MEETING DOCUMENT

**Expert Group Climate Change Adaptation (EG-C 12)**

09 February 2022

Online meeting

**Agenda Item: 5. Trilateral Governmental Conference 2022**

**Subject: Call for side event**

**Document No.:** EG-C 12/5.2

**Date:** 28 January 2022

**Submitted by: CWSS**

From 28 November to 1 December 2022, the 14th Trilateral Governmental Conference (TGC) will take place in Wilhelmshaven. It is hosted by the current German TWSC Presidency and organised by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment in collaboration with the Lower Saxon Ministry for the Environment and the Lower Saxon Wadden Sea National Park Authority, supported by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat.

EG-C started brainstorming for a possible side event at TGC in an online consultation ([https://waddenseasecretariat-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/busch\_waddensea-secretariat\_org/EcSKdvGnrYJJlKSlKo3Cg7wBAF\_BcAsSv548ZCcpIwKQlQ?e=bHD6oH](https://waddenseasecretariat-my.sharepoint.com/%3Aw%3A/g/personal/busch_waddensea-secretariat_org/EcSKdvGnrYJJlKSlKo3Cg7wBAF_BcAsSv548ZCcpIwKQlQ?e=bHD6oH)) and agreed in their EG-C 11 meeting that Claus von Hoerschelmann should start preparing a storybook for visualization (e.g., in a video or animation) of changes in the Wadden Sea and OUV due to climate change, possibly also including the trilateral Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. A combination with the idea presented by Frank Ahlhorn will be investigated.

This document contains a storybook for visualization (e.g., in a video or animation) of changes in the Wadden Sea and OUV due to climate change, possibly also including the trilateral Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

**Proposal:** EG-C is invited to agree on storybook

## This used to be a good stopover

**Scenes from a vanishing future**

**Preface**

The waddensea is facing changes, caused by the results of climate change. A rising sea level will lead to higher floods, larger portions of the mudflats and sandbars beeing flooded, continiously, a different sediment composition of the tidal sea floor.

Shorebirds and ducks, visiting this area in vast numbers during the migration to and from the arctic breeding grounds, probably lose a a large portion of the foraging area due to permanent inundation, even during low tide.

The larvae of fish, hatching here, do not find the appropriate food, species of planktic crustaceans or algae because of the altered annual cycles, caused by warmer waters.

Different species make use of the wadden sea habitats, adapted to warmer temperatures.

 These processes in the temperate zones of the north-eastern Atlantic should be visualized in an animated movie clip.

Spoiler: The effects of climate change are even more dramatic in the breeding areas of many waders, in the arctic. Zones of perma frost recede, food is available for a longer period in the year. This could cause shorter migration routes, longer stays in the breeding areas. In the equatorial zones the wintering sites might change as well, losing attractivity because of hotter climate, desertification or more unstable weather scenarios. So the whole system of bird migration is on the brink.

In a human scale simulation, the scenarios were to be simulated by people during their coffee break. Loss of feeding grounds: the coffee break takes place in a room too small or with fewer tables/chairs than necessary.

To compensate this, other feeding grounds (rooms, maybe on the upper or lower floor), could be used

A mismatch in timing would mean moving the coffee break way early or way late. Another version sees coffe being served at the very end of the break.

A mismatch in food species is represented by other beverages being served than coffe. Something more exotic like chai, broth or oat milk cocoa.

**Scenarios**

**Loss of feeding grounds**

The globe seen from above, the North Sea in center. Zooming into the Waddensea coast, a flock of birds flying. The birds seem hungry and look for a resting spot.

Zooming in closer, Halligen Islands, coastline, mudflats appear. Most of the mudflats are inundated, the dryer areas already crammed with other birds, poking for worms and mussles. The flooded mudflats can be seen through covering water.

The flock tries to land anyways, in the shallow water. Having landed, the water reaches up to their bellies, making it hard to feed with their beaks too short to reach the floor, the worms, mussles through the water.

Birds talking to each other, that this used tob e a good stopover, strange times, any ideas anybody? Maybe call the pizza service.. a phone, anybody?

New scene with the explanation of the rising sea level covering feeding grounds, map, spoken text

**Mismatch in timing**

The globe seen from above, the North Sea in center. Zooming into the Waddensea coast, a flock of birds flying. The birds seem hungry and look for a resting spot.

Zooming in closer, Halligen Islands, coastline, mudflats appear. Most of the mudflats are inundated, the dryer areas are filled with bigger mussles, strong worms, bigger crabs.

Birds landing cannot get a hold of these stout specimen, the food has outgrown the eater.

Birds talking to each other, that this used to be a good stopover, strange times, any ideas anybody? Maybe call the pizza service.. a phone, anybody?

New scene with the explanation of the warmer temperatures leading to quicker growth of the prey species.., map, spoken text

**Mismatch in species composition**

The globe seen from above, the North Sea in center. Zooming into the Waddensea coast, a flock of birds flying. The birds seem hungry and look for a resting spot.

Zooming in closer, Halligen Islands, coastline, mudflats appear. Most of the mudflats are inundated, the dryer areas are settled with tropical species, sharp edged clams, Crabs with long tweezers.

Birds landing try to catch this new prey but fail.

Birds talking to each other, this used tob e a good stopover, strange times, any ideas anybody? Maybe call the pizza service.. a phone, anybody?

New scene with the explanation of the warmer temperatures leading to quicker growth of the prey species, outgrowing the edible size, map, spoken text

**Finishing scene**

New Scene: Pizza service, on a bicycle, arriving with a box full of worms and small sized clams: Who has ordered Frutti del mare, family size? But this is the last time he’ll deliver here, way too wet, meanwhile….