Regional activities of NLPV

**National Park Partner:**

* The annual partner meeting took place as a digital meeting on 30 April 2021
* Despite Corona, there have been further entries into the National Park's partner initiative; 5 new members in the last few weeks alone, including the first shipping company, DB Fernverkehr AG / Inselverkehr Wangerooge. The partner network of the Lower Saxony Wadden Sea National Park and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve now comprises around 270 partners. See <https://www.nationalpark-wattenmeer.de/news/gemeinsam-aktiv-fuer-das-wattenmeer/>
* Projects of the Partner program:
	+ Biosphere menu Days (Biosphärenmenütage) 11 -19 September 2021. The partivcipating restaurants are offering a menu based on regional food. The response was good, some of the dishes were already booked up. <https://www.nationalpark-partner-wattenmeer-nds.de/biosphaeren-menue-tage>
	+ 6 Biosphere concerts 24 June – 18 September 2021 This is a series of concerts in summer with up to 150 guests. There is an educational part at the beginning, introducing partnership initiative and other projects and aspects linked to the biosphere; involving several members of the partnership initiative. The musicians involved are regional bands. <https://www.nationalpark-wattenmeer.de/news/es-geht-wieder-los-biosphaeren-konzerte-2021/>

**Expansion of the transition zone of the UNESCO Biosphere reserve Lower Saxon Wadden sea**

* The proces of the expansion has reached the next level: 12 communities have signed a cooperation agreement and committed their intent to be part of the future transition zone. On this base an application to the national MAB Committee is prepared by NLPV to End of October 2021. There it will be discussed before an Application is placed to the Unesco, a proces that is meant to take 1,5years.
* Meanwhile the cooperation with the communities starts already with local and regional projects defined in the cooperation agreement to bring the transition zone as a model region for sustainable development to live. The participating communities are representing urban areas as well as rural areas. A map and more information is shown on <http://www.watten.land>

**Other topics of NLPV**

* The next migratory bird days will be held 9 -17 September 2021. The this year partner country is Gambia, a delegation will visit Lower Saxony.

<https://www.zugvogeltage.de/>

* Tor zum Nationalpark: Im Gegensatz zu anderen Nationalparken ist der Nationalpark Wattenmeer durch viele Zugänge gekennzeichnet und daher für Gäste nicht so wahrnehmbar, wenn sie ihn betreten. Mit ersten modellhaften Stelen soll das sichtbarer werden, es wurde eine auf Norderney und am Langwarder Groden aufgestellt, die auf Norderney ist nach Diebstahl zwischenzeitlich ersetzt worden: <https://www.nationalpark-wattenmeer.de/news/unbekannte-zerstoeren-begruessungsstele-im-nationalpark/>

**PROWAD LINK**

* a training concept to better transmit the OUV of the world heritage is ready as a draft version. A pilot took place in May. The training is planned as a two days training for certified national park guides; guidance material is in progress too.
* A virtual co-creation workshop took place in March to develop a business concept of a sustainable gastronomical offer beyond the classic restaurant business; the business concept is in draft version, a implementation partner for a pilot is to be found

**Watten-Agenda 2.0**
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* A checklist sustainable event management is published in german and dutch, developed in cocreation with regional event managers, german version <https://www.watten-agenda.de/fileadmin/ostfriesland/PDF/Checkliste_Nachhaltig_Veranstalten_Wattenmeerregion-Watten-Agenda2_0.pdf>
* In August 2021, the islands of Pellworm and Spiekeroog were recognised as Star Islands by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) from Tucson, USA. Katrin Kirfel from the NLPV worked on the application for Spiekeroog and the establishment of three observation sites with local stakeholders as part of the Wadden Sea Agenda 2.0. <https://www.nationalpark-wattenmeer.de/news/pellworm-und-spiekeroog-als-erste-sterneninseln-deutschlands-ausgezeichnet/>
* Watt Mooi Style Guide for accommodations and restaurants published by Die Nordsee GmbH in german (and Merk Fryslan in dutch ) and distributed to local DMOs and National Park partner. The brochure is available online <https://www.watten-agenda.de/styleguide>

A roadshow with visits of best practice cases is planned for autumn.

* Audio guide mudflats walk with joke Pouliart is in process of producing, at 4 stations aspects of the OUV of WSWH are explained. The audio guide is to be distributed by QR-Codes at points of interest in the region.

**WNE-Forum:** *The date and location of the regional World Heritage Forum is fixed: 9th December 2021 in Aurich*