

Wadden Sea Board

WSB 3
17 March 2011
Bourtange



Agenda Item:	6.1
Subject:	Report Task Groups
Document No.	WSB 3/6/1-2
Date:	10 March 2011
Submitted by:	CWSS

Attached is a joint report of the meetings of the five Task Groups, held since WSB 2.

Proposal

The meeting is proposed to **comment**, as appropriate, and **note**.

REPORT TASK GROUP MEETINGS

Task Group Climate (TG-C)

Chair/secretariat: Mr Thorsten Piontkowitz, Danish Coastal Authority/Mr Folkert de Jong

Meeting: TG-C 1, 15 February 2011, Bremen

The main topic of the meeting was the implementation of the Terms of Reference.

With regard to task 1, "Increase the linkage between climate change and coastal protection, nature protection, the adaptability of the Wadden Sea ecosystem and spatial planning", the meeting generally agreed that this concerned a more long-lasting task, involving exchange of information and experience, as well as stimulating relevant activities, including research, related to enhancing the adaptability of the Wadden Sea to climate change. The meeting agreed to further discuss applicable options for implementation at the next meeting.

The meeting generally acknowledged that the output 3, related to task 2, i.e. the study into sediment dynamics, would be dependent on financing and that this must be considered a risk. TG-C could in the end not be held responsible for the implementation of task 2, if no financing could be found for this task.

The meeting saw good chances for a joint study into sediment dynamics, based upon the outcomes of the quick-scan "sediment dynamics Wadden Sea" that is being conducted by the Dutch Delta Program. It was also made clear that concrete results could not yet be expected at the 2013 Wadden Sea Council meeting.

With regard to task 3, the development of model spatial plans for pilot sites in the Wadden Sea region, the meeting emphasized that this would be unfeasible without financial resources.

The meeting furthermore underlined the need for a better participation of spatial planners in the group. To this end it was strongly recommended to have additional TG-C members from Schleswig-Holstein and The Netherlands.

The meeting was positive about the idea to develop best practice methodologies at the local level. It would help making different responsible authorities become aware of the problems of climate change in relation to spatial planning.

For Germany general concern was expressed about the feasibility of local pilots conducted by State authorities. It was suggested to seek contact with persons and institutions that could coordinate pilot studies.

It was further agreed that these studies needed a common methodological coordination. To this end the University of Nijmegen will be contacted. Here, a related governance project has recently started.

It was furthermore suggested to involve the Wadden Sea Forum.

Task Group Management (TG-M)

Chair/secretariat: Ms Stefanie Hedtkamp, BMU, Germany/Mr Folkert de Jong

Meeting: TG-M 1, 9 March 2011, Bremen

The meeting discussed its Terms of Reference.

With regard to task 1, the evaluation of the recommendations of the High Level Review (HLR) the meeting set priorities for the first two phases (2010-2012), as applied in the HLR report. It was decided to discuss main conservation issues at the next meeting (5-6 July) on the basis of the QSR and the Scientific Symposium recommendations, as well as input from the parties. The conservation priorities would be used for setting priorities in the projects and actions list.

With regard to the delimitation issue (HLR Recommendations 25, 26, 27), it was agreed to prepare an overview of national positions, recent and expected developments, as a basis for a general discussion at TG-M 2.

For task 2 (harmonized EU assessment and reporting), the meeting underlined the need for harmonizing the timing of the QSR production with the reporting requirements of the relevant Directives. The meeting acknowledged the merits of the CWSS being observer in the MSFD coordination group (HLR recommendation 21) and **requests the WSB** to support this recommendation.

With regard to task 3, policy and management assessment, the meeting agreed to discuss a long-term development strategy for the TMAP at its next meeting. The proposed chairman of a TMAG informed the meeting that there is still a discussion on the need for a TMAG. Several members felt not or insufficiently informed about this discussion and had therefore not been able to prepare themselves. It was stated that the new structure of the cooperation had not been prepared sufficiently, in particular regarding its practical functioning. Some members feared that a TMAG would be redundant within the expert network. There were different opinions about a possible “umbrella” function of a TMAG within the expert network. Some members were in favor, underlining the need for a coordinating and filtering function with respect to monitoring proposals from other expert groups. Others pointed to the danger of introducing again the former structure in which there had been much redundancy. They also pointed to the option of making use of ad-hoc expert groups.

The meeting **proposes to the WSB** to postpone the decision on installing a TMAG until there is more clarity about the possible added value of a TMAG within the new structure. This should be done on the basis of a discussion by the TG-M of detailed terms of reference for a TMAG from the perspective of the tasks and functioning of the whole expert network, as well as the tasks of the TG-M. Furthermore there has to be clarity about existing and planned expert network groups.

There was general agreement that the TG-M should be responsible for the policy and management aspects of monitoring and assessment.

Task Group Sustainable Tourism Strategy (TG-STs)

Chair/secretariat: Ms Elze Klinkhammer, RCW, Netherlands/Mr Harald Marencic

Meeting: TG-STs 1, 28 February 2011, Bremen

The Wadden Sea Board adopted the Terms of Reference for the development of a consistent sustainable tourism strategy (STS) for the Wadden Sea World Heritage and established a Task Group to implement the project in 2011 – 2012. Ms Elze Klinkhammer (RCW) was appointed as chairperson and a first meeting is being held on 28 February 2011 to start with the implementation of the project.

The Task Groups Sustainable Tourism Strategy (TG-STs) consists of representatives from tourism and marketing organizations, ministries and provinces, nature conservation agencies, and green NGOs from the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark.

The first meeting of the TG was devoted to the start of the STS project. The meeting adopted a briefing as basis for obtaining tenders from consultants. Financial contributions for the STS project have been ensured from the Netherlands and Germany so that the project can start in spring 2011.

The TG acknowledged the status of the joint World Heritage campaign 2011. The “story hunter” campaign started in the Netherlands and Germany with a joint press release on 1 March 2011 and was well received by local partners and the media. First bookings for story hunter events have been received. The TG underlined that the joint camping should be integrated in regional marketing activities as much as possible to avoid parallel work and to enhance the synergies from the joint designation.

Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH)

Chair/secretariat: Mr Jens Enemark/Mr Harald Marencic

Meetings: TG-WH 1, 23 November 2010 at CWSS; TG-WH 2, 8 March 2011, Bremen

The TG-WH has met twice since WSB. The first meeting was primarily devoted to the preparation of documents for the minor boundary correction of Hamburg. The application was submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Center in Paris timely in January 2011 and it is anticipated that a decision will be taken by the World Heritage Committee at its annual session in Bahrein, June 2011. The application is at <http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/management/whs/whs-boundary-mod-hh.html>.

At the second meeting, the request for supplementary information by the IUCN on the application was extensively discussed. A response is under preparation to the question on why the application for the modification has been submitted at this point in time in relation to the still pending decision on the deepening of the Elbe and information on the integrated dredged sediment scheme for the Elbe.

A further issue discussed was the preliminary indicative draft budget 2011 – 13 for the Wadden Sea World Heritage Communication and Marketing Program. So far the program is financed by the partners and stakeholders, primarily the marketing organizations on an ad-hoc basis. This has worked well but it was recognized that a long-term budget planning is necessary to create certainty and continuity. The discussion on the indicative budget will continue at forthcoming meetings with a view to the submission of a consolidated indicative budget planning at the WSB 4 for 2012 - 13. In the meantime it was agreed that the additional activities should be covered by the joint campaign and the tourism project.

Further issues discussed were the communication and logo guidelines. There is a great interest in using the logo for communication by a wider community and to become part of the Wadden Sea World Heritage community. The secretariat will take the initiative to align the use and develop a common strategy in this respect with the partners.

Task Group Shipping (TG-S)

Chair/secretariat: Mr Sjon Huisman, Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, Netherlands/Ms Kristine Jung, CWSS

Meeting: TG-S 1, 18 February 2011, Bremen

The first meeting of TG-S was primarily devoted to discussing and approving of the work plan for the period 2011 – 13. The work plan has been elaborated on the basis of the Terms of Reference for TG-S and the primary outcome is the elaboration of a draft vision for the Wadden Sea PSSA as an input to the 2013 Wadden Sea Conference including an improvement of the information and awareness on the

PSSA and a better collaboration between shipping and conservation authorities. The work plan is a frame work plan to be adjusted as the work progresses.

A further issue discussed was the preparation of the Wadden Sea PSSA workshop, which will be held in Hamburg on 19 May 2011¹. The workshop encompasses three items: (1) Presentation and discussion of the Wadden Sea PSSA Evaluation Report, (2) Presentation and discussion on the BRISK Project and DenGerNeth Plan and (3) shipping safety and offshore wind parks. Participation is limited to max. 40 persons and is on invitation from the competent authorities, the WSF shipping group and a number of representatives from NGOs such as the shipping companies, harbors, costs guards and conservation organizations.

¹ Date will be postponed until week 24