MEETING DOCUMENT

**Task Group Management (TG-M 22-1)**

17 January 2022

Online meeting

**Agenda Item: 7. Ministerial Conference Declaration (MCD) and Governmental Conference (TGC)**

**Subject: TG-M support for Drafting Group MCD**

**Document No.:** TG-M 22-1/7

**Date:** 17 January 2022

**Submitted by: CWSS**

At their TG-M 21-4 meeting, TG-M started discussing possible content for the Ministerial Council Declaration (MCD) 2022 and agreed to continue the discussion with the aim to formulate related articles for the Ministerial Declaration. The discussion was continued in an email consultation in the online document TG-M/Consultation/21-11-09 as well as with reflections on recommendations of the International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium at TG-M 21-5 on 17 December 2021.

This document contains room to start collecting possible topics for the Ministerial Declaration 2022. In addition, outcomes of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) meeting 34 will be considered, in particular related to [WSB 34/7/1 Progress report of the DG-MCD](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/system/files/WSB-34-7-1%20Progress%20report%20of%20the%20DG-MCD.pdf).

This agenda item was discussed by TG-M in their TG-M 22-1 meeting by use of a temporary online document 

This version is for documentation and contains additions by TG-M in TG-M 22-1, which are indicated in the document.

**Proposal:** The group is invited to agree on agree on a list for submission to the Drafting Group Ministerial Conference Declaration while noting that the responsibility for formulating the articles is with the Drafting Group.

*TG-M22-1-7\_MCD*: Ministerial Council Declaration

At their TG-M 21-4 meeting, TG-M started discussing possible content for the Ministerial Council Declaration (MCD) 2022 and agreed to continue the discussion with the aim to formulate related articles for the Ministerial Declaration.

**Wilhelmshaven Declaration 2022 - Brainstorming**

While in-depth discussions on content issues for the outline of the next MCD are still needed, major recent developments in global and European environmental policy like e.g., on Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity, EU Green Deal incl. the EU-biodiversity strategy for 2030, and realising the importance of addressing those issues on the upcoming Trilateral Governmental Conference, the DG-MCD recommends to aim for common core message(s) for the next Ministerial Declaration in their [Progress report WSB 34/7/1](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/system/files/WSB-34-7-1%20Progress%20report%20of%20the%20DG-MCD.pdf) for the Wadden Sea Board meeting 34 on 18 November 2021.

The structure of the future MCD is to be discussed – the current setup is copied from the LD.

The suggestions below contain information from TG-M 21-4, additions during the TG-M online consultation 2021-11-12, and comments by TG-M during their discussion of recommendations raised at the 15th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS) in their TG-M 21-5 meeting.

For consideration, information on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) [Preparations for the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework](https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/wg2020-03/documents) and [first draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/abb5/591f/2e46096d3f0330b08ce87a45/wg2020-03-03-en.pdf) and the [European Green Deal](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en) with [actions on Environment and Ocean](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/protecting-environment-and-oceans-green-deal_en) and [EU biodiversity strategy for 2030](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/biodiversity-strategy-2030_en).

**PREAMBLE**

*We, the Ministers responsible for the protection of the Danish, Dutch, German Wadden Sea, representing our respective Governments in the Trilateral Wadden Sea Governmental Council on the Protection of the Wadden Sea,*

* Crucial site for sustainable biodiversity (from talk Peter Shadie, IUCN, how can we harness the power of WH post 2020?)
* Need to have a sound basis for decision-making (management measures required, inform regional/local policies/strategies) : have a harmonized, long-term, adequate monitoring in place which will be adapted to current developments/needs

**NATURE CONSERVATION AND INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT/SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

*The Ministers*

Instruct the Wadden Sea Board to

* [changed at TG-M 22-1] Consider a (voluntary?) restriction for fisheries/shipping for certain places or times of the year as e.g., if Eider ducks  are present
* [changed at TG-M 22-1] The biodiversity strategy may offer an additional strategic way: if a closure of x% (as resource use/ use free zones) would be requested, the trilateral ambition -being World Heritage- may be higher. [EU biodiversity strategy for 2030](https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/31e4609f-b91e-11eb-8aca-01aa75ed71a1%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank): *Legally protect at least 30% of the EU’s land area and 30% of its seas. Strictly protect at least a third of the EU’s protected areas - representing 10% of the EU land and 10% of EU sea -including all remaining primary and old-growth forests as well as other carbon rich ecosystems, such as peatlands, grasslands, wetlands, mangroves and seagrass meadows.*
* Increase knowledge and scientific insight to substantiate the benefit of nature by possible measures, e.g., the importance of the Wadden Sea as spawning ground or nursery area for g fish.
* Exchange best practices on how to make fisheries more nature friendly on trilateral level. Also, an exchange on the consequences for the Wadden Sea, due to the planned increase of wind energy offshore and the necessity for its maintenance and connection to land may be fostered.
* Developing an implementation strategy on how to achieve a level playing field (fisheries) in the three countries (go up from the lowest one) (compare article on level playing field in the Leeuwarden Declaration 2018).
* [changed at TG-M 22-1] Exchange on best practices regarding [wardening & site-management] , management measures (predator management, restoration of habitats, protected areas for species, visitor guidance system...)
* The SIMP can be used for first steps to identify fields of work  and the institutions/persons relevant for implementation.
* Renewable energy – consequences for Wadden Sea of the implementation of the ambitious goals of the three Wadden Sea states to accelerate construction of offshore wind farms in their EEZs (and territorial waters) , need for common approach  regarding cable crossings
* [changed at TG-M 22-1] Interconnectedness between coastal waters, the hinterland and the offshore zone for migrating species such as birds, fish, marine mammals – different functions in the life cycles or in the course of the year. Migratory routes (but also resident species). Keywords: N2000/habitat network, blue green infrastructure
* [changed at TG-M 22-1] Shipping safety measures – consider input from regional/local level. Shipping in Wadden Sea itself, such as recreational (as a supplement to IMO measures in place)
* Identify adequate measures/ information tools to communicate trilaterally what is/will be done regarding the topic of marine litter (fishing gear, microplastic, single use plastics) on a  national level (MSFD, round tables Marine Litter  etc) and international level (OSPAR)
* Strengthen interdisciplinary approaches both in research as in management, as natural and cultural heritage are inseparable parts of the Wadden Sea’s OUV (Karin Lochte, ISWSS), [added at TG-M 22-1:] while noting that Wadden Sea is natural World Heritage property.
* [changed at TG-M 22-1] Keep in mind (but not propose) and refer to SIMP: Analyzation of legislation in the three countries (if adequate) to protect the OUV of the Wadden Sea. In this context, it may also interesting to look at rules and frame works for management measures in the three countries and try to harmonize them. (Karin Lochte ISWSS)
* Note: Sensitivity maps and their relevance, e.g., for fisheries, protection of fish and cable laying (the latter for ad  hoc WG CP)