

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 38)

6 October 2022
Tønder, Denmark



Agenda Item:	5.1 World Heritage
Subject:	Draft implementation strategy of the SIMP
Document No.:	WSB 38/5.1/3
Date:	15 September 2022
Submitted by:	TG-WH and CWSS

The WSB 37 (August 2022) requested to TG-WH and CWSS to propose a draft SIMP implementation strategy as a living document for WSB 38. The WSB 37 suggested to consider a **step-by-step approach and a strategic prioritisation of the activities. The implementation strategy should be considered as a living document.** The WSB 37 suggested for the prioritisation to look at energy as a current important topic that demands urgent tackling and considering the requests from WHC/IUCN and the concerns of the environmental NGOs.

TG-WH 38 (7-8 September 2022) discussed and put together practical considerations that are key for the implementation of the SIMP. The Group agreed to use an implementation matrix as a tool to operationalise the SIMP activities, getting organised in a transparent way and for following up the implementation process. TG-WH agreed on preliminary immediate next steps needed to start using the matrix and implementing the SIMP.

This document presents the preliminary list of practical considerations, the elements of the implementation matrix, an example, and a preliminary roadmap.

Proposal: The meeting is invited

1. To **note** the practical considerations.
2. To **endorse** the proposed implementation matrix.
3. To **support** the execution of the immediate next steps.

1. Practical considerations for the SIMP implementation strategy

TG-WH 38 identified practical considerations to regard when putting together an implementation strategy, including careful coordination because of the cross-cutting nature of the SIMP.

TWSC structure fit for purpose

The SIMP implementation aims to use the existing structures designed to implement the Ministerial Declarations. An agile administration of the SIMP implementation, integrating TWSC groups and stakeholders beyond the TWSC requires an innovative approach and setup.

Coordinated approach

The efficient implementation of the SIMP activities requires alignment with the planning tools in place (mid-term planning tools for implementation, rules of procedure, one-year programmes including budget).

Reporting progress of the implementation needs to be in line with the existing reporting cycles.

Communication and collaboration among TWSC groups, and the implementation of existing action plans, projects, initiatives carried out in the frame of the WSP 2010, require improvement.

The SIMP implementation should be mainstreamed into all activities and be in the agenda of all TWSC groups.

SIMP as an umbrella

The SIMP does not only address the key topics but also climate change vulnerability and adaptation and the complementary activities to support management (Science and Research, Monitoring and Assessment, Knowledge Management, Education for Sustainable Development and Interpretation, Communication and Collaborations and Partnerships). The implementation strategy needs to include detail in the ways to improve and strengthen these and how to use them to support the implementation (e.g. TMAP and QSR, governance).

Resources

The implementation of SIMP activities require an important amount of resources and capacities which need to be dedicated by the whole of the TWSC.

Strategic prioritisation and a step-by-step approach are key.

Co-funding by EU project(s) would be optimal to meet the resource needs for the implementation of specific activities.

Good coordination and close communication with the various partners submitting project proposals or executing projects that support the implementation of the SIMP activities (i.a. shipping and ports, pipelines and cable laying) is required.

Political considerations

Topics that need urgent tackling e.g. energy transition.

National and federal state's priorities that are currently being implemented and that are also in line with the SIMP (especially for enhancing site management).

The agreements in the Ministerial Declarations and decision in the TGC.

Priorities of the TWSC presidency.

1. **Proposal:** To **note** the practical considerations.

2. SIMPLEMENTATION Matrix

TG-WH 38 agreed on a preliminary list of the necessary information useful to plan collaboratively, coordinate and follow-up the implementation of the SIMP. This list can be further improved and organised in a matrix to be part of the implementation strategy.

- what exactly do we want to achieve in the next 4 years (for each activity),
- link to the Wilhelmshaven Declaration,
- preliminary success metrics,
- who needs to be involved and who could lead,
- what is needed,
- milestones and deliverables,
- link to TWSC groups and tools and
- budget (only in internal document)

Annex 1 presents a draft example by the ad hoc Working Group Cables and Pipelines with some of the necessary information. The missing information needs to be worked out and discussed with the involved actors.

2. **Proposal:** To **endorse** the proposed implementation matrix.

3. Preliminary Roadmap

The preliminary roadmap includes immediate next steps required for developing the implementation strategy and implementing the SIMP involving the TWSC and stakeholders.

- CWSS key role as Secretariat for the SIMP implementation.
- Define agile setup for working on the strategy and the SIMP implementation.
- Work on the implementation matrix within TWSC and the stakeholders beyond TWSC and considering the review and integration of strategies (especially World Heritage Strategy).
- Design systematic communication of the SIMP and its implementation process (3 levels: reporting to WSB, in the TWSC and beyond the TWSC).

3. **Proposal:** To **support** the execution of the immediate next steps.

Annex 1: Example of the Implementation Matrix

Key Topic Energy

Activity	What do we want to achieve in the next 4 years SMART Goal-relevant	Para in the Wilhelmshaven Declaration	Who needs to be involved and roles?	What is needed?
<p>2. The TWSC to facilitate trilateral exchange in regular events for site managers involving the experts and/or institutions working on e.g., the following points with direct impact on the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site and its key values. This trilateral exchange can result in the identification of priorities to discuss with the agencies, energy companies and authorities responsible for spatial planning and technical design or in technical papers providing advice on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cable and pipeline laying, - potential impacts of new forms of energy production, transport and storage, - mitigation measures/alternative technologies. 	<p>In four years, we have:</p> <p>Periodic exchange events about upcoming developments/new technologies for renewable energy, transport and storage</p> <p>Products and communication structures useful for the purpose (e.g. Network of stakeholders)</p>	<p>In line with para. 41 and 43</p>	<p>TWSC group(s) members CWSS competent authorities (nature protection) Stakeholders: WSF TSO NGOs universities Municipalities and other to be defined</p>	<p>A running EU project -cross-sectoral to intensify the work on a trilateral approach for a common understanding on impacts and procedures on grid connection of offshore wind farms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project design, build partner consortium • Baseline information topics to be treated (impact, measures, common ground), people to be involved, procedures to involve institutions/stakeholders • Resources (design and implementation co-funding)