

This Report presents a brief overview of the most important developments with regard to the trilateral Wadden Sea cooperation and activities carried out by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, CWSS, in 1999.

## Implementation of the Stade Declaration and Wadden Sea Plan

The Stade Declaration (SD), including Annex 1, the Trilateral Wadden Sea Plan (WSP), entails a large number of projects and actions to be implemented in the period until the 9th Governmental Wadden Sea Conference, which will be held in Tønder, Denmark, in October 2001. In the following, a brief overview is given of the developments in 1999 regarding the trilateral projects and actions.

### Communication

The Stade Declaration underlines the need for communication with all Wadden Sea stakeholders, in particular, regarding the implementation of the Wadden Sea Plan. A trilateral workshop "Caring for the Wadden Sea as in interactive process" was held in Nieuweschans on 13 – 15 October 1999 with the aim to investigate possibilities for enhancing the quality of public participation (SD § 35) with the participation of governmental authorities, public information centers and non-governmental organizations.

### Zoning

The trilateral ad-hoc working group on zoning (TZG) met 3 times in 1999. The task of the group is to implement Chapter 1, §11 of the Wadden Sea Plan by establishing a common understanding of the various protection regimes in the way they are applied in the three countries. An inventory of the different national protection regimes and a proposal of a common classification tool has been prepared.

### Landscape and Cultural Heritage

With the aim of mapping, make an inventory of and evaluate the cultural-historical and landscape elements of the Wadden Sea (WSP § 1.2.2), the trilateral project "The Landscape and Cultural Heritage of the Wadden Sea Region" (LANCEWAD) was launched in November 1999. The project is co-financed by the European Interreg IIC-Program.

The trilateral working group on Cultural Landscape and Heritage (WADCULT) met three times in 1999 and drafted the joint work plan as a basis for the LANCEWAD project.

### Coastal Protection and Sea Level Rise

The trilateral CPSL expert group has been established

with the aim of developing a common understanding about the possible effects of enhanced sea level rise. In three meetings in 1999, the CPSL discussed, amongst others, effects of an increase of the volume of the tidal basin, the role of salt marshes in the overall sediment budget and effects of changes in the inundation area through outbanking of summer polders. The Final Report of the CPSL is expected in spring 2000. On the basis of the report, proposals for future integrated coastal protection and nature protection policies will be developed.

### Eutrophication

The first phase of the trilateral project on the elaboration of Wadden Sea Specific Eutrophication Criteria" (EUT Project), the analysis of nutrient data from all parts of the Wadden Sea, was finished in March 1999. Because of changes in personnel the project was continued in August and prolonged until the end of the year. In this period a trilateral workshop was held at the AWI Sylt, to discuss the results of the first phase of the project and to develop common proposals for inclusion in the OSPAR Comprehensive Procedure. The workshop was attended by some 30 scientists and managers from the three Wadden Sea countries. The Final Report of the project, including the Workshop Report, will be finalized in spring 2000.

### Sustainable Agriculture

The WSP project "Exploration of possibilities for sustainable agriculture" was carried out by a trainee of the University of Münster. A comprehensive inventory was made of the present situation of agriculture in the Wadden Sea region, of the national and legal regimes related to agriculture and nature protection and of ongoing and anticipated initiatives for sustainable agricultural projects. The final report is expected in spring 2000.

### Dredging and Dumping of Dredge Spoils

A questionnaire was developed for the collection of information about national dredging and dumping practices. The results of the questionnaire will be used to evaluate whether harmonization is necessary and feasible.

### Trilateral Thematic Maps

The GIS covers were improved and their number increased in 1999. Standard graphic format maps were produced for the 1999 QSR and various publications and projects were compiled. The available data and experiences will be put into the projects LANCEWAD and WADSIS.

### Fisheries

After the first rejection of a project proposal, submitted to the European Commission in 1998, a comprehensive program was designed by an expert

group concerning shellfish stocks, e.g. *Spisula*, seaward of the islands. This was done in line with the agreed projects in the Wadden Sea Plan, 1997 as well as the decisions at the Leeuwarden Conference in 1994. Also in 1999, the first proposal under the leadership of the Netherlands, submitted by the RIVO-DLO to the EU failed, and, therefore, a new revised and comprehensive application was submitted in the framework of the new EU 5<sup>th</sup> Framework Program in November 1999. The results of the first assessment round of the EU are expected in March 2000.

## The Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Program (TMAP)

### Trilateral Monitoring & Assessment Group

The Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Group (TMAG), which is responsible for the implementation of the TMAP, had three meetings in 1999. The work focussed on the preparation of the technical and organizational preconditions to implement the Common Package of monitoring parameters, adopted at the State Conference in 1997.

### Implementation of the TMAP

Several parameters of the Common Package have already been implemented since 1998. This concerns mainly ongoing monitoring programs, which were adapted or modified to fulfill the requirements of the TMAP guidelines. In some cases, the TMAP guidelines were refined or amended by the TMAG according to recommendations from experts of national monitoring institutions.

### Data Handling

In Denmark and The Netherlands, negotiations concerning the employment of data handling experts for the TMAP data management were undertaken, but without results. In Germany, a project to create the necessary requirements for the TMAP data management was carried out in 1998 and 1999. Four persons were employed at the future locations of the TMAP database sites in Tönning and Wilhelmshaven. The available basic concept was revised and improved and proposals of data structures for parameters of the Common Package were elaborated and implemented as far as possible.

The Trilateral Data Handling Group (TDG), an ad-hoc group under the TMAG, met three times in 1999 to discuss and integrate the German project results on the trilateral level.

### Quality Status Report

The work on a new Wadden Sea QSR was finalized

in late 1999. Due to the incorporation of 1996 data on concentrations of nutrients and hazardous substances, the completion in 1998 had not been possible.

### Breeding and Migratory Birds

Within the joint monitoring program of breeding birds, which is carried out in the framework of the TMAP, surveys were performed on selected census areas and on colony breeders. The study of the representativeness of breeding bird monitoring in the Wadden Sea area was finalized together with recommendations for improvement.

Within the joint monitoring program of migratory birds of the TMAP, the agreed surveys and counts were done without any problems. The recommendations and results of the trilateral workshop on imputing techniques for migratory bird data, held in 1998, were discussed and stepwise implemented in 1999.

Both the breeding (JMBB) and migratory bird monitoring group (JMMB) met twice in 1999 and supported the trilateral cooperation regarding the elaboration of the proposals for the implementation of the relevant Wadden Sea Plan projects concerning birds.

## Seal Management Plan

The Trilateral Seal Expert Group (TSEG) met once in 1999 to coordinate and supervise the implementation of different trilateral actions of the Seal Management Plan. The results of the monitoring activities were assessed. During coordinated flights, a total of about 15,200 seals including 3,110 pups were counted in the entire Wadden Sea in 1999. On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) the CWSS presented information on the Wadden Sea seal population and the Seal Agreement, the first regional agreement under the CMS.

## Cooperation with Other Bodies

### North Sea Conferences

Due to time constraints, the CWSS did not participate in the 1999 meeting of the Committee of North Sea Senior Officials (CONSSO), preparing the fifth North Sea Conference.

### Oslo and Paris Commission

In the framework of the preparation of the QSR 2000, the CWSS took part in meetings of the Regional Task Team for the North Sea (RTTII) and was

involved in the production of the North Sea regional QSR.

#### European Environment Agency

The CWSS participated in the Interregional Forum (IRF) of the European Environment Agency (EEA). The IRF has the aim to improve the cooperation between the EEA and regional intergovernmental Commissions/Action Plans, especially with regard to the use of assessment tools and the harmonization of reporting and data management.

#### Ems-Dollard

In 1999, the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat participated in the two meetings of the Sub-Commission "H" of the German-Dutch Trans-boundary Waters Commission. The Sub-commission elaborated a joint management plan for the disputed area in line with the agreements entailed in the Trilateral Wadden Sea Plan (§4.2.6).

#### Wash-Wadden Sea Collaboration

Based on a draft work program, which defined common fields of interest and joint projects, contacts between managers and scientists have been established to enhance the transfer of knowledge.

Representatives of English Nature and the Wash-North Norfolk SAC Project attended the TMAG meeting in February 1999 and discussed the development of a monitoring program in connection with the EU Habitats Directive. It was agreed to intensify the cooperation concerning the development of strategies and techniques for monitoring assessment with the aim of a common project. In the framework of this collaboration, in March 1999, a meeting on mussel fisheries took place in Amsterdam. The aim of the meeting was information exchange on two items; first, the conduction of a stock and environmental impact assessment for *Ensis* and similar fisheries (e.g. *Spisula*) with in the context of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) required by the Habitat Directive, and secondly regarding the long-term failure of mussel spat settlement, possible causes and areas for scientific investigation and collaboration.

#### Inter-regional Wadden Sea Cooperation

The Interregional Wadden Sea Cooperation (IRWC) is a collaboration of the Dutch Wadden Sea provinces, Wadden Sea regional authorities in Schleswig-Holstein and the Danish Wadden Sea counties. The collaboration is coordinated by an inter-regional coordinator located at the Danish county council. A collaboration and close coordination of activities with the trilateral cooperation has developed.

The IRWC coordinates the interregional project

"Sustainable Tourism" which is co-financed by the European Commission. As agreed at the State Conference the aim of the project is to develop policies for sustainable tourism. For this purpose, NetForum has been established which is a forum consisting of the relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The IRWC is also coordinating activities regarding the exchange of information concerning environmental impact assessments in the entire Wadden Sea Region.

## Organizational Aspects

#### Chair

Denmark presides over the trilateral cooperation in the period January 1, 1998 until the next Trilateral Governmental Conference, which will be held in Denmark in late 2001.

#### Senior Government Officials

The Senior Government Officials meetings have been installed to discuss trilateral Wadden Sea policy and to address issues of common interest between the Governmental Conferences.

The officials are:

- Mr. O. Christiansen, Deputy Director General of the National Forest and Nature Agency of the Ministry for the Environment and Energy, Denmark, chairperson;
- Dr. M. von Websky, Deputy Director General of the Department Nature Protection and Ecology of the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany;
- Mr. H.R. Oosterveld, Director, Regional Policy Department North of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, The Netherlands.

In 1999, one Senior Government Officials meeting was held. The meeting addressed the progress with regard to the implementation of the State Declaration and the Trilateral Wadden Sea Plan, amongst others, the implementation of the agreements with regard to the World Heritage Site nomination, the Particularly Sensitive Sea Area Wadden Sea and the conservation of seals. The meeting further took decisions with regard to the implementation of the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Program (TMAP). Finally the meeting considered the preparation of the next Trilateral Governmental Conference which will be held in Denmark in autumn 2001.

#### Trilateral Working Group, (TWG)

The TWG, established for the preparation and elaboration of trilateral policy issues, consists, in prin-

ciple, of representatives of the responsible ministries of each country and representatives of the German federal states and regional authorities in Denmark and The Netherlands. If necessary, the TWG is supplemented by representatives of other ministries and experts on special issues. The TWG was chaired by Ms. Anne Marie Rasmussen from the National Forest and Nature Agency of the Ministry of the Environment, Denmark. In 1999, the TWG met three times.

#### Expert Working Groups

In 1999, ten standing/ad-hoc expert working groups supported the trilateral cooperation:

- the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Group (TMAG) and the following subgroups of the TMAG:
  - the Quality Status Report Group (QSR);
  - the Ad-Hoc Trilateral Data Handling Group (TDG);
  - the Coordinator Groups on the Joint Monitoring Program for Breeding Birds (JMBB) and for Migratory Birds (JMMB);
  - the Trilateral Beached Bird Survey group (TBBS);
- the Trilateral Seal Expert Group (TSEG);
- the Working Group on Landscape and Cultural Heritage (WADCULT);
- the Coastal Protection and Sea Level Working Group (CPSL)
- the Trilateral Zoning Group (TZG).

#### Secretariat

The execution of the duties of the CWSS is, according to the Administrative Agreement for the secretariat, supervised by a committee of representatives. In 1999, it consisted of

- Ms. A. M. Rasmussen, The National Forest and Nature Agency of the Ministry for the Environment and Energy, Denmark, chairperson;
- Dr. L. Fiedler, Department of Nature Conservation and Ecology of the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany;
- Mr. H. Kool, Department of Nature Management of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, The Netherlands.

At the Senior Officials-meeting in 1999 "Procedural and Financial Rules of the CWSS" were endorsed. These rules enter into force in 2000.

The CWSS is based in Wilhelmshaven, Germany. Its 1999-budget was 893,800 DM. The following per-

sons were employed in 1999:

- Mr. J. A. Enemark, secretary;
- Mr. F. de Jong, deputy secretary;
- Ms. B. Reineking, deputy secretary;
- Dr. H. Marencic, deputy secretary;
- Mr. G. LuerBen, data handling coordinator;
- Ms. M. Polanski, administrative assistant;
- Dr. J. van Beusekom, EUT Project (until March 1999)
- Dr. H. Fock, EUT Project (August - December 1999)
- Mr. M. Vollmer, Lancewad Project (since December 1999).

#### Publications in 1999

- Wadden Sea Quality Status Report 1999,
- Wadden Sea Newsletter, 1999 No. 1

CWSS homepage: <http://cwss.www.de>