

# Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 22**  
**02 February 2018**  
**Hamburg, Germany**



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**Agenda Item:** 5.2  
**Subject:** Report TG-MM  
**Document No.** WSB 22/5.2/1  
**Date:** 25 January 2017  
**Submitted by:** TG-MM

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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-22**

The TG-MM 20 meeting discussed the following issues on 20 December 2017 in Bremen:

- A. The implementation of the Tønder declaration
- B. Evaluation of the TG-MM and affiliated expert/work/steering groups

#### **A. The Implementation of the 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 activity and development:

- JMMB and SOVON will prepare leaflet on Flyway count results 2017 for TGC 2018

**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 was planned for 22 & 23 March 2018 on the Dutch island of Ameland in cooperation with Staatsbosbeheer. Focus would be on the management of habitats with the theme "coast and biodiversity". There would also be an evening session on governance and Wadden Sea WH tourism and experience. Due to a planned excursion the workshop times would be tide dependent. A list of invitees would be circulated in TG-MM for completion.

The organization of the envisaged wardening workshop is still in progress, organized by the Netherlands with support from CWSS.

**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.

The meeting agreed to follow the approach, to use the already available reporting data, without taking into account the data from the reporting period to come. The expected delay and the potentially minor advantages regarding the comparability of data were considered as insufficient. Furthermore, the treatment of just the available data caused financial implications already. Therefore, TG-MM proposed to stick to the original plan and to proceed with assigning a consultant for analysing the regional reporting information with regard to its comparability. If the data sets/methodologies would be considered comparable, or could be

processed to reach this status, the consultant should then deliver an assessment report as far as possible. The coverage of costs would be considered by both CWSS and the regions. This approach was also considered advantageous with regard to a possible 2<sup>nd</sup> generation N2000 Roof Report beyond 2019 based on data of the new N2000 reports.

**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.

- Predation management report still in preparation

**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.

TSEG was in process of updating the SMP based on latest information. The new version would be sent to TSEG+ in January for consultation to be finalised before TG-MM 21 on 6 March 2018. It would still be envisaged to adopt the plan during the TGC in 2018.

**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 has been finalized by the writer's group mid-January, following the endorsement of WSB-21, and incorporating additional comments from the regions and would be reviewed by TG-MM before its next meeting. TG-MM proposed to sign a vision during the conference rather than an action programme, which was considered as more appropriate during such event. The side event would still be in preparation.

**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 WG Alien Species working group has delivered a draft Alien Species Management and Action Plan mid-January 2018, following the instructions from TG-MM as endorsed by the WSB-21.

**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.

On basis of the document on the future TMAP data handling strategy, provided by the Netherlands, the TG-MM decided that further exploration of the situation is necessary to proceed with the proposal for a future strategy. Parties reaffirmed their commitment to the TMAP and the corresponding strategy in general and not to lose the harmonized approach. A current inventory document would need further updating, as information was still expected from Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein.

Therefore, TG-MM suggested as initial steps to

- investigate the existing data sets in detail (e.g. origin, period),
- define strategies to make these data series/sets available in the future,
- keep focus on data harmonization,
- explore synergies to existing and proposed EU directives (e.g. WFD, MSFD) with the aim to avoid doubling of efforts and costs,
- update TMAP parameters considering national requirements, EU directives and emerging issues,
- compare methodologies around for TMAP parameters (sampling and data preparation) with existing or planned methods of EU directives, also with focus on updating the TMAP handbook.

The currently undertaken TMAP inventory with information provided from the regions will be the basis for this exploration. The aim is to create a common table that will display a detailed overview on the information above.

Next steps based on the inventory processes listed above, the TG-MM proposed to

- define the role of the CWSS regarding the future data handling strategy,
- explore existing web based data sources,
- explore options of data presentation.

With the overall goal to

develop a sustainable, efficient and future proof TMAP data handling strategy. Based on the suggestions above and the existing TMAP strategy, TG-MM will elaborate on a “road map” for the implementation of an updated TMAP with a related data management strategy.

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

### **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.

CWSS stated that it was planned to publish the QSR 2017 online on 20 December 2017. The synthesis report, in preparation by the members of the QSR Editorial Board in consultation with TG-MM, is planned to be provided in print format for the TGC in May in Leeuwarden.

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

### **Trilateral Research Agenda**

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.

Mr Jouke van Dijk, member of the TRA writing group, was invited to discuss the latest draft of the agenda with TG-MM members. The TG-MM welcomed the presentation and concluded, in agreement with Mr. van Dijk, that further integration of science and policy will be necessary to support a future implementation of the TRA. It was proposed to install an ad hoc programme group TRA with representatives from science, policy and financing organizations from the three Wadden Sea countries to organise the operationalization of the TRA, including scientific discussions and preparation of research calls.

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

## **B. Evaluation of TG-MM and affiliated expert/work/steering groups**

TG-MM had a preliminary discussion on the possible necessity to review the TG-MM and affiliated expert/working/steering groups with regard to their composition, Terms of Reference and reporting obligations. It was agreed that the chairperson and CWSS will submit an inventory and a proposal to TG-MM 21 on March 6<sup>th</sup> 2018.

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

### **Additional note from the chairperson of TG-MM to WSB on the subjects of tasks and resources:**

The TG-MM and CWSS have a day-to-day/meeting-to-meeting cooperation on a number of existing tasks within the obligations of TG-MM and affiliated groups. The implementation of some tasks has been challenged due to resource constraints. This situation is anticipated to be exacerbated even further following the new Leeuwarden declaration, where more initiatives are expected to be launched. Therefore strict prioritization of task must be further strengthened.

Thus it is highly desirable and necessary that CWSS, following immediately after the Conference in Leeuwarden and with the necessary support from e.g. the task Groups, conduct an “inventory of tasks” (new and existing) including assessments of necessary resources for tasks (or part of tasks) being handled by CWSS/the Task Groups etc. in the period 2018 to 2022.

The above is a necessary prerequisite for achieving the above-mentioned strengthening of strategic as well as day-to-day prioritization of tasks.