

STATEMENT

By
the Danish Wadden Sea Advisory Board
the Advisory Council of the Wadden Sea National Park in Lower Saxony
the Dithmarschen and Nordfriesland Advisory Boards of the Wadden Sea
National Park in Schleswig-Holstein
the Netherlands Wadden Sea Council

To be presented at the 11th Trilateral Governmental Conference on the Protection
of the Wadden Sea to be held on Sylt on the 18th of March 2010

Preamble

The Wadden Sea is an international nature reserve with unique qualities that need to be protected.

The advisory bodies listed above are closely associated with the Wadden Sea as an international nature reserve. In issuing advice they take heed of those who live within and use the region, among others.

As was the case during the 7th, the 8th, the 9th and the 10th Trilateral Governmental Wadden Sea Conferences (Leeuwarden 1994, Stade 1997, Esbjerg 2001 and Schiermonnikoog 2005), the advisory bodies also wish to make their voice heard at the 11th Trilateral Governmental Conference in view of the fact that the parties involved in the conference are expected to make further agreements that may well have consequences not only for the human activities in the Wadden Sea Area but also for the protection of the Wadden Sea.

As a reflection of debates in the respective regions of the Wadden Sea the Advisory Boards wish to inform the governments of the three countries responsible for the protection of the Wadden Sea of the following:

World Heritage

We congratulate the Netherlands and Germany for the successful inscription of the Wadden Sea as a World Heritage site on 26 June 2009, at the World Heritage Committees 33rd Session in Seville. The inscription of the Dutch-German Wadden Sea on the World Heritage List is a milestone for the Wadden Sea and the trans-boundary cooperation.

We therefore strongly support the Committees decision

- to jointly work on a Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development,
- to intensify the control and spread of invasive species associated with ballast waters and aquaculture and
- to strengthen the cooperation on management and research activities with States Parties on the African Eurasian Flyways.

We furthermore encourage the relevant bodies in Denmark to be aware of the wish from the World Heritage Committee for Denmark to also nominate the Danish part of the Wadden Sea as World Heritage. In this context we respect the Danish position that before such a nomination will be discussed the process of establishing the Danish Wadden Sea National Park shall be finalized.

Wadden Sea Plan

The Advisory Boards are generally pleased with the appearance of the revised version of the Wadden Sea Plan 2010 as the framework for the integrated management of the Wadden Sea Area. The Advisory Boards note that progress has been made with respect to the incorporation of the EC-Directives into the Wadden Sea Plan and welcome the High Level Review of EC Directives for collaboration and harmonization. The Advisory Boards generally support that the conclusions of the study are used for further harmonisation efforts between the three countries. The Advisory Boards underline the importance of future harmonization on EU-directives and other high priority challenges as for example the Marine Strategy Framework and climate change, to promote a uniform management of the ecological entity of the Wadden Sea.

The Advisory Boards consider it important for the trilateral agreements and intentions to be effective in the future in protecting and managing a trans-boundary ecosystem and are in this respect looking forward to the addition of the projects and actions-plan to the Wadden Sea Plan that concretizes the formulated goals and hope that it will help to put plans into effect. The formation of the Wadden Sea Board, as the new governing body of the Cooperation, can play a significant role in this respect as well, by ensuring leadership, good performance and accountability.

Spatial planning on the sea

A great deal of human activity is taking place on the North Sea and it is expected that those activities will only continue to intensify in the near future. Proper spatial planning of the offshore zone is essential in order to be able to manage the existing activities and to steer future developments. The absence of such measures could jeopardize the Trilateral Cooperation Area. This makes trilateral coordination and/or harmonization desirable to ensure clear and/or joint efforts in the national and European processes. The linking of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and offshore spatial planning is an obvious step in view of the coherence and interaction (of the activities) between the coast and the offshore zone. This means that both of the aforementioned issues could be dealt with together in the trilateral collaboration.

Energy

A great deal of change is in the pipeline for the international Wadden Sea Area in terms of energy supply: many of the current power plants will be replaced by coal-fired power plants and the amount of wind farms in the North Sea close to the conservation Area is expected to increase. Some wind farms have already been established, others are planned.

The Advisory Boards find it important that the energy developments are considered in a trilateral perspective. An integral trilateral approach for the whole of the Wadden Sea Area is necessary to avoid conflicts between the different economic, social and environmental concerns.

In this respect:

- we urge that the production of *sustainable energy* should have the primary focus in the Wadden Sea Region,
- we support the trilateral goal to work towards developing the Wadden Sea Region into a CO₂-neutral area by 2030, putting the focus on the special threats for coastal zones by global warming and sea level rise.

Futhermore the Advisory Boards of Schleswig-Holstein urge that any underground artificial storage of CO₂ or other gasses within the Cooperation Area will be avoided.

Shipping Safety

We believe that shipping safety in the Wadden Sea has improved by the efforts of the trilateral collaboration. Compared to other marine areas, the Wadden Sea Area has attained a high level of safety. The Advisory Boards believe that the focus of the trilateral collaboration should now in particular be placed on offshore shipping safety (outside the protected area), because the major shipping routes are there and because of the intensification of activities there (windmill construction, shipping and fishing). The (rapidly growing) business of international container transport and the associated risks like losses of containers form a major cause of concern and this issue demands special attention in the Trilateral Cooperation, as well as in the European and global politics. We are glad that these subjects are explicitly brought to the fore in the revised Wadden Sea Plan. We hope that the needed actions will be carried out decisively. It is important to improve the Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA), using it as an umbrella to formulate a joint vision and joint activities to improve shipping safety.

Wadden Sea Forum

The Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) has served since 2002 as independent trilateral advisory and consultation body to the Trilateral Cooperation and has prepared relevant statements, background information and advice on matters regarding sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region and has been consulted in preparing the 11th Governmental Conference. Recently, the Forum is addressing other important issues, like a trilateral goose management plan, the energy-developments in the Wadden Sea Region, the need for coordinated maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management. The Advisory Boards wish to express their appreciation to the Wadden Sea Forum for addressing these issues actively. The fact that these issues are being initiated as a bottom-up approach, by this forum of local stakeholders and local and regional authorities, emphasizes that these issues are of great importance for the people living and working in the Wadden Sea Area. For the Advisory Boards the Wadden Sea Forum serves as a valuable platform for regular meetings of representatives from the boards and thus supports our cooperation. We ask the ministers to continue the cooperation with WSF as an independent stakeholder organisation for the coming period with a focus on the elaboration of joint projects and the exchange of information, ideas and visions.

Monitoring

The Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Program (TMAP) is an important element of the Trilateral Cooperation that fulfils legal demands and provides sound and scientific information on the status of the ecosystem. We support the strong need to continue the TMAP and further harmonize it. However, the Trilateral Research Agenda should additionally serve Long Term Ecological Research and thus start to develop a joint interdisciplinary research agenda and selection of long term ecological research sites in the Wadden Sea to help to determine the cumulative effects of the burden on the ecosystem.

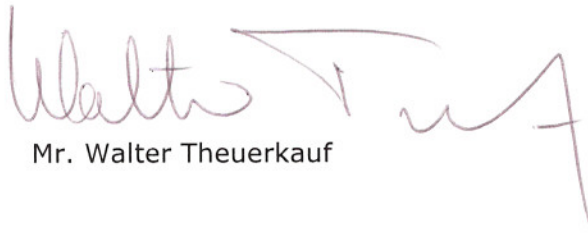
To be able to make sound decisions about coastal protection measures and the preservation of the characteristics of the Wadden Sea tidal area in the near-future, the development of a trilateral, large-scale, long-term monitoring and research program focused on sediment transport, effects of sand nourishment and possible sources of sediment is very much desirable.

On behalf of

The Danish Wadden Sea Advisory Board


Mr. Jens Andresen

The Advisory Council of the Wadden Sea National Park in Lower Saxony


Mr. Walter Theuerkauf


The Dithmarschen Advisory Council of the Wadden Sea National Park in Schleswig-Holstein


Dr. Jörn Klimant

The Nordfriesland Advisory Council of the Wadden Sea National Park in Schleswig-Holstein


Mr. Dieter Harrsen

The Netherlands Wadden Sea Council


Mrs. Margreeth de Boer