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**Expert Group Climate Change Adaptation (EG-C 16)**

31 March 2023

online

1. **Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the Agenda**

The meeting was opened by Jacobus Hofstede (MEKUN) who chaired the meeting in substituting Robert Zijlstra on 09:00 on 31 March 2023. He passed apologies of the chairperson Robert Zijlstra (RWS), who could not join for unforeseen personal reasons. Andreas Wurpts (NLWKN) did not participate in the meeting.

A list of participants is at Annex 1.

The EG-C **adopted** the draft agenda of the meeting (Annex 2), with adding a discussion on an Alien Species workshop and a question on sediment extraction from the Wadden Sea system under Any Other Business.

1. **Adoption of the draft summary record**

*Document: EG-C16-2-SR-EG-C15*

The chair reviewed the list of action items, of which all were completed or on today´s agenda. Julia Busch informed that the International Wadden Sea School has distributed the (idea to use the) climate change animation amongst their partners. She also informed that EG-C´s offer to support the Research Call was forwarded to the respective colleague at CWSS.

EG-C **noted** the information and **adopted** the draft summary record of EG-C 15 with the Dutch announcement to be updated.

1. **Announcements**

**Denmark**

* Kristian Hansted, Head of Department, Coast & Climate (Danish Coastal Authority) has replaced Hans Erik Cutoi-Toft in the Wadden Sea Board.
* The Danish Coastal Authority made an agreement with the mayor of Fanoe at TGC in Wilhelmshaven to meet and look further into the coastal protection agenda for the island in the Wadden Sea. The island is situated in Natura-2000 area. Per Soerensen will also attend the meeting.
* The Danish Coastal Authority is project partner in MANABAS Coast. DCA contributes to WP2 (Testing and evaluation of enablers for mainstreaming and upscaling of Nature-based Solutions) as a WP leader (Per Sorensen) and pilot owner. The results will be input for the development of a long-term management plan for 100 km coast in WP1. In this management plan the core aim will be to reduce erosion and flood risk by using Nature-based Solutions to preserve natural dynamics, while providing coastal safety. The DCA will focus on ensuring that a common framework on upscaling Nature-based Solutions will be further optimized as a tool for all European coasts. In WP3 the DCA will focus on communicating the results to the EU, knowledge institutes, and other organisations. Also, Nikolai Sorensen from DCA is working in the project.

**Schleswig-Holstein**

* Schleswig-Holstein started an informal consultation process about the possible designation of a marine national park on its Baltic Sea coast. After the consultation, State Government will make a decision on yes or no. More information can be found [here](https://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/landesregierung/themen/kueste-wasser-meer/konsultationsprozess-ostsee/konsultationsprozess-ostsee_node.html).
* As part of KFKI (German Coastal Engineering Research Council), a research project on nature based salt marsh management has started. More information can be found [here](https://www.kfki.de/en/projekte/details?id=46e778e155d57b94fa5eacd3ad001e3c). More information about actual and finished KFKI-projects can be found [here](https://www.kfki.de/en/projekte).
* German Federal Government has launched a programme on “Natural Climate Mitigation”. With this programme, nature based solutions like storing CO2 in (coastal) swamps, salt marshes and sea meadows, can be funded. More information can be found [here](https://www.bmuv.de/natuerlicher-klimaschutz).
* German Federal Government has adopted a “National Water Strategy” for the sustainable (climate-proof) use and management of water (incl. excess and shortage). More information can be found [here](https://www.bmuv.de/wasserstrategie).

**Netherlands**

* We have recently had the starting event for the Interreg Manabas project, in which the Netherlands will consider the implementation of Building with Nature solutions for the Dutch Wadden Sea. The project will deal with salt marshes and their relevance for both flood safety and nature. A website has been launched: <https://www.interregnorthsea.eu/manabas-coast>;
* Recently the construction/strengthening of the dike between Lauwersmeer and Vierhuizen has started (see [https://lauwersmeerdijk.noorderzijlvest.nl](https://lauwersmeerdijk.noorderzijlvest.nl/)). This is a special project as the dike strengthening is combined with several measures to improve ecological values for the Wadden sea and also measures to improve regional interests such as the harbor, tourism and infrastructure;
* The Netherlands have had elections for the provinces and water boards. The results were striking, the new political party BBB (Farmer civilian movement) has gained approximately 30% of all votes and are suddenly a major party. They gained attention mainly by their opposition against the national governments policy to reduce nitrogen emissions and buy out farmers. This has led to wide spread protest, which they support. Formations are ongoing, but most probably the discussions on how to deal with water management, agriculture, nature and climate change will become very challenging;
* Rijkswaterstaat has evaluated 6 years of Natura2000 (2015-2021) policy. A rather extensive report was developed describing the impact of all ongoing activities in the area on N2000 goals, and addressing issues to be dealt with in the next N2000 management plan. Report (in Dutch) cannot be distributed yet;
* Soon, the Dutch institute for funding scientific research will publish the announced research call (together with Germany) for better understanding the impact of pressures on the Wadden Sea ecosystem. But another goal is to understand the expected (autonomous) changes of the ecosystem due to climate change. See: <https://www.nwo.nl/nieuws/vooraankondiging-nederlandse-duitse-call-inzicht-complexe-drukfactoren-op-de-waddenzee-en-handelingsperspectief>. Please spread the information. 25 April an information meeting is organized for interested researchers.

**Wadden Sea Forum (WSF)**

* TrilaWatt – Stakeholder Workshop at 16 February 2023: At the second TrilaWatt Stakeholder Workshop in February 2023, more than 80 participants attended the presentation of the interim results. Moreover, two external speaker indicated their interest in the work of the TrilaWatt project. Mrs Donner representing the Federal Institute of Hydrology (Bundesanstalt für Gewässerkunde) that is using the EasyGSH-DB datasets but additionally requested enhanced modelling and processing of available data in order to use them for official responsibilities such as sediment management and hydrology in German estuaries. Prof Dr Philippart representing the Wadden Academie and the Dutch NIOZ presented the project proposal on LTER-LIFE that is aiming at developing a “Digital Twin of Ecosystems in a Changing World”. This project focusses on the Wadden Sea and the Veluwe in the Netherlands. Currently, this project has been approved (Feb 2023) and a cooperation between both digitals twins in the Wadden Sea is envisaged.
* Alien Species: The University of Osnabruck approached the Wadden Sea Forum in order to conduct an interview on the existing network on alien species. The WSF answered that alien species not the focus yet, but advised to get into contact with CWSS and the respective working group. The projects website is for example: <https://www.nationalpark-wattenmeer.de/wissensbeitrag/forschungsprojekt-iseal-angewandter-meeresschutz> .
* Brown Shrimp Fisheries in the Wadden Sea: At the WSF-43 plenary meeting, 28 and 29 March in Harlingen, the Dutch Fisheries Association gave a presentation about the current situation of the brown shrimp fisheries in the trilateral Wadden Sea area. Moreover, the representative asked the WSF plenary to consider whether the WSF could consider acting as an exchange and discussion platform between different stakeholders and actors concerned with this topic. Finally, the WSF plenary took the decision to act as an exchange and discussion for brown shrimp fisheries in the trilateral Wadden Sea area. Next steps will be the development of a communication and meeting strategy for the upcoming month.

**WWF**

* Interreg-Project MANABAS: besides the approach of mainstreaming nature-based sulutions, the pilot site activities along the North Sea coast are very promising. WWF is a partner too – active together with LKN-SH, in the pilot site “Halligen”. The pilot project aim is the ecosystem-based protection of the Hallig-shorelines that avoids negative side effects and functions under stronger sea-level rise.
* Project “Sandküste St. Peter-Ording”: Save the date - 6 September 2023. There will be a symposium in St. Peter-Ording dealing with dune restoration and the coastal protection function of dunes.
* EU action plan on marine protection and sustainable fisheries. The EU plan includes a ban on ground touching fisheries in marine protected areas. According to WWF, joint solutions with the shrimp fishery are needed (see press statement: https://www.wwf.de/2023/maerz/abschluss-der-agrarministerkonferenz)

**CWSS**

* In early April 2023, the Dutch Research Council (NWO) together with the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is going to publish [the Dutch-German call ‘Understanding complex pressures on the Wadden Sea and options for action’](https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/pre-announcement-dutch-german-call-understanding-complex-pressures-wadden-sea-and-options-action). A matchmaking event will be held on 25 April from 13.00 to 16.00 CET. As agreed at EG-C 15, CWSS had informed internally via the respective secretary EG-C´s offer to support in helping prioritising from viewpoint of building resilience in the WS area;
* The Interreg North-Sea funded project MANABAS Coast held a kick off meeting in The Hague on 13 – 14 March. Participants reflected on project objectives and had a lively discussion on the first steps of our journey to mainstreaming Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) in North-West Europe. On 15 March, CWSS participated in the associated Policy Reflection Group meeting in Brussels.
* A decision by the Interreg North Sea Commission on the Expression of interest for a water As Leverage Wadden (WAL) project is expected for the second week of April 2023. In addition, the event [Water as Leverage: Climate Impact and Financing Adaptation - "Investing millions to unlock billions](https://nywaterweek.com/events/water-as-leverage-climate-impact-and-financing-adaptation-investing-millions-to-unlock-billions/)” was planned for the New York Water Week in March 2023. Also, a report on setting the scene for a Call for Action Wadden Sea Region – Water as leverage for Climate was finalized and is available online: <https://www.worldwateratlas.org/news/setting-the-scene-report-for-water-as-leverage-wadden-sea-region-ready-saywad/>

The group **noted** the information and **agreed** that Jacobus Hofstede will give a presentation on the consultation for a possible National Park in the Baltic Sea.

1. **Activities 2022-2023 and Work plan 2023 – 2026, including MANABAS Coast**

Document: EG-C15-5 Work plan and ToR

Jacobus Hofstede introduced the meeting document with a draft work plan and changes to the Terms of Reference (ToR) for EG-C.

**Terms of Reference:**

The group **noted** the information and generally **agreed** with proposed changes to the ToR (Annex 4). EG-C may respond to changes in the ToR until 6 April 2023 (no feedback means approval).

**Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (CCAS):**

The group **agreed** to review and possibly update the CCAS, 10 years after its adoption in 2014.

**Salt marsh study:**

Based on the draft work plan, the group discussed tackling the trilateral significance and management of Wadden Sea salt marshes in a changing climate, in close coordination with the Expert Group Salt Marshes and Dunes (EG-SMD), amongst others, as an activity within the INTERREG project MANABAS Coast.

Frank Ahlhorn offered including the data approach in the TrilaWatt project.

The group **agreed** on activities focusing on the ecosystem services of salt marshes (and their transition zones) and nature based management options in a changing climate, as an activity within the Interreg project MANABAS Coast. With respect to the trilateral cooperation, products (report, brochure, video, ..) could be established that underline the significance of salt marshes for nature, coastal flood defense and climate change mitigation. In this context, the group **noted** the relation and possible synergies of these activities not only with the Interreg project MANABAS Coast, but also with the draft Ministerial Declaration and the SIMP integrated management plan for ONE Wadden Sea World Heritage, as well as with multiple other initiatives.

The group further **agreed** to plan a workshop in autumn 2023 to define, plan and start these activities with MANABAS Coast. For this purpose, a core team consisting of Robert Zijlstra, Jacobus Hofstede, Jannes Fröhlich, Frank Ahlhorn, Julia Busch and member(s) of the trilateral Expert Group Salt Marshes and Dunes and possibly of MANABAS Coast (e.g., Per Sorensen as leader of Work Package 2, and/or Nicolai Sorensen, both Kystdirectorat) will plan the workshop and keep relevant persons in the loop. The core group will meet in April to select a date (preferably September or October 2023, back to back with EG-C 18) and send a save the date to possible participants. Outcomes of the meeting will be presented at EG-C 17. Possibly, besides the Wadden Sea pilot cases of MANABAS, also French to Swedish cases may be invited. Also, the addition of a salt marsh case in Denmark would be welcome. Details for the workshop were discussed with <https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVMb7BkbE=/?share_link_id=778861832354>

**Report about Climate Change Adaptation measures**

The group discussed a report on Climate Change Adaptation measures, being aware that this activity may exceed the capacity/resources of the group.

Julia Busch suggested starting stepwise, beginning with a map on Climate Change Adaptation measures along the Wadden Sea Coast. Frank Ahlhorn offered support from TrilaWatt, with collected data being the foundation for such a map.

The group **noted** the information and **agreed** to discuss taking up this topic in the next meeting. One possibility may be an update of the Quality Status Report (QSR) thematic report on coastal risk management.

**Quality Status Report**

Julia Busch informed that the climate change thematic QSR report authored by Katja Philippart et al is in the first revision round. Authors will get back to CWSS with the next version.

The group **noted** the information and **agreed** to discuss in the next meeting, whether an update of the Coastal Risk Management thematic report would be appropriate for the upcoming four years.

1. **Any Other Business and next meeting**

Saa Kabuta introduced a planned workshop on alien species in a changing climate in the Wadden Sea. In this course, a desktop study is being prepared, which will be shared with participants of the workshop. A save the date for a joint workshop of EG-C with the Expert Group Alien Species (EG-AS) was sent to members of both groups.

The group **noted** the information and **thanked** Saa Kabuta for considering climate change in the planned workshop. The group **agreed** that this is not a joint workshop EG-C and EG-AS and asked to remove EG-C from the organizing side. EG-C members will send suggestions for possible participants to Saa Kabuta, and will share the date picker with interested colleagues.

**Sediment extraction - Ems Dollart 2050**

Referring to the Ems Dollart 2050 programme, in which the removal of sediment from the Ems estuary is planned, Belinda Burtonshaw inquired on the viewpoint of participants regarding sediment extraction in the Wadden Sea.

Jacobus Hofstede pinpointed that the situation in the Ems Dollart estuary with excessive suspended fine sediments cannot be compared to the situation in Schleswig-Holstein. From the viewpoint of Schleswig-Holstein, the expected sediment deficits in the Wadden Sea due to SLR should not be exaggerated by removal/extraction of sediments from the ecosystem. A corresponding decree for coastal protection and flood defense measures was issued. Frank Ahlhorn added that the Lower Saxon Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate Protection is currently working on an ecological strategy on sediment management for the rivers Ems and Elbe, including river Weser.

The group **noted** the information.

**Next meeting:**

EG-C **agreed** on:

EG-C 17 as physical meeting in Bremen, Germany on 6 June 2023, with an informal dinner on 5 June 2023.

EG-C 18 as physical meeting at Multimar, Tönning, Germany, with an excursion to St Peter Ording (and along the Eider river). This should be planned over three days (noon-to noon) and combined with the planned workshop on the ecosystem services of salt marshes and nature based management options (see Agenda item 4). Robert Zijlstra, Claus von Hoerschelmann, Jannes Fröhlich and Julia Busch will find a date (excluding 6 September 2023).

1. **Closing**

Jacobus Hofstede closed the meeting at 12:00 on 31 March 2023.and thanked participants for a fruitful discussion. The group thanked Jacobus for stepping in as chair and for guiding smoothly through the meeting.

A picture containing graphical user interface

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**Expert group Climate Change Adaptation (EG-C 16)**

31 March 2023

online

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Chair (substituting)** | | | | |
| **Mr Jacobus Hofstede**  Ministry of Energy Transition, Climate Mitigation, the Environment and Nature Schleswig Holstein,  Mercatorstraße 3, D-24106 Kiel  Postfach 71 51, D-24171 Kiel  Phone: +49(0) 431 988 4984  Mobile: +49 1520 6537300  E-Mail: [Jacobus.Hofstede@mekun.landsh.de](mailto:Jacobus.Hofstede@mekun.landsh.de) | | | | |
| **Denmark** | | | | |
| **Mr Thomas Larsen**  Ministry of Environment  Danish Coastal Authority  Højbovej 1, DK - 7620 Lemvig  mobile ++45 91 35 74 42.  E-Mail: [tla@kyst.dk](mailto:tla@kyst.dk) | | **Mr Klaus Bertram Fries**  Varde Municipality  Bytoften 2 , DK - 6800 Varde  phone: +45 (0) 79 94 71 10  E-Mail: [klbf@varde.dk](mailto:klbf@varde.dk) | | |
| **Germany (Hamburg, Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein)** | | | | |
| **Mr Claus von Hoerschelmann**  Schleswig-Holstein Agency for Coastal Defense, National Park and Marine Conservation  National Park Authority Schleswig-Holstein Nationalpark-Zentrum Multimar Wattforum Dithmarscher Straße 6a 25832 Tönning  Phone +49 (0)4861 9620-15  E-Mail: [Claus.vonHoerschelmann@lkn.landsh.de](mailto:Claus.vonHoerschelmann@lkn.landsh.de) | |  | | |
| **Netherlands** | | | | |
| **Mr Saa Kabuta**  Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment  Directorate of Water Affairs  Postbus 61  NL 8200 AB Lelystad  Phone: +31(0)6 - 29 38 23 19  E-Mail: [saahenry.kabuta@rws.nl](mailto:saahenry.kabuta@rws.nl) | |  | | |
| **Participants from advisors to WSB and external experts** | | | |
| **Ms Belinda Burtonshaw**  Waddenvereniging  Postbus 90  NL-8860 AB Harlingen  Phone: +31 (0)6-10 93 10 66  Email: [burtonshaw@waddenvereniging.nl](mailto:burtonshaw@waddenvereniging.nl) | | **Mr Jannes Fröhlich**  WWF, Wadden Sea Office  Hafenstraße 3  D - 25813 Husum  phone: +49 (0)4841 66 85 58  mobile: +49 (0)151 18854818  [jannes.froehlich@wwf.de](mailto:jannes.froehlich@wwf.de) | |
| **Mr Frank Ahlhorn**  Wadden Sea Forum (WSF)  Virchowstr. 1  Wilhelmshaven  Phone: +49 (0)  Email: | |  | |
| **Secretary** |  | | | |
| **Ms Julia A. Busch**  Common Wadden Sea Secretariat | | |  | |

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FINAL AGENDA v1.0

**Expert group Climate Change Adaptation**

**(EG-C 16)**

31 March 2023

online

1. Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the Agenda

The meeting will be opened by the Chairperson at 09:30 on 31 March 2023.

Proposal: Adopt the draft agenda of the meeting

1. Adoption of the draft summary record

Document: EG-16/2-SR-EG-C15

Proposal: Adopt the draft Summary Record of EG-C 15.

1. Announcements

Announcements of participants. Proposal: Note the information.

1. Activities and Work plan 2023 – 2026, including MANABAS Coast

Document: EG-C16-4 Work plan and ToR

Discuss work plan and ToR of EG-C, including activities within the Interreg MANABAS Coast project

Proposal: Agree on proposal, TOR and work plan

1. Any Other Business and next meeting

Any other business

Next meeting.

1. Closing

The meeting will be closed no later than 12:00 on 31 March 2023.

**ANNEX 3: Action items arising from EG-C 16**

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**Expert Group Climate Change Adaptation (EG-C 16)**

31 March 2023

online

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Action #** | **Agenda item** | **Actions agreed upon** | **Person responsible** | **Deadline** |
| 1 | 3 | Presentation on consultation for national park Baltic Sea | Jacobus | Next meeting |
| 2 | 4 | Respond to changes in the ToR until | all | 6 April 2023 |
| 3 | 4 | Plan a workshop salt marshes and NbS in autumn 2023 | Core group | April/next meeting |
| 4 | 4 | Discuss CCA report and update QSR | all | Next meeting |
| 5 | 5 | Determine date for EG-C 18 | Robert Zijlstra, Claus von Hoerschelmann, Jannes Fröhlich and Julia Busch | ASAP |
| PREVIOUS MEETINGS | | | | |
|  |  | Provide email consultation for climate website | CWSS |  |
|  | 7 | TMAP climate one pager/inform on possible participants | CWSS/DK | Next meeting |
| 11 |  | Circulate TMAP list | Robert | ASAP |
|  | EG-C7/5 | Summarise CVI main conclusion and turn those to recommendations for the next trilateral working period/review the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (CCAS) and to communicate results | all | Next WSB meeting |

**ANNEX 4: Proposed changes to the ToR**

Expert Group Climate Change Adaptation (EG-C); work plan 2023 - 2026

Draft Jacobus (24.05.22, adapted after EG-C 14 & 15)

[**Document 7.1/1 to WSB 28 (2019): TOR TWSC groups**](https://waddensea-worldheritage.org/system/files/WSB-28-7-1-1_TWSC_TOR_of_groups.pdf)

Terms of Reference: Expert Group Climate Change Adaptation

**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. Review and eventual update of priorities contained in 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. 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