

Sense of place in the Wadden Sea Area:

Local consciousness and knowledge for place-based sustainable development



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Starting point

- Cultural and landscape heritage provide a **vital** and **place-based repository** of **'grounded'** and **cultural meanings** in terms of a sense of place.



The Wadden Sea near Dagebüll
(Northern Frisia)

Relevance of cultural and landscape heritage

- Heritage can be defined as the impressions of the past

but

- should also take into consideration the senses of place (intangible impressions) it leaves on the present and
- heritage is a condensation of experiences and of place-based negotiation results emerging from the interaction of (lay) people



Small findings from a submerged settlement
(North Frisian Wadden Sea)

Prerequisite for understanding people's senses of place

- Trilateral survey
- Qualitative sedentary interviews
- Walking interviews



What are the resources of your region?

Open question

- landscape
 - ...economical, islands, beaches, marshes, rivers, beauty, views, biodiversity, protected landscape, land without buildings
- atmosphere
- tourism
- sea food
- the Wadden Sea
- wind
- water
- air
- sun
- energy

Cultural Identity in the Wadden Sea Region
of Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands

Results from the online survey of July 2012 to December 2012



Stan Coenen
Source: Jan van der Grinten

Foundation Waddenzeilen, Netherlands
June 1, 2013



What are possible dangers for your region?

Open question

Politics & Politicians

Landscaping, spatial planning

Tourism

Ecology degradation

Economy/industry

Water

Agriculture, Farming

Fishery

...

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Star Coesters,
Susanne Jansen Schriek

Foundation Waddenzak - Netherlands
June 2, 2013

Qualitative study on the coast

Well, when I am standing here on the beach and walk along the coast, well my heart opens up.... This vast expanse, the dunes and then over there, the holms phew [Halligen] [...], simply this, yeah this wonderful nature. Did you ever see these colours? Really like Nolde [...].

My father and me, we often took a stroll along this coastal stretch and discussed important things, ah, what happens in life and how to deal with it, you know? That was really great and we both enjoyed this [...]. This place is magic to me!

And then there are these conservationists who try to save the dunes because of bird's eggs. Hey man, they can not keep us away from the dunes, ok? [...]

Besides, I was among the first who saw oysters. Today they sell them for high prices, hahaha. [...]

But back to your question, yes that is Heimat for me, to live here on the flat coast and it is the right place for me as a Frisian. (I1)

Land



Genealogy

Resistance

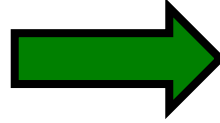
Ecological knowledge

Identity

Qualitative study on coast

Genealogy

“My father and me, we often took a stroll along this coastal stretch and discussed important things, ah, what happens in life and how to deal with it, you know? That was really great and we both enjoyed this [...]. This place is magic to me!” (I1)



Characterisation of particular stretch



Execution of specific practices.



Identity in relation to a specific place.

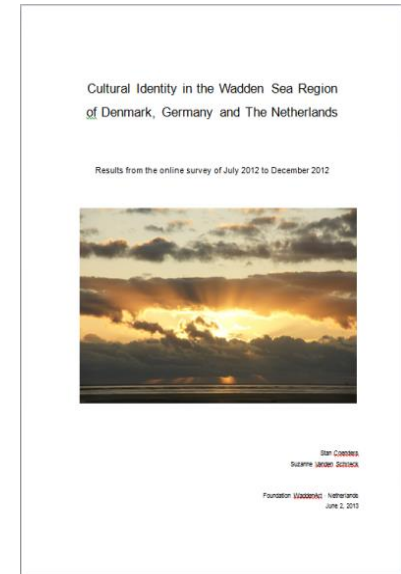


Spirituality of a merged nature and culture.

What do you do to maintain the feeling of 'home'?

Open question

- **engage politically and to be critical**
organise in action groups and engage in political agendas
- **active participation**
participate in all kinds of ways, pay taxes, keep clean, organisation work, spread information about the region
- **show enthusiasm for the topic nature**
participation in NGO's etc. for nature care
- **environment/ecology**
concerns about waste, avoid pollution, prefer public transport
- **little or nothing**
- **care for own house and garden**
answers in which the 'own' garden and house are being cared for
- **don't know**



Creating an interactive landscape

- Acknowledge that a (shared) sense of place is a merger of experiences, stories, memories etc. of all parties involved;
- take the step from education and information to interaction;
- interchange ideas, meanings and associated values to build rich interpretations and negotiate shared understandings;
- culture and sense of place create traditions and foster intrinsic motivation for “getting involved”.



Dwelling
(unknown artist, Field House Garden
Chiswick Mall, London)

Final statement and suggestion:

- The challenge is not only about **how** to acknowledge local consciousness and local knowledge
... but moreover how it could be **used to develop awareness among policy makers and environmental managers**
- for establishing place-based development strategies to be integrated into the sustainable cultural and natural landscape heritage of the Wadden Sea.



Tideway in the Wadden Sea near
Meldorf

**...because heritage
becomes real through
cooperative action.**



Thank you very much for your attention!