

Wadden Sea Board

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Lindet/Ribe



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Attached is a progress report by the secretariat on developments and activities since the Sylt Conference and plans for the future. The Wadden Sea Board may wish to inquire and comment and provide additional guidance to the secretariat.

Proposal

The Wadden Sea Board is proposed to **comment** and **note**, as appropriate, the progress report by the CWSS.

OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT SINCE THE SYLT CONFERENCE

1. This report provides a brief overview of ongoing activities at the secretariat since the Sylt Conference, March 2010 for information and commenting by the Wadden Sea Board.

Communication and Information

2. The secretariat circulated the email Wadden Sea Newsletter no. 13 on the occasion of the Sylt Conference. The electronic Wadden Sea Newsletters are, it seems, well received and considered a major information channel on trilateral Wadden Sea affairs. The secretariat intends to continue the publication of the newsletters as part of the Communication Strategy, which is to be developed in the forthcoming period. The regular publication is, however, hampered by the lack of (qualified) staff resources. Also the website of the secretariat, though considered a central source of information by stakeholders, is in urgent need of upgrading to meet the new communication requirements. The progress on this issue is again hampered by the lack of resources, this includes the management of the website.
3. Several publications and news have been published on the website. The 3rd CPSL report was published on the occasion of the Sylt Conference in March 2010. The project report "Exploring Contrasting Trends of Migratory Waterbirds in the Wadden Sea" was published mid April 2010. The report is the outcome of the project, which was initiated as a result of the recommendations of the successful workshop, organized on the occasion of the International Wadden Sea Day in 2006. Finally, the trends of migratory birds and breeding birds in the Wadden Seas have been published recently. These trend analyses are world class outputs reflecting the work of Wadden Sea bird experts over more than a generation. It is referred to the website of the secretariat <http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/>. The report and the trend analyses will be used in the forthcoming work on bird developments in the framework of the Business Plan.
4. The Quality Status Report 2009 (QSR 2009) was prepared to update the findings of the QSR 2004 and to provide input into the Trilateral Governmental Conference on Sylt on 18 March 2010. Over 110 scientists from the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark contributed to this project during 2008-2009 and prepared 30 thematic reports. The QSR gives again a comprehensive overview of the status of all habitats and main species in the Wadden Sea, including main pressures (e.g. eutrophication, chemical substances, fisheries, tourism, energy, extraction and dredging). In addition to the well-established trend analyses of birds and seals, long-term population trends of fish and macrozoobenthos have been statistically analyzed for the entire Wadden Sea for the first time. The QSR 2009 was published in December 2009 as an online version (<http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/QSR-2009/index.htm>). A QSR synthesis report is in preparation and will be published in mid 2010 summarizing the most important findings and recommendations.
5. The secretariat has helped facilitate a video project "Travel through the Wadden Sea" by Science View video company, the Netherlands. The video project, which is to be shown on one of the Dutch TV channels, aims to show the natural and landscape values of the Wadden Sea Region during a travel through the region and interviewing inhabitants, experts etc. The secretariat has helped applying for financing of the Dutch Leader+ programmes and the Wadden Foundation. The Leader+ financing has already been granted whereas the decision of the Wadden Foundation is due in autumn this year.

Functioning Secretariat

6. With the signing of the new Administrative Agreement for the secretariat at the Sylt Conference a significant step has been taken to provide the secretariat and its personnel with a legal status according to German law. The first that has to be done, it has been

understood, is to register the Agreement as an international agreement in the framework of the UN. Germany as host country will undertake this task.

7. The actual establishment of the legal status is pending the further examination by the host country of the most appropriate status and the possible introduction of new legislation. Also new administrative procedures will be introduced which will effect e.g. the salary payments, travel costs etc. It is uncertain when this will come into effect but it will result in an additional administrative burden and to what extent this can be managed by the current staff or whether this will have to be outsourced is not yet clear. A new and more effective accounting system is currently being introduced.
8. As a result of the new planning approach, the terms of reference for the staff will be amended to enable the new tasks to be fulfilled and to ensure an effective task division between the staff members.

Cooperation Dutch Projects and the Secretariat

9. As informed earlier, the projects Nature Restoration Programme and the Wadden Sea Delta programme have been launched in the Netherlands. Also an application for a project for long-term ecosystem monitoring of the Wadden Sea (WaLTER) has been submitted by the Dutch Wadden Sea Fund. It is the specific wish of the Dutch authorities to specifically link these projects to the trilateral projects and activities in order to generate synergies and linkages. The secretariat has therefore been invited to participate in the projects and specifically manage those parts of the projects which have an explicit trilateral dimension. Since these projects are highly innovative and are directly related to and feed into trilateral activities the participation of the secretariat is essential. The secretariat will be compensated for its work and intends to employ a person to assist in doing the work at the trilateral level.

Meetings and Presentations

10. The secretary has been invited to participate in the annual meeting of the PRCM, the West African Programme for Coastal Management, a collaboration project of governments and non-government organizations, at the end of June 2010 in Nouckchott, Mauritania. The ongoing collaboration project with WWF WAMER is part of the overall PRCM programme.
11. The secretary held a presentation on shipping safety and the latest decisions of the Sylt Conference at a meeting of the "Insel- and Halligkonferenz" in Kiel at the end of April 2010.
12. The International Wadden Sea Day workshop will be held this year on 26 August 2010, at the Wadden Sea Information Center in Wilhelmshaven. The workshop will be organized by the Lower Saxon National Park Authority in cooperation with the secretariat and the theme of the workshop is "Neobiota in the Wadden Sea: A threat to the World Heritage?". Invitations together with a program will be circulated soon.

International Cooperation

13. On the occasion of the Sylt Conference, the cooperation with Korea in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been continued. A benthos workshop with experts from the Wadden Sea and Korea was organized at the AWI Wadden Sea station in List. The cooperation in 2010/11 will focus on the application of monitoring and assessment methods from the TMAP in Korea, especially with regard to bird monitoring and the bird alert system, and on the use of experiences from the International Wadden Sea School (IWSS) in environmental education in Korea.