

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 32)

4 March 2021
Virtual Meeting



Agenda Item: 4

Subject: Announcements by CWSS

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Submitted by: CWSS

The following paper gives a written overview of the announcements of CWSS to the WSB 32.

Proposal: The meeting is invited to note the announcements.

Announcements by CWSS to WSB 32

1 Staff changes at CWSS

With the start of 2021, Gerold Lüerßen, who helped building up the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation in his 25 years of service, began his well-deserved retirement. On 15 January, his tasks were picked up by CWSS's new staff member Dr. Kristine Meise.

At the 1st of September 2020 the position of programme officer for the Partnership Hub, starting with a 1 year contract was taken up by Cristina Nazzari. The position is closely linked to the Interreg Prowad Link project.

From March to November 2021, Annika Bostelmann will be on parental leave. A substitute is being searched for and will hopefully be named at the WSB 32 meeting.

Marine Perrin, who interned at CWSS in fall 2020, has returned in January as short-term project assistant until April 2021 to support the development of the single integrated management plan with the development of legal framework databases for Shipping, Fisheries, Energy, Coastal Protection and Tourism.

CWSS currently is supported by an intern in the conservation unit. Lars Weber is a student of Coastal and Marine Management in the Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands.

In August 2021, CWSS will be joined by a volunteer (Freiwilliges Ökologisches Jahr), thanks to the generous appointment by the National Park Authority "Hamburgisches Wattenmeer". The volunteer will be with CWSS for 14 months and support the communication and event planning, particularly for German **presidency events in 2022**.

2 Communication activities

In 2020, a bi-monthly **Wadden Sea Newsletter** was launched in May. To receive the newsletter, each person has to register individually via the WSWH/TWSC website (data security). A new **introductory video** on the Wadden Sea World Heritage was successfully published in October (<https://youtu.be/JuJH6SL9f3w>). It can be used by all partners of the TWSC. Download links have been distributed to the WH Focal Points and can also be requested from the CWSS Communications Officer. An **Annual Report** on the activities of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation was published in November 2020 and is also available online.

A new version of the **WSWH leaflet** (refreshed text and design) has now been finalised with help of the WH Focal Points, TG-WH and NG-ST. It will be uploaded onto the resources section of the WSWH/TWSC website in February in all four languages. Printed versions are being produced in February based on the orders of the WH Focal Points.

In 2020, two new reports on **breeding and migratory birds** were published. In January 2020, the 3rd simultaneous waterbird and wetland census was conducted along the East Atlantic Flyway. A first assessment of changes in national numbers was published in December. At the same time, an update on the trends in breeding bird numbers in the Wadden Sea from 1991-2017 was finalized and made available on the CWSS website. It shows declines in 55% of the breeding bird species, but also indicates intriguing dynamics in regional breeding bird numbers.

CWSS is working on new **microsites** to specifically handle the topics of the WSFI, Swimway, Alien Species and the SIMP. The development of the template for microsites took longer than expected, but was completed at the end of 2020. The microsites of the WSFI, Swimway and SIMP are currently being established on basis of the template. The Alien Species microsite is at a planning stage in close coordination with the Expert Group Alien Species.

The chair of the Wadden Sea Board was invited to give a short pitch at the occasion of the Climate Adaptation Week, which was organised by the Global Center on Climate Adaptation in the Netherlands. Karin Lochte highlighted the framework of the existing trilateral Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and offered using the existing international network the TWSC has in working together with a.o. the UNESCO marine sites World Heritage network. The results of the seminar, including the message by Lochte, were presented to Cora van Nieuwenhuizen, Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management and the Dutch member of the Global Commission on Adaptation, who promised to hand them over to the international partners in the Commission during a panel at the end of the week with Chair of the Global Commission, Ban-Ki-Moon.

3 Partnership with Oris

The Swiss watch manufacturer “Oris” approached CWSS in 2020 with its intention of developing a “Wadden Sea“-edition watch and, with its sales, provide financial support to nature conservation measures in the Wadden Sea World Heritage. This type of cooperation with nature conservation organisations in the framework of a limited edition has been done in the past, e.g. for the Great Barrier Reef and Lake Baikal as well as with Whale and Dolphin Conservation. At the WSB 31 a representative of the company answered questions about sustainability of the watch production as well as general sustainability standards of Oris. The Board endorsed the cooperation of CWSS with Oris.

After some negotiations, the following elements now form the collaboration:

- Partnership lifetime: 3 years with possible extension to 5 years, if suitable for both parties
- Onetime contribution of 10,000 € to a trilateral project of our choosing
- Annual PR campaign through the Oris channels on a WSWH topic of our choosing
- Annual one-day event on the chosen annual WSWH topic, organised together with CWSS and aimed at raising awareness on the particular topic as well as promote active engagement in the protection of the Wadden Sea World Heritage

CWSS has now signed a 3-year agreement with Oris, which was approved beforehand by the WSB Chair and the WSB Representatives. The first event will be held in the Netherlands on the theme of marine litter. CWSS is already in contact with the Dutch Focal Point and local initiatives. CWSS will also reach out to the German and Danish Focal Points on Oris and further steps shortly.

4. Other issues

On the request of the city of Esbjerg, the chair of the Wadden Sea board has submitted a Letter of Intent to the so-called Kongea project, advocating the restoration of the connection to the Wadden Sea for migratory fish.

The CWSS has also signed a Letter of Support for two project proposals which were submitted to the H2020 call Building a low-carbon, climate resilient future: Research and innovation in support of the European Green Deal (REST COAST and RESTSEA).

One of the very serious threatened species in the Yellow Sea is the Spoon Billed Sandpiper (SBS). On the invitation of the international SBS Conservation Alliance, the CWSS gave a presentation on management and monitoring in the Wadden Sea at their Annual Meeting in November 2020.