

Wadden Sea Board

WSB 28

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Berlin, Germany



Agenda Item:	7. TWSC Review
Subject:	TOR TWSC groups
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Submitted by:	TWSC Review Core Group / CWSS

As part of the TWSC review process the self-review papers and draft Terms of Reference of the various TWSC groups and the CWSS self-assessment were discussed by the TWSC Review (Core) Group on three consecutive meetings incl. one workshop.

This document collates the draft TOR of the various Groups as amended by the TWSC Review (Core) Group review workshops in October, December 2018 and February 2019, as well as the comments and recommendations issued by the three meetings, as a basis for the decision of the WSB. These recommendations will not be part of the final TOR document.

The Core Group decided that, based on the Rules of Procedure and the proven approach of the TWSC, the lists with the members of the groups should be separated from the document containing the TOR. A complete list is submitted to WSB 28 as a separate document (WSB 28/7.1/2). The chairs of the TGs will be appointed separately accordingly.

Proposal: The meeting is invited to approve the TOR of the trilateral groups.

Summary of proposed Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) group structure and general recommendations

TWSC group structure

TWSC groups and group structure as proposed by TWSC Review Core Group based on conclusions of TWSC Review Workshop (Hamburg, October 17th 2018) (Table 1, Figure 1), and status of their Terms of Reference (TOR) (Table 1).

Trilateral operational groups by category:

Task Groups are generally policy task groups with a limited timeframe, number of members, and defined tasks, for which the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) may allow exceptions. In general, WSB-members should not be members of TGs. The OPteamPH has the status of a TG. TGs

- a. report directly to the WSB;
- b. are chaired by experienced administrative/ministerial representatives;
- c. have a lifespan of one presidency (Reinstallation under new presidency is possible, but requires specific new WSB decision);
- d. are mandated to install temporary ad-hoc working groups under their supervision.

Expert Groups are generally long-term or permanent technical groups – exceptions are allowed. They have operational and advising tasks and

- a. report to the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) – WSB may allow exceptions; EGs are also connected or in some cases report to relevant TGs;
- b. are chaired by CWSS staff or a group member;
- c. are (in principle, but not necessarily) permanent;
- d. have the opportunity to report annually to WSB.

Network Groups: Similar to Expert Groups but with more of a networking platform character, stakeholder involvement is explicitly necessary and appreciated.

(ad hoc) Working Groups are installed by TGs for elaborating on a certain aspect of issues targeted in the corresponding TG. WGs

- a. report to the TGs;
- b. are chaired by CWSS staff or group member;
- c. are temporary.

All trilateral groups are requested to generally foster the exchange with other groups during the various processes.

Table 1: TWSC groups as proposed by TWSC Review workshop participants and status of their Terms of Reference (TOR) as discussed by TWSC Review Core Group.

Task Groups
Task Group Management (TG-M)
Task Group Monitoring & Assessment (TG-MA)
Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH)
Expert Groups
Expert Group Climate Change Adaptation (EG-C)
Expert Groups Migratory and Breeding Birds (EG-MB/BB)
Expert Group Salt Marshes & Dunes (EG-SMD)
Expert Group Seals (EG-Seals)
Expert Group Data (EG-Data)
Network Groups
Network Group Education (NG-E)
Network Group Sustainable Tourism (NG-ST)
Ad hoc Working Groups
Ad hoc Working Group Alien Species (1 year) (ad hoc WG-AS)
Ad hoc Working Group Swimway (1 year) (ad hoc WG-Swimway)
Other groups
Operational Team Partnership Hub (OPteamPH)

TWSC related group not considered during the review process:

Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative Steering Group (WSFI Steering Group) is a permanent group for coordination and partnering WSFI signatories and WSFI-implementation, chaired by CWSS and could be regarded as a network group.



Figure 1: Organogram of TWSC groups as discussed by the TWSC Review Core Group.

General recommendations by the TWSC review workshop participants and conclusions of the TWSC Review Core Group

- All Expert Groups shall address their reports to both Task Groups TG-M and TG-MA if both management and monitoring matters are covered and each of the two Task Groups should address those elements of the reports falling under its respective remit;
- The nomenclature and structure applied to the various groups was not entirely appropriate and also partially inconsistent with that of the 2010 Joint Declaration. As a result, a number of groups should be renamed and groups should be categorized and re-structured (see page 2);
- To value the essential work of the Expert and Network Groups they should be given the opportunity to report directly to the WSB once a year.
- To take account of the general wish expressed by the groups for enhanced communication between them, suggestions should be brought forward on how to achieve this, e.g., by mutual representation or “sharing of” members between different groups, back-to-back meetings, joint symposia, etc. The WSB is requested to instruct chairpersons of the respective groups and secretaries towards achieving this;
- Annual written reports of Groups are not necessary and should be removed from all TOR. TGs should report regularly to WSB, EGs and NGs should have the opportunity to report to WSB annually, if they wish to do so;
- [TG-M] The work load of TG-M should be carefully limited to the essential;
- [EG-C] To provide a stronger link between the climate group and other groups;
- [EG-Seals] A decision on harbour porpoises may be taken after a workshop planned for 2019;
- [ad hoc WG-AS] After completing on-going tasks, the ad hoc WG-AS should be turned into an expert group;
- [ad-hoc WG-Swimway] After completing ongoing tasks, the ad-hoc WG-Swimway should be turned into an expert group]

To provide further guidance by TG-M and TG-MA to this group, while acknowledging that the alien species management aspects exceed the capacity of the TG M;

A. Task Group Management (TG-M)

Terms of Reference

Background

Nature conservation and integrated ecosystem management are central tasks of the Trilateral Cooperation. The Task Group Management (TG-M) is responsible for supervising the integrated implementation of the Leeuwarden Declaration (LD) regarding all issues related to the conservation management of species and habitats. TG-M reports to the WSB.

Objective

Coordinated trilateral policies regarding integrated protection and conservation of the Wadden Sea ecosystem, incl. national obligations according to overarching legal EU frameworks and reporting.

Tasks

- 1) Coordinate and supervise the implementation of all issues from the LD related to Wadden Sea integrated ecosystem management and species and habitat protection (e.g. wardening & management, birds, marine mammals, alien species, fish & fisheries).
- 2) Coordinate and supervise the implementation of the Wadden Sea Plan (WSP), including relevant projects contained in the WSP. Support the elaboration of a single integrated management plan for the entire Wadden Sea World Heritage site (under the lead of TG-WH);
- 3) Consider the relevance of overarching legal EU frameworks and reporting for trilateral issues;
- 4) Implement and/or coordinate any other activities and projects assigned by WSB.

Deliverables

- 1) Regular reporting to WSB regarding the implementation of the above tasks
- 2) Recommendations for amending and initiating trilateral integrated ecosystem policies to WSB
- 3) Substantial contribution to the single integrated management plan
- 4) Project proposal for the next generation QSR, including a QSR synthesis report.

Composition/Membership

- Chairperson plus
- 1-2 members per region and/or state (NL, DE, LS, HH, SH, DK)

Time schedule

2019-2022

B. Task Group Monitoring and Assessment (TG-MA)

Terms of Reference

Background

Nature conservation and the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP) are central tasks of the Trilateral Cooperation on the Protection of the Wadden Sea. The Task Group Monitoring and Assessment is responsible for the integrated implementation of the TMAP strategy and therefore the further development of a harmonized programme and its alignment with the Wadden Sea Plan (WSP) safeguarding i.a. the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and integrity of the World Heritage Site. One focus will be on revitalizing and further develop the trilateral data handling. TG-MA reports to the WSB.

Objective

A sound trilateral monitoring and data handling with the aim of guaranteeing a sufficient basis for trilateral ecological assessment and reporting. A coordinated implementation of those issues from the Leeuwarden Declaration (LD) with a primary relevance for TG-MA in particular:

- 18. Instruct the Wadden Sea Board to oversee the further implementation of the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme Strategy;*
- 19. Agree to increase the value of the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme to users and to a wider range of stakeholders, including the availability of data and presentation of information resulting from those data;*

Tasks

Coordinate and supervise the implementation of all issues from the Leeuwarden Declaration related to TMAP and species and habitat protection in close cooperation with the respective Expert Groups and the Task Group Management. In particular:

- 1) Supervise the further development of the trilateral data handling (with EG-Data), also with regard to data availability, harmonization and presentation;
- 2) Analyse the alignment of TMAP to the WSP and the OUV but also in relation to overarching legal EU frameworks and reporting;
- 3) Define, harmonise and establish monitoring parameters where necessary;
- 4) Update the TMAP Handbook as the guideline for monitoring, research and management;
- 5) Coordinate on issues from the LD relevant to habitats and species monitoring and assessment;
- 6) Analyse potential target groups for the QSR Thematic and Synthesis Reports and provide analogous recommendations for the overall process;
- 7) Support and supervise the next generation Quality Status Report process, including a QSR synthesis report (publishing period to be defined);
- 8) Support on the single integrated management plan for the entire UNESCO Wadden Sea World Heritage site.

Deliverables

- 1) Regular reporting to WSB regarding the implementation of the above tasks;
- 2) Work programme for 2019-22 with a detailed version for the respective year to come;
- 3) Proposal for TOR of EG-Data;
- 4) Updated trilateral data handling strategy in cooperation with EG-Data;
- 5) TMAP inventory and subsequent status analysis;
- 6) Updated and elaborated TMAP Handbook;
- 7) Analysis of target groups for the next generation QSR;
- 8) Proposal for the overall presentation and access options of TMAP products and the next generation QSR.

Composition/Membership

- Chairperson plus
- 1-2 members (experts with mandates) per region and/or state (NL, DE, LS, HH, SH, DK).

Time schedule

2019-2022

C. Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH)

Terms of Reference

Background

Assuming the shared responsibility as site holder of the UNESCO Wadden Sea World Heritage as a central work theme for the Cooperation in the coming period. The WH Strategy for the property according to para. 5 of the Tønder Declaration (TD) and article 9 of the Leeuwarden Declaration (LD) will be the central instrument for implementing objectives and activities of the Cooperation and will involve also non-governmental strategic partners. The group reports to Wadden Sea Board (WSB).

Objective

Coordinate and oversee the implementation of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy to warrant the realization of its vision and objectives.

Tasks

- (1) Oversee the fulfilment of all obligations deriving from the World Heritage Convention, e.g. coordination of reports;
- (2) Prepare the single integrated management plan for entire the UNESCO Wadden Sea World Heritage site;
- (3) Update the Road Map for the implementation of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy together with the strategic partners for approval by the WSB;
- (4) Coordinate and oversee the implementation of the Road Map both in terms of its contents and financially together with the strategic partners;
- (5) Elaborate regular reports on the implementation of the strategy for discussion and approval by the WSB and the further development of the Road Map including, as appropriate, signalling of issues to be solved by the Board;
- (6) Observe and appropriately respond to any other development nationally and internationally relevant for the Wadden Sea World Heritage (Strategy);
- (7) Oversee the use of the World Heritage logo in accordance with the approved guidelines;
- (8) Implement any other activities and projects assigned by the WSB, including overseeing multilateral projects with regard to World Heritage, e.g., PROWAD LINK.

Deliverables

- (1) A single integrated management plan for the entire UNESCO Wadden Sea World Heritage site;
- (2) Road Map 2019 - 2022 for the implementation of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy;
- (3) Regular Progress Reports on the implementation of the Road Map;
- (4) Evaluate and update the WH Strategy in due time before the end of 2020;
- (5) Preparation of an updated State of Conservation Report (SoC).

Composition/Membership

- Chairperson plus
- 1-2 members per region and/or state (NL, DE, LS, HH, SH, DK), preferably one from the policy level, one from management/operational level;
- Guests representing WSB advisors and /or strategic partners.

Time schedule

2019 - 2022

D. Expert Group Climate Change Adaptation (EG-C)

Terms of Reference

Background

Adaptation to the possible impacts of climate change is a major challenge for the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC). Focus of the TWSC is to enhance the resilience of the Wadden Sea ecosystem to impacts of climate change.

EG-C reports to CWSS, but communicates with relevant TGs with regard to reporting, evaluations and recommendations. In addition, the group may report to the WSB once yearly.

Objective

Coordinated trilateral policies for enhancing the resilience of the Wadden Sea ecosystem to impacts of climate change.

Tasks

- (1) Monitor and stimulate the implementation of the trilateral climate change adaptation strategy (CCAS) and update the priorities contained therein where needed;
- (2) Stimulate and support exchange of knowledge on effects of climate change with respect to morphology and biology of the Wadden Sea and possible adaptation measures;
- (3) Contribute/review relevant chapters of the Quality Status Report (if applicable);
- (4) Advise/support implementation of the trilateral research agenda and prioritization of research (with respect to the topic of climate change adaptation and required system knowledge);
- (5) Implement and/or coordinate any other activities and projects assigned by the Wadden Sea Board.

Deliverables

- (1) Updated list of actions for implementation of the trilateral CCAS
- (2) Recommendations for amending and initiating trilateral policies and, as appropriate, pilot projects for climate change adaptation
- (3) Chapters of the Quality Status Report (if applicable)
- (4) Maintenance of the trilateral knowledge platform
- (5) Trilateral Workshop/symposia on climate change adaptation on relevant topics.

Composition/Membership

- Chairperson plus
- 1-2 members per region (DK, SH, HH, LS, NL), representing coastal defence/morphology, climate change adaptation and biology, ecology and nature conservation, extended by representatives from NGOs and Wadden Sea Forum.

Time schedule

Permanent

E. Expert Groups Migratory and Breeding Birds (EG-MB/BB)

Terms of Reference

Background

The Wadden Sea is an indispensable part of the East Atlantic Flyway and with millions of birds using the area for staging, breeding, moulting and wintering it is of outstanding international importance for migrating and breeding birds. The biodiversity and abundance of birds is one of the reasons why the Wadden Sea was designated a World Heritage site. The results of the various bird parameters of the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP) on migratory and breeding birds are needed to assess and develop the Targets of the Wadden Sea Plan and hence deliver necessary information for trilateral bird management. The Joint Expert Group Monitoring Migratory and Breeding Birds (EG-MB/BB) is responsible for coordinating the monitoring programme and plays a role in the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) Steering Group. The EGs on Migratory and Breeding Birds reports to CWSS and to TG-M/TG-MA if appropriate.

Objectives

Promoting cooperation and monitoring with the aim of achieving viable populations of Wadden Sea migratory and breeding birds with stable or increasing numbers, improved national and international bird management, breeding success and cooperation with the WSFI and sound monitoring and assessment of the bird populations.

Tasks

- (1) Follow the development of populations of migratory and breeding birds, and if necessary, counteracting declines;
- (2) Assess the quality status of bird populations, their breeding success, and their habitats;
- (3) Implement, adapt and improve trilateral and national bird management;
- (4) Provide bird data needed for assessment of the Target in the Wadden Sea Plan (WSP) and other purposes; Improve the communication between the various regions in the context of the WSP Targets, Leeuwarden Declaration (LD), policies, research and projects;
- (5) Implement and evaluate the trilateral Breeding Bird Action Plan;
- (6) Act as important partner in the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative for implementing the Flyway Vision;
- (7) coordinate the TMAP bird monitoring and to assess the implementation status;
- (8) prepare regular trilateral progress reports about the status of migratory and breeding birds;
- (9) further develop trilateral monitoring methods of the different TMAP bird parameters and provide appropriate trilateral guidelines for the regions;
- (10) assess results of all bird monitoring parameters and to give advice on the scientific basis for management in a trilateral context;

- (11) collect, maintain and process all relevant bird data in trilateral databases and provide data for various purposes (EU, research, education, public; to stimulate research projects as appropriate and cooperate with other TMAP groups;
- (12) further develop management proposals for the further implementation of the Breeding Bird Action Plan;
- (13) to be the responsible monitoring and assessment group for the Wadden Sea in the framework of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative.

Deliverables

- (1) Work programme 2019-2022;
- (2) regular trilateral progress reports on the status of migratory and breeding birds;
- (3) further developed management proposals for the implementation of the Breeding Bird Action Plan.

Composition/Members

2-4 persons per region (NL, LS, HH, SH, DK) responsible for organizational and technical aspects of monitoring at the national level.

Time schedule

Permanent

F. Expert Group Salt Marshes and Dunes (EG-SMD)

Terms of Reference

Background

Salt marshes and dunes are characteristic and vital parts of the Wadden Sea ecosystem. Both habitats are important for biodiversity, nature conservation and coastal protection. The Expert Group Salt Marsh and Dune is responsible for coordinating the trilateral monitoring and assessment needed to evaluate the implementation of the Targets of the Wadden Sea Plan. The Expert Group Salt Marsh and Dunes will report to CWSS and to TG-MA if appropriate.

Objectives

Promote the maintaining of the full range of variety of salt marshes and dune areas typical for the Wadden Sea landscape with increasing overall areas, natural dynamics and species richness.

Tasks

- (1) apply, and further develop salt marsh and dune parameters for a consistent trilateral monitoring and assessment (TMAP) and support their implementation;
- (2) develop and implement a document (Handbook) about the methods and parameters applied for salt marsh and dune monitoring in the Trilateral Wadden Sea;
- (3) assist a scientific assessment of the status and development of salt marshes and dunes in regular quality status reporting (QSR) related to the targets of the Wadden Sea Plan;
- (4) provide consistent information on dunes and salt marshes for TMAP which can be used for international reporting obligations (e.g. UNESCO World Heritage, EC Birds, Habitats and Water Framework Directives);
- (5) advise national authorities to implement the TMAP salt marsh and dune monitoring programme on a trilateral level;
- (6) further enhance the comparability of existing monitoring and assessment programs in the framework of TMAP for a trilateral assessment of the entire Wadden Sea area;
- (7) propose parameters about sedimentation and accretion for TMAP monitoring as basis for an assessment of salt marsh resilience in times of sea level rise;
- (8) develop a harmonized method to add geomorphological information to the TMAP salt marsh and dune typology;
- (9) assist on the update of the Quality Status Report chapters on salt marshes and dunes;
- (10) support authorities to improve the management and conservation of salt marshes and dunes in the Wadden Sea area in order to implement the targets of the Wadden Sea Plan;
- (11) stimulate research projects on salt marshes and dunes related to the targets of the WSP;
- (12) strengthen the cooperation with other TMAP expert groups dealing with e.g. breeding birds, invasive species, coastal protection and sea level rise;

- (13) provide monitoring data on salt marshes and dunes to a common trilateral database for use for QSRs and for research not directly related to TMAP;
- (14) identify the similarities and differences regarding monitoring, reporting and assessment procedures on salt marshes and dunes in the relevant EU directives among states and countries.

Deliverables

- (1) work programme 2019-2022;
- (2) parameters about sedimentation and accretion for TMAP monitoring;
- (3) updated handbook section;
- (4) harmonized method to add geomorphological information to the TMAP salt marsh and dune typology;
- (5) updated QSR Thematic Report on salt marshes and dunes.

Composition/Members

- Chairperson plus
- 1-2 member per region (NL, LS, HH, SH, DK) dealing with monitoring of salt marshes and/or dunes in the Wadden Sea area and/or are experts on these ecosystems and not excluding additional private scientific consultants.

Time schedule

Permanent.

G. Expert Group Seals (EG-Seals)

Terms of Reference

Background

The Wadden Sea is a habitat for two seal species, the harbour seal and the grey seal. In the framework of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation, the conservation and management of the Wadden Sea seal populations is of high importance. The group reports to CWSS and to the secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention, CMS) through CWSS.

Objective

The EG-Seals is giving advice on the elaboration and implementation of the recent Seal Management Plan and is coordinating, together with CWSS, the trilateral seal monitoring. The activities of the EG-Seals should fulfil the obligations of the Wadden Sea Seals Agreement (WSSA) concluded by Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands under the auspices of CMS.

Tasks

- (1) Evaluate the current Conservation and Management Plan for the Wadden Sea Seal Population (SMP) and formulate - if necessary, in cooperation with further experts - an outline for the new SMP every five years;
- (2) Coordinate, supervise and execute monitoring activities as identified in the SMP and assess the results;
- (3) Formulate concrete plans to achieve the objectives of the SMP, in particular the identified required efforts and objectives;
- (4) Elaborate and submit proposals to the responsible authorities to initiate and implement research activities as identified in the SMP and assess relevant research results;
- (5) Analyse developments in the harbour and grey seal populations and provide management advice to the responsible bodies;
- (6) Report to the appropriate trilateral body.

Deliverables

- (1) Annual reports on Harbour seal and Grey Seal counts;
- (2) Progress Reports on the implementation of the work plan;
- (3) Evaluation of recent SMP and provide expert advice on the next SMP;
- (4) Draft of Thematic Report on Seals of next Quality Status Report (next QSR tbc).

Composition/Membership

- Chairperson from group or CWSS plus
- 1-2 members per region (NL, LS, HH, SH, DK) directly or indirectly involved in 1) monitoring, management or research on the wild population of harbour and grey seals; 2) members coming from independent scientific organizations or governmental agencies.

Time schedule

Permanent

H. Expert Group Data (EG-Data)

Terms of Reference

As a priority TOR for this group will be elaborated in due time by the TG-MA, in close cooperation with TG-M and the nominated experts, to provide technical advice in the course of the development of a new Trilateral Data Strategy. The group should consist of technical data experts.

I. Network Group Education (NG-E)

Terms of Reference

Background

The joint implementation of the “Wadden Sea Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development and World Heritage Interpretation” is an important work theme for the Cooperation in the coming period according to the Leeuwarden Declaration (LD para. 6, 7, 8). The work contributes to the World Heritage Strategy (TD para. 5) and the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism in the Wadden Sea World Heritage Destination (TD para. 12), as well as to the aims and objectives of the UNESCO World Heritage Education Programme and Education for Sustainable Development Goals. NG-E reports to TG-WH.

Objective

Coordinate and oversee, together with the International Wadden Sea School (IWSS) coordinator and CWSS, the implementation of the “Wadden Sea Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development and World Heritage Interpretation” and the trilateral component of the Education Work Programme in a participatory approach with the relevant stakeholders.

Tasks

- (1) Elaborate a Trilateral Education Work Programme for the implementation of the trilateral tasks of the strategy;
- (2) Coordinate and oversee the implementation of the Trilateral Education Work Programme plan;
- (3) Promote an integrated view on Wadden Sea education in the three countries, including the World Heritage Site, the National Parks and other protected areas, in the context of the Wadden Sea Plan Targets and the trilateral policies;
- (4) Coordinate, provide advice and strengthen the mutual support of the information facilities, e.g. visitor centers, museums and other institutions engaged in Wadden Sea education;
- (5) Continue to provide, develop, and ensure in cooperation with associated projects the implementation of trilateral World Heritage products/tools to be used by the visitor centers and other multipliers of Wadden Sea education;
- (6) Discuss and, if feasible, start capacity building activities;
- (7) Participate in the development of the Partnership Hub;
- (8) Prepare regular reports on the implementation of the Trilateral Education Work Programme.

Deliverables

- (1) Trilateral Education Work Programme for the implementation of the trilateral tasks of the “Wadden Sea Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development and World Heritage Interpretation”;
- (2) Annual Progress Reports on the status of the Trilateral Education Work Programme.

Composition/Membership

- IWSS coordinator to chair the group with support of CWSS.
- 1-2 members of the regional Wadden Sea education networks within Denmark, Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg, Niedersachsen and The Netherlands.

Time Schedule

Permanent

J. Network Group Sustainable Tourism (NG-ST)

Terms of Reference

Background

The joint implementation of the strategy on “Sustainable Tourism in the Wadden Sea World Heritage Destination” is an important work theme for the Cooperation in the coming period according to the Leeuwarden Declaration (LD para. 4). The work contributes to the World Heritage Strategy (TD para. 5) and the aims and objectives of the World Heritage Convention. The group reports to CWSS.

Objective

Coordinate and oversee the implementation of the strategy for sustainable tourism and the action plan in a participatory approach with the relevant stakeholders.

Tasks

- (1) Elaborate an action plan for the implementation of the strategy together with the relevant stakeholders for approval by the Wadden Sea Board (WSB);
- (2) Coordinate and oversee the implementation both in terms of its contents and financially;
- (3) Promote and enhance the cooperation between the regions and sectors on sustainable tourism including the exchange of relevant information and coordination between regional projects;
- (4) Ensure coordination with activities in the field of tourism in the context of the World Heritage Convention (ST Programme), sustainable regional development, and with activities of the Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH);
- (5) Prepare regular reports on the implementation of the strategy for discussion and approval by the WSB and the further development of the action plan including, as appropriate, signalling of issues to be solved by the WSB.

Deliverables

- (1) Action Plan 2019-2022 for the implementation of the strategy on “Sustainable tourism in the Wadden Sea World Heritage Destination”;
- (2) Development of a joint World Heritage marketing approach for the Danish-Dutch-German Wadden Sea World Heritage Destination;
- (3) Regular Progress Reports on the status of the implementation.

Composition/Membership

- Chairperson (with experience in sustainable tourism and nature conservation), plus
- Representatives from relevant government authorities, the tourism sector, applied universities and nature NGOs, i.e. 2-4 representatives per region (1-2 GO, 1-2 tourism and marketing sector depending on the regional structure) and 2 green NGOs (WWF, Waddenvereniging).

Time schedule: Permanent

K. Ad-hoc Working Group Alien Species (ad hoc WG-AS)

Terms of Reference

Background

Taking into account existing and upcoming national and regional legislations and projects, finalise the Trilateral Management and Action Plan Alien species (MAPAS) for the Wadden Sea and tasks related to MAPAS (article 17 LD), while initiating investigations to understand the effects of climate change with regard to aliens species, and installing a network platform at CWSS to coordinate the alien species policy for the Wadden Sea. The group reports to TG-M but also to TG-MA if appropriate.

Objective

The overall objective is to prevent threats from alien species to the Wadden Sea marine and terrestrial ecosystems and to sustain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and integrity of the Wadden Sea World Heritage property by preventing, managing or controlling alien species through a coordinated effort, based on national obligations according to overarching legal frameworks (e.g., EU and international).

Tasks

- (1) Finalise the Management and Action Plan for Alien Species (MAPAS);
- (2) Finalise the MAPAS communication plan for the Wadden Sea Area;
- (3) Assess the implications of implementing MAPAS including relevant steps for public awareness and cooperation on monitoring, early warning and measures, e.g. rapid response processes;
- (4) Complete and continuously update the marine, as well as the freshwater and the terrestrial alien species inventory by developing and maintaining an alien species list;
- (5) Integrate an alien species inventory with a related monitoring programme at national level to support the Trilateral Assessment and Monitoring Programme (TMAP);
- (6) Define a concept for a networking platform at the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat;
- (7) Foster exchange with the Expert Group Climate Change Adaptation to tackle impacts of climate change in relation to alien species, i.e., by determining which investigations are needed.

Deliverables

- (1) A Trilateral Management and Action Plan for Alien Species (MAPAS) including a definition of tasks of a coordination group as described therein;
- (2) A communication plan for alien species management;
- (3) Update and maintenance of marine, freshwater and terrestrial alien species list;
- (4) Deliver a concept and proposal for establishing a networking platform for reporting on alien species to inform the related WSB decisions;
- (5) Development of alien species indicators for monitoring by TMAP;
- (6) Define and list research options for understanding the impacts of climate change on alien species in the Wadden Sea ecosystem.

Composition/Membership

- Chairperson plus
- 1-2 members per region (NL, DE, LS, HH, SH, DK), representing ecology and alien species expertise.

Time schedule

2019

L. Ad hoc Working Group Swimway Vision Initiation 2019 (ad hoc WG-Swimway) Terms of Reference

Background

At the Ministerial Council Meetings in 2014 and 2018, the three Wadden Sea countries confirmed the wish to implement the five Trilateral Fish Targets, which were adopted as part of the Wadden Sea Plan at the Trilateral Governmental Conference in 2010. These targets aim at improving the conservation status of fish spending at least part of their life cycle in the Wadden Sea. They acknowledge the uniqueness of the fish community in the Wadden Sea, with several fish populations having declined in recent decades, due to largely unknown reasons. To that effect, the Trilateral Swimway Vision 2018-2024 was approved by the ministers at the 13th Trilateral Wadden Sea Conference on the Protection of the Wadden Sea on May 18th in Leeuwarden, The Netherlands.

Since further preparatory work is needed before it is considered feasible to establish e.g. an Expert Group Fish, the group of authors of the Swimway Vision has recommended that they continue through 2019 as an ad hoc Working Group Swimway Vision Initiation under the auspices of TG-M according to the approved organisational set-up of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation. This Working Group could possibly be replaced by an Expert Group Fish (or Swimway) in 2020¹, which this Terms of Reference (TOR) reflects as it only comprises tasks to be completed in 2019. The group reports to TG-M but also to TG-MA if appropriate.

Objective

The Swimway Vision is based on 4 pillars (1. Research & Monitoring, 2. Policy, 3. Measures and 4. Stakeholder involvement, communication and education). The overarching objective of the ad-hoc Working Group Swimway Vision Initiation is to solve tasks linked to and defined by 8 activities as they appear from the work programme for 2019 which could lead to a formation of an Expert Group Fish in 2020. The aim after 2019 could be to further elaborate and implement the Swimway Action Programme as an integrated approach to achieve the Trilateral Fish Targets as instructed in para. 13 and Annex 3 of the Leeuwarden Declaration (LD).

Tasks

- (1) Coordination and implementation of the Swimway Vision and the further elaboration of the Swimway Action Programme;
- (2) Elaborate TOR and a work plan for a possible Expert Group Fish;
- (3) Initiate activities as described in the above-mentioned work programme for 2019;

¹ Depending on discussions at the TWSC review process and decisions by the WSB

- (4) Prepare, organize and hold a “Swimway Summit” event in October 2019 for stakeholders and key participants etc.

Deliverables

- (1) The specific deliveries corresponding to each of the above listed tasks will take place according to the above mentioned Swimway work programme;
- (2) Regular status reporting to TG-M regarding the implementation of the above tasks, including contributions to the on-going budget- and work programme control by CWSS;
- (3) A final report from the group on the overall status of the implementation of the Swimway Vision, as a possible transition to the formation of a subsequent Expert Group Fish.

Composition/Membership

The ad-hoc Working Group Swimway Vision Initiation consists of the present Swimway Vision and Action Programme core-writing group plus the Swimway coordinator. The Swimway Coordinator will be responsible for coordinating the ad-hoc Working Group. The CWSS will take part in the meetings and will provide logistic and other assistance, as set out in the above-mentioned work programme. The group can, in agreement with TG-M to whom they refer, supplement itself as needed, either on a temporary or a permanent basis.

Time schedule

The ad-hoc Working Group will work through 2019, and could cease to exist if an Expert Group Fish is established in 2020.

M. Operational Team Partnership Hub (OPteamPH) Terms of Reference

Background

The extension of the Wadden Sea World Heritage (WSWH) site with the Danish part in June 2014 has completed the inscription of the trilateral Wadden Sea on the World Heritage List. To jointly meet the full range of present and future challenges of enhancing sustainability, regional development of the entire WSWH region and nature protection in the WSWH Site while safeguarding its OUV and integrity, the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) needs to further develop and supplement the current structures. By engaging with strategic partners from different sectors in a network approach, like green NGOs, local authorities, science, research and education, as well as the private sector, it is intended to realize the high potential of a strong WSWH brand as effectively as possible. The networking aims to enhance ownership and to build an extended and tight, multi-level, cross-border community to complement governmental and intergovernmental efforts. It shall also complement and support partnership initiatives and -programmes at national or regional level. A future Partnership Hub could operate as a catalyst for innovative modes of cooperation.

As laid down in para. 2 of the Leeuwarden Declaration, May 2018, the Ministers „Instruct the Wadden Sea Board to further develop the Partnership Hub as a part of the future Partnership Center together with the envisaged partner organisations and in partner networks across the Wadden Sea Region, which involve partners at local and regional level, and to conduct a pilot phase to be concluded by an evaluation in 2019.

Objective

The purpose of the Operational Team Partnership Hub is to facilitate the start of the Partnership Hub by a pragmatic operational network approach together with selected actors/representatives from sectors/ partner networks.

Tasks

- (1) to approach potential strategic partners,
WSB defined earlier, for instance: Wadden Sea Forum, Wadden Sea Team (green NGO's), Research (Waddenacademie), Education (International Wadden Sea School), Sustainable Tourism Network;
to learn from their networking experience;
to encourage and to negotiate concrete, active participation and engagement in the PH;
- (2) to undertake a targeted quick scan of further sectors/partner networks;
- (3) to explore new potential strategic partners from sectors/networks like, for example, Flyway Initiative, Swimway Initiative, Nationalpark Partners, shipping and harbours, energy, CO2-neutrality, culture and landscape;
to analyse fields of common interest/ project ideas including existing projects and to approach (concrete) contacts and evaluate added value of engagement in the PH (project ideas, deliverables, incentives);

- (4) to initiate, arrange and prepare tailor-made strategic partnership agreements, agreements of cooperation or memoranda of understanding with the future partners in the Partnership Hub;
- (5) conduct a pilot phase for the Partnership Hub and an evaluation;
- (6) act as interface between WSB and PROWAD LINK-activity 4.4 (develop Partnership Hub);
- (7) develop a concept for the Partnership Hub.

Deliverables

- (1) Outline of continuously updated work programme;
- (2) Regular progress reports on implementation of tasks;
- (3) Proposals for tailor-made partnership-agreements and memoranda of understanding;
- (4) Draft evaluation of the pilot phase;
- (5) Draft Concept for the Partnership Hub.

Composition/Membership

- Chairperson plus
- 1-2 representatives per region (NL, LS, HH, SH, DK); 1 from CWSS; invited representatives from potential strategic partner's sectors: starting with 1 Wadden Sea Forum; 1 green NGO; 1 Research; 1 Education; 1 Sustainable Tourism network.

Time schedule

2018-2022