

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board

(WSB 43)

16 May 2024
Ameland, the Netherlands



Agenda Item:	5.1 Protect and strengthen the Outstanding Universal Value (paras 1-16)
Subject:	State of Conservation Report 2024 – Overview of timeline
Document No.:	WSB 43/5.1/1
Date:	8 May 2024
Submitted by:	TG-WH and CWSS

The submission of the trilateral State of Conservation Report (SOC Report) on the UNESCO World Heritage site “The Wadden Sea” was requested by the World Heritage Centre (WHC) in [Decision 45COM 7B.23](#) adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session (10-25 September 2023).

The trilateral Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH) and CWSS led the process of drafting the [2024 SOC Report](#), which was submitted to the WHC in February 2024. The WHC also requested the TWSC to conduct a joint Strategic Environmental Assessment (joint SEA) to assess the cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property to be included in the SOC Report. As a joint SEA takes longer to prepare, it has been announced that it will be delivered as a separate product in approximately 2 years' time.

This document summarises the timeline followed for the development and submission of the SOC Report in 2023 and 2024 as well as further communication from and to the WHC, State Parties, and environmental NGOs, including the joint SEA as requested.

Proposal: The meeting is invited to **note** the document

Summarised timeline

The following table provides an overview of the steps taken to prepare and submit the SOC Report, including the joint SEA, in 2023 and 2024, communications from and to the WHC, State Parties and environmental NGOs, and upcoming events relevant to World Heritage's forthcoming responses.

Date	Achieved milestones
28 Aug. 2023	Online publication by the World Heritage Centre of the draft decision on the state of conservation of the Wadden Sea World Heritage.
10-25 Sept. 2023	45th session of the World Heritage Committee and adoption of Decision 45COM 7B.23
15 Sept. 2023	Meeting with World Heritage Centre, IUCN, Dutch representatives, TG-WH chair and CWSS to ask for clarification on specific Decision paragraphs and on the scope of the trilateral SOC Report incl. joint SEA.
27 Nov. 2023	Meeting of TG-WH with World Heritage Centre and IUCN for final questions on the trilateral SOC Report and check if we are on the right track regarding the joint SEA.
5 Dec.-11 Jan.	Stakeholder participation process on draft trilateral SOC Report.
18 Dec. 2023	Letter from NGOs to World Heritage Centre: <i>World Heritage Wadden Sea in danger?</i>
2 Feb. 2024	Letter from WHC to State Parties requesting to consider NGO letter from 18 Dec. and Annexes (publications and news items adding to NGO letter).
12 Jan. -13 Feb. 2024	TG-WH integration of comments and review of the trilateral draft SOC Report, and submission to WSB for political approval (written round).
13 Feb. 2024	Approval by WSB of the trilateral SOC Report 2024.
14 Feb. 2024	Submission of trilateral SOC Report 2024 to World Heritage Centre.
28 Feb. 2024	Letter from NGOs to WHC: <i>State of Conservation Report for the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site: Trilateral Response of the Nature NGOs.</i>
15 Mar. 2024	Letter from TWSC to World Heritage Centre in response to their letter from 2 Feb. 2024, also considering the NGOs letter from 28 Feb. 2024 and providing available updates on the aspects addressed in the SOC report 2024.
28 Mar. 2024	Letter from the State Party of the Netherlands to the World Heritage Centre with an update on: <i>No gas extraction at Ternaard at this time.</i> (States Parties reporting under para. 172 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention).
24 Apr. 2024	Letter from the State Party of Denmark to the World Heritage Centre: <i>Information about a proposed Power-to-X facility in Esbjerg, EIA report.</i> (States Parties reporting under para. 172 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention).
Date	Upcoming events (for more details on the joint SEA see doc WSB43/5.1/2)
Beginning of June 2024	Draft technical report and draft Decision from World Heritage Centre and IUCN in response to trilateral SOC Report will be published in UNESCO website.
June – July 2024	TWSC reviews draft technical report and draft decision from World Heritage Centre and IUCN for accuracy and feasibility of each new request and respective deadline.
21-31 July 2024	46 th World Heritage Committee meeting (and adoption of draft decision).

August 2024	Analysis by the TG-WH of the decision of the World Heritage Committee, consequences and requested activities for the TWSC/State Parties, also with regard to the joint SEA process.
October 2024 – May 2025	Development of the national components of the SEA.
Beginning 2025	Plan Meeting on joint SEA progress with World Heritage Centre/IUCN.
June – August 2025	Trilateral integration: Joint SEA.
August 2025	WSB approval of draft joint SEA for stakeholder participation.
September 2025	Plan Meeting on draft joint SEA with World Heritage Centre/IUCN.
End of 2025	WSB approval of final joint SEA and submission to World Heritage Centre.