



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection



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Together for ONE Wadden Sea World Heritage

**14th Trilateral Governmental Conference
of the Protection of the Wadden Sea**

Workshop descriptions



Participant information | Workshop descriptions

1.1: Volunteer management at the Wadden Sea World Heritage area: How the potential of former volunteers can continue to be harnessed for the region Insights into the work of a self-organised volunteer network of a national park

Monday, 28th November | 14:00–16:00

The workshop will be presented by Watt°N, the first self-organised volunteer network from a German national park—by volunteers for volunteers. As part of this network, more than 850 volunteers meet together to commit to the protection of the Wadden Sea. The goals of the network, which was founded in 2015, are environmental protection, environmental education and the promotion of the biodiversity, diversity and natural dynamics of the Wadden Sea UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The workshop will start with a presentation of Watt°N's work and the network's organisational structure. Aspects of the decentralised character of their work will be highlighted and insights into the network's system will be given. Then the discussion will be opened up as an interactive workshop. Watt°N is particularly interested in the communication with the two other countries: Denmark and the Netherlands. Together we will work out which similar structures there are between all three countries of the Wadden Sea region and analyse whether some aspects of the Watt°N network are transferable to the framework conditions in Denmark and the Netherlands.

Organiser: Watt°N

1.2: Community of Understanding Sediment Solutions

Monday, 28th November | 14:00–16:00

In 2019, the trilateral community of understanding sediment solutions came into being with the help of the Programme Towards a Rich Wadden Sea (PRW). As a side event of the 14th Trilateral Governmental Conference, representatives of the community will show the audience what the added value is for them. The community is an example of trilateral cooperation on a personal level, in the 'soft space', exchanging knowledge and know-how, between scientists, policymakers, managers and entrepreneurs. The workshop will present the topics of the community (sediment solutions for mud and sand environments) and the 'soft-space approach' and discuss its development and added value, including from the perspective of trilateral cooperation.

Organiser: *Programma naar een Rijke Waddenzee (PRW)*



1.3: Subtidal nature: An ecosystem-based approach in large, strictly protected areas?

Monday, 28th November | 14:00–16:00

The subtidal nature of the Wadden Sea should be higher on the trilateral agenda; the 15th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (15th ISWSS, December 2021) made that very clear. The Dutch Programme Towards a Rich Wadden Sea (PRW) has developed a vision to strive for a well-functioning subtidal ecosystem in the Dutch Wadden Sea. The vision builds on key ecosystem components, both abiotic and biotic, and strives to include these components in future conservation objectives and measures. In the Netherlands, policy instruments to protect subtidal nature are only based on such an ecosystem approach to a limited extent. PRW therefore organised a trilateral policy webinar in 2021 to learn from Germany and Denmark. As a follow-up, a comparative study was initiated to depict the different trilateral protection regimes. This is particularly relevant as the EU Biodiversity Strategy asks Member States to designate at least 30% of the sea as protected, of which at least a third is strictly protected.

In the workshop, PRW will present their vision for a well-functioning subtidal Wadden Sea, as well as the outcomes of the comparative study of trilateral protection regimes. The workshop will continue with an opportunity to discuss the key components of a healthy subtidal ecosystem, and to exchange insights in trilateral differences of protected area measures.

Organiser: Programma naar een Rijke Waddenzee (PRW)

2.1: PROWAD Link – Protect and Prosper: Benefits of linking sustainable development with nature protection PROWAD Link final event

Monday, 28th November | 16:00–18:00

The Interreg project “PROWAD Link – Protect and Prosper: Benefits of linking sustainable growth with nature protection” will hold its final event as a side event at the 14th Trilateral Governmental Conference. This workshop will showcase the project’s achievements, including engaging further stakeholders in World Heritage (brand activation), developing a partnership hub and extending existing partner programmes in the regions, promoting sustainable entrepreneurship in connection with nature values and added values of sustainable tourism in the Wadden Sea and new or improved sustainable products and services supporting nature values. The workshop will also discuss future collaboration and networking and will be followed by a reception and dinner provided by the project. Target audience: project network and supporters, public bodies, municipalities, entrepreneurs, NGOs, science and education.



2.2: Say Wad?! Say adaptation?! Say action! Why Water as Leverage can be the difference in climate adaptation for the trilateral Wadden Sea region

Monday, 28th November | 16:00–18:00

In order to speed up adaptation to a changing climate in an inclusive, sustainable and holistic way, Water as Leverage will be introduced in the trilateral Wadden Sea. This session will present Water as Leverage. The city of Esbjerg (Denmark) and the island of Texel (the Netherlands) share their story and why they are part of Water as Leverage Wadden. We will have an interactive discussion on the challenges, questions and needs present in the trilateral Wadden Sea region and invite you to become part of the trilateral Water as Leverage Community of Practice Wadden.

Water as Leverage (WaL) has been developed and applied in New York and Asia in order to accelerate the development of integrated, inclusive and scalable proposals for climate adaptation. Early in 2021, the idea for a WaL Wadden initiative was born during Climate Adaptation Week, organised by the collaboration of the Global Centre on Adaptation and a broad partnership from the north of the Netherlands. Professor Karin Lochte called for a stronger focus on climate adaptation due to the fact that this is one of the most worrying developments for the Wadden Sea region. The Programme Towards a Rich Wadden Sea (PRW) has taken up this gauntlet, together with the Water as Leverage team of Dutch Water Ambassador Henk Ovink. During this session the ambitions, objectives, partners, approach and planning will be further elaborated as well as the WaL Community of Practice Wadden in which we strive for an international Wadden community on climate adaptation with partners who feel the urgency to jointly share and collect knowledge and experiences.

Organiser: *Programma naar een Rijke Waddenzee (PRW) and partners*

2.3: Climate vulnerability of nature in the trilateral Wadden Sea and the need for policy development

Monday, 28th November | 16:00–18:00

Climate change is having an impact on all natural values of the Wadden Sea region. This is already happening now and will probably have an even greater effect in the future. The Quality Status Report on climate change reviews what is currently known about these trends and their effects. The report will be elucidated by one of its key authors. In addition, the Programme Towards a Rich Wadden Sea (PRW) has developed a tool to predict and show the vulnerability of the Dutch Wadden Sea's nature to climate change. This 'early warning system' is intended to enhance awareness of current and future impacts and will be demonstrated during the workshop, during which its potential relevance to the German and Danish Wadden Sea will be discussed. Furthermore, the question will be raised as to whether adaptive measures can be devised and which of these would be suited to the (dynamic character of the) Wadden Sea.

Organisers: *Programma naar een Rijke Waddenzee (PRW) and the Trilateral Expert group Climate Change Adaptation*



3.1: Shipping and ports

Tuesday, 29th November | 08:30–12:00

- **MSC Zoe Workshop: “Lessons learned from the MSC Zoe disaster” | 08:30–11:00**

8:30 **Welcome** by Dr Martin Koopmans & Ellen Kuipers

8:40 **Presentation by George Charalampidis or Lars Kjaer from the World Shipping Council**
The World Shipping Council is the united voice of liner shipping, working closely with policymakers and industry groups across the globe.
Working to shape the future growth of a sustainable, safe and secure shipping industry.

9:05 **Presentation by Ellen Kuipers from the Wadden Sea Society**
The Wadden Sea Society is a Dutch NGO that represents the interests of the Wadden Sea. We strive for the preservation, restoration and good management of nature, landscape and environment and of the ecological and cultural-historical values of the Wadden Sea Region, including the northern marine clay area, and the North Sea as irreplaceable and unique nature reserves.

9:30 **Coffee/tea break**

9:50 **Lars Lange or colleague from IUMI (International Union of Marine Insurance)**
The International Union of Marine Insurance (IUMI) is a professional body that is run by and for its members. IUMI represents national and international marine insurers and considers issues of interest to the worldwide marine insurance industry. IUMI has a unique status in the world of marine and transport insurance. Its members are dedicated to maintaining and expanding global trade focusing both on developed and emerging markets.

10:15 **Presentation by Dr Bas Buchner from MARIN (Maritime Research Institute Netherlands) on the TopTier Project**
The size of deep-sea container ships has increased dramatically over the past few decades. The loss of containers and their impact on the marine and coastal environments has raised public and political concerns about the safety and environmental impact of modern container ships. Authorities and industry are urged to evaluate container securing and improve regulations and practices to avoid such loss of containers at sea. The TopTier Joint Industry Project is initiated to address these topics with active participation of major stakeholders.

10:40 **Discussion**

11:00 **Closing of the meeting**



- **WSF/WST and DBU project: “Trilateral initiative for cooperation and dialogue between ports, shipping and nature conservation” Signing of agreement between shipping ports and NGOs | 11:00–12:00**
- **MoU WATTfossilfrei: “WATTfossilfrei – An initiative for fossil-free leisure shipping in the Wadden Sea World Heritage area” | 12:00–13:00**

The Wadden Sea on the southern North Sea coast is one of the most important wetlands with international significance. Because of its outstanding geological characteristics and ecological importance, the Wadden Sea is subject to various national and international protection regimes. In June 2009, almost the entirety of the Danish-German-Dutch Wadden Sea has been awarded as a UNESCO World Heritage site, one of 50 marine areas on Earth today.

The Wadden Sea is particularly affected by climate change through more frequent extreme weather conditions, changes in fauna and flora due to warming of the ocean and sea levels rising. To limit climate change, a comprehensive shift away from the use of fossil fuels is essential.

To this effect, the project “WATTfossilfrei” was launched in August 2021 in order to support the efforts of the island municipalities along the German coast to reach the 2030 climate-neutral target. It focuses on the transformation of small-scale and leisure boating to the use of fossil-free propulsion concepts.

Our contribution to the conference will outline the environmental and technical framework conditions, our work so far, the relevance for a trilateral approach and an outlook on the activities to come.

3.2: UNESCO Biosphere Reserve – Sustaining the Wadden Sea World Heritage’s OUV and Meeting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Together with Stakeholders Within the Wadden Sea Biosphere Region

Tuesday, 29th November | 08:30–12:00

Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a fundamental objective of the Trilateral Cooperation, e.g. in the fields of tourism and education.

The three German Wadden Sea national parks are designated as UNESCO biosphere reserves within the framework of the Man and Biosphere Programme since the early 1990s.

In the workshop, the process of involving regional stakeholders to turn out the Wadden Sea region as a ‘model region for sustainable development’ – including coastal municipalities beyond the dyke, will be presented. Furthermore, ideas and perspectives for sustainable regional development will be compiled and discussed.

08:30 **Welcome and Introduction** (Moderator: Florian Carius, Lower Saxon Wadden Sea National Park Authority)

I. Added value of the Interaction of UNESCO World Heritage and UNESCO Biosphere Reserves

08:40 **Wadden Sea World Heritage and UNESCO Biosphere Region – Two Sides of One Coin** (Jürgen Rahmel, Lower Saxon Wadden Sea National Park Authority)

Different Pathways Leading to the Common SDGoals – Cooperation Matters (Julia Meyer, Hamburg Agency of Environment, Climate, Energy and Agriculture)



The Wadden Sea Biosphere Region in the World Network (Silke Wissel, Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park Authority)

Questions and Discussion

09:35 Coffee Break

II. Stakeholder Reports on Projects and Experiences

10:00 Short Introduction (Moderator)

Case Study 1: Sustainable Development in the Biosphere region – Fields of Action in the municipality of Sande, LS (Stephan Eiklenborg, municipality of Sande)

Case study 2: City of Wilhelmshaven – Economic Growth in a Biosphere Reserve – Challenges for Protecting the Wadden Sea (Niksa Marusic, City of Wilhelmshaven)

Case Study 3: Citizen Engagement/“Appropriation” - Citizenship as Driving Force for Implementing SDGs (Gabi Kasten, City of Geestland)

III. World Café

10:35 Exchange and networking on key topics

- Economy in the Wadden Sea Biosphere Region – How can Transformation happen?
- Cultural Identity along the Wadden Sea Coast – How are we connected, which are binding elements?
- Biosphere Region as a Best Practice Model – How to Unfold Transregional Appeal and Why Should We Aim for it?

11:20 Summing up and Conclusion

Organiser: Wadden Sea National Park Authorities of Lower Saxony, Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxon Ministry for Environment, Energy, Building and Climate Protection