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1. Policy & Management

Wadden Sea World Heritage - What is going on?



Hamburg National Park applies for Wadden Sea World Heritage

On 28 January 2011, the application for the inclusion of the Hamburg Wadden Sea National Park into the Dutch-German Wadden Sea World Heritage property was submitted to the World Heritage Center in Paris by the German ambassador to the UNESCO.

The application has been submitted as a minor boundary modification according to the Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention and a decision on the application will be taken at the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee in Bahrain 19 - 29 June 2011. The National Park will hence be the first World Heritage property in Hamburg.

The Hamburg National Park covers an area of around 13,700 ha and will increase the World Heritage property with about 1.4%.

The application document can be found at

<http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/management/whs/whs-boundary-mod-hh.html>

Story hunters in the Wadden Sea World Heritage



In January 2011, the concept of the joint campaign and the implementation plan were finally adopted by all involved partners and is currently being implemented in the Netherlands and Germany.

The "Story Hunter" campaign invites inhabitants, visitors and potential visitors to be part of the World Heritage by sharing their personal stories about the Wadden Sea. In total, up to 300 stories (videos, text, photos) are planned to be collected and presented via the World Heritage website. The campaign was announced to the public on 1 March 2011 and will run from end of April to June 2011. Press and various media (regional and nationwide) including social media channels will

promote the campaign to a wider audience.

More information at:

www.waddensea-worldheritage.org

2. Research & Monitoring

Green light for WaLTER

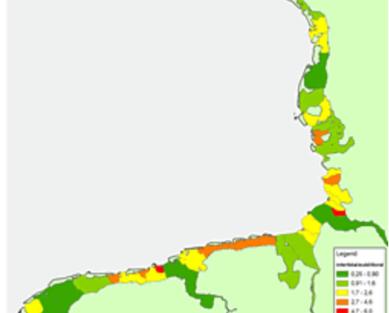
The Dutch WaLTER project has been accepted for funding by the Dutch Wadden Sea Fund and has recently started its work. WaLTER is the acronym for Wadden Sea Long Term Ecological Research. The overall aim of WaLTER is to provide a basic contribution to the sustainable future of the Wadden Sea region by increasing the effectiveness of the use of knowledge, necessary for planning processes, policy and project development, and adaptive management. The aim will be achieved by

- Establishing a web-based, low-threshold, user-friendly central knowledge platform, for making available existing and new knowledge.
- Achieve consensus about a basic system of monitoring, i.e. which basic system variables (ecologic and socio-economic) must be monitored to be able to understand the functioning and development of the Wadden Sea system.
- Achieve a good tuning between running and future monitoring programs, measuring networks and data portals.

The first phase of the project (2011-2012) is the inventory phase. In this phase, the knowledge requirements of all potential users will be inventorized and the necessary monitoring parameters determined. In addition an inventory and evaluation of conceptual ecological and economical models will be carried out, resulting in an overview of necessary monitoring requirements. In phase two (2013-2014), the data portal will be developed and the results from phase one analyzed, focusing on a comparison of data needs and data availability. The analysis will reveal overlaps and redundancies in current monitoring practices and make recommendations for improving effectiveness.

Finally a monitoring program for ecological and socio-economic parameters will be developed, based upon the outcome of the analyses regarding customer needs and effectiveness. The CWSS participates as partner in the project and will be responsible for the input of trilateral information and experience in the fields of monitoring and assessment. Other WaLTER partners are NIOZ, University of Groningen, University of Nijmegen, Imares and SOVON.

Tidal Basins Inventory



The Dutch nature restoration program "Towards a Rich Wadden Sea" (PRW) proposes to compare all (approximately 39) Wadden Sea tidal basins for differences and similarities in physical, biological and human-use features. Such a comparison may provide insight in how natural and anthropogenic factors (such as climate change, sea level rise, shrimp and shellfish fisheries) influence different types of tidal basins. In order to investigate the support for and feasibility of comparing Wadden Sea tidal basins, PRW has commissioned a pre-study that was carried out between November 2010 and February 2011.

The study comprised of interviews with scientists in the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark, as well as an inventory and analysis of available information. The interviews focused on the relevance of a tidal basin approach for addressing the main topical policy questions and the parameters needed to

investigate these questions.

Intermediate results of the study were presented in a workshop at the Wadden Academy Symposium on 9 December 2010.

In the interviews, broad support for a tidal basins approach was expressed. The main policy questions for which such an approach may be relevant are

- Sea level rise
- Climate change, especially temperature
- Biodiversity, including invasive alien species
- Human use impacts, in particular bottom impacting activities such as fisheries and dredging
- Conservation management, including ecosystem services and functions.

The inventory and analysis of parameters and data made clear that many of the required data exist but that it is not always clear whether the data is available. There are substantial differences in data density between tidal basins, and the biggest gaps exist for human use parameters, measurements of primary production and (especially in the German and Danish part) detailed data on sediment budgets. In order to overcome the problem of insufficient data coverage, it is recommended to use a selected set of indicative basins, to apply models and to integrate remote sensing data.

It is furthermore recommended to present the data through an easily accessible information system, including a trilateral tidal basin atlas. The final report of the study will be made available in March 2011.

3. Publications



Karsten Reise, Martin Baptist, Peter Burbridge, Norbert Dankers, Ludwig Fischer, Burghard Flemming, Albert P. Oost, Cor Smit, 2010. The Wadden Sea - A Universally Outstanding Tidal Wetland. Wadden Sea Ecosystem No. 29. Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Wilhelmshaven, Germany, page 7 - 24.

Wim J. Wolff, Jan P. Bakker, Karsten Laursen, Karsten Reise, 2010. The Wadden Sea Quality Status Report - Synthesis Report 2010. Wadden Sea Ecosystem No. 29. Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Wilhelmshaven, Germany, page 25 - 74

The QSR Synthesis Report 2010 is now published on the CWSS website. A printed version is in preparation. The synthesis report summarizes the main findings from 30 thematic reports of the QSR 2009 and the 12th International Wadden Sea Symposium (Wilhelmshaven, 30 March - 3 April 2009).

The report was written under the authorships of Wim Wolff, Karsten Reise, Jan Bakker, and Karsten Laursen and attempts to present an integrated assessment of the main ecosystem developments and identifies main issues of concern and gaps of knowledge for science, management and policy.

The QSR Synthesis Report 2010 is preceded by a summary report of the universally outstanding and most significant natural values. The report has been condensed from the description and justification chapters of the Dutch-German World Heritage nomination dossier and extended to cover the entire Wadden Sea area including the Danish part. In addition, it entails findings from major reviews and studies on the geomorphology, ecology and biology of the area from the 19th century onward, including comparisons with other coasts world-wide.

The report is available as download at:

<http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/news/publications/publ.html>

4. Trilateral Meetings

8 March 2011
Task Group World Heritage

9 March 2011
Task Group Management

17 March 2011
Wadden Sea Board

A complete overview is at:

<http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/trilat/meetings/meetings.html>

Meetings of the Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) are at:

<http://www.waddensea-forum.org/calendar.html>

5. Symposia & Workshops

Go4BioDiv International Youth Forum held for natural World Heritage sites



The Go4BioDiv International Youth Forum for Natural World Heritage Sites, Japan, took place from 16-29 October in Mt Fuji and Nagoya, Japan, in parallel to the 10th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The theme of the forum was "Our Treasures at Risk - World Heritage Sites in Times of Climate Change". 34 young participants represented 23 World Heritage sites as diverse as the Galápagos Islands (Ecuador), Kilimanjaro (Tanzania), Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon), Sagarmatha (Nepal), Phong Nha-Ke Bang (Vietnam) and the Great Barrier Reef (Australia). The Wadden Sea was represented by Marina Schweikert (Sylt, Schleswig-Holstein) and Sven Oltrup (Oldenburg, Lower Saxony) with support of the WWF. The young people exchanged their experiences, presented their site and discussed future perspectives, challenges and possible threats concerning their site.

Experts from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and the international cooperation enterprise GTZ briefed the participants on specific topics and engaged in conceptual debates. With this background, the Go4BioDiv participants prepared several side events, as well as a press and networking strategy for the COP10.

More information at:

<http://go4biodiv.org/home/participants/creative-contributions/>

Upcoming events

A complete list of upcoming events is at:

<http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/news/events/otherconf.html>

Impressum

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