

Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 19
24 March 2017
Wilhelmshaven**



Agenda Item: 5.2
Subject: Report TG-MM
Document No. WSB 19/5.2/1
Date: 6 March 2017
Submitted by: CWSS

Attached is the progress report on the themes for which the Task Group Management and Monitoring (TG-MM) is responsible.

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-19

The TG-MM 17 meeting was held 18-19 January 2017 in Hamburg and chaired by Mr Bernard Baerends.

TG-MM discussed the following issues:

CHAIRPERSON TG-MM

The chair of TG-MM has been vacant since the change of position of Ms. Hedtkamp. Mr. Baerends has acted as interim chair for the last three meetings. Denmark has indicated to be willing to take over the chair of TG-MM. For capacity reasons, however, they will only be able to do so starting in June 2017, because the designated chairman, Henrik Pind Jørgensen, is fully occupied preparing and facilitating the upcoming Scientific Symposium.

Proposal: WSB is requested to endorse the designation of the new TG-MM chair

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. A census is now being held in West Africa, for which the Netherlands, Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony provide support (money and personnel). For the capacity building part of the WSFI, several projects have been and will be carried out over the period August 2016 – June 2017. Furthermore, a coordinator to support activities in Guinea-Bissau will be provided by AMBI and located at the CWSS.

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.

WSB-18 had requested TG-MM to take over the coordination of the preparation of a workshop with site managers. TG-MM proposes that the workshop should be attended by managers at the mid-level and to focus the workshop on management issues on beaches, which would include, amongst others, treatment of oiled birds, recreational pressure and whale stranding.

It was agreed that Mr Baerends would contact the Dutch organiser Staatsbosbeheer (SBB) and request them to fix a date (preferably in September 2017) and a location and to send out an invitation as soon as possible. The other TG-MM members will be responsible for making sure that there is sufficient participation from their respective regions.

Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach

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.

National reports on the assessment of the Wadden Sea according to N2000 methodology are available. A first general check of the information has revealed that this information is quite different and that a thorough evaluation is needed to provide feedback for the originators. Unfortunately, due to the sick leave of Mr Klöpper there is currently insufficient capacity at the CWSS to carry out this evaluation.

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, a trilateral workshop on predator management will be held 7-8 March in Tönning. A first draft programme is available. The workshop will deal with the exchange of best practices, both for the mainland and the islands, the establishment of a network and the drafting of a communication plan.

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.

TG-MM discussed the current situation with regard to the finalisation of the SMP, now that the chairman of TSEG, Mr Lasse Fast Jessen, has withdrawn. Mr Czeck of the National Park Administration Lower-Saxony will act as interim chairman.

TG-MM proposes to that the SMP be finalised before summer 2017, which will give TSEG the opportunity to improve the draft, in particular with respect to the evaluation of the old SMP. Furthermore, the results of the recommendations of the Dutch scientific advisory committee on seal management can be taken into account, as agreed by WSB-18.

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.

A workshop with all involved experts and managers to further discuss implementation details of the Swimway Strategy project plan was held 26-27 January 2017 in Hamburg.

The workshop has provided further input the draft programme Swimway Wadden Sea that should be implemented 2018-2024.

It was concluded that political commitment is essential and that the added value of the Swimway approach for implementing the Wadden Sea targets should be made clear to politicians and policy makers.

To this end a clear message, logo, and an ambassador and resources such as brochures, website and presence in social media are needed. Furthermore it is essential that stakeholders, such as fishermen, NGOs and policymakers should be involved now. A first draft communication plan has been developed.

The primary focus of communication, dissemination and stakeholder involvement is the upcoming trilateral Wadden Sea Conference in 2018. A side event during the conference where the Swimway approach would be presented and supported by stakeholders would greatly help focusing communication and awareness raising in the coming year.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information and to provide clarity about a possible side-event on the Swimway approach at the 2018 Wadden Sea Conference

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.

TG-MM discussed the draft report of the workshop monitoring alien species, held 23-24 November 2016. The workshop, attended by alien species experts and managers, elaborated detailed recommendations for the main elements of alien species monitoring in the Wadden Sea.

Next steps in the elaboration of an alien species management and action plan are risk assessment and awareness raising for which workshops are planned in May and September 2017.

A full draft proposal for an alien species management and action plan is intended to be submitted to the November 2017 WSB meeting. The plan will consist of the following main elements:

- 1) Monitoring and early warning, including citizen monitoring, based upon the obligations resulting from EU-Regulations/Directives and international Conventions.
- 2) Risk assessment.
- 3) Management and control.
- 4) Dissemination and awareness raising.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information**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 discussed the planning of the evaluation of the TMAP which will start as soon as all national basic information on the current status of Wadden Sea monitoring is available.

TMAP also discussed TMAP data handling and the presentation of data through the trilateral information system, including the personnel and financial efforts required. These issues were further discussed at a trilateral data handling workshop, held 24 January 2017.

At the ISWSS14 a data handling session is scheduled with the aim of conveying experiences with data access from the QSR-process and the Trilateral Research Agenda writing process into the Trilateral Research Platform part.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information**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.

90% of the QSR Thematic Chapters is now finalised or almost finalised. A micro website is being developed on which the Thematic Reports will be uploaded in the coming months. Work has started on the drafting of the Synthesis report with the aim of having a first full draft available at ISWSS-14

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information**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.

A meeting on the process of further developing the trilateral research agenda (TRA) was held 25 January 2017. The main topics of the meeting were the writing of an integrated proposal, based upon the reports of the five sub-groups and the recommendations from the QSR Thematic Chapters, as well as how to present the information at the upcoming scientific Wadden Sea Symposium. Also representatives of Dutch and German funding organisations attended the meeting.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

