



Statement of Concern:

Saving the Wadden Sea and the Wadden Sea Region in building a model for a sustainable future - the role of energy production and use

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Why a „Statement of Concern“?

This meeting is a meeting about dialogue. This is good, in it's own right.

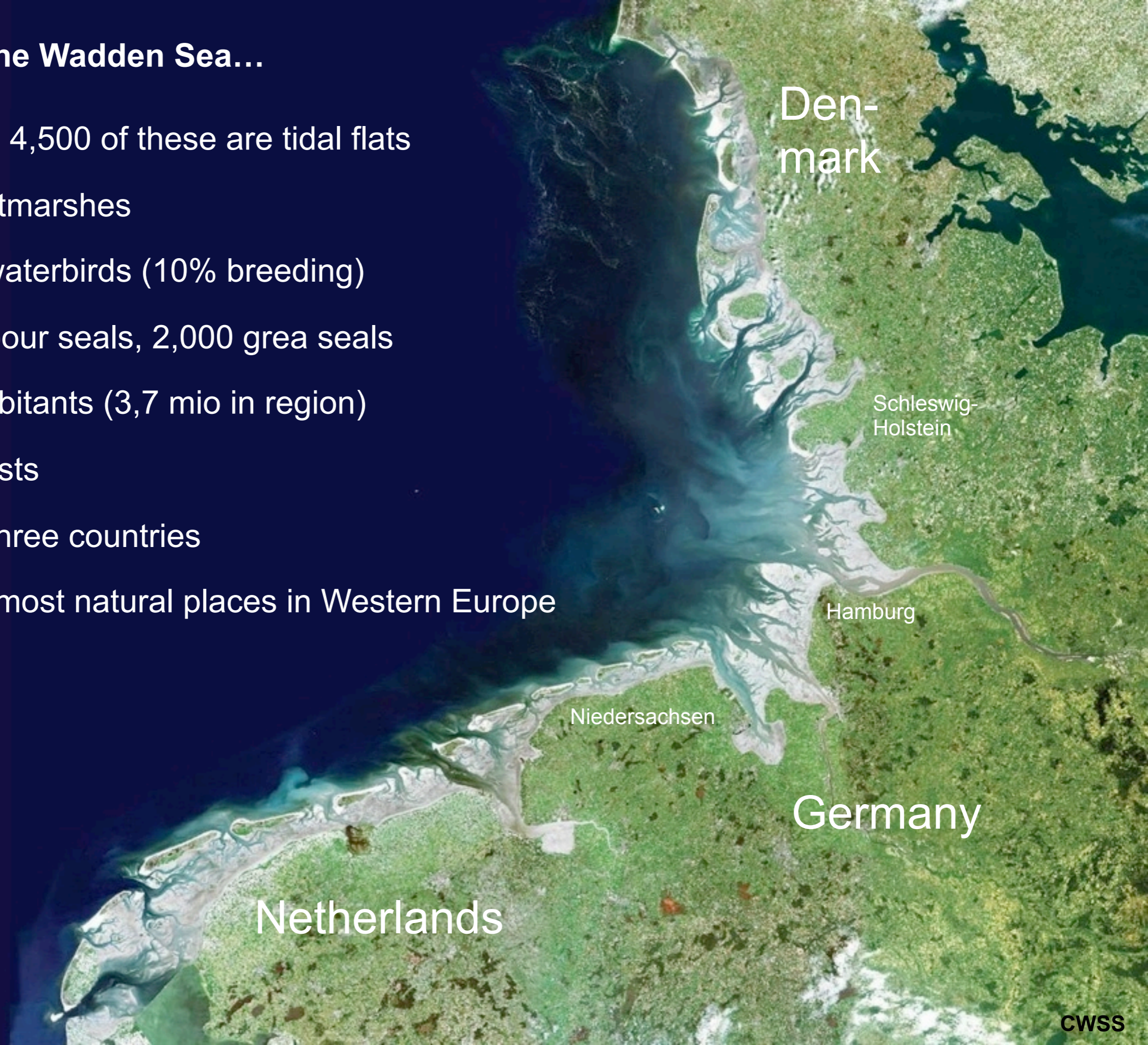
However, during the meeting a future for the Wadden Sea Region was predicted which is not the future we are aiming for:

- It was seriously suggested that we will have 3 times as much CO₂-emissions from energy production than today in the region.
- It was seriously suggested that the amount of nuclear power production in the region will remain the same as today.
- There was nothing said about how to sustainably implement renewable energies, and all renewables except offshore wind were (except by EWE) largely neglected.

This is a reason for a Statement of Concern!

Introducing the Wadden Sea...

- 10,000 km², 4,500 of these are tidal flats
- 400 km² saltmarshes
- 10-12 mio waterbirds (10% breeding)
- 20,000 harbour seals, 2,000 grea seals
- 70,000 inhabitants (3,7 mio in region)
- 10 mio tourists
- Shared by three countries
- Among the most natural places in Western Europe



Globally important („Outstanding Universal Value“) for ...

- Geological processes: very young and dynamic ecosystem
- Ecological processes: Productive inter-tidal ecosystem, many habitats, natural processes prevailing
- Biodiversity: 10-12 mio waterbirds from half the Arctic

However, also as a model for transboundary cooperation on the protection of a joint nature area!

Therefore...

- Wadden Sea protected in all 3 countries
- National Parks in large parts of the area
- 2009 inscribed as World Heritage Site





Old Energy

Wadden Sea is protected – however, this seems often to be ignored: Oil drilling Mittelplate, plans for even more oil drillings, plans for too many large cables, plans for many coal fired power plants along the coast.

Buildings and traffic (including tourism traffic) in the Wadden Sea Region are still far away from energy efficiency.

The overarching issue here is: Say Good Bye to unsustainable uses!



Old Energy (some details)

Oil: Not in protected areas. Also, we cannot save the climate if all fossile carbon is being used. Better leave it in the ground.

Coal: Stop all plannings along the Wadden Sea coast - the climate goals are impossible to achieve if all these coal fired power plants are to be built.

CCS: Not in the Wadden Sea protected areas.

Traffic: Focus on more public traffic, slower ships, and less air traffic to the islands.



New energy

Wadden Sea Region ready to achieve ambitious goals: Wind onshore, Wind offshore, Solar, Biomass, Efficiency measures ...

Though important and progressing, this is not easy. But the Wadden Sea Region - already well on the way - should become an example, how to sustainably and quickly implement renewable energies on a large scale.

The overarching issues here are: Good planning, good communication, and a sense for a region in which people like to live and where they can be proud of!



New Energy (some details)

Wind onshore: Proper distance to sensitive areas (both for nature and for humans), landscape, technical measures to minimize impact. Possibilities still underestimated, also in its value for the regional economies.

Wind offshore: Distance to coast, avoidance of sensitive areas, technical measures to minimize impacts (birds, harbour porpoises, shipping safety), limit cable impact by using very few routes with high capacity DC cables.

Solar: On agricultural land much less impact per kwh than with biomass.

Biomass: Poor guidance up to now. Large scale damage to coastal landscape with very little (if any) positive effect. Must be driven by sustainability, more priority on „Reststoffe“.

Power Storage: Much room for intelligent solutions.

Efficiency measures: Still as much to do as everywhere. Specific for Wadden Sea: Reduce climate footprint in tourism!



Recommendations

Dialogue is good, in it's own right. However, in the future it is necessary to include more representatives of the renewables sector in the work of the Wadden Sea Forum.

Key message: Make the Wadden Sea Region a model for a sustainable future! A very important part of this is related to energy:

- Stop quickly all the unsustainable activities such as oil production in the protected areas, plans for new coal fired power plants, and the operation of nuclear power plants.
- Focus on the future, and be quick: Renewable energies (sustainably implemented), combined with intelligent grid and storage systems and with much higher energy efficiency (incl. the tourism in the region).