

# Wadden Sea Board

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



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**Agenda Item:** 5.2  
**Subject:** Report TG-MM  
**Document No.** WSB 20/5.2/3  
**Date:** 15 June 2017  
**Submitted by:** CWSS

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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-20

The TG-MM 17 meeting was held 1-2 June 2017 in Bremen and chaired for the first time by the new chairman Mr Henrik Pind Jørgensen.

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. Recent activities:

- A World Heritage (WH) re-nomination workshop in Bubaque (Guinea-Bissau) was held with participation from Lower Saxony.
- The total WSFI East Atlantic Flyway (EAF) count in January/February 2017 has been successfully carried out.
- The BMUB WSFI project 2016/2017 has successfully implemented activities in Senegal, Morocco, Equatorial Guinea, São Tomé & Príncipe and Angola.
- The WSFI supporting project 'Sensing the ecological changes in the Wadden Sea and Arctic sites as indicated by migratory birds of the East Atlantic Flyway, staging in the Wadden Sea' Arctic' will start in June 2017 and expire in July 2018.
- Although the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden contributed for an AMBI position at the CWSS no activities with regard to a Wadden Sea/Guinea-Bissau coordinator were undertaken (last inquiry 29 March 2017).

**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 requested manager's workshop with focus on the beaches and dunes habitat is under preparation in cooperation with Staatsbosbeheer.

The envisaged wardening workshop will be organized by the Netherlands with support from CWSS. Both workshops are foreseen to be conducted before end of October 2017.

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

### **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 rather diverse and needs further harmonization. CWSS will provide a proposal on how to proceed as well as guidelines for the final report, also based on information from the corresponding workshop in 2015.

**Proposal: WSB is requested to endorse the approach.**

### **Breeding Bird Action Plan**

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

A workshop on breeding bird predation management in the Wadden Sea was held in Schleswig-Holstein in March 2017. The presentations revealed rather different predation management strategies applied in the countries. Brief Information on measures for breeding bird protection was collected during the meeting and it was decided to request an overview on different predation management activities in the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark from the JMBB for TG-MM19.

**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 finalization of the SMP. The provided evaluation of the former SMP was considered as insufficient. Also the recommendations of the Dutch scientific advisory committee on seal management will be added to the process. The envisaged TSEG+ meeting together with TG-MM might be postponed to the end of 2017 to allow adjustments of the current SMP draft by the TSEG. The group members will approach regional representatives in TSEG for next steps.

**Proposal: WSB is requested 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.

To provide further information on the Swimway approach to WSB, a corresponding document (WSB 20/5.2/2) and a short presentation will be provided to WSB 20 by the coordinator Ms. Martha Buitenkamp.

As it was concluded earlier 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, the meeting proposed to consider a signing event/ceremony during the trilateral Wadden Sea Conference in 2018, as well as a corresponding side event.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse 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.

An extensive proposal for monitoring of alien species within TMAP is now available, prepared by Bureau Waardenburg. A study on alien species on the German and Danish islands partly filled the gap on missing information on alien species on Wadden Sea islands.

Regional inventories of applied measures in AS management have still to be organised. The planned workshop for communication, education and awareness will be organised in cooperation with the International Wadden Sea School in September or October 2017 at the latest.

The retirement of the WG-AS chair and secretary in March 2017 might cause a delay in drafting the AS management and action plan to be submitted to WSB in November 2017 in time. TG-MM requested a member from the WG Alien Species to participate in its next meeting.

**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.

The planned TMAP evaluation is delayed due to pending data from Lower Saxony and Denmark. The meeting agreed that data handling issues will have to be a substantial part of such evaluation. During the TDG meeting on 31 May 2017, several options for future data handling strategies were discussed and the dialogue will be continued in October. TG-MM will discuss a project proposal on data handling, storing and quality assurance during its next meeting in October, also with the intention to reflect the findings of the preparatory work done in connection with the Trilateral Research Agenda and Platform (TRA), the conclusions of the ISWSS-14 and of course the strategic direction of the TRA itself

**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.

A majority of the QSR Thematic Reports are now finalised or almost finalised and a substantial number is already uploaded to the new QSR micro website. The chapters of the Synthesis report are in preparation and will be discussed during the next Editorial Board meeting in June.

The TG-MM also, on a strategic level, discussed how to adapt the future QSR activities to i.e. the outcome of the ongoing discussions of “data” and wishes to make, at least parts of the QSR, possible to be updated by automatic procedures and displayed constantly to the public/stakeholders. This discussion will be continued and concluded upon at the coming TG-MM meetings before the 2018-conference.

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

### **Science Cooperation**

TD §62. Welcome the findings of the 13th scientific Wadden Sea symposium which focused on the themes climate and water, biodiversity, science for management and policy and sustainability and ecosystem services.

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.

The 14th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium was held at The ECCO-Centre in Tønder, Denmark, from the 9 – 11 May 2017 with more than 130 participants. A corresponding note on the ISWSS was submitted by the organizers.

Although the process of commenting and elaborating on the proposed TRA was not finished during the symposium, the whole process was considered as a success. Additional comments and suggestions were requested before 1 June 2017.

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