

## MEETING DOCUMENT

### Wadden Sea Board (WSB 31)

18 June 2020  
Virtual meeting



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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	5.1 World Heritage
<b>Subject:</b>	Development of the single integrated management plan
<b>Document No.:</b>	WSB 31/5.1/2
<b>Date:</b>	27 May 2020
<b>Submitted by:</b>	TG-WH

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The WSB 28 (March 2019) adopted the preliminary structure of the SIMP ([WSB 28/5.1/2 Status Report SIMP](#)) and the development phases proposed by TG-WH. The WSB 29 (June 2019) endorsed the approach on the process for selecting key topics for the SIMP ([WSB 29/5.1/1 Status Report SIMP](#)) and WSB 30 (WSB30 5.1-2 SIMP status report.pdf) endorsed the selected key topics based on the managers recommendations and the prioritization by TG-WH 29. According to the approved SIMP development phases ([WSB 28/5.1/2 Status Report SIMP](#)), the planned milestones for 2019 have been achieved. 2020 is dedicated to developing the content of the SIMP with the goal of having a first complete draft for WSB 32 in November.

This meeting document includes a progress report on the SIMP content development and two specific requests for guidance relevant to the further development of the SIMP (see below).

**Proposal:** The meeting is invited:

1. To **note** the progress report on the SIMP content development.
2. To **endorse** the SIMP status statement.
3. To **endorse** the proposal to publish relevant background information gathered in the process of developing the SIMP in an online microsite under the CWSS website in addition to publishing the concise stand-alone SIMP-document.

# Single integrated management plan: content development

## 1. Background

The Leeuwarden Declaration 2018 includes the task to develop a single integrated management plan for the Wadden Sea World Heritage (SIMP) as requested by the WH Committee in 2014. The context, objectives and timeline are defined in Annex 1 of the Declaration.

The Annex states that the starting point for the further development of the single integrated management plan will be a preliminary structure agreed by the Wadden Sea Board. The content will reflect the current priorities of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) and will focus on overarching issues needed to be managed with priority and in a consistent way to maintain the OUV and the integrity. Contents and priorities may be adapted during the process; therefore, a flexible approach is envisaged. The SIMP is regarded as a “... concise and short document” that “contributes to make the complexity of World Heritage management operational. It should be easy to read in order to better connect to the people on the ground. It should in general follow WHC and the international Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) advice on World Heritage management plans.”

The preliminary structure of the SIMP and its development process proposed by TG-WH, were adopted by the WSB 28 (March 2019, [WSB 28/5.1/2 Status Report SIMP](#)). The preliminary SIMP structure was enriched by the managers' recommendations resulting from the in-person interviews in July-August 2019 and the managers' workshop in Tönning on 18-19 September 2019. TG-WH 29 amended the SIMP preliminary structure which was then endorsed by the WSB 30 ([WSB30 5.1-2 SIMP status report.pdf](#)) and further improved. The up-to date preliminary structure of the SIMP complies with para. 111 of the Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention and is being used to develop the content the SIMP.

The content of the SIMP will provide a coherent overview on how trilateral management is done and addresses key topics as overarching issues needed to be managed with priority and in a consistent way to maintain the OUV and the integrity.

The WSB 30 ([WSB30 5.1-2 SIMP status report.pdf](#)) endorsed fisheries, tourism, shipping, and impacts from outside as key topics for the SIMP. The selected key topics are the result of a process endorsed by WSB 29 ([WSB 29/5.1/1 Status Report SIMP](#)) that included the selection criteria submitted in Annex 1 of the Leeuwarden Declaration, the recommendations of the managers, the statement of OUV and the prioritization by TG-WH 29.

According to the approved SIMP development phases ([WSB 28/5.1/2 Status Report SIMP](#) and Figure 4 in Annex 2), the planned milestones for 2019 have been achieved. 2020 is dedicated to developing the content of the SIMP with the goal of having a first complete draft for WSB 32 in November.

## 2. Progress on the content development of the SIMP

The overall draft SIMP content development process is being oversighted by TG-WH. CWSS coordinates and supports the content development through the SIMP officer and the respective CWSS staff in each TWSC group involved.

In the joint SIMP meeting held on 23 January 2020 in Hamburg, TG-WH and TG-M agreed on a referential structure to guide the content development of each of the selected key topics. The resulting content, the degree of detail and the type of recommendations (e.g. procedural level: who and how to include, or more specific joint strategies and actions for management) will be adapted for each key topic. The key topics' content feeds into the overall SIMP-document (see Annex 1: SIMP preliminary structure).

The meeting recognized the need to further specify what is meant with the key topic “Impacts from outside”. The meeting agreed to address in impacts from outside: renewable energy in the context of wind energy,

energy from oil and gas and coastal flood defence and protection measures. Finally, the meeting identified who should lead the content development for each key topic (See Table 1, [TG-WH & TG-M joint SIMP meeting summary record](#)).

**Table 1.** Selected key topics for the SIMP, leadership for the content development of each key topic, the status by mid May 2020 and immediate next steps. All leading groups use as guidance the agreed referential content structure for their next steps ([TG-WH & TG-M joint SIMP meeting summary record](#)).

Fisheries	Tourism
<p><b>Lead:</b> TG-M</p> <p><b>Support:</b> Fisheries specialists from the different countries.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> Draft inventory of fisheries in the Wadden Sea.</p> <p><b>Next steps:</b> Update and completion of fishery inventory. Status and recommendations for the principles in the Framework Sustainable Fishery (Annex 3 <a href="#">Tønder Declaration</a>), including how a legislative framework supports the Framework.</p> <p>(See <a href="#">WSB31/5.2/1 TG-M progress report</a>)</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> NG-ST</p> <p><b>Support:</b> Tourism managers.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> Draft document of the content of the headings “Inventory” and “Common ground”.</p> <p><b>Next steps:</b> Bilateral meetings with key members of the NG-ST and people in charge of tourism management.</p> <p>Interactive Workshop with NG-ST planned for September (date and format tbd) to discuss how the STS Action plan can be a tool to support the SIMP on international, national and regional level in the process of shaping the tourism planning and management within and around the Wadden Sea World Heritage Destination.</p>

Shipping	Renewable wind energy and energy from oil and gas
<p><b>Lead:</b> WSF to organize a round table</p> <p><b>Support:</b> CWSS and TG-M.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> Round table postponed due to COVID-19</p> <p>(See <a href="#">WSB31/7.1 WSF Progress report</a>).</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> TG-M leading Schleswig-Holstein</p> <p><b>Status:</b> Draft inventory of the status of renewable wind energy and energy from oil and gas in the Wadden Sea.</p> <p><b>Next steps:</b> Update and completion of inventory.</p> <p>(See <a href="#">WSB31/5.2/1 TG-M progress report</a>)</p>

Coastal flood defence and protection measures
<p><b>Lead:</b> EG-C</p> <p><b>Status:</b> Draft inventory of coastal flood defence and protection measures.</p> <p><b>Next steps:</b> Update and completion of inventory Identification of challenges shared by the three countries.</p>

Regarding the overall design of the SIMP, attention is being paid to make the SIMP “easy to read in order to better connect to the people on the ground” (Annex 1 of the Leeuwarden Declaration, 2018). The draft figures in Annex 2 are part of the progress done up to date and show:

- Figure 1. The scope of the SIMP.
- Figure 2. The Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).
- Figure 3. The Wadden Sea World Heritage OUV Criteria and the respective key values.
- Figure 4. The process of developing the SIMP.
- Figure 5. The management cycle.
- Figure 6. Management system structure in Denmark.
- Figure 7. Management system structure in Germany.
- Figure 8. Management system structure in the Netherlands.

The complete first draft of the SIMP will be presented and discussed in WSB 32 before entering the consultation phase in 2021. Discussion will include a proposal on the time horizon of the SIMP and a roadmap proposal for the next phases of development in 2021 and 2022.

### **3. Issues for which guidance from WSB is required**

#### **a) The status of the SIMP**

With regard to the status of the SIMP related to how “binding the SIMP should be”, TG-WH proposes to include the following statement in the SIMP document:

“The single integrated management plan for the Wadden Sea World Heritage is a political agreement of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC), meaning it is a legally non-binding document of common political interest.

Existing policy documents and legally binding instruments at the trilateral, regional, national, or local level are not altered or affected by the SIMP.

The recommendations presented in the SIMP which are derived from the process of developing the key topics are to be implemented by the three countries in cooperation, and individually, by the competent authorities on the basis of existing legislation and through the participation of interest groups.”

#### **b) Length of the SIMP-document**

The content development of the SIMP is being done in the best way possible to produce a concise and short document, as stated in Annex1 of the Leeuwarden Declaration.

Additionally, and as documented in Table 1, the content which is developed on the key topics is extensive and the documentation exceeds the agreed page limit. The information collected and produced is deemed very valuable at all levels in the three countries, as it adds to the exchange of information and experiences, and contributes to the objective of the SIMP stated in Annex 1 of the Leeuwarden Declaration of “Striving towards a further harmonization of management on the ground and strengthen the effectiveness of implementation of coordinated management while taking into account the regional management systems and regional differences.”

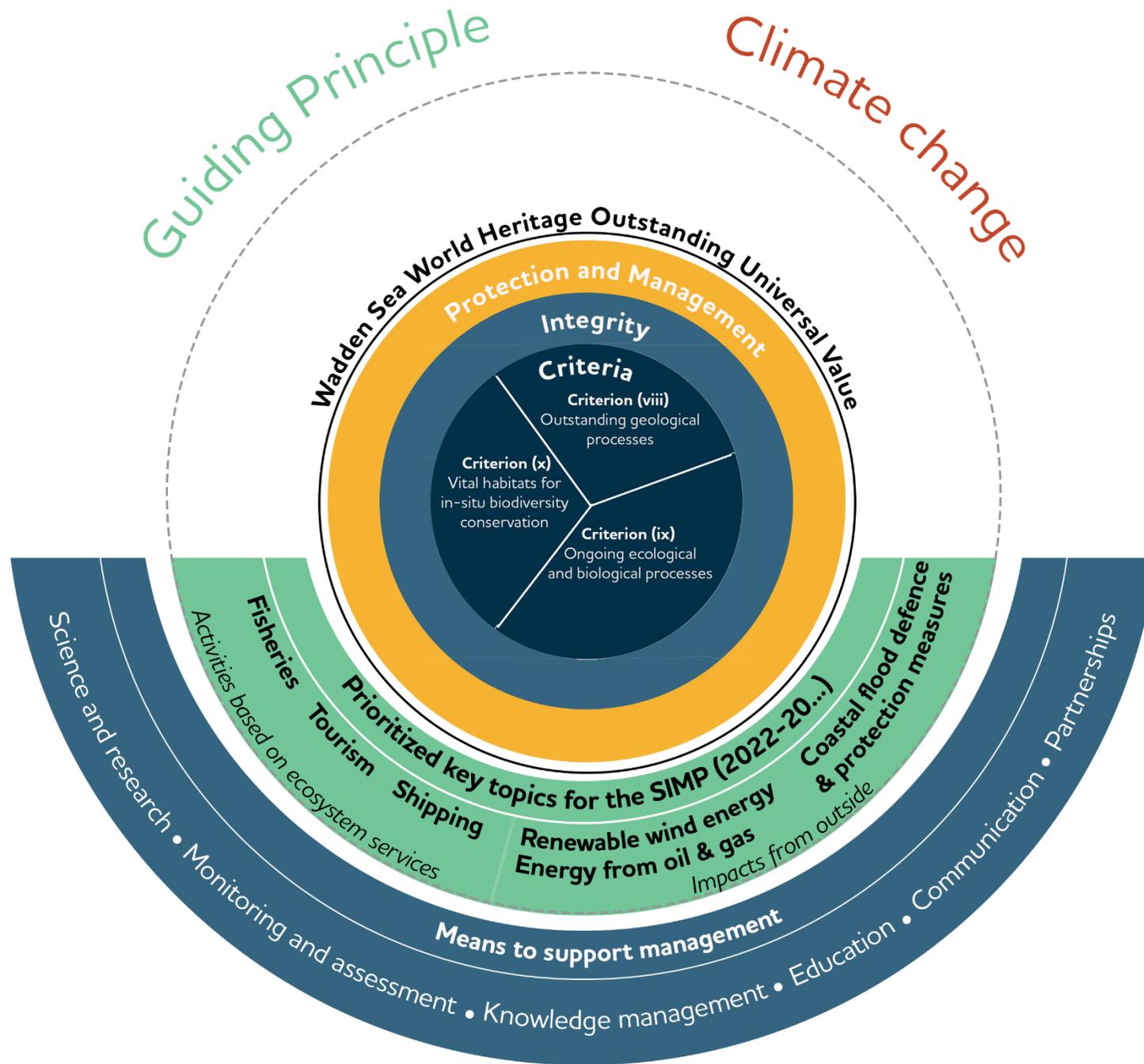
Therefore, TG-WH proposes to add relevant background information gathered in the process of developing the SIMP in an online microsite published under the CWSS website in addition to publishing the concise stand-alone SIMP-document.

**Annex 1.** SIMP preliminary structure (as endorsed by WSB28 and WSB30 and further developed during the process).

<b>1. The OUV</b>
Provides a clear explanation of the concept of the OUV <sup>1</sup>
<b>2. Purpose, scope and added value of the SIMP</b>
Includes the status of the SIMP, purpose, scope and added value in a clear formulation for managers, decision makers and the public.
<b>3. The process of developing the SIMP</b>
Provides a description of the process undertaken, who was involved, how where decisions taken, how and to whom was the SIMP communicated.
<b>4. Management overview</b>
This overview will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the existing management structures on the trilateral and national level</li> <li>the management cycle (WSB, Declarations, TMAP, WFD, MSFD, N2000etc</li> <li>the existing strategies, management plans, regulations and other instruments, showing how these are interlinked, and their role, together with the Wadden Sea Plan, as building stones for the SIMP,</li> <li>the existing monitoring system and data handling (including data accessibility and analysis for trilateral reports i.e. QSR),</li> <li>the existing maps (protection regimes, uses, etc).</li> </ul> This overview serves to communicate and disseminate the trilateral management framework in an easy and clear way to national managers as well as to all stakeholders (local, regional and global) and the general public. The comprehensive overview also aims to identify gaps and serves as input to assess the current management effectiveness and how can we improve it.
<b>5. What to manage (key topics)</b>
Key topics that need special attention <b>for the preservation of OUV</b> are fisheries, tourism, shipping, renewable wind energy, energy from oil and gas and coastal flood defence and protection measures.
<b>6. Roles and responsibilities (management implementation)</b>
Provides an overview of who is doing what (coherent management of the Wadden Sea) what are the activities with trilateral collaboration in place, and what are the activities that need to enhance collaboration with partners and stakeholders. This heading gives an overview of how we are putting in practice the management proposed in the SIMP (how and where are we collaborating/how are we putting the findings (from “5. What to manage (key topics)”) of the SIMP into practice).
<b>7. Means to support management</b>
Describes the activities, strategies and plans to support management through communication, education, monitoring, research, knowledge management and partnerships.
<b>8. Global dimensions</b>
Links the trilateral management into the global dimension of World Heritage: Showcase the Flyway and the Swimway Initiatives. Participation in UNESCO World Heritage Programs. Our contribution to the SDGs and international cooperation.
<b>9. Monitoring and review of the SIMP</b>
Describes the way the SIMP is monitored and reviewed, coordinated with and contributing to the national obligations, as an integral part of the management cycle. Promotes a periodical evaluation (management targets, tasks and necessities addressed in the SIMP), what are the results and implications (of research, monitoring and evaluation) for management.
<b>10. Resources</b>
Addresses the way resources are mobilised for the implementation of the joint management, may highlight opportunities, synergies, needs and challenges.

<sup>1</sup> The World Heritage Committee considers a property as having Outstanding Universal Value if the property meets one or more of the selection criteria, meets the conditions of integrity and has an adequate protection and management system to ensure the OUV safeguarding (§ 77 and 78 Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention).

**Annex 2.** Preliminary figures



**Figure 1.** The scope of the SIMP.

# Outstanding Universal Value - OUV

The Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) describes why a site is among the most remarkable places on Earth. Its conservation is of importance for the present and future generations of all humanity.

The World Heritage Committee considers a property as having **Outstanding Universal Value** if the property satisfies all three conditions:

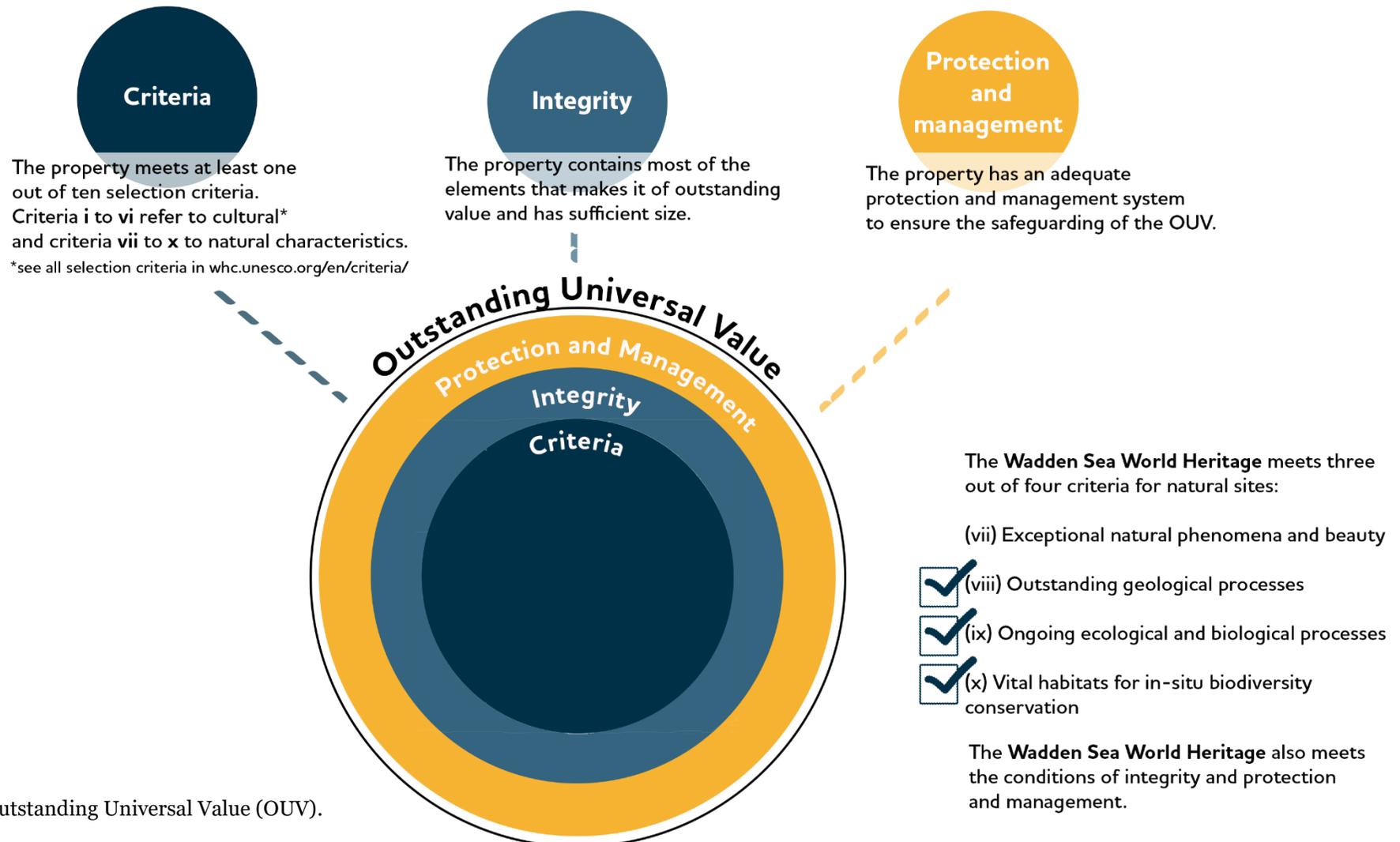
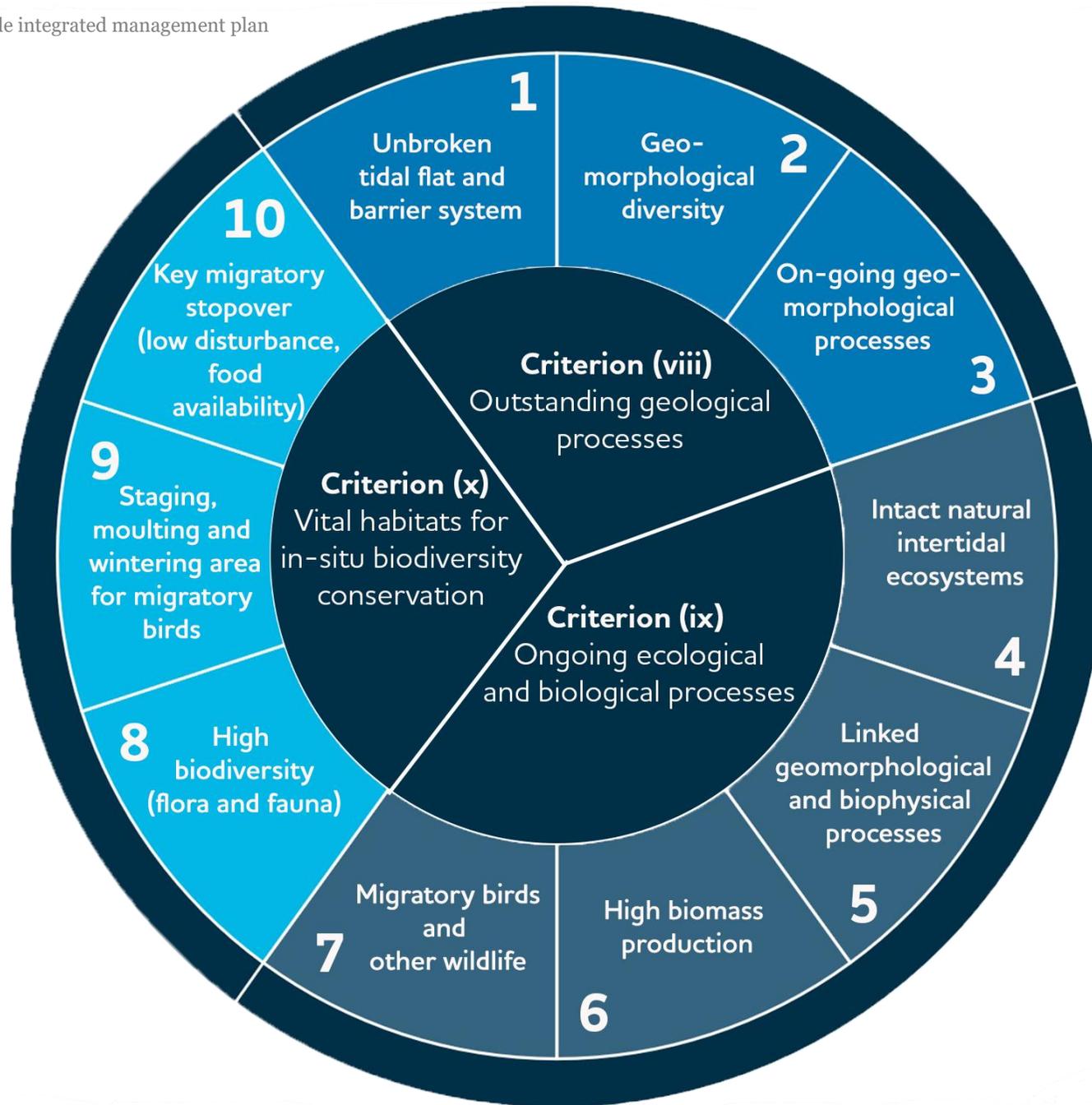
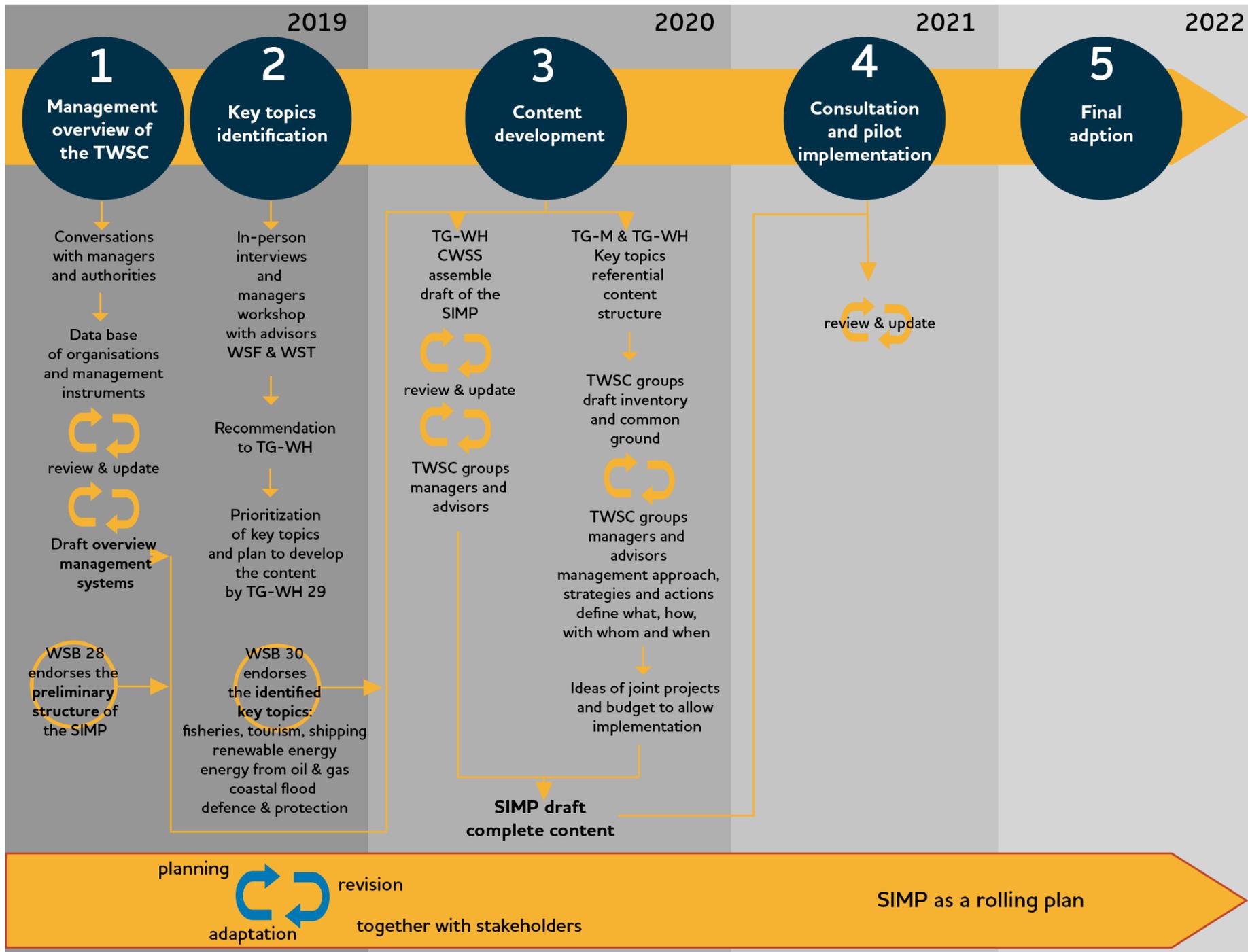


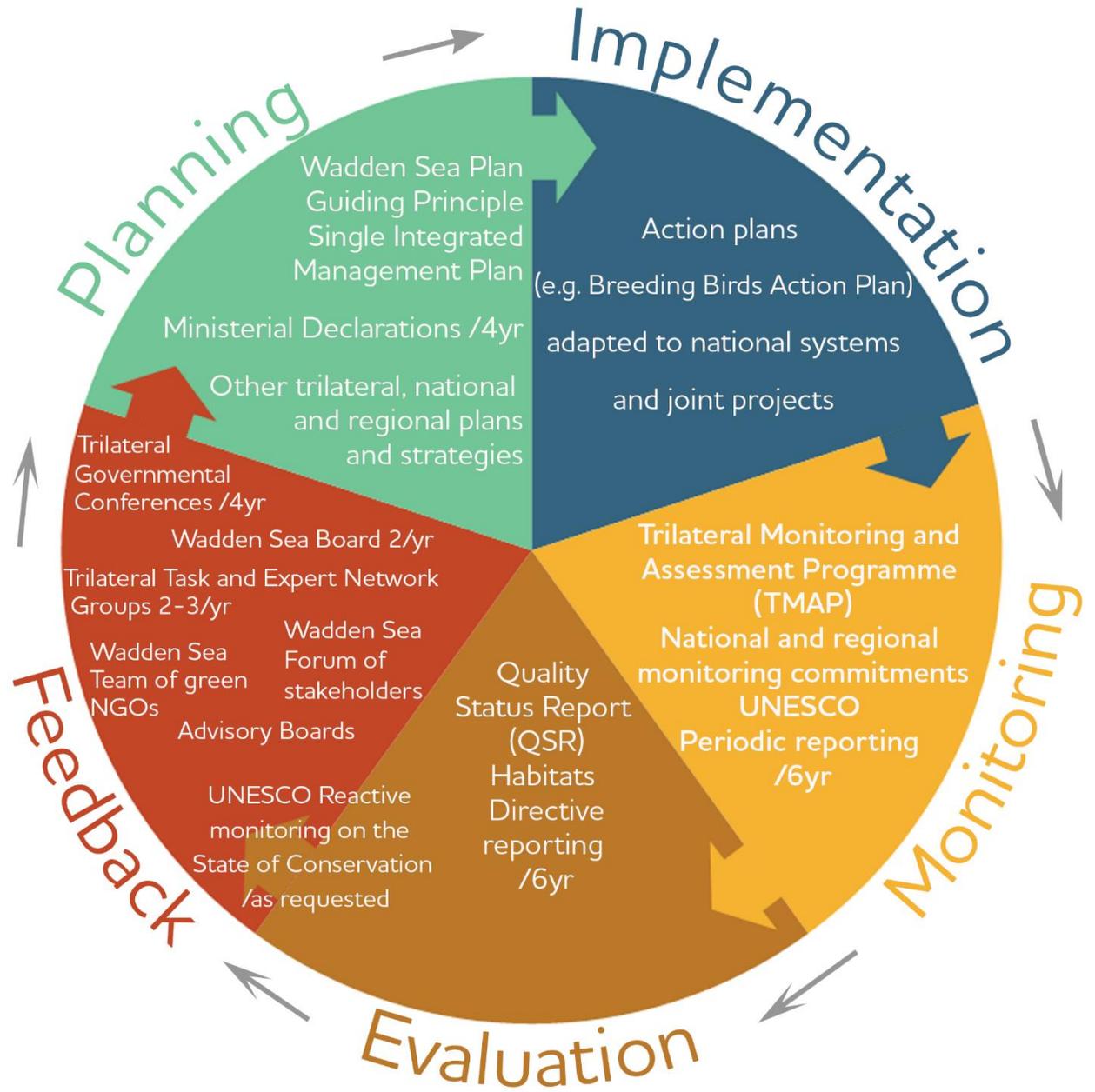
Figure 2. The Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).



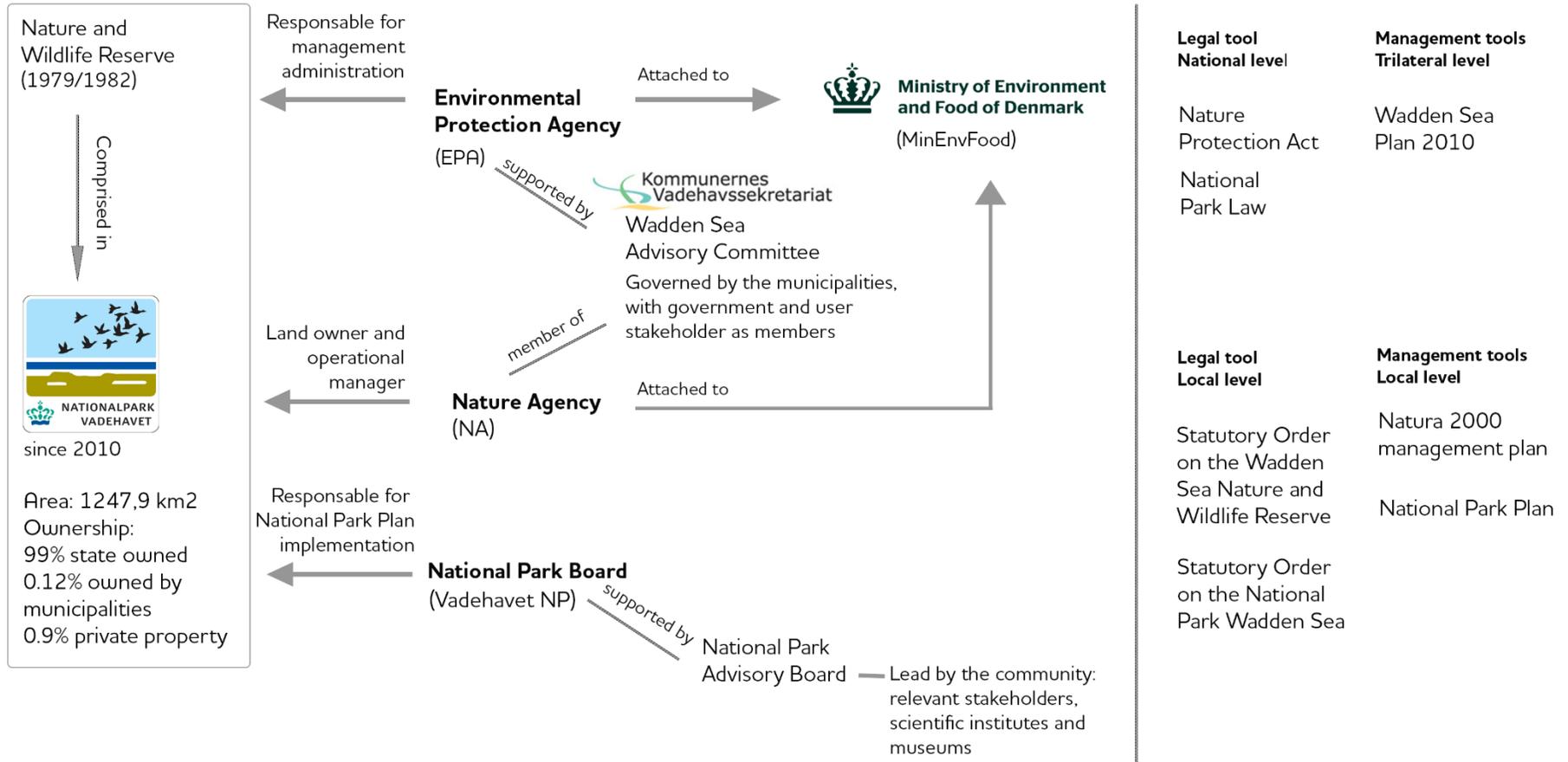
**Figure 3.** The Wadden Sea World Heritage OUV Criteria and the respective key values.



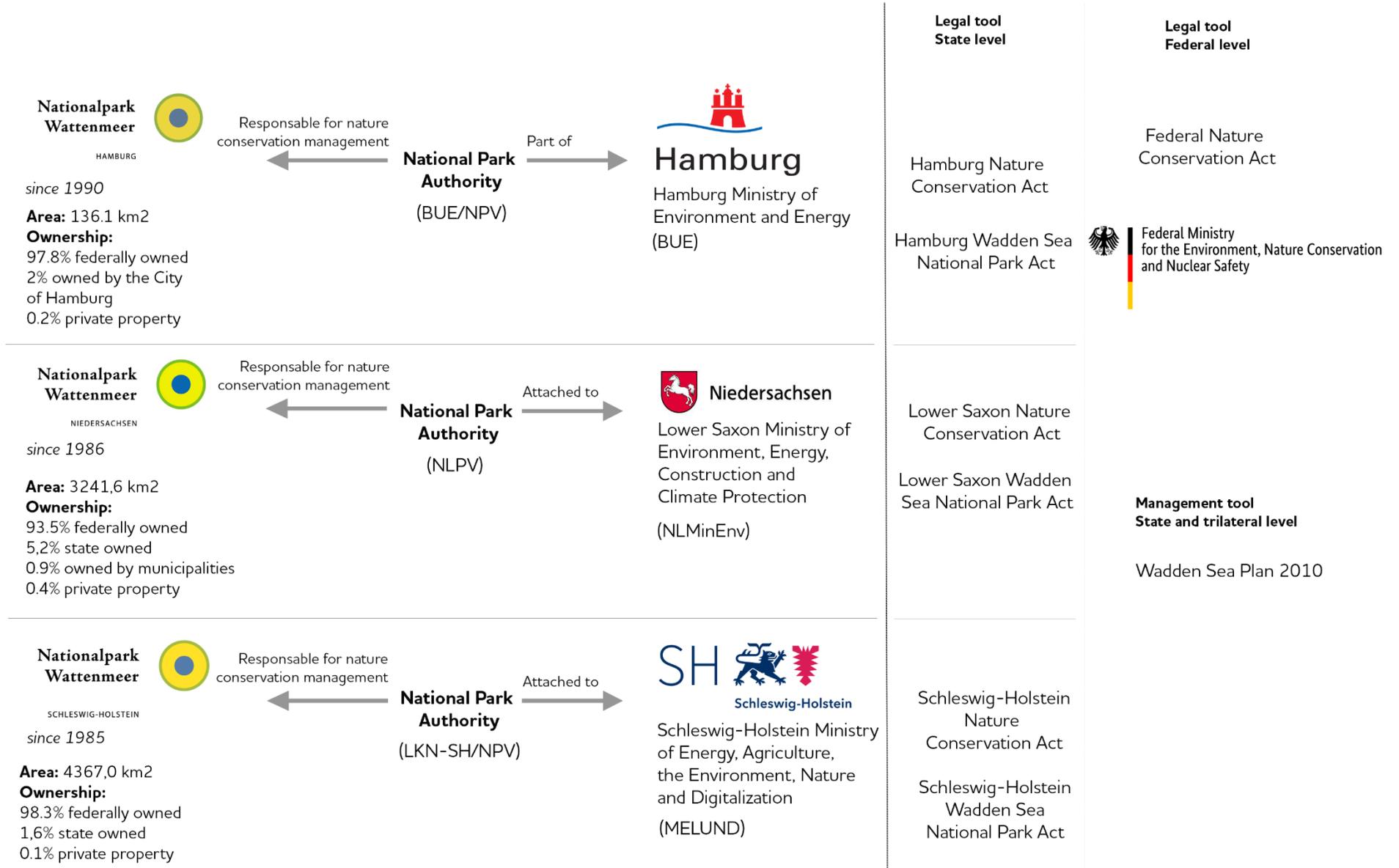
**Figure 4.** The five general phases of the process of developing the SIMP 2019-2022 and the detail of each phase. The approved preliminary structure of the SIMP was the first step in the process (Annex 1). The identification of key topics was done in collaboration with managers and advisors from the three countries. A roadmap proposal for the next phases of development in 2021 and 2022 will be presented to WSB 32.



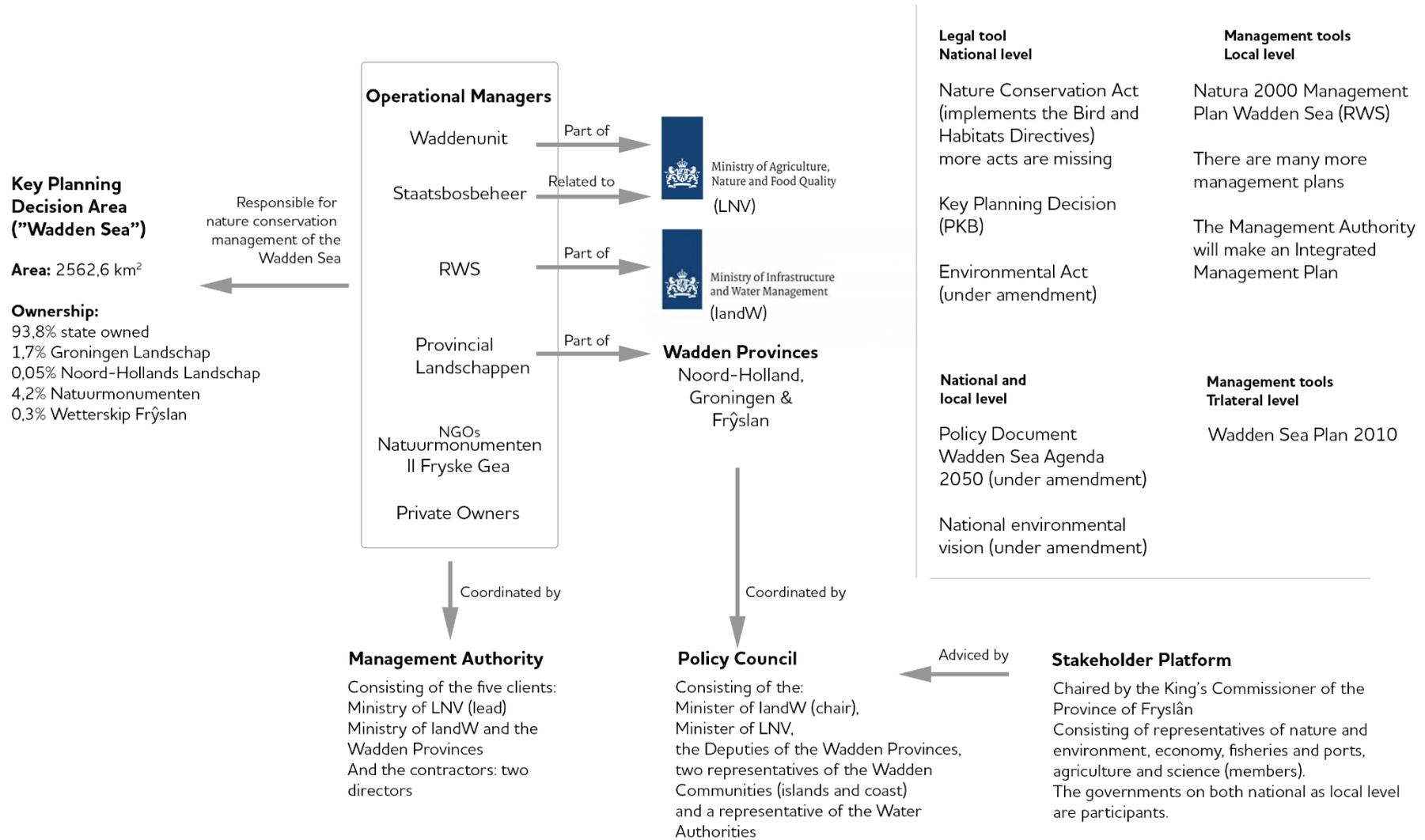
**Figure 5.** Phases of the management cycle required for an effective management system (§ 111 Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention) adapted for the Wadden Sea World Heritage. Time frames are after shown after the / in years or times per year.



**Figure 6.** The Danish Environmental Protection Agency as part of the Ministry of Environment and Food is responsible for the management administration of the Nature and Wildlife Reserve and of the enforcement of the national legislation. The Nature Agency is owner and operational manager. The National Park encompasses the Nature and Wildlife Reserve. The National Park Board is responsible for the implementation of the National Park Plan in accordance with the Statutory Order for the National Park Wadden Sea.



**Figure 7.** General management system of the Wadden Sea Cooperation Area/Nature Conservation Area is organized at the Federal State level as outlined in the Federal Nature Conservation Act. State National Park Authorities are the competent authority for the management and protection of each National Park. Each National Park Authority is part of or is attached to the respective State Ministry of Environment.



**Figure 8.** The Wadden Sea Management Authority (established in 2020) is responsible for coordinating management on nature, fish and water in the Dutch Wadden Sea. The Management Authority is formed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Quality, The Ministry of Infrastructure and Water management and the Wadden Sea Provinces. Attached to these organisations are the ones responsible for planning and the management implementation at the operational level.