

MEETING DOCUMENT
Wadden Sea Board (WSB 33)

27 August 2021
Wilhelmshaven, Germany



Agenda Item: 5.2
Subject: Progress report TG-M
Document No.: WSB 33/5.2
Date: 23 July 2021
Submitted by: TG-M

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

Proposal: The WSB is invited to note the information.

Task Group Management (TG-M) progress report to WSB 33

Since WSB 32, the TG-M has progressed on, respectively accompanied/supported the following specific items:

1. Flyway & Breeding Birds

The official letter of approval of the concept note 'Climate Resilience for Critical Sites for Migratory Birds and People along the East Atlantic Flyway' (Short Title: Climate Resilient East Atlantic Flyway) submitted by the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) in 2020 was sent out by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) secretariat in February 2021. The IKI project consortium has now entered the first steps of the preparatory phase. After an initial Kick-Off meeting with delegates from the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, the IKI secretariat, the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat and partners from the project consortium in the middle of April, the project consortium has, under the lead of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, developed and submitted a proposal for the 6-month preparation phase which is going to start at the beginning of 2022. It is foreseen that the actual project will start in the first quarter 2023, given funding is granted.

The next East Atlantic Flyway Assessment report is expected to be published by the end of 2021. The Netherlands has granted SOVON the assignment for continuation of the monitoring of the East Atlantic Flyway for the period 2021-2027.

A Youth Forum for the East Atlantic Flyway is being organized for September 2021 in collaboration with Youth Engaged in Wetlands, Migratory Birds for People, Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, and the International Wadden Sea School.

In addition, in 2020 the WSFI assisted with the development and management of critical site networks in West Africa and conducted community-based site activities: (1) support the nomination of the Bijagos Archipelago as a World Heritage Site, (2) develop a network of experts to address the management of intertidal flats, especially for migratory waders, (3) raise awareness for migratory birds among the general public with campaigns and infrastructure projects and contribution to the new flyway movie "A call for cooperation saving the place migratory birds call home".

The next progress report on 'Migratory Birds in the Wadden Sea' is currently under preparation and will include all count data on migratory birds until summer 2020, providing the most recent baseline information on trends in migratory bird numbers relevant under the framework of the TMAP. The report is expected to be published after the official publication of the QSR chapters on breeding and migratory birds.

The Breeding Bird Expert Group is planning a joint workshop with the Expert Group Saltmarshes and Dunes in November 2021. After a previous joint workshop between the two groups focusing on the saltmarshes and how their management affects breeding birds, this workshop will focus on the restoration and management of dunes and beaches and their effect on the conservation status of habitats and breeding birds.

A Quality Assessment Workshop is being organized by Schleswig-Holstein for September 2021 to ensure the correct identification of juvenile Arctic waders. Comparative data on the percentage of juveniles in the population from successive years can provide useful information to assess changes in the breeding success of Arctic breeding migratory birds which use the Wadden Sea as a stopover site.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

2. Fish targets / Swimway

The ad hoc Working Group Swimway (WG-Swimway) has been transformed to an Expert Group Swimway (EG-Swimway) with Terms of Reference adopted at WSB 32. Members for EG-Swimway have been nominated by the States and Länder (Annex 1). As announced by the Netherlands at WSB 32, the Dutch representation in this Expert Group and hence for fulfilling the tasks outlined in the ToR cannot be specified before discussion of priorities at the next Ministerial Conference in 2022, and is now limited to one person for two days a year.

A temporary subgroup of fish monitoring experts has prepared a first draft proposal for a common fish monitoring programme in the Wadden Sea under the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP), upon request by the Task Group Monitoring and Assessment (TG-MA). An overlap with co-authors of the Quality Status Report thematic report on fish ensured alignment with proposed needs for future QSR assessments.

A sub-group of Danish, Dutch and German fish scientists is regularly meeting to prepare a trilateral Swimway research proposal. A draft proposal consisting of modules has been prepared which may be used fully or partially to fit open calls for third party funds.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

3. Wardening & management

A wardening workshop planned for 2021 has been postponed, due to COVID-19 travel- and meeting restrictions since 2020. Under lead of Dutch TG-M members, a new date for early 2022 is envisaged.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

4. Seal Management Plan

The regular report on grey seal surveys in the Wadden Sea and Helgoland has been published beginning of July 2021, documenting a continuous increase in grey seal numbers.

[Brasseur S., Carius F., Diederichs B., Galatius A., Jeß A., Körber P., Meise K., Schop J., Siebert U., Teilmann J., Bie Thøstesen C. & Klöpffer S. \(2021\) EG-Marine Mammals grey seal surveys in the Wadden Sea and Helgoland in 2020-2021. Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Wilhelmshaven, Germany.](#)

The Expert Group Marine Mammals hopes that the celebrations regarding the 30-year anniversary of the Seal Agreement can take place in person in autumn 2021.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

5. Harbour porpoises

The postponed harbour porpoise workshop is currently planned as a side event at the ISWSS in Büsum in November 2021.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

6. Alien Species

The early warning system is considered to be part of the alien species Network platform in the format of a separate micro site (or sub site) of the official website of the secretariat. The implementation is foreseen in 2021/2022. The Expert Group Alien Species (EG-AS) continues working towards development of operational assessment criteria/targets for non-indigenous species, which can be integrated into the future parameter set and programme array of the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP). To support this work, an eDNA workshop has been held. Based on the findings of the workshop, it was agreed to further explore, if eDNA analysis could be used among the methods for the monitoring and assessment of alien species in the Wadden Sea. A concept note will be developed on the possibilities on the use of eDNA methods for the monitoring and assessment of alien species in the Wadden Sea.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

7. Sustainable Fisheries

As one key topic towards sustainable management in the Wadden Sea fisheries is being tackled within the frame of the single integrated management plan (SIMP) and a QSR thematic report is being prepared. TG-M supports review and enrichment of expert assessment on the impact of key topics on key values of the OUV.

For SIMP and QSR see WSB 33/5.1/2 and WSB 32/5.4.

Proposal : WSB is invited to note the information

8. Marine litter

Based on the trilateral overview on marine litter related policies and activities in the Trilateral Wadden Sea Region (see [WSB 32/5.2/5 TG-M Marine Litter inventory](#)), TG-M will collaborate with relevant trilateral groups to prepare concrete recommendations to the TWSC for improving focussed and targeted collaboration and coordination in this matter.

Proposal : WSB is invited to note the information

9. Energy

As one key topic towards sustainable management in the Wadden Sea, energy is being tackled within the frame of the single integrated management plan (SIMP). TG-M is supporting review and enrichment of expert assessment on the impact of key topics on key values of the OUV.

These efforts are conducted in line with the development of the QSR thematic report energy. For SIMP and QSR see WSB 33/5.1/2 and WSB 32/5.4.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

10. Ports and shipping

As one key topic towards sustainable management in the Wadden Sea, shipping and ports is being tackled within the frame of the single integrated management plan (SIMP). TG-M is supporting review and enrichment of expert assessment on the impact of key topics on key values of the OUV.

On-going work on this topic is supported by a consultant, including Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) [Operational Plans](#) implementation assessment, potential conflicts of shipping with the 10 OUV key values and potential next activities. These efforts are conducted in line with the development of the QSR thematic report shipping. For SIMP and QSR see WSB 33/5.1/2 and WSB 32/5.4.

The round table for shipping as a partnership initiative led by the WSF with the support of the CWSS/ Partnership Hub admin unit and in collaboration to TG-M ([WSB30/5.8/2 WSF Shipping Group](#)) was postponed (for Progress Report of the Wadden Sea Forum see WSB 33/7/1).

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

11. Natura 2000 roof report

TG-M is contributing towards finalizing a feasibility study, which will include last contributions regarding the implementation of the NATURA-2000 complex in the respective countries. The writing process will be finished by the chair of TG-M.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

12. Single integrated management plan (SIMP)

TG-M has supported and continues supporting review and enrichment of a rapid expert assessment of (potential) impacts of the key topics on the Outstanding Universal Value of the Wadden Sea. TG-M related key topics are shipping and ports, fisheries and energy. For SIMP and QSR see WSB 33/5.1/2 and WSB 32/5.4.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

13. Quality Status Report (QSR)

Authors have started work on thematic reports of TG-M relevant topics fisheries, shipping and energy in the respective thematic reports of the QSR. For SIMP and QSR see WSB 33/5.1/2 and WSB 32/5.4.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

Annex 1: Members of the Expert Group Swimway (EG-Swimway)

Members of the group

| Denmark | |
|---|---|
| Mr Morten Frederiksen Ministry of Environment and Food Environmental Protection Agency | Mr Niels Jepsen DTU Aqua |
| Ms Xenia Salomonsen Danish National Park Wadden Sea | |
| Germany (Hamburg, Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein) | |
| Mr Christian Abel National Park Authority Lower Saxony | Ms Marina Sanns Schleswig-Holstein Agency for Coastal Defense, National Park and Marine Conservation National Park Authority |
| Mr Oliver-David Finch, NLWKN Aurich | NN Schleswig-Holstein |
| Netherlands | |
| Ms Ingrid Tulp Wageningen, University & Research (WUR) Dept. Wageningen Marine Research | |
| Participants from advisors to WSB and external experts | |
| Ms Eva Lages WWF, Wadden Sea Office | Mr Wouter van der Heij Waddenvereniging |
| Ms Aline Kühl-Stenzel NABU-Bundesverband | |
| Coordination and Secretary | |
| Mr Adi Kellermann Kellermann-Consulting | Ms Julia A. Busch (Secretary) Common Wadden Sea Secretariat |