

The Wadden Sea Region: A Living Historic Landscape

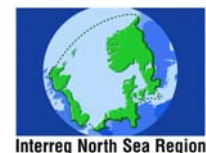
Regional Conferences with Regard to the Draft Integrated Strategy Consultation Process

With the completion of a draft integrated strategy it was agreed to consult experts, stakeholders and interested bodies for further contributions and comments. The consultation process about the draft integrated strategy has been carried out in May/June 2007 in each region in order to contribute to the overall content and aims and to the final international conference, which was held on the 19th of June in Wilhelmshaven. Received comments have been taken into account in the final version of the integrated strategy, respecting the consensus principle of the project partners. Further personal and regional comments and recommendations were taken serious and documented in this report. Responsible for the reports on the different conferences were the regional project partners.

**Conference Reports
Elaborated by the LWP partners**

LWP Project Period: June 2004 – June 2007

Co-financed by the EU Interreg IIIB North Sea Programme



1. Regional Conference, Denmark

1.1 Introduction

On 31st of May 2007 a regional conference was held on the initiative of Kulturarvsstyrelsen (The Danish National Culture and Heritage Agency). The purpose of the Danish regional conference was to present the results of LancewadPlan and to discuss the draft trilateral strategy, to make comments of improvement and recommendations. The conference took place at Natur- og Kulturformidlingscenter Myrthuegård north of Esbjerg. There were 26 participants from various public and private institutions and organisations: The Danish National Cultural Heritage Agency, The Danish National Forest and Nature Agency, Historiens Hus, Hvidovre (a company about history), Arkitektskolen, Aarhus (school of architecture), the municipalities of Varde, Esbjerg, Tønder and Fanø, Kulturmiljørådet Ribe Amt (former advisory board of culture), Friluftsrådet (soundboard), Museet for Varde By og Omegn, Esbjerg Museum, Syddansk Universitet Esbjerg, Museum Sønderjylland Tønder Museum, Fiskeri- og Søfartsmuseet, Miljøcenter Ribe (under the Ministry of Environment), and Natur- og Kulturformidlingscenter Myrthuegård (nature- and culture centre).

1.2 Programme

The programme of the day was to present the results and strategies of LancewadPlan in order to discuss improvements.

- Michael Lauenborg (Kulturarvsstyrelsen) presented the Danish and trilateral results
- Lis Jensen (Kulturarvsstyrelsen) presented prints from Kulturarvsatlas Vadehavet, the atlas guide which resulted from LancewadPlan. The atlas contains descriptions of landscapes, building structures, settlements, a short presentation of cultural environments, and architectural features. Besides, as something new in Denmark, it contains recommendations about development and preservation of the cultural heritage in the Danish Wadden Sea area. These recommendations will provide good tools for politicians and planners in the future. The publication is both printed and published at the website of LancewadPlan in Denmark
- Michael Lauenborg presented the draft strategy, and step by step the strategy was reviewed and discussed.
- The participants of the conference discussed the draft trilateral strategy. It had been sent out to the participants beforehand, and the strategy was discussed line by line, resulting in detailed corrections. After the conference the participants could send in written comments to the project coordinator, who compiled the comments.

1.3 Outcome

A valuable outcome of the conference was a good set of comments with regard to the integrated strategy. The strategy had been sent to participants beforehand, and the participants went thoroughly through it.

General comments on the strategy

- The overall strategy has become an exciting, challenging and substantial text.
- In the sector strategies the recommendations often refer to general projects. If those are not directly orientated towards the specific sector, they should be taken out or moved to the introduction.
- It is important that we keep pinpointing that landscape and heritage plans must be *input* to integrated/spatial plans (in Denmark the municipality plans).
- Where possible, it should be referred to ICZM as a follow-up project under the new Interreg programme.
- The wording about agriculture should be sharper and more specific. As it is now, it seems ambiguous at some places, and it can open for farmers abusing the law. The areas near the towns are hard to manage, and it should be evident what the purpose with our strategy is.

- Remember to mention the “waterscape”, i.e. the qualities of the sea, the deeps etc. They are also named, and the deeps made it possible for ships to approach the shore and the streams.

Chapter 3

- 3.4: (2) Add “often” after “The landscape heritage is” in order to moderate the text a bit, since something happens in Denmark.
- How does the statement harmonise with the introductory lines in 3.1.1?
- 3.6: (1) “regions” should be replaced by “parts (line 1), and in line 2 I suggest to write “region” after “Sea”.

Chapter 4

4.1. Vision 2020

- (3) lots of old buildings → lots of buildings with cultural historical and architectural value. Remember also to mention value of the wholes, i.e. the settlement structures.
- (4) carefully designed → designed with consideration to the surrounding landscape.

4.1 Strategies

- (1) The development of local preservation plans → The elaboration of local preservation plans [the method has been developed, now we need to elaborate the specific plans].
- (3) Change the text, so it is less vision and more strategy.
- (4) Do the other countries understand the meaning with “museums” like we do in Denmark, or should it be changed?
- (5) a cultural “LIFE-foundation” → a heritage “LIFE-foundation” and establish town foundations in order to preserve the settlement structures, the valuable towns and villages, as well as single buildings. Those foundations should be able to give good advice and financial support when needed.
- (6) To improve the work with the cultural heritage in the Wadden Sea Region on an international level. This includes a transnational cross border co-operation to work with cultural values and create awareness of the Wadden Sea Region. In this respect, the experience from nature protection can be used. →
- (6a) To increase the awareness of the nature and the cultural historical values for people living outside the Wadden Sea Region.
- (6b) To improve the work with the cultural heritage in the Wadden Sea Region on an international level. This includes a transnational cross border co-operation. In this respect, the experience from nature protection can be used.
- (6) The subject about cross-border co-operation should be moved to one of the introductory strategy chapters, since it is not specific about this sector’s topic.
- (7) Shouldn’t it be removed to an introductory part?

4.1 Obstacles

- Move (1) to (5) and vice versa. (5) is more complex and general than (1).
- Propose to add (6) about lacking knowledge and awareness about landscape- and cultural environment-values, which often lead to unfortunate decisions regarding planning and development. This will strengthen the many suggestions about increased awareness.

4.1 Projects/policies

- (3) New settlements, residential areas and areas for recreation houses should not be located (or sited) in the rural areas but in or close to the urban areas or villages. → New settlements, residential areas and areas for recreation houses should not be located (or sited) in the open countryside.
- Propose to add (6): To secure possibilities to build in and develop the region and at the same time to protect the cultural landscape in the overall planning, we need to

point at areas, where new buildings can be placed, so they do not conflict with the interests of the landscape and the cultural environments.

4.2 Strategies

- (4) Expand, so it is clearer that it is about being able to take or restructure agricultural areas to more lenient working methods, which take the values of the landscape and culture into consideration. That is a very important point.

4.2 Obstacles

- Put (3) after (1) – they fit together.
- (4) What is "energy production". Is it specific crops or wind mills? Could you add (..) with examples, so it says: "Energy production (as ...) has become..."

4.2 Projects/policies

- (2) Further development of the Wadden Sea region product label and of a common "Wadden brand".
- (5) Extension of the range of the "Waddenproduct" label to include services which aim at maintenance and management of the cultural landscape. →
- (2) To marketing, strengthen and further develop the sustainable "Waddenproduct" label and a common "Wadden brand" to include services which aim at maintenance and management of the cultural landscape"
- (3) Add "about agriculture and landscape" after "Initiation of a project in awareness rising"
- (6) This is difficult to understand. Is it about the EU-funding mentioned earlier above in the strategy chapter?
- (8) local and regional spatial plans → spatial planning concerning both small and larger areas (local plans and regional planning).

4.3 Vision 2020

- (4) Is there a better word than "state authorities"? Or just delete "state", since it in Denmark would be the task of the municipalities.
- Propose to add (5): Among the appointed cultural environments there are many, whose cultural, landscape and nature values are managed in harmony.

4.3 Projects/policies

- (4) and (5) should either be made more specific in relation to the nature sector or be moved to the general chapter in the beginning. Alternatively we could add something about awareness at all 5 sector topics.
- (7) Should be moved to the beginning or deleted, it is not sector orientated.

4.4 Vision 2020

- The Wadden Sea region retrains unique and intact → The values of the Wadden Sea region must be reinforced, defended and promoted. [We think that it is a stronger statement].

4.4 Strategies

- (5) Change it so it is clearer that we don't talk about physical connections (roads, railways etc.).
- (5) To connect coastal tourist centres with their hinterland. Idle rural areas of the mainland should be connected to the growing tourism centres in order to develop a more regional than a local perpetual source of income and to strive for sustainability. → [has to be changed so it is clearer that we are talking about economy, right now it opens for a large connecting highway through the entire area, and we should write something like the proposed...]
- (5) To connect the coastal tourist centres with the hinterland regarding financial benefits. It should be clearer that the mainland also provides tourism facilities and

good experiences. The financial surplus of the tourism centres at the coast is good, but it should be possible to share the income over a larger area. The entire region should benefit from tourism, not only single spots.

4.4 Obstacles

- Propose to add (5) about lacking opportunities or access, especially through walking paths in the rural area.

4.5 Introduction

- Add: The climate has already changed some places. At some of the sluices the water level is higher than the sluices can manage, i.e. the water is not able to get out into the sea.

4.5 Strategies

- (5) For sustainable planning with water and coastal protection, an improvement of stakeholder participation is necessary to reach a better acceptance to implement the strategies and measures. The involvement of all relevant interest groups and an interdisciplinary approach with regard to coastal protection and management avoid resistance in implementing new and forward-looking strategies and measures. [The interest for this subject already exists in Denmark. We guess that the implementation of new and forward-looking strategies refer to moving people according to the climate changes. Could it be formulated more directly?]

1.4 Conclusion

The work of LancewadPlan has been discussed with the soundboard and other interested groups during the project period. Now the Danish regional conference has discussed the results and the strategy derived from LancewadPlan in detail, and everybody agreed that the integrated strategy will become a useful paper and planning tool for politicians and planners.

2. Regional Conference Schleswig-Holstein

Shaping the Future of our Home

Report on the regional conference for the LancewadPlan-project in Schleswig-Holstein „Die Zukunft unserer Heimat gestalten - Wege zur Entwicklung der Kulturlandschaft der Wattenmeerküste“. The conference was scheduled between 10:00 and 14:00 hours on Tuesday, 5th of June. Venue was the Kreistagssitzungssaal of the administration building (Kreishaus) of the county of Dithmarschen in Heide / Schleswig-Holstein.

2.1 Introduction

The LancewadPlan project has ended in June 2007. It has delivered an integrated strategy for the sustainable management of landscape and cultural heritage in the Wadden Sea Region and several instruments connected with that aim like a management handbook and the description of historic landscape characteristics as well as pilot areas, which displayed the implementation of the strategy on a local level under the different conditions of the partner countries.

According to the bottom-up approach of the project, in every phase of development stakeholders had to be informed and involved. This had happened on numerous occasions and by many co-operations throughout the project.

With the completion of a draft integrated strategy it was required to consult stakeholders and partners once again for contributions and comments. It was agreed that, as part of the project, a consultation process about the draft integrated strategy would be carried out in May/June 2007 in each region in order to contribute to the overall content and aims and to the final international conference, which was held on the 19th of June in Wilhelmshaven. The discussion on the integrated strategy was supposed to take mainly place in regional workshops. This conference was the final regional workshop and conference for Schleswig-Holstein.

Participants of all relevant stakeholders and of the public were invited personally and by local newspapers. The integrated strategy was issued online beforehand for download on the regional homepage in the national language.

2.2 Programme

- At 10:00 Landrat Mr. Klimant welcomed all participants and introduced briefly into the county's historic and future development and on the importance of landscape and cultural heritage.
- Mr. Claus von Carnap-Bornheim, head of the archaeological monument agency of Schleswig-Holstein, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Schleswig-Holstein partner of the LancewadPlan project and led through the programme.
- Afterwards Mr. Matthias Maluck, project coordinator for Schleswig-Holstein, explained the connection between the concept of home and cultural heritage, the basic aims of LancewadPlan, its development, the assets of cultural heritage and its modern planning issues and gave an introduction into the principle of integrated management for cultural heritage and landscape.
- Mr. Manfred Vollmer, the international project coordinator, commenced with a general overview on the trilateral and sector strategies.
- Mr. Martin Segschneider, WADCULT member for Schleswig-Holstein, gave an insight into the system of landscape characterisation conducted by the project with 59 entity descriptions covering the whole of Wadden Sea Region.
- Introduced by Mr. Maluck, who covered the general aspects of the management handbook, Mr. Kruse from the municipality of Neuendeich in the county of Pinneberg presented a concrete best practice example from the region and explained the local approach and results of a sign-posted tour through the cultural heritage and landscape of Neuendeich.

- Mr. Segschneider gave an overview on the instruments developed in the pilot project of Oevenum on Föhr for the integrated management of cultural heritage on municipal level as another practical output of the project for local use.
- A discussion on the outcomes of the project moderated by Mr. Andreas Köhler, head of the department for Europa and regional development of the county of Pinneberg, concluded the workshop.

2.3 Outcome

The results of the discussion were comments on the strategies as well as proposals for amendments.

Integrated Strategy

- Further information on strategy and development by newsletter and e-mail.
- Presentation of the strategy in all relevant administrations like municipalities and counties.
- Communication of results to the highest political levels in state and regional capitals.
- Integration of the strategy in decision rules of sectors and administrations.
- Acceptance of different factual constraints, full variety of human needs, environmental considerations and spatial claims on landscape.
- Integration of the strategy and landscape information into regional and local spatial planning.
- Promotion of independence of cultural heritage related activities and projects from EU-financing in order to prevent excessive focus on EU money instead of local benefits.
- Further promotion and use of local initiatives and sponsorship according to the bottom-up principle.
- Best practice examples must be appealing and convincing.
- Integration of immaterial cultural heritage into the strategy and data is important. An ethnographical component should be added.
- A mapping of sensitive areas for cultural heritage is needed.
- A mapping of historic landscape character could be helpful.

Tourism

- Involvement of Tourism in the implementation of the strategy, in the spread of information on landscape and cultural heritage and in the development of tourist products and marketing. Make data accessible and readable for tourist managers.

Agriculture

- Exposition of problems of landscape change by economic interests in connection with renewable energies to governments and law makers. It is especially important to stress the growing influence of subsidies for landscape change and therefore its responsibility for a balanced policy.
- Put on the agenda the arbitrariness of some criteria for the promotion of renewable energy in connection with impact on landscape (destruction of historic landscape on the way to mitigating climate change).
- Adaptation of criticism and also strategies to present energy policies. Take up their issues.
- Exposition of problems of landscape change by large-scale live stock farming.

Nature conservation

- Improvement of protection of cultural heritage by contract based nature protection (agri-environment schemes).
- Common projects and further cooperation between nature and cultural heritage conservation.

- Acknowledgement of only small conflicts between nature and cultural heritage conservation.
- Communication among sectors and to cultural heritage management must be important part of strategy.

Coastal protection und water management

- Pick up important future developments like climate change.
- Increasing problems concerning fresh water drainage need to be put on the agenda.

2.4 Recommendations and comments

In general, the aims and visions of the strategy were shared and corroborated, emphasising a growing awareness for cultural heritage and landscape as important and endangered value. However, it was a common opinion that a wide acknowledgement of the strategy especially on political and administrative level is needed for the instruments to show effects. Many local initiatives need financial support but also backing by politicians and administrations to be able to spread among their fellow citizens and to find other local support, participation and sponsorship. Notably the overall co-ordination of cultural heritage and landscape related tasks can only be implemented by the highest political level and is a necessary component for the success of the strategy.

3. Regional Conference Lower Saxony

3.1 Introduction

On 13 June 2007, the Regional Conference in Lower Saxony was held in the Lower Saxon Landesarchiv-Staatsarchiv Oldenburg. The conference with the purpose to present the main project results and to discuss the draft trilateral strategy was announced as „*Die Zukunft unserer Heimat aktiv gestalten. Wege zur Entwicklung der Kulturlandschaften der Wattenmeerküste*“. The results of two-years work in LANCEWADPLAN were presented and intensively discussed with the few (7) participants, representing the most relevant stakeholders and organizations.

In order to present, discuss and publish the trilateral strategy, the whole document was translated in German („Das Wattenmeergebiet: eine lebendige historisch gewachsene Landschaft“), which was available on the project homepage (www.lancewadplan.org). The translation was necessary to increase the acceptance in both German Wadden Sea counties, Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein. The German version of the Strategy was warmly welcomed by the participants of the Oldenburg Conference – in times of growing European consciousness such initiatives will become more and more important to protect vulnerable ecosystems regardless of national borders.

3.2 Programme

- Opening and introduction
- Presentation of LANCEWADPLAN in Lower Saxony
- Presentation of the landscape characterization (cultural entities), the potentials and the vulnerabilities
- Presentation of the trilateral strategy and its discussion in working groups
- Pilot project „Altes Land“
- Sum up and conclusion

According to the agenda, firstly the work of the Lower Saxon partner of LancewadPlan was presented with an outline of the specific aims of the Lancewad and LancewadPlan projects. A special discussion concerned the mapping and inventarisation of the former Lancewad project, leading to the specific goals of LancewadPlan by transferring these results in planning basics, taking into account the specific difficulties of integrating cultural heritage issues in physical planning procedures. The participants on the Conference - including some experts in the field of comparable nature conservation issues – acknowledged the value and importance the trilateral strategy as an appropriate way to achieve the aims. They also stated that much effort would be needed to take even small steps in the process.

3.3 Discussion and outcome

With the description of the cultural entities, LancewadPlan defined characteristic regions, entailing relevant phenomena of the cultural landscape and realizing the high regional diversity. On the basis of these descriptions, possible problems and development chances of the whole Wadden Sea Region were distilled, which also lead to sectoral views on issues of cultural heritage. It was realized, that protection of the heritage should consider its different roles in the field of urban and settlement development, agriculture, nature protection, tourism and coastal defense, in order to consider the specific views on regulations and traditions.

Two more fundamental points were discussed with regard to the descriptions of the cultural entities. Firstly, it was stated that they should also be available in German language. The translation in the native language would be of utmost importance for integrating the results of LancewadPlan in the German countries. Secondly, it was realized, that such descriptions always were a product of their times and should be adapted to new developments. As the LancewadPlan project has nearly ended, other ways must be found to secure the work to be done. Furthermore, all initiated activities have to be continued and should be secured beyond the project end.

But regarding the weakness of the structures within the participating institutes or organizations, particularly due to recent governmental reforms in Germany, a continuation beyond the co-financed period of the project was seen quite problematical. There was no doubt that LancewadPlan has delivered sound information and impulses for protection of the cultural heritage, but as the success of such work on the long run basically depends on continuous engagement, the participants of the regional conference strongly plead for further activities by cultural heritage institutions in this field. It was realized however, that it would be difficult to identify organizations in Lower Saxony, which would have a broader scope and approach than a local view and interest. Tourist organizations in the area of the pilot project "Altes Land" for instance clearly showed the difficulties in working together on a more regional level and in developing common strategies.

Implementing cultural landscape protection and development in the way Lancewad and LancewadPlan were aiming at, would be most successfully practiced in cooperation with projects in the field of nature management. An example would be the development of the Biosphere reservations at the river Elbe. It should be taken into account that in that area some special professional institutions were founded, equipped with sound budgets and experienced staff, in order to transform the conservation and development approaches into practice.

The conference participants also discussed the strategy and came up with some further suggestions. In general, vulnerabilities of the cultural landscape and heritage were not only based on the regional and local management structures, but were also influenced by the regulations and directives from outside the area, particularly by the state and the EU. With regard to the topics of nature protection, water management and coastal defense it was suggested to also emphasize the role of human behavior. Often it is accepted that large scale changes would be necessary to secure the living the region, although these measures would have severe impacts on the landscape and cultural heritage.

The conference agreed that future tourism will focus much more on the cultural tourism sector. This sector should be further developed to meet the challenges of the coming years. Also the role of agriculture as a serious economic factor in the region was stressed. Farmers could not make their living only by maintaining the countryside and cultural landscapes.

3.4 Conclusion

Despite the low participation in the regional conference in Oldenburg, it must be stated that the conference was a positive experience in discussing problems of the preservation of the cultural heritage with members from different sectors and disciplines. Historians and museum employees, as well as nature conservationists from the county Wesermarsch and from BUND discussed their different views on the project results. It was not possible to discuss all details of the strategy because the group was too small to work in parallel workshops. So the discussions remained on a more general level and the participants were asked to deliver further comments in writing, which have been taken up in this conference report.

4. Regional Conference The Netherlands

4.1 Introduction

The invitations for this conference were sent out to organisations working in the field of landscape and cultural heritage, tourism, agriculture, nature protections and local and regional authorities. The regional conference was attended by 30 people. The participants received the complete draft trilateral strategy as well as some specific questions in advance. After a presentations on the LancewadPlan project and the content of the draft strategy and on the national management & development plan for the area, the full day program contained three (simultaneously held) workshops in the morning and three in the afternoon. During the lunch break the participants made a short excursion with a mission.

The regional conference on the draft trilateral strategy was combined with a consultative meeting about the role and position of landscape and cultural heritage in the national **B&O Plan Waddengebied** (= Management and Development Plan Wadden Sea Region) that was elaborated at that very moment as well. The discussions about the trilateral strategy in the Netherlands went at the moment side-by-side to the implementation in this management and development plan that was made by the national, regional and local authorities.

4.2 Programme

The subjects of the workshops were:

- The draft trilateral strategy in general
- The specific values of the landscape like openness, darkness, wide open sky's. How do we deal with conflicts
- Landscape and cultural heritage in relation to tourism, potentials and obstacles
- Landscape and cultural heritage in relation to agriculture, potentials and obstacles
- Landscape and cultural heritage in relation to water and coastal protection, potentials and obstacles
- Landscape and cultural heritage in relation to settlement developments, potentials and obstacles

The discussions in the workshops were very lively, were in good depth and sometimes had a wide range. Each workshop was facilitated by a chairman and a rapporteur.

4.3 Outcome

The draft trilateral strategy

- Four aspects were seen as being vital for the trilateral strategy on landscape and heritage management, i.e. vision and strategy; money; raising awareness and execute plans.
- Strategy: the trilateral strategy must offer different visions and strategies. Officials of the countries must be offered a choice between possible future visions. This must be done in the Trilateral Working Group (TWG) and the actualisation of the Wadden Sea Plan (WSP).
- The trilateral strategy must offer as well a top-down trail (what can be done trilateral and national) as a bottom-up approach (how to support and stimulate concrete, local action). National/regional programs fit best to work out the way these initiatives can be stimulated, supported, giving starting funds, etc. etc.
- The Wadden Fund that exists in the Netherlands for funding additional initiatives (socio-economic as well as ecological and heritage-based) is a possible instrument for the other regions as well to fund initiatives bottom-up.
- This fund is not open to fund structural management costs of landscape and heritage elements. Special provisions are therefore needed. In the Netherlands the Plea of Pingjum (Pleidooi van Pingjum) asks for these provisions and for all parties involved to co-operate).

- Raising awareness should focus in the first place on policy and decision makers, as they decide about the frameworks and the preconditions in which decisions about the landscape and heritage are taken.
- Raising awareness should in the second place concentrate on inhabitants (pride!), entrepreneurs (sustainable exploitation) and visitors (interesting regions).
- The spreading of knowledge should less focus on knowledge about the region's history, and should focus more on the knowledge about which concrete possibilities there are, where can money got from and where can you use it for, who must be contracted to reach a goal, what regulation can help to reach a certain goal, etc. Esp. local organisations lack these sorts of information.
- Knowledge management is the main aim of Interreg IV. These kinds of tools could be developed in a next Lancewad(Plan) Interreg project. Exchange of best practices and 'learning-on –the job' can be part of it and stimulate the trans-boundary exchange and co-operation.
- New activities in the framework of Lancewad(Plan) should focus on the execution of plans in practice.

Vulnerabilities and threats

- The landscape becomes more and more uniform; regional differences disappear
- The coastline becomes a coast of bricks and stones.
- High rise buildings, wind turbines, electricity poles, a variety of industrial and recreational buildings all contribute to a pollution of the horizon, the characteristic openness disappears

Village and town development

- Do not focus on architecture alone; the urban plan and it's structure are equally as vulnerable and as important.
- Urban Quality Plans that describe the "DNA" of a village or town and tells how to deal with these aspects in case of change can be of help. The quality plans have to give a 'design grammar'; rules how to act in different circumstances.
- Look also at the possibilities of introducing a landscape assessment report.

Nature, water management and coastal protection

- Give attention to the aspect of 'safety' (the technical and the emotional side of it) and place this in a historical context.
- Ask measurements to be taken to fit in a geographical and historical context.
- Dynamics in the management of coastal zones and nature means equal dynamics in the protection of the heritage. This is acceptable as long as decisions are taken in full awareness of their effects.
- Inland locations for water storage and/or nature development must take into account the historical development of the landscape.
- The European Maritime Green Paper offers opportunities for the integrated protection and management of the underwater heritage and the tuning of policies, rules and regulations. An action plan that is still in preparation may focus on aspects as a marine historic environment, on the development of a European knowledge management of the underwater heritage, etc.
- The actual MACHU-project (management of the cultural heritage underwater), in which a.o. UK, Germany and the Netherlands participate, can in the near future get a follow-up in a trilateral project on the underwater heritage in the Wadden Sea Region (and the Wash?).

Tourism

- Tourism is (in the Netherlands) concentrated on the islands. The opportunities (and vulnerabilities) of the Wadden Sea itself and of the mainland for tourism and recreation should be taken into account as well.
- Many opportunities to develop tourism are seen, but it lacks a binding structure (a regional recreation board) between local initiatives to create enough 'critical mass' to sustain.
- A regional recreation strategy is needed, esp. for the mainland.

Agriculture

- Development of the agricultural sector is of importance, particularly on the mainland. This still is a actual political fact. Agricultural development however may not lead to developments in the landscape that frustrate the diversification of land use by other economic sectors (from production to consumption landscape). Therefore the development of special, intensive kinds of agriculture should be limited to certain regions only.
- Two processes occur simultaneously: one group of farmers stops farming activities, while another group buys land and creates huge farms with enormous farmsteads and barns. The maintenance of historical farmsteads becomes therefore problematic. Also rules that tell what is acceptable (and what's not) lack.
- More and more farmers become interested in broadening the economic base of the farm, e.g. by offering B&B or offering services for nature and landscape management. Local funds are being created here and there to pay for these services.

Other, general remarks about the draft strategy:

- The trilateral strategy is too long and too abstract. Make it more concrete, offer choices and offer concrete results that can be achieved in the near future.
- Make clear what can best be done trilateral and what can best be done national/regional/local.
- Pay attention to valuable landscape aspects as darkness, silence, undisturbed horizons and other more aesthetic landscape values. In order to maintain these aspects, measurements have to be taken.
- Give more attention to the maritime aspect of the Region. See esp. the remarks about the Maritime Green Paper.
- The trilateral strategy focuses too much on the mainland
- Stimulate the alliance of the inhabitants with the (Wadden) Sea and the realisation of actual connections between sea and land (e.g. through sluices for ships).
- Be aware of possibilities to exchange knowledge via the Wadden Sea School or the International Wadden Academy.