

# Coastal Guide ICZM Information System

## 1. Key data

Project title:	Integrated co-operation on the development of sustainable tourism and recreation in the Wadden Sea area.
Country:	The Netherlands, Denmark and Germany
Project phase:	prep. / study / planning / implementation / no progress
Launch:	1997
National funding:	[periods, in euros]
EC-funding:	[periods, in euros]
EC project references:	LIFE-Environment 96/DK/012/PAZ
Lead partner:	IRWC
Project contact:	Mr John Frederiksen IRWC c/o Ribe Amt Amtsgården Sorsigvej 35 6760 Ribe Denmark Tel.: +45-75-420000 Fax: +45-75-424795 Email: <a href="mailto:jf@ribeamt.dk">jf@ribeamt.dk</a>
Project website:	<a href="http://cwss.www.de">http://cwss.www.de</a>
Project area:	The project area covers almost 10 000 km <sup>2</sup> along the Danish, German and Dutch coasts.
Area size (land): (water):	[in hectare, or yes/no]
Population size:	
Policy background:	It is the largest wetland of importance for nature conservation in the European Union. The resident population is relatively low, but increases considerably in the high season with tourists, who make a substantial contribution to the regional economy. The national authorities of the three countries have been co-operating actively since 1978 on the protection of this exceptional area, in particular within the framework of the Trilateral Conference.
Important sectors in the project set-up:	Tourism, Aquaculture, Marine industry & Ports, Landscapes & Cultural Heritage, Public Access, Pollution and Habitats & Biodiversity.
Main aim:	The promotion of environmentally-friendly tourism to create jobs and generate local income.
Expected results:	Improvement of co-operation between the authorities and bodies concerned with the development of the Wadden Sea region. Participation of the population in the decision-making processes. Application of the principles of sustainability and integration to regional planning. Demonstration of how the results of this innovative co-operation concept can be incorporated into the everyday decisions of the various authorities and how the concept and method used can be applied in other transboundary coastal areas.

Dissemination of knowledge acquired and consideration of the results at the Ninth Conference on the Waddenzee in the year 2000.

## 2. Collaboration & integration

Objectives re collaboration & integration:

The Wadden Sea project involves all of the counties bordering the Wadden Sea. The rationale behind this decision was that planning initiatives should stem from this regional (county) level and should be participatory in nature, but that they also need to be co-ordinated between the regions in the trans-national context of the Wadden Sea and the Tri-lateral Wadden Sea Co-operation. The interregional Wadden Sea Co-operation (IRWC) complements the existing Trilateral Co-operation between the three Governments, which seeks to harmonise policies, laws and management measures to achieve the common purpose of sustainable use of coastal areas and resources.

Ministries formally involved\*:

Regions (county, province) formally involved\*:

regions of Ribe, Sønderjyllands, Schleswig-Holstein, Groningen, Friesland and Noord-Holland.

Municipalities (towns) formally involved\*: [names]

Problems encountered: At the local level in Germany, administrations have been constrained in their ability to contribute to ICZM. Because of political struggles in Niedersachsen difficulties were posed for the Wadden Sea project.

Main achievements:

## 3. Participation

Objectives re participation: In the Stade Declaration of 1997 a strong call was made to inhabitants, users, visitors and stakeholders to provide ideas and inputs through the Wadden Sea Plan to the implementation of the targets.

Environment stakeholders formally involved\*: yes,  
NetForum and through 8 Trilateral Governmental Conferences. "NetForum" is a participatory network with special emphasis on securing collaboration between the many organisations and institutions concerned with tourism and environment in the Wadden Sea.

Economic development stakeholders formally involved\*: yes

Public hearings: [number]

Public access to project data: yes

Main achievements: Electronic newsletter available on their homepage. Provision to the governments by the nature conservation NGOs of a "package deal" consisting of a proposal concerning disaster prevention and ship safety, a concept for regional oriented public participation and a model for a trilateral convention. Together these proposals, constitute "theme, goal and framework for future trilateral co-operation, can be considered a contribution in the process of discussions for the coming 9th Trilateral Governmental Conference to be held in October 2001.

Problems encountered:

## 4. Information

Objectives re environment: Dissemination of information  
Main achievements: In the Netherlands, a regional tourism board has been established. It maintains communication among the various stakeholders and provincial authorities dealing with tourism and recreation in the Dutch Wadden Sea Region.  
In Schleswig-Holstein, communication to and from NetForum primarily took place within the two regional councils in Dithmarschen and Nordfriesland.  
In Denmark, information about the work under-taken by the NetForum was disseminated through the Danish Advisory Council for the Wadden Sea.

Problems encountered:

## **5. Policy aspects, relevance and success:**

### **Legal Jurisdictional issues:**

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

### **Environment:**

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

Intensive agriculture encouraged by high Common Agricultural Policy support prices has produced high nutrient loads in tributaries to the North Sea, resulting in increased eutrophication in the Wadden Sea. Agricultural intensification has led to considerable losses of biodiversity and landscape interest on the islands and along the coasts, particularly in wetland areas. High sheep headage payments contribute to high grazing densities on coastal salt marshes- a particular problem in Germany.

### **Biodiversity conservation:**

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

### **Economic development:**

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

Tourist numbers have declined in the German part of the Wadden Sea region, primarily due to the economic difficulties in Germany as a whole. The heavy reliance upon German tourists as the main customers has made the Wadden Sea region vulnerable towards changes in this particular customer segment.

### **Spatial planning & zoning:**

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

Within the Wadden Sea region, public transport facilities such as busses, trains are poorly developed and cannot currently be regarded as a viable alternative to the use of private cars.

### **Coastal defence:**

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

Extraction of gas is one of the factors leading to land subsidence and coastal erosion in the Wadden Sea area.

## 6. Progress & Continuity

### Follow-up Activities:

NetForum has written a report on Sustainable Tourism Development in the Wadden Sea region (April 2000), in which ICZM is analysed and policies are recommended by NetForum. Both will be discussed at the ninth Conference on the Wadden Sea in 2001. In this report it says that NetForum will initiate, co-ordinate and facilitate the follow-up activities in a further participatory process with the stakeholders. The NetForum suggests that the Inter-regional Wadden Sea Co-operation, as first step, adopt an action plan which should entail the following elements:

Implementation of the suggested policies of NetForum: How, by Whom and When. Implementation of the priority projects including their funding and the setting up of an adequate organisation for the implementation and co-ordination of the projects. Monitoring of the activities. The action plan should take into account cross-thematic activities and should therefore embody approaches such as the following:

Tourism development should be more oriented towards target groups; Communication and Co-operation strategy for the local level; Network designed for the technical support and counseling of the partners in the Wadden Sea Region with regard to the implementation of environmental measures in the tourism sector; Development of demand oriented and competitive solutions and the Making use of public-private-partnership (PPP).

At the ninth Conference on the Wadden Sea in October 2001, there is an opportunity for all people to discuss the suggestions and proposals done by NetForum.

## 7. Sources

Project Report online: [attached in MS word or PDF]

\*) formally involved means: as a project partner or represented in a project committee.

### Bibliography:

Project Web site, if available

European Commission, *Better management of coastal resources, A European programme for integrated coastal zone management*, 1997

European Commission, *Lessons from the European Commission's demonstration programme on integrated coastal zone management*, 1999

European Commission, *Towards a European Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy: General Principles and Policy Options*, 1999

Thematic Study A, *Legal and Regulatory Bodies: Appropriateness to ICZM*, 1999

Thematic Study B, *Participation in the ICZM Processes: Mechanisms and Procedures Needed*, 1999

Thematic Study C, *Role and use of Technology in Relation to ICZM*, 1999

Thematic Study D, *Planning and Management Processes: Sectoral and Territorial Cooperation*, 1999

Thematic Study F, *Information required for Integrated Coastal Zone Management*, 1999