MEETING DOCUMENT

**Task Group World Heritage 38**

Virtual meeting

7-8 September 2022

Wednesday 07.09.2022: 9:00 – 13:00

Thursday 08.09.2022: 13:00 – 17:00

<https://commonwaddenseasecretariat.my.webex.com/commonwaddenseasecretariat.my-en/j.php?MTID=m99d699584e500a899cdb36197e266c6c>

**Agenda Item: Single integrated management plan / implementation**

**Date:** 1 September 2022

**Submitted by: CWSS**

The WSB 37 (26 August 2022) requested to TG-WH and CWSS to propose a draft SIMP implementation strategy for the next WSB 38. The WSB 37 suggested to consider a step-by-step approach and a strategic prioritisation of the activities. The implementation strategy should be considered as a living document. The WSB 37 suggested for the prioritisation to look at energy as a current important topic that demands urgent tackling and considering the requests from WHC/IUCN and the concerns of the environmental NGOs. Also, in the framework of the SIMP implementation, TG-WH 37 (12-13 July 2022) tasked CWSS to prepare an overview of the main actors and the capacity/resource needs to implement the SIMP activities.

In order to address these tasks in a concrete way, it is proposed to define what to do and can be achieved in the next 4 years for each activity.

Annex 1 presents a draft SIMP operationalisation matrix for your review including first ideas and proposals for further joint development.

At TG-WH 38, we aim to agree on next steps for a living implementation strategy including an implementation matrix.

**Proposal:** The meeting is invited to:

1. **Review and add** on what to do and can be achieved in the next 4 years for each activity (Annex 1 Operationalisation matrix)**.**
2. **Reflect** on a strategic prioritisation of these activities.
3. **Discuss and agree** on the next steps to develop a strategy considering various formats for the implementation of the activities.
4. **Discuss and agree** what to present to the next WSB 38.
5. **The operationalisation matrix**

Following up on the agreement in TG-WH 37 which tasked CWSS to prepare an overview of the main actors and the capacity/resource needs to implement the SIMP activities and the request of WSB 37 to develop a living strategy to implement the SIMP, please find in Annex 1 a draft SIMP implementation matrix (zoom in to read better the text in the matrix).

To make it concrete, the matrix per key topic includes:

* the activities in each of the SIMP key topics,
* what exactly do we want to achieve in the next 4 years (for each activity),
* link to the Wilhelmshaven Declaration (to be aligned and updated)
* preliminary success metrics,
* who needs to be involved and who could lead,
* what is needed,
* milestones and deliverables,
* link to TWSC groups and tools and
* Comments

**Proposal:**

1. **Review and add** on what to do and can be achieved in the next 4 years for each activity (Annex 1 Operationalisation matrix)**.**
2. **Reflect** on a strategic prioritisation of these activities**.**
3. **The implementation plan/strategy**

Considerations for a SIMP implementation strategy are:

* The implementation of SIMP activities require an important amount of resources and capacities.
* It might be necessary to prioritise. Although it could be difficult to agree trilaterally, we need an agreement.
* Co-funding by EU project(s) would be optimal to meet the resource needs for the implementation (next opportunity is Interreg North Sea Region, deadline 14 November small scale or regular project).
* Various partners are thinking of project proposals to implement some of the SIMP activities (i.a. shipping and ports, pipelines and cable laying), which is excellent, however it is important to have some coordination.
* Suggestion from WSB 37: strategy to be a living document, consider a step-by-step approach and a strategic prioritisation of the activities.

With all this in mind, in TG-WH 38 we would like to:

1. Agree on some priority activities for the next four years that strategically address the key topics and involve stakeholders.
2. Identify the different formats for HOW to achieve each of the prioritised activities (or group of activities). For example, via strengthening existing TWSC groups and delegating activities to them (EG-C, NG-T, etc), project proposals led by TWSC, with support of the Partnership Hub develop project ideas in collaboration and led by partners (e.g. shipping and ports), cross cutting topics (e.g. cumulative effects, exchange and communication, etc).
3. Agree on next steps

**Proposal:**

1. **Discuss and agree** on the next steps to develop a strategy considering various formats for the implementation of the activities.
2. **Discuss and agree** what to present to the next WSB 38.

**Annex 1: SIMP Operationalisation Matrix**

**Fisheries**

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| **Activity** | **What do we want to achieve in the next 4 years**  **SMART Goal-relevant** | **WD? /**  **strategic**  **priority** | **Preliminary success metrics (key performance indicators)**  **To further define jointly** | **Who needs to be involved and roles?** | **What is needed?** | **Milestones and Deliverables** | **Link to:**  **(TWSC groups and tools)** | **Comments** |
| 1. The TWSC **to stimulate and facilitate exchange of information, knowledge, best practices, management experiences** about fields of action especially important for their potential impact on the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. The outcome of such a thematic exchange may lead **to identify and develop, where adequate, pilot studies and concrete measures** while including the relevant authorities as well as stakeholders such as the fisheries sector, environmental NGOs, and site managers. | In four years, we have:   * an accepted way of exchanging between site managers, fisheries sector, scientists and other experts * a decent data base accessible to all * at least one pilot study planned / in implementation | WD: p. 5, line 33  Through this act. achieve act. 2 | Relevant organisations identified, contacted, and building trust  Number of stakeholder organisations involved with respect to total and through time  Response of involved towards exchange format, access, and information in data base  Successful outcomes (pilot projects, review of framework, agreed measures) | relevant authorities as well as stakeholders such as the fisheries sector, environmental NGOs, and site managers.  DK:  SH:  HH:  LS:  DE:  NL:  **Lead:** TG-M? | Contact strategy and building trust activities  Continuous lobby/contact  Agree on few added value topics and deliverables (i.e., Fisheries framework and energy transition and Biodiversity strategy, - Bycatch database, impact on food chain, implementation of methods to reduce bycatch)  Regular meetings/ conversations (to figure out best way to exchange and data base needs, select topics, pilots, etc)  Efficient/good communication (languages, format, concise and clear) | Relevant stakeholders are convinced about the added value and engage in exchange and concrete outcomes (pilot projects, review of framework, agreed measures)  Effective communication formats, materials  At least one concrete outcome to prove effectiveness of formats and importance of exchange (e.g.):   * Scenarios and risk analysis of shifting fishing areas in the context of the current and future EEZ use expansion * Ecosystem-compatible fishing techniques (results of projects). | PH  EG Marine Mammals /EG birds (link to OSPAR and ASCOBANS), EG-C | COST Action- for exchange  Interreg for scenarios?  Capacity of CWSS and feasible prioritisation |
| 2. The TWSC, in dialogue with the competent authorities for fisheries and sector representatives at trilateral **level to review and update the Framework for Sustainable Fisheries to further its implementation in a collaborative approach**, well-coordinated with other existing bodies and committees treating fisheries and aquaculture at international, national and regional level. | In four years, we:   * Reviewed and updated the framework together with the relevant stakeholders. (Trilaterally agreed common goals for fisheries) * Identified limitations/ capacity gaps / needs for implementation.   (Through activity 1) | Achieve activity 2 through activity 1 | (Same as activity 1 and)  Relevant organisations identified, contacted, and engaged (through time)  Procedure and roadmap agreed  Progress reports  Successful outcomes (updated and agreed framework, agreement on further dissemination and implementation) | competent authorities for fisheries and sector representatives at trilateral level, site managers  DK:  SH:  HH:  LS:  DE:  NL:  **Lead:** TG-M? | (Same as activity 1 and)  previous work from TG-M draft status of implementation  Fisheries data gathering from competent organisations, from projects  Information gathering about existing bodies and committees treating fisheries and aquaculture at international, national and regional level  Analysis: Fisheries framework implementation mismatches at national, trilateral, EU levels (legal barriers, actors‘capacities needed)  Data base with information accessible | Continuous communication and exchange between fisheries sector trilaterally and site management, science  Framework for Sustainable Fisheries reviewed and updated (consider impact of climate change on marine food webs when developing a framework for sustainable fisheries)  Agreement on further dissemination and implementation (pilot projects, project proposals for covering implementation gaps) | TG-M, QSR fisheries, TMAP, EG-C?  EG-Swimway | Interreg small scale project?: Define and agree on trilateral common goals for fisheries based on the review and update of the Framework including climate change effects and cumulative effects. |
| 3. The TWSC and the **fishing schools to** **continue to improve the awareness of the Wadden Sea World Heritage values** and vulnerability, scientific basis, location and objectives of no-take areas, ecosystem-compatible and sustainable fishing techniques and fishing gear, waste prevention and the potential problems associated with marine litter (e.g., lost gear, dolly ropes) and the importance of fisheries for local and sustainable food security. This can be accompanied by information to the broad public through visitor and information centres, and the work of the International Wadden Sea School (IWSS). | In four years, we have:  Established a good collaboration with the fishing schools  Information about and to maintain the OUV as well as about sustainable fisheries practices is spread in programmes. Specific material is updated/planned for visitor centres and IWSS |  | Pensum includes OUV | Fishing schools, site managers – visitor centres, IWSS  DK:  SH:  HH:  LS:  DE:  NL:  **Lead:** CWSS? (more human resources needed-IWSS) | Contact and agree on collaboration with the fisheries schools and visitor centres and IWSS.  Resources to design, test, adapt and produce useful material / digitalisation  Campaigns: litter picking  Co-creation of materials and dissemination | Collaboration agreement  Materials (diverse and made for the different audiences)  Publications in social media, journals, radio. | NG-E, IWSS,  site managers (visitor centres) | Should be discussed with Anja Szczesinski regarding capacity  additional staff supporting communication tasks? (could also be part of partner institutions: e.g. HH) |
| 4. The TWSC through the trilateral groups responsible for research and fisheries to initiate fisheries research projects. Including encouraging the science sector, the fisheries sector and the site managers to develop and test new methods and practices in areas with existing/current fisheries, e.g., further sustainable and ecosystem-compatible fishing techniques and practices with the aim of reducing impacts on the sea bottom and by-catch, and to share the knowledge gained to foster their implementation. | In four years, we:  Have gathered information and results from previous studies  Exchanged with researchers from other countries addressing similar questions/ fisheries and aquaculture  Developed one pilot project |  | Exchange between involved stakeholders to identify potential pilot experiments, write proposals, etc  Baseline of information/studies needed  Accessible data base and maintenance  Number of meetings  Report/presentation in 16th ISWSS | fisheries sector, site managers, TPC-WSR, universities and agencies doing research on more sustainable fishing methods to reduce impacts.  DK:  SH:  HH:  LS:  DE:  NL:  **Lead:** TPC-WSR? | Collect, organise, and make accessible useful information (about other projects, studies, monitoring)  Gatherings for exchange and discussion (organise, conduct, systematise results, follow-up and write proposals/pilot studies)  Capabilities/resources for writing and submitting studies proposals | Cross-sectoral gatherings and exchange  Accessible data base  Proposals for pilot projects – applications to the TPC-WSR call  Collaboration on pilot projects | TMAP, TG-MA, TPC-WSR, PH |  |
| 5. The TWSC to through the trilateral groups responsible for science and fish to initiate fish research (e.g., quantity and quality, ecosystem function, no-take zones, nursery function for juvenile fish, endangered species, historic species and habitats occurrence, food web,) to support the OUV and sustainable management. | In four years, we have:  gathered information and results from previous studies  exchanged with researchers from other countries addressing similar questions/ fisheries and aquaculture  developed one pilot project | Yes, link to implementation of Swimway action plan | Exchange with other TWSC groups and experts  Baseline of information/studies needed  Data base accessible  Number of meetings  Report/presentation in 16th ISWSS | Swimway and TPC-WSR, universities and research agencies, site managers.  DK:  SH:  HH:  LS:  DE:  NL:  **Lead:** Swimway EG | Collect, organise, and make accessible useful information (about other projects, studies, monitoring)  Gatherings for exchange and discussion (organise, conduct, systematise results, follow-up and write proposals/pilot studies)  Capabilities/resources for writing and submitting studies proposals | Applications to the TPC-WSR call: Follow-up on past and current projects  Proposals for new studies.  Contribution to the Swimway action plan | Swimway and TPC-WSR, TMAP  EG-MM and EG birds | no take zones should maybe also be based on key foraging areas/breeding areas of birds and seals, see whale sanctuary-SH |
| 6. The TWSC to produce a coordinated proposal to contribute to reaching the objective of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 of at least one third of the protected area of the Wadden Sea for strict protection. | In four years, we have:  Gathered or produced information to support a trilaterally agreed proposal (scenarios) based on ecological integrity and considering Marine Spatial Plans (fisheries, energy, shipping uses) | WD: p. 4, line 27  Through activity 1 achieve this activity | Exchange with TWSC groups, sectors and experts  Baseline of information/studies needed  Data base accessible  Co-creation of proposal, iterative development and review  Report/presentation in 16th ISWSS | All TWSC groups and associated bodies, site managers, universities and research agencies, sectors’ representatives depending on location of strict protected areas (fisheries, coastal protection, energy, shipping, tourism)  DK:  SH:  HH:  LS:  DE:  NL:  **Lead:** TG-M?/CWSS? | Existing information  Identify gaps of information  Contact stakeholders  Produce proposal with scenarios based on layers of information (ecological integrity, human use)  Discussions, negotiation  Follow the process in EU | Meetings and agreements  Accessible data base  Scenarios based on ecological integrity information, human use, MSP | TWSC, QSR, TMAP | This is an overarching topic, why under fisheries? |
| Activities 7 and 8 are under discussion |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Tourism**

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| **Activity** | **What do we want to achieve in the next 4 years**  **SMART Goal-relevant** | **WD? /**  **strategic**  **priority** | **Preliminary success metrics (key performance indicators)**  **To further define jointly** | **Who needs to be involved and roles** | **What is needed** | **Milestones and Deliverables** | **Link to:**  **(TWSC groups and tools)** | **Comments** |
| 1. The TWSC to continue to improve the awareness of the Wadden Sea World Heritage environment, suitable behaviour at the sites, and the motivations to maintain or improve the environmental quality by providing consistent information for the sites, through visitor centres, ranger services and partnership programmes. | In four years, we have:   * Improved awareness * Improved coordination trilaterally |  | Through trilateral visitor survey  Ranger’s reports on infractions/behaviour  Partners, Rangers, centres consistent information? Need for further capacity building? Need to homogenise some key information?  Improvement in centres and programmes | visitor centres, rangers and partners in programmes, NG-ST.  DK:  SH:  HH:  LS:  DE:  NL:  **Lead**: CWSS and site managers nationally? | Agreed consistent information trilaterally  Efficient/good communication  Resources to maintain rangers' programmes and for visitor centres,  Best practices to be a partner/what are common gaps/how to improve | Well prepared rangers (increase of number where needed? Maybe in longer time?)  Partner programmes in the three countries, connected with each other, sustainable services and with good knowledge and information to share  Exchange among visitor centres trilaterally and key information is consistent | PH, NG-ST, Partner programmes, PH | project proposal VaBene (DK-SH)  consistent information / messages trilaterally – ONE WH |
| 2. Dependant on their specific competencies in the three countries, continue or start to connect site managers to the Sustainable Tourism Strategy in order to **add their expertise on nature conservation**. If necessary, they could be asked to provide advice on the effectiveness of the current national/local policies on sustainable tourism. Involvement of site managers is focussed on their experience in the field and their country specific role in monitoring, visitor management, surveillance, and enforcement. Desired results could be, where adequate or needed, the improvement of visitor management or zoning schemes, taking into account that the existing nature conservation standard should be maintained or improved. | In four years, we have:   * Disseminated the STS and action plan among nature conservation site managers * Site managers are part of the discussions and projects to improve nature conservation in tourism * Monitoring parameters for TMAP (tourism impact / in the future –next 4/8years- data can support the review of zoning schemes) | WD: p. 6, line1 | Requests to site managers for recommendations/technical advice on specific tourism topics/areas  (e.g., monitoring parameters to measure tourism impact) | Site managers, NG-ST (TG-MA)  DK:  SH:  HH:  LS:  DE:  NL:  **Lead:** NG-ST? | Site managers time resources to involve and provide input  Meetings / discussions between site managers, tourism sector, experts | Advice on the effectiveness of specific current national/local policies on sustainable tourism (priority topics e.g., Tourism sector, site managers, experts in collaboration with TG-MA have identified the set of parameters needed to monitor tourism impact activities on OUV (link to act. 3, first 2 bullet points)  (Project proposal) | Depending on topic different TWSC groups and TMAP, PH, NG-ST  EG MM/social science sector: seals and tourism project |  |
| 3. The TWSC, through the responsible trilateral group, to strengthen initiatives for cross-border cooperation for fostering the nature conservation aspect of sustainability in tourism by:   * Addressing gaps of knowledge regarding the impacts of tourism on the OUV, i.a. by research projects. * Analysing existing national monitoring data in terms of effects from tourism and considering cumulative effects (obligation in Habitats Directive in case of projects or plans seeking permission). * Developing appropriate trilateral tools to support visitors understanding for suitable and required behaviour in the natural environment and towards wildlife, while making the experience of nature possible, * Improving the Wadden Sea World Heritage brand visibility emphasising that it promotes nature conservation via responsible tourism practices and according to the Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan, * Enhancing coordination of the various supra-regional and regional projects and activities. * Exchanging information about training and education initiatives. * Strengthening and expanding the communication and collaboration with the authorities, agencies, and small and medium sized enterprises (SME) responsible for touristic activities. * Strengthening interdisciplinary dialogue and research between natural and social sciences about values in nature conservation, protected area management and sustainable development. | In four years, we have:  Trilateral projects on the bullet point topics (prioritise for first 4 years) | Activity 2 and 3 can benefit each other | NG-ST involves the appropriate actors/experts/site managers for promoting cross-border cooperation through concrete trilateral projects on priority topics | NG-ST, site managers, and stakeholders depending on topic  DK:  SH:  HH:  LS:  DE:  NL:  **Lead:** NG-ST to identify topics and then lead depends on topic | Meetings / discussions / agreements  Resources to organise, systematise | Concrete cross-border projects on priority aspects benefiting nature  Contribute to the next update of the action plan | NG-ST. TMAP, PH, QSR, TPC-WSR, other twsc groups | VaBene  Denmark: guidelines for seal tourism in development) |

**Shipping**

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| **Activity** | **What do we want to achieve in the next 4 years**  **SMART Goal-relevant** | **WD? /**  **strategic**  **priority** | **Preliminary success metrics (key performance indicators)**  **To further define jointly** | **Who needs to be involved and roles?** | **What is needed?** | **Milestones and Deliverables** | **Link to:**  **(TWSC groups and tools)** | **Comments/relevance for NSR/other projects to consider** |
| 1. The **TWSC in cooperation with the competent national authorities, to** **discuss the further implementation of the Operational Plans** for the Wadden Sea PSSA (Annex 5, Tønder Declaration 2014), including issues proposed by the site managers, environmental NGOs and municipalities, and an assessment of the response capacity to shipping accidents in each country. [To be aligned with Wilhelmshaven Declaration] | In four years, we have:  An established relation to the competent national authorities.  An accepted way of exchanging/maintaining dialogue.  Basic agreements to address gaps for further implementing the PSSA OP. | If approved yes | Agreed strategy within the WSB/TWSC to establish and maintain long-term dialogue with the competent authorities  Progress reports to the WSB  Agreements | competent national authorities in:  DK:  SH:  HH:  LS:  DE:  NL:  Lead: TG-M? | (Identify and) Contact the competent authorities involved in the topics addressed by the OP.  Lobby- to identify, communicate the added value  Develop a strategy within the TWSC/WSB with clear organogram for implementation (also I.r.t. act. 2)  Resources to Communicate/socialise the OP (if necessary, develop (digital) material) | High-level workshop / agreement of collaboration  Assessment of the status of implementation of the operational plans and identification of needs, limitations, and gaps for the further implementation  Identify and show case examples of best practices implementing the PSSA OP  Agreements  Update of OP | PH,  Round table/ WSF-WST projects  Feed into activity 2 | Potential use of resulting tools or partners from the Interreg project: *A North Sea Perspective on Shipping, Energy and Environmental Aspects in Maritime Spatial Planning*  https://northsearegion.eu/northsee  BUND and WST/WSF looking for additional resources (potentially Interreg NSR small scale) |
| 2. The TWSC to stimulate and facilitate **trilateral exchange and dialogue among site managers and involving the experts, institutions and the industry** working on e.g. the following points with direct impact on the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site and its key values and taking in consideration other ongoing initiatives and groups at the national and regional levels (such as e.g. MSFD groups dealing with underwater noise, speed limits, definition of Good Environmental Descriptors for under water noise, OSPAR groups handling sediment movements regulations). This trilateral exchange **can result in the identification of priorities to address with related sectors, specific products relevant for site managers or in technical papers providing advice, and subsequently in the implementation of measures**:   * Introduction of speed limits to restraint emissions, underwater noise, and disturbance, if not in place or inadequate. * Create incentives and strengthen regulation for an environmentally friendly design and decarbonisation of the shipping sector in the Wadden Sea to avoid e.g., greenhouse gas and noise emissions (noting initiatives and rules at the EU and international levels) by stimulating electrification of ferries and coastal shipping. * Research to reduce the impacts of underwater noise on marine animals (especially on poorly researched species such as diving birds, fish, and invertebrates). * Develop Wadden Sea wide nature friendly navigation guidelines for marine traffic in the property considering the existing local (federal states, provinces, municipalities), national and regional (EU, North Sea) regulations. * Research, exchange on and support of nature friendly practices for dredging of shipping lanes and within Wadden Sea ports and related dumping (existing regulation, studies, good practices) where dredging and dumping is unavoidable. * Identification and research on potential effects of climate change and adaptive measures for shipping and ports on the OUV of the Wadden Sea. * Benefits of the Wadden Sea PSSA in the framework of IMO including Associated Protective Measures and the Operational Plans. [To be aligned with Wilhelmshaven Declaration] | In four years, we have:   * an accepted way of exchanging, * topics for exchange prioritised (ranked) * one technical papers or specific product for site managers |  | Topics for exchange and dialogue prioritised  Added value of participating is clear and is formulated for communication  Relevant stakeholders and organisations identified and contacted and participating when invited  Successful outcomes (agreements, technical papers, product) | site managers, experts, institutions, and the industry working on the addressed topics  WSF / WST  Depending on topic other stakeholders such as the fisheries sector, environmental NGOs, could be involved  DK:  SH:  HH:  LS:  DE:  NL:  **Lead**: TG-M? | Prioritisation strategy: site managers workshop with experts for consensus?  Define expectations  Meetings/conversations to figure out best way to exchange  Efficient/good communication  Identify EU, NSR groups dealing with the topics addressed and involve them when relevant  Collect and systematise ground base information from technical and scientific projects relevant  Decent data base accessible  Resources to systematise information collected, also from discussions and agreements, organise meetings, create and maintain data base | Relevant stakeholders are convinced about the added value and engage in exchange and concrete outcomes (conception of potential trilateral agreements, products for site managers, projects)  Concrete examples for exchange and resulting products:  Scenarios and risk analysis of shipping lanes and practices that require to be adjusted in the context of the current and future EEZ use expansion and interaction with other sectors/adjustments i.e., shifting fishing areas  APM proposal for IMO | TG-M, QSR shipping, TMAP, PH, EG-MM, EG SMD | Potential use of resulting tools or partners from the Interreg project: *A North Sea Perspective on Shipping, Energy and Environmental Aspects in Maritime Spatial Planning*  https://northsearegion.eu/northsee  COST Action- for exchange?  Interreg for scenarios- energy transition  EG-MM s: 1) impact of pollution (noise, chemicals) on marine mammals/birds/habitats), 2) impact of dredging on benthos communities (at digging and dumping sites)  EG SMD: how does dredging affect currents and this the accumulation of sediments on saltmarshes (needed for climate change adaptation and coastal protection) |
| 3. Site managers to **participate as nature conservation stakeholders in trilateral initiatives** involving shipping authorities, ship-owners, seafarer associations, and harbour operators, the Wadden Sea Forum, and the Wadden Sea Team of environmental NGOs to discuss about specific priorities and explore ways to implement and/or make use of:   * Best practices (showcase exemplary cases of environmentally friendly practices in ships and ports e.g., regarding the prevention and control of the spread of introduced species -in recreational and commercial shipping-, environmentally friendly ports); * Effective ship traffic and container tracking systems and monitoring. [To be aligned with Wilhelmshaven Declaration] * International standards regarding e.g., safety, speed limits, and pollution. [To be aligned with Wilhelmshaven Declaration] * Voluntary good management practices to highlight best-practice for a World Heritage site. | In four years, we have:   * Site managers have a solid knowledge base and equal voice in trilateral round table for shipping and ports * Site managers from the three countries have been part of the organised round tables * Site managers have contributed with relevant topics for the WSWH (prioritised and treated in activity 2) | This can support/do in parallel with activity 1 | Capacity built in site managers (knowledge and time) to represent nature conservation in trilateral initiatives about shipping and ports  Technical papers, products to enrich the RT discussions, Recommendations  2 big round tables in 4 years  Agreements | shipping authorities, ship-owners, seafarer associations, and harbour operators, the Wadden Sea Forum, and the Wadden Sea Team of environmental NGOs, site managers  DK:  SH:  HH:  LS:  DE:  NL:  **Lead**: WSF/WST – in the framework of PH | Support/build the capacity for site managers from the three countries to represent nature conservation in RT  (For RT:  Identification of relevant topics and issues where a cross-sectorial discussion group is of added value  Identify EU, NSR groups dealing with the topics addressed and involve them when relevant  Collect and systematise ground base information from technical and scientific projects relevant to the topic treated | Site managers knowledgeable and have the capacity (resources) to participate and inform and lead the discussions.  2 big round tables with agreements on relevant topics for the WSWH and NSR  (e.g., zero emissions, lessons from MSC Zoe-safety)  Draft APM proposal discussed and iterative review | WST, WSF, PH | BUND and WST/WSF looking for additional resources (potentially Interreg NSR small scale)  Maybe aim high and discuss with other marine world heritage sites common guidelines on shipping? |
| 4. The TWSC in communication with the competent authorities, the site managers and stakeholders, to **raise awareness and education among shipping and ports stakeholders** about e.g., the Wadden Sea World Heritage values and vulnerability, best practices, the existing regulations and standards regarding safety, speed limits/zoning, pollution, introduction of invasive species. | In four years, we have:   * An agreement on collaboration * Updated/digital information fit to use | There was a concrete request some years ago. Related to PSSA OP 5 | Material intelligently designed-integrated in what is already being used/is proven to be used | Communication or education departments of the competent authorities, the site managers, shipping and ports stakeholders, IWSS?  DK:  SH:  HH:  LS:  DE:  NL:  **Lead**: CWSS? | Identify and collect the current material used by shipping and ports stakeholders to update, further improve (digitalise) | Material: usable, digital, concise, easy to communicate | NG-E, TG-M, all groups | Some communication activities are already part of the PH Shipping project  This is in fact OP5? |

**Energy**

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| **Activity** | **What do we want to achieve in the next 4 years**  **SMART Goal-relevant** | **WD? /**  **strategic**  **priority** | **Preliminary success metrics (key performance indicators)**  **To further define jointly** | **Who needs to be involved and roles?** | **What is needed?** | **Milestones and Deliverables** | **Link to:**  **(TWSC groups and tools)** | **Comments** |
| 1. Site managers to enhance and maintain dialogue and collaboration with the agencies, energy companies and authorities responsible for spatial planning and technical design to:   * Learn in time about future plans and projects related to energy transition near the Wadden Sea World Heritage and get involved early in the process of planning and design of projects. * Use the window of opportunity of planning and designing new projects to advocate for the application of best practices for the reduction of impacts from e.g., technical shut-down options in times of mass migration of birds or bats, emissions of light and noise, implementation of buffer zones and functional safety distances. * Compile lessons learned from the most advanced projects and from pilot projects and share this knowledge trilaterally. | In four years, we have:   * Direct dialogue and established collaboration (site managers are involved in planning, design, and maintenance) with agencies, authorities, and companies * The necessary technical information and lessons learned useful for making decisions about introducing environmentally friendly practices to reduce effect to the OUV. | WD: p 7, line 12. | Network established at national, trilateral and NSR level.  Participation of nature conservation site managers in planning, design, and maintenance | Site managers, agencies, energy companies and authorities responsible for spatial planning and technical design  DK:  SH:  HH:  LS:  DE:  NL:  **Lead:** Cables and pipeline group? | This is done at national level, however trilateral coordination and trilateral sense is needed  At national and NSR level it is important to learn about the latest plans and keep up to date  Resources and capacity to get involved in processes (national, trilateral and NSR level) also to learn about best practices that can be used  Compilation of information, systematise  Efficient/good communication  Important to also consider the impact of LNG/oil terminals in the Wadden Sea (monitoring of impacts of newly build terminals) | Conservation sector/TWSC is involved in planning and development of projects for energy transition in NSR  Compilation of best practices (incl. necessary technical information) to reduce impacts on the OUV | PH  TG-M, Cables and pipeline group | Potential use of resulting tools or partners from the Interreg project: *A North Sea Perspective on Shipping, Energy and Environmental Aspects in Maritime Spatial Planning*  https://northsearegion.eu/northsee |
| 2. The TWSC to facilitate trilateral exchange in regular events for site managers involving the experts and/or institutions working on e.g., the following points with direct impact on the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site and its key values. This trilateral exchange can result in the identification of priorities to discuss with the agencies, energy companies and authorities responsible for spatial planning and technical design or in technical papers providing advice on:   * Cable and pipeline laying: optimisation of sensitive routing, laying techniques, cable design, maintenance, size of cables with a view to reduce their number, research on cumulative effects, application of EIA and SEA law and avoidance and mitigation of impacts of the upcoming planning and building of new subsea cables and pipelines. This exchange could lead to the development of a common Mitigation Toolbox and enhanced transboundary coordination of integrated grids and interconnectors, further developing §29 from the Leeuwarden Declaration 2018. * Potential impacts of large-scale solar platforms, floating solar plants in the offshore area on the marine ecosystem and other renewable energy installations in the Wadden Sea World Heritage: influence on key values of the Site, especially bird migration. * Feasibility of alternative technologies to transport energy from offshore wind farms to the mainland or to places of energy consumption, especially hydrogen technology, including the assessment of potential impacts on the marine ecosystem and bird migration. * Risk assessment of carbon capture, storage, and transport future technology. | In four years, we have:   * an accepted way of exchanging among site managers trilaterally, * at least one event per year involving experts on different topics * pilot projects/technical paper(s) on priority topics for WSWH   (e.g., WD: multiuse of space (bullet point 1), WD: evaluate effects of new energy prod – related to the bullet points in act 2, monitoring of impacts of newly build terminals). | WD: p 6 line 33, 39.  Activity 1 and 2 can mutually benefit | Number of events  (2-4 in 4 years)  Technical papers / trilateral projects/proposal for monitoring parameters | site managers involving the experts and/or institutions working on relevant to OUV topics, agencies, energy companies and authorities responsible for spatial planning and technical design  DK:  SH:  HH:  LS:  DE:  NL:  **Lead:** Cables and pipeline group? | Status and trends on the four bullet points of activity 2  Studies, interviews, workshops, contact experts at national and EU levels  Good communication  Resources to organise events and continuous exchange, collect information, systematise information and produce technical papers / projects | identification of priorities to discuss with the agencies, energy companies and authorities responsible for spatial planning and technical design  technical papers providing advice  Projects’ results | TG-M, QSR energy, TMAP, Cables and pipeline group, PH |  |
| 3. The TWSC to extend the existing trilateral agreement (in the Wadden Sea Plan 2010 and World Heritage Nomination Dossier) prohibiting the construction of wind turbines, oil and gas exploration and exploitation, and construction of new installations for oil and gas in the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site to other upcoming large-scale forms of energy capturing platforms like large solar platforms and/or tidal power plants. [To be aligned with Wilhelmshaven Declaration] | In four years, we have:  Trilateral agreement prohibiting the construction, exploration, and exploitation through upcoming large-scale forms of energy capturing platforms like large solar platforms and/or tidal power plants | WD: p. 6, line 42 | Discussions in WSB  Positions from the three Wadden Sea countries | WSB  **Lead**: country delegations and WSB members/CWSS | Discussions in WSB | Agreement | WSB |  |
| 4. The TWSC through the **trilateral groups responsible for energy and for research** and in collaboration with the relevant groups and experts, to formulate relevant research questions to investigate (potential) effects of new types of energy production, storage and transmission while considering nature conservation management and cumulative impacts (and when possible, develop trilateral research projects). | In four years, we have:   * Exchange between site managers and scientists * At least one trilateral project (proposal) | WD: p.6, line 39  In relation to activity 2 | Number of meetings / exchanges  Progress reports / discussion papers  Trilateral projects | TPC-WSR, site managers, experts, universities, research agencies -depending on topic-  DK:  SH:  HH:  LS:  DE:  NL:  **Lead:** Cables and pipeline group, TPC-WSR? | Input from activity 2 to develop research questions for projects | Identify priorities and gaps of knowledge for research questions and trilateral projects  Relevant research questions formulated / Projects’ (preliminary) results | Cables and pipeline group, MAP, TG-MA, TPC-WSR, PH  EG MM, EG birds: windfarms can have negative (noise and light pollution, collision risk) and positive (settlement of mussels, fish, etc) impacts |  |

**Coastal Flood Defence and Protection**

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| **Activity** | **What do we want to achieve in the next 4 years**  **SMART Goal-relevant** | **WD? /**  **strategic**  **priority** | **Preliminary success metrics (key performance indicators)**  **To further define jointly** | **Who needs to be involved and roles?** | **What is needed?** | **Milestones and Deliverables** | **Link to:**  **(TWSC groups and tools)** | **Comments** |
| 1. **Site managers to enhance and maintain communication and collaboration with the agencies and authorities** responsible for coastal flood defence and protection to:   * Use the window of opportunity to introduce, where adequate and feasible with priority no-regret measures, nature-based solutions, especially when alterations or new costal flood defence and protection structures are planned (see Box 3. Definitions). * Advocate for considering the Wadden Sea World Heritage OUV in the application of Environmental Impact Assessments, Strategic Impact Assessments, and regulations. * Encourage cooperation of site managers and the agencies and authorities responsible for coastal flood defence and protection in pilot projects. * Stimulate societal debate and motivation for adapting to an inevitable sea level rise in a nature- and climate-friendly manner. | In four years, we have:   * Direct dialogue and established collaboration (site managers are involved in planning, design, and maintenance) with agencies and authorities. * Proposal on how to -in practice- consider the OUV in EIA, SIA and in regulations. * The necessary technical information and lessons learned useful for making decisions to introduce NBS to reduce effect to the OUV. * Collaboration to co-design pilot projects and stimulate social debate |  | Network established at national and trilateral and NSR level  Progress reports on proposal for integrating OUV in EIS and SIA  Methods/Formats, events, number of posts, people engaged in societal debates | Site managers, agencies, authorities responsible for coastal flood defence and protection  DK:  SH:  HH:  LS:  DE:  NL:  **Lead:** EG-C? | This is done at national level however, trilateral coordination and trilateral sense is needed  Learn about best practices that can be used (pros cons, etc)/ contact the agencies with the latest and best NBS compatible with our plans.  Resources and capacity to get involved in processes (national, trilateral)  Compilation of information, systematise, communicate  Efficient/good communication  Lobby  Organise, start/use existing ways and maintain Societal debate (also newspapers, social media)  Studies/information: How decisions in one place affect the region? And the OUV (e.g., swimways, geomorphological dynamics) | Network with organisations in charge and organisations with the best NBS technologies  Best practices collected with all relevant and needed information (fit to use)  Plan and first steps of societal debate (increased awareness? monitoring) | PH, EG-C | Potential use of resulting tools or partners from the Interreg project: *A North Sea Perspective on Shipping, Energy and Environmental Aspects in Maritime Spatial Planning*  https://northsearegion.eu/northsee |
| 2. The TWSC, to **stimulate and facilitate regular trilateral exchange among site managers** to:   * Continue to strengthen and share best practices, experiences, and knowledge about specific topics of interest (e.g., nature-based solutions for coastal flood protection and defence (no-regret measures), good practice examples for coherence and compensation measures, relocation of (summer-) dikes, restoration of natural dynamics in dunes (e.g. washover). * Formulate relevant research questions to investigate potentials for nature-based solutions as well as adaptation and compensation measures, to restore natural dynamics and, when possible, develop trilateral research projects. The upcoming (pilot) projects on the implementation of nature-based solutions for coastal protection in the Wadden Sea should be used to quantify ecological and socio-economic effects and to be able to transfer these to a larger coherent area. * Continue to support and stimulate, where necessary, the agencies and authorities responsible for coastal flood defence and protection to implement more environmentally friendly solutions contributing to the safeguarding of the OUV. | In four years, we have:   * an accepted way of exchanging among site managers trilaterally, * established periodic exchange between site managers and scientists * decent data base of best practices, lessons learned, NBS projects * At least one trilateral project (proposal) to strengthen best practices or test NBS | Activity 1 and 2 can mutually benefit | Number of events  (2-4 in 4 years)  Progress on data base (co-design? and population with information)  Project ideas / project proposals resulting from exchange | site managers involving the experts and/or institutions working on relevant to OUV topics-CFDP, NBS  DK:  SH:  HH:  LS:  DE:  NL:  **Lead:** EG-C? | Collect information, studies, interviews, workshops, contact experts at national and EU levels  Good communication  Resources to organise events and continuous exchange, collect information, systematise information and produce technical papers / projects | Best practices, successful NBS technical information collected and shared  adaptation and compensation measures in the Wadden Sea countries (and some NSR examples) collected and shared incl. lessons learned.  Trilateral projects including agencies and competent authorities | TMAP, EG-C, PH |  |
| 3. The TWSC through site managers and, where not being part of it, the responsible nature conservation authorities, to continue to improve the awareness of the Wadden Sea World Heritage natural geological dynamic processes (sediment dynamics), the role of natural factors in coastal protection (islands, dunes, saltmarshes), the significance of river and marsh water body connectivity for fish and ecological processes, the role of tidal processes for some coastal habitats, among authorities and agencies responsible for planning, construction and maintenance of coastal flood defence and protection measures. This shall be accompanied by:   * Information to the broad public through visitor and information centres, and the work of the International Wadden Sea School (IWSS). * An outreach programme directed to coastal communities, those managing areas at risk of flooding until 2100 and other relevant actors in a collaborative approach with the competent authorities and based on the CCAS. | In four years, we have:   * An agreement on collaboration between the relevant stakeholders to review, update and produce awareness materials. * Co-created (incl. CFDP stakeholders) communication strategy * Some updated/digital information fit to use * Agreed trilateral project idea for an outreach programme for coastal communities | In relation to 1: societal debate | Contact and meetings  What kind of material and information do we have? What do we need?  Progress on collaboration and coordination  Focus groups experiments with information and debate? | site managers, IWSS, responsible nature conservation authorities, public through visitor and information centres, coastal communities, EG-Swimway , EG-C  DK:  SH:  HH:  LS:  DE:  NL:  **Lead:** CWSS? | Identify and collect the current material / formats to update, further improve (digitalise)  Good communication and dissemination  Meetings and discussions | Agreement of collaboration  Effective and updated materials and formats  Project idea/proposal | NG-E, IWSS,  site managers (visitor centres), EG-Swimway , EG-C, other TWSC groups  EG SMD: sedimentation and accretion as adaptations to climate change, habitat impacts of coastal protection measures  EG birds: impact on breeding birds |  |

**Climate change (TG-WH ask EG-C?)**

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| **Recommendations** | **What do we want to achieve in the next 4 years**  **SMART Goal-relevant** | **WD? /**  **strategic**  **priority** | **Preliminary success metrics (key performance indicators)**  **To further define jointly** | **Who needs to be involved and roles?** | **What is needed?** | **Milestones and Deliverables** | **Link to:**  **(TWSC groups and tools)** | **Comments** |
| 1.Stimulate and maintain trilateral knowledge exchange and interdisciplinary discussions about, among other: best practices for adapting to climate change, projects for restoration and re-dynamizing of threatened habitats as an adaptation measure, methods to limit the damage or prevent negative impact of climate change on the OUV, the cumulative and combined effects of both climate change and human use to advise permitting procedures, water withdrawal and water management on the islands, improve knowledge about the potential effects of climate change on economic, social, and cultural aspects. | In four years, we have:   * Successful events for trilateral knowledge exchange and interdisciplinary discussions * Established a network for collaboration (PH) |  | Formats of exchange  Network | site managers involving the experts and/or institutions working on relevant topics  lead EG-C? | Good communication/exchange format  Good- up to date information  Science based | technical papers providing advice  concrete products / information supporting CFDP | EG-C, EG SMD, site managers |  |
| 2.Integrate and mainstream the Trilateral Climate Change Adaptation Strategy into all activity fields and make it more publicly known. | In four years, we have:   * Ask EG-C: specific activity to propose how to integrate in practice. * Showcase examples on how this has been done | yes | Principles taken up  Topics/action plans adopting principles from the CCAS | site managers, TWSC, WSB  organisations/agencies working with topics related to the principles or addressing cc adaptation  lead EG-C? | Dissemination and lobby | Agreements  Adapted action plans integrating CCAS principles |  |  |
| Continue monitoring the Trilateral Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and embed the results in long-term trilateral climate change policies. | In four years, we have:   * One monitoring and progress report with suggestions for adaptation if necessary * Suggestions embedded in long-term trilateral climate change policies in MD 2026 | In connection with recommendation 2 |  | site managers, TWSC, WSB, Ministerial Council,  organisations/agencies working with topics related to the principles or addressing cc adaptation  lead EG-C? |  | Agreements reflected in MD 2026 |  |  |
| Improve communication on OUV key values and climate change effects on the ability of the Wadden Sea to deliver ecosystem services in relation to economic, social, and cultural values. | In four years, we have:  Clear messages developed together with experts and local people.  Communication materials | In connection with activity 3 of Coastal Flood Defence and Protection |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Strengthen support for initiatives aiming at reducing the Wadden Sea Region's CO2 emissions in order to contribute to the overall EU CO2 reduction targets, in particular the decarbonization of the energy sector, the traffic sector and the tourism sector and also strive to take on a pioneering role in this respect as part of their own responsibility as site management operators. |  | In connection with shipping and ports |  |  |  |  |  | https://islander-project.eu/ |
| Explore and emphasize the potential of typical Wadden Sea habitats as "blue carbon" ecosystems to contribute to natural CO2 sequestration (e.g. saltmarshes, sediments), while taking into account anthropogenic pressures possible impacting these processes. This may include nature-based solutions for coastal protection given their capacity to act in synergy with blue carbon, biodiversity safeguard and coastal protection. [To be aligned with the Wilhelmshaven Declaration] | COST Action application and implementation to exchange with researchers and pilot projects |  | Find potential partners to exchange with  Application  Implementation | EG-C  Coastal protection agencies  Universities and research institutes working in these topics | Gather information on projects, partners  Write proposals for exchange and for research | Fit to use tools for CO2 sequestration |  | COST action |