

Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 18
3 November 2016
Wilhelmshaven**



Agenda Item: 5.2
Subject: Report TG-MM
Document No. WSB 18/5.2/1
Date: 12 October 2016
Submitted by: CWSS

Attached is the progress report of the Task Group Management and Monitoring (TG-MM)

Proposal: The meeting is invited to note the report and to endorse the proposals

TASK GROUP MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING (TG-MM)

PROGRESS REPORT TO WSB-18

The TG-MM 16 meeting was held 28-29 September in Bremen and chaired by Mr Bernard Baerends.

TG-MM discussed the following issues:

IMPLEMENTATION TØNDER DECLARATION

Flyway cooperation

TD §16. Agree to continue and where necessary expand the cooperation on management and research along the entire East Atlantic Flyway, as outlined in the vision in Annex 2, shared by relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations.

The Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) is ongoing.

After the total census of the East Atlantic Flyway in 2014 a new one will be carried out in 2017 organized by SOVON and financed by PRW (2016: €148.000; 2017 €75.000). The new results will statistically improve the results of 2014 and will give additional information on declining migratory bird populations in the Wadden Sea. PRW will support the WSFI monitoring activities until 2018.

After the initial project on capacity building (2011-2015) two new capacity building orientated projects financed by BMUB with € 50,000 and € 60,000 were launched in 2015 and 2016.

TG-MM acknowledged that raising awareness about the WSFI is essential for securing the continuous support for the project.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

Management and wardening

TD §18. Therefore also strive for intensifying the cooperation at the operational management level.

TD §19. Ensure that there is adequate wardening over the whole Wadden Sea.

The Netherlands is still working on the organisation of a wardening workshop for which a new day is being sought. So far, the interest seems to be low. It is the intention to invite 8 persons to one of the Dutch inspection vessels.

There have been three attempts to organise a trilateral workshop with site managers, so far without success, due to the low interest expressed.

TG-MM sees three options to continue:

- TG-MM takes over the coordination of the workshop;
- A new attempt is made at a low-key level to bring together managers and wardens in an informal setting;
- The issue is connected with the activities of the Partnership Centre.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information and to decide how to proceed

N2000 roof report

TD §23 Agree therefore to cooperate in evaluating the assessments under the Habitats Directive, also with the aim to prepare a common Natura 2000 roof report for the Wadden Sea.

Reports on the assessment of the Wadden Sea according to N2000 methodology have been submitted to the CWSS. The information is now being checked for completeness and quality, after which a trilateral workshop can be organised with the aim of comparing the results and preparing a roof report..

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

Breeding Bird Action Plan

TD §25. Instruct the WSB to develop and implement a trilateral Action Plan on improving conditions for breeding birds.

As a first step in the implementation of the Breeding Bird Action Plan an international workshop on predator management will be held. The workshop is scheduled for early 2017 and the financial support has been secured.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

Seal Agreement

TD §27. Therefore continue the cooperation in the context of the Seal Agreement, including the Seal Management Plan, which will be updated in 2016, reconfirming the guidelines on taking and releasing of seals.

The TSEG is currently reviewing the SMP. Amendments have been discussed and a second round of updating is almost finalised. TG-MM proposed to invite the TSEG members to the TG-MM meeting to discuss the final draft SMP before submission to WSB.

Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach

Fish targets

TD §28. Acknowledge the importance of fish for the Wadden Sea ecosystem and therefore instruct the WSB to work on the further implementation of the trilateral fish targets of the Wadden Sea Plan.

The WSB-17 meeting in principle supported the Swimway project plan. TG-MM has discussed the proposals from the updated Swimway project plan and would like to see the organisational structure simplified. TG-MM decided to assign members for a coordination group. A workshop of all involved experts and managers to further discuss implementation details is planned for 17-18 November 2016. TG-MM proposed to reserve financial support for the further implementation of the Swimway project in the Supplementary Budget.

Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach

Alien species

§35. Instruct the WSB to further develop the trilateral strategic framework for dealing with alien species in the Wadden Sea and to coordinate the further development of an alien species management and action plan, taking into account existing and upcoming legislation and projects.

In the past three years the Working Group Alien Species (WG-AS) has worked on the elaboration of a trilateral Alien Species Management and Action Plan, following the decision of the 2014 Tønder Conference to further develop the Trilateral Strategic Framework for Alien Species (TSFAS) and to coordinate the further development of an alien species management action plan.

The work done by WG-AS is guided by the policy circle (Figure 1) and has so far concentrated on Box 2, “Early Detection and Warning”. Activities carried out so far are

- Development of a trilateral alien species list for marine species
- Development of a proposal for a harmonised monitoring program for alien species in the Wadden Sea (TMAP-AS)

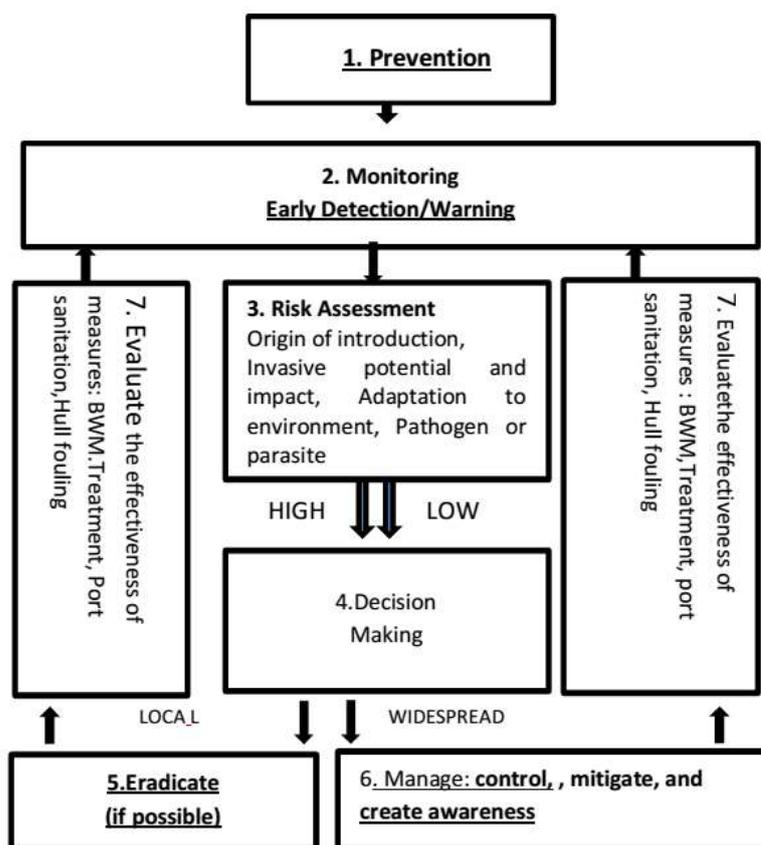
The focus of WG AS activities in the coming year will be on the following

- to extend the current list of aquatic alien species to cover terrestrial alien species in the Wadden Sea area.
- to organize a workshop for discussing the new TMAP-AS proposal with relevant experts and stakeholders. This workshop is scheduled for 23-24 November 2016 in Hamburg and will focus on the proposals from the TMAP-AS report. The workshop is intended for experts and managers, since also feasibility of implementing the proposals must be discussed.
- to develop a common methodology for alien species risk assessment (Box 3). A study will be commissioned to inventorise and evaluate current systems for pre-risk assessment, i.e. to identify those species for which a full risk assessment is needed. The full risk assessment will in principle be based upon the system applied in the EU Alien Species Regulation.
- to organise a workshop on Prevention and Awareness Raising (Boxes 1 and 6). This workshop has been preliminary scheduled for 28-29 March 2017. The IWSS will be asked to organise the workshop.
- To organise a workshop on Eradication and Management of alien species (Boxes 5 and 6). This workshop will be scheduled May or June 2017.

On the basis of the above studies and workshops WG-AS will prepare an integrated proposal for an alien species management and action plan, scheduled to be submitted to TG-MM in September 2017.

Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach

Figure 1. Alien species management cycle



Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP)

TD §60. Adopt the long-term common TMAP strategy as in Annex 6 as the basis for the further development of the TMAP, in close connection with the scientific community, with the aim to further increase its value in implementing EU Directives, and providing information for a wider range of stakeholders, also through the further development of the information system to allow for a better access of the data.

TG-MM is currently collecting information on the national status of implementation of the TMAP, on the basis of which an evaluation will be carried out on the need for amending the TMAP for new developments, such as breeding success, alien species and climate change.

TG-MM furthermore proposes to organise a workshop on data handling, in which TDG members and members of the former TMAG will participate. At the workshop the current trilateral data handling system will be discussed and evaluated with the aim of arriving at a structural long-term solution for trilateral data handling, including financial support.

Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach

Quality Status Report

TD §61. Instruct the WSB to elaborate the next Wadden Sea Quality Status (Outlook) Report for 2016 in time for the 2018 Conference, in order also to be in line with the reporting cycles of the N2000 Directives and Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Progress in the preparation of the QSR is delayed because of the sick leave of Sascha Klöpper. About 85% of the Thematic Reports is in a final drafting stage. TG-MM proposed that all persons involved in the production of the QSR be informed about the situation and that a meeting of the Editorial Board is organised as soon as possible to discuss the drafting of the Synthesis Report. The aim should be to present the draft Synthesis Report at the ISWSS in May 2017 (see further below). TG-MM will furthermore do a consistency check of the contents of the State of Conservation Report with the contents of the latest drafts of the Thematic Reports. TG-MM furthermore decided to carry out an evaluation of the production of the QSR, including the financing, after finalisation of the process.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information and to endorse the approach

Science Cooperation

TD §63. Encourage discussions by the scientific community and policy makers on the major policy issues and related knowledge as a basis for further developing a trilateral research agenda and a trilateral research platform.

TG-MM was informed about the progress in the development of a trilateral Research Agenda by Jouke van Dijk, chairman of the supervising group. Draft reports of the five thematic groups are now available. The drafting of an integrated report, including options for financing research themes, will be commissioned in the coming months. In this process also the relevant research proposals from the QSR Thematic Reports will be included. A discussion on the integrated report with scientists and managers is envisaged for December 2016/January 2017. This workshop should provide guidance on the product to be delivered to the 2018 Conference. A first full draft Research Agenda will be the central issue at the upcoming International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (see further below). TG-MM pointed to the need for a close connection of the research agenda with the OUV.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

Trilateral Wadden sea Cooperation 2014 – 18

TD §84. Intend to hold the 14th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium in Denmark before the next conference on the invitation of the Danish Government.

TG-MM was informed about the status of preparation of the 14th international scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS-14), which will be held May 9 – 11, 2017 in Tønder, Denmark.

The primary aim of Symposium is to establish a trilateral research agenda and platform, which is to be presented to the Ministers' meeting in 2018. At the symposium the results of the five task groups in the fields of geosciences, ecology, economy and society, cultural heritage, climate and water will be presented. Key

interdisciplinary questions and challenges will be addressed, and a specific session on data handling issues is foreseen, addressing acquisition, quality assurance, storage and dissemination of data

Organizers of the symposium are The Danish Wadden Sea National Park and The Danish Agency for Water and Nature management.

The Research Council of The Danish Wadden Sea National Park, chaired by Mette Guldborg, acts as the symposiums scientific committee, with support from task forces. It is intended to extend the scientific committee with German and Dutch members.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information