

Wadden Sea Board

WSB 2
7 October 2010
Wilhelmshaven



Agenda Item:	7.1
Subject:	Priority issues
Document No.	WSB 2/7.1-1
Date:	9 September 2010
Submitted by:	CWSS

WSB-1 decided that work would start on 10 priority issues (Final Draft Summary Record, page 3). In the attached document an overview of progress made is provided on the priority issues. Priority issue 6, trilateral communication strategy is dealt with under agenda item 6 of the agenda; priority issue 7, sustainable tourism development strategy under agenda item 9 of the agenda; priority issue 8, evaluation of the MoU TWSC-WSF under agenda item 9 of the agenda.

The meeting is referred to the proposals of each of the priority issues in the document.

THE PRIORITY ISSUES WADDEN SEA BOARD 1

1. Trilateral Research Agenda/Research Platform

The Dutch Wadden Academy and the CWSS have a fruitful cooperation. The Wadden Academy, in cooperation with the CWSS, AWI, GKSS and GEUS, is organising a scientific symposium, entitled "Towards a Trilateral Research Agenda", to be held in Leeuwarden, 8-10 December 2010. The aim of the symposium is to identify important cross-border knowledge gaps in the fields of geology, ecology, cultural history, economy and climate, and to explore possibilities for setting up a trilateral research agenda. To this end (key-note) presentations in the above mentioned fields will be held and discussed in workshops.

The symposium is also meant to be a run-up to the 13th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (NL, 2012) at which the trilateral research agenda will be further specified. It is the intention to submit a trilateral research agenda for adoption at the trilateral Wadden Sea Council Meeting of 2013.

In order to provide advice on the trilateral research agenda, it is considered wise to install a (temporary) independent scientific advisory board, consisting of six scientists (two from each of the Wadden Sea states) representing the various scientific disciplines. WSB can also use this scientific advisory board as a 'post box' for advice on trilateral scientific issues. The Wadden Academy is willing to provide suggestions for the composition of a trilateral scientific advisory board, to be submitted to the 2011-1 meeting of the WSB.

Proposal

WSB is **invited** to

- (1) Mandate the CWSS to continue its cooperation with the Dutch Wadden Academy, a.o. in developing a trilateral research agenda.
- (2) Support furthermore, in principle, the installation of a scientific advisory board.

2. Update Seal Management Plan

At WSB 1 it was agreed to organize a meeting on the issue of the higher number of seals taken to seal rehabilitation centres and the high number of seals found dead during the last winter period (2009/2010), and postpone the updating of the Seals Management Plan (SMP) with one year.

The chair of the TSEG and the secretariat has elaborated an outline for a consultation meeting to be arranged between the seals experts, other experts and representatives of the seal rehabilitation centres. The proposed outline is in **Annex 1**.

A precondition for a successful meeting is the timely delivery preferably 4 weeks in advance, of the data from seal rehabilitations centres in accordance with the questionnaires of the SMP, and the approval of using these data for review and comparison. The responsible national authorities are therefore requested to ensure that the data will be timely delivered to the organizing committee.

It has been suggested to appoint the Norwegian seal expert Mr Arne Bjørge to chair the consultation meeting. The secretariat suggests approaching Mr Andy Brown to chair the meeting.

Proposal

WSB is **proposed** to

- (1) Approve of the outline for the consultation meeting in Annex 1 and instruct the chair TSEG together with the secretariat to organize the meeting as soon as possible.
- (2) Request the national authorities to ensure that the data from the seal rehabilitation centres in accordance with the questionnaire of the SMP will be made timely available for the meeting preferably 4 weeks in advance.
- (3) Indicate preference for chairperson of the consultation meeting.

3. Goose Management

Draft Terms of Reference to await the outcome of the decisions on the organizational structure of the Cooperation.

4. Flyway

Several activities are underway as a preparation of the best way to implement §6 of the Sylt Declaration.

The Dutch consultant Gerard Boere has been commissioned by the Dutch Ministry LNV (through the Programme, "towards a rich Wadden Sea") to prepare an overview and evaluation of all these activities, as well as running projects dealing with the east Atlantic flyway (including monitoring, research, management and policy). The aim of the review is to determine the best possible way to implement the WHS decision. The outcome of the review will be ready by mid September.

A meeting with the AEWA secretariat, ministerial representatives and the CWSS has been scheduled for 28 September, with the aim of discussing trilateral flyway activities.

Proposal

WSB is invited to decide upon next steps to be taken on the basis of the outcome of the meeting of 28 September and the recommendations from the report by Gerard Boere.

5. Workshop Landscape and Culture

The Danish delegation is invited to organize the workshop on landscape and culture in the Wadden Sea Region in early 2011 in cooperation with relevant authorities in Germany and The Netherlands. The overall objectives of the workshop are to review the comparative study and its recommendations in conjunction with the decisions of the Sylt Declaration (§§ 18-20) with a view to determine the future areas of cooperation as indicated in the draft Business Plan 2010-13. The workshop should also be used to take stock of the policy and management in the Wadden Sea Region with regard to landscape and culture.

Proposal

Note

9. Shipping Safety

The secretariat was instructed to elaborate an outline for the workshop to present the PSSA Study and discuss the results with representatives from national competent authorities, also in view of the BRISK programme and the DenGerNeth Agreement. An outline for the workshop has been drafted by shipping experts from the Steering Committee of the Wadden Sea PSSA evaluation. The draft outline is in **Annex 2**. The Shipping Task Group should be mandated to organize the workshop in cooperation with the secretariat as soon as possible and be instructed to report to the following WSB-meeting.

Proposal

WSB is **proposed** to

- (1) Approve of the outline of the workshop in Annex 3.
- (2) Instruct the Shipping Task Group to organize the workshop in cooperation with CWSS as soon as possible and report to the next following WSB-meeting.

10. Climate

Draft Terms of Reference have been drafted by the secretariat in consultation with the Dutch Ministry of Transport and Public Works (V&W). The proposed Draft Terms of Reference are in **Annex 3**.

The ToRs cover §§21-23 of the MCD, dealing with adaptation measures and policies. §24, the goal of developing the Wadden Sea Region into a CO₂-neutral area by 2030, deals with mitigation and addresses local and regional authorities and stakeholders.

Because of the differences in contents and type of action it is recommended not to burden TG Climate and coastal protection also with the implementation of § 24, the more so because coastal protection activities already encompass a very broad spectrum.

Proposal

WSB is **proposed** to adopt the draft Terms of Reference as in Annex 4, and to delegate the necessary members of the group.

Annex 1**Consultation Meeting between TSEG and Seal Rehabilitation Centres
Wilhelmshaven, xx October/November 2010****Outline Objectives Consultation Meeting**

The Trilateral Seal Expert Group (TSEG) was requested by the LNV to organize a consultation meeting with the seal rehabilitation centres concerned (Annex 1).

The request of the LNV is based on a paper that was submitted to TWG 09-3 by the TSEG. Therefore the LNV asks the seal experts to discuss and assess the following points:

- 1) Review of data on seal strandings in the Wadden Sea from 2000-2005, based on the evaluation of the Seal Management questionnaires.
- 2) Regionally exceptional high number of seals taken into rescue centres in the Netherlands during the last winter period (2009/2010).
- 3) Article 15 of the Sylt Declaration, stating:

“Reaffirm the guidelines concerning taking and releasing of seals from the Leeuwarden Declaration (§§60 and 61) and instruct the Board to update the Seal Management Plan, which will expire this year, for the period 2011 – 2016, based on an evaluation of the current Plan.”

Based on the higher number of young seals taken, relative to former years, has raised the question whether there have been changes in the seals' health. This has led to a question raised in Dutch Parliament to fund more research on the health conditions of harbour seals.

In addition to the relative higher number of young harbour seals taken in some regions of the Netherlands, a report published on behalf of the National Park Administration in Schleswig-Holstein, indicate an unusual high rate of mortality of young harbour seals during the winter 2009/2010 in that part of the Wadden Sea region.

Objective

The objective of the consultation meeting is to consider, the possible cause(s) of the higher number of young seals taken into rescue centres during 2009. Furthermore to assess whether the relative high number of taken and dead seals causes the need for further investigation and research on this issue.

Based on the outcome, the meeting is expected to give an opinion on a) the current health status of the population, b) the impact of the relative higher number of seals taken on the development of the seal population, and c) whether there is a need for further investigation.

Building blocks

The focus should therefore be on questions such as a possible higher mortality and whether that was caused by environmental factors including virus infection or other diseases, or that it was a consequence of the seal population approaching carrying capacity of the habitat they live in.

The required expertise at the meeting should be provided by participation of scientists working in the field of population biology and pathology.

Necessary data for the meeting between the TSEG and the seal rehabilitation centres will be:

- 1.) Detailed data on seals taken and brought into rescue centres and found dead in 2009, in the pupping and moult season 2010, and also in the years 2006, 2007 and 2008. This data should include information on date and location found, sex, and roughly age-class, and medical status
- 2.) pathology and section results, including specific analyses
- 3.) survey results for 2010 and the years 2007, 2008 and 2009

At the consultation meeting, the seal experts are expected to evaluate and assess the issues mentioned above in cooperation with the seal rehabilitation centres, and compile recommendations for further procedures on this topic. In case there will be a necessity for further research, a preliminary indication of expected costs involved should be provided.

Framework programme

The meeting will encompass the following main items to be further detailed in the programme:

- (1) Presentation of the harbour seal monitoring results 2010 by the seal experts, and the population trend since the last epizootic.
- (2) Presentations of detailed information on numbers of seals taken and seals found dead by all seal rehabilitation centres, including detailed info on numbers, date found, sex, and age-class.
- (3) Presentation of the results from the report on high juvenile mortality in autumn/winter 2009 in Schleswig-Holstein by Thomas Borchardt.
- (4) Presentation of the compiled results on seals taken and dead seals from questionnaires 2006 to 2009 for the Seal Management Plan.
- (5) Presentation of the autopsy results on harbour seals by Ursula Siebert/Sven Ramdohr, and the veterinarians from seal rehabilitation centres
- (6) Comparison between numbers of seals taken in 2006-2008, 2009 and partly 2010, relate numbers of seals taken to population surveys in respective years, indicate possible consequence of the relative high numbers of harbour seals found in 2009, for the development of the population.
- (7) Discussion and conclusions on results obtained under 4.
- (8) Recommendations for possible further investigation by the seal experts in cooperation with the seal rehabilitation centres.

Participants

Participants of the consultation meeting should have expertise in population biology (TSEG) and pathology (veterinarians from the TSEG and veterinarians from the seal rehabilitation centres) (mailing list Annex 2).

Location and time

The meeting will be held in Wilhelmshaven in October/November 2010 on a date agreed with the participants.

Organization

The meeting will be organized by chair TSEG and the CWSS, and chaired by a chairperson (to be designated), external to the TSEG and to the seal rehabilitation centres.

**Appendix: Letter LNV
Appendix**

> Postbus 30032 9700 RM Groningen

Trilateral Seals Expert Group
Attn. Mrs. Sophie M.J.M. Brasseur, chair of the TSEG
P.O. Box 167
1790 Den Burg
Texel, The Netherlands

Date April 6 2010
Re Request for consultation

Dear Mrs. Sophie Brasseur,

During many years the TSEG has contributed to a more profound knowledge of seals in the Wadden Sea, a.o. by coordinating the trilateral waddensea monitoring and collecting information of the different seal centres along the coast.

Last year, the TSEG has submitted to the TWG a review of data on seal strandings in the Wadden Sea in 2000-2005, based on an evaluation of the Seal Management questionnaire. Up till now, the seal centres just provide data to our Trilateral Cooperation, but a more intense consultation and/or collaboration has not yet taken place.

Just recently, during the last winterperiod, regionally exceptional high number of seals were taken in the Netherlands. This phenomenon has led to questions raised in the Dutch Parliament to apply for more research.

Finally, at the last conference at Sylt, article 15 was adopted, stating:
"Reaffirm the guidelines concerning taking and releasing of seals from the Leeuwarden Declaration (§§60 and 61) and instruct the Board to update the Seal Management Plan, which will expire this year, for the period 2011 – 2016, based on an evaluation of the current Plan".

Based on these recent developments and pursuant to discussions at TWG-level to arrange such a meeting, I would like to request the TSEG to organise at its earliest convenience a consultation meeting with the seal rehabilitation centres concerned, to have a discussion and an assessment about these issues. Moreover, explicitly taking into account the most recent figures of taking of seals (last winterperiode), I would like to receive an update of the review study concerning the distribution of the figures. Based on this update, I would like to ask the TSEG members if these updated figures give rise to an alarming situation which requires further steps to be taken. In that case, I would like to hear if specific research is required and feasible, and a preliminary indication of the costs involved.



Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and
Food Quality

CWSS

15. April 2010

TJM

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Our ref.
DRZN/2010-1826

cc
CWSS, Dr. K. Jung, secr. of the
TSEG
G. van Brakel, Min. of LNV,
member TSEG+

Living
off the land,
caring
for nature.

Kind regards,



Ir. H.R. Oosterveld
Wadden Sea Board member,
Former Senior Official of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation from the
Netherlands.

Directie Regionale Zaken
Vestiging Noord

Date
April 6 2010

Our ref.
DRZN/2010-1826

Annex 2**SHIPPING AND SHIP'S SAFETY WADDEN SEA****Outline Objectives and Structure Workshop Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation**

At the meeting of the Ministerial Council in the context of the 11th Trilateral Governmental Conference on the Protection of the Wadden Sea, ministers comprehensively addressed the issue of shipping and ship's safety in §§ 27 – 38 of the Ministerial Council Declaration as attached. Prior to the Council meeting, an evaluation of the Wadden Sea Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) had been carried out by the Southampton Solent University on assignment by the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation. The report served as input to the preparation of the Ministerial Council Declaration.

Important issues addressed are:

- Collection of relevant shipping and environmental data for the Wadden Sea PSSA
- Enhancing the awareness of the Wadden Sea PSSA for mariners and relevant stakeholders
- Draw on the experiences with risk assessment in the Baltic (BRISK)
- Assess the risk of offshore wind energy and shipping in relation to the Wadden Sea PSSA

Further the Wadden Sea Board is instructed to discuss the PSSA evaluation report and the further steps of implementation with the relevant competent authorities and develop a vision on the impact of shipping and ship's safety on the Wadden Sea PSSA. In accordance with this agreement, as a first step a one day trilateral workshop will be organized for the competent authorities.

Objective

The overall objective of the meeting is to discuss with the competent authorities the further steps of implementation of the Sylt Declaration as agreed in § 38 of the Declaration.

Framework

The workshop will encompass the following main items to be further detailed in the programme:

- (1) Overall presentation on the outcome of the Sylt Conference.
- (2) Presentation of the Wadden Sea PSSA evaluation report and discussion of the recommendations in the context of the agreements of the Ministerial Council meeting.
- (3) Presentation of the DenGerNeth Agreement and the relationship with the Wadden Sea PSSA and shipping safety including updating of the Bonn Agreement developments.
- (4) Presentation of the BRISK project, the preliminary results of the project and the relevance for the Wadden Sea.
- (5) Offshore wind farm constructions in relation to the Wadden Sea.

(6) Conclusions and recommendations for the further work.

Participants

Anticipated number of participants: 20, from the competent (federal and state) shipping authorities and the Wadden Sea nature conservation and environment authorities.

Location and time

The one day workshop will be held in Hamburg in October-November 2010 on a date agreed with the participating authorities.

Organization

The workshop will be organized by the Wadden Sea Shipping Task Group, facilitated by the secretariat. The workshop will be chaired by an independent chairperson (to be designated).

Annex 3**Task Group Climate and Coastal Protection (TG-CC).****Draft Terms of Reference**

The 2010 Sylt Ministerial Council meeting has agreed the following regarding climate adaptation matters and stated in the ministerial council declaration that authorities in the three countries are:

21. Concerned that climate change and its consequences such as enhanced sea level rise, higher storm surges, increased temperatures and increasing sediment deficits will have impacts on the ecology and landscape of the Wadden Sea and may affect the safety of the inhabitants.

22. Aware of the long time scales of the processes and reactions involved, and thus of the urgent need to strengthen natural processes, to continue mitigation activities and to start concrete measures for adaptation to the expected impacts of climate change in the Wadden Sea Area and to ensure the safety of the inhabitants of the region and the ecological integrity.

23. Aware that more knowledge is needed for adaptation and mitigation measures and therefore determined to improve the trilateral knowledge base and instruct the Board to

- Initiate a trilateral study on sustainable solutions to balance the expected sediment deficits on the basis of research questions specified by the CPSL.
- Initiate a project developing model spatial plans for pilot sites in the Wadden Sea region with the aim of developing a practicable spatial planning methodology to meet the challenges of climate change.
- Establish a working group focusing on increasing the adaptability of the Wadden Sea ecosystem and landscape to climate change, also responsible for coordinating and supervising the above studies.

As stated in §22, the authorities in the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark are aware of the urgent need to strengthen natural processes, to continue mitigation activities and to start concrete measures for adaptation to the expected impacts of climate change in the Wadden Sea Area and to ensure the safety of the inhabitants of the region and the ecological integrity.

With regard to research and modelling needs, the contents of §23 is based mainly upon the recommendations of the CPSL working group and relate to climate adaptation measures.

The Task Group Climate and Coastal Protection (TG-CC) has been established by the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) in order to implement §§21-23 of the Ministerial Council Declaration.

Two important elements are recognized that form the basis for the terms of reference for the TG-CC:

- Focus on measures: it is expected that the effectiveness of climate change adaptation for the Wadden Sea Area can be enhanced by exchanging knowledge, data and planning of measures. The TG therefore should be a trilateral platform to exchange views regarding the national programmes and processes concerning the insight in climate change and coastal protection, the *translation* of these insights into climate adaptation and coastal protection

policies, and the *implementation* of these policies, e.g. the management of programs with concrete measures for climate change adaptation, such as the Dutch Deltaprogramme.

- Focus on knowledge: share the results of ongoing national climate change research programs, improve joint monitoring efforts and initiate trilateral studies on sustainable solutions for coastal protection, with emphasis on the relation of such solutions with nature protection and restoration development.

Tasks

- (1) Increase the linkage between climate change and coastal protection, nature protection, the adaptability of the Wadden Sea ecosystem and spatial planning (MCD §23; also relevant MCD §13). This task involves the trilateral exchange and collaboration on/in projects and activities dealing with climate change. First step will be the organization of workshop(s) to produce a trilateral overview of relevant national (research) programs focused on:
 - coastal protection management and governance
 - the adaptability of the Wadden Sea ecosystem and landscape to climate change
 - innovative concepts for coastal protection that are also beneficial for the Wadden Sea ecosystem
 - national climate change adaptation (policy) programs
 - translation of coastal protection management to monitoring and research needs
 - spatial planning related to coastal protection

- (2) Initiate a trilateral study on sustainable solutions to balance the expected sediment deficits on the basis of research questions specified by the CPSL (MCD §23).
 The initiation phase will first of all consist of a desk study with the aim of collecting and comparing already available knowledge, monitoring programs and identifying the main gaps regarding the questions specified by the CPSL. On the basis of the outcome of the study a research proposal must be developed, financing options explored and possible performing institutes and/or programmes identified.

- (3) Initiate a project developing model spatial plans for pilot sites in the Wadden Sea region with the aim of developing a practicable spatial planning methodology to meet the challenges of climate change (MCD §23).
 TG-CC will first evaluate existing and finished projects for their relevance for the spatial planning instruments recommended by CPSL, for example the ComCoast project. Making use of the experiences from these projects, TG Climate and Coastal Protection will develop proposals for projects and pilot sites suitable for testing relevant spatial planning instruments, explore financing options and identify and performing institutes.

- (4) Coordinate and supervise the above cooperation, exchange and studies (MCD §23).
 After the initiation of the projects mentioned under ii. and iii, TG-CC will be responsible for their overall coordination and supervision, including progress and quality control and regular reporting to the WSB. The CWSS (see 2.6), in consultation with the TG chairperson, will be responsible for the daily management.

- (5) Investigate the need for adapting TMAP so as to better monitor new challenges, e.g. climate change and its impacts (MCD §43).
- (6) Formulate proposals to the WSB, based upon the outcome of tasks i to v, for improving trilateral policy and management regarding adaptation of the Wadden Sea to climate change.

Composition

TG-CC will basically deal with three fields of expertise: coastal protection, nature protection and spatial planning. For the members it is essential that they are closely involved in national programmes dealing with these fields. It is important that the members of the TG are able to bridge the gaps between those involved in the climate change policy-making process, the scientific community and those involved in coastal zone management.

Output

- (1) Recommendations for improved trilateral climate change adaptation policy and management;
- (2) Good overview of and better tuning of climate change adaptation policy and management of the three Wadden Sea countries;
- (3) Successfully running (or finalised) projects on sand suppletion and spatial planning.

Budget

No additional financing needed. Travel costs to be carried by members. Facilitation costs from CWSS budget. Studies to be financed externally.

Reporting Schedule

- | | |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2010 | Formation of TG Climate and Coastal Protection. 1 meeting at end of year envisaged |
| 2011 | Initiation phase (tasks 1 – 3), tasks 4 and 5: 2 meetings and 1 workshop (task 1) |
| 2012 | Tasks 1, 4 and 5: 2 meetings and 1 workshop |
| 2013 | Tasks 1, 4 and 5 continued. Final reporting to WSB. 2 meetings and 1 workshop. |