

Wadden Sea Board

WSB 7
6-7 March 2013
Hamburg



Agenda Item:	5
Subject:	Alien Species
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Submitted by:	CWSS

Attached is a progress report on activities regarding alien species in the Wadden Sea. It concerns the status of the preparation of the LIFE application alien species and the first meeting of the ad-hoc working group alien species (WG-AS)

Proposal **The meeting is invited to note the information**

Progress activities regarding alien species

LIFE+ application

The Dutch ministry of Economic Affairs has made available personnel means for the preparation of a LIFE+ application on alien species in the Wadden Sea. Deadline for submission is 25 June 2013. This is the last call under the current LIFE programme.

In December 2012 and January 2013 bilateral meetings were held with potential partners in Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxony and The Netherlands.

A trilateral workshop with potential partners from Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxony and The Netherlands was held 14-15 February 2013 at the Senckenberg Institute in Wilhelmshaven. A list of institutions and organisations present at this workshop is in Annex 1.

Overall, the outcome of the workshop was positive and a first draft project structure was elaborated. It was agreed that the overall aim of the project will be to elaborate a management and action plan for the trilateral strategy on alien species, as discussed at WSB-6.

The responsible ministries in Germany and The Netherlands have indicated that their joint financial contribution may add up to 170.000 Euro cash per year and 100.000 Euro in kind contribution per year. Together with the LIFE financial contribution this would mean that some 440.000 euro per year will be available, which is estimated to be sufficient for hiring a full-time project manager and a scientific coordinator, as well as for supporting the various work packages of the project. It is anticipated that the project manager and the scientific manager will be based at the CWSS. The project duration will be four years.

A second trilateral workshop is scheduled for 17 April. At this workshop detailed work packages, including budgets will be discussed.

The biggest challenge will be to substantiate the demonstration and/or innovation activities in the coming months. Such activities must, according to the LIFE conditions, contribute by at least 25% to the project, and are planned for the treatment of ballast water, the cleaning of harbours, mussel seed transport and anti-fouling agents. This should preferably be done together with commercial partners. Contacts have been or will be made with technical universities, harbour and shipping companies, as well as the fisheries sector.

Ad hoc Working Group Alien Species (WG-AS)

The first meeting of the trilateral ad-hoc working group on alien species (WG-AS) was held in Hamburg on 20 February 2013. Members of the WG are in Annex 2.

WG-AS was installed upon request of WSB-6 with the overall remit to investigate the feasibility of the draft strategy on alien species and to prepare an overview of measures planned and already in place in the Wadden Sea countries.

WG-AS has discussed its terms of reference and concluded that it will have to function as a satellite group, i.e. being at the centre of a network of experts in order to be able to fulfil its broad range tasks. The meeting identified as one of the major task for the near future the formulation of a common trilateral position on the draft EU Directive on alien species, which is expected in March this year. It was furthermore

agreed to collect information on progress made by Ospar and Helcom, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and relevant assessments under Natura2000.

A first screening of the draft trilateral strategy was made and some overall principles regarding the main objective of the strategy discussed.

WG-AS anticipates that it will submit recommendations to the October meeting of WSB, via the September meeting of TG-M.

ANNEX 1

LIFE Workshop, Wilhelmshaven, 14-15 February 2013.

Participating institutes/organisations

Germany

Lower Saxony

National Park Lower Saxony
Senckenberg Research Institute
University Oldenburg

Schleswig-Holstein

National Park Schleswig-Holstein
Ministry MELUR Schleswig-Holstein
Alfred Wegener Institute Sylt

Netherlands

Ministry of Economic Affairs
Ministry of Transport and Public Works
NIOZ Research Institute
Imares Research Institute
Gimares consultant
Bureau Waardenburg consultant

ANNEX 2**Ad-hoc Working Group Alien Species (WG-AS)****Netherlands****Mr Saa Kabuta**

Rijkswaterstaat Waterdienst
Postbus 61 8200 AB Lelystad
Tel +31(0)6 - 29 38 23 19
saahenry.kabuta@rws.nl

Mr Sander Smolders

Ministry Economic Affairs
nVWA, Team Invasieve Exoten (TIE)
Tel +31(0)6-48132440.
Sander.Smolders@vwa.nl

Germany**Ms Vera Knoke**

Ministerium für Energiewende, Landwirtschaft, Umwelt und ländliche Räume
Abt. 4 Wasserwirtschaft, mariner Naturschutz
Referat 43 Meeresschutz und Nationalpark
Mercatorstrasse 3
D - 24106 Kiel
phone: +49 (0) 431-988 7196
fax: +49 (0) 431-988-615 7196
e-mail: vera.knoke@melur.landsh.de

Mr Gregor Scheiffahrt

Nationalparkverwaltung Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer
Virchowstr. 1
26382 Wilhelmshaven
Germany
Tel.: +49 4421 911-155
Gregor.Scheiffarth@nlpv-wattenmeer.niedersachsen.de

Mr Manfred Rolke

BSH
Bernhard-Nocht-Str. 78
D 20359 Hamburg
Tel: +49 (0) 40-3190-7415
Fax: +49 (0) 40-3190-5000
manfred.rolke@bsh.de

Denmark**Mr Hans Erik Svart**

Nature Agency
HES@nst.dk