

Wadden Sea Board

WSB 28

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The IWSS Annual Report 2018 gives an overview of the IWSS activities in 2018. The TWSC's cooperation contract with WWF will expire on 31 December 2019. By June 2019 a decision should be made regarding a further funding.

Proposal: The meeting is invited to adopt the annual report.



EDUCATION &
INTERPRETATION
FOR THE
WADDEN SEA
WORLD HERITAGE



IWSS Annual Report 2018

Education Strategy & NGE

A strong focus of IWSS activities in 2018 was the completion of the “Wadden Sea Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development and World Heritage Interpretation” that was adopted at the Leeuwarden Conference in May:

<http://iwss.org/education-strategy>

The strategy sets out the framework for environmental education and interpretation in the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. The implementation on the national level follows National Work Programmes – existing or future strategies of the three Wadden Sea countries respectively different regions – by public as well as private partners, i.e. National Park Administrations, NGOs, visitor centres, schools, etc.

The implementation of World Heritage education on a trilateral level builds on the existing structures of the International Wadden Sea School (IWSS) and comprises two key work fields: facilitation of network services and provision of trilateral education products.

The IWSS coordinator (at present provided by WWF Germany) serves as a key facilitator of the Trilateral Education Work Programme and closely cooperates with the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat as well as with the regional representatives of Wadden Sea Education. Together, they constitute the Network Group Education (NGE) to link the trilateral and regional initiatives and to ensure that all trilaterally developed activities and products are suitable for the various national situations and meet the demand on a common denominator.

Network Group Education

The Network Group Education met on 29. August 2018 in Wilhelmshaven. The agenda comprised the fine-tuning of the Trilateral Education Work Program and discussion of specific issues related to the new IWSS website (see below).

Network Services

Annual Partner IWSS Workshop

The annual network meetings constitute a major column of the Trilateral Work Program and have since the start of the IWSS in 2003 been a central platform for the exchange of experience and ideas among multipliers of Wadden Sea education.

The 16th IWSS workshop took place from 5. to 7. November 2018 and was hosted by the Dutch Waddenvereniging in co-operation with the Seal Centre Pieterburen and other Dutch network partners. 33 participants from 19 institutions in the Dutch, German and Danish Wadden Sea Region took part. As in the previous years, the meeting provided insight into the recent developments of Wadden Sea education. A boat trip to Kuipersplaat, located off Lauwersoog, offered some outdoor experience. The report (attached as Annex 1) summarizes the various centres' activities and outcomes of the joint sessions.

IWSS Website

The website www.iwss.org has been re-launched in mid 2018 and now runs as microsite of the Wadden Sea World Heritage website.

Most important innovation: The section "Materials" replaces the "IWSS Teachers' Lounge" of the old website and offers all current IWSS materials for download or to order.

A new newsletter informs at irregular intervals about new products and interesting facts about Wadden Sea education.

As a common platform for world heritage site education in the Danish, German and Dutch Wadden Sea region, the website is written in English. Resources and information offered in Danish, German and Dutch are easily accessible via corresponding language filters in the sections "Resources" and "News".

Links to national educational programs complement the IWSS offers and a map provides an overview of the visitor centres in the entire Wadden Sea region. The IWSS website is planned to be continuously expanded/updated and complements the [Wadden Sea World Heritage website](#).

Trilateral Education Products

Wadden Sea World Heritage Discovery Booklet

Published first in 2012, the German, Dutch and Danish editions of the discovery booklet were revised and newly issued in spring 2018.

After a comprehensive discussion of the booklet's aim and of the financial possibilities of the target group and multipliers in all three Wadden Sea countries it was decided together with the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat to consider the booklet as a "core product" of World Heritage education until further notice. This means that it will be made available for free to non-commercial multipliers of Wadden Sea education as long as the IWSS funding allows this.

Arrival - Departure Poster

Another 5.000 copies of the "[timetable poster](#)" - a poster presenting the arrival and departure of migratory birds in the Wadden Sea during spring and autumn migration – have been printed in spring 2018 after the first edition of 2016 was almost out of stock. A Dutch, Danish and English version of the poster have been prepared in the course of 2018 with the view to be published in spring 2019.

Further Activities

Education partner for Sustainability

For the third time in a row since 2008 the International Wadden Sea School has been awarded the status "Education Partner for Sustainability" ("Bildungspartner für Nachhaltigkeit") within the framework of the German "NUN certification program". The certification confirms the continuously high quality of the educational offer.

Flyway Initiative & MBP Network

The IWSS supports the educational activities of the Flyway Initiative and is now also connected to the "Migratory Birds for People Network", a network of visitor centres along the East Atlantic Flyway coordinated by Wetland Link International.

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