

## Discussion on the NRP assessment report "Impact of climate change on the Wadden Sea"

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After the clear presentation by W. Wolff (IBN-DLO), coordinator of the 'Wadden' project cluster, a short discussion took place. W. Roeleveld (Free University Amsterdam) commented that the geological sedimentation record in the Wadden Sea is worth studying from the palaeo-ecological point of view. J. Terwindt (Utrecht University) commented that further research from his team will focus on fine elements deposition and on spatial analysis of vegetation gradients.

Van Rompaey asked whether climate change may cause loss of biodiversity in the Wadden Sea. Wolff answered that changes in species composition are likely to occur, but that the system does not have as high biodiversity as, e.g. dune ecosystems, and that great losses are not to be expected. However, there may occur important shifts in population size of a number of species, like mussels, which do change the appearance and functioning of the system considerably.

De Boer (DGM) asked whether temperature changes on the breeding grounds in the Arctic may also have consequences for nature values in the Wadden Sea. Wolff affirmed that this certainly will be the case and that the interrelations of the Wadden Sea with the global system are part of the research questions of the NRP-II project, especially considering birds.