

Wadden Sea Board

WSB 28

14 March 2019
Berlin, Germany



Agenda Item:	5.2 Nature conservation and integrated ecosystem management
Subject:	Report TG-MM
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Submitted by:	TG-MM

Attached is a progress report of the Task Group Management and Monitoring (TG-MM). TG-MM 23 was held on 04-05 December 2019 in Hamburg.

The group has progressed on a few specific items but mainly focused on the future structure of the group and those items from the Leeuwarden Declaration with relevance for the TG-MM. The outcome on the discussion on the future set-up, ToR and responsibilities of the group are processed in document WSB 28/7.1/1 and will therefore not be repeated in this report.

Proposal: **The WSB is invited to note the information and is invited to endorse the updated proposals where necessary.**

Task Group Management and Monitoring (TG-MM) progress report since WSB-27

Since WSB-27 the TG-MM has progressed on the following specific items:

TWSC review process and implications for TG-MM

The major content of the discussion on this issue was agreed to be processed in the ToR reference document on the future Task Groups Management and Monitoring & Assessment which is to be provided to WSB as a separate document. The corresponding documents have been reviewed by the TWSC Review Core Group during two consecutive meetings. Meanwhile, Mr. Adi Kellerman has been agreed as chairperson of the new TG Monitoring and Assessment. He will be contracted by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany, for the period of the German presidency. Mr. Kellermann has a proven record within the trilateral cooperation, in further monitoring related work and cooperation on international level.

As several of the Leeuwarden Declarations 44 key items are multi-faceted, the preparatory review work has, among others, revealed the importance of the three proposed Task Groups jointly contributing to the progressive implementation of the declaration. This could specifically result in further joint papers like the joint TG-WH/TG-MM Research Agenda prioritization note submitted to WSB-28.

Items at present allocated under TG-MM were proposed to be considered for discussion in the OPteamPH in the scope of the development of the future Partnership Hub. These are 'Marine litter', 'Light Emissions', 'Energy' and 'Ports and shipping'.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information and to approve the further process.

Flyway & Breeding Birds

The meeting acknowledged the progress being made in the corresponding groups but raised concern about the future of the flyway monitoring as the Dutch financing will end after 2019. The final flyway report on the total counting numbers (from 2017) was expected to be ready in January or February 2019. The report would comprise a preface by the chairperson of the WSB, Prof. Karin Lochte. With regard to the already launched extended cooperation with the Arctic Council, WSFI-SG, TG-MM and CWSS are at the moment attempting to find the best and practical approach to the present challenge of accessing the Arctic parts of the relevant flyways.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

Fish targets

The budget for the activities undertaken by the preliminary Working Group Swimway in 2019 has been adapted to the financial allocations by the three parties. This has mainly been done by re-defining the tasks for 2019 and the tasks foreseen to be taken over by the proposed future EG from 2019. This however indicates, that the EG will also need a budget for the first years. As requested by TG-MM, CWSS and the TG-MM chairperson prepared a limited

invitation to tender for Programme Coordination Swimway 2019. Three candidates from Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands were suggested by the trilateral Swimway group and received an invitation to tender from CWSS, with two tenders being received in the meantime. The selection process has been finalised and as a result Mr. Adi Kellermann is appointed as Swimway Project coordinator from 01 March 2019.

A trilateral committee, consisting of members of the Swimway group, continued preparing the [fish conference](#) planned on 24 - 26 September 2019 with the aim to establish a joint Swimway programme including more specific actions and research needs. The conference is entitled 'SWIMWAYS: Understanding connectivity within the life cycles of coastal fish'. The conference will be opened by the WSB-chair.

The Swimway Action Programme has been finalized and is submitted as a separate document (WSB 28/5.1/2). The programme describes actions suitable to improve knowledge on relevant processes, optimize population monitoring, adjust policies and develop, realise and evaluate measures towards reaching the Trilateral Fish Targets.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information and to adopt the Swimway Action Programme.

Wardening & management

Activities for organizing a workshop on Wardening have been resumed as cooperation of CWSS and the Waddenunit (local organizers). Funding for a workshop on Management was still available, a concept for a new approach will need further discussion.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

Harbour porpoises

In 2017, ASCOBANS submitted a letter to the TWSC with the request to further include the Harbour porpoise under the TWSC. On basis of this initiative the corresponding paragraph 16 was included in the Leeuwarden Declaration. As an initial step to meet the requirements of this paragraph, [a symposium on Harbour porpoises](#) will be held on 11 April 2019 in Wilhelmshaven, organized by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat and the UNESCO Wadden Sea World Heritage Visitor Centre. The title will be 'Bright Future? Harbour porpoises in the Wadden Sea'. The event will be part 10-years World Heritage celebrations and the programme of the third 'Harbour Porpoise days 2019', organized by the visitors centre, the National Park Authority and a number of local groups. Subsequent to the Symposium, a trilateral workshop is planned on 12 April 2019 with the aim to compile the results and, if considered as necessary, to develop recommendations on the future handling of harbor porpoise protection on trilateral level.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

Alien Species

As there was no financial budget foreseen for activities concerning Alien Species in 2019, TG-MM considered 2019 as a period for developing strategies and exploring options to implement the finalized Management and Action Plan for Alien Species (MAPAS) before the

foreseen transfer of the activities to an Expert Group. TG-MM recognized the valuable work leading to the proposal for the Communication Plan. The Group also stated, that the proposal will need further elaboration, thus considering it an internal document suitable for technical guidance.

The corresponding ad hoc Working Group Alien Species will have a proposed mandate for 2019 and will be able to progress on the basis of human resources allocated by the parties and the CWSS.

The MAPAS has been finalized and is submitted as a separate document (WSB 28/5.1/3).

Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach and to adopt the MAPAS.

TMAP, QSR & Data Handling

CWSS informed that the QSR Synthesis had been delayed due to the workload at CWSS, mainly due to the TWSC review process. The envisaged submission of the draft by the end of 2018 was not possible for the same reasons.

The items from the paragraphs 18-20 from the LD (TMAP, QSR & Data Handling) are foreseen to be transferred to the new TG-Monitoring and Assessment in the future.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information and to guide on the further process.

Sustainable Fisheries

TG-MM elaborated further on the WSB proposal to integrate the item as a chapter in the Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP) including also consideration of former trilateral reports on the issue.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

Ports and shipping

TG-MM has discussed how most properly and efficiently to continue the dialogue between the TWSC and the DenGerNeth/MARAD Group, including that further effort should be made to organize a corresponding workshop after the unsuccessful attempts the year before.

Furthermore, it was decided that CWSS will draft a note (initially to WSB) to the DenGerNeth/MARAD Group to inform on any developments after the conference and to acknowledge their effort.

It was noted that the 'Call for Action' from the trilateral NGOs, presented during WSB 27 in Copenhagen, explicitly mentioned shipping and TG-MM noted that next steps should be initiated by the parties.

Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach.

Trilateral Research Agenda

TG-MM welcomed the Dutch proposal for ToR for the TRA Programming Committee. On request by Germany, any further decisions on the ToR were postponed as a detailed determination of tasks and obligations of such a committee and the nomination of delegates, but also of the role of CWSS, would need further discussion.

The joint TRA paper had been finalized between TG-WH and TG-MM for submission to WSB as a separate document.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information and to guide on the further process.

N2000 Roof Report

CWSS is in negotiation with a Danish institute on the creation of a N2000 Roof Report, initially foreseen for 2018. Pending the solution of internal resource issues by the institute, an agreement is expected to be drawn up shortly. A major challenge, however, are difficulties in the comparison of the national data from the three countries.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.