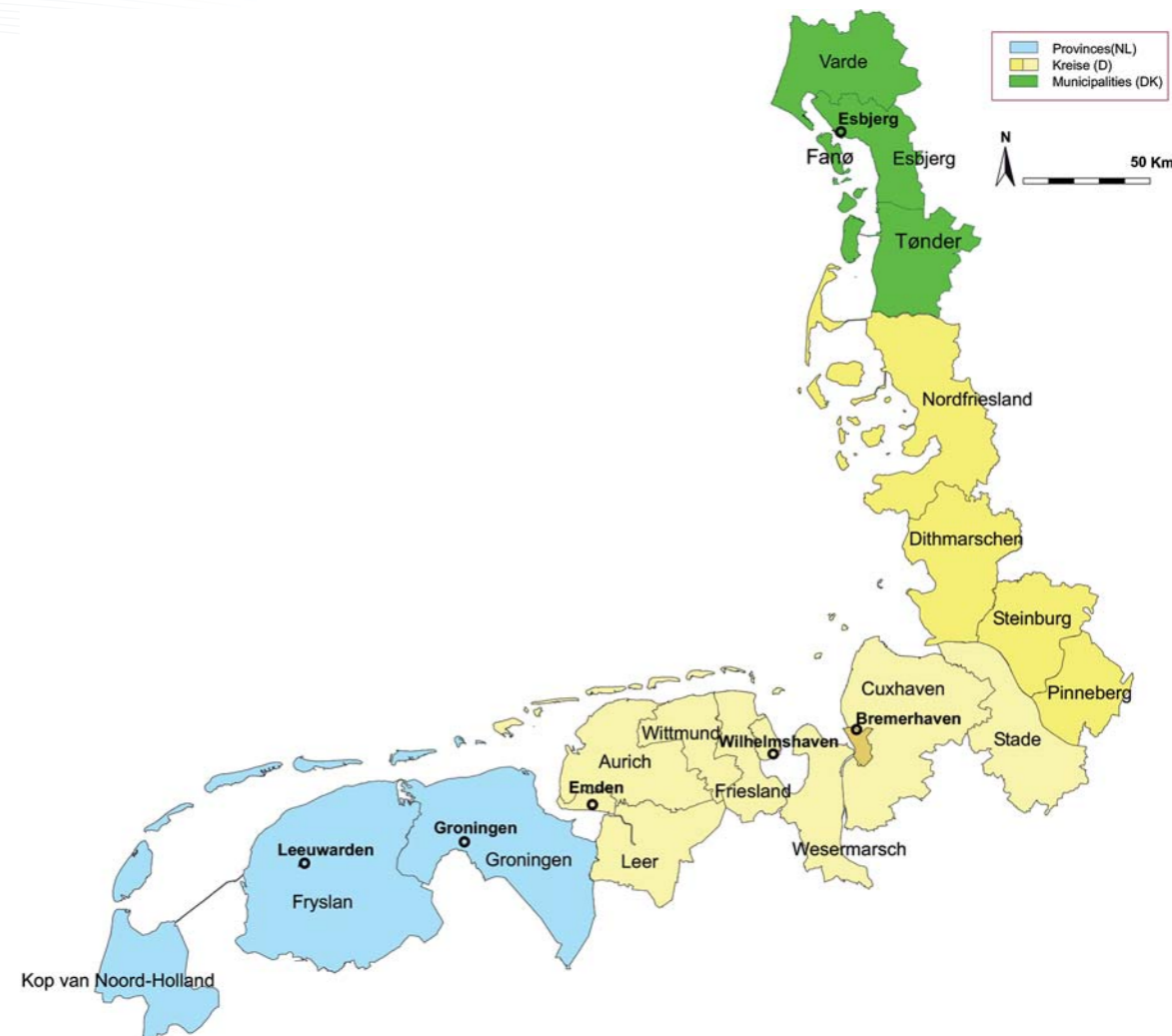
The WSF is chaired by Mr. Jörn Klimant, head of the district administration of Dithmarschen and facilitated by the WSF secretariat, established in 2008. The Forum also encompasses a Steering Committee and working groups with regard to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Energy, Industry and Infrastructure (EII), Shipping, Agriculture and Fisheries.

Since the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was agreed in May 2008, the Danish Tourism Board, the National Park Authority Lower Saxony, the energy company Statkraft, Brunsbüttel Ports, Groningen Seaports, the presi-

dent of KIMO International and the mayor of Ameland have become members of the Forum.

All in all, the composition of the Forum and the high caliber of its representatives indicate that the sectors and regions concerned attach great importance to the WSF.

Governance, structure and operating principles are laid down in the „Rules of Procedure“, amended by the MOU (Annex 2). The WSF is not a legal body but a group consisting of stakeholders from many sectors volunteering to work within the Forum.





COOPERATION WITH THE TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA COOPERATION

3.1 Memorandum of Understanding

Following the comprehensive external evaluation of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation, it was recommended that the collaboration with the WSF was clarified to financially support a WSF secretariat and to offer a seat in the new trilateral board. Having settled the recommendations, a MOU was signed to establish a working arrangement between the Wadden Sea Forum and the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation.

The MOU is based on the mutual acknowledgement by the WSF and

the TWSC of the Shared Principles, including the Guiding Principle, the Shared Vision and the Targets, as laid down in the Wadden Sea Plan, respecting the existing protection levels and ensuring economic development and quality of life.

3.2 Working Agreements and Program

For the purpose of the Memorandum, the WSF serves as an independent trilateral advisory and consultation body to the TWSC. To this end the WSF provides relevant statements and background information to the TWSC, either upon request by the TWSC or upon the

initiative of WSF member organisations. In particular:

- The WSF is consulted and prepares advice on matters regarding sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region;
- The WSF will be consulted regarding national ICZM strategies, sustainability indicators and Maritime Spatial Planning and other issues of relevance to the Wadden Sea Region in so far as this is within the mandate of the TWSC;
- The WSF will discuss and integrate, where possible, relevant input by the regional Wadden Sea advisory bodies and submit the results to the TWSC on a regular basis.

The activities listed in this work programme are intended to further the mission of WSF, which is to develop proposals for sustainable development in the Wadden Sea Region and to find a balance between the interests of the different stakeholders in the region.

The attached first draft WSF work programme is based upon the report „Breaking the Ice“, the WSF Action Programme, priorities set following research among WSF members, and subsequent decisions at WSF meetings about the role and tasks of WSF. Relevant working groups have developed it further after assessing the progress

made as well as analysing the most urgent issues. Working Groups and Projects/Activities

The WSF has established the following working groups:

- WG Integrated Coastal Zone Management (WG ICZM)
- WG Energy-Industry-Infrastructure (WG EII)
- WG Shipping
- WG Agriculture and Goose Management
- WG Fisheries

3.0

The WSF is currently working on:

- Sustainability indicators to test whether the development in the region is sustainable;
- Further development of ICZM as well as on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP);
- Database compilation of energy, industry and harbour related activities along the coast;
- Effects and consequences of the increased development of the energy market in the Wadden Sea Region;
- Shipping safety issues with a particular view on the PSSA and of container shipping, in close cooperation with KIMO;
- Recommendations and guidelines for the development of a tri-lateral goose management plan;
- Implementation of the International Gastronomy Award and promoting regional products;
- Supporting for further development of a TWSC marketing and communication strategy for the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site;
- Advice to TWSC regarding relevant issues.





WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED

4.0

4.1 General

Since the beginning of the WSF, the Forum has worked towards the sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region (WSR), integrating the principles of ICZM to ensure that the environment and landscapes are taken into account in considering economic, social and cultural development issues.

One of the most important tasks and achievements was and still is the application of sector and cross-sector dialogues. These dialogues in the WSF working groups, Steering Committee meetings and, even more importantly, in half-yearly

plenary meetings with representatives of all sectors and the administrative levels have developed a mutual understanding for visions, motives and strategies. Furthermore, the dialogues have resulted in a harmonious approach among diverse stakeholders in agreeing a common position and coherence over activities and decisions concerning coastal management.

The Wadden Sea Forum has succeeded in widening the sector and cross-sector dialogues across the boundaries of Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands. The cross-border collaboration is an intrinsic value of the Forum as the structure

and organization is applied trilaterally. The shared ecosystem, and common cultural landscape and heritage histories make the cross-border collaboration within the WSF a sound basis for the sustainable development of the entire region. The working groups, projects and meetings in all sectors consider every issue on a transboundary basis. The WSF is recognized internationally as a best practice example of a „cross-sectoral, cross-border forum“.

At the political level, the Forum has contributed to decision making processes and forwarded recommendations and resolutions.

Among others, these have included statements regarding goose management to the EU committee of the regions; recommendations regarding Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) spatial planning and cross-border cooperation to the responsible ministries of the three Wadden Sea countries; and a resolution about safe container shipping to the EU Commission and national governments.

The WSF has also been active with regard to information and knowledge exchange. This has strengthened the partnership within the Forum as well as the cooperation and net-working with other organi-

zations and institutions. The WSF has implemented several workshops and symposia on meadow birds, goose management, ICZM implementation and development and energy production in the WSR.

Furthermore, the WSF and its working groups have organized expert presentations on off-shore wind parks, container shipping, shipping safety, marine litter, harbor development and concepts to market the coastal region. Moreover, the WSF was involved in many regional, national and international events and meetings to discuss topical issues affecting the WSR. Special attention was given to the MOU between



the TWSC and South Korea and a contribution of information and knowledge exchange by the WSF.

In mid 2008, the WSF secretariat was established to facilitate the Forum and the working groups. The secretariat is independent from the TWSC and coordinates the WSF activities, facilitates the meetings and workshops, organizes events and functions as gateway for information flow and public relations. The secretariat hosts and maintains the WSF website, publishes the WSF newsletter and actions public relations tasks in close cooperation with the chair.

4.2 Collaboration TWSC

The Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation, established in 1978 as a cooperation between the governments of Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands, aims to protect the Wadden Sea as a shared nature area of world-wide importance.

Many activities in the Wadden Sea Region, including the trilateral EEZs further off-shore, are developing rapidly and will have effects on the trilateral conservation area. Increasing shipping traffic, fishing, tourism developments, coastal protection measures and energy supply activities will have a

direct influence on protecting the Wadden Sea. Only the sustainable development of activities in places bordering the protected area, and open dialogue between the stakeholders will secure the protection of the natural values.

The Wadden Sea Forum, representing many sectors and stakeholders, will be instrumental in finding solutions to minimize conflicts and safeguard nature by common approaches. Essential in this work is an Integrated Coastal Management (ICZM) approach as well as the implementation of Integrated Maritime Policies (IMP).

A further WSF task is to serve as the advisory and consultation body for the TWSC, particularly regarding sustainable development and stakeholder involvement. Although the information flow to TWSC is good, there is scope to grow the role as an advisory body. So far, the given advice concerned the evaluation of PSSA, the development of a goose management plan, the further elaboration of sustainability indicators and the revision of the WSP.

Recommendations regarding an integrated management approach for WSF and the TWSC have been presented in the report „Breaking

the Ice“, which was adopted at the 10th Governmental Conference. As a result, the WSF will strengthen and improve its support for the TWSC.

With the implementation of the new Trilateral Board and the representation of the Forum in the board, the collaboration could be further developed and improved.

4.3 Integrated Coastal Zone Management

The Wadden Sea Forum and the working group ICZM have achieved progress in a number of fields.

The „Analysis ICZM Cases“ project was initiated to identify successes and deficiencies in the application of ICZM as an instrument for achieving sustainable development in the Wadden Sea Region. The cases have been divided into two categories, the first concerning structural cases of ICZM management developments, the second dealing with the application of ICZM in concrete projects. The eight elaborated ICZM cases, which have been described and analysed according to the EU principles, have been evaluated by a consultant.

The 8 projects represented a broad spectrum of activities in the Wadden

Sea. For the purpose of analysis they had been allocated to the following groups:

- A. Construction and exploitation projects: gas exploitation NL; Ems Barrage; Jade-Weser Port.
- B. Fishery: mussel fishery NL; mussel fishery SH.
- C. Nature protection: Operation Corncrake DK.
- D. Cooperation: Island and Hallig Conference; Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation.

The analysis of planning practice showed in a synopsis that the set of planning tools established in the trilateral coastal region meets in part the ICZM demands for nego-

tiation, integration and appropriate consideration of the ecological aspects of sustainability. However, the analysis from a trilateral perspective and additional reviewed literature also revealed substantial deficiencies. Therefore, implementation of ICZM in the countries would not be possible without a number of adaptations and extensions of the existing planning tools. Some of these necessary adaptations can be carried out through appropriate implementation of the various EU directives. The final synthesis report was delivered at the beginning of April and is now available on the web site: www.waddensea-forum.org/WGs/ICZM/WG_ICZM_studies.html



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The results of the study also experienced the 8 EU ICZM principles as fundamentally suitable to characterize good coastal management and thus to serve as an orientation framework both for local planning and policy development in spite of the existing inconsistencies. They were essentially appropriate in their current form as a recommendation.

The Wadden Sea Forum has taken up ICZM as a process for achieving sustainable development of the Wadden Sea. In this light, the WSF has further developed the ICZM process, including guidance on further specification and recommendations for ICZM to add



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value to the sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region. As a concrete step, the working group staged an international workshop on ICZM on 11 June 2009 in Hamburg. Some 30 experts discussed the different levels of ICZM, gaps and „good/bad practices“ of ICZM implementation, the value and feasibility of applying the EU ICZM principles in the trilateral context, the added value also for the Trilateral Cooperation and the need for structural improvements. Finally, it was recommended that

- the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation should be committed to integrate the ICZM approach and the EU principles in their work;
- a staff position (ambassador/ombudsman) should be implemented at the highest political level with strong backing.

The workshop report is available on the web site: <http://www.waddensea-forum.org/WGs/ICZM/WGICZMevents.html>

The working group has taken IMP and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) on board as this issue is increasingly in the focus

of the EU Commission and had a close link to ICZM as all off-shore activities are connected to the coast. Particularly EEZ planning would concern the WSF and the different stakeholders. Germany has passed a Spatial Planning Act for the EEZ and The Netherlands is close to adopting a similar plan.

In order to get an overview of all uses and planned activities in the trilateral off-shore areas, the WSF is to compile all available information on the use, projects and activities within the EEZ and will provide an overview by depicting the uses in maps and by utilising existing compilations.

Social Indicators

- Demography
- Education, R&D
- Employment
- Health
- Housing
- Recreation
- Welfare

Economic Indicators

- Value Added Growth
- Harbour
- Infrastructure
- Rural development
- Sea traffic
- Tourism

Ecological Indicators

- Breeding birds
- Migratory birds
- Mammals
- Meadow birds
- Water quality
- Contaminants in bird eggs
- Air quality

4.4 Sustainability Indicators

With regard to contributing to a sustainable development in the Wadden Sea Region, the working group has identified overall sustainability objectives as well as sector-specific strategies for achieving these objectives. These have been laid down in the WSF final report „Breaking the Ice“. As a second step, sustainability indicators were required to measure the actual status of sustainable development, as well as progress in achieving the objectives.

A set of indicators for the Wadden Sea Region would first of all consist

of region-specific indicators. However, indicators with a more general character were also needed. The indicators had to be indicative of the sustainability objectives, suitable for evaluating status and developments of the sector-specific sustainability strategies and relevant for the whole Wadden Sea Region.

In 2007, the consultant COWI delivered a sustainability indicator tool for the WSF, comprising a three-level system of sustainability indicators with data from 2004 till 2006. After a temporary interruption of implementing the tool, the Forum secretariat is now updating and maintaining the data.

The indicator set is a tool for the WSF to communicate the developments in sustainability with so-called indexes to the Forum members for discussing the developments, for politicians and decision-makers in the Wadden Sea area regions and municipalities to know about the sustainability development trends. At present, the indicators are working as a test version. They may need further development or changes to work properly, including the issue of whether they really indicate „sustainable development“ already.



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4.5 Energy, Industry and Infrastructure

The WSF working group Energy, Industry and Infrastructure has compiled an inventory of energy and harbour related activities along the coast. The inventory provides information about running and planned projects in the Wadden Sea Region and is based on publicly available information. The table is maintained by the WSF secretariat and approved by the working group. Currently, the inventory encompasses about 150 entries. The inventory is available on the web site: www.waddensea-forum.org/Specialissues/Inventory/InventoryWaddensea2009-10.pdf

The WSF has initiated an inventory and analysis of all existing and planned power plants in the Wadden Sea Region and the southern North Sea EEZs of Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands. This also encompasses an evaluation and assessment of the potential impacts and economic consequences of the energy plants and related facilities.

The study analyzed the installed capacity in the WSR as well as the predicted developments, the energy sources, the development of wind farms and the CO₂ emissions. Additionally, the role of the WSR as energy exporter was discussed. This led to statements on effects on the employment market, infra-

structure and harbors as well as on impacts on the different sectors. The results show

- an expected drastic increase of electricity production capacities from 14.500 MW to 29.300 MW by 2020
- an expected increase in CO₂ emissions within the WSR by factor 3
- an increasing electricity export compared with the consumption
- an increasing share of renewable energy
- new employment opportunities in the WSR
- uncertainties with regard to the grid system and construction equipment
- challenges for the WSF in conflict resolution.

The study is available on the WSF web site: www.waddensea-forum.org/Specialissues/inventorywsregion.html

The study generated very worthwhile results and was warmly welcomed in the Wadden Sea Region. In particular, the Wadden Sea Advisory Boards and the Wadden Sea islands were interested in the developments but worried about the impacts they may have on the tourism sector and nature conservation. This has led to the request to discuss the most relevant energy issues with experts and stakeholders in a wider context. Based on the energy study, an international energy symposium was held on

26 November 2009 in Bremerhaven to provide more information and insights about topical energy issues, to support knowledge building across the sectors and stakeholders, to encourage the stakeholders to participate in an open dialogue and, to identify future work areas for the Wadden Sea Forum. The following topical issues were discussed and analyzed:

- Status and development of energy production and distribution in the Wadden Sea Region;
- EU energy market and EU policies as legal basis and framework for developments Electricity production in the Wadden Sea Region;

- by fossil energy
- by wind energy
- by other renewables and CHP;
- Electric grid on- and off-shore: current status, obstacles and new developments;
- CO₂ emissions and Carbon Capture & Storage, CCS.

In conclusion, the symposium was an excellent forum for an expert knowledge exchange and an open dialogue about the development of the energy market in the Wadden Sea Region. The development will have effects on the whole Region, including the Trilateral Cooperation Area. The WSF will participate actively in further energy activi-

ties, aiming at a well-balanced development. The presentations can be found on the WSF web site: www.waddensea-forum.org/WGs/EII/WG EII Symposium.html

Recently, the working group also concentrated on harbour developments and related activities. Two new Forum members from Groningen Seaports and Brunsbüttel Ports delivered further expert input. An important issue was the development of a harbor concept along the Wadden Sea coast to minimize the impacts on the environment but also to strengthen the development possibilities for small harbors. The example of the port concept Lower



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Elbe, encompassing the harbours of Hamburg, Stade, Cuxhaven Glückstadt and Brunsbüttel, was a start for continuing the discussion on this issue. Relevant themes are cooperation in logistics, marketing, infrastructure, waste and toxics disposal and nautical adjustments, as well as control systems.

4.6 Shipping

Clean shipping

Due to increasing goods transport by vessels, emissions from shipping are increasing. Emissions of oxides of nitrogen, sulphur dioxide and soot particles contribute to air pollution. The working group worked

on measures to reduce emissions and welcomed the IMO decision to ban heavy fuel oil from 2020 on (2015 North Sea).

Shipping safety

The shipping group was actively elaborating on shipping safety, including control systems and towing capacity. According to the statements in the Schiermonnikoog Declaration, the WSF supports work on these outline themes

- spatial planning in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ);
- day-to-day joint cooperation in the framework of the DenGerNeth-Plan;

- appropriate emergency towing and pollution response capacities;
- practical implementation of the Places of Refuge;
- harmonization of the no-special-fee-system;
- aerial surveillance in the relevant coastal areas and the EEZ.

In cooperation with the working group ICZM, spatial planning in the EEZ is going to be further studied. Invited external experts from Groningen Seaports and Shipping authorities contributed to knowledge exchange and information supply to deepen the issue and to undertake activities by the Forum and working group.



Fishing for Litter

Despite many initiatives to reduce marine litter it remains one of the most significant environmental problems affecting the marine environment. About 20,000 tonnes of litter is dumped into the North Sea alone every year.

The group contacted KIMO International for further information about „KIMO’s Fishing for Litter“, which is an initiative that aims to reduce marine litter by involving one of the key stakeholders, the fishing industry. The litter has to be disposed of in the fishing harbours without any fee. The secretary of KIMO

international was invited to give a presentation about the project as well as on safe container shipping and it was agreed to collaborate more closely on these issues.

Container shipping

The shipping group invited an expert from the Institute of Shipping Economics and Logistics, Bremen to discuss the business of container

shipping and impacts on the environment of loss of containers with dangerous cargo. The focus was on practicable methods for determining the weight of containers accurately and lashing deck containers securely on board the ship. Furthermore, packing within the container itself had to be controlled. Some improvements were needed to information services, for instance route advice

and use of wave radar to reduce container losses. Furthermore, a KIMO resolution with regard to the loss of containers was discussed and adopted by the working group and the WSF. This was also stated in writing to the ministries in the three countries as well as to the EU Commission.

PSSA Evaluation

The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), in October 2002 designated major parts of the Dutch, German and Danish Wadden Sea as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA). The area designated as a PSSA is basi-

cally the marine area of the Wadden Sea Conservation Area, being the Wadden Sea National Parks in Germany and the Wadden Sea nature protection areas in Denmark and The Netherlands.

At the Wadden Sea Conference on Schiermonnikoog, 2005, the designation of the Wadden Sea as a PSSA was recognized and it was decided to evaluate before the 2010 Wadden Sea Conference the effectiveness of the Wadden Sea PSSA, including the ‘level playing field’ situation. The chair of the working group was nominated as a member (observer) in the steering group PSSA evaluation to oversee

and support the evaluation process. The WSF contributed to the process, which is expected to result in proposals concerning the further development of the PSSA at the 2010 Ministerial Conference.

4.7 Goose Management

Background

On 19-20 November 2008 an international workshop on geese management was held in Ribe. The workshop, organized jointly by the Environment Centre Ribe, the Wadden Sea Forum and the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, was attended by some 30 representatives from science, agriculture, nature conservation societies, hunters and responsible authorities. The presentations and discussions focused on the current situation in the Wadden Sea region with regard to geese damage, development of the populations

of goose species and, most of all, on best practice solutions for handling geese grazing on farmland. Several options for managing geese populations and national and regional compensation schemes for farmers were presented and evaluated. Finally, the Workshop agreed to create a goose management working group under the umbrella of the Wadden Sea Forum.

Introduction

The Wadden Sea hosts internationally significant populations of six native species of geese. One (possibly two) of these also breed natively. However, the vast majority of the Wadden Sea geese are

guests from Arctic breeding areas, crossing political borders in a predictable and cyclic way. The Wadden Sea countries have the responsibility to protect these populations. This includes providing habitats of sufficient size and quality to sustain viable populations.

However, the upsurge in goose numbers has caused increasing conflicts between agricultural interests and geese foraging in farmland areas inside the dikes. Since geese are highly mobile and cross political borders, effective management needs a regional (international) approach. Various management tools and economic



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incentives have been used to reduce the goose damage; however, most of the activities have been local/national and, so far, there has been no coordination between the Wadden Sea countries.

The status quo reflects large discrepancies in management objectives and tools used between countries. To improve the management schemes, strategic planning, ex-

change of knowledge and cross border cooperation is of great importance.

To avoid further conflicts, the most feasible solution is an internationally coordinated and integrated management plan which rests on a spatial setup, where the management is differentiated according to the priority of areas. Such an approach depends on identifying

areas using political, ecological and agricultural criteria, and then designating a network of management areas along the migratory routes and stopover sites in the Wadden Sea, and where possible outside. The network of go- and no-go-areas would be sustained by agri-environmental payment schemes and locally measures to ensure the functionality of the areas. In order to protect the geese as



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a natural asset and an important regional ecosystem component, and to solve the conflicts with the agricultural sector by involving the farmers in cross-border goose management schemes, the WSF is publishing a recommendation and guidance document for the creation of a trilateral goose

management plan in close collaboration with the TWSC. The document encompasses a common vision and objectives, an inventory of the goose populations and feeding areas, current measures and relevant agri-environmental schemes as well as management perspectives and recommendations.

The guidance document will be presented separately with the WSF final report at the TGC-11 in 2010.

Recommendations

To protect the geese as a natural asset and an important ecosystem component and to solve the conflicts with the agricultural sector by the integration of the farmers in cross-border goose management schemes, which includes a proper compensation for their management efforts, the WSF and the Goose Management Group recommend

- to continue the work of the goose management group in collaboration with the TWSC by implementing a joint project to

elaborate a common goose management plan and to oversee information and knowledge exchange as well as coordinate research and monitoring programs;

- to use the recommendation and guidance document as a basis for implementing the joint project and when possible, as a basis for decisions being taken before the goose management plan is complete;
- to develop agri-environmental payment schemes to minimize the conflicts with the agricultural sector, which has a stake in the natural beauty and assets of the Wadden Sea;

- to agree on an ICZM and spatial approach to combine all efforts to improve goose conservation as well as agricultural and other society interests jointly;
- to encourage an open dialogue and to strive for mutual understanding (horizontal interaction) with the farmers in the Wadden Sea Region.

4.8 Maritime Spatial Planning

The EU Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) has established itself as a new approach to the optimal sustainable development of all sea-related activities. EU institutions, Member States and regions

have set-up governance structures to ensure that policies related to the seas are no longer developed in isolation and take account of connections and synergies with other policy areas. Cross-sectoral tools such as Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), integrated surveillance or marine knowledge have registered tangible progress and should lead to substantial improvements in the way we manage our oceans. EU sectoral policies, like fisheries, transport, environment, energy, industry or research policy have all made substantial strides towards greater integration and consistency.



The Blue Paper (an Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union) identified the need for cross-cutting tools to underpin the IMP, such as: maritime spatial planning, integrated surveillance, and the building of a marine knowledge base.

Increased activities on Europe's seas lead to growing competition for limited marine space. MSP is a key instrument to balance sectoral interests and achieve sustainable use of marine resources with the ecosystem-based approach as the underpinning principle. It is a process that provides a stable, reliable and focused planning framework for public authorities

and stakeholders to coordinate their action and optimize the use of marine space to benefit economic development and the marine environment.

The Commission adopted the „Roadmap on Maritime Spatial Planning: Achieving Common Principles in the EU“ in 2008. It sets out 10 key principles and seeks to discuss the development of a common approach among Member States encouraging the implementation of MSP at national and EU level. Stakeholders from all relevant maritime sectors endorsed the 10 key principles as appropriate, comprehensive basis for the devel-

opment of MSP at European level in discussions organised by the Commission during 2009.

The WSF was involved in the EU MSP process and will develop an information scheme containing all relevant off-shore uses and plans which also could have effects on the conservation area.

The WSF has been involved in EEZ planning meetings likely to affect the Wadden Sea and its off-shore areas. A draft Spatial Plan for the Dutch EEZ will soon come into force alongside an existing one for Germany. The WSF emphasised how its strategies should comple-

ment MSP and this will be further developed in the future. Areas of concern included shipping routes and shipping safety, off-shore wind farms, sand extraction for coastal protection and adaptation to climate change, nature conservation with regard to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and fisheries. Within the WSF, the working group ICZM will play a leading role in the MSP business and will also aim to link MSP activities to ICZM.

4.9 Gastronomy Award

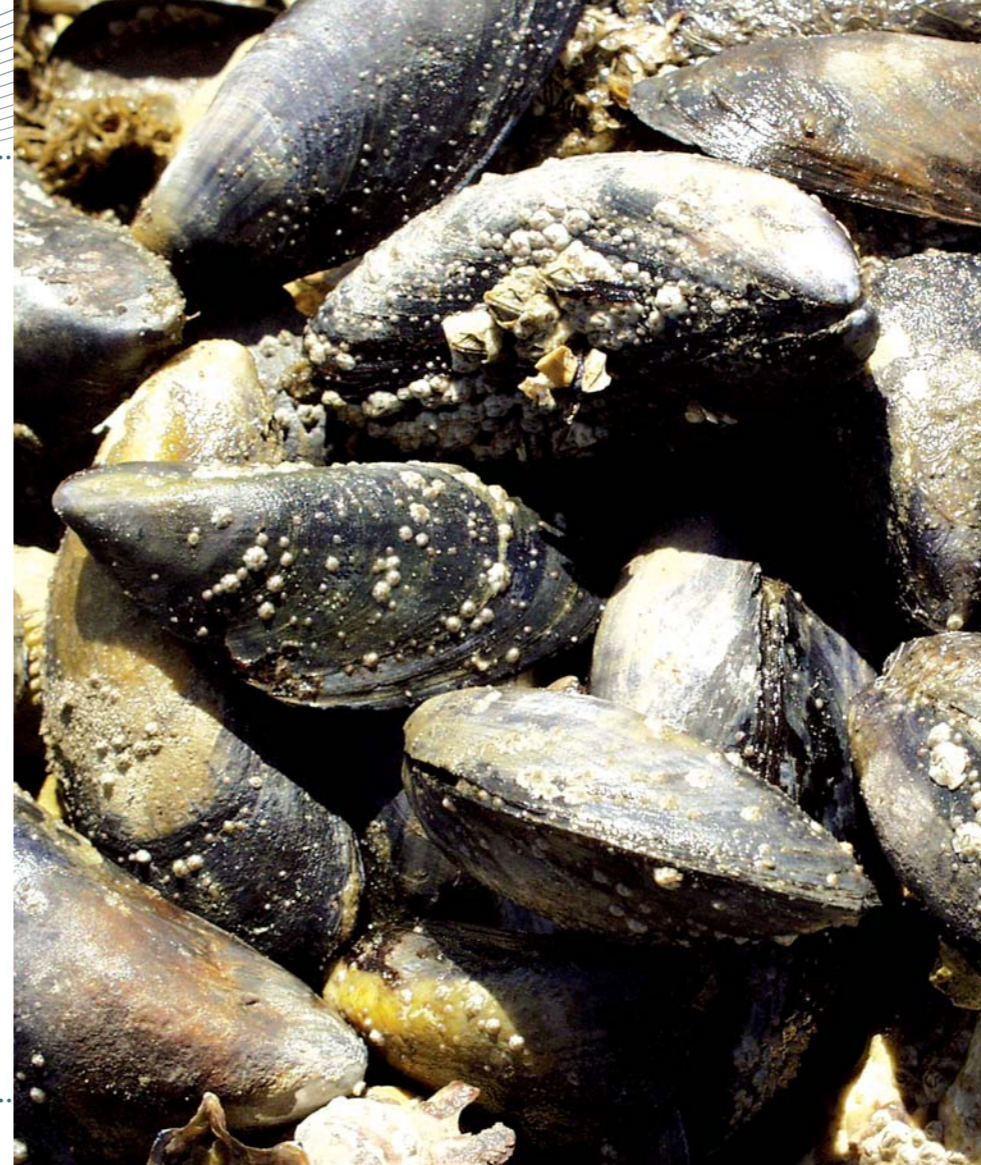
The basic idea of implementing the Gastronomy Award is to promote a spirit of cooperation between neighbours in countries throughout the Wadden Sea Region – to be free from national frontiers. Another aim is to introduce regional products and high quality regional cuisine to the general public, so adding another element to draw tourists and visitors to the Wadden Sea Region. The international Gastronomy Award will take place in Denmark alongside the Wadden Sea Festival and Ribe city 1300 years anniversary in 2010. Recently, new activities have started to bring the respon-

sible groups together. The WSF will support the event through coordination and implementation. The 2010 award builds on the successful ideas of earlier similar events, and adds new ideas. The main agreed objectives are

- to strengthen the network between the area's restaurants;
- to create an interaction between the region's food producers;
- to highlight the area's many restaurants;
- to provide inspiration for the joint development of the profession. Participants will be restaurants located in the Wadden Sea Region of The NL, Lower Saxony, SH and Denmark.

The qualification will be judged on

- the percentage of local products used;
- the percentage of certified raw materials from the region, like „Vadehavsguld“ (Wadden Sea Gold) in Denmark and „Waddengoud“ in Holland;
- the degree to which local food traditions have been incorporated;
- the taste of the menus;
- creativity, originality and dissemination;
- presentation and overall impression;
- the adaptation of rules agreed on earlier.



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The gastronomy award will serve the tourism industry in the Wadden Sea Region and could be further used in a tourism and marketing strategy for the World Heritage Site. With the aim of promoting the Wadden Sea Region, its uniqueness, the Heritage and regional products, the WSF will support the implementation of the International Gastronomy Award as well as the preparing regional contests, if enough interest is expressed by both the restaurants and their regional representations in all WSR countries. This will also have positive effects on tourism development and is linked to the promotion and marketing of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site.

4.10 Wadden Sea World Heritage Site

The Wadden Sea Forum recognized the outstanding universal value of the Wadden Sea and has supported its inscription on the World Heritage List. Stakeholders and representatives of the regional and local governments contributed to the field mission in September 2008 and expressed their support for future management and protection. Additionally, the stakeholders informed their organizations about the process and the outstanding values with regard to the criteria. A member of the Forum, the head of the district authority Aurich,

participated in the World Heritage Committee meeting in June 2009 in Seville to follow up the presentation and decision about the inscription of the Dutch-German Wadden Sea on the World Heritage List.

Following the decision, the Forum agreed to take responsibility promoting the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site and contributing to its preservation by the stakeholders. After the decision in Seville, two TWSC working groups have been set up to further the communication and marketing of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. One stakeholder group will develop a

„Wadden Sea World Heritage communication and marketing strategy“ and a Tourism Strategy Group will develop a strategy for sustainable tourism. The WSF secretariat is involved in these groups and is representing the Forum.

The integration of the WSF in the development of a sustainable tourism strategy guarantees the involvement of stakeholders outside the tourism sector and supports a common promotion.





OUTLOOK AND FUTURE TASKS

5.0

The Wadden Sea Forum has initiated activities and projects to contribute to the environmental friendly development of the Wadden Sea Region as well as to supporting the preservation of the Trilateral Cooperation Area.

The Forum and its working groups will continue in the framework of the MOU, which needs to be extended into the next trilateral period, to fulfil the outlined tasks and to make a success of the collaboration with the TWSC. Many of the activities are still in an initial phase and need continuity to make significant progress.

The following section briefly describes the themes and projects to be further developed.

The WSF intends to put more value on and to further improve the „forum aspect“ of its work, i.e. the mutual exchange of information, ideas and visions within the plenary and the working group meetings. Whenever possible and requested by all sectors involved, a platform for discussions and negotiations on conflict issues will be provided. The WSF will also strive to improve cooperation with the Wadden Sea Advisory boards and organizations such as KIMO and Euregio die Watten.

Information exchange as well as advice in both directions will support common goals, which will become even more important with the development of a sustainable tourism strategy.

Sustainable development is a precondition to save our natural assets. The Wadden Sea coastal zone is under rapid development. Harbour extension, construction of new coal power plants and off-shore wind farms, new infrastructure facilities like pipelines and cables crossing the Wadden Sea, increasing ship traffic, tourism and coastal protection by large-scale sand nourishments are developments

which need to be balanced. The WSF will prepare advice for the TWSC on matters regarding sustainable development within the Wadden Sea Region. For a sustainable development of the WSR it will be necessary, besides a vertical cooperation to aim for horizontal cooperation. This will better integrate experts from all sectors as well as all responsible ministries and authorities.

The WSF will further develop ICZM implementation, adapted to the Wadden Sea Region. This aims at a land – sea interaction, a linkage between the coast and off-shore areas. A sound transboundary cooperation, particular in off-shore areas, also needs to be further developed, taking into account the various EU directives. This will also improve the knowledge exchange at EU level, which will become

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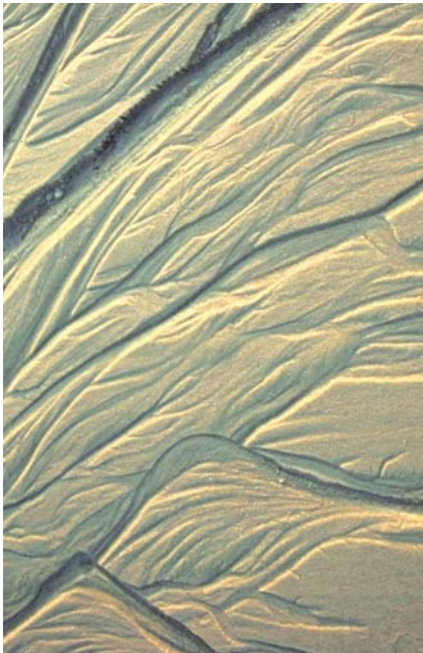
more important in the future. Finally, proven ecological quality objectives will be taken on board in the ICZM process.

Established sustainability indicators will be further developed and if necessary improved in close cooperation with the TWSC (ecological indicators). The aim is to use these as a tool for testing whether there is a sustainable development in the region. The tool will deliver annual information about the progress or regress of sustainability of the defined regions, including information about specific weaknesses and strengths.

A quite new issue, which becomes more and more important, is the further focus on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) as an instrument in Integrated Maritime Policies (IMP) on a trilateral level. The increasing uses of the EEZ further off-shore of the protected Wadden Sea while retaining the available space need common coordination and solutions for implementation. The energy symposium of November 2009 has shown the dramatic development on the energy market in the coastal region. This development will definitely lead to consequences and impacts, both positive and negative, on the region, the environment and sectors like fisheries

and harbour industries. Therefore, the WSF will initiate activities or projects examining the consequences of developing the energy market in the Wadden Sea Region and EEZs. In the future, however, it is the intention of the WSF to put a particular emphasis on the issues of renewable energies, sustainable grids and energy efficiency. The mid-term goal is to establish a globally valued example for a climate friendly economy in the region which is in line with safeguarding its natural assets.

For a sound information and knowledge base, the database about energy, industry and harbour



related activities along the coast will be extended. The statistics, which do not value whether an activity is sustainable or not, deliver an overview about the main economic developments and can be used as background information in management plans and measures along the coast.

Shipping safety was and will be an important issue within the Forum. Therefore, the WSF will continue to expand its interest in shipping safety issues with a particular view on the avoidance of further risks related to offshore activities, on container shipping, on the designation of new traffic separa-

tion schemes and on the further development of, and awareness for, the PSSA Wadden Sea.

Initiated by the agricultural sector, the WSF published a recommendation and guidance document for a trilateral goose management plan on the basis of a joint understanding of farmers, nature conservationists, administrations and goose scientists. It is anticipated that WSF will work together with the TWSC on the finalization of such a goose management plan, to protect the geese and to minimize damage and loss to agriculture. This will minimize the conflicts between the farmers and nature conservation.





RECOMMENDATIONS

6.0

Overarching

It is recommended

- to acknowledge the WSF final report as a worthwhile contribution to the sustainable management and development of the Wadden Sea Region;
- to support the continuing future work of WSF in collaboration with the TWSC, and for this purpose to adopt a follow-up of the MOU between the TWSC and the WSF for 2011 – 2013;
- to agree on the role of the WSF as advisory board for the TWSC with regard to sustainable development of the WSR;
- to support the „forum-aspect“ of the WSF, i.e. the mutual

- exchange of information, ideas and visions within the plenary and the working group meetings;
- whenever possible and requested by all stakeholders concerned, to act as a platform for developing conflict solutions;
- to increase the involvement of all relevant ministries in the work of the WSF.

ICZM

It is recommended that

- the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation is committed to integrate the ICZM approach and the EU principles in their work;
- a national level staff position is created with strong political

- backing to increase horizontal cooperation between the ministries.

Shipping

With regard to the PSSA evaluation, the WSF supports the recommendations to

- extend cooperation and collaboration between responsible bodies, experts and stakeholders;
- extend the monitoring of shipping issues/events using existing data with relevance for the Wadden Sea within TMAP;
- to raise the level of awareness and education of the PSSA, i.e. to specifically inform all ships entering/approaching the PSSA;

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- develop a risk assessment for the Southern North Sea with comparable methods and as an adaptive approach (for example, as in the Baltic);
- to develop a northern Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) west of Schleswig-Holstein and Denmark.

Energy, Industry, Infrastructure

It is recommended

- to further develop a Wadden Sea harbour concept utilising the experience gained from the harbour concept of Lower Elbe;
- to continue the debate about a sustainable energy supply and distribution in the WSR by building on the base established by the

WSF energy symposium and the European climate goals;

Goose Management

It is recommended

- to continue the work of the goose management group in collaboration with the TWSC by implementing a joint project to develop a common goose management plan;
- to make use of the recommendation and guidance document as a basis for the implementation of the joint project;
- to improve and/or develop agri-environmental payment schemes to minimize the conflicts with the agricultural sector and take an unfair burden away from

some farmers who support the geese on behalf of society as a whole;

- to aim for a spatial approach and to adopt the concept of „Go- and No-Go-Areas“ for geese, with support for geese and their management in the Go-Areas with deterrent policies in No-go areas to discourage the geese from settling there.
- to encourage an open dialogue and to strive for good dialogue (horizontal interaction) with the farmers in the Wadden Sea Region.



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ANNEX 1 WSF MEMBERS



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Chairman Jörn Klimant. Head of District Authority Dithmarschen, German

	Denmark	Schleswig-Holstein	Niedersachsen	The Netherlands
Agriculture	Kristen Fromsejer De Danske Landboforeninger Erik O. Petersen Dansk Familielandbrug	Melff Melffsen Susanne Werner Bauernverband Schleswig-Holstein e.V.	Erich Hinrichs Landwirtschaftlicher Hauptverein Ostfriesland	Hilbrand Sinnema Jurjen Kingma NLTO
Tourism and Recreation	Poul Therkelsen Tourism Office Fanø Henrik Hansen Friluftsrådet	Jutta Albert Tourismus- und Stadtmarketing	Hans Janssen Gemeinde Langeoog	Martin Loos NNWB Steef Engelsman ANWB
Nature and Environmental Protection	Soeren Vinding The Danish Society for Nature Conservation	Hans-Ulrich Rösner WWF- Wattenmeerbüro	Holger Wesemüller EUROPARC Deutschland e.V. Nadja Ziebarth BUND	Herman Verheij Waddenvereniging Hans Revier Seas at Risk

	Denmark	Schleswig-Holstein	Niedersachsen	The Netherlands
Fisheries	Jesper J. Larsen Esbjerg Fiskeriforening	Andries de Leeuw Landesverband S-H Angler und Fischer e.V.	Philipp Oberdörffer Landwirtschaftskammer Weser Ems	Cora Seip-Markensteijn Dutch Fish Product Board
	Henrik S. Lund Danmarks Fiskeriforening	Knud Bußmann Landesvereinigung der Erzeugerorgani- sationen	Manuela Gubernator NdS Muschelfischer	
Industry and Harbor	Vacant	Frank Schnabel Brunsbüttel Ports GmbH	Hans Werner Rothkopf	Rene Genee Groningen Seaports
		Peter Becker IHK Flensburg	Jan Amelsborg IHK Ostfriesland und Papenburg	
Energy	Vacant	Werner K. Schuhbauer RWE Dea AG	Gerd Töpken Statkraft Markets GmbH	Eric Dorenbos NAM B.V.
		Matthias Hüppauff-Jakober Wirtschafts- förderungsgesell- schaft Nordfriesland		Margriet Kuijper NAM B.V.

	Denmark	Schleswig-Holstein	Niedersachsen	The Netherlands
Regional Government Authority	Karsten Uno Petersen Region South Denmark	Dieter Harrsen Kreis Nordfriesland	Walter Theuerkauf Landkreis Aurich	Tineke Schokker Dutch Wadden Sea Provinces
	Thyge Nielsen Ribe Amt	Jörn Klimant Kreis Dithmarschen	Bernhard Bramlage Landkreis Leer	Douwe Hollenga Provincie Groningen
The Wadden Sea Municipalities	Jens Andresen	Helge Janssen Gemeinde Rantum	Ludwig Salverius Stadt Norderney	Albert de Hoop Gemeente Ameland
	Thomas Holst Christensen			Joke Geldorp-Pantekoek Gemeente Texel
Advisory Board (observer)	Erik Norreby Fanø Kommune			
	Karen Boel Madsen Fanø Kommune	Jörn Klimant Kreis Dithmarschen	Vacant	Margreeth de Boer Wadden Sea Advisory Council
				Jacoba Westinga Wadden Sea Advisory Council

	Denmark	Schleswig-Holstein	Niedersachsen	The Netherlands
State Government Authority (Observer)	John Frederiksen Ministry of the Environment, Environment Centre Ribe	Klaus Koßmagk-Stephan Landesamt für den Nationalpark S-H Wattenmeer	Hubertus Hebbelmann Umweltministerium	Bernhard Baerends Min. Landbouw Natuurbeheer en Visserij
		Bernd Scherer Ministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Landwirtschaft	Theodor Schröder Nationalparkverwaltung Nds. Wattenmeer	
		Jacobus Hofstede Ministerium für Landwirtschaft, Umwelt und ländliche Räume, SH		
		Federal: Christiane Paulus Stefanie Hedtkamp Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit		





ANNEX 2 MOU

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between the Wadden Sea Forum and
the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation 2008 - 2010

1. The Partners

Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation
The Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC), established in 1978 as a cooperation between the governments of Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands, aims to protect the Wadden Sea as a shared nature area of world-wide importance in particular through the Shared Principles including the Guiding Principle, the Targets, the common policies and management and the integrated monitoring and assessment programme.

Wadden Sea Forum
The Wadden Sea Forum (WSF), established in 2001, is an independent platform of stakeholder organisations in the Wadden Sea Region, aiming at finding a balance between different interests in the Wadden Sea Region. To this end the WSF will

- exchange information on experiences and best practice with regard to and foster sustainable development in the Wadden Sea Region;
- try to bring together the sectoral interests of its members;
- exchange views on general themes and topical issues;

- prepare advice on issues related to sustainable development and integrated coastal zone management;
- initiate and implement projects and actions on topical issues;
- serve as consultation body for governments.

2. Purpose and Basic Principles

2.1 The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish a working arrangement between the Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) and the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC).

2.2 The MOU is based on the mutual acknowledgement by the WSF and the TWSC of the Shared Principles including the Guiding Principle, the Shared Vision, and the Targets, as laid down in the Wadden Sea Plan, respecting the existing protection levels and ensuring economic development and quality of life.

3. Working Agreement

Consultation and Advice

3.1 For the purpose of this Memorandum the WSF will serve as independent trilateral advisory and consultation body to the TWSC. To this end the WSF will prepare

relevant statements and background information to the TWSC, either upon request by the TWSC or upon the initiative of WSF member organisations, in particular:

- The WSF will be consulted and prepare advice on matters regarding sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region;
- The WSF will be consulted in the framework of the further development of the Wadden Sea Plan, the draft Declaration of the 2010 Wadden Sea Conference, national ICZM strategies and other issues of relevance for the Wadden Sea Region in so far this is within the mandate of the TWSC;

- The WSF will discuss and integrate, to the extent possible, relevant input by the regional Wadden Sea advisory bodies and submit the results to the TWSC on a regular basis.

3.2 For the purpose of this Memorandum the WSF will deliver a report on the outcome of its work to the 2010 Wadden Sea Conference as a follow up of the "Breaking the Ice" encompassing proposals for sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region.

Work Programme

3.3 The parties will base themselves on the work programme,

covering the period of the MOU and reflecting the purpose and working agreement of the MOU, which is in Annex 1 (not in this document).

4. Responsibilities

Representation

4.1 The WSF chairperson will, on behalf of the WSF, be an Advisor in the Wadden Sea Board, to be established after the conclusion of the evaluation of the TWSC. Forum members will, if appropriate, have the opportunity to present views on specific matters to the TWSC.

4.2 National representatives of the TWSC will participate as observ-

ers in WSF plenary meetings, and as full members of relevant WSF working groups, associated with the common activities in BI of the work programme referred to in Article 3.3. National representatives may participate in all other working groups.

Facilitation

4.3 The WSF-members and the TWSC-parties will bear the costs of a WSF secretariat, as laid down in Annex 2 with the basic contribution of the TWSC not exceeding annually 30,000€ not excluding the possibility for the partners to add additional financing at a later point or for specific activities. The WSF

secretariat will be hosted in the CWSS office and overhead costs covered by the CWSS.

4.4 The WSF secretariat will operate independently of the TWSC and will refer directly to the WSF chairperson. The secretary of the CWSS oversees the functioning of the WSF secretariat.

5. Evaluation and Coming into Effect and Expiry

5.1 This Memorandum and the arrangements established in accordance herewith will be evaluated in the period with a view to its continuation after 2010.

5.1 This Memorandum will come into effect on the date of the signature by the parties.

5.2 The Memorandum will expire on 31 December 2010.

Heide, 22 May 2008

Dr. Jörn Klimant,
Head of County Council
Dithmarschen, Chairman WSF
On behalf of the Wadden Sea
Forum

Bonn, 27 May 2008

Dr. Elsa Nickel
Deputy-Director General Federal
Ministry for the Environment,
Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety
Directorate Nature Conservation
and Sustainable Use of Natural
Resources
On behalf of the Trilateral
Wadden Sea Cooperation

WADDEN SEA FORUM

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