

Dear Reader

Policy & Management  
 Research & Monitoring  
 Information & Education  
 New Publications  
 Trilateral Meetings  
 Symposia & Workshops

Home Contact

## 1. Policy & Management

### World Heritage Field Mission Successful



The field mission for the evaluation of the Dutch – German Wadden Sea World Heritage Nomination was carried out from 1 to 11 September 2008 by Mr Pedro Rosabal, Senior Programme Officer of the Global Programme on Protected Areas of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The IUCN is the organization that carries out the evaluation of the World Heritage nominations for the World Heritage Center and the World Heritage Committee.

The objectives of the IUCN field mission are

- to become familiar with all aspects of the nominated property;
- to review the property boundaries and buffer zone boundaries;
- to evaluate the management system and management effectiveness;
- to review actual and potential threats to the property; and
- to evaluate local support for the nomination.

The Wadden Sea field mission involved visits to representative areas and protection and management issues of the nominated property and meetings with a broad number of people. In total, these meetings involved more than 100 representing governments, regional and local authorities, scientific institutions, advisory boards, non-governmental organizations and private stakeholders. Pedro Rosabal commended the state parties for the excellent nomination dossier and the very thoroughly prepared programme. This had given him the opportunity to gain a very broad insight into how the Wadden Sea is protected and managed and the support which the nomination enjoys among the people at the coast. The field mission had accomplished all its objectives.

The field mission is an important component of the IUCN evaluation of World Heritage nominations but there are also other components. A component is also the external review by independent experts. The nomination dossier has been sent to ca. 35 external experts knowledgeable about the property or its natural values and so far more than 20 have reacted. The experts are all based outside Germany and The Netherlands to avoid conflict of interests.

A further component is the IUCN World Heritage Panel. It advises the IUCN on its work on World Heritage, in particular in relation to the evaluation of nominations. It meets usually in December and the following March at IUCN Headquarters in Switzerland to examine each nomination. The Panel intensively reviews the nomination dossiers, field mission reports, comments from external reviewers and other relevant material, and provides its technical advice to IUCN on recommendations for each nomination. A final report is prepared and forwarded to the World Heritage Centre in May for distribution to the members of the World Heritage Committee which makes the final decision on whether or not to inscribe the property on the World Heritage List in June/July.

The decision on the inscription of the Dutch – German Wadden Sea on the World Heritage List is anticipated to be taken by the World Heritage Committee at its annual meeting in Sevilla, Spain in June 2009. But before the decision can be taken there are still more work to be done and a few hurdles to be taken.

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

### Trilateral Conference on Biodiversity and Management of Dunes



The speakers at the conference, from left: Pat Doody (UK), Evert Jan Lammerts (NL), Knud-Erik Nielsen (DK), Axel Holzkiel (D), Jörg Petersen (D), Ab Grootjans (NL), Bas Arens (NL) (Photo: Gerold Lürßen).

Over 50 Dutch, Danish, German and English experts met at the trilateral dune conference in Wilhelmshaven on 28 August 2008, which was jointly organized by the National Park Administration Lower Saxon Wadden Sea and the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat. The conference was opened by Ms. Elsa Nickel of the German Federal Environmental Ministry: "The nomination of the Wadden Sea as World Heritage Site underlines the international importance of the Wadden Sea dunes and appreciates the protection efforts which have been achieved over the last two decades."

Recent management issues to protect and restore dune habitats were a focus of the conference, which concerned, amongst others, how to deal with impacts from climate change, introduction of new plants and animals, eutrophication, tourism, as well as future coastal protection needs. Especially wet dune slacks are of outstanding importance because they are inhabited by a number of endangered species which have become rare during the last decades because of habitat loss, stabilization of dunes and lowering of ground water table.

The conference also illustrated progress in dune protection which has been achieved over the last years, also as an important element of the Natura 2000 network. A natural dynamic of dune development is an ideal precondition to preserve the nature values of European dunes. Recommendations on how to increase dune dynamic had been prepared by a Dutch expert team and were also discussed at the conference.

Further information, background documents and download of presentations:

<http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/news/symposia/dunes%202008/dune-management.html>

Press information in German

<http://www.nationalpark-wattenmeer.niedersachsen.de/master.jsp?C=49387152&I=>

## 2. Research & Monitoring



### Science for Nature Conservation and Management

#### The Wadden Sea ecosystem and the EU Directives

The 12th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium will be organized in Wilhelmshaven on 28 August 2008, which was jointly organized by the National Park Administration Lower Saxon Wadden Sea and the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat. The conference was opened by Ms. Elsa Nickel of the German Federal Environmental Ministry: "The nomination of the Wadden Sea as World Heritage Site underlines the international importance of the Wadden Sea dunes and appreciates the protection efforts which have been achieved over the last two decades."

The scientific conference will focus on how research and monitoring can provide input to conservation and management, by developing new methods and assessment tools. In addition, limitations or gaps in knowledge will be identified. Recommendation will be given how EU Directives should be applied in future to ensure a harmonized management of the Wadden Sea, based on an ecosystem approach.

The following themes will be addressed

1. The dynamic Wadden Sea ecosystem versus a static threshold value approach: What do population trends, abundances or species composition really tell us? How to define scientifically sound conservation objectives and assessment criteria? How to deal with Neobiota?
2. Wadden Sea habitat management: Habitat definition (a.o. reefs, sublittoral habitats), Restoration in a dynamic environment (estuaries, de-embankments), Examples of site management;
3. How to integrate human use, nature conservation and EU Directives? How to substantiate sustainability? (Economic and societal aspects, ICZM), How to assess "cumulative effects of human activities"? Examples of best practice.
4. EU Marine Strategy Directive: The Wadden Sea as a sub-region? (Workshop)

**Abstract for papers and posters (max 400 words) should be submitted to the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat not later than 15 November 2008.**

A 2nd circular will be posted in mid of December 2008 and will contain the draft program and information on transport, accommodation, meals and excursions.

More information at:

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

## 3. Information & Education

### International Summer Camps: Wadden Sea Adventures at the Lighthouse Westerhever



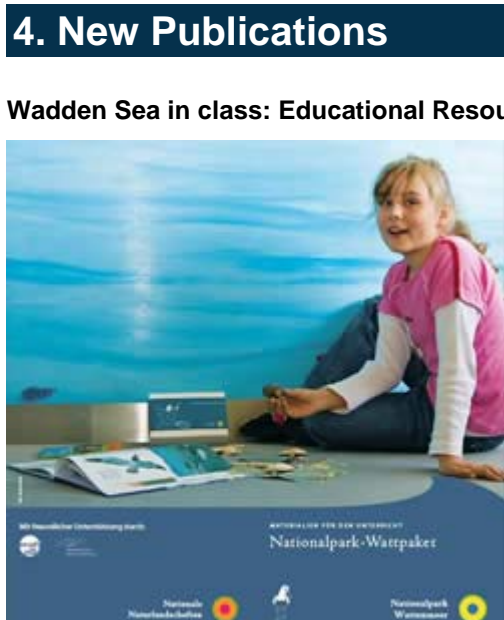
For the third time, the International Wadden Sea School (IWSS) has offered a summer camp for staff-children from the Dutch IWSS-sponsor NAM. In the first week of August, a group of 16 Dutch boys and girls enjoyed a truly international Wadden Sea adventure in the Wadden Sea National Park of Schleswig-Holstein. Housed directly at the famous lighthouse Westerhever, the children embarked on exciting expeditions into the local nature and culture and discovered interesting differences and similarities to the Dutch Wadden Sea region. As in the previous years, the camp – carried out in cooperation with the Dutch Nature Centre Ameland – has been a great success with role-model character for cross-border cooperation in Wadden Sea education.

A second summer camp took place in Westerhever in late August 2008. In cooperation with the National Park administration and the local nature NGO Schutzstation Wattenmeer, the IWSS offered hands-on experience of nature and wilderness for 25 children from the National Park region of Schleswig-Holstein in their "own" Wadden Sea – a valuable basis for the identification with the National Park idea and protection of the Wadden Sea as an entity.

The IWSS is a trilateral information and environmental education program of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation. Further information at: <http://www.iwss.org>

## 4. New Publications

### Wadden Sea in class: Educational Resource Pack „Nationalpark-Wattpaket“



A brand new collection of educational resources for classroom teaching has been developed by the three German Wadden Sea National Parks in cooperation with nature NGOs. Along with the oystercatcher mascot „Freddy“, children from grade 3 to 6 discover the Wadden Sea habitat in numerous ways and from various perspectives. The material offers not only a broad choice of activities and ready-to-use worksheets for cross-curricular teaching, but also contains books and a CD-Rom for individual research tasks as well as educational games, which are fun to play.

The International Wadden Sea School (IWSS) has contributed a chapter about Wadden Sea English and sustainable class trips in the three Wadden Sea countries.

The package is available in German and can be obtained for 98,-€ at <http://www.pzn-sh.de>

### Profiles of Seabirds of the German North and Baltic Sea



In 2005, protected areas for moulting and wintering offshore seabirds were designated in the German Exclusive Economic Zone (i.e. marine waters 12 to 200 nautical miles from land) in the North and Baltic Seas. Both sites, the "Eastern German Bight" and the "Pomeranian Bay", are incorporated in the European Natura 2000 network and, being more than 5,000 square kilometres in total, are among Europe's largest bird protection areas.

Compiling published and unpublished data, this book provides profiles on the ecology of 27 bird species protected under European legislation and will be used in developing species-tailored conservation measures. The sensitivities of these seabird species to specific anthropogenic factors in the open sea are assessed, based on an examination of the birds' morphological, behavioural and foraging characteristics.

Presenting the current state of expert knowledge in a clear and comprehensible form, this book is an essential foundation for the elaboration of conservation policies and the assessment of the effects of human activities on birds and their habitats in the seas.

Mendel, B., Sonntag, N., Wahl, J., Schwemmer, P., Dries, H., Guse, N., Müller S. and Garthe, S. 2008. Profiles of seabirds and waterbirds of the German North and Baltic Seas. Distribution, ecology and sensitivities to human activities within the marine environment. 427 p., Naturschutz und biologische Vielfalt, Heft 61. €30.00, ISBN 978-3-7843-3961-0

More information: <http://habitatmare.de/en/aktuelles-artensteckbriefe.php>

## 5. Trilateral Meetings

Coastal Protection and Sea Level rise (CPSL)  
 23 - 24 September 2008, Mandø, Denmark74

Senior Official Meeting (SO)

30 September – 1 October 2008, Groningen, The Netherlands

Joint Monitoring Groups of Breeding and Migratory Birds (JMGB, JMGB)

18 – 19 November 2008, Hamburg, Germany

Trilateral Working Group (TWG)

11 – 12 December 2008, Wilhelmshaven, Germany

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-secretariat.org/WSFnewCalendar.htm>

## 6. Symposia & Workshops

### 3rd International Coastal Atlas Network (ICAN) Workshop and EEA Conference on Coastal Atlas Development

The 3rd International Coastal Atlas Network (ICAN) workshop, followed by an EEA Conference, was hosted by the European Environment Agency (EEA) in Copenhagen from 7-10 July 2008. The two events were attended by participants from relevant institutions developing coastal atlases and networks in Belgium, Canada, Ireland, South Africa, UK, USA, and beyond (Caribbean Marine Atlas and the African Marine Atlas).

Main goals were the presentation of the atlas interoperability concept including the validating of first outcomes, to develop a strategy for an effective governance of ICAN, attracting stakeholders, coastal managers and the public and to stipulate information exchange in coastal and ocean information services.

The EEA conference allowed European coastal experts to explore available results of the ICAN efforts and gave platform to support and contribute ICAN work in Europe.

The ICAN workshop demonstrated the importance of worldwide integrated coastal atlases. In perspective of a trilateral Wadden Sea information system, ICAN can assist with experience exchange, cooperation and participation on international and global level.

More information at:

<http://ican.science.oregonstate.edu/home>

New events

Only new event are listed. A complete list of upcoming events is at:

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

### NEW:

30 March - 3 April 2009, Wilhelmshaven, Germany

Science for Nature Conservation and Management – The Wadden Sea ecosystem and the EU Directives 12th International Scientific Wadden Sea Conference. Hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, the German Wadden Sea National Parks and the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat

3 - 18 April 2009, Lisbon, Portugal

10th International Coastal Symposium, ICS 2009

For more information please visit <http://e-geo.fcsh.unl.pt/ICS2009/index.html>

10 - 14 August 2009, Stralsund, Germany

Progress in Marine Conservation, Information 2009

2nd International Conference, hosted by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), <http://www.habitatmare.de>

22 - 26 June 2009, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

From ecosystem function to ecosystem prediction

3rd GLOBEC Open Science Meeting

<http://www.globec.org>

mail: [globec@pml.ac.uk](mailto:globec@pml.ac.uk)

## 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](mailto:info@waddensea-secretariat.org)

[www.waddensea-secretariat.org](http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org)

