

WSF 12, Husum 5 – 6 June, 2008

WADDEN SEA FORUM
WADDEN ZEE FORUM

Nomination of the Dutch-German
Wadden Sea as World Heritage Site



WADDEN SEA ECOSYSTEM No. 24 - 2008



Nomination procedure

Contents

Values

Quotation foreword:

“The inscription into the WH list would both recognize and reinforce the efforts which the people living, working and enjoying the area, together with us the governments, have made during the later part of the last century to conserve this area for present and future generations. WH status would also strengthen the regional identity and positively present the region globally.”

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Submission to World Heritage Centre, Paris in January 2008

Technical analysis February 2008

Evaluation of the nomination by IUCN

- Data Assembly

- External review

- Field mission

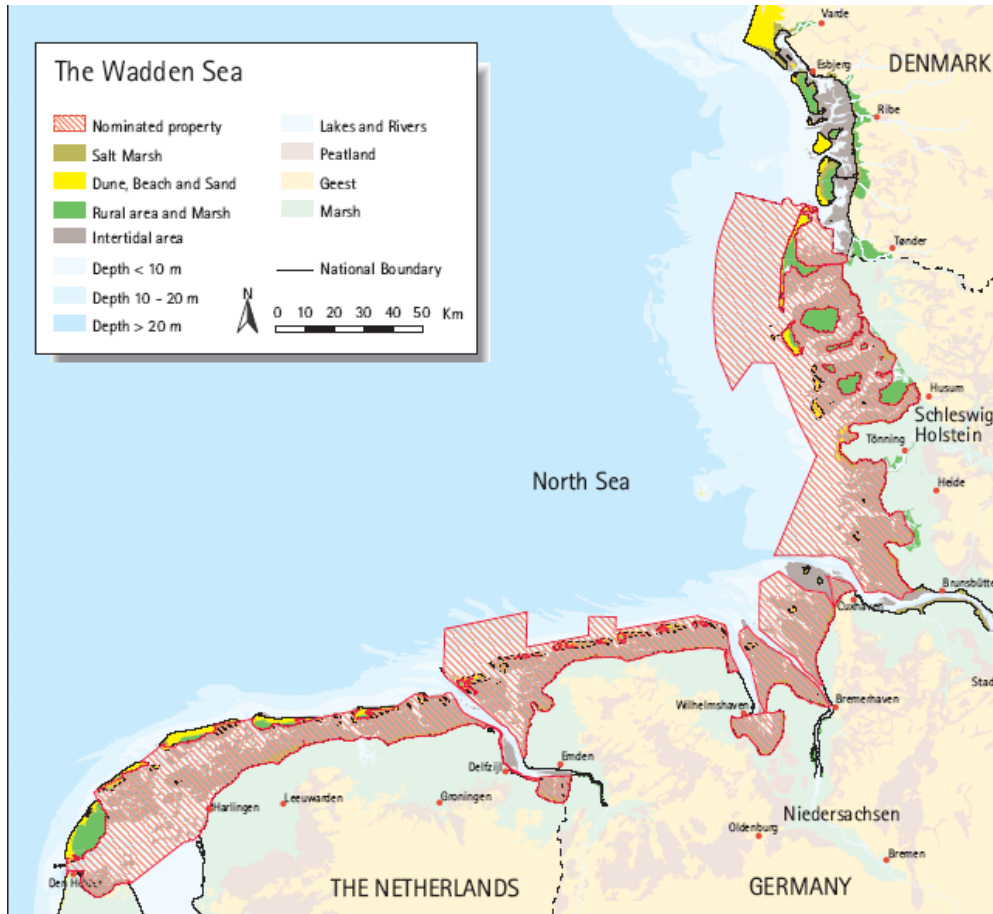
- IUCN Panel review in December 2008

- Final recommendation on WH-Committee, July 2009

Inscription on the World Heritage List

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Map of the nominated property



Criteria under which the property is nominated

Criterion viii:

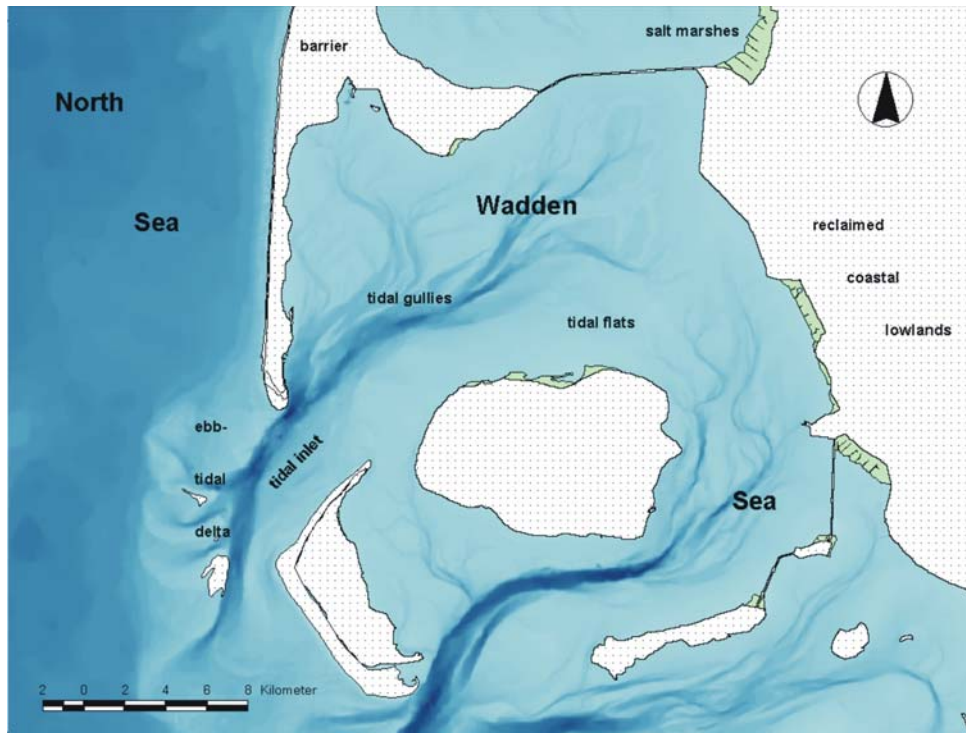
“be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth’s history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features”

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Unique details:

➤ **Morphology**
sandy, muddy tidal flats
barrier system

➤ **Morphodynamics**
hydraulic, wind

➤ **Morphogenetics**
history, sea level rise

Criteria under which the property is nominated

Criterion ix:

“be outstanding examples representing significant

on-going **ecological and biological processes** in the evolution and

development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals”

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- **Functional ecosystem**
- **Primary and secondary production**
phytoplankton
microphytobenthos
- **Biogenic structures**

Criteria under which the property is nominated

Criterion x:

“contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of **biological diversity**, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation”

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Biological diversity:

➤ Fish

> 140 species

➤ Marine mammals

harbor seals, grey seals, harbor porpoise

➤ Migratory birds

> 40 species, over 10,000,000 birds

➤ Breeding birds

(essential) > 30 species

➤ Macrozoobenthos

> 400 species

➤ Plants

A comparative analysis of the Wadden Sea I

- Selection of 31 WHS with significant marine components
- Selection of 24 WHS, coastal islands
- Selection of 44 non listed mudflat sites
- Selection due to high biodiversity
- Result in 9 Sites
- Selection intertidal flats
- Result in 3 Sites

A comparative analysis of the Wadden Sea II

| World Heritage Site | Size (km ²) | Biophysical setting |
|--|-------------------------|---|
| Galapagos National Park and Marine Reserve | 7,665 | Volcanic archipelago and ocean |
| Everglades National Park | 5,929 | Freshwater and coastal marshes, mangrove swamps |
| Great Barrier Reef | 348,700 | Coral reef system and ocean |
| Doñana National Park | 507 | Coastal marshlands and dunes |
| Sundarbans (Bangladesh & India) | 7,280 | Deltaic islands, waterways, intertidal area with extensive mangrove cover |
| Banc d'Arguin National Park | 12,000 | Mudflats, dunes, islands |
| Fraser Island | 1,663 | Sand island |
| Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaíno | 3,710 | Lagoons with some mangrove and seagrass |
| Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park | 2,396 | Coastal lakes, dunes and continental shelf |

A comparative analysis of the Wadden Sea III

| | Wadden Sea | Banc d'Arguin | Georgia Bight |
|---------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Area | 10,000 km ² | 12,000 km ² | 8,000 km ² |
| Mudflat | 4,500 km ² | 630 km ² | 300 km ² |

Comparison features

- Climate zone
- Habitats
- Estuaries
- Birds
- Productivity
- State of conservation



Factors affecting the property

- Harbors, industrial facilities, dredging
- Exploration and exploration of gas and oil
- Coastal protection
- Introduced species
- Fisheries, hunting
- Pollution
- Climate change
- Tourism



Protection and Management

- **Trilateral Cooperation**

- **National protection**

 - National Park, PKB, Nature Conservation Areas

- **International Protection**

 - Ramsar Site

 - PSSA

 - MAB

 - ASCOBANS

- **European Union**

 - Bird and Habitat Directive

 - Water Framework Directive

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