

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 38)

06 October 2022
Tønder, Denmark



Agenda Item:	5.2
Subject:	Progress report TG-M
Document No.:	WSB 38/5.2.1
Date:	09 September 2022
Submitted by:	TG-M

This document contains a progress report of the Task Group Management (TG-M).

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information and to discuss and agree on a written procedure to adopt the draft SMP.

The WSB is further invited to adopt the proposal of TG-M to omitting a Natura 2000 roof report, due to imbalanced cost benefit (see pages 4-5).

Task Group Management (TG-M) progress report to WSB 38

Since WSB 37, the TG-M has progressed on (3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11), respectively accompanied/supported (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 12 and 13) the following specific items:

1. Flyway & Breeding Birds

A breeding bird success report is still planned for end of 2022. Commissioning the report depend on compilation of missing data in time. Due to a delay in data acquisition, the breeding bird trend report is envisaged for 2023, which is also depending on data supply.

Bird flu workshops – draft agenda: overviews of bird flu outbreaks in sandwich tern colonies in the Wadden Sea regions + Belgium, France, UK and Sweden. Plenary from Sandra Browhuis (Vogelwarte), Thomas Bregnballe (Aarhus University) and Timm Harder (Virologist, Friedrich Löffler Institute), three discussion groups: Assessment of the current outbreak, management options for future outbreaks, data need for population modelling.

Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI): Additional funding from LifeIP Deltanatuur for flyway youth is available and WSFI could support seven youth participants to go to the Migratory Bird for People meeting (CEPA training workshops included). Funds are further available for five local youth projects (of EAFYF participants) to be implemented around the World Migratory Bird Day <https://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org/news/2021/world-migratory-bird-day-2022-theme-focus-light-pollution> In collaboration between PRW, the Dark Sky Initiative and the WSFI an animation video is currently being prepared on light pollution to be released on WMBD (will be shared at the beginning of October with the trilateral partners).

WSFI: CWSS is coordinating a side event “Joining forces to respond to climate change effects along the East Atlantic Flyway” for the 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP8) to the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) on 26-30 September 2022 in Budapest, Hungary.

WSFI: Invitation of new signatories (PRCM; IBAP; Sovon; Global Flyway Network, Nationalpark Hamburg). Suggestions for signatories to be invited in the following years are welcome.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

2. Fish targets / Swimway

A second version of the midterm review of the Swimway Vision Action Programme including input by the Expert Group Swimway (EG-Swimway) was completed by the chair of the group. The document will be discussed at the next EG-Swimway meeting.

A kick-off meeting for a Swimway conference (SwimCon) in 2024 was organised on 2 September 2022 by Andreas Dänhardt and held online with Danish (National Park), German (Uni Kiel) and Dutch (Waddenvereniging, Waddenacademie, van Hall Larenstein) and trilateral (CWSS and chair of EG-Swiwmay) participants. Participants agreed to plan a four-day event in 2024 in Leeuwarden, Netherlands. Participants aim to compile a draft concept for the conference with aims and budget outline until the end of 2022.

The Swimway historical reference (SHIRE) project (January – July 2022) was prolonged to 15 October 2022. In a project meeting on 6 September in Hamburg, Germany, the Dutch student Nils Jansen (Uni Groningen) presented results of the systematic review on historical data on fish in the Wadden Sea, which were part of his successfully completed Master thesis. The team further agreed on an outline for the final report of SHIRE. SHIRE students participated in a video contribution to the [Trilateral Youth Conference](#) held on 1-4 September 2022.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

3. Wardening & management

No new TG-M related items since WSB 37.

4. Seal Management Plan

A new Wadden Sea Seal Management Plan 2023-2027 was drafted by the Expert Group Marine Mammals (EG-MM). The document will be finalised before WSB 38 and WSB members are invited to agree on a written procedure to adopt the draft SMP.

Kick-off meeting of the core group of the 'Seals & Tourism' project (Partnership Hub activity), with participants from the research, management and tourism sector (mainly researchers) from all WS regions. Discussion on project ideas and project partners to be invited to the stakeholder meeting on 28th October. Primary focus of project activities shall be on seals with the potential to scale up project ideas to cover other marine mammal species or even other wildlife species such as birds.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information and to discuss and agree on a written procedure to adopt the draft SMP.

5. Harbour porpoises

No new TG-M related items since WSB 37.

6. Alien Species

The recently completed alien species list will be transferred to an online exchange platform, currently developed by CWSS.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

7. Sustainable Fisheries

No new TG-M related items since WSB 37.

8. Marine litter

No new TG-M related items since WSB 37.

9. Energy

No new TG-M related items since WSB 37

10. Ports and shipping

No new TG-M related items since WSB 37.

11. Natura 2000 roof report

In the ministerial declaration of the 11th Trilateral Governmental Conference on the Protection of the Wadden Sea (Sylt Declaration) in 2010 it was agreed by the ministers to: 10. *Support the further development of integrated assessments and reporting in the framework of these Directives, including investigating the option of preparing a common integrated Natura 2000 Wadden Sea report.*

Subsequent discussions resulted in § 22 and § 23 of the Tønder Declaration 2014: 22. *Acknowledge the activities of the member states in designating and enhancing coherence, as well as the efficiency of the Natura 2000 Network within the Wadden Sea Area.* 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.*

A trilateral Workshop Natura 2000 roof report (N2000 roof report) was held in Bonn, Germany, 24-25 March 2015 which resulted in the decision to produce a common N2000 roof report. After attempts to obtain and compile data into a common report format were not successful, it was decided to prepare a feasibility study, describing the basic obstacles preventing the elaboration of the designated task of a N2000 roof report and, if possible, with recommendations and/or conditions for its realization.

A Danish consultant drafted this feasibility study, which was enriched by a section on N2000 implementation in the three countries, and finalised by the chair of TG-M. The final proposal of the feasibility study of “roof reporting” on Habitats and Species in the Wadden Sea Area was presented to TG-M at their last meeting on 21 June 2022.

In the feasibility study, it is concluded:

Based on the findings of this feasibility study, it is clear that the three contribution reports received from Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany (Schleswig-Holstein) presents a very uneven and difficult-to-compare set of data.

A decision to produce a common “roof report” overarching the obligatory national EU-reporting’s of the 3 countries will thus demand an extremely comprehensive and cost intensive alignment process also including an intercalibration process of all quality elements. This process will most likely also affect areas outside of The Wadden Sea in the three countries

Further, a common “roof reporting” will require major changes in data collection, methodical harmonisation, data access and agreements on a common reporting format.

A “value for money” aspect of a common “TWSC N2000 roof report” concept based on the present prerequisites will be very hard, if not impossible, to argue.

However, based on the value the three countries put into the preservation of the common and unique Wadden Sea, also bearing in mind that The Wadden Sea is a recognized area of global importance, it still makes sense to consider how the immense resources laid down into the N2000 concept can add value to the TWSC and to the perception of the area as “One Common Wadden Sea”.

Pursuing the concept within the TWSC, without undertaking enormous financial burdens, will therefore demand that EU in a coming revision process of the relevant legal acts will lay down detailed European standards for all elements involved.

If this line of thought is to be pursued by TWSC, initiating a series of EU-financed research projects would be a next logical step.

Proposal: Based on the above-described process and on the feasibility study, TG-M recommends to the Board, omitting the Natura 2000 roof report, due to the imbalanced cost benefit. Instead, focus should be on the implementation of the single integrated management plan (SIMP) (including focusing in depth on specific challenges) and on strengthening the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP) and data availability as basis for the Wadden Sea Quality Status Report (QSR) as proper assessment of the state of environment.

Proposal: WSB is invited to adopt the proposal for omitting the N2000 roof report.

12. Single integrated management plan (SIMP)

No new TG-M related items since WSB 37.

13. Quality Status Report (QSR)

Nine thematic reports the Wadden Sea Quality Status Report (QSR) have been updated, including the TG-M related report on energy: <https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/news/updates-nine-thematic-reports-quality-status-report-published>

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.