

# Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 19  
24 March 2017  
Wilhelmshaven**



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**Agenda Item:** 5.1  
**Subject:** Preparation of a Single Integrated Management Plan  
**Document No.** WSB 19/5.1/3  
**Date:** 15 March 2017  
**Submitted by:** TG-WH

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Attached is a status report in preparation of the Single Integrated Management Plan (SMIP) as agreed by WSB 17 which informs WSB 19 on the proposed content and timeline of the SIMP.

The meeting is referred to the document

**Proposal:** The meeting is invited to note respectively discuss the status of preparation of the SIMP process, and instruct TG-WH, in cooperation with TG-MM, to prepare a more detailed SIMP proposal to the WSB 20 together with a draft SIMP decision for inclusion in the Draft Ministerial Council Declaration.

## **Preparation of a Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP)**

### **1. Introduction**

WSB adopted the preparation of a SIMP for the Wadden Sea World Heritage property as outlined in document WSB 17/5.1/2 ([http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/sites/default/files/Meeting\\_Documents/WSB/WSB17/wsb\\_17-5-1-2-proposal-simp-final.pdf](http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/sites/default/files/Meeting_Documents/WSB/WSB17/wsb_17-5-1-2-proposal-simp-final.pdf)). The document analysed the current management situation and described the added value and characteristics of a SIMP. The main elements of the document including timeline were integrated into the State of Conservation Report which was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 30 November 2016.

With letter of 16 January 2017, the World Heritage Centre noted the proposed timeline for the preparation of a Single Integrated Management Plan and requested the States Parties to keep the World Heritage Centre updated with the development.

TG-WH decided to install an ad-hoc drafting group (with representatives of TG-WH and TG-MM) which had a first discussion on 1 March 2017 and will prepare a SIMP proposal to the next TG-WH meeting on 30 May.

### **2. Functions of a SIMP**

As described in document WSB 17/5.1/2 (see above), main added values of a SIMP are:

- Strengthening the protection of OUV and integrity as shared responsibility to manage the property as one entity and supporting the countries in implementation of trilateral strategies and plans on the ground.
- Providing umbrella plan to integrate existing trilateral strategies and plans without losing their commonly agreed content, while being respectful of existing regional management systems, and which can be easily read and understood by stakeholders.
- Enhanced involvement of stakeholders in development and implementation of management plans (ownership and commitment),
- Providing a clearer picture of resources needs and transparency how the management system functions,
- Bridging the gaps between the strategic objectives and policies of the Wadden Sea Plan, trilateral action plans and implementation in different parts of the Wadden Sea, and between the trilateral policy level and the level of site managers. Thereby striving towards a harmonization of management on the ground while taking into account the regional management systems and regional differences.

The ad-hoc drafting group discussed the further preparation of the SIMP as outlined in the report to WSB in June 2016. The following additional issues were addressed:

- A guidance note on a SIMP should provide more explanation on SIMP requirements and elements.
- SIMP should involve local partners in trilateral work and management, e.g. focussing on selected stakeholder group and at maximum the 10 most important management items.
- Focus on process towards a SIMP important to ensure stakeholder involvement from the beginning.
- SIMP development should focus on making management more transparent and effective rather than discussion on the legal status of a SIMP.

- TG-MM needs to be involved in SIMP development through regular information and joint workshops.
- Budget related issues should be considered when developing a SIMP, taking into account that in existing trilateral plans and strategies, resources have not been allocated.
- Assessment of SIMP could be aligned to Ministerial Conferences (e.g. by a policy assessment report); the QSR can be regarded as an effective tool for the assessment of main elements.

The SIMP should provide:

- A simple overview on main issues of WH management,
- A instrument to enhance connection of management to OUV,
- A tool to communicate TWSC management to manager and stakeholders with the aim to enhance their engagement in trilateral management,
- A tool to increase effectiveness of management,
- An indication of resources allocated to management measures, and responsibilities on regional, national and trilateral levels.

The SIMP should also be a concise and short document (maximum of 40 pages) and reduce the complexity of WH management. It should be easy to read in order to better connect to people on the ground. It should in general follow WHC and IUCN advice on WH management plans.

### **Selection of main management issues**

The number of management of human activities in the SIMP should be limited to 4-5 topics plus 3-4 nature protection topics, which should be selected according following criteria:

- Main management issues at trilateral level (as reflected in the Tønder Declaration 2014, and existing strategies and action plans),
- Urgent need to speed up and enhance management effectiveness,
- Necessity to approach issues in a trilateral approach,
- Relevance for OUV and management challenges as mentioned by WHC and IUCN (in the relevant WH Committee Decisions and in the Periodic Reporting)

A preliminary overview of management themes is listed in the SIMP structure in Annex 1 which will be further developed to WSB 20. The proposed contents reflect the current priorities of TWSC (MD 2014), but contents and priorities may be adapted during the SIMP process involving stakeholders. The proposed content is preliminary and should support the SIMP discussion rather than to fix the contents. A flexible approach is envisaged.

### **4. Timeline**

1. Discussion proposal SIMP process (first half 2017) including extent and process of stakeholder involvement. Integration of feedback by WSB 19.
2. Preparation SIMP proposal and process by TG-WH/MM to WSB 20 (June 2017) including proposal for draft Ministerial Council Declaration.
3. Consultation of SIMP proposal as part of the preparation of the draft Ministerial Council Declaration (second half 2017).
4. Decision on development of a SIMP at the 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Council Meeting in May 2018.
5. Start of SIMP development according to the Ministerial Declaration in June 2018 by preparing a project plan for the period 2018- 2021.
6. Adoption of SIMP at 14<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Council Meeting.

## **5. Proposal**

WSB to note respectively discuss the status of preparation of the SIMP process, and instruct TG-WH, in cooperation with TG-MM, to prepare a more detailed SIMP proposal to the WSB 20 together with a draft SIMP decision for inclusion in the Draft Ministerial Council Declaration.

## **ANNEX 1 Preliminary SIMP Structure**

*[Explanatory note: The SIMP should be a rolling plan covering a period of at least 5 years, therefore, focus and contents may change / adapted over time]*

### **Introduction**

- Rationale
- Function
- Planning process and stakeholder involvement (according to items below)
- Management cycle and assessment (appr. 5 years, ideally synchronized with TGCs and QSRs,)
- Policy assessment (at TGCs)

### **The Wadden Sea**

- (citation of OUV)

### **The Trilateral Cooperation**

- Guiding principle
- Joint declaration
- Structure
- Financial and administrative arrangements
- Stakeholder involvement

#### World Heritage

- Policy: WH Strategy and implementation
- Partnership Center, Stakeholder involvement
- WH Foundation

### **The management system**

- (Starting from nomination dossiers including WSP, TMAP, TMAP Strategy, QSRs.)

### **Management items period 1 (2018 – 2023)**

For each management item the following sub-chapter will be addressed

- Policy
- Management and Action Plan
- Monitoring
- Stakeholder involvement

### **Subjects of Integrated Management;**

*[Explanatory note: Topics reflect the current TWSC priorities and issues addressed in the Statement of OUV; final decision on which issues to be taken up in this SIMP at a later stage]*

#### **1. Human activities:**

1.1 Alien species

1.2 Sustainable Fishery

a: Blue Mussels, b: Oysters, c: Cockles, d: Shrimps

1.3 Energy: Oil, gas, wind energy

1.4 Marine Litter *[note: not yet addressed trilaterally but emerging issue]*

1.5 Climate change (CO<sub>2</sub> reduction/ climate change adaptation)

1.6 Sustainable Tourism

1.7 Harbors/ dredging/ shipping

## **2. Nature Protection**

*[Explanatory note: Not all attributes of OUV have been addressed so far (e.g. geology, processes and biotopes. QSR results to be included)]*

2.1 Breeding Birds

2.2 Fish

2.3 Subtidal Habitats

2.4 Marine mammals

## **3. Education, Outreach and Public Participation**

- IWSS,
- Communication Strategy

## **4. Cooperation (Policy, Management and Actions)**

- Sustainable regional development
- International cooperation
- Flyway Initiative
- World Heritage Marine Programme