

The World Heritage Site Wadden Sea
is threatened by sea level rise.



islands

salt marshes

Hallig islands

mudflats

dunes

dykes

sediments

storm tides

underwater world

Growing with the Sea

Save the Wadden Sea from Climate Change

In the photo: storm surge on a small „island“ in the Wadden Sea (Hallig Langeness). A threat to humans and nature. Nevertheless, regular flooding is also necessary: It brings new sediments to the low lying land and let it grow with the sea.

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The threat from sea level rise

Wadden Sea World Heritage endangered

Climate change threatens the unique nature of the southern North Sea coast: mudflats, salt marshes, beaches and dunes, even entire islands. They are in danger of being lost in the future due to accelerated sea level rise.



The example of birds

10 million waterbirds come to the Wadden Sea from their breeding grounds in the Arctic. Dunlin (photo), Knot & Co. need the huge mudflats for feeding. If they are lost, these birds will be under threat. This also applies to one million breeding coastal birds such as oystercatchers. Their breeding grounds are more and more frequently threatened by flooding.

Global climate protection can save the Wadden Sea

But, in addition, adaptation to the consequences of climate change is necessary because some of them cannot be stopped anymore.

What to do for adaptation? Live with the water!

There are two things: protect people from storm surges, and protect the Wadden Sea from man-made sea-level rise.

WWF proposals for climate adaptation in the Wadden Sea:

- Strengthen the natural resilience of the coast by protecting and restoring dunes and salt marshes.
- Wherever possible, use soft shore protection by working with nature (such as sand suppletion) instead of using asphalt and concrete.
- Large parts of the Wadden Sea may need to grow through addition of sediment in the longer term.
- The land behind the dykes should also be included in smart adaptation to sea-level rise.
- New ideas for climate adaptation need to be tested and shared by coastal protection, nature conservation and other organisations.

The WWF is committed to this – by requesting public support, in practical projects, and together with partners.

Further information: [wwf.de/watt/klima](https://www.wwf.de/watt/klima) | Contact: jannes.froehlich@wwf.de