

Cultural heritage in the joint declaration?

The cooperation of municipalities and museums in the Danish Wadden Sea Region request to address the interest of cultural heritage in the joint declaration of 2018. Cultural heritage was a part of the joint declaration of 2010 but disappeared from the Tønder Declaration in 2014.

Background

The Wadden Sea Region features one of the most extensive, well-preserved cultural landscapes, much of which survives. Its history of reclamation and management is also much older than many comparable areas; this latter point is a particularly important element of its significance. At first glance, the worldwide historical impact of the Wadden Sea Region is most easily seen in the engineering processes that have transformed the landscape. However, the extraordinary cultural importance of the Wadden Sea Region lies in the less immediately obvious effects on human consciousness. From this point of view, the water management techniques developed here can be compared with the development of mining techniques or the construction of railways. The historical development and great success of water management techniques have had a major influence in transforming humanity's understanding of the relationship with the natural world in general and the sea in particular.

Many of the sites also played an important role within trading networks. The Wadden Sea Region provided access to the German interior through the Ems, Weser, Elbe and Eider rivers and the Hanseatic cities of Bremen and Hamburg, as well as markets around the North Sea and farther afield.

The trans-boundary cooperation across the Wadden Sea Region's cultural landscape of the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark occupies a very special position. Ultimately, the quality of this world class landscape depends upon the same approach to its maintenance and development, creating awareness of its unique values and engaging people. It is, therefore, immensely encouraging that, in the renewed 'Joint Declaration on the Protection of the Wadden Sea' (2010), the governments of the three Wadden Sea countries agreed to maintaining the landscape and cultural heritage of the Wadden Sea Region an objective of their cooperation.

Monitoring and mapping

- Cooperation with natural managers to benefit from their experience with mapping
- Mapping existing national, regional and local registrations of buildings, constructions and other human made structures and elements in the landscape

Scope of the assignment

- Two to four workshops with relevant stakeholders to outline the process and to develop a mapping model

- Data recording

The aim

To achieve a mapped status of the cultural heritage in the Wadden Sea Region.