

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 30)

21 November 2019
Wilhelmshaven, Germany



Agenda Item:	5.1 World Heritage
Subject:	Development of the Single Integrated Management Plan
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Submitted by:	TG-WH

The WSB 28 (March 2019) adopted the preliminary structure of the SIMP ([WSB 28/5.1/2 Status Report SIMP](#)) and the development phases proposed by TG-WH. The WSB 29 (June 2019) endorsed the approach on the process for selecting key topics for the SIMP ([WSB 29/5.1/1 Status Report SIMP](#)). The process for selecting the key topics consisted of in-person interviews with site-managers to gather their perspectives about what are key topics that need to be managed, a site-managers' workshop to provide feedback and further discuss potential key topics, and the selection of key topics by TG-WH based on the site-managers' recommendations.

This report includes a proposal by TG-WH on the Prioritization of key topics focus on in the SIMP, an updated preliminary structure and the next immediate steps to develop the content of the SIMP.

Proposal: The meeting is invited:

1. To endorse the prioritization of four key topics to address in the SIMP (see heading 3 in this document) and the updated preliminary structure (see heading 4).
2. To instruct CWSS to prepare the next steps to develop the contents of the SIMP as outlined in heading 5.

Development of the Single Integrated Management Plan: Identification of key priority topics to address in the SIMP

1. Background

The Leeuwarden Declaration 2018 includes the task to develop a Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP) for the Wadden Sea World Heritage as requested by the WH Committee in 2014. The context, objectives and timeline are defined in Annex 1 of the Declaration. The Annex states “The starting point for the further development of the single integrated management plan will be a preliminary structure agreed by the Wadden Sea Board. The content will reflect the current priorities of the TWSC, but contents and priorities may be adapted during the process. A flexible approach is envisaged”.

The WSB 28 (March 2019) adopted the preliminary structure of the SIMP ([WSB 28/5.1/2 Status Report SIMP](#)) and the development phases proposed by TG-WH. In 2019, the development phases include the identification of priority key topics. The WSB 28 asked TG-WH to involve site-managers to count with their input for identifying the key topics of focus within the SIMP.

The proposal from TG-WH on the methods and process to select key topics and to involve site-managers through in person interviews and a workshop was endorsed by the WSB 29 in June 2019 ([WSB 29/5.1/1 Status Report SIMP](#)).

The outcome of the site-managers’ interviews and the site-managers’ workshop were collected as “Recommendations of key topics to address in the SIMP” and constituted the basis for TG-WH 29, in October to select the key topics to address in the SIMP and to plan on the next steps. The key outcomes of this process are presented in the following items of this document.

2. Key outcomes of the site-managers’ interviews and workshop

A total of 27 site-managers and members of the Wadden Sea Team of green NGOs and the Wadden Sea Forum from all three countries welcomed the in-person interviews. They answered structured questions, but certain openness to comments beyond those questions was accepted as requested in WSB 29. The site-managers workshop in September 2019 was hosted by Schleswig-Holstein and included a fieldtrip to exchange knowledge and experiences about management topics of common interest.

During the interview, each site-manager was asked to -based on their experience- identify the most relevant topics where management can and should be enhanced. Then site-managers were asked for each topic to describe the opportunities, the challenges, key actions, and how the trilateral cooperation could support improving the management of those topics. Finally, they were asked to identify gaps. The integrated results represent a collection of policy and management recommendations but **not** an agreement among all site-managers.

In the workshop the site-managers and representatives of the WST and WSF emphasized that:

- The aim of the management activities in the Wadden Sea World Heritage is to maintain the OUV.
- Key topics that need to be managed to maintain the OUV are fisheries, tourism, and shipping as activities based on ecosystem services, as well as activities occurring outside the property that have an impact on the World Heritage site (including gas and oil drilling, coastal protection activities and social development).
- All key topics and the OUV are under the influence of climate change effects, and the respective mitigation and adaptation activities. Climate change is therefore recommended to be addressed in the SIMP as a cross-cutting, overarching topic.

- Communication, education, monitoring, research and partnerships were considered as means to support management.
- The Guiding Principle of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation should be the guideline to decide on any management activity.

Additionally, the workshop discussed that the SIMP should as well emphasize the added value for site-managers, decision makers and the public. The added value needs a clear formulation and efficient communication. The SIMP should serve as an important tool to better communicate the value of the trilateral cooperation itself and the importance of its work.

Finally, the workshop participants addressed the importance of strengthening exchange, in particular at the site-manager level and in innovative and valuable ways.

3. Prioritization of key topics to address in the SIMP

TG-WH 29 welcomed the site-managers involvement and carefully considered their recommendations.

TG-WH 29 considered in their discussion as well:

- the topics that need to be developed as part of the preliminary structure of the SIMP previously approved by the WSB 28 ([WSB 28/5.1/2 Status Report SIMP](#)),
- the request of the WSB 27 in November 2018 to include fisheries as a key topic, and
- the key threats requiring ongoing attention cited in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (as adopted by the WH Committee).

The key results of TG-WH 29 are:

1. Key topics that need special attention are fisheries, tourism, shipping and impacts from outside the property (including industrial facilities such as wind farms, gas and oil rigs, and certain kinds of coastal defence measures). These topics have been regarded as key threats (except for coastal defence) requiring ongoing attention in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value. Also, WSB 27 requested to address fisheries as a key topic in the framework of the SIMP.
2. The existing TWSC structure with organised Task, Network, Working, Expert and Steering groups and their recently reviewed ToRs, address most of the key topics recommended by the site-managers. Linking the identified key topics to the TWSC groups can be used for their direct involvement the development of the SIMP and ensures that the content of the SIMP is anchored in the work of the TWSC. The site-managers recommendations can enrich the role of each group and further improve the connection at different levels of management.
3. Key topics for which there is no specific TWSC group and are addressed partially by different groups are fisheries, shipping and impacts from outside the property (including certain aspects of coastal defence measures). To define feasible next steps to work on the development of these key topics and to consider whom to involve, TG-WH and TG-M are planning to hold a back to back meeting in January/February 2020. During the planning of the content development no additional resources from the countries are required. Therefore, at this moment in the process, no decision on allocation of resources is needed.
4. Regarding climate change, specific recommendations will be taken to the respective groups i.e. EG-C and ad-hoc WG-AS, however the integrative approach of climate change must be considered by all groups.

4. Updated preliminary structure of the SIMP

TG-WH integrated the site-managers' key topics recommendations and chart in the previously approved preliminary structure of the SIMP, which was confirmed to comply with para. 111 of the WH Operational Guidelines, as requested by UNESCO. Figure 1 presents the updated structure of the SIMP after identification of the key topics. The detailed table of contents highlighting where changes were made to integrate the site-managers' recommendations is presented in Annex 1. TG-WH wishes to highlight, that "contents and priorities may be adapted during the process. A flexible approach is envisaged" (Annex 1 of the Leeuwarden Declaration).

The results of the discussions of TG-WH 29 and WSB 30 will be shared with the site-managers involved in the interviews and workshop. TG-WH will explore the further engagement of site-managers in the process of developing the SIMP.

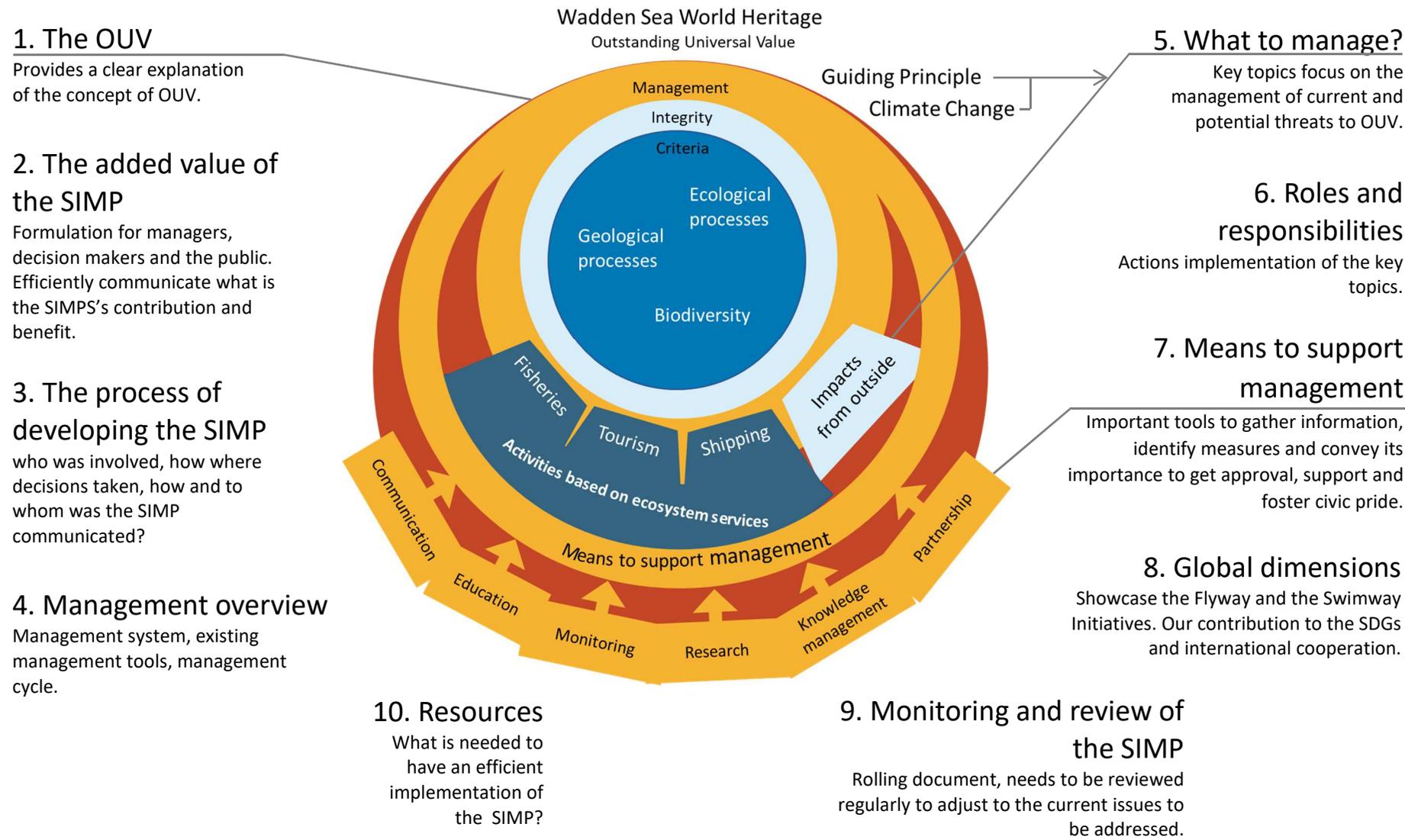


Figure 1. Summarized updated preliminary structure of the SIMP integrating the site-managers recommendations. Key topics requiring special attention are fisheries, tourism, shipping and impacts from outside the property. The order, contents and priorities may be adapted during the process of developing the SIMP. See Annex 1 for a detailed table of contents highlighting where changes were made to integrate the site-managers' recommendations.

5. Next immediate steps to develop the content of the SIMP

1. Back to back meeting of TG-WH and TG-M in January/February 2020 to define feasible next steps to work on the development of key topics fisheries, shipping and impacts from outside the property (including certain aspects of coastal defence measures) and to consider whom to involve.
2. All relevant groups of the TWSC will be visited by Ms Luna during the first quarter of 2020 to discuss the expected role of the group in the SIMP, share the site-managers recommendations on the respective topics, and to agree together with the group members on what is feasible during the SIMP development timeline.
3. Formulate the added value of the SIMP in a clear way to communicate it to managers, policy makers, the general public and considering the added values already defined by TG-WH and in the site-managers' interviews and workshop.
4. CWSS to examine practicable ways and resources to support site-managers exchange of experience and knowledge at an operative level.

Annex 1. Updated preliminary structure including the identified key topics

Sections in blue show where changes were made to integrate the site-managers' recommendations and the results from TG-WH 29.

1. The OUV
Provides a clear explanation of the concept of OUV.
2. The added value of the SIMP
Clear formulation for managers, decision makers and the public, how to communicate it efficiently.
3. The process of developing the SIMP
Provides a description of the process undertaken, who was involved, how where decisions taken, how and to whom was the SIMP communicated.
4. Management overview
This overview will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the existing management structures on the trilateral and national level the management cycle (WSB, Declarations, TMAP, WFD, MSFD, N2000, etc) the existing strategies, management plans, regulations and other instruments, showing how these are interlinked, and their role, together with the Wadden Sea Plan, as building stones for the SIMP, the existing monitoring system and data handling (including data accessibility and analysis for trilateral reports i.e. QSR), the existing maps (protection regimes, uses, etc). This overview serves to communicate and disseminate the trilateral management framework in an easy and clear way to national managers as well as to all stakeholders (local, regional and global) and the general public. The comprehensive overview also aims to identify gaps and serves as input to assess the current management effectiveness and how can we improve it.
5. What to manage
Key topics that need special attention are fisheries, tourism, shipping and impacts from outside the property (including certain aspects of coastal defence measures and energy production).
6. Roles and responsibilities (management implementation)
Provides an overview of who is doing what (coherent management of the Wadden Sea), what are the activities with trilateral collaboration in place, and what are the activities that need to enhance collaboration with partners and stakeholders. This heading gives an overview of how we are putting in practice the management proposed in the SIMP (how and where are we collaborating/how are we putting the findings (from "5. What to manage") of the SIMP into practice).
7. Means to support management
Describes the activities, strategies and plans to support management through communication, education, monitoring, research, knowledge management and partnerships.
8. Global dimensions
Links the trilateral management into the global dimension of World Heritage: Showcase the Flyway and the Swimway Initiatives . Our contribution to the SDGs and international cooperation.
9. Monitoring and review of the SIMP
Describes the way the SIMP is monitored and reviewed, coordinated with and contributing to the national obligations, as an integral part of the management cycle. Promotes a periodical evaluation (management targets, tasks and necessities addressed in the SIMP), what are the results and implications (of research, monitoring and evaluation) for management.
10. Resources
Addresses the way resources are mobilised for the implementation of the joint management, may highlight opportunities, synergies, needs and challenges.