

Wadden Sea Board

WSB 7
6-7 March 2013
Hamburg



Agenda Item:	11
Subject:	Report CWSS
Document No.	WSB 7/11/1
Date:	21 February 2012
Submitted by:	CWSS

Attached is a brief report of relevant activities not reported under other agenda items.

Proposal

The meeting is proposed to note the report.

REPORT CWSS WSB 7

Landscape and Cultural Heritage

At WSB 6 a brief report was provided on the workshop held in the context of the landscape and cultural heritage in September 2012 in Husum. The official report of the workshop was published in November last year at <http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/news/symposia/landscape-2012/landscape-culture-12.html>.

On the occasion of the scientific symposium also in November last year a brochure was published by the Wadden Academy and the CWSS "**The Wadden Sea Region. A World Class Cultural Landscape**". The booklet is a summary of an analysis which was made earlier on how significant the cultural landscape of the Wadden Sea Region is compared to similar areas around the world. The conclusion of the analysis is that the landscape and cultural heritage is unparalleled worldwide. The booklet which is available in all 4 languages have been distributed to local authorities, museums, historic associations and other relevant organizations to ensure a broad dissemination of the findings of the report.

As a follow up of the September workshop two expert meetings have been held to explore the feasibility of an indicative mapping project of the marine heritage and to prepare the annual workshop which is scheduled to be held in autumn in the Netherlands.

International Workshop on Mussel-Related Research in the Wadden Sea

The workshop on mussel-related research in the Wadden Sea, 19-20 November 2012, Leeuwarden, focussed on current Dutch projects studying the role of mussel beds in the Wadden Sea ecosystem. International experts were also invited to present research on these topics and to participate in the discussions. The workshop was organized by the programme 'Towards a Rich Wadden Sea' and the Wadden Academy and was chaired by Prof. Dr. Peter Herman, head of the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ) with more than 80 participants from all three Wadden Sea countries with a vast majority from the Netherlands.

The programme was divided into three sessions

- November 19, afternoon: Tidal mussel beds, stability factors and their functions in the Wadden Sea ecosystem
- November 20, morning: Subtidal mussel beds, stability factors and their functions in the Wadden Sea ecosystem
- November 20, afternoon: Estuarine food web interactions around mussel beds

Studies were presented in which was estimated that up to 25% of the whole marine Wadden Sea area might be influenced by the presence of Mussel beds. Due to the occurrence of invasive species, like the pacific oyster, the composition of the beds and also the morphology and condition of the related mussels might differ from those found in the past.

Several projects underlined the important role of mussel beds in the ecosystem like enhanced biodiversity, even in a certain distance to the actual location of the bed. The major threats for blue mussel beds in the Wadden Sea were described to origin from extensive traditional and seed mussel fisheries. Littoral beds were extensively damaged and attempts of re-establishment have to pass several obstacles.

Enhanced number of potential predators and competitors in the system interfere with the mussel settlement. On the other hand, the pacific oyster beds, regarded as the major problematic competitor for blue mussels, seem to provide a favourable substrate for mussel settlement, but associated with problematic access for birds and fisheries.

For sub-littoral mussel beds, current projects like PRODUS are addressing the impact of mussel seed fishery on sublittoral habitats and benthic communities in the western Wadden Sea (NL). Impact studies are conducted and evaluated and alternative techniques like mussel seed collectors were described and results on according studies were presented.

Study visit to the Wash-Northern Norfolk coast in October 2012

On initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, a Wadden Sea delegation visited the Wash-Northern Norfolk coast on 25 – 28 October 2012. The delegation was headed by Ms Elsa Nickel and consisted of representative from the German Federal Ministry (Ms. Hedtkamp, Mr. Feiler), Mr. Jaap Verhulst (Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs), Ms Margrita Sobottka (Lower Saxon National Park Administration) and Mr. Sascha Klöpper (CWSS). The study visit was carried out in the framework of the Memorandum of Intent between the Wadden Sea and the Wash/Northern Norfolk coast which was concluded in 1991.

The aim of the study visit was to exchange knowledge on coastal protection, management and monitoring and to identify fields for future cooperation and mutual exchange.

The study visit resulted in a draft working document which identified contact persons and proposed activities for specific work fields such as World Heritage, invasive species, monitoring, climate change, fisheries, offshore wind energy, management and EU Directives. The work plan focusses on exchange of experiences (e.g. management reports, research studies, best practice examples) and mutual involvement in relevant expert workshops and conferences. The draft working document is attached in Annex I.

Cooperation with Korea Continued

Status MoU and planned activities in 2013/2014

In the framework of the 2009 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), representatives from the Korean Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs (MLTM), the Korean Management agency KOEM and universities (Seoul, Anang, Mokpo) participated in the 13th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium which was held 21-23 November in Leeuwarden, Netherlands. After the symposium, further activities under the MoU in 2013 and 2014 were discussed with the Korean representatives and the secretariat.

It was acknowledged that since the MoU in 2009, many activities and exchanges have been carried out in the framework of the MoU involving experts from management, science, education, as well as state and regional governments and NGOs, raising the global importance of tidal flats and added value international cooperation. The result of the successful development should be communicated more intensively to the partners in Korea and in the Wadden Sea and integrated into the partners' communication. It was also agreed to prepare a status report of the

MoU summarizing the results and the benefits of this cooperation and preparing an outline for the further cooperation in the period 2014 – 2017 until June 2013.

For 2013 the following activities will be carried out:

1. Zoobenthos monitoring workshop, Spiekeroog, September 2013 (date to be confirmed), a draft workshop programme is in preparation,
2. Participation of Korean scientists at the International Ornithological Symposium in Wilhelmshaven in September 2013 (organized by the Institute of Avian Research),
3. Participation of education experts at the annual workshop of the International Wadden Sea School in autumn 2013.

In 2014, the CBD CoP will be carried out in Korea. This is an opportunity to raise the profile and the achievements of the MoU work and the cooperative efforts to a broader public, as well as the global importance of the tidal flats in Europe and Asia. The Korean ministry will investigate the possibilities of a organizing a side event, e.g. a joint exhibition or a workshop. It would also the opportunity to organize a meeting between policy makers from the Wadden Sea countries and Korea.

As reported to WSB 6, Korea is intending to nominate a part of their tidal area in the most southern area characterized by the many islands for inscription on the World Heritage List. The secretariat will continue provide information to the Korean World Heritage project as there is of mutual interest. A World Heritage designation of tidal flat areas in Korea would also strengthen the Wadden Sea and the importance of tidal flats world-wide.

Furthermore, it was agreed to provide the Korean colleagues information on climate change (CPSL reports) and restoration of bird habitats (PRW projects).

Report from the educational workshop in Korea, November 2012

A Wadden Sea delegation of experts in the field of exhibition development and environmental education was invited to conduct a join workshop and share expertise in this area between the network of Korean tidal flats visitor centers and the Wadden Sea

The workshop was organized by the Korean Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs (MLTM) and the City of Suncheon in cooperation with the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat and the WWF. The workshop that took place in Suncheon City on 5-7 November 2012 was focused on two topics: development of Educational Programs and Exhibitions in Tidal Flat Centers in Korea.

Around 100 participants attended an opening ceremony and the following presentations on the first day of the workshop. The Wadden Sea delegation, consisting of Imke Zwoch (Lower Saxon Wadden Sea National Park Administration), Ulrik Gelderman Lützen (The Wadden Sea Interpreter Forum), Anja Szczesinski (WWF Germany) and Nataliya Drozdovych (CWSS), together with their Korean colleagues moderated the case study discussions and practical exercises, which were aimed at improvement of the Korean info centers' exhibitions and education programs.

The Wadden Sea cooperation model between various stakeholders and the holistic approach in the conservation of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site serve as an inspiration for the Korean colleagues in the field of nature protection. Some of the recommendations, voiced by the Wadden Sea expert during the previous workshop

in 2010 were already implemented – for example, similar to the Wadden Sea-wide model of the International Wadden Sea School, a network of five Korean tidal flat centers had been organized.

The workshop suggested to

- develop an mobile exhibition which present the Wadden Sea and the Korean tidal flats at the same time,
- promote partnership and exchange between info centers in Korea and the Wadden Sea (including internships),
- jointly develop tidal flat teaching material and tools,
- strengthen cooperation and joint marketing of the Korean tidal flat info centers

The cooperation with the info centers will be continued through participation of Korean education experts at the IWSS workshop in autumn every second year, and of Wadden Sea experts at the network workshops of Korean info centers in the alternating years.

Annex I

Draft Future Working Document Wadden Sea / Wash-Northern Norfolk coast

Themes	Objective & proposed activities	Lead contact
World Heritage Wadden Sea	<p>Objective: Information on World Heritage Wadden Sea</p> <p>Proposed Activities 2012/13:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of relevant documents on information/awareness, education, tourism (PROWAD) and international cooperation, such as Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) - Invitation of UK experts to Wadden Sea stakeholder workshops and other relevant workshops (education/info centers, tourism, flyway initiative) - Participation of Wadden Sea experts in UK workshops relevant for World Heritage 	<p>Conor Donnelly (NE- Wash - Wadden Sea)</p> <p>Harald Marencic (CWSS)</p>
Invasive Species	<p>Objective: Exchange on recent development on monitoring methodologies and assessment concerning invasive species, documentation and communication of results</p> <p>Proposed Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of relevant documents and information with regard to development of strategies for management and monitoring, as well as of measures to raise public awareness and involvement (national, trilateral, projects). - Presentation of UK marine monitoring strategy, Participation of Wadden Sea monitoring experts in UK Alien Species workshops / meetings. 	<p>Helen Stevens (NE -National), Stephen Treby (NE - Wash)</p> <p>Folkert de Jong (CWSS - Wadden Sea)</p>
Monitoring	<p>Objective: Exchange on recent development on monitoring methodologies and assessment (ecosystem approach), documentation and communication of results</p> <p>Proposed Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of relevant documents and information with regard to monitoring strategy developments (national, trilateral, projects) - Presentation of UK marine monitoring strategy (UKMMS) and exchange TMAP and monitoring experts, incl. Dutch Wadden Sea Long-Term Ecological Research (Wa-LTER). - Participation of Wadden Sea monitoring experts in UK workshops / meetings. 	<p>Chris Pirie (NE - National), Louise Burton / Claire Ludgate (NE- Wash)</p> <p>Sascha Klöpper (CWSS - Wadden Sea)</p>
Management and EU Directives	<p>Objective: Exchange on recent development on management and reporting with regard to WFD / Birds and Habitats Directives / Marine Strategy Framework Directive monitoring methodologies and assessment (ecosystem approach), documentation and communication of results</p> <p>Proposed Activities 2012/13:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation in relevant workshops on EU related matters - Experience in the UK (Marine Bill development, Coastal Management Plan, ICZM) by NE 	<p>Conor Donnelly (Wash)</p> <p>Stefanie Hedtkamp (Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety - Wadden Sea)</p>
Climate Change	<p>Objective: Exchange on recent projects on climate change and coastal management</p> <p>Proposed Activities 2012/13:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation of UK experts in CPSL Task Group Climate meetings or workshops, - Exchange of experiences with regard to spatial planning aspects of impacts of sea level rise in the coastal area. 	<p>Folkert de Jong (CWSS - Wadden Sea)</p>

Fisheries	<p>Objective: Exchange experience on sustainable fisheries</p> <p>Proposed Activities 2012/13:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation of UK experts in Wadden Sea meetings/workshops on sustainable fisheries, development of sustainability criteria for fishery in the Wadden Sea - Investigate possibilities for a joint fisheries workshop 	<p>Conor Donnelly (NE- Wash)</p> <p>Folkert de Jong (CWSS - Wadden Sea)</p>
Offshore Wind Farms	<p>Objective: Exchange experience on offshore wind farms and research activities</p> <p>Proposed Activities 2012/13:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparing wind farm inventory, overview of policy and management implications, and summary of activities on research projects (by CWSS, NE), - Participation of experts in workshops on spatial planning, ecological impacts including grid connection/cable 	<p>Louise Burton (NE -Wash)</p> <p>Margrita Sobottka (National Park Authority „Lower Saxonian Wadden Sea“)</p>