MEETING DOCUMENT

**Task Group Management (TG-M 20-2)**

14 May 2020

Virtual meeting

**Agenda Item: 5. Implementation of the Leeuwarden Declaration**

**Subject: Overview on TG-M relevant tasks of the Leeuwarden Declarations**

**Document No.:** TG-M 20-2/5.1

**Date:** 13 May 20

**Submitted by: CWSS**

This document contains an update on progress on paragraphs of the Ministerial Council Declaration of the13th Trilateral Governmental Conference on the Protection of the Wadden Sea (Leeuwarden Declaration), which are relevant for the Task Group Management (TG-M).

Items in brackets are temporary dealt with in TG-M but will need further allocation within the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC).

**Proposal:** The group is invited to note the information and proceed as planned.

# Overview on progress on relevant articles of the Leeuwarden Declaration

**5.1 Paragraph 5 & 12: Flyway & Breeding Birds**

§5 Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI): The 1st stage IKI project application ‘Climate Resilience for Critical Sites for Migratory Birds and People along the East Atlantic Flyway’ (Short Title: Climate Resilient East Atlantic Flyway) has been submitted to the IKI secretariat in time on 1 April 2020. The project covers 13 countries of implementation with 9 international implementing partners. The total applied project budget covers 23,280,000 EUR.

The technical outline (functionality, navigation, view) for the WSFI microsite (template) has been developed and CWSS stays in contact with Creative Concern to implement the platform as microsite. The upload of content based on the previous web presentation of WSFI will follow in summer.

§12 Breeding Bird Action Plan: The development of an update of the breeding bird monitoring guidelines from 1994 is needed because of shifted breeding start of some bird species, new used techniques (e.g. GIS navigation in the field, online data input, etc.) and a new needed format of the guidelines itself like an applet instead of the outdated printed version. The development of new guidelines is delayed, because no personal resources found yet. Budget is available.

Proposal: Note the information

**5.2 Paragraph 13: Swimway**

Following the international conference “SWIMWAYs: Understanding connectivity within the life cycles of coastal fish” on 24-26 September 2019 in Hamburg, Germany, a set of material is now publicly available:

Full conference report: <https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/node/973>

Presentations and posters. <https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/events/swimways-understanding-connectivity-within-life-cycles-coastal-fish#Presentations>

Photo gallery: <https://lightroom.adobe.com/shares/98f7f8a40eec496f961f7bfe520fdfa5>

Press release: <https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/node/809>

In their SWIMWAY 19-3 meeting, the group discussed draft reports on monitoring and policy, conducted a SWOT (strengths and weaknesses, as well as opportunities and threats) analysis and discussed a first draft of Terms of Reference and member composition for their possible transformation to an expert group.

In 2020, the group will prepare draft Terms of Reference and member composition, project application(s), outreach activities, as well as policy and monitoring recommendations. First steps towards these products were achieved at the SWIMWAY 20-1 meeting: A German project proposal on bottlenecks for Wadden Sea fish is in preparation by the chair of the group Adi Kellermann and colleagues. Further, a monitoring report and policy report were discussed in the meeting. Both documents will serve as basis for the formulation of monitoring recommendations to TG-MA and policy recommendations to TG-M.

The group noted impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, formation of project consortia and preparation and submission of project proposals are hampered by travel restrictions.

Proposal: Note the information

**5.3 Paragraph 14: Wardening & management**

At TG-M 19-2 it was decided that the Dutch obligation for organisation of a Wardening workshop early 2020 should be inquired.

Proposal: Proceed as planned.

**5.4 Paragraph 15: Seal Management Plan**

Proposal for an updated National Danish Seal Management Plan incorporating The TWSS SMP has been finished.

Proposal: Note the information.

**5.5 Paragraph 16: Harbour porpoises**

As decided at TG-M 20-1, a draft letter to representatives of the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) (TG-M20-1-6-ASCOBANS.docx) in response to their request to consider the formal inclusion of harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) in the mandate of the TWSC was commented by TG-M in a written procedure.

Proposal: Note the information

**5.6 Paragraph 17: Alien Species**

EG-AS 1 met on 23 January 2020 in Hamburg. The following meeting will be held as online meeting on 11 June 2020.

Because the usage of eDNA in alien species monitoring can play an important role in monitoring, an information exchange meeting with eDNA experts was planned back-to-back with EG-AS 2. This meeting has been postponed.

A final draft concept for the content of the planned alien species network platform is available (template). The technical outline (functionality, navigation, view) for the site has been developed and CWSS stays in contact with Creative Concern to implement the platform as microsite. The upload of content will follow after summer in cooperation with EG-AS.

Proposal: Note the information

Items in brackets are temporary dealt with in TG-M but will need further allocation within the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC).

**5.4 Paragraph 21: Sustainable fisheries**

See separate document under agenda item 7.

**5.7 [Paragraph 22 - 23: Marine litter]**

A guideline “Coastal Cleanups in the Wadden Sea National Park has been finalized by the National Park Authority Schleswig-Holstein (TG-M20-1-5-2-Beach-cleanup).

A presentation on “The container incident with the MSC Zoe: assessing damage and compensation for Arctic breeding migratory bird populations under the EU environmental liability directive” will be presented by Ms Katja Philippart at the International Symposium on Plastics in the Arctic on 21 – 23 April 2020 in Reykjavík, Island (<https://arcticplastics2020.is/index.php/en>). These will give insight in the connection of the Wadden Sea with the Arctic region, illustrated by ongoing prominent research on migrating birds between the two regions.

At TG-M 19-2 the group had agreed to produce the inventory in the form as submitted as a quick and thorough overview to the next TG-M meeting, [..] and then discuss on how to proceed for a possible Marine Litter document at WSB 31.

Proposal: Note the information and proceed as planned.

**5.10 Paragraph 29: Energy**

At TG-M20-1, CWSS SIMP officer Ms Luna presented a first draft of the SIMP headings “Inventory” and “Common ground” for the key topic renewable energy, energy from oil and gas. TG-M agreed to support Ms Luna with contacts for specific experts on this document. In addition, first information has been compiled by TG-M members.

Proposal: Note the information and proceed as planned.

**5.11 Paragraph 30-34: Ports and shipping**

The planned kick-off round table scheduled to the second half of April 2020/first half of May 2020 (TG-M20-1-9-WSF-roundtable) will be postponed to autumn 2020, due to the COVID-19 situation. Potential participants were informed by WSF.

Proposal: Note the information

**5.12 Paragraph 36: Trilateral Research Agenda**

Items with finalization pending from Tønder Declaration:

**5.13 Paragraph 23: N2000 roof report**

See Agenda item 6