

Wadden Sea Board

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



Agenda Item:	6
Subject:	Future of TMAG
Document No.	WSB 13/6/5
Date:	18 December 2014
Submitted by:	WSB chair, TMAG chair, CWSS

Attached is a proposal on the future of the TMAG.

Proposal: The meeting is invited to decide upon the proposal contained in the document.

FUTURE OF THE TMAG

Background

WSB12 discussed the functioning of the TMAG and agreed that the chairman and the secretariat will elaborate an information/discussion paper for WSB-13, in consultation with the TMAG chairman.

TG-M

At its meeting of 29 August 2014 TG-M10 discussed the tasks and functioning of the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Group (TMAG) during the period 2010-2013 on the basis of an analysis by the secretariat.

All members of TG-M reconfirmed that the TMAP is one of the cornerstones of the TWSC and delivers input for various duties, as underlined by the Ministers at the latest Wadden Sea Conference (§ 59 Tønder Declaration).

Two options were brought forward as possible alternatives to solve the structural problems with the functioning of the TMAG within the current trilateral structure. The first is to install a TG-M ad-hoc expert group for dealing with specific monitoring questions, the second to supplement TG-M with monitoring experts who should participate when prominent monitoring issues are on the TG-M agenda. Also a combination of these two alternatives is considered a feasible option. During the preparation of the QSR these options should be tested and assessed.

The delegations stated that it is very important to demonstrate that monitoring, and thus the TMAP, has a prominent position within the trilateral cooperation and that there is a need for harmonized management, methodological soundness and coordinated reporting through the close participation of the management and administrative levels represented in the TG-M. Furthermore it was agreed that the TMAP reporting needs strong(er) data handling procedures etc., and that this will need further focus. It was therefore suggested to rename TG-M into TG Management and Monitoring.

Proposals to WSB

- To transfer the tasks of the TMAG to the TG-M
- To rename TG-M into TG Management and Monitoring (TG-MM)
- To designate additional TG-M members with expertise of monitoring at the policy and management level, who should participate in TG-M meetings on a case by case basis
- To mandate TG-M to install ad-hoc working groups for dealing with specific monitoring questions