

To interested consultants.

Date: 05.05.2025

CALL FOR TENDER AP0483 / K190

Evaluation and update of the trilateral Breeding Bird Action Plan

With this invitation to tender, the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) is seeking a qualified consultant or consortium of consultants to evaluate the implementation status of the current [Breeding Bird Action Plan](#), identify gaps and emerging issues not covered by the current plan, and prepare an updated action plan with SMART targets for the future management of breeding birds in the Wadden Sea. This work is expected to follow a participatory approach, involving experts from all Wadden Sea regions.

CWSS invites qualified consultants to submit a written proposal with the subject line “Evaluation and update of the trilateral Breeding Bird Action Plan” to Ms Kristine Meise, Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, (meise@waddensea-secretariat.org) **no later than 15 June 2025 / EOB.**

Please find the terms of reference and further information following.

1. Background

The Wadden Sea World Heritage Site stretches along the southern North Sea Coast from Den Helder in the Netherlands via Germany to Esbjerg in Denmark. Its protection is the joint responsibility of the three states of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation who do their utmost to maintain the ecosystem and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

The Wadden Sea is a vital ecosystem that supports a diverse range of species, including numerous species of breeding birds. However, numbers of breeding birds have been declining. The most recent [Quality Status Report on Breeding Birds \(Koffijberg et al. 2022\)](#) has shown that 18 out of 33 breeding birds (55%), for which trends could be calculated, are subject to long-term declines. Poor breeding success, e.g., due to increased predation and flooding risk or reduced food abundance, has been identified to contribute to declining bird populations ([Breeding Bird Action Plan, Koffijberg et al. 2016](#)). This means that specific targets for breeding birds, set in the Wadden Sea Plan, have not been met. On a national scale, conservation objectives in the context of Natura 2000 are also not met.

The aim of the Breeding Bird Action Plan (BBAP) is to improve conditions for breeding birds in the entire Wadden Sea by addressing key threats such as predation, flooding, and habitat loss. It seeks to provide a coordinated, trilateral approach to conservation efforts, ensuring effective and sustainable protection of

different species of breeding birds through proposed measures on habitat restoration, better breeding site management, predator control, adjusted livestock grazing, and visitor management.

Given the continued decline in breeding bird populations and potentially new insights into the underlying causes (as listed above) there is a clear need to translate the results of the monitoring schemes into a management concept and update the existing framework for dedicated management measures. For monitoring and evaluation purposes, clear and timely targets shall be set, in line with and support of the trilateral agreements in the [Wadden Sea Plan](#) and the [Wilhelmshaven Declaration 2023](#).

2. Scope of Work and Key Tasks

The original [BBAP](#) aimed to address the declining populations of breeding birds in the Wadden Sea. Despite various efforts, data from the [Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme](#) show that still more than half of the monitored species are in decline. Moreover, [recent results](#) from the Halligen in Schleswig-Holstein, for example, show minimal breeding success due to increased predation by rats and mammalian predators. Similar patterns have been found in other parts of the Wadden Sea (e.g., [Leyrer et al. 2019](#)) and recent reports from the field indicate that the situation has not improved recently. This has raised growing concern among decision makers, who called for an update of the Breeding Bird Action Plan to address management needs to reduce or increase resilience to existing pressures. In addition, the update shall address and mitigate emerging threats (e.g. HPAI) which have not been addressed in the previous one, and/or consider threats that need more coordinated efforts across the region. Thus, the updated BBAP shall incorporate a more comprehensive, trilateral strategy, taking into account new experiences and concrete measures to halt the decline and ensure sustainable breeding conditions.

Key Tasks

1. Provide a (complete) list of ongoing breeding bird conservation projects from all Wadden Sea regions, building on existing information. Gather data and information from these projects to analyse their success rate and impact in relation to specific objectives of the BBAP:
 - Addressing key threats such as predation, flooding, and habitat loss.
 - Providing a coordinated, trilateral approach to conservation efforts to ensure effective and sustainable protection of breeding birds, including information how countries have dealt with this in existing management plans for the Natura 2000 network.
 - Enhancing resilience in bird populations against natural extreme events like flooding.
2. Collate information from other successful projects managing declines in breeding waterbirds and bring best practice examples into the local discussion.
3. Develop and conduct a trilateral workshop in collaboration with members of the Expert Group Breeding Birds and the CWSS to discuss:
 - Current Status of the BBAP (based on the analysis), including its implementation gaps
 - Best practice examples for managing breeding waterbirds and their suitability for the Wadden Sea
 - Emerging issues not addressed in the previous frameworkDecide on key objectives to include in the update of the BBAP and collate information on realistic targets and timelines to be set (if necessary, separated by species), going beyond existing EU requirements e.g. set by Natura2000. Also consider outcomes of the trilateral workshop on predation management, planned for September 2025. There will be two new TMAP reports become available this year as well (covering trends and numbers and breeding success).
4. Develop a first draft update with practical recommendations and SMART targets for monitoring and research, management and policies.
5. Lead consultations with key stakeholders and two rounds of revisions to finalize the report.

The project is expected to take a participatory approach with ongoing engagement of local experts working on monitoring and management of breeding birds. The transnational exchange with experts and sites managers is foreseen with the intention of gaining more information on lessons and how such information has been used to inform the management of breeding birds and breeding sites, while also discussing the feasibility of new measures and specific targets.

The overall goal is to establish a tool that can inform practical management and mitigation measures. This approach aims to safeguard the OUV and continuously improve the conservation of the Wadden Sea. Consultants are expected to have a good knowledge of the Wadden Sea ecosystem and ideally a close link with local bird projects.

3. Key deliverables

The main delivery of the selected consultant/consortium of consultants will be a final updated Breeding Bird Action Plan, and its presentation at a trilateral expert group meeting. The main delivery must be based on the knowledge and experience of the relevant actors in the Wadden Sea acquired through stakeholder consultation, e.g. at workshops or through interviews with organisations involved in monitoring and management of breeding birds, and a desktop study on the available information.

The selected consultant/consortium of consultants will be expected to provide the following deliverables including but not limited to:

1. An assessment of the current BBAP, including a list of management measures applied and their success in managing specific conservation issues.
2. A compilation of best practices examples in the management of breeding birds, including possible mitigation measures for human activities identified to have an effect on breeding success in the Wadden Sea.
3. Short summary records of the key outcomes of the discussions of each meeting.
4. Update BBAP with key objectives, management recommendations for specific conservation issues (considering habitats and species-specific requirements) and SMART targets.

Participation in at least two workshops (1 online workshop in preparation + 1 in-person meeting) and two feedback loops with CWSS and members of the Expert Group Breeding Birds should be considered in the offer.

The working language in the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation is English. All meetings, work documents, and the project application are in English language.

Throughout the study and the development of the main delivery, close collaboration and consultation with CWSS and the members of the Expert Group Breeding Birds is required. The selected consultant/consortium of consultants will be required to submit workshop summaries and the final update of the Breeding Bird Action Plan to CWSS who will be responsible for the design.

4. Budget

Tenders should provide an elaborated methodological approach and budget proposal that best reflects the requested set of deliverables as needed.

Proponents are advised that this assignment is budgeted at ~20.000€, depending on the agreed-upon list of tasks and the timeline. If your company cannot fulfil all that this call for tender has laid out within the budget range, CWSS encourages you to submit a proposal that does fall within this range and outline which deliverables you would be able to fulfil.

Tender fees should be fully inclusive, including any proposed sub-contracted work.

Tenders should be inclusive of all travel and other expenses and disbursements.

Costs for room hire and catering for up to one in-person meeting are not part of this contract and will be covered by other budget lines.

5. Time schedule

Invitation to submit a Tender	6 May 2025
Deadline for delivery of tenders	15 June 2025
Decision and selection of a consultant	20 June 2025
Duration to undertake the tasks and deliver the expected outputs	July - December 2025
First Draft Report (5 weeks revision)	15 December 2025
Second Draft Report (2 weeks revision)	16 February 2026
Final Report	31 March 2026

A first payment of up to 2/3 of the total amount is made upon the signing of the contract. The remaining amount is paid upon approval of the final products.

6. Proposed tender format

Proposals in electronic form are to be submitted in a format that allows uniform review and easy access to information for the selection. To assist the evaluation process, the proposal shall contain the following information:

Letter of interest and signature page (max. 2 pages per agency/consultant):

This letter should include general information about the consultant or group of consultants such as: description of all services offered, the total years in business, number of employees, office location(s), etc. include name, home and email for authorized contact concerning proposal.

Budget (1 page)

Approach to project (max. 4 pages)

Short description of services offered describing how you would approach this study, and how you will work with the client (trilateral Expert Group Breeding Birds and CWSS) and with other relevant actors. Explain the proposed methodology that will be used and demonstrate a clear understanding of the project's objectives. Include a work plan and schedule.

Relevant qualifications of the firm (max. 2 page)

Outline experience in carrying out similar assignments (including references of previous projects).

Specific qualifications of individuals (max. 3 pages)

Provide an overview of the qualifications of your project staff, including potential sub-contractors (if applicable), especially those linked with the Wadden Sea. Describe who will perform the various tasks, and their anticipated level of involvement and responsibilities. Include resume from academic CV of individual(s) in appendix (appendix not included in page count).

7. Selection criteria

Award of the contract will be based on the best value service, which may or may not be the tender with the lowest cost. Incoming offers will be compared according to:

- 30% price (value for money)
- 35% consistency and quality of the offer in terms of approach and task management
- 35% Proven expertise (information on expertise, CV experience of assigned staff).

8. Contact address

Please submit your proposal with the subject line “Evaluation and Update of the trilateral Breeding Bird Action Plan” **no later than 15 June 2025 / EOB to:**

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