

# Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 16  
4 November 2015  
Wilhelmshaven**



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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>5.2</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Report TG-MM</b>
<b>Document No.</b>	<b>WSB 16/5.2/1</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>2 March 2016</b>
<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>TG-MM</b>

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Attached is the report of the Task Group Management and Monitoring (TG-MM)

**Proposal:**      **The meeting is invited to discuss the report and to decide upon the proposals by TG-MM**

## **TASK GROUP MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING (TG-MM)**

### **REPORT TO WSB-16**

Since the last WSB meeting two meetings took place (TG-MM 14, TG-MM 15) on 10 December 2015 and 24-25 February 2016 respectively.

## **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 recently printed “African East Atlantic Flyway Guide” is currently being distributed to the partners along the Flyway with the aim to support capacity building and monitoring activities.

In 2017 a total bird count along the flyway will be conducted as part of the 50th anniversary of the international water bird census.

Cooperation has started between the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) and the AMBI programme of the Arctic Council. The aim is to support the Bijagos Archipelago in Guinea Bissau to become World Heritage site.

Some smaller capacity building projects in Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Togo, Angola and Namibia have been launched in the beginning of 2016. The projects will strengthen local migratory bird and wetland management, improve livelihood and the WSFI network as whole.

**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 Netherlands will organize a wardening workshop in the period between April and June 2016. The aim of the workshop is to exchange experiences between wardens operating in the Wadden Sea countries. The CWSS will support with the workshop logistics.

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

### **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.

As a first step in implementing the decisions of the 2015 trilateral N2000 workshop, members of the ad-hoc N2000 expert group have scheduled regional meetings in

March 2016 as a preparation of a trilateral meeting at which national methodologies for preparing reports under the Habitats Directive will be compared.

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

#### **Breeding Bird Action Plan**

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

TG-MM discussed the Breeding Bird Action Plan as prepared by the JMBB and Mr Koffijberg. The Breeding Bird Action Plan is available as separate document WSB-16/5.2/2.

TG-MM generally endorsed the actions proposed in the report and proposes the WSB to adopt the Plan. TG-MM furthermore proposes to start implementing the report for a selected number of key species of concern for all regions. TG-MM will also elaborate the proposed implementation scheme in chapter 6 of the Report in order to develop a coordinated trilateral approach to implementing the actions.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach and to adopt the Breeding Bird Action Plan**

#### **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 TSEG is currently reviewing the SMP. Major amendments will be discussed at the TSEG meeting in June 2016 and the new draft SMP is intended to be finalised in autumn 2016.

**Proposal: WSB is invited 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.

A trilateral workshop on further developing the Swimway approach was held 18-19 February 2016 in Hamburg. The main aim of the workshop, organised by the Dutch PRW and the CWSS, was to further specify a project plan for the elaboration of a Swimway Strategy, to be submitted to the 2018 Wadden Sea Conference. The Swimway Strategy will be the overall framework for implementing the trilateral fish Targets.

The workshop focused on the main stakeholders to be involved in the process, operational indicators for the fish Targets of which some preliminary ones were identified, the elaboration of showcases for different fish species, as well as on research needs.

It is the intention to submit a detailed project proposal to the WSB-17 meeting.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the 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 trilateral Working Group Alien Species (WG-AS) continues working on the development of an alien species management and action plan. A draft list of Wadden Sea marine alien species has been elaborated. Currently, a draft Wadden Sea alien species monitoring and assessment programme is being developed, which will be discussed by the WG-AS in April 2016. A discussion with a broader group of experts is envisaged later in 2016.

**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.

TG-MM discussed options for optimising the TMAP in the light of current financial restrictions and in connection with the obligations arising from recent EU directives and Regulations.

There was consensus to make better use of existing data sets (e.g. EU Directives) and to better connect different parameters (e.g. climate change and birds) for enhanced efficiency. Recent developments in technology should be further explored (e.g. remote sensing, use of drones, modelling). It was stressed that also due to the World Heritage status, TMAP has to remain a focus of the trilateral activities. Issues identified as being of special importance for the future development of the programme were alien species, marine litter, food web structures, biodiversity, noise, harbour porpoises and sublittoral biotopes.

The discussion on the future of the TMAP will be continued at the next TG-MM meeting, including the costs of the current data handling system.

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

TG-MM discussed the status of preparation of the QSR2016 and the outcome of the QSR Editorial Board meeting of 10 February 2016. The Editorial Board had discussed the status of author teams, the outlines for the Thematic Chapters and the format of the Synthesis Report. TG-MM supported the proposal by the Editorial Board to produce the Synthesis Report in an appealing brochure in four languages. This report is intended for a wide audience, also on municipality level.

The Editorial Board had also discussed the growing dissatisfaction of several authors with the differences in financing of the contributions. The process was considered as

non-transparent and unbalanced and there was concern that such discrepancies might weaken the Wadden Sea scientific community in the future.

TG-MM proposed to initiate a review process after completion of the QSR 2016, with the aim of exploring improvements for the future. It was furthermore suggested that the regions might submit letters of appreciation to involved institutes and organization for their (voluntary) contribution and support.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information and to endorse the approach**

#### **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.

Supervised by the trilateral research coordination group, consisting of Jouke van Dijk, Karsten Reise and Mette Guldborg, five thematic groups (Geosciences, Ecology, Economy, Cultural Heritage, Climate and Water) have started discussing how best to identify major research issues relevant for Wadden Sea policy and management. In the Cultural Heritage group, there has been uncertainty whether or not the theme should encompass both “cultural identity” and “cultural history”. TG-MM endorsed a broad approach to the theme encompassing both disciplines.

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

#### **Transboundary Ramsar site**

TD §73. Intend to list the Wadden Sea Ramsar sites as trans-boundary Ramsar site “Wadden Sea” on the Ramsar List of international importance and thus contribute to the ongoing efforts of the Ramsar Convention to promote the trans-boundary aspect of the protection and the management of wetlands e.g. through enhanced flyway cooperation as mentioned above.

On behalf of the trilateral cooperation, the Dutch chair has sent a letter to the Ramsar secretariat, informing about the transboundary Ramsar site Wadden Sea.

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