

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 30)

21 November 2019
Wilhelmshaven, Germany



Agenda Item: 5

Subject: Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative

Document No.: WSB 30/5.2/2

Date: 30 October 2019

Submitted by: CWSS

Proposal: 1. Project application International Climate Initiative (IKI)

WSB 30 is invited to agree on the further IKI project application process by WSFI and to approve in principle the leading role of the secretariat in the planned project considering the conditions for project lead still have to be investigated.

Proposal 2. Arctic workshop

WSB 30 is invited to instruct WSFI Steering Group and secretariat to continue the preparation of the planned WSFI Arctic workshop in Yamal in 2020.

Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative

1. Project application International Climate Initiative (IKI)

Since 2012 WSFI acted in the implementation of the WHC request rather on a short term basis with 1-2 year capacity building projects and monitoring financed on annual basis along the East Atlantic Flyway (EAF). This approach bears always the danger that the necessary continuous cooperation with WSFI partner network discontinues with the consequence of losing previously reached progress.

At the WSFI Steering Group 14 meeting in April 2019 BMU proposed to apply for a project within the International Climate Initiative (IKI). BMU is funding projects for conservation of biological diversity and adaptation of impacts due to climate change. The conservation of birds and wetlands along the East Atlantic Flyway (EAF) would thematically fit into the aims of IKI and would give WSFI the basis for a more continuous and sustainable cooperation in bird conservation with countries along the flyway.

IKI's application procedure consists of two stages:

- 1) At a **first stage**, a project outline form has to be completed and submitted through the on-line IKI platform. The date of the next IKI thematic project call is not clear yet, but is expected during November 2019. The outline will be compiled by a professional consultant paid by the secretariat and supported by a core drafting group and has to be delivered 4 month after the call.
- 2) In case of a successful outline, the lead partner will be invited in a **second stage** to present a formal and full project proposal within the next 8 months. Activities in the second stage (such as workshops or an appraisal mission) can be funded by IKI.

In October 2019 the WSFI Steering Group agreed that CWSS should take the lead and coordination role in the planned project. The IKI project should as part of the WSFI and as excellent example of international cooperation located at the partnership hub in Wilhelmshaven. The conditions for leading an IKI project have to be checked by the secretariat. It is expected that the amount of project coordination work at the secretariat is in the magnitude of the on-going WSFI coordination effort. Project management and accounting will be carried out by external consultants, which will be financed by the IKI project.

Proposal WSB 30 is invited to agree on the further IKI project application process by WSFI and to approve in principle the leading role of the secretariat in the planned project considering the conditions for project lead still have to be investigated.

2. Arctic workshop

The Arctic and Nordic part of the EA flyway got less attention by WSFI despite being an area of huge importance as breeding grounds and moulting area for Wadden Sea birds. In the period of 2018-2022 the German presidency of the trilateral cooperation will focus on continuing the development of the WSFI to secure the Wadden Sea as hub for the EAF. This mandate makes it imperative to strengthen cooperation with countries in the northern part of the EAF. In order to initiate and resume Arctic cooperation on protection and conservation of migratory birds a workshop with Russian and WSFI experts and managers is planned in Russia in 2020. An international preparatory meeting with Russian participation was already held at BMU in October 2018 where the members gave input on objectives, content, expected results and formalities for the planned Arctic workshop.

Mr Evgeny Syroechkovskiy, AMBI Chair from Russia, got agreement of his Ministry to go further with the dialog on Arctic migratory bird conservation including the support of AMBI and CAFF. He made official contact with the vice-governor of the [Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District](#) in Siberia, which is an important breeding area for Wadden Sea birds. The Russian regional authorities welcomed the activities and will support the proposed workshop. The workshop will be held preferably in April 2020. Because Mr. Sergio Albaina position as AMBI coordinator at the secretariat was discontinued, it is not clear if the secretariat or an external consultant will coordinate the workshop.

Proposal WSB 30 is invited to give WSFI Steering Group and secretariat the mandate to continue the preparation of the planned WSFI Arctic workshop in Yamal in 2020.