

Wadden Sea Board

WSB 28

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Berlin, Germany



Agenda Item:	5.1 World Heritage
Subject:	Development of the Single Integrated Management Plan
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Submitted by:	CWSS and TG-WH Chair

Background

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

In order to develop the required preliminary SIMP structure, the TG-WH in its meeting # 26 on January 31, 2019 in Bremen, held an interactive workshop. The workshop started by describing what facts would make the SIMP a successful plan. Then, all members identified and agreed on the essential elements that the preliminary SIMP structure should include. The group produced a draft of the process needed to develop the content of the SIMP and a respective timeline. Additional input to these preliminary results were the outcome of the meetings held with various stakeholders as part of the process for developing the SIMP.

Attached is a summary of the outcome of the TG-WH workshop which covers

1. a summary of the statements for a successful SIMP,
2. a preliminary structure of the SIMP,
3. the general process for developing the SIMP, and
4. the respective timeline.

Proposal: The meeting is invited

1. **To approve** the proposed preliminary structure as a starting point for the further development of the SIMP,
2. **To note** the draft general process and timeline.

Summary of the outcome of the WH workshop

The summary of the statements for a successful SIMP and the preliminary structure, the draft process and timeline were the result of a collaborative work among the TG-WH members. Attention is drawn to that during the workshop as well as during the consultation process, input has underpinned that the “backbone” of the SIMP is the Wadden Sea Plan which is complemented and implemented by the national management plans, regulations and other instruments. The SIMP is supposed to deliver a better connect and add value to the different elements.

Additionally, the exercise incorporated input of conversations between November 2018 and January 2019 with members of: Coalitie Wadden Natuurlijk, CWSS, Danish Environment Protection Agency, Esbjerg Kommune, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety in Germany, Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate Protection of Lower Saxony, Ministry of Environment and Energy of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Ministry of Energy, Agriculture, the Environment, Nature and Digitalization Schleswig-Holstein, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Netherlands, Nationalpark Vadehavet, Staatsbosbeheer, Wadden Sea National Park of Lower Saxony, Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein, and WWF – Wadden Sea Office. WWF also provided TG-WH with written input on the development of the SIMP which has been considered in the workshop discussion.

1. Summary of the statements for a successful SIMP

The statements for a successful SIMP (section 1) are useful to evaluate, at this stage as well as in the future, if the SIMP structure, the process of development and the content are covering expectations. It must be noted, that it is proposed to let relevant parts of the 17 UN sustainable development goals be incorporated into the SIMP, with full consideration to according national strategies.

2. Preliminary structure of the SIMP

The preliminary structure presented in section 2 is a starting point for the further development of the SIMP (according to the Leeuwarden Declaration). The order of the headings, contents and priorities may be adapted during the process. A flexible approach is envisaged for the development of the SIMP. During the workshop, the TG-WH compared the resulting preliminary structure to the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention para. 111¹, to ensure that all suggested elements of an effective management system were included.

3. General process for developing the SIMP

The draft general process presented in section 3 captures the five phases identified to develop the content of the SIMP. This draft is the abstraction of a more detailed work of the members of the TG-WH carried on during the workshop. This draft may be further adjusted during the development of the SIMP.

4. Preliminary timeline

The timeline is a reference to achieve the steps required in each phase of the development process. This timeline may be further adjusted during the development of the SIMP.

¹OLG Para. “111. In recognizing the diversity mentioned above, common elements of an effective management system could include: a) a thorough shared understanding of the property by all stakeholders; b) a cycle of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and feedback; c) the involvement of partners and stakeholders; d) the allocation of necessary resources; e) capacity-building; and f) an accountable, transparent description of how the management system functions.” (UNESCO Operational Guidelines)

1. Summary of the statements for a successful SIMP

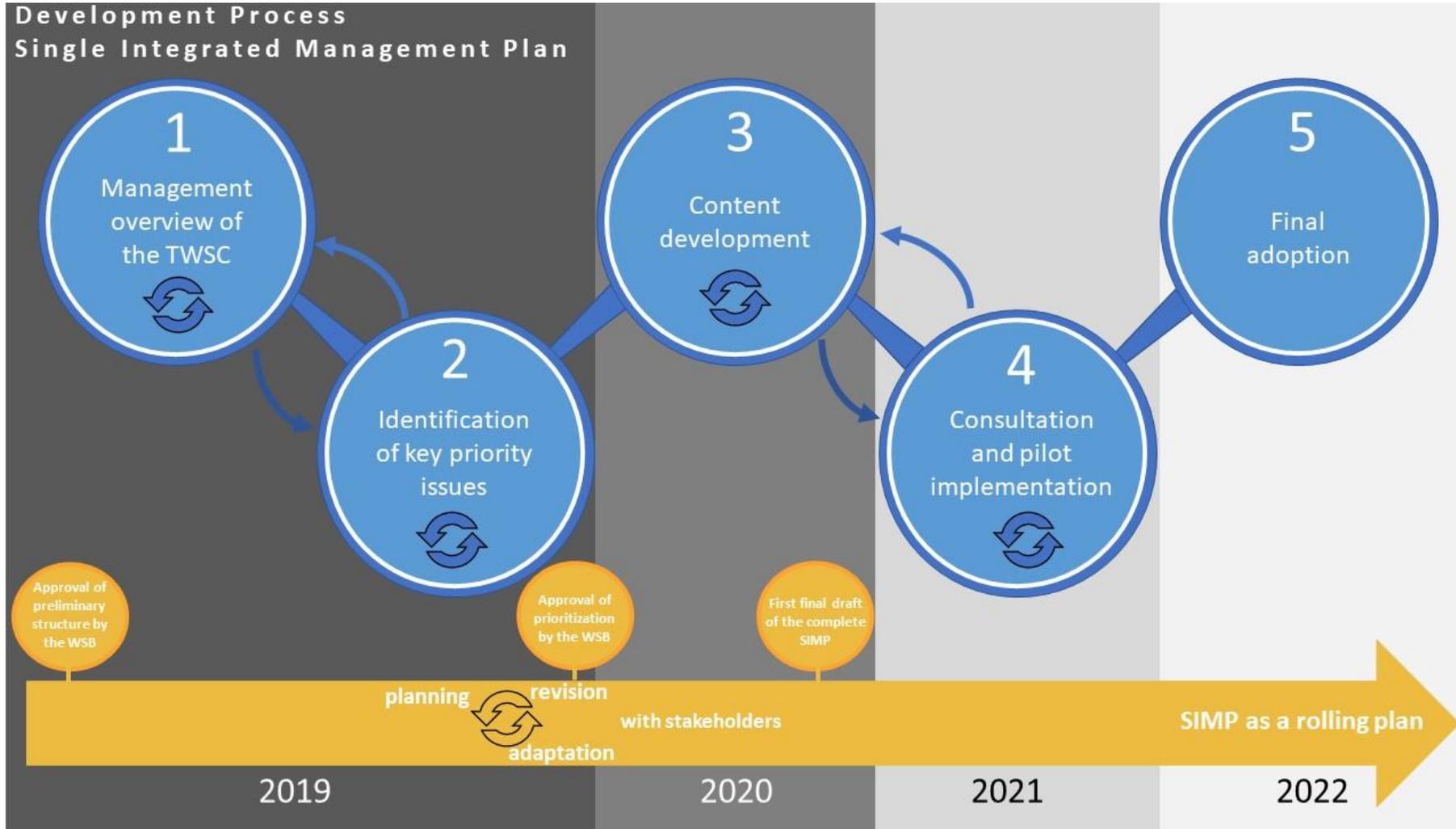
The “Single Integrated Management Plan would be successful if...”

1. ... all the chapters have a clear link to the OUV, thus enhancing its protection.
2. ... it provides an overview of the existing plans, strategies and regulations, without adding more work.
3. ... it is easy to understand, to communicate and to use.
4. ... stakeholders and site managers know and use the SIMP.
5. ... it promotes the engagement and integration of stakeholders.
6. ... it gives an added value by leading to more trilateral, concrete, tangible activities and projects.
7. ... it gives an added value by facilitating collaboration, coordination and exchange of information and experience among parties.
8. ...it enhances the visibility of the TWSC and is regarded as an important tool for the WSWH management.
9. ... it incorporates the UN Sustainable Development Goals and other global initiatives.
10. ... it fulfils the request of the UNESCO.

2. Preliminary structure of the SIMP

1. The OUV
Provides a clear explanation of the concept of OUV (the three pillars: World Heritage criteria, protection and management, integrity and authenticity) in the Wadden Sea WH context. Explains why we need a SIMP and what is the added value.
2. The process of developing the SIMP
Provides a description of the process undertaken, who was involved, how where decisions taken, how and to whom was the SIMP communicated.
3. Management overview
This overview will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the existing management structures on the trilateral and national level • the management cycle (WSB, Declarations, TMAP, WFD, MSFD, N2000, etc) • 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, • the existing monitoring system and data handling (including data accessibility and analysis for trilateral reports i.e. QSR), • the existing maps (protection regimes, uses, etc). 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.
4. What to manage
Key issues to be addressed in the SIMP must still be selected based on the criteria stated in Annex 1 of the Leeuwarden Declaration (see Annex 1 attached to this document). Key issues focus on the management of current/potential threats to OUV. Consider the two-folded nature of human activities: threat or benefit (sustainable management). Specific issues mentioned in the workshop are: sustainable tourism, fisheries, shipping, climate change (adaptation) and invasive alien species (these topics will be further developed in the process!).
5. Roles and responsibilities (management implementation)
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 “4. What to manage”) of the SIMP into practice).
6. Education and communication
Describes the communication means during the development of the SIMP, describes communication within the TWSC and to the public. Provides an analysis of the role that the IWSS may play for the SIMP, consider producing communication and education tools to use “on the ground”.
7. Global dimensions
Links the trilateral management into the global dimension of World Heritage: International cooperation, Swim and Flyway, the contribution to global and regional conventions, agreements, and more.
8. Monitoring and review of the SIMP
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.
9. Resources
Addresses the way resources are mobilised for the implementation of the joint management, may highlight opportunities, synergies, needs and challenges.

3. General process to develop the SIMP



4. Timeline

	2019												2020												2021												2022											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Key official meetings																																																
WSB																																																
TG-WH																																																
TG-MA																																																
TG-M																																																
WSF GA																																																
Wadden Sea Team																																																
10 Y Anniversary WSWH																																																
Ministerial Conference																																																
Detailed development process																																																
1. Management overview																																																
Define preliminary structure, process and timeline for developing the SIMP																																																
Define the content of the overview (agreed as essential part of the structure)																																																
Approval of preliminary process (WSB)																																																
Inventories for overview (institutions, management structures, management issues, education, communication, global dimension)																																																
Further revision and adaptation of preliminary process and structure (TG-WG, TG-MA, TG-M, all)																																																
Build a short and appealing summary or overview																																																
Revision and adaptation of the overview with all stakeholders																																																
Design the final version of the overview																																																
2. Identification of key priority issues																																																
Identify objectives to maintain OUV																																																

Annex 1.

Leeuwarden Declaration

ANNEX 1

Preparation of a single integrated management plan for the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site

1. Introduction

As reflected in the decisions of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) in 2009, 2011, and 2014, the Wadden Sea Plan 2010 is the overall framework and structure for integrated conservation and management of the property as a whole and coordination between all three States Parties. The WHC also concluded that comprehensive protection measures are in place within each State party.

The World Heritage Committee 2014, requested the States parties “to develop a single integrated management plan for the entire transboundary property ... and to consider the options to strengthen the effectiveness of implementation of coordinated management within the property”.

Since the inscription of the Wadden Sea World Heritage site in 2009 and the extension in 2014, much has been achieved to intensify the cooperation to protect and maintain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. As a result of the World Heritage site designation, the agenda of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) has been broadened and there are now many new opportunities to strengthen nature conservation - the fundamental purpose of the cooperation – and to increase civic pride, raise awareness, increase support and practical involvement, and achieve socio-economic benefits.

In close cooperation with and support of many stakeholders, a wide variety of strategies and plans have been developed including, amongst others, the Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy and the roadmap to involve strategic partners, the Wadden Sea World Heritage Brand Paper, the Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan, the Wadden Sea World Heritage Education Strategy, the Flyway Vision, the Framework for Sustainable Fisheries, the Alien Species Management and Action Plan (in development), the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, the Particularly Sensitive Sea Area Wadden Sea Operational Plan, the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme, the Seal Management Plan, and the Trilateral Communication Strategy,

The development of a **single integrated management plan**, as requested by the World Heritage Committee, will help to further strengthen the ongoing efforts in harmonizing management of the Wadden Sea as one property in an integrated approach. The management plan shall provide a clear overarching framework that can be easily read and understood by stakeholders and the general public. This concerns especially the definition of roles and responsibilities of the TWSC, site managers and key stakeholders in implementation of plans and strategies.

Thus, the single integrated management plan strengthens the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation, enhances understanding of joint management, and creates ownership and commitment among stakeholders to protect and maintain the OUV.

2. Objectives

The single integrated management plan for the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site provides an umbrella to integrate existing trilateral strategies and plans without losing their commonly agreed content, while taking into account existing regional and national management systems, which can be easily read and understood by stakeholders. It also provides a clearer picture of resources needs and transparency how the management system functions. In this respect, it is of added value for the Trilateral Cooperation.

The overarching objective of the single integrated management plan is to demonstrate how the effectiveness of coordinated management can be strengthened with the aim to maintain and preserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and protect its natural values and its integrity on the basis of the Guiding Principle.

The specific objectives are:

1. Providing a coherent overview on how trilateral management is done jointly, also taking into account the local level, to strengthen the protection of OUV and integrity as shared responsibility;
2. Enhancing ownership and commitment of stakeholders on all levels in management of the property as one entity and supporting the countries in implementation of trilateral strategies and plans on the ground;
3. 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.

3. Content

The single integrated management plan for the Wadden Sea World Heritage property will focus on overarching issues to be managed with priority and in a consistent way across the property to maintain the OUV and protect the area's natural values and integrity.

The single integrated management plan is a rolling plan and will be evaluated regularly by the Wadden Sea Board. Therefore, the contents will be adapted to management requirements of the TWSC with the support and participation of all key parties involved in implementing the plan.

Criteria for the selection of the issues to be addressed:

1. Main and prior management issues at trilateral level (identified in particular from the Wadden Sea Plan, recent Ministerial Conference Declarations, and existing strategies and action plans);
2. Urgency to enhance management effectiveness trilaterally;
3. Management and protection requirements with regard to maintain and protect the OUV (as reflected in the Statement of OUV, relevant Committee Decisions and in the Periodic Reporting).

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 TWSC, but contents and priorities may be adapted during the process. A flexible approach is envisaged.

The single integrated management plan will be a concise and short document (maximum of 40 pages) and contribute 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.

4. Timeline

The development is a trilateral process with involvement of site managers and stakeholders from all Wadden Sea regions and the IUCN. The function of the single integrated management plan as a rolling plan reflecting the main priorities of the trilateral management has to be considered in its preparation.

The aim is to develop the single integrated management plan in the period 2018-2020 with a finalization and implementation in 2021 to deliver a proposal for final adoption at the 14th Trilateral Governmental Council Meeting in 2022.