

Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 13
28-29 January 2015
Wilhelmshaven**



Agenda Item:	5
Subject:	Wadden Sea transboundary Ramsar site
Document No.	WSB 13/5.5
Date:	21 january 2015
Submitted by:	Chair TG-M

In §73 of the Tønder Declaration the Wadden Sea States

Intend to list the Wadden Sea Ramsar sites as a trans-boundary Ramsar site "Wadden Sea" on the Ramsar List of international importance and thus contribute to the ongoing efforts of the Ramsar Convention to promote the trans-boundary aspect of the protection and the management of wetlands e.g. through enhanced flyway cooperation as mentioned above."

TG-M has discussed TD §73 and elaborated proposals for its implementation as in the attached document.

Proposal: The meeting is invited to discuss and decide upon the proposals by TG-M

Transboundary Ramsar site

Background

In §73 of the Ministerial Council Declaration from Tønder it is stated that the Wadden Sea states intend to list the Wadden Sea Ramsar Sites as one single trans-boundary Ramsar site.

„73. Intend to list the Wadden Sea Ramsar sites as trans-boundary Ramsar site “Wadden Sea” on the Ramsar List of international importance and thus contribute to the ongoing efforts of the Ramsar Convention to promote the trans-boundary aspect of the protection and the management of wetlands e.g. through enhanced flyway cooperation as mentioned above.”

This has been very positively received by the Ramsar Secretariat (see E.mail correspondence with Ramsar secretariat in Annex 2).

The implementation of §73 of the Tønder Declaration was not addressed by the WSB-12 meeting, nor is this issue contained in the Tønder Declaration Implementation Programme (see Annex 3 to WSB-12 summary record).

Proposals by TG-M

In preparation of TG-M 11 the TG-M chair contacted the Ramsar-Secretariat to find out, which formal procedure is needed for the implementation of § 73 of the Tønder Declaration. The following answer was received:

*“For the designation of a Transboundary Ramsar Site we need to receive a formal letter by the national Ramsar Administrative Authorities concerned. This can be three similar letters from each country, or one common letter signed by all three AAs.
In the case of the Danube-Morava-Dije floodplains confluence, the three countries Austria, Czech and Slovak Republic decided to give the Transboundary Ramsar Site a common English name, in addition to the 5 national Ramsar Sites with individual names, making up the Transboundary Ramsar Site. You may want to do the same for a “Transboundary Ramsar Site Waddensea” composed of the eight or so individual Ramsar Sites in DE, NL and DK.*

TG-M 11 discussed the information provided by the Ramsar Secretariat and prepared the following proposals/recommendations to the WSB

- To agree on the name “Transboundary Ramsar Site Wadden Sea”.
- To decide, whether three individual letters or one common letter signed by all three State Parties will be sent to the Ramsar secretariat
- To agree in principle on the draft letter to the Ramsar Secretary General in **Annex 1**
- To instruct the CWSS and TG-M to finalise the procedure (finalising the letter, identifying the proper signatories etc.) in consultation with the national Ramsar Focal Points, the Ramsar Secretariat and the WSB Heads of Delegations.

Annex 1. Draft letter to Ramsar

Dear Secretary General,

To fulfil the commitment made by the States Parties Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands at the 12th Trilateral Conference on the Protection of the Wadden Sea (Tønder, Denmark, 2014) we jointly request the Ramsar Secretariat to register the wetland site “Wadden Sea” as a Transboundary Ramsar Site.

The site consists of eight sites already designated under Ramsar:

<u>Denmark:</u>	No. 356: Vadehavet (Wadden Sea)
<u>Germany:</u>	No. 501: Hamburgisches Wattenmeer
	No. 537: Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea and adjacent areas
	No. 80: Wattenmeer, Elbe-Weser-Dreieck
	No. 81: Wattenmeer, Jadebusen & westliche Wesermündung
	No. 82: Wattenmeer, Ostfriesisches Wattenmeer & Dollart
<u>The Netherlands:</u>	No. 1252: Waddeneilanden, Noordzeekustzone, BreebaartNo. 289:
	Waddenzee (Wadden Sea) – including No. 195: Boschplaat

By designating these eight important wetlands as the Transboundary Ramsar Site “Wadden Sea”, we emphasise once more our willingness to jointly manage these sites and accept this shared responsibility.

Annex 2. E-mail Ramsar secretary to national contact points

From: SALATHE Tobias [<mailto:salathe@ramsar.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, 21. January 2014 17:14

To: nst@nst.dk; ladin@nst.dk; Nielsen, Flemming; Pouplier, Peter; a.j.pel@mineleni.nl; Schmitz, Joachim; j.van.baalen@minlnv.nl; r.p.van.brouwershaven@minlnv.nl; verheij@waddenvereniging.nl; soemj@nst.dk; anhma@nst.dk; info@waddensea-secretariat.org; enemark@waddensea-secretariat.org
Cc: knud.flensted@dof.dk; mokro@nst.dk; helie@nst.dk; karl-heinz.erdmann@bfn.de; Friedrich, Jürgen; bettina.hedden-dunkhorst@bfn.de; stefan.stuebing@dda-web.de; luc.hoogenstein@vogelbescherming.nl; m.j.p.j.jenniskens@minlnv.nl; m.k.a.meijerink@minlnv.nl; EUROPE; reply@conferencemanager.dk

Subject: Waddensea to become the largest Transboundary Ramsar Site

Dear Ramsar Focal Points in Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands

The next Trilateral Governmental Waddensea Conference will take place in Tønder, Denmark, on 4-6 February. This will be a unique opportunity to celebrate World Wetlands Day through the planned designation of the eight existing Ramsar Sites in the three countries as a common "Transboundary Ramsar Site Wadden Sea", as proposed in paragraph 73 of the attached draft Ministerial Declaration.

Such a "Transboundary Ramsar Site" designation is very appropriate, given the trilateral governmental conferences that guide the coordinated management process and given the long established Common Wadden Sea Secretariat dealing on a day-to-day basis with technical issues of wise use and management of this outstanding wetland ecosystem.

If you are not participating personally in the conference, thanks for briefing your colleagues who participate about this issue. And please do encourage them to support this development. After the conference, I am looking forward to follow up with you in order to formalize the transboundary designation. We would require to receive here at the Ramsar Secretariat a letter signed by the representatives of the three national Ramsar Administrative Authorities in Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands (or three separate letters), informing us about the common decision to have the eight individual Ramsar Sites listed in the three countries being considered as part of one overarching "Transboundary Ramsar Site". Each country will retain its full national sovereign rights for the Ramsar Sites on its territory.

Currently, there exist 16 such declared Transboundary Ramsar Sites in the world, they are listed [here](#) on the Ramsar website, where you find more information.

I would like to thank the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, our Danish Ramsar authority, and all those of you who contributed and will continue to contribute to this significant development. Many thanks.

These are the individual existing Ramsar Sites in:

Denmark: Ramsar Site 356 Vadehavet (Wadden Sea)
Germany: Ramsar Site 501 Hamburgisches Wattenmeer
RS 537 Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea and adjacent areas
RS 80 Wattenmeer, Elbe-Weser-Dreieck
RS 81 Wattenmeer, Jadebusen & westliche Wesermündung
RS 82 Wattenmeer, Ostfriesisches Wattenmeer & Dollart
Netherlands: Ramsar Site 1252 Waddeneilanden, Noordzeekustzone, Breebaart
RS 289 Waddenzee (Wadden Sea) – including RS 195 Boschplaat

Unfortunately, due to our workload and other commitments, this time, nobody from the Ramsar Secretariat can participate in this Governmental Conference. But we trust that you will represent the objectives and aims of the Ramsar Convention perfectly at this occasion.

Wishing you all a very successful conference and looking forward to learn about its outcomes soon.

Kind regards

Tobias Salathé