

Summary of recommendations from 'Vision and Focus on the Wadden Sea Fund' (2009/03)

In 2007, the Dutch government decided to set up a Waddenfonds (Wadden Sea Fund) to invest an extra € 800 million in the Wadden Sea Area over the next 20 years. In March 2009, the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM) invited the Wadden Sea Council (*Raad voor de Wadden*) to submit recommendations for the distribution of the funds budgeted for in the Wadden Sea Fund. The Council was asked to compile targets for the natural and socio-economic developments over the next 20 years and also to underpin the principle that economic activities will only qualify for *Waddenfonds* subsidies if they contribute to a reduction of the pressure on nature.

The Council compiled targets for the area with respect to the issues of nature, liveability, identity, safety and energy based on the objectives and desired developments in the current policy. In addition, it also described the current situation. The proposed programme-based approach comprises the efforts that will be required to meet the targets (in 20 years) based on the current situation. The targets would have to be met with the use of both the Wadden Sea Fund subsidies and the regular policy and measures. The Council opted for a coherent package of measures to ensure that a substantial contribution could be made towards the attainment of the main objective of the Wadden Sea policy over the next 20 years. The main objective for the area reads as follows: 'The protection of the nature and the conservation of the unique open landscape'.

The programme-based approach gives high priority to projects that contribute to the fulfilment of the main objective, as well as projects that contribute to several objectives deriving from the *Wet op het Waddenfonds* (Dutch Wadden Sea Fund Act). Projects that only contribute to the objective of the sustainable economic development of the area are assigned a low priority. This priority system will prevent the Wadden Sea Fund from assuming the character of a generic regional incentive fund.

The Council included a plan in the recommendations to the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM) that will enable more focused allocation of the resources in the Wadden Sea Fund.

Raad voor de Wadden/Wadden Sea Council
P.O. Box 392, NL-8901 BD Leeuwarden
Lange Marktstraat 5, NL-8911 AD Leeuwarden
T 0031 58 212 60 15
F 0031 58 212 01 58
M info@raadvoordewadden.nl
W www.raadvoordewadden.nl