

Wadden Sea Board

WSB 21
17 November 2017
Vester Vedsted, Denmark



Agenda Item: 5.2
Subject: Report TG-MM
Document No. WSB 21/5.2/2
Date: 03 November 2017
Submitted by: TG-MM

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-21

The TG-MM 19 meeting discussed the following issues on 26-27 October 2017 in Bremen:

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 and developments:

- The BMUB WSFI 2015/2016 project has been finalised. Information on the projects can be found on www.waddensea-secretariat.org/flyway
- The BMUB WSFI 2016/2017 project is still on-going. Two sub-projects had to be adjusted because of changing partners in Guinea Bissau and exceeding material costs in Angola. The BMUB project will be finalised at the end of 2017.
- The complex evaluation and assessment of the total EAF count organised by SOVON in January 2017 is still ongoing.
- 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*' (funded by NIOZ € 45.000, PRW € 15.000, Lomonossov Moscow State University € 30.000, BMUB € 57.000) started successfully in June 2017 and has already delivered products.
- AMBI: No new concrete developments.

The meeting agreed that the future role of the WSFI steering group needs further elaboration. Corresponding discussions will encompass the position of the group towards the TWSC, the existing TMAP groups (JMMB/JMBB) and a potential connection to the partnership hub. A corresponding document will be developed within the first quarter of 2018 by TG-MM.

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. Financial implications are covered by the Netherlands.

The envisaged wardening workshop would be organized by the Netherlands with support from CWSS. Since it was not possible to find a common date, new proposals would be needed from the local organizers, since the planned activities include a boat trip and are therefore tide-dependent.

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 the N2000 methodology are available. Based on a proposal and corresponding ToR from the CWSS, the TG-MM proposed to assign a consultant to analyse the regional reporting information with regard to its comparability. If the data sets/methodologies are considered comparable, or could be processed to reach this status, the consultant should also deliver an assessment report as far as possible. The coverage of costs would be considered by both CWSS and the regions.

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.

Guidelines for best practices in managing predation risk are still in preparation.

TG-MM requested information on the regional implementation of the breeding bird action plan from the JMBA. Furthermore, a general information exchange on the regional approaches on handling of oiled birds would be welcomed.

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 latest version of the SMP, which on request of the TG-MM comprising major updates in the column entitled “review former SMP” would now be discussed in TSEG. The draft would then be sent to TSEG+ for approval and finally to TG-MM. It would still be envisaged to adopt the plan at the TG-C in 2018. The TG-MM would invite a member of the TSEG for its next meeting.

Proposal: WSB is requested to note 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 Swimway draft action programme was about to be finalized, incorporating comments from the regions. Since the document at present would be a rather comprehensive document, TG-MM proposed to request the group to condense and to modify the information in a short paper which could be used as an Annex to the MCD, while keeping the full version for further reference and for submission to the WSB22. The TG-MM also considered resources implications of the coordination of future Swimway projects and whether they could be absorbed by work hours from CWSS and by in-kind contributions from parties and

stakeholders. The meeting further 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.

The new secretary of WG AS, Ms Julia Busch, and the representative from Lower Saxony, Mr Gregor Scheiffarth, took part in the TG-MM 19 meeting. The latest draft of the Alien Species Management and Action Plan was considered as insufficient in its current status due to missing information and substantial reservations on some parts of the document.

Nevertheless, the meeting stated that improvements on finding common ground regarding the processes for handling alien species were recognized. A note on the status of the draft including a proposal on how to deal with the document would be submitted to WSB in due time.

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.

All three states parties clearly reaffirmed their commitment to the TMAP and the corresponding strategy in general and not to lose the harmonized approach as a cornerstone of the TWSC. Nevertheless, there is further need for coordination of the data handling.

The TG-MM requested a common document on TMAP information for its next meeting, based on content submitted by the regions and to be delivered by CWSS. This document would, along with input from other TGs or WGs, the QSR and recent developments in EU and convention based obligations be the basis for updating the parameter list and the TMAP handbook.

Two different levels of data handling issues were discovered during TG-MM 19. It was agreed to better streamline the data flow with the aim of achieving more user friendly processes. Furthermore, alternative ways to present the data online for experts and the public need to be discussed also to be aligned with i.e. the needs expressed in the coming Trilateral Research Agenda. The CADENZA software, currently used in CWSS, was not supported for the moment and the meeting recommended to suspend further licence fees as a trilateral benefit of the system is lacking. TG-MM further agreed to produce a strategic paper for its next meeting, which includes recommendations on the issue of data-handling, taking into account the challenges of future upcoming data-availability on relevant topics. Members from all three states parties clearly reaffirmed their commitment to the TMAP and the corresponding strategy in general.

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. Further fine tuning would be necessary though. The chapters of the Synthesis Report (SR) would be further developed by the Editorial Board.

The TG-MM welcomed the first draft of the QSR process evaluation, presented by the reviewer, Mr Pieter de Lezenne Coulander, during the meeting. It was agreed to postpone further discussion to the WSB 22 meeting in February to be able to further elaborate on the review also on the basis of the completed QSR Thematic Reports and the finalized SR.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.