



Wadden Sea World Heritage Three countries. One heritage.

Wilhelmshaven,
June 20, 2017



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Since 2009



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Part I

WADDEN SEA - BASICS



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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**



Denmark

Schleswig-Holstein

Germany

Lower Saxony

Netherlands



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**



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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 km²



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Part II

TRILATERAL COOPERATION



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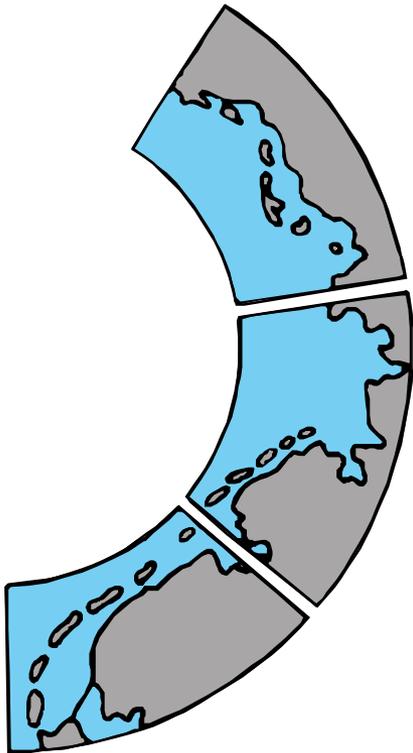


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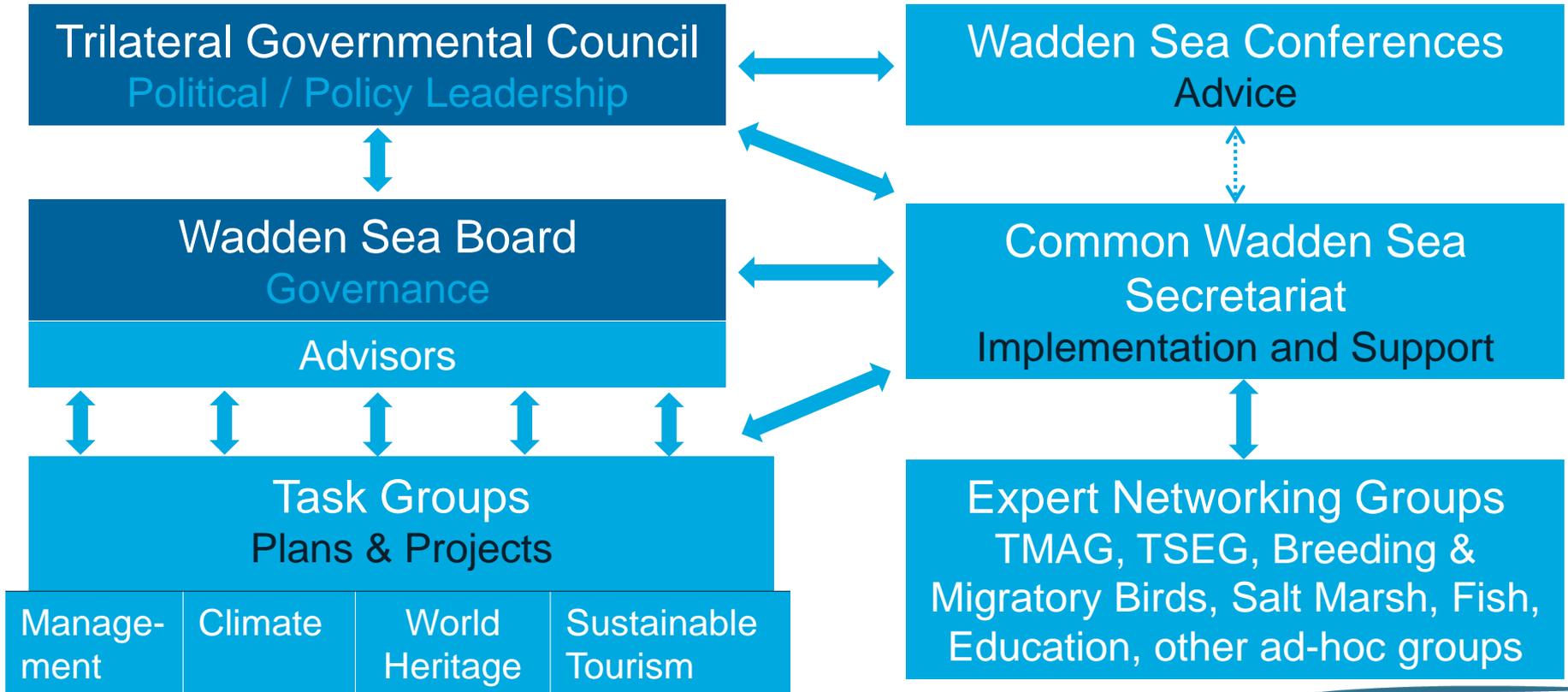
Guiding principle of the Trilateral Cooperation

“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)



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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](#)



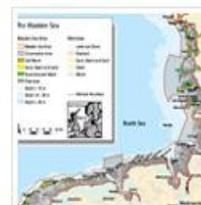
[Tidal Area](#)



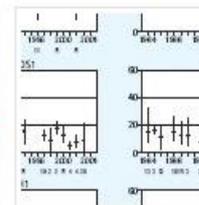
[Estuaries](#)



[Climate](#)



[Habitats & Protected Areas](#)



[Hazardous Substances](#)



[Eutrophication](#)

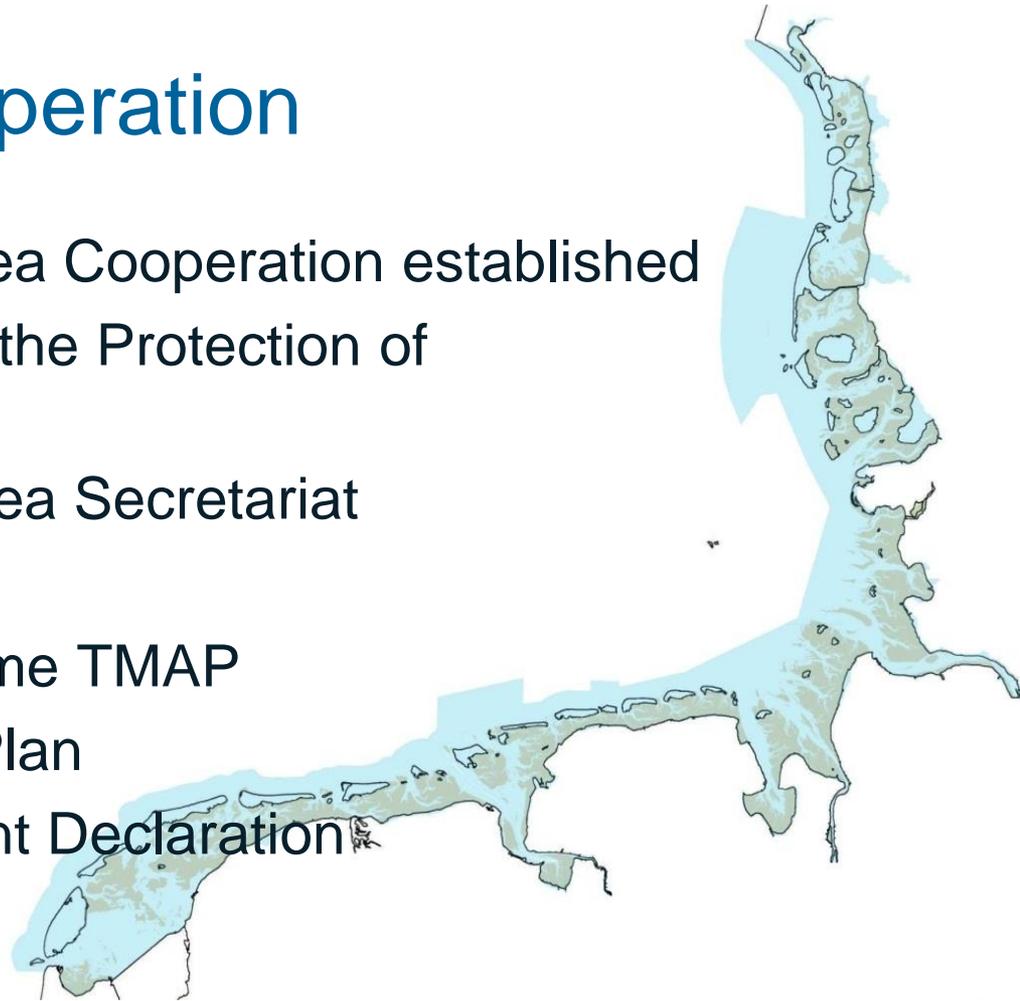


CWSS Tasks

- 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



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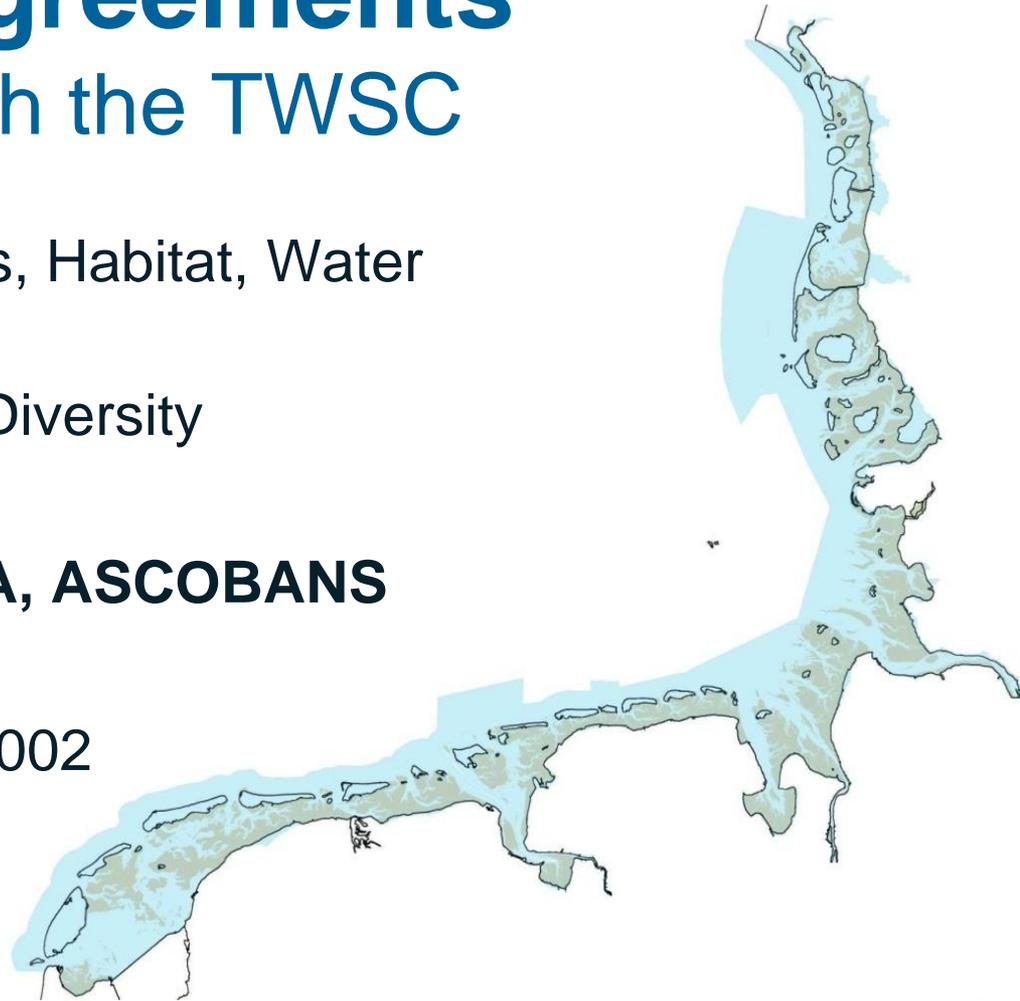
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International agreements implemented through the TWSC

- 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

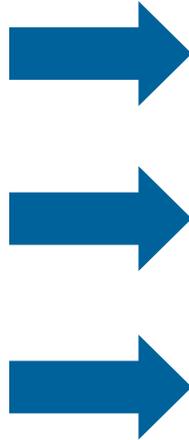
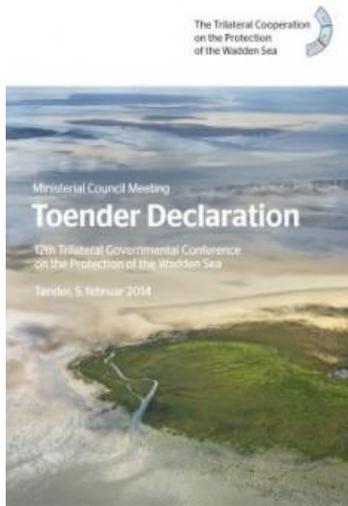


Main achievements of the Trilateral Cooperation

- 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

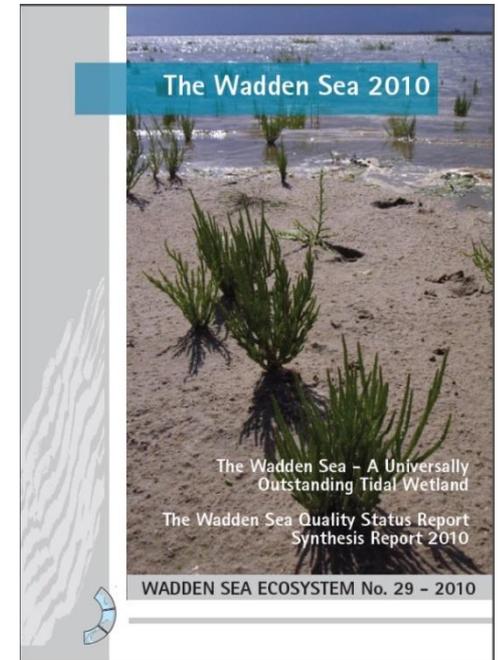
- Trilateral Ministerial Council Meetings (every 3-4 years)

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



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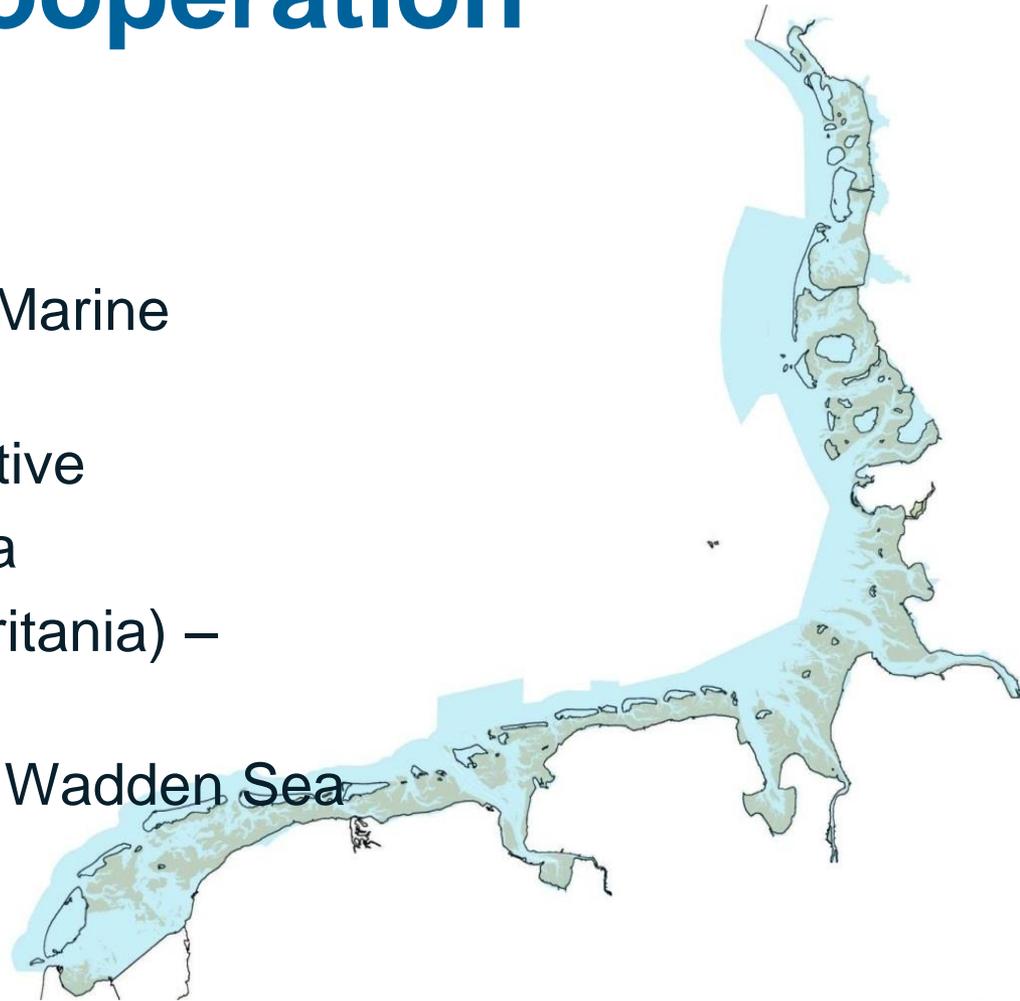
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International cooperation

- 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



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UNESCO World Heritage Convention

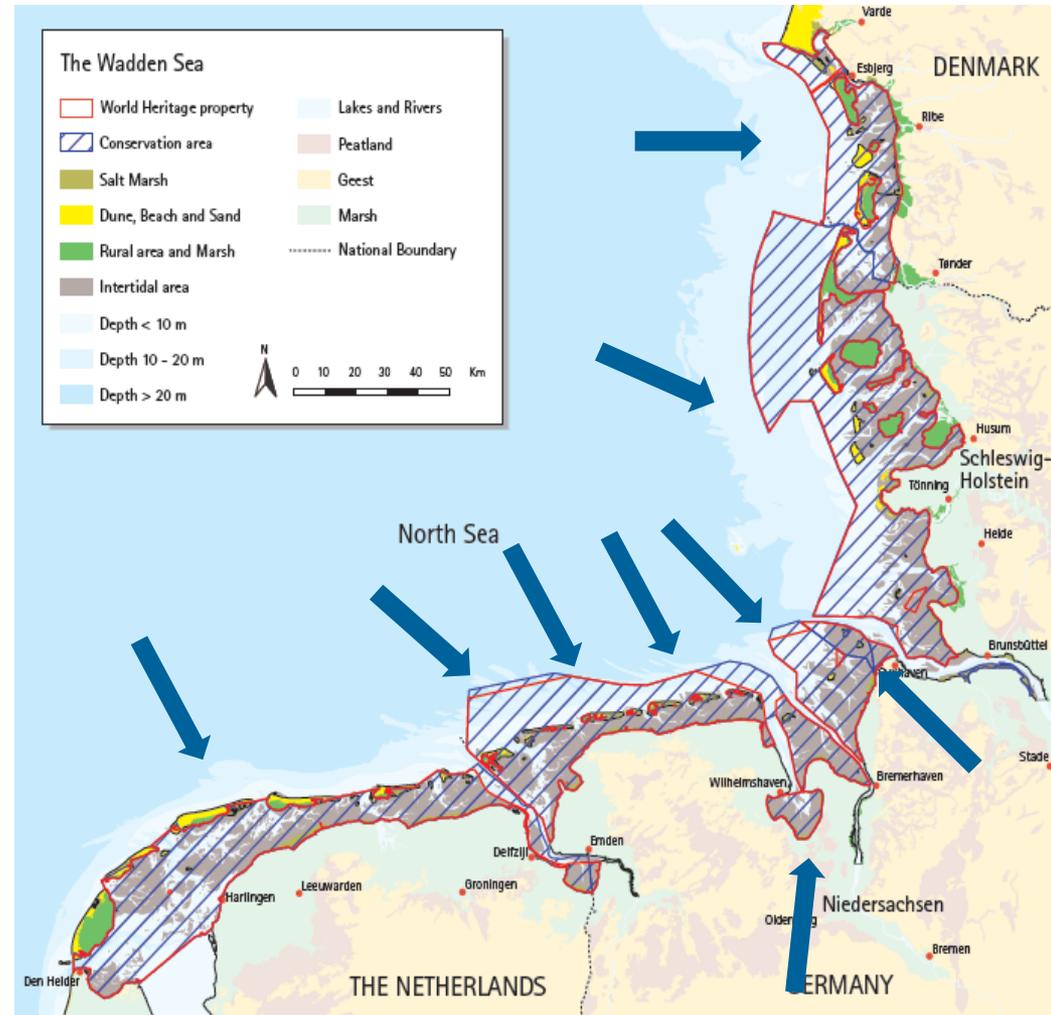
- The **UNESCO World Heritage Convention** (1972), 190 signatories & 163 States Parties, protects the world's cultural and natural heritage.
- **1,031 World Heritage properties are listed**,
 - **197 natural** World Heritage properties (46 marine sites),
 - **Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)**,
 - Common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



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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**



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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.



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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 Wevers/amy



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