MEETING DOCUMENT

**Task Group Management (TG-M 21-1)**

28 January 2021

Online meeting

**Agenda Item: 5. Implementation of the Leeuwarden Declaration**

**Subject: TG-M progress report**

**Document No.:** TG-M 21-1/4.1

**Date:** 21 January 2021

**Submitted by: CWSS**

This document contains an update on progress on paragraphs of the Ministerial Council Declaration of the13th Trilateral Governmental Conference on the Protection of the Wadden Sea (Leeuwarden Declaration), which are relevant for the Task Group Management (TG-M).

The document contains information since the last Wadden Sea Board meeting (WSB 31) in a form, that allows a straightforward submission of the TG-M progress report for the WSB 32 meeting on 4 March 2021. Deadline for WSB documents is 11 February 2021.

**Proposal:** The group is invited to note the information and comment as appropriate.

Task Group Management (TG-M) progress report to WSB 32

Since WSB-31 the TG-M has progressed on the following specific items:

## Flyway & Breeding Birds

*§5 Agree to continue and further consolidate the work on the Flyway Vision in the framework of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative with the relevant governmental and nongovernmental organisations and aim to extend the cooperation in the context of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative, especially with regard to the Arctic, to continue monitoring along the entire flyway, to continue specific capacity building and to increase the activation of partners;*

The 1st stage project application of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI)‘Climate Resilience for Critical Sites for Migratory Birds and People along the East Atlantic Flyway’ (Short Title: Climate Resilient East Atlantic Flyway) has been submitted under a call within the International Climate Initiative (IKI) funding instrument of the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety has been submitted end of March 2020 (see [WSB31/5.2/2](https://waddensea-worldheritage.org/system/files/WSB-31-5-2-2-WSFI%20IKI%20project%20outline%20application.pdf)). This proposal has been selected in the first stage of the thematic-oriented IKI-selection procedure. This does not constitute a commitment for future funding by BMU since further assessment procedures are necessary, but the preparatory next phase can be entered.

In January 2020 the third total count of the East Atlantic Flyway was organized along 32 countries, from Norway to South Africa. A compilation of national reports contains first results of the simultaneous January 2020 waterbird and wetland census along the East Atlantic Flyway: [Van Roomen et al., (2020) Simultaneous January 2020 waterbird census along the East Atlantic Flyway: National Reports. Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative p/a Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Wilhelmshaven, Germany, Wetlands International, Wageningen, The Netherlands, BirdLife International, Cambridge, United Kingdom.](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/node/1283/)

*§12 Instruct the Wadden Sea Board to oversee the further implementation of the Action Plan for Breeding Birds and support an exchange of experiences of national and regional activities, including a potential further development, and to undertake an evaluation in time for the next Trilateral Governmental Conference;*

The progress report ‘Breeding Birds in the Wadden Sea - Trends 1991-2017 and results of total counts in 2006 and 2012’ has been published. The report provides baseline information on trends in breeding numbers in the period 1991-2017 and an account on total counts in 2006 and 2012, all carried out in the framework of the TMAP program: [Koffijberg et al., (2020) Breeding Birds in the Wadden Sea: Trends 1991- 2017 and results of total counts in 2006 and 2012. Wadden Sea Ecosystem No. 40. Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Joint Monitoring Group of Breeding Birds in the Wadden Sea, Wilhelmshaven, Germany.](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/resources/ecosystem-40-trends-breeding-birds)

A WSFI microsite is being implemented with the company Creative Concern. This microsite serves as template for subsequent sites, e.g., for Swimway and Alien Species.

In the Wadden Sea, outbreaks of type H5N8 bird flu was reported for wild bird cases and farm poultry. Upon the proposal for CWSS to take on some coordination which arose during the online exchange session / webinar for the Wadden Sea Board on 19 November 2020, trilateral information exchange has started in the Expert Groups Migratory and Breeding Birds (EG-MB/BB) 20-2 meeting held on 24 November 2020. [Resulting information is being shared on the World Heritage website](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/news/avian-flu-wadden-sea-world-heritage).

Since 15 January 2021, Ms Kristine Meise functions as new secretary of EG-MB/BB and the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative Steering Group (WSFI Steering Group), as successor of the retired Mr Gerold Lüerssen.

**Proposal: TG-M is invited to note the information.**

**Proposal for WSB: WSB is invited to note the information.**

## Fish targets / Swimway

*13 Instruct the Wadden Sea Board to further develop and contribute to implementing the SWIMWAY Vision (at Annex 3) as an integrated approach to achieving the Trilateral Fish Targets by investigating, monitoring, managing and communicating topics concerning the ecology of fish of the Wadden Sea Area;*

The ad hoc Working Group Swimway (WG-Swimway) has further implemented the SWIMWAY Vision and Action Programme 2019 – 2024 since WSB 31 by:

* Establishing a temporary subgroup of experts to develop a proposal for a common fish monitoring programme in the Wadden Sea regions under the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP), upon request by the Task Group Monitoring and Assessment (TG-MA). A first meeting of this group is planned for February 2021;
* Publication of a fish monitoring report: [Walker, P.A. (2020) Trilateral fish monitoring: overview of monitoring and research for SWIMWAY. Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Wilhelmshaven, Germany](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/resources/trilateral-fish-monitoring-overview-monitoring-and-research-swimway);
* Drafting a policy review on existing legislation relevant to the realisation of the trilateral fish targets. Priority recommendations resulting from this main policy document have been submitted to TG-M, which may be considered when drafting the Ministerial Declaration.
* Preparation of a trilateral research proposal under Swimway, by members of WG-Swimway and engaged Danish, Dutch and German scientists;
* Preparation of project proposals for national projects to complement the Dutch Waddentools SWIMWAY Waddenzee project: A German bottleneck proposal will be submitted, a Danish project proposal under the Velux foundation has been rejected;
* Planning for a Swimway website, which will be established as microsite, with the template provided by the WSFI microsite.

As requested by their ToR, the WG also drafted Terms of Reference for their possible transformation to an Expert Group on fish, which has been submitted as separate document (Reference to future WSB32 document ToR WG-Swimway).

Therewith, WG-Swimway has fulfilled its envisaged tasks for 2020.

The chairperson of WG-Swimway Mr Adi Kellermann will continue his work in 2021.

**Proposal: TG-M is invited to note the information**

**Proposal WSB: WSB is invited to note the information**

## Wardening & management

*14. Instruct the Wadden Sea Board to work intensively on cooperation at the operational management level and to secure adequate wardening and management across the whole Wadden Sea Area, in order to strengthen the protection of the Wadden Sea World Heritage*

A planned wardening workshop has been postponed to 2021, due to the COVID-19 travel- and meeting restrictions.

**Proposal: TG-M is invited to note the information and to proceed as planned.**

**Proposal WSB: WSB is invited to note the information.**

## Seal Management Plan

*15. Reaffirm the rules on taking and releasing of seals in accordance with Article IV of the Agreement on the Conservation of Seals in the Wadden Sea and adopt the updated Seal Management Plan 2018-2022, which also takes into account the management of grey seals;*

The scope of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Expert Group Seals (EG-Seals) was widened to include harbour porpoises (see Harbour porpoises).

The reports on grey seals and harbour seals have been published on beginning of July 2020 and November 2020 respectively: [Brasseur et al (2020) EG-Seals grey seal surveys in the Wadden Sea and Helgoland in 2019-2020. Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Wilhelmshaven, Germany.](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/2020-grey-seal-report)

[Galatius et al. (2020) Trilateral surveys of Harbour Seals in the Wadden Sea and Helgoland in 2020. Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Wilhelmshaven, Germany.](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/resources/2020-harbour-seal-report)

**Proposal: TG-M is invited to note the information**

**Proposal WSB32: WSB is invited to note the information**

## Harbour porpoises

*16. Agree to duly take account of the fact that harbour porpoises are present in the Wadden Sea, thus addressing the conservation of the species;*

At their WSB 30 meeting held on 21 November 2019 in Wilhelmshaven, Germany the WSB endorsed the TG-M recommendation to including harbour porpoises into the responsibilities of the EG-Seals. Consequently, EG-Seals has incorporated harbour porpoises to their ToR as EG Marine Mammals (EG-MM)(reference to future WSB32 document ToR EG Marine Mammals).

The envisaged harbour seal workshop 2020 in the scope of the 30th anniversary of the seal agreement (concluded in 1990) will be postponed to 2021, due to COVID-19 restrictions and to comply with the enforcement of the agreement in 1991.

**Proposal: TG-M is invited to note the information**

**Proposal WSB32: WSB is invited to note the information**

## Alien Species

*17. Instruct the Wadden Sea Board to undertake further steps towards a Trilateral Management and Action Plan Alien Species (MAPAS) (as described in Annex 4), which should include relevant steps for public awareness and cooperation on early warning and measures, integrating a related monitoring programme, based on the national data underpinning the Trilateral Assessment and Monitoring Programme, including the installation of the network platform at the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat;*

The Expert Group Alien Species (EG-AS) is working towards development of operational assessment criteria/targets for neobiota, which can be integrated into the future parameter set and programme array of the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP).

The planned alien species network platform will be established as microsite (following the Flyway and Swimway sites). The technical outline (functionality, navigation, view) for the site has been developed and CWSS maintains contact with Creative Concern to implement the platform as microsite. The upload of content will follow in cooperation with EG-AS.

Ms Busch functions as interim secretary for this group after retirement of Mr Lüerssen.

**Proposal: TG-M is invited to note the information**

**Proposal WSB32: WSB is invited to note the information**

## Sustainable Fisheries

*21. Instruct the Wadden Sea Board to further develop steps for the sustainability of fisheries in the Wadden Sea Area on the trilateral level, in order to achieve the conservation objectives of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation as well as a level playing field. This should be done in close cooperation with responsible authorities and relevant stakeholders and initiatives (e.g. certification procedures), within the Framework for Sustainable Fisheries, taking into account both the importance of the ecosystem service of providing regional seafood in this respect and the integrity of the World Heritage Site.*

At the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) meeting 31 held online on 18 June 2020, the Board endorsed the working approach sustainable fisheries submitted by TG-M ([WSB 31/5.2/1](https://waddensea-worldheritage.org/system/files/WSB-31-5-2-1-tg%20m%20progress%20report.pdf)):

1) Update and completion of fishery inventory

2) Status and recommendations for principles Framework for Sustainable Fisheries (Annex 3 [Tønder Declaration](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/sites/default/files/2014_toender%20declaration.pdf))

Product 1: Inventory on fishery activities in the Wadden Sea Conservation Area.

Product 2: Document with status and recommendations for principles of the Framework for Sustainable Fisheries (Annex 3 Tønder Declaration), including analysis how existing legislative framework, regulations, agreements and initiatives support the Framework for Sustainable Fisheries.

TG-M has proceeded towards two envisaged products for 2020 in a topical meeting sustainable fisheries on 17 July 2020.

A first draft of the inventory on fishing activities has contributed to the SIMP key topic headings “Inventory” and “Common ground" (see Annex 1, 3b). This first draft will need revision and inclusion of further information before a summary can be integrated to the SIMP document. This information will serve also as input to a thematic report fisheries for the Quality Status Report (QSR). TG-M has supported a legal framework fisheries drafted by CWSS intern Ms Marine Perrin. TG-M has started to provide input on the status for principles of the Framework for Sustainable Fisheries. Missing information for both products will be gathered in the frame of the SIMP and QSR development, with support by QSR authors and consultants. Recommendations for principles of the Framework for Sustainable Fisheries will be discussed after completion of the status (Note: Participants of the topical meeting sustainable fisheries agreed that the term “recommendations” in product 2 (Status and recommendations of the Framework Sustainable Fisheries principles) includes procedural recommendations. Therefore, the term may be revised.)

For SIMP and QSR see (Reference to future WSB 32 documents SIMP/TG-WH and QSR)

**Proposal: TG-M is invited to note the information**

**Proposal WSB32: WSB is invited to note the information**

## Marine litter

*22. Strive to substantially reduce the amount of marine litter in the Wadden Sea by the year 2030;*

*23. Instruct the Wadden Sea Board to make use of all relevant existing monitoring and action programmes, as well as existing action plans, taking into account local, national and multilateral initiatives to gain and exchange adequate additional knowledge on sources and impacts of marine litter (such as microplastics) on the Wadden Sea ecosystem and stimulate and support appropriate measures.*

Please see TG-M21-1-4-2Marine litter cover and inventory-rev

Reference to future WSB 32 document marine litter)

## [Light Emissions]

*24. Request the Wadden Sea Board to stimulate various initiatives, together with communities and relevant stakeholders, aiming to reduce light emissions, such as measures to avoid unnecessary lighting, the exchange of best practices, technological innovations or monitoring, for the benefit of the whole Wadden Sea Area, whilst ensuring safety standards prescribed by pertinent legislation;*

## Energy

*29. Instruct the Wadden Sea Board to review and monitor the impacts of renewable energy*

*production and energy transportation on the Wadden Sea ecosystem and to consider measures to avoid or mitigate possible negative impacts by looking for best environmental practices also with the aim of developing, for example, related common principles to evaluate the impact of high-voltage power cables in the Wadden Sea Area in close consultation with the responsible bodies and stakeholders*

The review of impacts of renewable energy is being conducted in the frame of the SIMP. TG-M has supported SIMP development with contacts for specific experts on this topic, and a compilation of a policy framework, led by Schleswig-Holstein. On-going work on this topic is supported by the company Bio Consult. These efforts are conducted in line with the development of the QSR thematic report energy. For SIMP and QSR see (Reference to future WSB 32 documents SIMP/TG-WH and QSR)

**Proposal: TG-M is invited to note the information**

**Proposal WSB32: WSB is invited to note the information**

## Ports and shipping

*30. Encourage ports and ferry companies working in the Wadden Sea Area to develop codes of conduct to further demonstrate their willingness to work towards environmentally sound standards in accordance with best available technology;*

*31. Request the Wadden Sea Board to consider the different approaches of the three countries in order to identify the most sustainable modes of transport for ensuring naturefriendly site-specific connections to the islands in the future;*

*32. Encourage the competent national shipping and nature conservation authorities to continue their dialogue in order to achieve an even higher level of safety and cooperation, inter alia by raising the general awareness and information level;*

At the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) meeting 30 held on 21 November 2019 in Wilhelmshaven, Germany, the establishment of a round table for shipping led by the WSF with the support of the CWSS and in collaboration to TG-M ([WSB30/5.8/2 WSF Shipping Group](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/sites/default/files/WSB30%205.8-2%20ws%20shipping%20group.pdf)) was approved. The round table was originally planned as in person meeting, which should also give input to the SIMP. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this meeting is now planned as online event (see TG-M21-1-5-2-WSF-Round-table/reference to future possible WSB 32 document by WSF, if appropriate?)

As key topic, shipping and ports is being tackled within the frame of the SIMP. TG-M has supported a round table approach (see above) and a legal framework shipping drafted by CWSS intern Ms Marine Perrin. On-going work on this topic is supported by a consultant, including Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) [Operational Plans](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/resources/pssa-wadden-sea-operational-plans) implementation assessment, potential conflicts of shipping with the 10 OUV key values and potential next activities. These efforts are conducted in line with the development of the QSR thematic report shipping. For SIMP and QSR see (Reference to future WSB 32 documents SIMP/TG-WH and QSR)

*33. Encourage the further development and application of environmentally friendly port concepts through the joint organizations of ports, for example by exchange of best practices;*

*34. Note the ongoing discussions in the framework of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on a possible mandatory prewash of cargo tanks having contained paraffins, whereby the prewash residue shall be discharged into a port reception facility;*

**Proposal TG-M: note the information**

**Proposal WSB: WSB is invited to note the information**

## Trilateral Research Agenda

## Natura 2000 roof report

Henrik to add.

## QSR

*20. Instruct the Wadden Sea Board to produce updates of the online Wadden Sea Quality Status Report and to deliver a comprehensive synthesis report in time for the next Trilateral Governmental Conference;*

An update of QSR thematic reports of TG-M related key topics of the SIMP is planned (reference to future WSB 32 document QSR). Authors have started work on thematic reports fisheries, shipping and energy.

**Proposal: TG-M is invited to note the information.**

**Proposal WSB: WSB is invited to note the information.**

## TG-M Work plan 2020

At the request of WSB-29, TG-M had specified the group´s deliverables/products for 2020. The work plan is considered a living document and has been updated accordingly (Annex 1).

ANNEX 1: Work Plan 2020 Task Group Management (TG-M)

Table: Work plan 2020 of the Task Group Management (TG-M) with deliverables/products of the group´s responsibility in black, and supervision and coordination activities in grey. Items in brackets are temporary dealt with in TG-M but will need further allocation within the TWSC (e.g., Partnership Hub) (Work Plan as amended at TG-M20-2 2020-05-14) and submitted to the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) at their 31 meeting on 18 June 2020.

| L**eeuwarden Declaration** | **TG-M role** | **Products 2020 (what)** | **Responsible group/body/person (who)** | **Time schedule incl. milestones (when)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3. Single integrated management plan (SIMP) | Support and contribute | First final draft of the complete SIMP | TG-WH, CWSS (SIMP officer) | 2020-11 |
| 3a Tourism | None | Content on chosen SIMP key topic headings | NG-ST leads, Support managers and TG-MA | TBD by NG-ST |
| 3b. Fisheries | Responsible | Proposal working approach | TG-M | 2020-03 (TG-M 20-1) |
| Content on SIMP key topic headings “Inventory” and “Common ground" | TG-M and fisheries specialists (potential Task Group or Round Table) | 2020-03 Basic info  2020-06  2020-09 Revision |
| Content on SIMP key topic headings "Strategies and actions for management" based on "Threats and opportunities" and considering "Climate change" | TG-M and fisheries specialists (potential Task Group or Round Table). | 2020-06 to 2020-09  Workshop or meeting of fisheries specialists (potential Task Group or Round Table)  First Draft and Revision  2020-09-20 Revision |
| Overview on fish monitoring and data | Ad hoc WG SWIMWAY | DONE 2019 |
| 3c. Shipping and ports | Responsible/Support | Content on SIMP key topic headings “Inventory”, "Strategies and actions for management" based on "Threats and opportunities" and considering "Climate change" | WSF, with support from TG-M and CWSS. | TBD WSF |
| 3d. Renewable energy, Energy from Oil and Gas, (Coastal flood defence and protection) | Responsible  (Support) | Proposal working approach | TG-M/SH | 2020-03 (TG-M 20-1) |
| Content on SIMP headings “Inventory” and “Common ground | TG-M/SH, CWSS (SIMP officer) (EG-C responsible for coastal flood defence and protection) | 2020-03 Basic info  2020-06  2020-09 Revision |
| Content on SIMP key topic headings "Strategies and actions for management" based on "Threats and opportunities" and considering "Climate change" | TG-M, CWSS (SIMP officer), and depending on working approach proposal. Collaboration with EG-C for climate change as appropriate.  (EG-C responsible for coastal flood defence and protection) | 2020-06 to 2020-09  Workshop or meeting depending on working approach proposal  First Draft and Revision  2020-09-20 Revision |
| Monitoring, data collection and data management | TG-MA | TBD TG-MA |
| 5. Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) | Observe | Arctic Cooperation | WSFI SG | 2020-11 |
| Observe | Monitoring of key sites along Flyway | 2020-02, on-going |
| Observe | Capacity Building | On-going |
| 12. Breeding Bird Action Plan | Oversee[[1]](#footnote-1) | Breeding bird trend report | EG-MB/BB | 2020-08 |
| 13. SWIMWAY | Observe/  support | Implementation SWIMWAY Vison | TG-M/ad hoc WG SWIMWAY |  |
| Observe/  support | ToR and work programme for EG Fish | 2020-11 |
| 14. Management & Wardening | Responsible | (Site) Managers Workshop | TG-M |  |
| Responsible | Wardening Workshop | TBD (to account for COVID 19) |
| 15. Seal Management Plan 2018-2022 | Evaluate and support | SMP and Annual Reporting | EG-Seals |  |
| Oversee | Annual Reporting on harbour seal and grey seal population | 2020-07 and -11 |
| 16. Harbour porpoises | Observe and evaluate | Inclusion to ToR of EG-Seals | EG-Seals | 2020-11 |
| 17. Alien Species (MAPAS) | Oversee | Implementation MAPAS / Alien Species Platform | EG-AS | 2020-11 (on-going) |
| 20. Quality Status Report | Support | Draft Proposal for next QSR (joint note TG-MA TG-M) | TG-MA | TBD TG-MA |
| 21. Sustainable fisheries | Responsible | Inventory on fishery activities in the Wadden Sea Conservation Area. | TG-M/CWSS | 2020-06  (compare SIMP 3b) |
| Document with status and recommendations for principles of the Framework Sustainable Fishery | TG-M/CWSS | TBD |
| 22.-23 Marine litter | Responsible/Support if needed/Ignition phase | Inventory on activities | [TG-M] NL/D/ QSR thematic report authors/ TG-WH | 2020-xx for WSB 32 |
| [24. Light emissions] | Support | Inventory on activities | WSF/Partnership Hub |  |
| 29. Renewable energy and its transportation | Responsible | Overview on concepts for renewable energy transport/sea floor /(Inventory study 2020) | TG-M (DK, D, NL, coordination by ?) | TBD (compare SIMP 3d) |
| [30.-34. Sustainable –Shipping and Ports] | Responsible | Concept on Awareness and Education | TG-M | TBD (compare SIMP 3c) |
| Support | WSF Round table approach | [WSF in collaboration with TG-M] | TBD (compare SIMP 3c) |
| 36. Joint Program on Research | Support | Installation of T Programming Committee on Wadden Sea Research | TRA-RMC | TBD by TRA-RMC/WSB |
| 44. 15th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium | Support | Establishment of planning committee and organisation | Schleswig-Holstein | 2021-03-23 to 2021-03-26 |
| Wadden Sea Plan (WSP) | Supervise | Implementation of WSP/Towards technical update of WSP | [TG-M] | On-going |

1. Oversee: Processes and products are followed and aligned to trilateral policy and coordinated where necessary [↑](#footnote-ref-1)