

Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 20
16 June 2017
Harlingen, Netherlands**



Agenda Item: 5.1 World Heritage
Subject: Preparation of a Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP)
Document No. WSB 20/5.1/2
Date: 2 June 2017
Submitted by: TG-WH

Proposal: The meeting is invited to consider the document

Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP)

WSB 19 instructed 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 (MCD).

Attached a

1. A draft SIMP proposal for inclusion in the draft MCD,
2. An outline of the SIMP for inclusion as Annex to the draft MCD,
3. An appendix to the Annex with a preliminary SIMP structure.

Proposal: The meeting is invited to consider the document

Draft SIMP Proposal to Draft Ministerial Declaration

- **Reconfirm** to strive for intensifying the cooperation on the operational management level (*§ 18 TD 2014*)
- **Acknowledge** the progress in implementing the World Heritage Strategy and road map, and joint management strategies and action plans (*Annexes TDG 2014*),
- **Agree** in implementing the request of the World Heritage Committee (2014) “to develop a single integrated management plan for the entire transboundary property ... and to consider the options to strengthen the effectiveness of implementation of coordinated management within the property” according to the outline of a SIMP as a rolling plan in Annex 1

Annex 1 Preparation of a Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP)

[for inclusion in the draft Ministerial Council Declaration

1. Introduction

As reflected in the decisions of the World Heritage Committee in 2009, 2011, and 2014, the Wadden Sea Plan is the overall framework and structure for integrated conservation and management of the property as a whole and coordination between all three States Parties. The Committee also concluded that comprehensive protection measures are in place within each State.

The World Heritage Committee 2014, requested the States parties “to develop a single integrated management plan for the entire transboundary property ... and to consider the options to strengthen the effectiveness of implementation of coordinated management within the property”.

Since the inscription in 2009 and the extension in 2014, much has been achieved to intensify the cooperation to protect and maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. As a result of the World Heritage site designation, the agenda of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) has been broadened and there are now many new opportunities to strengthen nature conservation - the fundamental purpose of the cooperation – and to increase civic pride, raise awareness, increase support and practical involvement, and achieve socio-economic benefits.

In close cooperation with and support of many stakeholders, a wide variety of strategies and plans have been developed including, amongst others, the Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy and the roadmap to involve strategic partners, the Wadden Sea World Heritage Brand Paper, the Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan, the Flyway Vision, the Framework for Sustainable Fisheries, the Framework for Alien Species (in development), the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, the Particularly Sensitive Sea Area Wadden Sea Operational Plan, the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme, the Seal Management Plan, and the Trilateral Communication Strategy,

The development of a **Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP)**, as requested by the World Heritage Committee, will help to further strengthen the ongoing efforts in harmonizing management of the Wadden Sea as one property in an integrated approach. The SIMP provides a clear overarching framework that can be easily read and understood by stakeholders and the general public. This concerns especially the definition of roles and responsibilities of the TWSC, site managers and key stakeholders in implementation of plans and strategies.

Thus, the SIMP strengthens the Trilateral Cooperation, enhances understanding of joint management, and creates ownership and commitment among stakeholders to protect and maintain the OUV.

2. SIMP Objectives

The SIMP provides umbrella 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. It also provides a clearer picture of resources needs and transparency how the management system functions. In this respect, it is of added value for the Trilateral Cooperation.

The specific objectives of the SIMP are

1. Providing a coherent overview on how trilateral management is done jointly to strengthen the protection of OUV and integrity as shared responsibility.
2. Enhancing ownership and commitment of stakeholders in management of the property as one entity and supporting the countries in implementation of trilateral strategies and plans on the ground.

3. Striving towards a further harmonization of management on the ground and strengthen the effectiveness of implementation of coordinated management while taking into account the regional management systems and regional differences.

3. SIMP Contents

The SIMP for the Wadden Sea World Heritage property will focus on overarching issues to be managed with priority and in a consistent way across the property to maintain the OUV and protect the area's natural values and integrity.

The SIMP is a rolling plan and will be evaluated regularly. Therefore, the contents will be adapted to management requirements of the TWSC with the support and participation of all key parties involved in implementing the plan.

Criteria for the selection of the issues to be addressed by the SIMP

1. Main and prior management issues at trilateral level (identified in particular from the Wadden Sea Plan, recent MCDs, and existing strategies and action plans),
2. Urgency to enhance management effectiveness trilaterally,
3. Management and protection requirements with regard to maintain and protect the OUV (as reflected in the Statement of OUV, relevant Committee Decisions and in the Periodic Reporting).

A preliminary SIMP structure is in Appendix 1 which will be the starting point for the further SIMP development. The proposed contents reflect the current priorities of TWSC (MD 2014), but contents and priorities may be adapted during the SIMP process. The proposed content is preliminary and should support the SIMP discussion rather than to fix the contents. A flexible approach is envisaged.

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

4. Timeline

The development of a SIMP is a trilateral participative process with involvement of site managers and stakeholders from all Wadden Sea regions. The function of the SIMP as a rolling plan reflecting the main priorities of the trilateral management has to be considered in the preparation of the SIMP.

The timeline for the SIMP development is as follows:

1. Start of SIMP development in 2018 by preparing a project plan for the period 2018-2020. *[by ad-hoc working group of WSB/TG-MM/TG-WH members]*
2. Development of SIMP with involvement of stakeholders and IUCN in the period 2018-2020,
3. Implementation of the SIMP in the period 2020 – 2021.
4. Evaluation of the SIMP at the 14th Ministerial Council Meeting in 2022.

Alternative timeline (proposed by Germany):

1. Start of SIMP-Development in 2018: Preparing a project plan for the period 2018-2020 till the end of 2018. *[by ad-hoc working group of WSB/TG-MM/TG-WH members]*
2. Development of SIMP with involvement of key stakeholders and the IUCN in the period 2018 - 2020.
3. Finalization and implementation of the SIMP in 2021 [at the latest] to deliver a proposal for final adoption at the 14th Ministerial Council Meeting in 2022].
4. Evaluation of the SIMP two (five) years after final implementation/adoption.

APPENDIX 1 Preliminary SIMP Structure

[Note The SIMP is 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 (at least 5 years, ideally synchronized with TGCs and QSR)
- Policy assessment (at TGCs)

The Trilateral Cooperation

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

Wadden Sea World Heritage

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

The management system

- Trilateral management (starting from nomination dossiers including WSP, TMAP, TMAP Strategy, QSRs) and short description of national implementation

Cooperation

- World Heritage Marine Programme, Cooperation with relevant sites and World Heritage properties
- World Heritage Business cooperation programme

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
- Budget

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]

Nature conservationManagement of habitats and species:

- Migratory and Breeding Birds / Flyway
- Fish / Swimway
- Subtidal Habitats
- Marine mammals

Management of human activities:

- Alien species,
- Sustainable Fishery (a: Blue Mussels, b: Oysters, c: Cockles, d: Shrimps)
- Energy: oil, gas, wind energy (including cables)
- Marine litter,
- Climate change (CO₂ reduction/ climate change adaptation),
- Ferry-ways: Sustainable transport (dredging/ shipping)
- Sustainable Tourism

Outreach and environmental education

- Trilateral Communication Strategy,
- World Heritage brand communication,
- World Heritage Education / IWSS,