

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 39)

29 November 2022
Wilhelmshaven, Germany



Agenda Item:	5 Draft Wilhelmshaven Declaration
Subject:	MoU Banc d'Arguin – CWSS Wadden Sea Draft Action Plan 2023-2026
Document No.:	WSB 39/5.1/a
Date:	16 November 2022
Submitted by:	CWSS

Attached is the revised action plan of the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Parc Banc d'Arguin (PNBA) and the Wadden Sea for the time period 2023-2026. (ref. to art. 6 of the WD)

The action plan has been developed between the National Parc Banc d'Arguin and the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat in 2022. With the invitation of PNBA to the TGC Wilhelmshaven 2022, there is an opportunity to promote the cooperation between both World Heritage sites within the MoU and the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI).

The secretariat is aware that the availability of funds for the implementation of the action plan will have to be decided on an annual basis. To take note of this, the last paragraph of the introduction states that 'the budget estimations are proposals, to be decided upon by the respective donors on an annual basis'.

Proposal: The meeting is invited to endorse the action plan.

Memorandum of Understanding
BANC D'ARGUIN NATIONAL PARK – WADDEN SEA
Action Plan 2023-2026



Version 2 – 11 November 2022

At the Trilateral Governmental Wadden Sea Conference in Tønder in 2014, the Parc National de Banc d'Arguin (PNBA) and Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), facilitated by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, in support of strengthening their cooperation for the conservation of migratory waterbirds along the East Atlantic Flyway, as requested by the World Heritage Committee in 2009. Since then, two action plans have guided the activities conducted under this MoU. At the height of the COVID pandemic joint activities had not been possible which delayed the development of a new action plan. In May 2022, the Banc d'Arguin National Park and the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat met at a scientific workshop in Iwik, Mauritania and decided to develop a new action plan within the framework of the existing MoU. The proposed action plan for 2023 – 2026 focuses on monitoring & management, communication and education. Joint activities with the Bijagós Archipelago in Guinea Bissau, managed by the Instituto da Biodiversidade e das Áreas Protegidas (IBAP) will be encouraged.

Key objectives of this action plan are:

I. Monitoring and Management

Exchange of information on ongoing and emerging issues affecting migratory waterbirds along the flyway.

Evaluate national capacity for monitoring waterbirds and their key sites in Mauritania and develop a capacity building strategy and plan to strengthen future monitoring, especially for the Banc d'Arguin.

Exchange of information on the suitability of new methods for monitoring migratory / breeding birds as well as ecological changes in coastal habitats.

II. Communication

Effective joint communication on flyway issues, with a particular focus on raising local awareness on the importance of the Wadden Sea and the Banc d'Arguin, both World Heritage sites, on the global scale.

III. Education

Increase youth engagement by facilitating exchange, providing training opportunities and raising awareness at schools and in higher education.

IV. Partnership

Enhance the partnership between the three sites of the East Atlantic Flyway (PNBA, Wadden Sea and Bijagós Islands) and supporting the World Heritage application of Guinea-Bissau.

Participation in important meetings relevant for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Specific actions and activities can be found in the attached table. Parties declare their clear intention to deliver the activities, pending staffing capacity and the availability of financial support. The budget estimations are proposals, to be decided upon by the respective donors on an annual basis.

Joint Banc d'Arguin-Wadden Sea Action Plan 2023-2026

Objective	Activities and actions	Place	Responsibility	Period	Budget Estimation		Priority
					PNBA	CWSS	
I. Research and Monitoring for Management Purposes							
I.1 Exchange of information on ongoing and emerging issues affecting migratory waterbirds along the East Atlantic Flyway.	<p>I.1.1 Bring together international researchers and managers to deepen our knowledge on the recent bird flu outbreaks among colonially breeding birds in the North Sea.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss possible management measures to be taken during and after bird flu outbreaks to prevent a spread of the disease. - Identify the main lines of a scientific research needed to assess the impact on population developments and data needed to improve management recommendations. <p>I.1.2 Develop a common strategy (Wadden Sea – PNBA - IBAP) for the monitoring and reporting of bird flu outbreaks at the three most important sites along the East Atlantic Flyway to prepare for future outbreaks and better understand population consequences.</p>	GER	CWSS	2023	€15,000 (travel costs)	€ 50,000 (workshop costs)	high
I.2 Evaluate national capacity for monitoring waterbirds and their key sites in Mauritania and develop a capacity building strategy and plan to strengthen future monitoring, especially for the Banc d'Arguin.	<p>I.2.1 Initiate an assessment of national capacity for monitoring key sites for waterbirds in Mauritania, especially for the Banc d'Arguin; what has been achieved and how, what is still needed and how can this be improved?</p> <p>I.2.2 Develop a capacity building strategy for monitoring waterbirds and their key sites in Mauritania, especially at the Banc d'Arguin; which capacity building activities are most suitable to bring long term results?</p> <p>I.2.3 Use the outcome of this exercise as a framework for the development of a capacity building guide for West Africa.</p>	MR	PNBA + CWSS	2024-2025	€8,000 (travel costs)	€12,000 (consultancy costs)	medium

<p>I.3 Exchange of information on the suitability of new remote sensing methods for monitoring migratory / breeding birds as well as ecological changes in wetland habitats.</p>	<p>I.3.1 Bring together national and international experts to discuss the suitability of different remote sensing methods for the monitoring of birds and the status of their habitats.</p> <p>I.3.2 Assess training/capacity needs and discuss possible solutions to address these.</p> <p>I.3.3 Consider the development of a joint proposal for a small pilot study to compare monitoring results from remote sensing and direct observations in the Banc d'Arguin and the Wadden Sea.</p>	<p>MR</p>	<p>PNBA</p>	<p>2025</p>	<p>€ 40,000 (Workshop costs)</p>	<p>€ 5,000 (travel costs)</p>	<p>medium</p>
<p>II. Communication</p>							
<p>II.1 Effective joint communication on flyway issues, with a particular focus on raising local awareness on the importance of the Wadden Sea and the Banc d'Arguin, both World Heritage sites, on the global scale</p>	<p>II.1.1 Develop a social media strategy to raise global awareness for the intrinsic, natural linkage between the two World Heritage sites through their joint responsibility for migratory waterbirds along the East Atlantic Flyway, and to profile both sites globally.</p> <p>II.1.2 Reach out to production companies to explore the possibility to produce a documentary on the importance of the three sites (Banc d'Arguin, Bijagós Archipelago, Wadden Sea) for the conservation of migratory birds.</p> <p>II.1.3 Explore local opportunities/events to showcase the global importance of the two World Heritage Sites with joint communication materials.</p>		<p>CWSS, PNBA (IBAP)</p>	<p>2023-2026</p>	<p>€ 10,000</p>	<p>€ 5,000</p>	<p>medium</p>
<p>III. Education</p>							
<p>III.1 Increase youth engagement by facilitating exchange, providing training opportunities and raising awareness at schools and in higher education</p>	<p>III.1.1 Participation of PNBA youth in the East Atlantic Flyway Youth Forum (EAFYF, online).</p> <p>III.1.2 Strengthen the integration of information on the Wadden Sea, PNBA and Bijagós into the international networks of centres of environmental interpretation (MBP network).</p> <p>III.1.3 Explore opportunities for exchange visits for young promising conservationists between Mauritanian and the Wadden Sea countries.</p>		<p>CWSS, PNBA</p>	<p>2023-2026</p>	<p>€ 10,000</p>	<p>€ 5,000</p>	<p>medium</p>

IV. Partnerships							
IV.1 Enhance the partnership between the three key sites of the East Atlantic Flyway (Banc d'Arguin, Wadden Sea and Bijagós Archipelago)	IV.1.1 Support the renomination of the Bijagós Archipelago as a World Heritage Site. IV.1.2 Collaborate in the development of a funding proposal for the implementation of the Climate resilient East Atlantic Flyway project. IV.1.3 Assess the possibility to extend the MoU to include the Bijagós Archipelago.		CWSS, PNBA, IBAP	2023-2026	In-kind / potentially IKI	In-kind / potentially IKI	medium
IV.2 Participation in important meetings relevant for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding	IV.2.1 Participation of Mauritania (PNBA) and Guinea Bissau (IBAP) at the 15th Trilateral Governmental Conference in Denmark.	DK	CWSS	2026	€10,000	€ 8,000	high
					€93,000	€85,000	