

Preface

Dear Reader,

The policy and management section of this newsletter addresses two issues which are in the main focus of the Trilateral Cooperation: The Wadden Sea Forum held its fourth meeting in April 2004, preparing the final phase of the project in which the results of the thematic groups will be integrated and discussed with a wider audience in four regional conferences.

The second main policy issue is the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. One article summarizes the outcome of a trilateral workshop in January 2004 where the implications for the Wadden Sea were discussed. A second one reports from another international conference on the Water Framework Directive which was organized by the Dutch Wadden Sea Council in May 2004.

The section on monitoring and research covers a broad field of different subjects like nutrients, birds and sea grass and presents two projects,

one related to monitoring methods, the other to large-scale planning procedures.

A new aspect is introduced in a report from a multi disciplinary workshop: the ecological history of the Wadden Sea. Over 2000 years of human-induced changes were analyzed in order to create a vision of a pristine Wadden Sea ecosystem and to learn from the past for future conservation and management.

The newsletters concludes, as always, with a list of new publications and a calendar of events.

Last but not least, the Annual Report of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat for the year 2003 is presented.

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