

DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD

30th Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 30)

21 November 2019
Wilhelmshaven, Germany
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1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened by the chair, Karin Lochte, at 09:00 h on 21 November 2019. She thanked the CWSS for organizing the meeting venue and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety for hosting the dinner the night before.

The chair welcomed Henk de Vries, Director from It Fryske Gea, as the new proposed advisor from the Dutch nature NGOs, and Adi Kellermann, chair of the Task Group Monitoring and Assessment (TG-MA) and the Ad-hoc Working Group Swimway, as a guest.

The meeting thanked Sascha Klöpper for acting as the interim secretary and welcomed Bernard Baerends as the new CWSS secretary, who took office on 15 September 2019. The three Delegations endorsed once again their full support to Baerends.

Mieke Attema introduced herself as the interim representative of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Watermanagement, Rijkswaterstaat. The former representative, Erica Slump, assumed a new position in Rijkswaterstaat.

Jaap Verhulst passed on the apologies from Tineke Schokker. Martin Petersen passed on the apologies from Christian B. Rieper. Ilka Wagner passed on the apologies from Christiane Paulus who was invited to WSB 30 meeting for a thank you celebration.

A list of participants is in Annex 1.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Document: [WSB30/2 Draft Agenda](#)

The meeting adopted the draft agenda with one amendment. Upon the request of Germany the agenda item 5.12 (Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Hub/Center) was shifted to item 5.1 (as 5.1.4).

3. Record WSB 29

Document: [WSB 30/3 Summary Record WSB 29](#)

The summary record of WSB 29 was adopted without changes.

The progress in the implementation of the relevant points from the Action List are addressed in the respective WSB 30 agenda items, except for:

- Adjust and streamline the structure of the agenda: The chair and secretary will come back on this item before the next WSB meeting, as more reflection time is needed. Any suggestions that the WSB members may have are welcomed.
- The wardening workshop could not take place in 2019 due to limited availability of the local work boat (see 5.2/1 TG-M progress report, Item 3 Wardening & management). It is proposed to take place next year.

With reference to his announcement at WSB29, Jaap Verhulst reported that The Netherlands have sent the official letter to the WHC addressing the preoccupations on the anticipated mining operations around the Wadden Sea expressed in a previous letter from the Municipalities and NGOs to the WHC.

4. Announcements & appointments

4.1 Announcements

CWSS

- On the invitation of the Korean Government, the secretary of the CWSS took part in the Shinan International Symposium on Conservation Strategy for Migratory Birds and their Habitats in the Yellow Sea and the 3rd meeting of the working group for the Yellow Sea organised by the IUCN. He underlined that international cooperation is part of our duty as a World Heritage site, even more when being regarded and rewarded as one of the leading cooperations in management and conservation of mudflats.
- CWSS is glad to have on board a new Administrative Assistant, Bettina Oleksik.
- In the framework of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative a brochure was produced to provide an overview of the monitoring results. Trend data are compared with the findings of the East Atlantic Flyway (EAF) Assessment 2017 report to gain understanding of whether the reasons for declining populations in the Wadden Sea can be located in the EAF or in the Wadden Sea. The brochure can be downloaded [here](#).

Denmark

- Martin Petersen informed about the approval of a law that controls and regulates any enlargement of agriculture.
- He also announced that the houting population is stable at 4,000. Funding options to study its life cycle and the importance for the cormorant population are searched.
- Christina Egsvang Føns informed that the phase-b extension of the Esbjerg harbour, referring to an artificial island construction, is postponed indefinitely, since the Environmental Impact Assessment does not have the capacity to fulfil the assessment requirements in time. Another hearing will take place in March 2020, after which a new letter will be sent to the WHC with the up-to-date information.

- Egsvang Føns also reported that there are investigations running on how to replace the heating system in Esbjerg with a more energy-efficient system. This will include an electrical driven sea water-based heat pump placed in the harbour.
- She apprised the meeting as well about an application in preparation to designate a Dark Sky Park in Mandø. The application submission is planned for September 2020.

Germany

- Germany will have a pavilion and organize a side event on marine issues at the UN Climate Change Conference COP 25 that will take place in 2-13 December in Madrid. Ilka Wagner mentioned that this is a great opportunity to hopefully raise awareness also on oceans, since the COP 25 will stress on the connection between oceans and climate change, and the pressure of climate on the decline of biodiversity. Additionally, it would be interesting to follow the discussions on geo-engineering solutions (carbon storage/‘blue carbon’) that will occur. The chair Karin Lochte commented that a further opportunity to highlight the TWSC’s work would be in the inaugural event of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development in 2021 in Berlin.
- Hubertus Hebbelmann informed the meeting that the prohibition of exploration and exploitation drillings for oil and gas in the Lower Saxon Wadden Sea National Park was discussed in Parliament and appeared to have support of almost all parties. In Schleswig-Holstein, there is a proposal to enlarge the area approved for exploitation, informed Vera Knoke.
- Klaus Janke reported that Hamburg has elected the Wadden ground as the Soil of the Year 2020. Related to this nomination several events will take place during next year, starting with an inaugural event in Berlin in December 2019. Janke will share more information in the next WSB 31 meeting.

Netherlands

- Jaap Verhulst reported that the Dutch Government decided on a new governmental organisational structure for the Dutch Wadden Sea comprising of 3 groups. The policy council will be chaired by the minister of Infrastructure and Water, the new management authority by the minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and the platform of advising stakeholders by the King’s Commissioner of the Province of Fryslân. This new structure will not affect the Dutch representation in the TWSC groups and in the WSB.
- An agreement has been reached on a new approach regarding seal management that aims improving professionalism and collaboration. With the agreement the policy of holding back the interventions to reduce the number of animals taken to rescue centres is supported. Additionally, the professionalization of the seal guards will be enhanced and a clear connection between the centres and these guards will be developed. Some budget is made available for applied research needed.
- Henk Staghouwer announced that more than 75 million euros have been provided by the national and provincial governments to invest in the Breeding Birds Action Plan, the Flyway Initiative and the Swimway Initiative in the Netherlands a.o. linked to the high water protection schemes in development. As part of these projects, cooperation with

some organizations has been installed and the establishment of islands in the Ems estuary and salt transitions zones dedicated for breeding birds is ongoing.

Nature NGOs

- Marco Brodde reported that in Denmark NGOs are further improving the management in some land areas by allowing natural dynamics to take place together with grazing management. These practices can benefit the status of some of the declining breeding birds' populations.
- Hans-Ulrich Rösner commented that the deepening on the Elbe has started and a severe impact is expected. Some NGOs have expressed concern about the impact on the Wadden Sea in a letter towards UNESCO. There is also concern by a citizen initiative in Cuxhaven, since the deepening may bring more mud to the Cuxhaven coast, affecting also touristic activities in the Wadden Sea. He expressed also concerns regarding the ideas recently published by the Environmental Ministries of Hamburg and Lower Saxony about an Elbe barrage. Finally, concern is also expressed over the proposal to expand the oil drilling activities in Schleswig-Holstein. If continued this would become both an issue for nature protection and for the climate change policy.

Wadden Sea Forum

The announcements of the Wadden Sea Forum will be addressed under agenda item 5.8.

4.2 Appointments

The WSB 30 appointed Henk de Vries, director of It Fryske Gea and Dutch representative of the nature NGOs as advisor to the WSB.

Jaap Verhulst expressed his contentment about de Vries representing the Dutch NGOs since he brings his experience of management on the ground to the WSB. Hereby, the request to have an advisor from each country's nature NGOs is now fulfilled.

De Vries introduced himself as ecologist by formation. He is the director of It Fryske Gea, one of the NGOs that manages an area in the Dutch Wadden Sea. He is pleased to represent and build up on the link from the Dutch NGOs to the WSB.

The chair announced that the proposed supplementary budget for 2020 was approved by the Heads of Delegations.

5. Implementation Leeuwarden Declaration

5.1 Wadden Sea World Heritage

5.1.1 Progress report TG-WH

Document: [WSB 30/5.1/1 Progress report TG-WH](#)

Regarding the initiative of the WHC for developing an online Guidance Tool for the installation of renewable energy projects within or near World Heritage properties, Vera Knoke commented that it would be important and positive to have more information, especially because it is financed by the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust.

Martin Petersen advised to make all actors related to renewable energy programmes aware of this initiative and to coordinate with them and the municipalities a joint Wadden Sea participation.

Jaap Verhulst mentioned that if Tineke Schokker had been present in the meeting, she, as a representative of the Dutch Wadden Sea Islands, would have suggested intensifying the cooperation with the current efforts on the islands regarding renewable energy and CO₂ reduction.

Knoke regarded this as an opportunity to contribute to the WHC discussions with the experiences of the TWSC regarding the placement and installation of energy cables and the collaboration with the local communities. Verhulst noted that there is a common position about CO₂ reduction, however the TWSC does not have yet a shared stand on cable installation. Furthermore, Henrik G. Pind Jørgensen added that in Denmark the overall responsibility on this topic lies in another ministry, and therefore it is politically challenging to work on the line of a common agreement about energy. Knoke emphasized that independently of the current trilateral situation, it would be advisable and important to take part in this project. Margrita Sobottka highlighted that the Guidance Tool will not only include natural but also cultural heritage sites and therefore the TWSC should not have high expectations on the level of detail of the resulting tool.

The WSB **noted** the document and **agreed** that any party interested can participate in this project.

5.1.2 Development of the Single Integrated Management Plan

Document: [WSB 30/5.1/2 Status Report SIMP](#)

Soledad Luna presented the progress done in 2019, emphasizing the work of TG-WH on the prioritization of four key topics (fisheries, tourism, shipping and impacts from outside) and the integration of the SIMP preliminary structure and content with the site-managers recommendations.

The WSB **endorsed** the key topics and the next steps to develop the SIMP considering the following points:

Vera Knoke suggested visually improving the positioning of climate change and the Guiding Principle to show their overall importance and influence in all the SIMP content, and to assign to both topics with specific headings in the preliminary structure. She also requested to use the trilateral term (as used e.g. in the Wadden Sea Plan) “coastal flood defence and protection” instead of “coastal defense”.

Jaap Verhulst recommended to not only focus on the four key topics and threats, but also to include examples of good management currently being implemented such as the breeding

bird action plan as well as other development possibilities. Verhulst offered to present these development examples from the Netherlands in the next WSB 31. The meeting welcomed his proposal.

Janne Liburd suggested studying and considering innovative ways of addressing issues and improving management. She further suggested identifying latent opportunities of sustainable development in an extra chapter, the results of which would be considered and decided upon in the WSB meetings.

Martin Petersen recommended to contact the IUCN to present the progress done up to date in the process of developing the SIMP with the aim of assuring that it is on the right track and covering the UNESCO requirements, and not least to establish a common understanding of the specific target level of the SIMP-product.

Ilka Wagner supported the structured procedure and thanked Soledad Luna for the work as well as TG-WH, Barbara Engels and CWSS for the support. She underlined the importance of the SIMP as such for the German Presidency.

Preben Friis-Hauge informed that the stakeholders of the WSF are willing to contribute to the process at relevant topics, which was decided by the Forum at the meeting on 19 November 2019 on basis of Luna's presentation.

Hans-Ulrich Rösner recalled that inviting IUCN to the first SIMP workshop was very valuable and believes it to be fruitful to include IUCN in the future. He further underlined that the SIMP as a summary of existing measures may not be enough and added value is needed.

The WSB **endorsed** the 4 key topics and **asked** CWSS to prepare the next steps and check the process with IUCN, including the target level.

5.1.3 PROWAD LINK Progress Report

Document: [WSB 30/5.1/3 PROWAD LINK Progress Report](#)

Jaap Verhulst thanked for the information provided about the progress of the project and asked to have information about the deliverables in the future. Bernard Baerends proposed to deliver a presentation about the PROWAD LINK project in WSB 31. The meeting welcomed the proposal.

The WSB **noted** the PROWAD LINK Progress Report and asked the CWSS to present the project at the next WSB.

5.1.4 Trilateral Partnership in support of the Wadden Sea World Heritage

Documents:

[WSB 30/5.11 Progress Report of the Operational Team Partnership Hub](#)

[WSB 30/5.11 MoU Partnerships signed](#)

Margrita Sobottka presented the main points of the “Draft concept for a Partnership Hub (PH) to the Trilateral Partnership in support of the Wadden Sea World Heritage” and emphasized urgency and importance towards the TWSC to show commitment by investing in the set-up of the PH.

Jaap Verhulst welcomed and thanked the clear document. He mentioned that they are aware of the fact that all parties need to invest in the PH. The 2020 budget has been approved and will allow starting operations. Additionally, he asked on clarification on the management of the Hub.

Hubertus Hebbelmann explained that in the beginning it would be important to work together with the CWSS on the management of the PH and proposed that Bernard Baerends assumed the role of chair of the OPteamPH supported by Sobottka.

The chair noted that governance of the PH could be a major point to discuss on the next WSB 31.

Verhulst expressed that the Dutch delegation was in favour of a practical solution to bring the PH to life and asked the OPteamPH to produce a paper to clarify the management and governance and for the paper to be submitted earlier.

Martin Petersen commented that it makes sense that the CWSS assumes a leading role in the starting period of the PH and expressed the concern of the Danish delegation about the financial requirements for the functioning of the PH.

Baerends acknowledged the financial challenges and also stressed the need to take the first steps in the functioning of the PH within the current available financial support. He also pointed out that financial support is secured for 2020 with the supplementary budget as well as in the framework of PROWAD LINK.

Ilka Wagner expressed the support of the German delegation to the draft concept and emphasized that a stepwise approach is needed to get projects started and taking into account that it will have also financial implications.

Upon a question of the WSF it was announced that 20,000 Euro were approved within the supplementary budget for 2020 for starting the PH. Baerends mentioned that Lower Saxony will provide further in kind support by Margrita Sobottka (0.5 fte) and that another person is needed for coordination and management.

Preben Friis-Hauge expressed that the WSF could develop a trilateral project on Dark Sky that would also contribute to the PH starting phase.

Hans-Ulrich Rösner mentioned that the IWSS could be already considered as a component of the PH. He also informed that in the last Wadden Sea Team meeting, the nature NGOs pondered that their initial contribution to the starting phase of the PH could be a project on improving the environmental footprint of shipping to the Wadden Sea, if funding would be available. He was pleased to see that the suggestion from the nature NGOs to define the PH as a network, not necessarily linked to a physical place, was included. This is important since it implies that PH activities can take place everywhere in the region and not exclusively in the

Partnership Centre. Finally, he expressed concern about the weak formulation of some of the objectives from the nature NGOs point of view and suggested to specify them. The suggestions were adopted by the WSB and the amended objectives of the PH-concept now read as follows:

- contributing to the protection and stimulating exchange on nature management of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site
- enhancing international cooperation;
- activating and credibly using the Wadden Sea World Heritage brand;
- educating and informing about the Wadden Sea World Heritage;
- developing and enhancing sustainable tourism in the Wadden Sea Region within limits of acceptable change whilst preserving the integrity of the Wadden Sea World Heritage
- contributing to regional sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region in accordance with protection goals for the Wadden Sea World Heritage;
- stimulating research and monitoring to provide the required knowledge for management in the Wadden Sea Region;
- integrating cultural and historical values in the management of the Wadden Sea Region.

The chair reminded the OPteamPH to think of a more captivating and memorable name for the Trilateral Partnership Centre and the Hub.

Janne Liburd announced that on 11 November 2020 the Nationalpark will host a National conference on sustainable development. The conference will be held in Danish.

The WSB **adopted** the draft concept including the amendments as proposed by Hans-Ulrich Rösner. The document shall be updated accordingly. Bernard Baerends was approved as successor of Hubertus Hebbelmann as interim chair of the OPteamPH, and would be in charge of further developing the concept.

The WSB **approved** resources in the amount of 20,000 euro for 2020 to ensure a successful start-up.

The WSB **tasked** the OPteamPH to approach partner organisations to further explore concrete proposals for cooperation and contributions to the PH, and to prepare scenarios for the further establishment and/or development of the PH including possible funding options to be reported to the next WSB 31.

5.2 Nature conservation and integrated ecosystem management

5.2.1 Progress Report TG-M

Document: [WSB 30/5.2/1 Report TG-M](#)

Henrik Pind Jørgensen provided a summary of the report focusing on the two items to endorse:

1. The inclusion of harbor porpoises in the tasks of the EG-Seals.
TG-M recognizes the advantages of including harbor porpoises into the responsibilities of the EG-Seals. The expert group is in favour and will work on an outline of accordingly revised ToRs. Therefore, TG-M recommends endorsing this proposal.

The WSB **endorsed** the TG-M recommendation and **instructed** TG-M to inform ASCOBANS about this decision.

2. The installment of the work group alien species as expert group.
Their main task will be to implement the MAPAS, starting with the Alien Species network platform. Specifically, the priority task in 2020 is to release a trilateral alert system as a microsite on the WSWH website.

The WSB **endorsed** the proposal.

Jaap Verhulst thanked for the report and asked about the possibility to include fisheries in the possible expert group fish and link the outcomes of their work to the SIMP. Henrik Pind Jørgensen explained that the Swimway group so far, and in accordance with the ToR, have had their main focus on research (i.a. the organisation of the “Swimway Conference” in Hamburg in September 2019). Jørgensen further said that the group recognized that the ToR’s reference to MCD 2018 also mentions fishery (§13 and Annex 3 sections “Policy”, “Measures” and “Stakeholder involvement, communication and education). He stated that the group and TG-M intend to further elaborate on that.

Verhulst suggested the TG-M to come forward with a proposal how to deal with the fisheries issue.

The WSB agreed **to instruct** the TG-M to come forward with a proposal how to handle the issue of sustainable fisheries.

5.2.2 Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative

Document: [WSB 30/5.2/2 Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative](#)

The steering group of the WSFI submitted two proposals to the WSB 30:

1. Application for a project within the International Climate Initiative (IKI) funded by BMU to continue and strengthen the WSFI and where the CWSS would act as the leading party. The proposal will be written by a person hired by CWSS for this specific task.

Henk de Vries advised to beware of outsourcing the development of the proposal and to ensure good collaboration with the hired person. Thomas Borchers explained that even though a person will be hired, CWSS with guidance by WSFI-SG would be steering this

proposal through Gerold Lüerßen, the project's leader in CWSS. Hiring a consultant for writing the proposal, is to secure that the capacities of the CWSS would not be overloaded. And if successful with the CWSS as the anticipated leading partner, the IKI project would cover the position of a project manager in CWSS.

Jaap Verhulst asked, in terms of workload, if the WSFI, the proposal application and the Arctic workshop organization are part of the key business of CWSS. Bernard Baerends confirmed the importance of maintaining our renowned name due to the international cooperation in the framework of Flyway Initiatives. If successful, the IKI project would hopefully contribute to ensure the continuation of bird monitoring after our funds run out by 2020. Baerends thanked for the financial support from the Supplementary Budget to engage a consultant in the proposal writing and the application process.

Ilka Wagner points out that there is no guarantee that the project application will be successful as it is an open competition.

2. Continue the preparation of the WSFI Arctic workshop in Yamal, Russia in 2020 to strengthen cooperation with countries in the northern part of the EAF, with the kind financial support of the BMU.

De Vries asked how a workshop in the Arctic area would contribute and benefit the Flyway Initiative in the Wadden Sea. Thomas Borchers pointed out that in the Leeuwarden Declaration the Ministers had reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation, aiming to expand the cooperation with partners beyond the Wadden Sea Region, especially with regard to the Arctic. The cooperation with the Russian party would be benefited by accepting their proposal to perform the workshop in Yamal.

Martin Petersen expressed the support from the Danish delegation in the application of an IKI project and considered it important and positive to build the contact to Russia. He will consult with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs if there is any political limitation that they are not aware of.

The WSB **agreed** on the further IKI project application process with CWSS as lead partner and **instructed** the WSFI Steering Group and CWSS to continue the preparation of the Arctic workshop.

5.3 Energy

No documents.

5.4 Climate

Document: [WSB 30/5.4 Climate](#)

The document submitted by EG-C reports on the press release published on 25 September 2019 in response to the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate

(SROCC). This was drafted by EG-C and in collaboration with the WSB chair and the representatives of the states. Additionally, the EG-C reported on the progress made in the preparation of the Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI) workshop, foreseen to take place on 10-11 February 2020.

Martin Petersen suggested to consider in the CVI a previous study conducted by the WSF, in which they collected information about the initiatives taking place at the municipalities', counties' and regions' level for reducing CO₂. In the same line, Janne Liburd emphasized the importance of consolidating efforts by using the outcomes of the WSF's previous study especially to include socio-economic indicators in the analysis. Vera Knoke recommended that Manfred Vollmer should join the CVI workshop. Vollmer confirmed that he will participate and mentioned that the WSF study can be used in the CVI to include human activities taking place in the area. Hans-Ulrich Rösner noted that the CVI methodology also needs to include nature related indicators in addition to the socio-economic ones recommended by the WSF.

The WSB **noted** the information and progress.

5.5 Maritime safety and pollution prevention of shipping

Document: [WSB 30/5.5 TG-M proposal on Dutch note "Implementation of the TWSC operational plan on shipping"](#)

The document elaborated on a proposal for the implementation of the Operational Plan 'Awareness and Education' agreed upon in the Tønder Declaration for the application of the PSSA.

The WSB **noted** the proposal and **intended** to sum up comments under agenda item 5.8 when the WSF proposal will be presented.

5.6 Trilateral monitoring and assessment programme

Adi Kellermann, chair of the TG-MA gave an oral briefing (Annex 4) on the group's progress.

In his presentation, Kellermann proposed to recognise the authorship of the QSR Editorial Board and to accept the QSR draft synthesis report as submitted, as well as to accept the 2017 QSR. This was important for the TWSC to be able to use the QSR for further collaboration as for example to provide input to the Trilateral Research Agenda (TRA). Kellermann finalized his presentation with suggestions from TG-MA to improve the TMAP.

In addition, Kellermann informed the meeting about the Swimway conference that the working group organized in order to learn about the related research carried out in the region, bring diverse stakeholders together and to detail the future tasks of the group regarding the four pillars of the project: policy, research, management and education.

Jaap Verhulst expressed gratitude for the speedy process of the group. He stressed the fact that without a written input it is difficult to comment and that a timeline is needed for the whole process. He further elaborated that the Dutch delegation is in favour of a more popular

way of presenting the monitoring results, e.g. by annual reports, as this may attract more public attention than a long and complicated QSR every few years. He illustrated this with the Dutch example of 'Wadden in Beeld'. Kellermann assured that readability is a high priority, but annual reports may exceed the capacity of the group.

Ilka Wagner agrees that the findings should be conveyed in an accessible way, but a shorter cycle may not be quickly implemented, taking into account also the workload and resources. She expressed the general support for the TMAP as a fundamental pillar of the TWSC and argued that the first task should be the updating of TMAP to make it future proof, which means a digital approach.

Martin Petersen asked to analyse what data can be trilaterally coordinated and compared, to draw up an overview of the existing data and to identify the magnitude of the problem. Kellermann informed that this will be discussed at the TG-MA/EG-Data meeting in January 2020.

Verhulst agrees that a profound discussion on the question of data is needed that includes the harmonisation with EU data and the frequency of collecting, assessing and presenting data.

Marco Brodde pointed out that after the overview of existing data it should also be analysed if there are aspects to the OUV that are currently not monitored and should be parameterized in the future.

The chair of the WSB stressed the urgency of this topic and asked Kellermann to provide written proposals well in advance of the WSB meetings to enable adequate analysis, discussion and endorsement of the proposals, signaling that at this stage the magnitude of the data problem is unclear.

The WSB noted the report by TG-MA and **agreed** to have a profound discussion on this topic at the next WSB.

5.7 Science cooperation

Document: [WSB 30/5.7 Trilateral Research Agenda – Road Map Committee](#)

Karin Lochte, in her role as chair of the TRA-Road Map Committee (TRA-RMC), briefly presented the document, which describes the member composition and ToR for this group, as well as a proposal of ToR for the Trilateral Programming Committee (TPC).

Jaap Verhulst thanked for the clear document and the effort invested in bringing forward this group. He recommended to explicitly state in the document that the main purpose of this process is establishing and strengthening a community that feels responsible for science in the Wadden Sea.

Ilka Wagner, in the name of the German delegation, also thanked for the document and the effort and indicated that the draft ToR for the TPC need some further elaboration and the German delegation will send its respective comments by the end of November to Lochte and the CWSS to amend the ToRs. The Dutch delegation will send their comments by the end of November too.

Martin Petersen also thanked for the document and the effort and in the view of the Danish delegation the ToRs can be adopted.

Manfred Vollmer asked if the considered relevant research includes social science and social development in the area. Lochte affirmed. Vollmer advised to further clarify the role of the TPC in comparison to the PH, since both represent an interface between science and policy. Furthermore, Vollmer suggested to make it possible for societal groups to submit suggestions for research studies to the TPC. Preben Friis-Hauge added that the WSF members would be interested in submitting such suggestions.

The WSB **noted** the documents and asked the TRA-RMC to amend the ToRs according to the observations that will be sent by the delegations by the end of November 2019, and to include a reference to the SIMP process in the ToR of the TPC since it might also lead to some research questions.

The WSB **approved** the proposal of the TRA-RMC to suggest members of the TPC for the next WSB 31.

5.8 Wadden Sea Forum

Manfred Vollmer gave a short overview of the progress within the WSF:

- The WSF has continued the work on the sustainability indicators tool on county level in Germany and municipality level in Denmark. The Dutch provinces will be included soon. The WSF offered to present the results of the indicator analysis in a future WSB meeting.
- The WSF is working on a trilateral approach for Dark Sky initiatives within the activities of the Partnership Hub. The first trilateral meeting took place in October 2019 with dark sky representatives from all three Wadden Sea countries. The aim of the initiative is to have a darker Wadden Sea region by bringing all the local initiatives together.
- The WSF co-organised a macroplastics workshop with the University of Oldenburg. Various stakeholders discussed about the measures to reduce plastic in the Wadden Sea. A report will be available early next year.
- The AEWA management plans for Greylag and Barnacle geese were adopted by the range states in December 2018. For the implementation of the plans, Favorable Reference Values (FRV) are needed. Since the countries have not yet developed these, the WSF drafted a resolution, which requests the responsible ministries to speed up the process.
- Fisheries representatives approached the WSF seeking for support to renew their contact to politicians and managers. The German sector has provided a position paper of their sector to the WSF as basis for further communication about sustainable fisheries. The Dutch sector is going to deliver a similar position paper, which can contribute to develop a joint approach within the trilateral Wadden Sea Region.

Vera Knoke rejected the statement given on the status auf goose management in Schleswig-Holstein and explained, that monitoring obligations are fulfilled and a joint management group on geese led by the ministry and attended by i.a. stakeholders from the agricultural and nature conservation sectors is in place.

5.8.1 WSF policy paper on water management

Document: [WSB 30/5.8/1 WSF policy paper on water management](#)

Vollmer introduced the policy paper on challenges of water management in the Wadden Sea Region due to climate change. The paper reflects the view of the different stakeholders of the WSF and is forwarded to responsible organizations and decision makers to consider the recommendations in their dealings. Vollmer added that the policy paper represents a good result of trilateral work and that it is available in the four languages.

The WSB **noted** the WSF policy paper on water management.

5.8.2 Proposal on a shipping group

Documents:

[WSB 30/5.8/2 WSF proposal shipping group](#)

[WSB 30/5.8/3 TG-M proposal on WSF shipping group](#)

The WSF submitted a proposal to install a joint shipping group without any binding status to elaborate on initiatives and recommendations for a sustainable and safe shipping business in the southern North Sea. TG-M reviewed this proposal, advised towards a round table approach and recognized a need for further elaboration of the proposal in cooperation with WSF, in particular with respect to organizational scenarios and their resource implications.

Ilka Wagner recognized that there are enough arguments to address shipping safety in the Wadden Sea. However, due to the long history on this topic in the TWSC, she recommends that the topic should be addressed in the WSF. Germany supports the round table approach, organized by the WSF with support from TWSC/CWSS.

Vollmer added that the group would have a round table approach, where people can participate on a voluntary basis without having to respond to a certain hierarchy.

Martin Petersen suggested that nevertheless TG-M should be instructed to cooperate with the WSF in this group. Vollmer commented that the WSF certainly would welcome and appreciate cooperating with TG-M.

Hans-Ulrich Rösner was in favour of the proposal and offered that the nature NGOs will support as much as it is possible for them. He expressed that it would be positive if the WSB delegations take part of the group as well.

Mieke Attema expressed that the Netherlands would be prepared to take part of the group.

Preben Friis-Hauge noted that it would be important to involve the municipalities as well.

Bernard Baerends commented that the CWSS could give support in organizing the meetings.

The chair summarized the discussion pointing out that not a joint shipping group, but a round table led by the WSF and collaborating with TG-M is the favoured approach. Furthermore, the

work of the round table would contribute to the content of the SIMP regarding the key topic shipping.

The WSB **approved** the establishment of a round table for shipping led by the WSF with the support of the CWSS and in collaboration to TG-M.

5.9 International cooperation

Document: [WSB 30/5.9/1 Yellow Sea Cooperation](#)

Bernard Baerends mentioned that this paper presented an assessment on the developments in the Yellow Sea in connection to the TWSC and potential future collaboration with the Yellow Sea/West Sea (YS/WS) trilateral cooperation. Besides the general management issues which the two seas have in common, he gave the example that during his visit to ROK Shinan county, the Chinese delegate indicated that the Yancheng province (where the phase 1 WH nomination property is located), is extremely keen to learn from the WSWH with respect to sustainable tourism development. They might even be interested in establishing a MoU between the CWSS and a management institute to be established for the site and would probably like to visit the Wadden Sea in spring 2020. Further, through the contact with Raphael Glemet, the IUCN chair of the YS/WS Working Group, it became clear that a closer collaboration with the WS is very much welcomed. Lastly, the EAAFP would be an interesting model for further investigation in relation to the envisaged PH development of the Wadden Sea.

Martin Petersen recognized that it is important to maintain a good international collaboration but emphasized that it is also valuable to have a clear benefit and to carefully manage the amount of time invested.

Baerends reflected that according to the paper submitted, the amount of time and effort will be quite modest. His visit to Shinan county was fully paid by the Korean government. Referring to the possible interest of the Yancheng province in the TWSC he indicated that this could serve as a nice example for the development of the PH.

Jaap Verhulst expressed full support from the Dutch delegation. He reasoned that this is an example, where the TWSC dedicates little monetary resources, yet benefits from the wide awareness with a well-known Secretariat and improved network for TWSC. He recommended, however, maintaining collaboration focused on nature issues and not on policy.

Marco Brodde found it remarkable and was proud that the Wadden Sea can export knowledge. He also noted that nonetheless it is very important to also balance resources and address the existing problems in the Wadden Sea.

The WSB **instructed** CWSS, at a modest level, to seek a cooperation with EAAFP, participate as advisor in the annual meetings of the IUCN Yellow Sea Working Group and to provide an annual report on activities performed in this context, including costs.

5.10 Communication and education.

5.10.1 Anniversary Campaign Evaluation

Document: [WSB 30/5.10/1 Anniversary evaluation](#)

The evaluation of the WH anniversary bike tour was overall positive. This represented the biggest trilateral public event organized by the CWSS and the regional coordinators so far. The main lesson learnt was to allow for an earlier start of the organization. Through the coordination of the campaign it was also learned that there is room for improving the feeling of ownership of the WSWH to create closer collaboration and stronger networks. As these are aims of PROWAD LINK and the PH, the campaign has shown that the TWSC is dealing with today's relevant issues.

Janne Liburd asked for clarification of the reason for disappointment about the Danish team. From her knowledge, there was a broad participation and engagement in Denmark and all people taking part were satisfied. Due to budgetary constraints the participation of the Danish Wadden Sea National Park Secretariat in the bike tour was limited.

Annika Bostelmann explained that the report is a result of an evaluation team. The evaluation made by the Danish organizers was sent after the evaluation meeting and therefore had its own section in the document. The disappointment expressed by the Dutch and German organizers referred solely to the fact that Denmark wasn't able to send any representative to the bike tour in the Netherlands or Germany.

Liburd reflected about the importance of managing the expectations of what is wanted and what is perceived. In Denmark the bike tour was visible and successful.

Jaap Verhulst emphasized the importance of allotting a longer period of time for the organization in order to be able to involve all relevant stakeholders. Bostelmann agreed and underlined that this was the main lesson learned. Verhulst suggested to work on a long-term calendar to place upcoming events and link them with potential WSWH celebrations in order to have enough time for organizing.

Marco Brodde commented that it was exceptional to have a trilateral activity such as the bike tour, especially for the kids it became clear that they are part of something bigger. The results reflected in the organizational structure and the number of participants showed that this kind of trilateral activities can be done. Brodde invited the meeting to apply the lessons learned from this experience and to embark on such trilateral projects more often. The IWSS is a good trilateral tool that could be leveraged to further implement activities that convey the message of being part of something bigger.

The chair commented that the International Scientific Conference represents a trilateral project that would also bring efforts together and therefore, it would be important to consider this in the planning and communicating of the event.

The WSB thanked Bostelmann and the regional organization teams for the success of the event and recognised the great amount of time invested by all parties, especially hers.

The WSB **noted** the document.

5.10.2 Update website re-launch

Document: [WSB 30/5.10/2 Update website re-launch](#)

The lay-out of a new WSWH website was endorsed by the WSB in 2017. Bostelmann presented the main features of the public section of the website and invited the delegations to send her a note with any error they may find. The official website launching ceremony in WSB 30 was marked by the publishing of a commemorative World Heritage anniversary bike tour video. The Chair had the honor of “pushing the button” for publishing.

The WSB **marked** the launching of the WSWH/TWSC website and **noted** the document.

5.10.3 Press review 2019

Document: [WSB 30/5.10/3 Press preview 2019](#)

Bostelmann provided an overview of the press coverage in 2019. She highlighted the especially significantly higher attention due to the anniversary and the bike tour event.

The WSB **noted** the document.

5.10.4 Proposal for further IWSS Continuation – further specification

The paper includes further budgetary specification and the request for slightly increasing the budget for IWSS, outlining two scenarios: 1) continue with same budget; 2) slightly increase budget and outcome.

The WSB **approved** the requested budget specified under Scenario 2 in the document.

5.10.5 ITB Introduction Steering Group + Concept for 2020

Document: [WSB 30/5.10/4 ITB: Introduction Steering Group + Concept for 2020](#)

The document introduced a proposal for the installment of an ITB steering group, its tasks and a proposal of an enhanced stand concept for the International Tourism Fair 2020. The group activities and stand will be covered by the PROWAD LINK project and the CWSS supplementary budget.

The name of the group was modified to Working group instead of Steering group in accordance with the usual TWSC terminology by request of Jaap Verhulst.

The WSB **noted** the document and **endorsed** the first outline for the ITB participation 2020.

6. Any Other Business

On behalf of the German delegation, Ilka Wagner gave a statement regarding the establishment of an international WSWH Foundation:

“Germany would like to use this opportunity to announce that we would like to continue the initiative for establishing an international Wadden Sea World Heritage Foundation, which was launched by the Netherlands during their Presidency. Today’s discussions and decisions on the Partnership Hub and the Partnership Center have shown that the structures and resources currently available will not enable us to adequately address the tasks and challenges ahead. We need more options for accessing financial and personnel resources to intensify the trilateral cooperation with our partners in future. An international foundation would be an adequate instrument to support these efforts. The feasibility study and the discussions prior to the Leeuwarden conference have shown as much. The discussions have also revealed that establishing a transnational foundation is no small feat but needs to be well thought through and coordinated. This is true for both organisational structure, the mandatory statutes and the inclusion of the foundation in the Trilateral Cooperation. Germany is willing to tackle this challenge and continue the Dutch initiative. We are planning on presenting a first draft at the next WSB, which will serve as the basis for coordination within the cooperation. We would welcome it very much if Denmark and the Netherlands would support us in this”.

Jaap Verhulst and Martin Petersen appreciated this initiative and welcome a proposal from the German Delegation.

Mieke Attema informed the meeting about the latest state of the MSC Zoe case. To date 299 out of 342 containers and one million kg have been recovered. The operation for further search and recovery of the missing containers is still ongoing. An investigation council has been formed to evaluate the results of all investigations and provide early advise if necessary. Damages to species and habitats will be also investigated in the framework of Natura 2000. If damages are proven, resources can be recovered to cover the restoration costs.

7. Next meeting

The next WSB meeting will be held in Denmark on the end of May or beginning of June. The second meeting of the WSB in 2020 will be in November. The precise dates and meeting places will be confirmed and communicated in due time.

8. Closing

The chair closed the meeting at 15:15 and thanked participants for fruitful discussions.

Hubertus Hebbelmann, on occasion of his retirement, thanked the members of the WSB for their friendship and collaboration over the years. All members thanked Hebbelmann back and wished him all the best.

ANNEX 1: List of participants

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 30)

21 November 2019
Wilhelmshaven, Germany



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ANNEX 2: Agenda

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

**30th Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board
(WSB 30)**

21 November 2019
Wilhelmshaven, Germany



- 1. Opening of the Meeting**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 3. Summary Record WSB 29**
- 4. Announcements**
- 5. Implementation Leeuwarden Declaration**
- 6. Any Other Business**
- 7. Next meeting**
- 8. Closing**

ANNEX 3: Action items arising from the 30th WSB

ACTION ITEMS

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 30)

21 November 2019
Wilhelmshaven, Germany



Action #	Agenda item	Actions agreed upon	Person responsible	Deadline
1	Agenda	Adjust and streamline the structure of the WSB-Agenda	CWSS secretary / chair	WSB31
2	5.1.2	The Netherlands will present development examples for the SIMP process	Dutch delegation	WSB31
3	5.1.3	Deliver a presentation about the PROWAD LINK project in WSB 31	CWSS	WSB31
4	5.1.4	Further develop the PH concept on management and governance; Prepare scenarios for the further establishment of the PH including possible funding options	OpteamPH	WSB31
5	5.2.1	Inform ASCOBANS about the decision to include harbor porpoises to the work of EG-Seals Proposal how to handle the issue of sustainable fisheries	TG-M	First quarter of 2020 WSB31
6	5.6	Discussion document on the monitoring-assessment issue	TG-MA	WSB31
7	5.7	Delegations to send comments to Karin Lochte regarding the TRA-RMC and TPC ToRs. Proposal for members of the TPC	Delegations TRA-RMC	End of November 2019 WSB31
8	5.8.2	WSF to establish a round table for shipping	WSF	
9	6	Draft proposal for establishing the Wadden Sea Foundation	German delegation	WSB 31

TG-MA progress report 2019

WSB meeting Wilhelmshaven, 21 November 2019

From the Leeuwarden Declaration -

Conscious that coordinated monitoring, data handling and assessment of the quality status are crucial factors for the conservation and management of the Wadden Sea, also as a World Heritage Site;

Agree to increase the value of the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme to users and to a wider range of stakeholders, including the availability of data and presentation of information resulting from those data;

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;

Task Group Monitoring & Assessment

TG-MA ToRs as agreed by WSB:

Coordinate and supervise the implementation of all issues from the Leeuwarden Declaration related to TMAP and species and habitat protection in close cooperation with the respective Expert Groups and the Task Group Management. In particular:

- 1) **Supervise** the further development of the **trilateral data handling** (with EG-Data), also with regard to data availability, harmonization and presentation;
- 2) Analyse the **alignment of TMAP to the WSP and the OUV** but also in relation to overarching legal **EU frameworks and reporting**;
- 3) **Define, harmonise and establish** monitoring parameters where necessary;
- 4) **Update the TMAP Handbook** as the guideline for monitoring, research and management;
- 5) **Coordinate** on issues from the LD relevant to **habitats and species monitoring and assessment**;
- 6) **Analyse potential target groups** for the **QSR Thematic and Synthesis Reports** and provide analogous recommendations for the overall process;
- 7) **Support** and **supervise** the **next generation Quality Status Report** process, including a QSR synthesis report (publishing period to be defined);
- 8) **Support** on the **SIMP** for the entire UNESCO Wadden Sea World Heritage site.

The TG-MA Vision

- To build a sound, operational framework of comparable monitoring programmes referring to the Wadden Sea
- To build a sound, operational framework of data handling and exchange
- To provide a sufficient basis for trilateral ecosystem assessment
- To provide an easy-to-operate system for access to data and monitoring results
- To increase the value of the TMAP for a wider range of stakeholders
- To develop a plan for the concomitant research

QSR Review 2018 (Coulander)

- The **financial** support for the QSR requires **upgrading** to nowadays circumstances; Current financial resources need **expansion**, not necessarily only from the involved governments.
- Prepare a comprehensive **QSR project description** to address most of the reported processing challenges; The founding fathers knew and had 'authority' without a project description how to manage and find solutions in their network but circumstances changed substantially making those old solutions outdated.
- Within the production process too much **time is wasted**, due to defective coordination and follow-up; Too much is within CWSS with a **shortage on staff**. This cannot be addressed by money alone but needs a more focussed spirit by all contributors on the schedule and a clear assignment of tasks.
- The use of the **TMAP database** requires an additional decision/evaluation.
- The intention to convert to a web based QSR is well accepted, however a rolling scheme needs **further elaboration**.
- The QSR is still a very **well-respected product**, maintaining that level requires also **scientific focus**.

The QSR



- **TG-MA agreed to:**
(on QSR Synthesis Report 2017)
- **Recognise the authorship of the QSR Editorial Board**
- accept the draft synthesis as **submitted** and so endorse the 2017 QSR and synthesis report
- prerequisite to enable the use of the QSR for further collaboration e.g., input to the TRA
(on future QSR)
- Continue the practice of an online QSR
- Update chapters when new data available
- To develop an approach incl. a realistic QSR timeline for the following Governmental Conference considering the available resources.

The TMAP



- Designed 1992-1995 (almost 25 years ago)
- „common package“ agreed 1997
- The world has been a changing ever since:
- Some of the drivers may have changed
- New methodologies available for observations
- New reporting obligations, MSFD, WFD, OUV
- Needs renovation and increased visibility
- Needs value added by broader audience
- Prerequisite: Functional Trilateral Data Handling

Navigating the future...

- **sea level rising and responses of the biogeochemical system**
- **sea level rising and human responses, e.g. sand nourishments, water management**
- **the coastal battlefield: wind farms, harbors, logistics and traffic, recreation and fisheries/aquaculture**
- **the role of tourism and recreation for the regional economy**
- **POPs, microplastics**



SWIMWAY



- **Organized a successful conference in Hamburg, 24-26 September with 90 scientists, managers, administrators**
- **24 presentations in four sessions + break out topic sessions**
- **Results to be published in peer-reviewed journal**
- **Developed projects on i.a. science policy, water management (connectivity), fish life cycles and bottlenecks**
- **Identified and established contacts with funding agencies**
- **Worked on specifying more tangible trilateral fish targets**
- **Will propose ToRs and constituency of future trilateral WG**