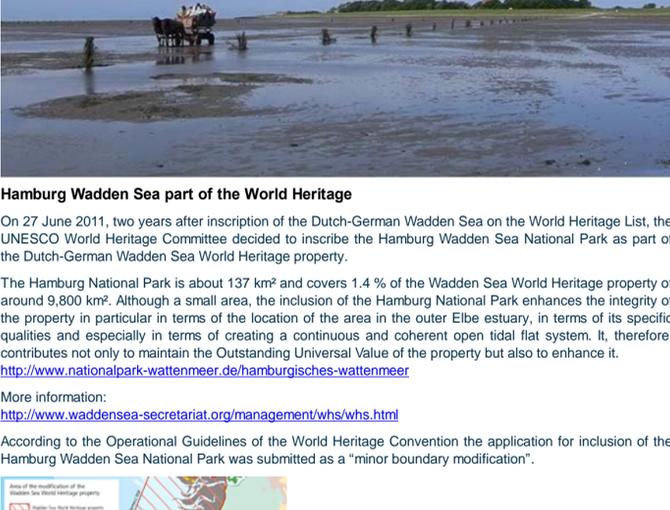


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1. Policy & Management



Hamburg Wadden Sea part of the World Heritage

On 27 June 2011, two years after inscription of the Dutch-German Wadden Sea on the World Heritage List, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee decided to inscribe the Hamburg Wadden Sea National Park as part of the Dutch-German Wadden Sea World Heritage property.

The Hamburg National Park is about 137 km² and covers 1.4 % of the Wadden Sea World Heritage property of around 9,800 km². Although a small area, the inclusion of the Hamburg National Park enhances the integrity of the property in particular in terms of the location of the area in the outer Elbe estuary, in terms of its specific qualities and especially in terms of creating a continuous and coherent open tidal flat system. It, therefore, contributes not only to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the property but also to enhance it.

<http://www.nationalpark-wattenmeer.de/hamburgisches-wattenmeer>

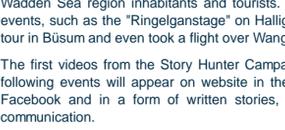
More information:

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

According to the Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention the application for inclusion of the Hamburg Wadden Sea National Park was submitted as a "minor boundary modification".



Story Hunter Campaign in the Wadden Sea World Heritage successfully concluded



The 'Story Hunter' campaign has invited inhabitants and visitors to be part of the World Heritage by sharing their personal stories about the Wadden Sea. This first joint German-Dutch World Heritage campaign was carried out in May-June 2011 with the help of many partner organisations in the regions. The campaign was aimed to raise awareness of the Wadden Sea as UNESCO World Heritage Site and to unify the regions within the World Heritage area in its aim to protect and preserve the Wadden Sea.

From over 50 applicants, eight story hunters were selected all with the professional journalistic experience. They came from Magdeburg, Berlin, Leeuwarden, Amsterdam and even from Switzerland. The four teams travelled along the Wadden Sea coast as well as on the German and Dutch islands to discover the most interesting, curious, humorous and personal stories of the people on the street and on the beach. Overall, the story hunters visited 34 locations and collected in total over 360 stories from the Wadden Sea region inhabitants and tourists. To collect the stories the story-hunters attended various local events, such as the "Ringelganstage" on Hallig Hooge, the Oerol Festival on Texel, and participated in a ship tour in Büsum and even took a flight over Wangerooge.

The first videos from the Story Hunter Campaign have been uploaded and the World Heritage website; the following events will appear on website in the nearest future. The campaign will be continued on Youtube, Facebook and in a form of written stories, the obtained material can also be used in partner's further communication.

For more information and videos please visit: www.waddensea-worldheritage.org

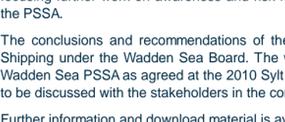
New World Heritage Road Sign



In May 2011, a new joint road sign was elaborated by the agency NordNordWest in cooperation with the Dutch and German partners and authorities. It shows the entire coastline and all islands of the Wadden Sea together with a flock of migratory birds symbolizing the integrity of the World Heritage and its importance for the global biodiversity.

The competent authorities will now place the signs along motorways and other appropriate places to inform the public about the World Heritage status of the Wadden Sea thus underlining the common responsibility for its natural values.

Workshop Wadden Sea PSSA



On 19 May 2011, a workshop was held on the Wadden Sea Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) at the Federal Agency for Maritime Shipping and Hydrography (BSH) in Hamburg. The workshop was attended by 34 participants from all sectors, competent authorities, the shipping sector, recreational boating, port authorities, and NGOs. It was chaired by Bernd Scherer, Deputy-Director General of the Schleswig-Holstein Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Areas and member of the Wadden Sea Board.

A PSSA is an area that needs special protection through action by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), because of its significance for recognized ecological or socio-economic or scientific reasons, and which may be vulnerable to damage by international maritime activities. The Wadden Sea was designated a PSSA in 2002.

The workshop reviewed the evaluation report of the Wadden Sea PSSA prepared by the Southampton Solent University for the 2010 Trilateral Ministerial Conference on Syllt and considered it as a good basis for the future work on the issue shipping and ship's safety for the Trilateral Cooperation. The workshop also recommended focusing further work on awareness and risk management as being central aspects of the shipping safety for the PSSA.

The conclusions and recommendations of the workshop will feed into the further work of the Task Group Shipping under the Wadden Sea Board. The workshop underlined that the development of the vision on the Wadden Sea PSSA as agreed at the 2010 Syllt Conference should have high priority and recommended a draft to be discussed with the stakeholders in the context of a follow-up workshop.

Further information and download material is available under:

<http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/news/symposia/PSSA-2011/PSSA-2011.html>

Our Common Wadden Sea Landscape and Cultural Heritage



On 11-12 May 2011, a workshop on the landscape and cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea Region was held in Ribe on invitation by the Danish Cultural Heritage Agency in cooperation with the Danish Nature Agency and the CWSS. 33 participants represented regional national and regional government authorities, municipalities, universities and other scientific institutes and museums.

A central objective of the workshop was to discuss and review the comparative analysis of the landscape and cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea Region made by the Essex County Council. There was general agreement that the analysis convincingly establishes that its landscape and cultural heritage is world class and an invaluable asset for the region. It was very much underlined that the findings of the report should be made accessible to a wider audience in the region in the national languages. The analysis should also play an essential role in how to further go about with this superb heritage in a trans-boundary trilateral context.

More information and download of reports at:

<http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/news/symposia/landscape-2011/landscape-culture.html>

2. Research & Monitoring

The Wadden Sea World Heritage: responsibility for migratory birds between Africa and the Arctic



35 experts from Africa, Russia, Europe and the United States met in Wilhelmshaven on 22 - 23 March 2011 to discuss international cooperation on the protection and management of migratory birds along the African Eurasian Flyway. The workshop 'The Wadden Sea – Strengthening Management and Research along the African Eurasian Flyway' was funded by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation and coordinated by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat.

The meeting results from the UNESCO World Heritage Committee decision in 2009 when the Wadden Sea was included on the World Heritage List. It requires the strengthening of the cooperation of the Netherlands and Germany on management and research with other states along the flyways. The crucial significance of the Wadden Sea as resting grounds for millions of migratory birds was one of the reasons why the Wadden Sea has been recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. 10-12 million birds migrate annually through the Wadden Sea, which is one of the highest numbers of birds counted globally.

Declining numbers for certain bird species in the Wadden Sea, which cannot be explained on the local level, indicate a possible worsening of living and environmental conditions along the flyways. While the Wadden Sea is a well-protected area covered by a joint monitoring program, which delivers extensive information on the number of migratory birds, the situation in West Africa and the Arctic can only be inadequately assessed due to the lack of data. Therefore, it was common understanding that there is a need monitoring programs financed on a long term basis, investment in training and knowledge capacity and sustainable development.

An overall action plan that defines tasks and priorities would be necessary for the entire flyway. One option to be considered would also be the twinning of important habitats, e.g. between the two World Heritage sites Wadden Sea as the main staging area in spring and autumn and Banc d'Arguin in Mauritania, which is the world's most important wintering area for migratory birds.

The final workshop report and presentations can be found at:

http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/news/symposia/flyway_2011/workshop.html

Trilateral populations of harbour seals and grey seals are increasing



The Trilateral Seal Expert Group (TSEG) has published their annual reports on harbour and grey seals for the seal census in 2010. Both species show an increasing trend in their total population size.

The counts for 2010 seem to give conflicting messages when comparing to counts in 2009: an impressive increase in pup counts in June (+20%) but a lower maximum number in August (-1%): A total of 21,375 harbour seals were counted in the Wadden Sea area 2010 (during the moult in August). As the number of seals counted in the Netherlands was an underestimate, as a subarea could not be surveyed, the best estimate by correction is 22,175 harbour seals. On this account only a slight growth of nearly 3% could be noted compared to 2009. During the peak in pupping in June 2010, a total of 6,536 harbour seal pups were counted in the Wadden Sea area.

The maximum number of grey seals counted in the Wadden Sea during the moult amounted to 2,654 animals. Although the numbers in most areas were lower compared to the previous counts, the total number of grey seal pups was 34% higher than in 2008/2009. As the breeding population continues to grow, the relative importance of the influx of animals from the UK will lessen and grey seal numbers in the Wadden Sea might show less dependence on the developments elsewhere in the North Sea region.

The annual reports are available on the CWSS website:

<http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/news/news/Seals/Annual-reports/seals2010.html>

http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/news/news/Seals/Annual-reports/Grey_Seals/greyseals2010.html

Wadden Sea Day 2011 – Fish in the Wadden Sea

On 25 August 2011, the 5th Trilateral Wadden Sea Day is going to be held in Wilhelmshaven. Theme of this year's conference is 'Fish in the Wadden Sea: Exploring an unknown world'. The Conference is jointly organized by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat and the National Park Administration Lower Saxon Wadden Sea.

The conference has the aim to provide insights in recent research and assessment of monitoring data, to identify research priorities for trilateral projects, and to discuss with scientists and managers how the challenges in accordance with the targets on fish in the Wadden Sea Plan 2010 can be met.

- Status of fish in the Wadden Sea (distribution, tidal flats and saltmarsh gullies as nurseries) and legislation under EU Directives (WFD, MSFD, Habitat)
- Monitoring (national and international, TMAP) and research projects on Wadden Sea fish
- Management and policy (different habitats, population developments, recruitment, food webs)

The draft program will be distributed at the beginning of July 2011 together with the possibility for registration. Further information is also available via the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat website:

<http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/news/symposia/symp.html>

3. Information and Education

New Network Group Education started its work



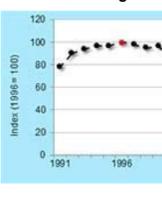
The first meeting of the newly-created Network Group Education took place on 11th of April 2011 in Bremen. Chairman of the network Group is Ulrik Geldermann Lützen from the Danish Vadehavets Formidlerforum. At the meeting the new structure of the International Wadden Sea School (IWSS) was introduced. Starting from January 2011, all future IWSS activities will be elaborated within the Wadden Sea as World Heritage Site and the Danish National Park and coordinated by the Network Group of educational experts from Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark with CWSS as its coordination office.

The Group aims at the support of the integrated view on the Wadden Sea education in all three countries in the context of the Wadden Sea Plan Targets and the trilateral policies. The meeting adopted a compilation of projects which focused on the network of visitor centers and the development of the sustainable educational products. The next annual workshop on all information centers will be organized in November 2011 in Texel to exchange information, in specific on World Heritage communication, to organize practical exercises, and to discuss how to include results from trilateral activities e.g. on flyway cooperation, climate and alien species into environmental education.

The second meeting of the group will take place on 30 August 2011 in Bremen.

4. Publications

New Report on Trends in Migratory Birds



Karsten Laursen, Jan Blew, Kai Eskildsen, Klaus Güter, Bernd Hälderlein, Romke Kleefstra, Gerard Luerßen, Petra Potel, Stefan Scherrer, 2011. Migratory Waterbirds in the Wadden Sea 1987- 2008. Trend, Phenology, Distribution and Climate Aspects. Wadden Sea Ecosystem No. 30.

The report presents accounts of 34 migratory Wadden Sea waterbird species and updates the results of the QSR 2009. 165 pages provide the most recent information and data of Wadden Sea birds, including the species phenology, geographical distribution and numbers. In the present report these aspects are analysed with regard to climate, physical and ecological changes and regional aspects.

<http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/TMAP/9-birds.html>

On-line: New Trends of Migratory Waterbirds in the Wadden Sea



The Joint Monitoring of Migratory Birds (JMWB) Group has updated the annual trend analyses of migratory birds based on trilateral count data from 1987/88 until 2008/2009. For each of the 34 waterbirds, 10 and 22-year trends have been calculated for the entire Wadden Sea and four sub-regions.

http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/TMAP/Migratory_birds.html

On-line: Breeding bird trends in the Wadden Sea



Annual trend analyses of 26 important Wadden Sea breeding bird species are available now. The Joint Monitoring of Breeding Birds (JMWB) Group and the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) are presenting national and Wadden Sea wide trends based on trilateral breeding bird count data up to 2008. Although 7 species are showing an increasing trend, for 13 species an opposite trend development has been calculated.

http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/TMAP/Breeding_birds.html

Proceedings of the 12th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium published

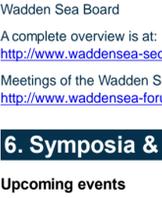


Marencic, H., Eskildsen, K., Farke, H. and Hedtkamp, S., (Eds.), 2010. Science for Nature Conservation and Management: the Wadden Sea Ecosystem and EU Directives. Proceedings of the 12th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium in Wilhelmshaven, Germany, 30 March - 3 April 2009. Wadden Sea Ecosystem No. 26. Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Wilhelmshaven, Germany.

The symposium focused on how research and monitoring can provide input to conservation and management, by developing new methods and assessment tools. Recommendations were given how EU Directives should be applied in future to ensure a harmonized management of the Wadden Sea, based upon an ecosystem approach.

<http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/news/symposia/ISWSS-2009.html>

First Report on Marine World Heritage Sites



Since the late 1980s, forty-three marine sites have been inscribed on the World Heritage List, covering about 1.4 million km² of ocean surface - an area about the size of the Gulf of Mexico. Each of these forty-three sites represents exceptional features in the ocean - features that are recognized by the international community for their outstanding natural beauty, exceptional biodiversity, or unique ecological, biological and geological processes.

In recognition of mounting conservation challenges in marine areas, UNESCO's World Heritage Marine Programme decided to bring, for the first time, all forty-three site managers together in Hawaii, United States (1-3 December 2010) to discuss ways of strengthening the conservation of these special ocean places.

This meeting summarizes the conclusions and recommended actions from this meeting. The meeting focused in particular on the exchange of success stories, providing the basis for a stronger community of site managers, and the capacity needed to deal with the increasing complexity of conserving World Heritage marine sites. During and after the meeting, a survey addressing threats and management gaps was distributed and completed by 90 per cent of all marine sites. Outcomes from this analysis are also discussed in this publication.

More information and download of the report at:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/756>

5. Trilateral Meetings

29 - 30 August 2011

Task Group Climate

30 August 2011

Network Group Education

14 - 15 September 2011

Trilateral Seal Expert Group

19 September 2011

Task Group World Heritage

26 - 27 September 2011

Task Group Management

6 October 2011

Task Group Shipping

10 - 11 October 2011

Task Group Sustainable Tourism Strategy

3 November 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>

6. Symposia & Workshops

Upcoming events

25 August 2011, Wilhelmshaven, Germany

Wadden Sea Day 2011

<http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/news/symposia/symp.html>

7 - 9 September 2011, Bremerhaven, Germany

YouMares 2.0

2nd International Young Marine Research Conference

<http://www.youmares.net/>

26 - 30 September 2011, Aberdeen, UK

World Conference on Marine Biodiversity

www.marine-biodiversity.org

3 - 5 October 2011, Tønder, Denmark

Restoration of streams with special emphasis on the houting and the Houting Project

International conference organized EU LIFE – Houting Project.

<http://www.snaebel.dk/konf>

10-14 October 2011, Texel, The Netherlands

International Symposium on the Ecology of the Wadden Sea

NIOZ Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research

<http://projects.nioz.nl/ecologyofthewaddensea/1500/5/0/50>

A complete list of upcoming events is at:

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

Impressum

Common Wadden Sea Secretariat
 Virchowstrasse 1
 D-26382 Wilhelmshaven
 Tel. +49 (0)4421 91080
 Fax +49 (0)4421 9108-30
 info@waddensea-secretariat.org
 www.waddensea-secretariat.org

