

## **004.5**

### **Lost in translation – just another plan for the Wadden Sea World Heritage?**

S. Luna<sup>1</sup>, B. Engels<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Germany. <sup>2</sup>Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Germany

#### **Abstract**

The Wadden Sea was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2009 and extended in 2014 in recognition of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) which recognises geological, ecological and biodiversity values of global quality. To ensure the protection of this unique ecosystem for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands established a Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) as a tool for cooperation and coordination. In over 40 years, the three countries have built independently and in trilateral collaboration, a comprehensive management system. Various trilateral nature conservation and management instruments have been developed in the last decades at the local, national, but also at EU level. In view of the multitude of plans, strategies and other management instruments, a single integrated management plan (SIMP) was requested by the World Heritage Committee in 2014 i. a. to provide a clear overview on how the three countries work together and leverage the existing regional and local strategies, management plans, plans of actions and networks. The SIMP development is coordinated by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, as the coordinating body of the TWSC and the relevant trilateral groups, the governance bodies and site managers of the property. Among the added values of this plan are the presentation of an updated overview of the existing national and regional governance for nature conservation management and an assessment of the direct association to the OUV. Trilateral, regional, and local strategies and plans are describing the joint work and conservation approach and relevant key aspects to further strengthen the cooperation. This knowledge made accessible seems to be among the important aspects for strategic planning and decision making with the objective of further improving feasible management measures.