Many conservation measures focus on the protection of wading birds and the factors responsible for their densities and distributions in the Wadden Sea. Accurate monitoring of waders is necessary for their successful management.

Existing methods are being analysed, to determine the best possible combination of techniques to unambiguously map the distribution of waders at low tide (e.g. direct observations, transmitters, and bird radar).

The Wadden Sea region is recognised globally for its natural values. Conservation of these natural values is regulated under numerous frameworks including the EU Birds, Habitats, and Water Framework Directives, and the Dutch Nature and Landscape Management Subsidy Scheme. The Wadden Sea is also listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, a Ramsar Site, an OSPAR area, and a UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve. Due to the numerous management frameworks, the coordination of monitoring activities and the exchange of data and information are currently suboptimal.

MONITORING IS NECESSARY FOR MUDFLAT MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF WADING BIRDS

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