

# Wadden Sea World Heritage Three countries. One heritage.

Wilhelmshaven,  
June 20, 2017



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



The Wadden Sea  
World Heritage Site  
since 2009



WADDEN SEA  
WORLD HERITAGE



Common  
Wadden Sea  
Secretariat

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**

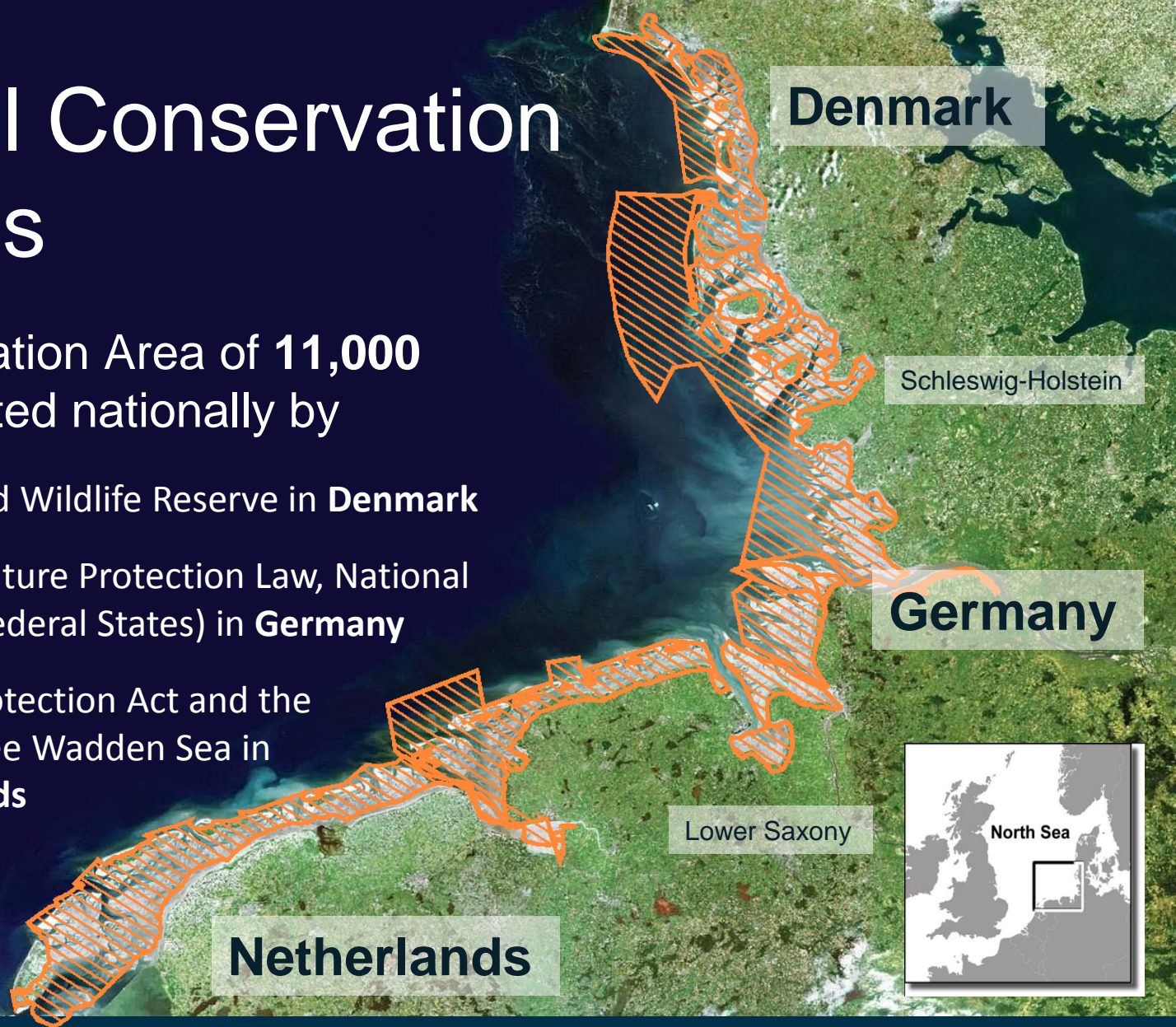




# National Conservation Regimes

The Conservation Area of **11,000 km<sup>2</sup>** 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**



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# 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 km<sup>2</sup>



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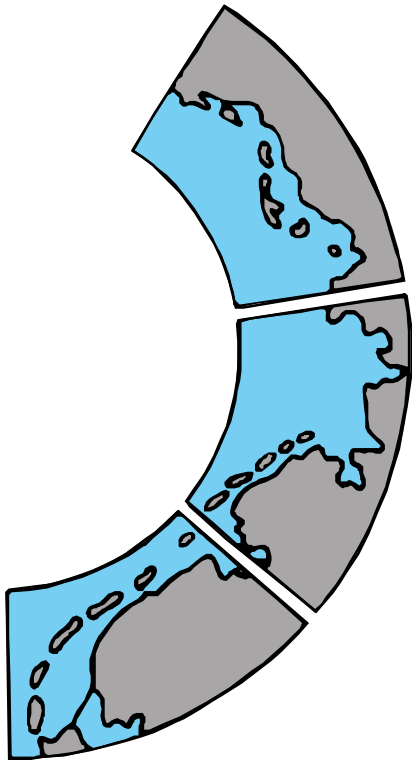
Part II

# TRILATERAL COOPERATION

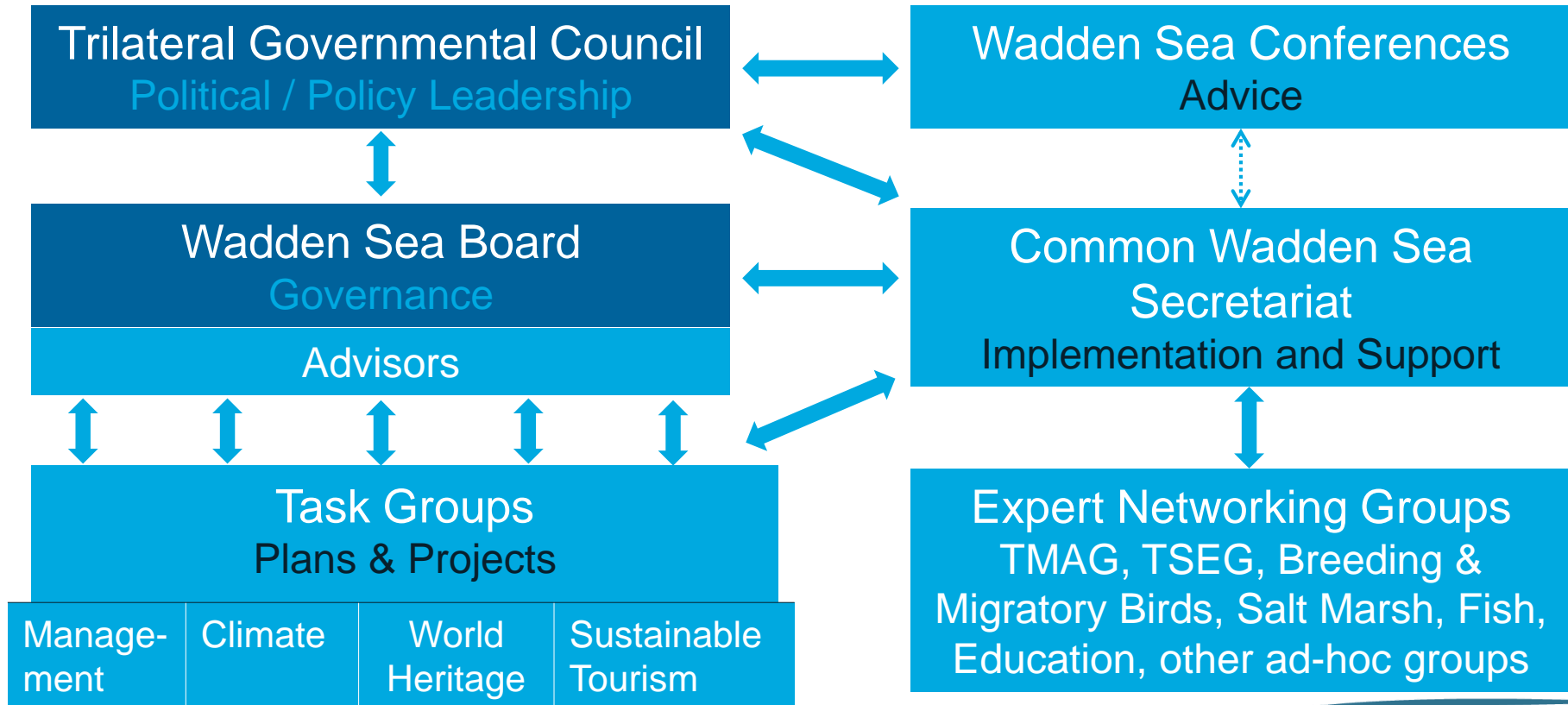
# Guiding principle of the Trilateral Cooperation

“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





# 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)

# TMAP

## 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.



[Marine Mammals](#)



[Birds](#)



[Fish](#)



[Alien Species](#)



[Salt Marshes](#)



[Beaches & Dunes](#)



[Tidal Area](#)



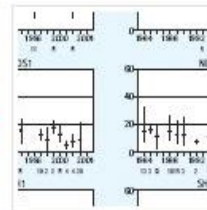
[Estuaries](#)



[Climate](#)



[Habitats & Protected Areas](#)



[Hazardous Substances](#)



[Eutrophication](#)

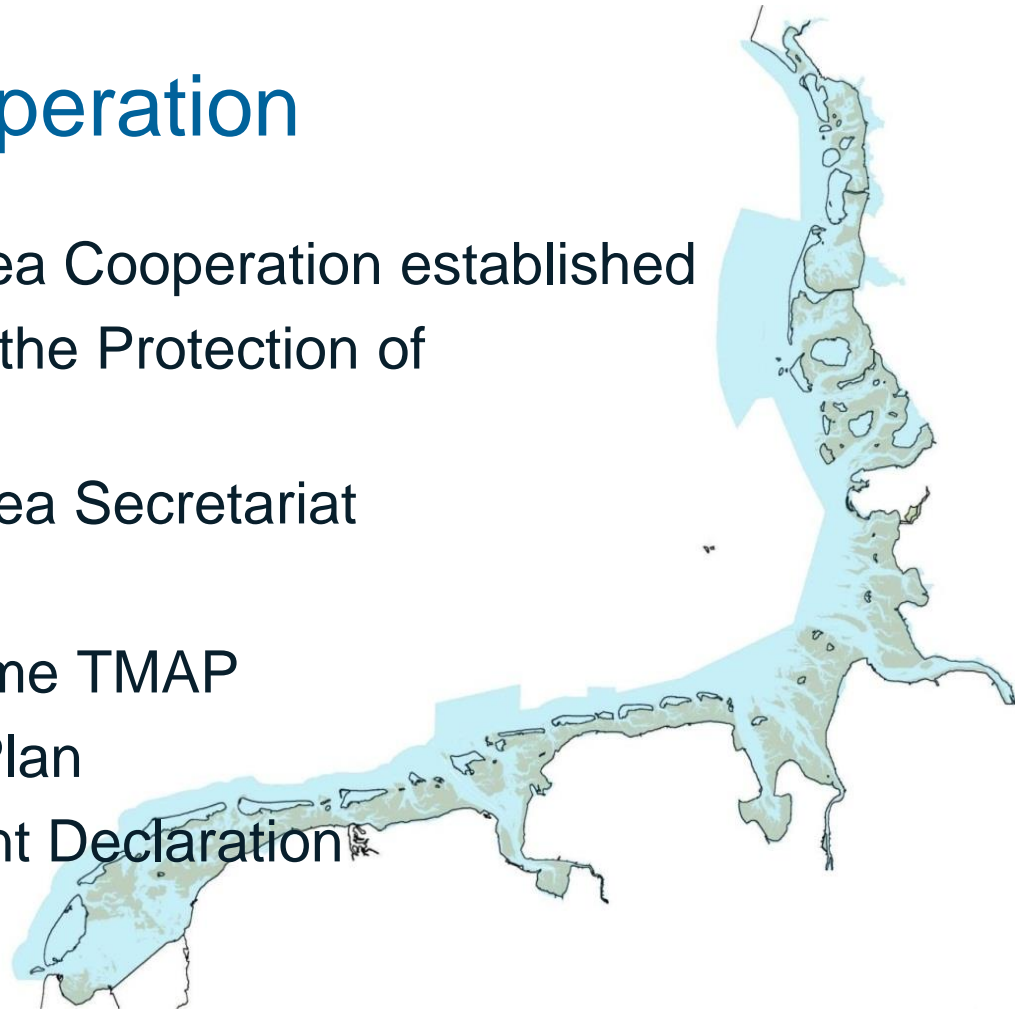
# CWSS Tasks

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



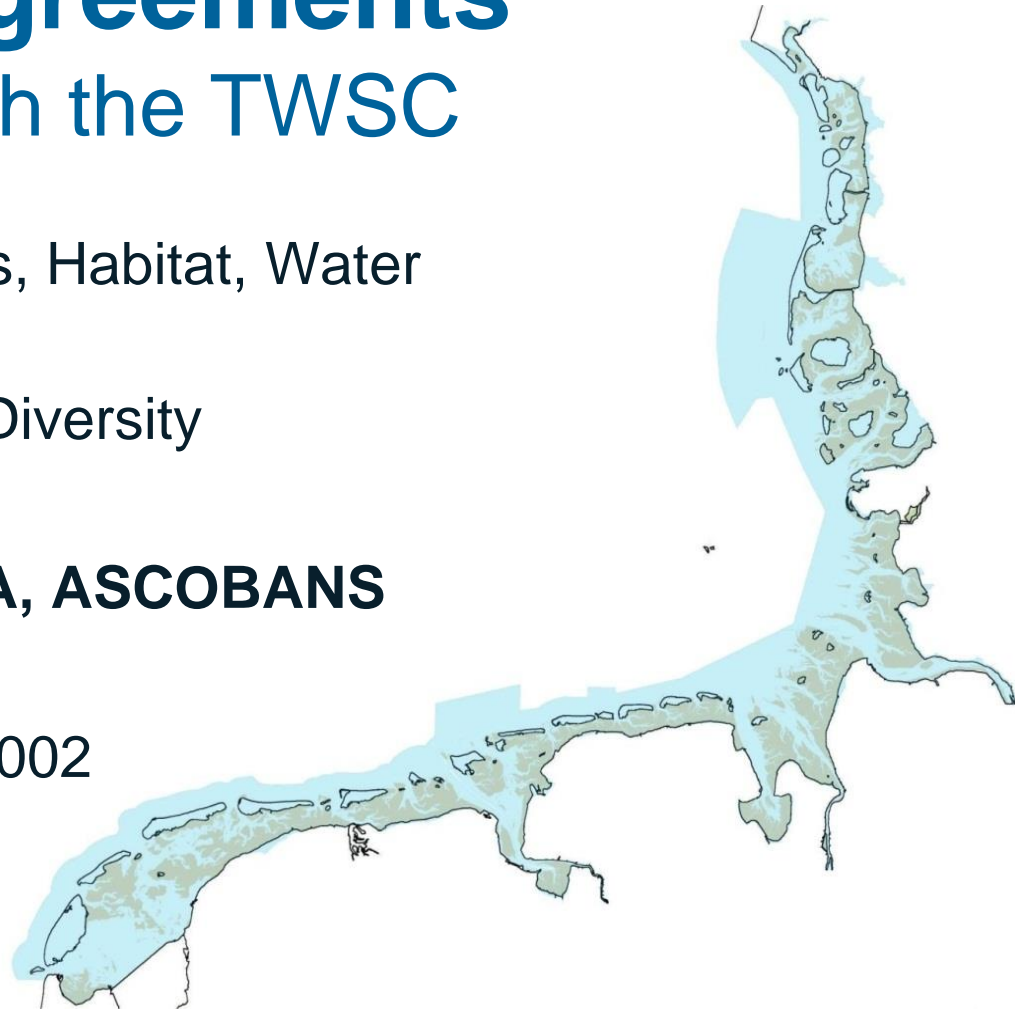
# Milestones of the Trilateral Cooperation

- 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



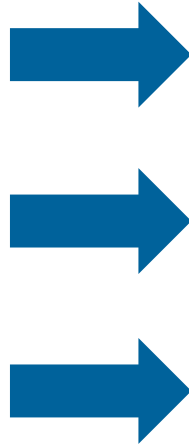
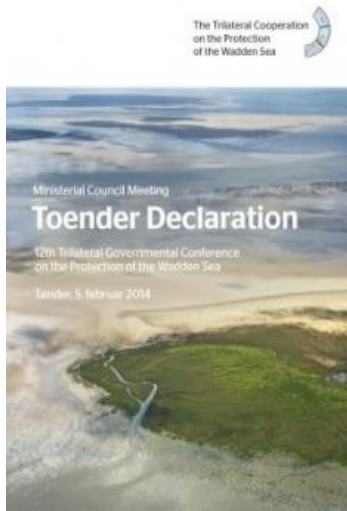
# Main achievements of the Trilateral Cooperation

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





# Tønder Declaration



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

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

# Trilateral Wadden Sea Plan

## Targets

- Landscape & Culture
- Water & Sediment
- Salt Marshes
- 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 State 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

### Concomitant Research

- Cause of changes
- Specific hypotheses
- Optimizing the monitoring

### Data Handling

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

### Reporting

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

### Policy Assessment

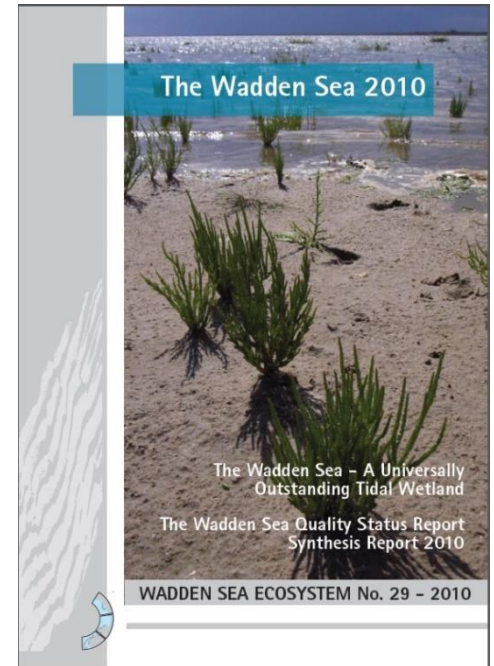
- Trilateral Ministerial Council Meetings (every 3-4 years)

# 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**.



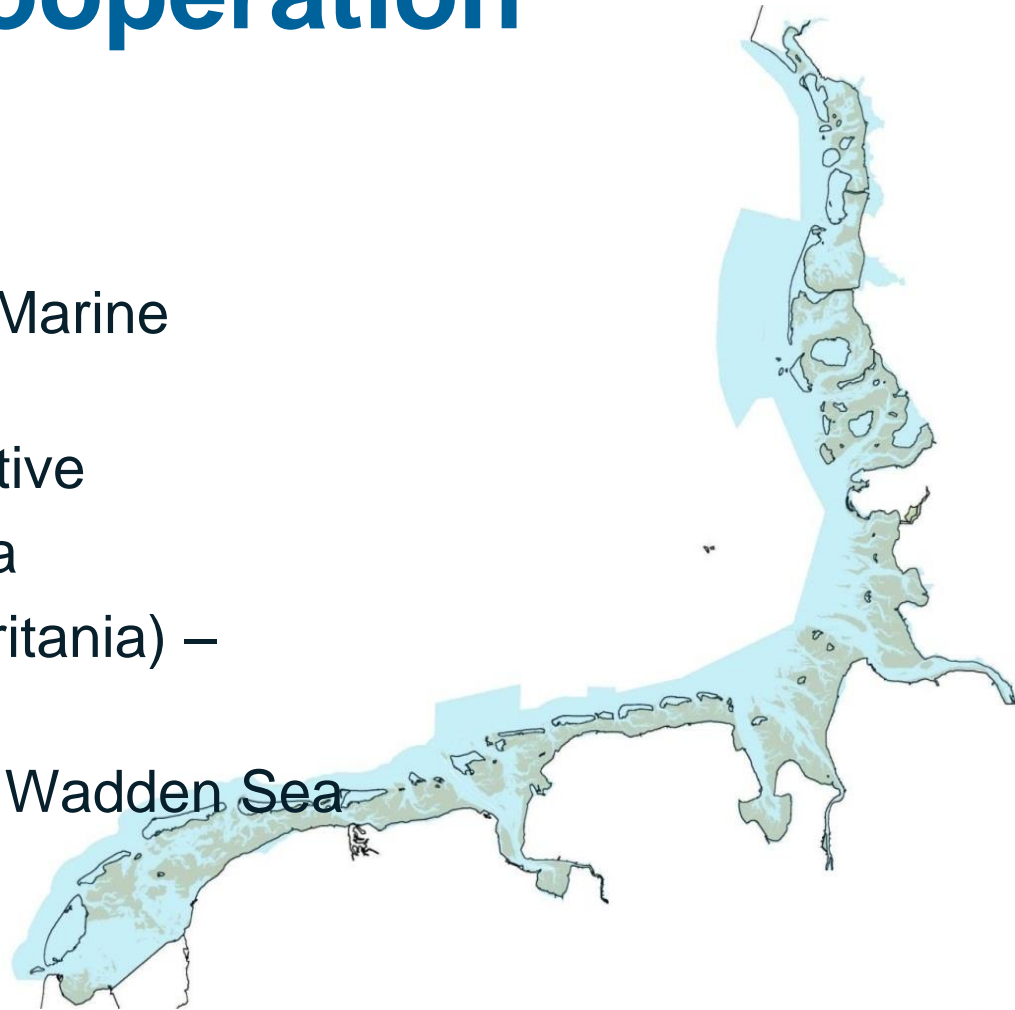
QSR '93/'99/'04/'09/'17

# 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

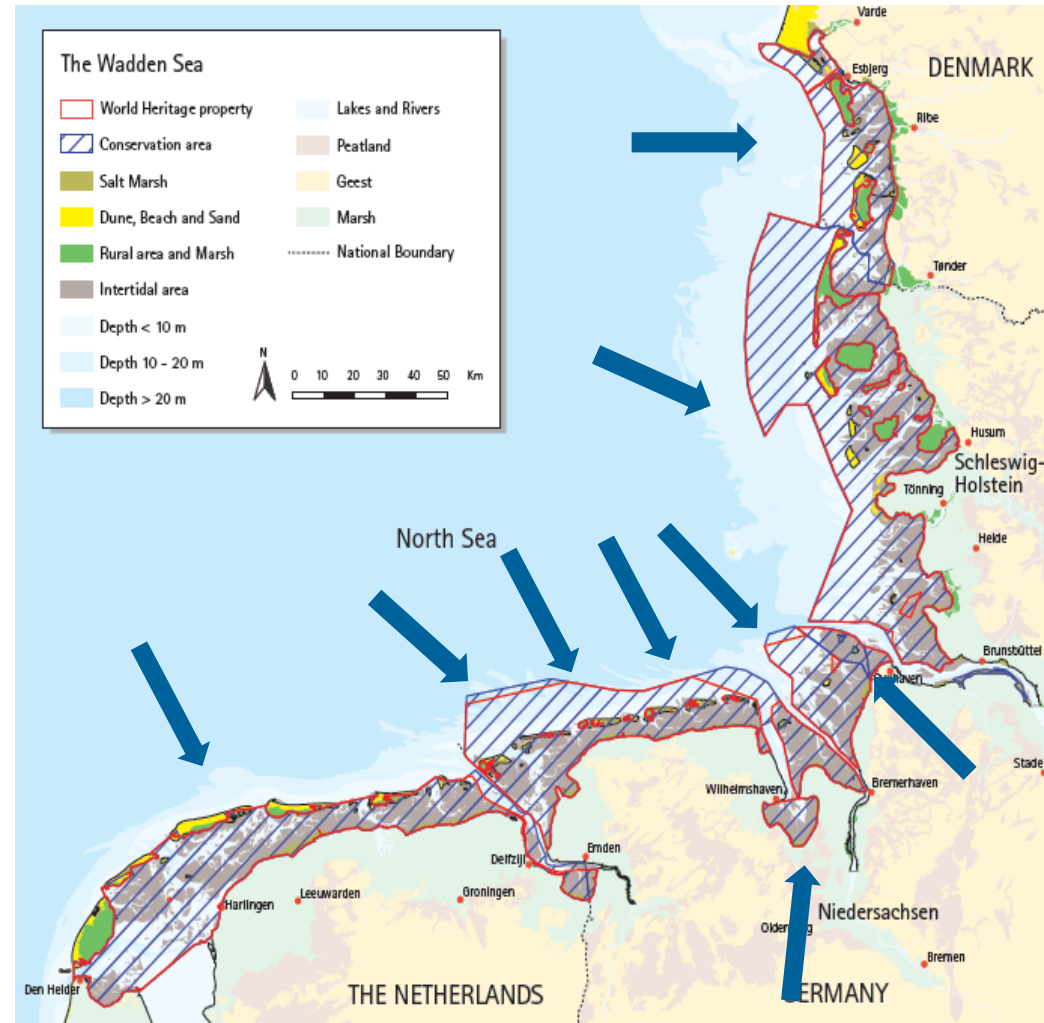
- The **UNESCO World Heritage Convention** (1972), 190 signatories & 163 States Parties, protects the world's cultural and natural heritage.
- **1,031 World Heritage properties are listed**,
  - **197 natural** World Heritage properties (46 marine sites),
  - **Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)**,
  - Common heritage of **humankind**,
  - **States protect & manage** sites on behalf of the world community.



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# 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 km<sup>2</sup> 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.



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# 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

Photo: Jeff Veenendaal



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WORLD HERITAGE

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[www.waddensea-worldheritage.org](http://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org)

