MEETING DOCUMENT

**Task Group Management (TG-M 22-1)**

17 January 2022

Online meeting

**Agenda Item: 6. Implementation of the Leeuwarden Declaration and work plan TG-M 2021/22**

**Subject: TG-M work plan 2022**

**Document No.:** TG-M 22-1/6

**Date:** 17 January 2022

**Submitted by: CWSS**

This document contains Task Group Management (TG-M) related articles of the Leeuwarden Declaration and room for inclusion of TG-M activities to fill possible gaps until the Trilateral Governmental Conference (TGC) end of 2022. In light grey, current text of the Policy Assessment Report is added.

This agenda item was discussed by TG-M in their TG-M 22-1 meeting by use of a temporary online document 

This version is for documentation and contains additions by TG-M in TG-M 22-1, which are indicated in the document.

**Proposal:** The group is invited to agree on agree on activities/products

*TG-M22-1-6\_LD\_workplan:* Open items Leeuwarden Declaration

The following is a list of TG-M related articles of the [Leeuwarden Declaration 2018](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/resources/2018-leeuwarden-declaration).

Please enrich with open items/activities/products for 2022

**14. Work** *intensively on cooperation at the operational management level and secure adequate wardening and management across the whole Wadden Sea Area*

Progress: The political and operational level is being covered by the Task Group Management. Site manager´s workshops focussing on the operational management level were conducted as part of the SIMP (see 3. SIMP). A wardening workshop was planned already in the previous Dutch presidency in 2016, but had to be postponed, in this current presidency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A new attempt is planned for April 2022. led by the Dutch representation of the Task Group Management (TG-M).

Assessment:

Cooperation at the operational management level has been strongly supported by site manager´s workshops, see 3. SIMP. Cooperation has to focus on exchange of knowledge and best practices;

Progress in trilateral wardening exchange was delayed but is planned to be initiated within this presidency.

Recommendations:

* Continue working intensively on cooperation at the operational management level and secure adequate management and wardening across the entire Wadden Sea Area.
* Agree in very concrete terms how cooperation can support local management and what is needed from all parties to succeed. See also 3. SIMP for management.

To do: A wardening workshop is planned for April 2022. led by the Dutch representation of the Task Group Management (TG-M).

**21. Further** *develop steps for the sustainability of fisheries in the Wadden Sea Area on the trilateral level, in close cooperation with responsible authorities and relevant stakeholders and initiatives (e.g. certification procedures), within the Framework for Sustainable Fisheries, taking into account both the importance of the ecosystem service of providing regional sea food in this respect and the integrity of the World Heritage Site*

Progress

As one key topic towards sustainable management in the Wadden Sea, fisheries is being tackled within the frame of the single integrated management plan (SIMP, see LD 3). In addition, TG-M is following a working approach sustainable fishery which was adopted at WSB 31 (June 2020) and contains two products:

*Inventory on fishery activities in the Wadden Sea Conservation Area.* With input by TG-M, CWSS produced an inventory, which gives an overview of the current situation/practices of sustainable fisheries. Input was not complete, but with the update of the QSR thematic report (see LD 20) fishery in 2021, the fishery inventory is considered to be covered.

*Document with status and recommendations for principles of the Framework for Sustainable Fisheries (Annex 3* [*Tønder Declaration*](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/sites/default/files/2014_toender%20declaration.pdf)*),*including analysis how existing legislative framework, regulations, agreements and initiatives support the Framework. A topical virtual meeting on sustainable fisheries was held with TG-M members and invited fisheries experts on 17 July 2020. External support by consultants to assess the status of the Framework was refused in this meeting. Information on the status of sustainable fisheries was delivered by TG-M members, but relevant input is pending. It was noted that the term recommendation will be replaced by more adequate vocabulary.

Progress on certification procedures was advanced with a continued certification of Brown Shrimp Fishery in the North Sea by the Marine Stewardship Council (see MSC-F-30003 (MSC-F-30003) issued on 25 June 2020).

In Denmark, a political decision underlined annulment of the possibility of re-opening the cockle-/mussel fishery in the Danish Wadden Sea.

Assessment:

* Fisheries is a sensitive topic. Its importance was underlined by selection as key topic for the SIMP (LD 3). Relevant authorities for fisheries are not part of the TWSC, such as the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in Germany;
* Steps towards the sustainability of fisheries in the Wadden Sea on the trilateral level were taken with the SIMP and by starting an assessment of the status for each of the principles of the Framework Sustainable Fisheries (eight years after Tønder); Products of the working approach were, however, not ready to support the SIMP, due to delays in delivery of information;
* Integrity of the World Heritage site is tackled within the SIMP assessment (see 3. SIMP)
* MSC certification activities for brown shrimps are in place to support sustainability of fisheries;
* Current conservation measures may be challenged by demands for exploitation, such as a request for re-opening the cockle-/mussel fishery in the Danish Wadden Sea;
* TG-M is the responsible group for the topic and supports the working approach fisheries, but collection of missing information exceeds capacity and resources;

Recommendations

* Getting the responsible authorities on board is essential for possible progress;
* Consider detailed recommendations on fisheries given by site managers during the SIMP process (LD 3) and recommendations by QSR authors;
* Finalise assessment of the Framework Sustainable Fisheries, with status and advice for management, with focus on how to make a difference towards sustainable fisheries;
* Determine where the trilateral cooperation can create added value;
* Consider providing resources for this topic, e.g., by means of a trilateral group or alternative approach (e.g., SIMP process) for close cooperation with responsible authorities and relevant stakeholders and initiatives. (First we need to have a concrete goal where we are confident that nature will benefit?).

To do: Completion of *Document with status and recommendations for principles of the Framework for Sustainable Fisheries (Annex 3* [*Tønder Declaration*](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/sites/default/files/2014_toender%20declaration.pdf)*),* including analysis how existing legislative framework, regulations, agreements and initiatives support the Framework. Status has been outlined by Schleswig-Holstein and the Netherlands. Danish input to the status is expected for January 2022, Lower Saxony input TBD. After first input to the status, CWSS will draft a first version, based on which TG-M may decide how to proceed for discussion of recommendations/advices for management. Focus is on how to make a difference towards sustainable fisheries;

Addition TG-M 21-1: Henrik Jorgensen will provide Danish input, CWSS will gather Lower Saxon input with the aim to complete the status until TG-M 22-2 in March 2022. At next TG-M meeting based on the status discuss “recommendations”/advices for management.

To do: discuss level playing field (action item 7 of TG-M 21-4) based on document above and Quality Status Report, take this up in the next TG-M meeting (TG-M 22-2).

**22. Substantially***reduce the amount of marine litter in the Wadden Sea by the year 2030*

See LD 23

**23. Make use** *of all relevant existing monitoring and action programmes, as well as existing action plans, to gain and exchange adequate additional knowledge on sources and impacts of marine litter on the Wadden Sea ecosystem and stimulate and support appropriate measures*

Progress

World Heritage marine managers and marine litter experts from 11 different nations investigated impacts of marine litter on UNESCO World Heritage marine sites and what countermeasures can be taken to address the issue on Norderney, Germany in November 2018.

At WSB 30, TG-M had informed in an inventory on activities based on a Danish initiative/template which should contain corresponding information on UN, EU and OSPAR level under lead of Rijkswaterstaat (RWS). Due to interruption of RWS contribution to trilateral work, this information could not be discussed and presented in the envisaged time frame.

TG-M has subsequently prepared and submitted an inventory of marine litter activities to WSB 32. Based on this trilateral overview on marine litter related policies and activities in the Trilateral Wadden Sea Region (see [WSB 32/5.2/5 TG-M Marine Litter inventory](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/system/files/WSB-32-5-2-5-tg%20m%20marine%20litter.pdf)), TG-M will collaborate with relevant trilateral groups to prepare concrete recommendations to the TWSC for improving focussed and targeted collaboration and coordination in this matter.

Marine litter and plastic pollution are in the public spotlight.  The Trilateral Wadden Sea Sailing Association approached the CWSS and the OPteamPH, with an idea of event “Clean Wadden Sea Sailing”. A decentralized organization of the events including the direct engagement of local and regional stakeholders was seen by the OPteamPH as more suitable than a trilateral approach. This resulted In the Oris Event in the Netherlands and in Denmark in a clean-up with the tour boat M/S Martha at a location in the Danish Wadden Sea near Fanø.

Assessment:

* Activities on marine litter have been conducted, under responsibility of TG-WH and TG-M and multiple activities on reducing marine litter take place externally
* This topic is of relevance for several trilateral groups;
* The process to prepare concrete recommendations to the TWSC for improving focussed and targeted collaboration and coordination in this matter was delayed due to interruption of RWS contribution in 2020.

Recommendations

* Foster collaboration between all relevant groups in the TWSC, e.g., TG-M, TG-MA, TG-WH, Partnership Hub, Tourism;
* Propose and consider recommendations to the TWSC for improving focussed and targeted collaboration and coordination;
* Propose a number of events to be organized – in line with the “Clean Wadden Sea Sailing” and Oris event.

To do: upon contribution of the Task Group Monitoring and Assessment (TG-MA) to recommendations drafted by TG-M, based on [WSB 32/5.2/5 TG-M Marine Litter inventory](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/system/files/WSB-32-5-2-5-tg%20m%20marine%20litter.pdf), submit recommendations to WSB. [Addition TG-M 22-1: await feedback from TG-MA, if not possible in near future leave out monitoring part from list of recommendations].

To do: Foster collaboration between all relevant groups in the TWSC, e.g., TG-M, TG-MA, TG-WH, Partnership Hub, Tourism;

***LD 29. Instruct*** *the Wadden Sea Board to review and monitor the impacts of renewable energy production and energy transportation on the Wadden Sea ecosystem and to consider measures to avoid or mitigate possible negative impacts by looking for best environmental practices also with the aim of developing, for example, related common principles to evaluate the impact of high-voltage power cables in the Wadden Sea Area in close consultation with the responsible bodies and stakeholders*

Progress:

As one key topic towards sustainable management in the Wadden Sea, energy is being tackled within the frame of the single integrated management plan (SIMP, see LD 3).

A QSR thematic report energy was drafted and reviewed in 2021.

Assessment:

* With the transition to renewable energy, including offshore windparks, this topic gained (and will continue to have) strong momentum.
* With the Quality Status Report thematic report energy as drafted in 2021, first steps for review and monitor (?) the impacts of renewable energy production and energy transportation on the Wadden Sea ecosystem were taken.
* Steps towards the sustainability of the energy topic  in the Wadden Sea on the trilateral level were taken with the SIMP
* TG-M is the responsible group for the topic

Recommendation:

* Develop a roadmap on energy transition developing knowledge on mitigating possible impacts of renewable energy.
* Consider detailed recommendations on energy given by site managers during the SIMP process (LD 3) and recommendations by QSR authors;

To be treated by new ad hoc Working Group Cables and Pipelines.

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

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

Progress.

>> Progress to be collected.

Assessment

The TWSC has not taken up an active role in this respect in approaching ports and/or ferry companies. Recently the CWSS started a direct contact with representatives of the Wadden Sea ports to discuss the progress on these aspects since the Leeuwarden Declaration. In September 2021 a project is launched by the Partnership Hub and financially supported by the TWSC to make an inventory of progress made by the ports and to assess in a joint approach with the green NGO’s what the next steps could look like to be presented to the next TGC

Recommendation

* To further the recognition of the ports as important stakeholders in the Wadden Sea World Heritage, stimulating the signing up of all Wadden Sea ports to the Letter of Intent issued at the Ports Initiative Conference in Harlingen 2018.
* To stimulate further improvement taken by the ports on sustainable operations, in an open dialogue with the green NGO’s

Addition at TG-M 22-1: No activity by TG-M

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

Transport was seen by NG-ST as a major component of sustainable development and was put onto the agenda from various regional projects (Wadden Agenda, NAKUWA). The request by the NG-ST to organize a trilateral workshop to exchange experiences and vision on sustainable transport in connection with WSWH was denied by the 3 states in the supplementary budget discussion.

>>  This aspect is also taken up in one of the work packages of the WST WSF Shipping proposal.

**>>** Relevant progress inserted, e.g. by PRW and Watt-Fossilfrei?,

Addition at TG-M 22-1: No activity by TG-M

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

Progress:

As one key topic towards sustainable management in the Wadden Sea, shipping and ports is being tackled within the frame of the single integrated management plan (SIMP). TG-M is supporting review and enrichment of expert assessment on the impact of key topics on key values of the OUV.

On-going work on this topic is supported by a consultant, including Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) [Operational Plans](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/resources/pssa-wadden-sea-operational-plans) implementation assessment, potential conflicts of shipping with the 10 OUV key values and potential next activities. These efforts are conducted in line with the development of the QSR thematic report shipping, which is being/ has been drafted in 2021.

To respond to societal concerns around shipping safety, the Wadden Sea Board approved, at their 3oth meeting held on 21 November 2019 in Wilhelmshaven, Germany, the establishment of a round table shipping led by the Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) with the support of the CWSS and in collaboration to TG-M. Due to a low number of participants, the round table for shipping, planned for April? 2021, was postponed and the WSF is organising a new process in order to establish a widely sustained fundament for the organisation of new approach for a Round Table Shipping. To achieve this, the WSF is planning Regional Round Tables (RRT) ([WSB 33/7/1).](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cbusch%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CTemp%5CWSB-33-7-1%20WSF%20progress%20report.pdf)

Assessment:

* Shipping is a sensitive, yet important topic, which was selected as key topic by site managers in the SIMP. Relevant authorities are not part of the TWSC, such as the Ministry of Transport in Denmark and the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure in Germany;
* There is a societal concern on shipping safety, which was reflected also by the concern of the Advisory Board of the National Park Lower Saxony this should be taken up
* PSSA assessment is pending
* See LD 3. SIMP

Recommendations

* Consider detailed recommendations given by site managers in the SIMP

To do: Follow two-step approach on shipping, step 1 under initiative of RWS (action item 2 of TG-M 21-4). Activity by TG-M after progress in step 1: first discussions amongst relevant ministries of the three countries.

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

No information available yet.

To be investigated and assessed, also with the support of the Wadden Sea ports>>To be taken up in inventory made by ports/PH-WSTandWSF project

To be taken up in inventory made by ports/PH-WSTandWSF project

Addition at TG-M 22-1: No activity by TG-M in 2022. IMO decision mid 2021 – seek information on implementation.

Addition at TG-M 22-1: Overall shipping: TG-M to inform WSF (Frank Ahlhorn) in written way which question we have .. and invite Frank to next TG-M meeting (TG-M 22-2).

***Tønder Declaration 23.*** ***Agree*** *therefore to cooperate in evaluating the assessments under the Habitats Directive, also with the aim to prepare a common Natura 2000 roof report for the Wadden Sea.*

To do: deliver feasibility study by expert at The University of Aarhus. TG-M and the expert will finish the study including main obstacles to successful completion of such task (an interregional N2000 Roof Report). Addition at TG-M 22-1: Henrik Jorgensen to complete before WSB meeting in April 2022.

Additional Issues to be considered:

In TG-M, additional topics, such as water sports regulations (closed areas, limitations) and air traffic (lowering of min flight height) has been tackled. In addition, use of drones seems to gain importance -leisure as well as for monitoring purposes.

Addition at TG-M 22-1: TG-M to decide on completion of collection of shape files for water sports/leisure