

# Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 13  
28-29 January 2015  
Wilhelmshaven**



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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	6
<b>Subject:</b>	Report TG-M
<b>Document No.</b>	WSB 13/6/4
<b>Date:</b>	18 December 2014
<b>Submitted by:</b>	Chair TG-M

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Attached is the progress report of the Task Group Management (TG-M).

**Proposal:**     **The meeting is invited to note the information and to decide upon the proposals contained in the report.**

## **Task Group Management (TG-M). Progress Report**

The TG-M, chaired by Ms Stefanie Hedtkamp, has held two meetings since the Tønder Conference. TG-M 10 was held 29 August 2014 and TG-M 11 on 9 December 2014. TG-M 12 will be held in March 2015.

TG-M is responsible for the themes “Flyway cooperation”, “Nature conservation and integrated ecosystem management”, the “Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme” and “Science cooperation”. Progress in the implementation of these themes is given below.

### **1. Flyway cooperation**

TD §16. Agree to continue and where necessary expand the cooperation on management and research along the entire East Atlantic Flyway, as outlined in the vision in Annex 2, shared by relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations.

Information about the main results of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) project is provided in **Annex 1**.

TG-M endorsed the proposed dismissal of the WSFI Advisory Group and the extension of the WSFI Steering Group by representatives of the German Federal States, preferably from the German Wadden Sea National Parks.

In the framework of the WSFI, a Memorandum of Understanding in support of strengthening their cooperation for the conservation of migratory birds along the East Atlantic Flyway was signed by the Parc National de Banc d'Arguin (PNBA) and the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) on 6 February 2014. A draft Action Plan 2014-2018 between PNBA and the CWSS has been prepared and already partly been implemented. The draft Action Plan is in **Annex 2**.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information and to endorse the approach**

### **2. Management and wardening**

TD §18. Therefore also strive for intensifying the cooperation at the operational management level.

TD §19. Ensure that there is adequate wardening over the whole Wadden Sea.

TG-M agreed to collect issues of relevance for managers working in the field and then to decide on the organisation of information exchange events, such as workshops, excursions etc.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach**

### **3. Tidal basin approach**

TD §20. Explore the potential of applying a tidal basin approach in Wadden Sea policy and management, and support its further elaboration.

Several activities have been and are being carried out at the level of tidal basins. It concerns both management and research activities. TG-M agreed

that the secretariat will make a compilation of these activities as a basis for discussing follow-up actions.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach**

#### **4. N2000 roof report**

TD §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.

Upon the initiative of Germany, TG-M agreed to hold a workshop on 24-25 March 2015 in Bonn to discuss options for producing a Wadden Sea roof report. The workshop will be attended by civil servants responsible for national N2000 reporting.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach**

#### **5. Breeding bird action plan**

TD §25. Instruct the WSB to develop and implement a trilateral Action Plan on improving conditions for breeding birds.

A draft breeding bird action plan has been prepared by the JMMB. The action plan will be discussed at the TG-M 12 meeting.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information**

#### **6. Seal Agreement**

TD §27. Therefore continue the cooperation in the context of the Seal Agreement, including the Seal Management Plan, which will be updated in 2016, reconfirming the guidelines on taking and releasing of seals.

TG-M discussed the recent harbour seal mortality and the planning of the SMP update. Information on the seal mortality is in **Annex 3**.

With regard to the SMP, TG-M pointed to the fact that the latest version of the SMP still awaits approval by The Netherlands. This SMP expires in 2016 and TSEG should start working on the update of the current SMP. TG-M therefore proposes WSB to instruct the TSEG to start the update.

TG-M furthermore proposes that TSEG gets involved in the work done by OSPAR on the development of indicators for the MSFD. In this case the experience with seal monitoring within the trilateral cooperation can support the OSPAR work.

**Proposals: WSB is invited to adopt the current SMP and to instruct the TSEG to start updating the current SMP which expires in 2016.  
The meeting is also invited to instruct the secretariat to organize the knowledge transfer to OSPAR.**

## **7. Fish targets**

TD §28. Acknowledge the importance of fish for the Wadden Sea ecosystem and therefore instruct the WSB to work on the further implementation of the trilateral fish targets of the Wadden Sea Plan.

A trilateral workshop on fish conservation and management will be held 8-9 January 2015 at the Thünen Institute of Sea Fisheries in Hamburg. The aim of the workshop is to provide guidance for the implementation of the trilateral fish targets, as well as an input to the QSR2016.

WSB will be informed about the outcome of the workshop.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach.**

## **8. Alien species**

§35. Instruct the WSB to further develop the trilateral strategic framework for dealing with alien species in the Wadden Sea and to coordinate the further development of an alien species management and action plan, taking into account existing and upcoming legislation and projects.

Before setting up a detailed plan for a trilateral project on developing an action and management plan for alien species in the Wadden Sea, TG-M decided to make a detailed inventory of the current situation with regard to national and international initiatives and activities, amongst others related to the implementation of the MSFD and the EU Regulation and focusing on the practical implementation possibilities in the Wadden Sea. To this end two studies are now being carried out, one in the Netherlands and one in Germany. The two studies will be integrated and then the Danish information will be added. The overall report will be finalised in February 2015 and discussed by TG-M 12.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach.**

## **9. Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP)**

TD §60. Adopt the long-term common TMAP strategy as in Annex 6 as the basis for the further development of the TMAP, in close connection with the scientific community, with the aim to further increase its value in implementing EU Directives, and providing information for a wider range of stakeholders, also through the further development of the information system to allow for a better access of the data.

Following a discussion in WSB-13, TG-M discussed the role and functioning of the TMAG and has provided guidance to the WSB chairman, the secretary and the TMAG chairman. On the basis of this guidance a proposal has been elaborated by the WSB chairman, the secretary and the TMAG secretary. This proposal is in separate document WSB-13/6/5

Having discussed how the different expert groups are working in the trilateral network, it was concluded that an overview of these groups is needed for having an accurate picture which tasks are covered by them and what will be the demand for the coming period. The CWSS will prepare such an overview for the next TG-M meeting.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information**

## **10. Quality Status Report**

TD §61. Instruct the WSB to elaborate the next Wadden Sea Quality Status (Outlook) Report for 2016 in time for the 2018 Conference, in order also to be in line with the reporting cycles of the N2000 Directives and Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

At WSB-12 a proposal for the elaboration of the QSR2016 was adopted. The preparatory work has started. TG-M has discussed the composition of the editorial board for the QSR and agreed that candidates should be contacted before WSB-13. The meeting will be informed about developments.

TG-M also discussed the relationship between the preparation of the QSR2016 and the World Heritage State of Conservation report (SOC) that has to be submitted by the end of 2016. TG-M proposes that as soon as the QSR editorial board has been installed, a joint meeting with the Task Group World Heritage be held to discuss how the two tasks can best be combined. TG-M furthermore advised that the QSR thematic reports that are currently being updated, also address the OUV and the WH attributes, as well as urgent research and management questions.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach and to secure the financing of the preparation of the QSR/SOC as addressed in document WSB-13/8/1 (supplementary budget)**

## **11. Trilateral research agenda**

TD §63. Encourage discussions by the scientific community and policy makers on the major policy issues and related knowledge as a basis for further developing a trilateral research agenda and a trilateral research platform.

At its meeting in March 2013, the Wadden Sea Board had requested the Dutch Waddenacademie to present an overview of most pressing policy issues in relation to the availability of relevant information. Following this request the CWSS and the Waddenacademie have developed a so-called “science-policy matrix”, in which policy relevance and knowledge availability have been integrated. In November 2013 the matrix was discussed in a workshop attended by some sixty policy makers and scientists from Denmark, The Netherlands and Germany. Generally, the approach chosen was supported as a useful tool for communicating and prioritising trilateral Wadden Sea science and policy themes. The science-policy matrix resulting from the workshop is in **Annex 4**.

The CWSS and the Waddenacademie have discussed how best to implement TD §63 and prepared a proposal which was discussed by TG-M.

TG-M further prioritised the themes identified in the science-policy matrix on the basis of the following criteria:

- Relevance for the OUV
- Relevance for the implementation of the presidency paper.

This resulted in the following priority themes:

1. Climate change and nature
2. Alien species
3. Fish conservation and management
4. Mussel Fisheries
5. Shrimp fisheries

TG-M was not unanimous about the theme “Shipping and harbour” as a priority theme. TG-M furthermore acknowledged that “sustainable tourism” is relevant for the OUV but that, according to the science-policy matrix, there are no substantial research needs for this theme.

TG-M proposes to organise a follow-up of the first science-policy matrix focusing on the above priority themes with the aim of identifying the main research questions for each of these themes.

TG-M furthermore proposed that the socio-economic and cultural-historical themes from the matrix are dealt with by the Wadden Sea Forum.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach as proposed by TG-M.**

## Annex 1

### **Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative. Status of projects 2014** (see also [www.waddensea-secretariat.org/flyway](http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/flyway))

#### Dutch monitoring project

- The most complete water bird census along the East-Atlantic flyway up to now has been conducted within the Dutch monitoring project with the support of several African and European partners in January 2014. As a preliminary result 17.4 million birds were counted. This is 1 million birds less than the latest total count in 2000. The flyway monitoring plan, the West Africa monitoring strategy/manual and the report about the results of the January 2014 count will be published in French and English at the end of 2014.

#### German capacity building project

- The WSFI provided trainers for a flyway workshop in Angola, which was organised by AEWA in January 2014. The secretariat supported AEWA in financial and administrative issues.
- The German project arranged the building of a boat, the "Pirogue" in Guinea Bissau. The Pirogue will be used for the monitoring of water birds and for surveillance of protected areas in the Archipelago Bijagós.
- With a small grant a capacity and awareness project at the Keta Lagoon Complex, Ghana, has been conducted. Awareness material like T-shirts, leaflets and information boards have been produced and 5,000 mangrove seedlings have been planted.
- A second small project at the Songor Ramsar Site, Ghana, was aimed at raising participatory awareness, mainly in schools and communities.
- A water bird guide with more than 200 species is in preparation. The guide will be printed and distributed in three languages within the WSFI/CMB network in the beginning of next year. The guide will increase awareness and monitoring capacities along the African Atlantic coast.
- A small report about the regional capacity building workshop in Djoudj, Senegal, will be printed and distributed at the end of this year.

#### Flyway Vision

- The Declaration of Intent for supporting the flyway vision has now been signed by 28 bird protection organisations from global to local level (see appendix).

#### Ongoing and planned activities

- With the support of BMUB and the Flanders Agency of Nature and Environment a January 2015 census of selected sites along the East Atlantic Flyway will be possible. The arrangements for the counts have already started.
- BMUB financed the development of a flyway concept as basis for decision making in planning future WSFI projects and activities. The report will be available at the end of November 2014.
- An additional Dutch project will enhance the flyway concept by merging it with the results of an analysis on threats to migratory birds along the East Atlantic Flyway, carried out by VBN/RSPB. This report will give guidance for future WSFI activities.
- The final event of both WSFI projects is planned as a working meeting in Mauritania at the end of March 2015. A first proposal for programme, budget

and participants is under discussion by the WSFI Steering Group. The aim of the event is to serve, support and direct future WSFI activities in the coming 3 years.

#### WSFI Advisory Board and Steering Group

- The WSFI Advisory Board did not meet in 2014. Originally it was foreseen to have a last Board meeting in March 2015 together with the final event of both WSFI projects. The WSFI Steering Group met two times in 2014.

#### Organisational matters

The Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative started successfully by developing a valuable network along the East Atlantic Flyway in the past three years. The WSFI Advisory Board delivered valuable input during the initial phase of the Initiative. Meanwhile a stable basis for the Initiative has been reached and the effort to further appoint an Advisory Board seems too high. The chair of the Advisory Board, Mr. Gerard Boere, proposed to close the Board and implement the Steering Group as the directly responsible body of the WSFI. All trilateral countries should be equally represented in the WSFI Steering Group.

#### Current members of the WSFI Steering Group

- Bernard Baerends, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture, and Innovation, the Netherlands
- Stefanie Hedtkamp, BMUB, Germany
- Jan Steinbring Jensen, Naturstyrelsen Ribe, Denmark
- Manon Tentij, PRW, Vogelbescherming, the Netherlands
- Gerard Boere, chair WSFI Advisory Board
- Geoffroy Citigetse, CMB, Senegal substituted by Barend van Gernerden, VBN, BirdLife, the Netherlands
- Gerold Luerßen, CWSS



## Appendix

### List of signatories of the Declaration of Intent

1. AEWA
2. BirdLife International
3. National Park Wadden Sea Niedersachsen
4. National Park Wadden Sea Denmark
5. National Park Wadden Sea Schleswig-Holstein
6. Wetlands International
7. WWF
8. Waddensea Provinces of the Netherlands
9. Wadden Sea Municipalities of the Netherlands
10. The Danish Wadden Sea Municipalities
11. Waddenvereniging
12. Vogelbescherming Nederland
13. Schutzstation Wattenmeer
14. Verein Jordsand
15. NLWKN-Staatliche Vogelwarte
16. NABU-Bundesverband
17. NABU Niedersachsen
18. NABU Schleswig-Holstein
19. NABU Hamburg
20. Dansk Ornitologisk Forening
21. Parc National Banc d'Aguin
22. Institute of Avian Research
23. Ornithologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft Schleswig-Holstein
24. Dachverband Deutscher Avifaunisten
25. WAU-Wissenschaftliche Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Natur- und Umweltschutz
26. Mellumrat
27. Deutsche Ornithologen-Gesellschaft
28. Niedersächsische Ornithologische Vereinigung

## Annex 2

### **Memorandum of Understanding BANC D'ARGUIN - WADDEN SEA Draft Action Plan 2014-2016**

On 6 February 2014, the Parc National de Banc d'Arguin (PNBA) and the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in support of strengthening their cooperation for the conservation of migratory birds along the East Atlantic Flyway.

Following the official signature and in cooperation with UNESCO's World Heritage Marine Programme, the PNBA, CWSS and National Park (NP) Wadden Sea Niedersachsen prepared a field of cooperation. On 27 August 2014, a working meeting was organized in Wilhelmshaven with representatives from PNBA, CWSS, NP Wadden Sea Niedersachsen, and the German federal ministry for the Environment for the design of the 2014-2016 action plan for the implementation of the MoU.

#### **Proposal for fields of cooperation**

1. Development of joint outreach projects such as leaflets, brochures, web linkage, (short) documentaries, aiming to raise global awareness to the general public of the intrinsic, natural linkage between your exceptional World Heritage sites;
2. Setting up a joint monitoring programme including data handling and storage, and regular joint publications aiming to identify long-term trends in migratory bird populations;
3. Promotion of an international scientific hub for ecosystem ecology in PNBA (Iwik) and the development of a research strategy for PNBA as a future base for the implementation of the MoU;
4. Development of joint strategies for capacity building and participation as model for other areas along the East Atlantic Flyway;
5. Scientific exchange programs amongst PNBA and the Wadden Sea countries as well as flyway countries dedicated to the development of a coherent ecosystem monitoring programme including data handling, assessment and regular joint publications;
6. Development of a series of PNBA based and organized international scientific and management workshops to promote flyway-wide conservation goals and to facilitate exchange of information and experiences amongst flyway countries, with special regard to foster the collaboration amongst African countries;
7. Development of a strategy to engage international scientists, scientific institutions, conservation organisations, policy makers, volunteers and other stakeholders in PNBA and Wadden Sea into the overall development and implementation of the MoU;
8. Expert working meetings dedicated to specific management issues related to conserving migratory birds and their habitat to identify common threats and joint management strategies;

9. Development of an exchange programme for young promising talents between PNBA/Mauritanian universities and Wadden Sea/Wadden Sea countries' universities;
10. Set up of a sustainable financing mechanism in support of the MoU implementation.

The proposal for fields of cooperation were intensively discussed during the meeting in Wilhelmshaven and the following concrete next steps were proposed.

### **Draft Implementation schedule (2014 - 2016)**

#### **10 October 2014**

##### **Migratory Bird Festival**

##### **Objective:**

- Opening 6. Migratory Bird Festival in the National Park Wadden Sea Niedersachsen

##### **Location:**

- World Heritage Visitor Centre Wilhelmshaven, Germany

##### **Activities:**

- Africa Theme: Presentation of ecosystem connection between PNBA & Wadden Sea World Heritage sites
- PNBA joins Flyway Vision with official signature
- Technical working meeting of National Parks with information exchange on management, communication, monitoring

##### **Responsible:**

- National Park authorities Banc d'Arguin and Niedersachsen.

#### **15 January 2014**

- Publication of a joint brochure presenting the linkages between PNBA and Wadden Sea ecosystems and key objectives of twinning arrangement
- Publication of webpages on the PNBA and WS homepages presenting the linkages between PNBA and Wadden Sea ecosystems (incl. all relevant documentation, e.g., adaptation of short film UNESCO, INYT article, and others)

##### **Responsible:**

- Gerold Lüerßen, CWSS, PNBA (Jutta Leyrer)

#### **15-20 January 2015**

##### **Scientific meeting at PNBA**

##### **Objectives:**

- Bringing together leading international experts on ecosystem research and conservation/management issues in PNBA
- Discussion of a basic research agenda for the future conservation of the PNBA
- Preparatory work for the development of an international research station in Iwik

##### **Location:**

- Iwik, PNBA, Mauritania

##### **Activities:**

- Identification of in-depth research needs at PNBA in order to meet future challenges in conservation/management issues at PNBA
- Translation of research programmes into accompanying long-term monitoring programmes

Responsible:

- Jutta Leyrer, Theunis Piersma

### **January 2015**

Objectives:

- Development and implementation of a sustainable financing mechanism/body to ensure the long-term success of the PNBA/Wadden Sea twinning cooperation

Activities:

- Initiate a feasibility study on mechanisms for sustainable financing of the activities under the twinning cooperation (results/suggestions expected by January 2016)

Responsible:

- TBD

### **March/April 2015**

East Atlantic Flyway working meeting within the framework of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative WSFI

Objectives:

- Strengthening leadership role of PNBA among West African countries along the East Atlantic Flyway

Location:

- Nouakchott, Mauritania

Activities:

- Identifying the needs and expectations of/by flyway countries coming from WSFI and other flyway wide conservation initiatives (e.g. AEWA, AMBI)
- Exchange of knowledge and experience regarding bird monitoring and data exchange/sharing between all countries along the East Atlantic Flyway
- Technical meeting to identify practical steps toward the development of a first Quality Status Report for PNBA (to be completed in 2017)

Responsible:

- Jutta Leyrer, Gerold Lürßen, PNBA, CWSS, GIZ

### **May 2015**

PSSA meeting at International Maritime Organization IMO

Objectives:

- Start formal process of PSSA designation of marine areas adjacent to PNBA under IMO regulation

Location

- London, UK

Activities:

- Submission information paper PSSA for PNBA for 68<sup>th</sup> session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Council (MEPC)

- Organization of informal meetings for PNBA with Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and African delegations to IMO (organized with the support of CWSS)
- Special event on PSSA for PNBA at 68<sup>th</sup> MEPC session

Responsible:

- PNBA, UNESCO World Heritage Marine Programme

### **June-July 2015**

39<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee

Objectives:

- Presentation of the twinning cooperation, its results and objectives as part of special event at 39<sup>th</sup> session World Heritage Committee

Location:

- Bonn, Germany

Activities:

- Organization of a special evening event on the twinning cooperation, its objectives and results

Responsible:

- TBD

### **September 2016**

3<sup>rd</sup> World Heritage marine site managers conference

Objectives:

- Strengthen the World Heritage marine site managers community of 46 marine sites in 35 countries

Location:

- Galapagos, Ecuador

Activities:

- Presentation of the results of the PNBA-Wadden Sea twinning cooperation. What has been achieved + next steps (catalyst for other site managers)

Responsible:

- UNESCO World Heritage Marine Programme

## Annex 3

### Harbour Seal mortality 2014

The recent increased mortality caused by the avian influenza H10N7 did not hit the Wadden Sea until after the completion of the annual counts and does therefore not have an effect on the data presented in the harbour seal report. Nevertheless, the TSEG published the following statement concerning the increased harbour seal mortality in the Wadden Sea:

*Arising in Kattegat in spring, the avian influenza H10N7 has spread to the Wadden Sea during September and October causing increased mortality among harbor seals in Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein. Although the epidemic causes the death of hundreds of seals, the TSEG does not regard it as a threat to the population based on the present mortality. The TSEG does not recommend rehabilitation of sick seals.*

*Generally, as other free-living animals seals can carry different diseases transmissible to humans and other animals, people are advised to keep away from living or dead seals to avoid infection. The same applies to dogs.*

Currently, with strongly decreasing numbers of dead seals found in Schleswig-Holstein and only moderate increase in Lower Saxony (234 in total until 12/12/14) and the Netherlands (52 until 06/12/14), experts are expecting the disease being past its peak. In Schleswig – Holstein the total number of dead or severely sick harbour seals was 1578 (until 21/11/14), with 1053 being reported from the islands of Sylt, Helgoland, Amrum und Föhr (see Fig 1). Latest figures indicate that the disease comes to an end.








Fig 1.: Dead or severely sick harbour seals reported from the islands of Sylt, Helgoland, Amrum und Föhr since October 2014.

## Annex 4

## Wadden Sea Science-Policy matrix

		Tourism	Coastal Protection activities	Fishing and Aquaculture	Agriculture	Mining	Energy Generation	Ports and Shipping	Population development	Alien Species	Pollution	Eutrophication	Climate Change	Sea level rise	Governance and government
GEOSCIENCES	Subsurface and geofluids														
	Longer term geomorphology														
	Shorter term morphodynamics														
ECOLOGY	Marine mammals														
	Birds														
	Fish														
	Salt marshes														
	Beaches & Dunes														
	Tidal Area: Intertidal Habitats														
	Tidal Area: Subtidal Habitats														
	Offshore area														
	Estuaries														
ECONOMY AND SOCIETY	Employment														
	Income														
	Demographic structure														
	Liveability														
	Livelihood and identity														
CULTURAL HERITAGE	Historical landscape (1)														
	Tangible heritage (2)														
	Intangible heritage (3)														
	Use and management														
CLIMATE & WATER	Safety														
	Water quality														
	Fresh water availability														

Degree of concern to management	High		Adequacy of information NB. "Information" includes data availability on developments, as well as understanding the causes of changes observed.	Good	
	Moderate			Moderate	
	Low			Low	