Wadden Sea World Heritage

Three countries. One heritage.

Wilhelmshaven, June 20, 2017
Part I

WADDEN SEA - BASICS
The Wadden Sea

• is the largest unbroken stretch of sand & mudflats worldwide, undisturbed,
• a highly productive ecosystem,
• a migratory bird hotspot,
• shared by three countries,
• UNESCO World Heritage
National Conservation Regimes

The Conservation Area of 11,000 km² is protected nationally by:

- The Nature and Wildlife Reserve in Denmark
- The Federal Nature Protection Law, National Park Laws (3 Federal States) in Germany
- The Nature Protection Act and the Planning Decree Wadden Sea in the Netherlands
Trilateral Cooperation

• Since 1978, the Netherlands, Germany & Denmark have been cooperating to conserve & protect the Wadden Sea as an ecological entity.

• The trilateral cooperation area stretches beyond the national conservation regimes & covers 14,700 km²
Part II

TRILATERAL COOPERATION
Guiding principle of the Trilateral Cooperation

“To achieve, as far as possible, a natural and sustainable ecosystem in which natural processes proceed in an undisturbed way.”

Joint Declaration on the Protection of the Wadden Sea
Organization of the Trilateral Cooperation

- Trilateral Governmental Council
  - Political / Policy Leadership
- Wadden Sea Board
  - Governance
  - Advisors
- Task Groups
  - Plans & Projects
  - Management, Climate, World Heritage, Sustainable Tourism

Wadden Sea Conferences
- Advice

Common Wadden Sea Secretariat
- Implementation and Support

Expert Networking Groups
- TMAG, TSEG, Breeding & Migratory Birds, Salt Marsh, Fish, Education, other ad-hoc groups
Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS)

- Supports, facilitates and coordinates the activities of the Trilateral Cooperation;
- Staff of 10
- Financed by:
  - Ministry for Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (NL),
  - Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (DE),
  - Ministry of Environment and Food (DK)
The vision

- harmonised & effective,
- based on sound scientific evidence,
- serves policy making at all levels, the obligations from directives & conventions, the World Heritage status,
- supports the management of the Wadden Sea as an ecological entity.
CWSS Tasks

- Organisation & facilitation of cross boundary meetings
- Conceptual development
- Data handling & assessment
- Project coordination
- Contact with national and international organizations and institutions
Milestones of the Trilateral Cooperation

- 1978 Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation established
- 1982 Joint Declaration on the Protection of the Wadden Sea
- 1987 Common Wadden Sea Secretariat
- 1990 WSSA
- 1997 Monitoring Programme TMAP
- 1997/2010 Wadden Sea Plan
- 2010 Sylt Declaration; Joint Declaration
- 2014 Tønder Declaration
International agreements implemented through the TWSC

- European Directives (Birds, Habitat, Water Framework)
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Ramsar Convention
- Bonn Convention: WSSA, ASCOBANS
- OSPAR
- IMO: PSSA Waddensea 2002
- UNESCO: WHC 2009/2014
Main achievements of the Trilateral Cooperation

• Common objectives & management principles
• Common delimitation
• Common targets for ecosystem, landscape & cultural history
• Common monitoring & assessment programme
• Common integrated management plan (WSP)
Tønder Declaration

- WS World Heritage
- Nature conservation & integrated ecosystem management
- Energy
- Climate
- Maritime safety & shipping
- TMAP
- Science
- WSF
- International cooperation
- Communication and education
- TSWC 2014-2018

- Adopted at Ministerial Council Meeting, Tønder (DK), 5 February 2014
- Charts the course for the TWSC up to 2018
Trilateral Wadden Sea Plan

Targets

- Landscape & Culture
- Water & Sediment
- Salt Marshes
- Tidal tidal flats & subtidal gullies
- Beaches & Dunes
- Estuaries
- Offshore Zone
- Birds
- Marine Mammals
- Fish

Provisions on

- Agriculture
- Fishery
- Hunting
- Dredging & dumping
- Sand & clay extraction
- Tourism
- Shipping
- Energy (wind, gas, oil)
- others
TMAP
The basics

• **Launched in 1997** at the Stade Ministerial Conference
• Since 1997 further developed to address all national & international **reporting obligations** (e.g. EU Habitats, Birds and Water Framework Directives)
• **Now one of the cornerstones** of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation
• Covers the **entire Wadden Sea cooperation Area & a broad range of topics**
TMAP

The structure

Monitoring
- Defined monitoring questions
- Observation of changes in pre-defined spatial-temporal scales

Data Handling
- Central database: compilation, long-term storage, re-use, exchange

Concomitant Research
- Cause of changes
- Specific hypotheses
- Optimizing the monitoring

Reporting
- Quality Status Reports and assessment of political Targets
- Recommendations for research, monitoring, management and policy

Policy Assessment
- Trilateral Ministerial Council Meetings (every 3-4 years)
TMAP
Quality Status Report (QSR)

Content

• Description & evaluation the Wadden Sea’s current **ecological status**,  
• Identification of **changes** in this status & their possible **causes**,  
• Identification of **issues of concern** & indication of possible **measures** of redress,  
• Evaluation of the likely **effectiveness** of these measures,  
• Identification of **gaps in knowledge**.
TMAP
Summary

- The TMAP provides data & trilateral assessment reports for the entire Dutch-German-Danish Wadden Sea – a prerequisite for the World Heritage designation
- The Quality Status Report provides recommendations for trilateral research, monitoring, management & policy as well as input to the Ministerial Conferences
- Further development of TMAP: optimization & further harmonization, filling knowledge gaps, adjustments to EU directive requirements
International cooperation

- UNESCO World Heritage Marine Programme
- Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative
- MoU Korea – Wadden Sea
- MoU Banc d’Arguin (Mauritania) – Wadden Sea
- Cooperation Wash (UK) – Wadden Sea
Trilateral Cooperation

What’s next

Institutional Issues
- Development of WH Partnership Center

International Cooperation
- East-Atlantic Flyway & Banc d’Arguin
- Cooperation with Korea

TMAP, QSR
- QSR in progress. Link to SOC

WHC Requests
- SOC
- Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP)

Other WH-related Matters
- PROWAD LINK (Interreg V B, EOI)
- WH Campaign proposal
- WH communication
Part III

WADDEN SEA – WORLD HERITAGE
UNESCO World Heritage Convention

- The **UNESCO World Heritage Convention** (1972), 190 signatories & 163 States Parties, protects the world’s cultural and natural heritage.

- **1,031 World Heritage properties are listed,**
  - 197 **natural** World Heritage properties (46 marine sites),
  - **Outstanding Universal Value (OUV),**
  - Common heritage of **humankind,**
  - **States protect & manage** sites on behalf of the world community.
Becoming World Heritage

- 2009: **Dutch & majority of German Wadden Sea** inscribed
- 2011: **Hamburg** Wadden Sea National Park added
- 2014: **Danish Wadden Sea** & additional parts of **Lower Saxony** National Park added
Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Wadden Sea

1. **Criteria (77 viii, ix, x OG)**
   - geology, ecological processes, biodiversity

2. **Integrity (78 OG)**
   - 11,400 km² represents all habitats, species and processes, complete and intact, 500 km stretch

3. **Appropriate Protection and Management (78 OG)**
   - National Parks, nature reserves, Wadden Sea Plan, Monitoring (TMAP)
Obligations as World Heritage site

• **Protection & Management** of the Wadden Sea and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)
• Preparation & implementation of a **Sustainable Tourism Strategy**
• Implementation of a **Monitoring Programme** on invasive species associated with ballast water & aquaculture
• Strengthened cooperation on management & research activities on the **African Eurasian Flyways**
Benefits of being World Heritage

- The WH title strengthened, reinforced & enhanced the 30 year-long Trilateral Cooperation,
- Engendered enormous pride
- Is embraced by virtually all stakeholders,
- Raised the area’s profile,
- Created synergies & new partnerships,
- Brought new benefits & opportunities to the region.
Where we are now

Key factors of success
- Over 30 years of **experience** in cross-border cooperation,
- **Functioning** working structures (trilaterally & nationally),
- **Cross-sector** cooperation,
- **Funding**,
- Exceptional **commitment**,
- Tourism focused on **quality**, not quantity.

Future challenges
- High **complexity** of stakeholder environment,
- Transboundary cooperation & **consistency** of messages & products (languages, cultures, competition),
- **Impact of tourism** on nature values.
WSWH Strategy 2014-2020

“Experience & help preserve a natural wonder.”

• Defines the **targets** the TWSC together with our strategic partners want to achieve by 2020,
• Accumulates **ideas, competencies & resources** of many organizations & people to form a strong & united community.
THERE IS A PLACE – WHERE HEAVEN AND EARTH SHARE THE SAME STAGE

OUR WADDEN SEA WORLD HERITAGE

Experience and help preserve a natural wonder

www.waddensea-worldheritage.org