The Wadden Sea

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Senior researcher, Center for Maritime and Business History/University of Southern Denmark

22 June, 2016 | Opening conference in Ny-Hellesund
The Wadden Sea
Dealing with Cultural Heritage in Intertidal Wetlands

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Kulturminner i europeiske kystlandskap
HERICOAST
Ny-Hellesund, Norge, 22. juni 2016

Fiskeri- og Søfarts museet
Saltvandsakvariet, Esbjerg
The Wadden Sea

- Largest unbroken stretch of intertidal mudflats in the world
- 12 million birds pass through each year
- Shared by three countries
- 14,700 km² Trilateral Cooperation Area
The Trilateral cooperation

Since 1978, the responsible ministries of the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany have been working together on the protection and conservation of the Wadden Sea covering management, monitoring and research.
Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation

Guiding principle: “to achieve, as far as possible, a natural and sustainable ecosystem in which natural processes proceed in an undisturbed way”.

- Trilateral Governmental Conferences
- 1982 Joint Declaration on the Protection of the Wadden Sea New 2010
- 1997 Trilateral Wadden Sea Plan New 2010
Culture in the trilateral cooperation

- From 1994 also cooperation on culture
- Mapping of landscape and culture elements
  - Lancewad 2000-2001
- Managing of landscape and cultural heritage
Cultural history

Different delimitation ("association of house owners")

Interplay between man and landscape

Different managing authorities
Example of elements typical of the Wadden Sea Region
Settlements on the geest
Dwelling mounds
Storm surges
Dikes and Polders
Sluices
Pumping stations
Land Reclamation
Roads in the Sea
Ship wrecks

- Tree cut down summer 1264
- Found in Knudedyb by E4 "Ho Bugt" 2006
Farmhouses
Whaling
Lighthouses and rescue stations
Borderland

Thomas Jensen
Immaterial Culture
Three Old Towns

Varde
Ribe
Tønder
And their outports

• Janderup
• Ho
• Sønderside
• Skallingkrog
• Tarp
• Myrthue
• Marbæk
• Kjelst
• Sjælborg
• Hjerting
• Fanø (=Nordby)
• Strandby
• Gammelby
• Roborghus

• Tømmerby
• Sneum
• Allerup Knap
• Darum
• ... and many more
Only few traces left
Esbjerg Havn 1868
... new trades
Essex Report 2010

- Comparative Analysis of the Landscape and Cultural Heritage of the Wadden Sea Region
- Comparison with 15 wetlands worldwide:

"The landscape and the cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea is world class."

World Heritage and Research Agenda
Criteria for global importance:
Geology, ecological processes and biodiversity
Managing the World Heritage

• Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy 2014-2020
• Sustainable Tourism in the Wadden Sea World Heritage Destination (STS 2014)
Sylt-declaration 2010

• ”Support the establishment of a trilateral research platform directly connected with existing national networks. The platform will elaborate a trilateral agenda for policy-relevant research in consultation with the Board…”

pkt. 41
Trilateral Research Agenda

• Geoscience
• Ecologi
• Socio Economy
• Cultural History
• Climate and Water
# Science Policy Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GEO SCIENCES</th>
<th>Tourism</th>
<th>Coastal Protection Activities</th>
<th>Fishing and Aquaculture</th>
<th>Agriculture</th>
<th>Mining</th>
<th>Energy Generation</th>
<th>Ports and Shipping</th>
<th>Oil exploration</th>
<th>Alien Species</th>
<th>Pollution</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Climate Change</th>
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<td>Subsurface use and geohazards</td>
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<td>Longer term geomorphology</td>
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<th>ECOLOGY</th>
<th>Marine mammals</th>
<th>Birds</th>
<th>Fish</th>
<th>Salt marshes</th>
<th>Beaches &amp; Dunes</th>
<th>Tidal Area: Intertidal Habitats</th>
<th>Tidal Area: Subtidal Habitats</th>
<th>Offshore area</th>
<th>Estuaries</th>
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| SOCIO-ECONOMY | Employment | Income | Population development | Livelihood | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|------------|--------|-------------------------|-------------| | | | | | | | |

| CULTURAL HISTORY | Awareness/valuation | Maintenance | (Re)use | Public access | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------|----------|----------------| | | | | | | | |

| CLIMATE & WATER | Safety | Water quality | Fresh water availability | | | | | | | | | |
Some Results
Awareness
Restoring the village of Ballum
3 mill Euro
2009-14

A.P. Møller Fonden
Local Development

Developing the Tonder Marsh Area
28 mill. Euro
Research Project

• *Trade and social life in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries*
  – A research and communication project based on Danish–Dutch contacts
  – Partners: Fisheries and Maritime Museum, University of Southern Denmark and Museum Sønderjylland.
  – Project period: 1/9 2015-31/8 2018
  – Supported by VELUX FONDEN by app. 530.000 Euros.
"Trade and Social life"

Two major, five minor projects

1. Maritime-cultural exchange between Denmark and the Netherlands
2. The forgotten emigrants. Networks, integration and cultural identity in the Danish migrant communities in Amsterdam
3. Shipping and harbour structure on the northern Wadden Sea coast
4. Danish dress customs and Dutch influences.
5. Trade along the Schleswig Wadden Sea coast with particular attention to the emergence of Dutch tile.
6. A seaman's family's contact with Amsterdam.
7. Presentation of historical persons and their life-histories at museums and in the landscape.
To sum up...

Interdisciplinarity

Hansjörg Küster
Cooperation

Research

Communication

Management

Not assimilation
Thank you!

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