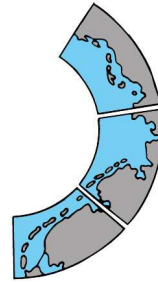


Wadden Sea Board

WSB 3
17 March 2011
Bourtange



Agenda Item:	11
Subject:	Report CWSS
Document No.	WSB 3/11/1
Date:	17 February 2011
Submitted by:	CWSS

Attached is a progress report by the secretariat on developments and activities since the WSB 2.

Proposal

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

OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT SINCE WSB-2

Communication and Information

1. The QSR synthesis report is now published on the CWSS website. A printed version is in preparation. The report has been written by Wim Wollf, Karsten Reise, Jan Bakker, and Karsten Laursen. The final draft was submitted to the Wadden Sea Board on 15 October 2010. Several comments have been received from Germany and most of them could be integrated in the final version by the authors.
2. The new communication officer, Ms. Natalya Drozdovych, has assumed the function as of 15 January 2011 following the comprehensive interview procedure of potential candidates outlined and agreed at WSB 3. The communication officer is employed under a three-year contract.

Task Groups

3. The five trilateral Task Groups, agreed upon by WSB-2, have been installed. Reports of the first meetings of the TGs are presented under agenda item 6.

PRW and WaLTER

4. At WSB 1 and WSB 2, the secretariat informed the meeting about the involvement in the Dutch Nature Restoration Program PRW (towards a Rich Wadden Sea) and the WaLTER application at the Dutch Wadden Fund. In December 2010 the WaLTER application has been granted. The project will start in the beginning of 2011. With the support of the PRW, several activities have been undertaken which are relevant for the implementation of the Sylt Declaration.
It concerns the preparation of an international Flyway workshop, the preparation of a trilateral study into the neobiota situation and the start of a pre-study into the feasibility of a tidal basin atlas. These activities are presented in more detail below.

Flyway Workshop

5. The program and list of invited speakers and experts for the international two-day flyway workshop in Wilhelmshaven on 22-23 March 2011 was circulated to the WSB on 2 February 2011. The further preparation of the workshop is well advanced and at this point almost all invited speakers and experts from the EU, West-Africa and Russia have confirmed their participation at this high level workshop.

Neobiota

6. Following the trilateral conference on neobiota in the Wadden Sea on 26 August 2010 (see WSB-2 CWSS report) an informal meeting of trilateral neobiota experts was held (Hamburg, 15 December 2010) at which draft terms of reference for a trilateral inventory study into the situation of neobiota were discussed. The Dutch PRW will financially support the study with Euro 30,000. At the expert meeting, also the main elements of a trilateral strategy were discussed. The results of the meeting have been submitted to TG-Management.

Tidal basin pre-study

7. The PRW considers using Wadden Sea tidal basins for comparative policy and management relevant studies. This is phrased as follows:

Comparison of tidal basins with regard to differences in abiotic features, ecological developments and applied policy and management, with the aim of better understanding cause-effect relationships between these three elements. The comparison comprises all tidal basins in the international Wadden Sea.

Specific attention will be given to

- Effects of sea level rise and the way in which the various tidal basins respond to this (speed of sedimentation etc.)
- Effects of temperature change on the abiotic and biotic system
- Way in which the abiotic and biotic systems react to bottom-impacting activities (dredging, fisheries, lugworm digging etc.) and on sand suppletions
- Way in which the ecosystem reacts to large-scale physical activities (diking, closing-off, salt marsh construction etc.).

This must lead to an information system, including digital atlas, of the tidal basins of the trilateral Wadden Sea, containing the most important physical and biological parameters, human interference and applied management. These data are the basis for an analysis of the impacts of human interference and applied management.

Within the trilateral cooperation the importance of comparing tidal basins has been underlined at several occasions. Such a project is also part of the draft WSP projects and actions document.

8. As a first step, PRW has financed a pre-study, coordinated by CWSS, to investigate the support for such an approach, as well as its feasibility. Intermediate results were presented at a workshop at the Wadden Academy symposium on 9 December 2010 (see also below) and received very positively. The final report of the pre-study will be presented to WSB-3.

Symposium Wadden Academy

9. On 8-10 December 2010, the scientific symposium “towards a trilateral research agenda” was held in Leeuwarden. The symposium was organized by the Dutch Wadden Academy, in cooperation with the CWSS, AWI, GKSS and GEUS. An introductory presentation about the relevance of research for the trilateral cooperation was held by John Frederiksen. Presentations about the research requirements from the QSR and trilateral research projects were given by the CWSS. The secretariat was also responsible for the workshop on tidal basins (see above), which was one out of five workshops, held during the symposium. The main results of the symposium are available at http://www.waddenacademie.knaw.nl/Symposium_8-10_December_2010.260+M52087573ab0.0.html
10. At the symposium, a bilateral Dutch-German research call was signed by the Dutch NWO and the German BMBF. The call makes available a sum of 2 million Euro for applications dealing with georisks (amongst others impacts of sea level rise) and biorisks (impacts of invasive alien species). More information on [http://www.waddenacademie.knaw.nl/News_item.19.0.html?&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=224&cHash=107c127812c667d46e937ea385981c8b](http://www.waddenacademie.knaw.nl/News_item.19.0.html?&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=224&cHash=107c127812c667d46e937ea385981c8b)

International Cooperation

11. As announced at WSB 2, an International Symposium on Migratory Birds 2010 was held in Mopko, Korea. In the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Korea and the Trilateral Cooperation, Marc van Roomen (SOVON) and Gerold Lürßen (CWSS) were invited by the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs and the Korea National Park Service for a 3-day field and workshop trip on October 12-14 along the Korean west coast followed by the International Symposium on Migratory Birds in Mopko on October 15, 2010. The aim was to intensify the cooperation between several Korean migratory birds monitoring and management related organizations and the Trilateral Cooperation, especially to the Trilateral Joint Monitoring Migratory Bird program (JMMB).
12. The field trip along the West coast of Korea showed that embankments, economic activities and the building infrastructure put high pressure on the remaining estuaries and tidal flats. At present some major developments in Songdo and Seamangum are continuing which have also impacts on ecosystem and the local cultural heritage.
13. The purpose of the conference was to enable participants to share current knowledge on the stopover ecology of migratory birds and the conservation of stopover sites, and to make opportunities for communication with foreign researchers. Thematic sessions explored topics such as the stopover characteristics of passerines and shorebirds, and conservation efforts such as recent research techniques, international networks, education, and habitat

management. At an informal meeting during the symposium, it was discussed how to enhance the cooperation with the Wadden Sea taking into account the heterogeneous and complex structure of involved Korean migratory waterbird organizations, e.g. by establishing a Korean focal point for coordination of bird monitoring.

14. The MoU successfully supported the experience exchange between two tidal flat areas with quite different development backgrounds. The Wadden Sea area with a long history of economic and landscape development and with more than 30 years of transnational cooperation on the field of ecosystem conservation can provide experiences but can also learn from developments in other parts of the earth.