The Wadden Sea Forum (WSF), an independent platform of stakeholder organizations in the Wadden Sea Region (WSR) of Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands, was established in 2002, following a decision by the 9th Governmental Conference of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC). The WSF works towards an advanced and sustainable development in the Wadden Sea Region. In particular, this means integrating specific cross-sectoral and transboundary strategies, actions and techniques which are environmentally sound, economically viable and socially acceptable. Essential in this work is an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) approach as well as the implementation of Integrated Maritime Policies (IMP).

**Aims of the WSF**

So far, the WSF has achieved a sound added value in participatory processes and transnational cooperation with regard to a sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region. Also in the future, the WSF will bring together stakeholders, administrations, science and NGO’s for knowledge exchange, capacity building and conflict resolution.

**WSF Society**

Since March 2011 the Wadden Sea Forum is a non-profit society, led under the regulations of German tax rules and tax procedures and exclusively pursues direct, non-profit-making objectives. On 17 March 2011, the WSF was officially registered as WSF e.V. (eingetragener Verein, registered society).
ICZM/MSP

Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Maritime Spatial Planning runs like a golden thread through the work of the Forum, by linking the main topics in the frame of sustainable development and providing an umbrella for the socio-economic development of the Wadden Sea Region. A close link to EU policies is ensured by the working group.

Shipping & Harbour

The main topics are shipping safety with VTS, VTM, radar control and risk plans for the Wadden Sea, as well as safe container shipping. Further agenda items are marine litter and reduction of emissions in sea traffic. Additional topics are harbour development along the coast and cooperation between harbours on several issues like logistics and waste management.

Energy, Industry, Infrastructure

The working group deals with energy production and distribution in the WSR as well as future technologies for energy storage. Furthermore, the group elaborates on advice for greenhouse gas reduction in order to achieve a climate friendly Wadden Sea Region in the medium run.

Agriculture

The agricultural sector plays an important role in the coastal region and is vulnerable particularly to climate change and energy transition. The working group is dealing with future perspectives of the sector, ensuring a healthy environment and contributing to the preservation of our cultural landscapes.

Planning Portal

The Wadden Sea Region (WSR) Planning Portal, based on GIS, is an innovative application on mapping the WSR including the EEZs of The Netherlands, Germany and Denmark. The Planning Portal has a focus on existing and partly planned activities in coastal and offshore areas. It contains a wide range of uses, facilities and protection demands and is designed to meet the information needs of integrated management and marine spatial planning.

Sustainability Indicators

The indicator tool is an instrument to communicate sustainability developments in the Wadden Sea Region. The assessment is based on a three level analysis where the graphs of the social, economic and ecological situation in level one indicate the overall development over the years. The reasons for the trend changes are traced back to variations of the values of the individual indicators. Politicians and decision-makers in the WSR get a quick picture and a comprehensive overview of sustainability and are able to react accordingly.

Climate Adaptation & CO2 Reduction

Climate change will also have an impact on the WSR and the local society. Adaptation and mitigation measures are cross-sectorally discussed in the Forum to work towards feasible solutions. The cooperation with scientific institutes provides a sound and reliable knowledge base.

Goose Management

The effective management of geese is an issue of increasing relevance in the Wadden Sea Region for solving conflicts between the farmers interests and nature conservation approaches. The most feasible solution is an internationally coordinated and integrated management, based on a spatial setup. In this respect, the WSF is working towards a common management scheme with regional implementation.

Cultural Landscapes

The WSF contributes to promote the cultural landscapes and to raise awareness about the cultural historic development. Also the maritime cultural heritage is worthwhile to be preserved and a predictive modeling with indicative maps will help to get a better picture of the unknown.

Cultural Identity

The Forum has brought together the different topics and initiatives in the field of “Wadden Culture” in order to better integrate the cultural issues in the development of the Wadden Sea Region and to further elaborate on the cultural grounds of the local people. The overall mission focusses on the consciousness about the values of the cultural history of the WSR, of which the organ culture and regional art can be named as examples.