

Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 23
23 March 2018
Wilhelmshaven, Germany**



Agenda Item: 5.2
Subject: Report TG-MM
Document No. WSB 23/5.2/1
Date: 15 March 2018
Submitted by: TG-MM

Attached is the progress report on themes for which the Task Group Management and Monitoring (TG-MM) is responsible.

Proposal: The meeting is invited to note the report and to endorse the proposals.

TASK GROUP MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING (TG-MM)

PROGRESS REPORT TO WSB-23

The TG-MM 21 meeting discussed the following issues on 06 March 2018 in Wilhelmshaven:

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 Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) is ongoing. Recent activity and development:

JMMB/JMBB activity report to TG-MM meeting on 6 March 2018 (status 26 February 2018):

There was no JMMB/JMBB meeting after the last TG-MM meeting on 19 December. Therefore, the main topics reported already at TG-MM 20 are ongoing. Latest activities:

- Next JMMB/JMBB 18/1 meeting on 6-7 March, back-to-back with QAM workshop. Mr. Marc van Roomen (SOVON) and Eldar Rakhambardiev (NIOZ) are invited to intensify cooperation of JMMB/JMBB with flyway and Arctic breeding ground activities.
- Quality Assurance Meeting (QAM) on use of unmanned aerial vehicles in bird monitoring will held at the University of Groningen on 6 March 2018. 34 monitoring experts were invited. The results will be basis for extension and updating of the breeding bird monitoring guidelines from 1995 (WSE No. 3).

WSFI Steering Group activity report to TG-MM (status 26 February 2018):

- The new capacity building programme financed by BMUB (€ 140,000 for 2018-19) started in January 2018.
- JMMB/JMBB and SOVON planned to prepare a brochure on Wadden Sea and flyway bird counts to be published for the TGC 2018. Although fund of € 20,000 for the brochure is available it is still not clear if the brochure will be produced. Reasons are the late announcement of the brochure by the Dutch colleagues in November 2017, the change of migratory bird data handling in the same period and unavailability of data in short time (Niedersachsen and Denmark).
- Collection of trilateral migratory bird data in progress, report in spring or summer 2018.
- Fund for AMBI coordinator, employed by CAFF secretariat and located at CWSS, is available. Administrational agreements between CAFF and CWSS on the way. Employment details need further clarification.

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 requested manager's workshop, planned for 22 & 23 March 2018 on the Dutch island of Ameland in cooperation with Staatsbosbeheer, was cancelled in the meantime. During its meeting TG-MM agreed to provide positive feedback to the organizers to support the initiative despite low registrations.

The organization of the envisaged wardening workshop is still in progress, organized by the Netherlands with support from CWSS.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

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.

CWSS was instructed to follow the updated proposal to assign a consultant for analysing the regional reporting information with regard to its comparability. If the data sets/methodologies are considered comparable, or could be processed to reach this status, the consultant should deliver an assessment report by July 2018. The coverage of costs will be considered by both CWSS and the regions. To enable the analysis by the consultant CWSS, together with Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein, will further explore the existing data set.

Proposal: WSB is note to 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.

- The predation management report is still in preparation
- Breeding bird progress report expected in April 2018

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

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.

A new version of the SMP is in consultation in TSEGplus and by the authorities until 12 March 2018. A final draft is expected for TG-MM 22. In the Netherlands the scientific advisory committee reported its results and the findings will be taken into account for the final discussion of the SMP in TG-MM, together with the chairperson of the TSEG. It is still envisaged to adopt the plan during the TGC in 2018.

Proposal: WSB is requested to note the approach.

A workshop on Harbour porpoises is planned for autumn 2018. TG-MM had only minor comments on the details of the corresponding proposal. CWSS, with support from Schleswig-Holstein, will explore options to host the workshop on the island of Sylt. The overall aim will

be to collect information on the ecological role of the population in the Wadden Sea and adjacent North Sea waters. The information should exceed the basic discussion displayed within the corresponding QSR Thematic Report on marine mammals. Furthermore, the relation of any activities to ASCOBANS and OSPAR would need further clarification.

Proposal: WSB is requested to consider 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.

The Swimway draft action programme has been finalized by the writer's group in mid-January, following the endorsement of WSB-21, and incorporating additional comments from the regions and was reviewed by TG-MM. In this context minor editorial changes have been made to the two-pager as annex for the MCD. The meeting generally adopted the programme but raised concern on the future financing of the programme. Although the post of the Swimway coordinator is funded through 2018, the further development of the six years programme is unclear from 2019 due to the unresolved overall financing. The major financial burden is expected to be covered by external sources but coordination and application processes would require some seed funding.

The meeting proposed the establishment of a trilateral Working Group Fish to accompany the Swimway programme and to consider the appointment of a person responsible for project applications.

TG-MM proposed to sign a vision during the conference rather than an action programme, which was considered as more appropriate during such an event. Proposals for changes to the signing text will be sent to the author. The documents will be available for WSB 23.

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.

An updated version of the MAPAS was delivered by the Working Group Alien Species. The meeting considered the document generally ready for adoption and welcomed the good progress over the last couple of months. Nevertheless, Schleswig-Holstein considered that the adoption of the plan at TGC might prove difficult as it was not part of the regional consultations and thus couldn't be discussed in the advisory boards. The WSB will be requested to decide on the procedure how to deal with the plan regarding the MCD as the proposed Annex (two-pager) could not be adopted if the underlying document had not been accepted in time. The meeting agreed that a future Working Group Alien Species would need further elaborated ToR.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information and is requested to decide how to proceed.

PSSA - DenGerNeth/MARAD

55. Emphasize the importance of the maritime activities and safety of the Wadden Sea Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) and welcome the engagement of the stakeholders in implementing the agreements of the Sylt Declaration and recognise the developed operational plans relevant for the Wadden Sea PSSA.

56. Encourage the national competent authorities to use the operational plans as in

Annex 5 as the basis for reviewing and accordingly implementing the measures of the operational plans, e.g. stimulate where reasonable and feasible, the accelerated implementation of (bio)-LNG as transition fuel, in order to achieve its objectives.

57. Continue the dialogue between the competent shipping and nature conservation authorities and stakeholders in order to achieve an even higher level of safety and cooperation.

The meeting was informed that the workshop had been cancelled once again due to the lack of a sufficient number of registrations.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the decision of the Dutch organizers.

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 welcomed the approach by Germany to focus on TMAP during the next presidency. The TMAP inventory initiated by TG-MM will be continued and used as basis for future activities to review and amend the programme. The meeting agreed to continue with the activities stipulated during TG-MM 20.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note 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.

The QSR Synthesis Report has been delayed due to absence through sickness of CWSS staff at the beginning of 2018. An updated version is scheduled for distribution to the Editorial Board and TG-MM during the week after the meeting. Subsequent to a review in the light of TG-MM 22, a final draft is expected for submission to WSB 24 on 20 April 2018. A potential author for the Thematic Report on hazardous substances has been found. He would examine the extensive data set at that time.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

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.

TG-MM welcomed the TRA document submitted by the TG-WH after its latest meeting and had an initial discussion based on the proposed four thematic lines and the report by the TG-WH. TG-MM decided to continue this discussion at the next meeting and envisaged submitting of a common document of the two task groups before the WSB of 20 April.

Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach.