

## Trilateral Wadden Sea Climate Change Adaptation (CCAS) Strategy & BwN

Since 1978, the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark have cooperated to protect the Wadden Sea as an ecological entity. Climate change and enhanced sea level rise may seriously impact the structure, functions and characteristic biodiversity of the Wadden Sea ecosystem, as well as the safety of the inhabitants in the region. Addressing these impacts as a cross cutting theme is a major challenge for the Trilateral Cooperation. A trilateral climate change adaptation strategy (CCAS) with seven principles was developed by the Wadden Sea Board's Task Group Climate managers, to be implemented in projects and management actions.

### Seven CCAS principles

#### Natural dynamics

The Wadden Sea ecosystem has adapted to environmental changes for more than 5,000 years. In a natural state, sediment redistribution maintains a dynamic equilibrium. Allowing and restoring natural dynamics increases the resilience of the Wadden Sea to climate change.

#### Interconnectivity

Interconnectivity of habitats allows species and communities to follow shifts of climatic conditions; thereby preventing species extinction and securing adaptation of characteristic biodiversity far beyond its borders.

#### Integration

Climate Change is a cross-cutting theme and requires an integrated approach across borders and disciplines.

#### Flexibility

To cope with given uncertainties of climate change predictions, a flexible approach is required. Adaptive management facilitates adequately and timely responses to new information on actual and projected changes in drivers and impacts and tipping points.

#### Long-term approach

Climate change and accelerated sea level rise are gradual processes that need a long-term management approach.

#### Site specific approach

Challenges and optimal adaptation may differ throughout the Wadden Sea region and hence require local solutions (while keeping best-practice examples of other regions in mind).

#### Participation

Active involvement of a wide range of stakeholders should lead to awareness for the challenges of climate change and acceptance of adaptation measures.

**References:** Task Group Climate (2017) Trilateral Wadden Sea Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Monitoring Report. for the Trilateral Cooperation for the Protection of the Wadden Sea. Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Wilhelmshaven, Germany.  
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