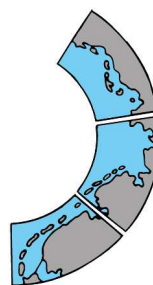


Wadden Sea Board

WSB 6
5 October 2012
CWSS



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| Agenda Item: | 7 |
| Subject: | Wadden Sea Conference |
| Document No. | WSB 6/7/1 |
| Date: | 17 September 2012 |
| Submitted by: | WSB Ad-hoc Working Group |

At WSB 5, an ad-hoc working group presented a discussion paper on the issues to be addressed at the 2014 Ministerial Council meeting. The meeting considered the document a good working basis for preparing the conference. It was agreed that the document was a work in progress and should be discussed at consecutive WSB-meetings. Furthermore, the document would be updated by the ad-hoc working group and would also include a time table for intermediate deliverables and an estimation of the feasibility of the finalisation of issues in due time before the conference.

Attached is the updated document by the ad-hoc working group taking account of the instructions of WSB 5. It is proposed to discuss the document with a view to guide the further work on the elaboration of the draft Declaration.

Proposal

The meeting is proposed to discuss the attached document with a view to guide the further work on the elaboration of the draft Declaration.

OUTLINE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DECLARATION WADDEN SEA CONFERENCE

Update WSB 6

Overview Issues Draft Ministerial Council Declaration

The following structure has been used in elaborating the overview of issues for the draft Ministerial Council Declaration:

(1) Issue/Headline MCD

A description of the issue, progress in relation to the Sylt Declaration (SD) or new issues and current input from the work of the Task Groups, projects and other activities.

(2) Review

Review of progress and indication of a possible agreement/decision to be included in draft MCD including possible different positions

(3) Anticipated decision

A preliminary indication of the expected political outcome for the coming draft Ministerial Council Declaration and the timing in relation to the Conference schedule.

(4) Political Relevance

Assessment of whether indicated agreement/decision warrants political relevance (and has sufficient substance to ensure attendance of ministers) and can be timely delivered, i.e. at the latest until the June meeting 2013 to enable the drafting of a first complete draft Ministerial Council Declaration.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Political relevance | + or – indicates relevance |
| Will Encourage attendance ministers | Yes/No |
| Timely deliverable | Yes/No |

(5) Intermediate Deliverables

An indication of the intermediate deliverables prior to the drafting of the Ministerial Declaration to allow for a discussion of the focus and direction of the draft Declaration.

1. Wadden Sea World Heritage

The overall Communication and Marketing Plan for the current period is under implementation and will be evaluated. A follow for the period after 2013 is in preparation (input from a key stakeholder meeting in January 2012).

The Wadden Sea World Heritage property was extended with the Hamburg Wadden Sea and the Danish and German extensions are anticipated to be elaborated by end of 2012. Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH) coordinates overall activities but proposal for Declaration has not yet been developed.

Review

The Wadden Sea World Heritage issue has developed rapidly since the inscription on the List, has deepened the cooperation and created a platform for advancing the conservation of the Wadden Sea and regional development. The property has been extended with the Hamburg National Park in 2011. An extension of the property with the Danish part and in the Niedersachsen section will only reinforce this development. The issue has the potential of promoting regional identity and commitment also through the possible establishment of a World Heritage Foundation under the condition that new cooperation arrangements are created institutionally and financially. The issue is potentially the “umbrella” for further decisions throughout the Declaration.

Anticipated Decision:

Welcome Danish extension including the extension of the Niedersachsen and Hamburg part and the progress made since the 2009 inscription; 3-year overall marketing and communication plan 2014 – 2017 for advancing the Wadden Sea World Heritage in collaboration with the stakeholders; possible foundation arrangement.

Political Relevance

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Political relevance | ++ |
| Will Encourage attendance ministers | Yes |
| Timely deliverable | Yes |

Intermediate Deliverables

Intermediate deliverables for WSB 7 include:

- Nomination of the Danish Wadden Sea including an extension of the German Wadden Sea World Heritage property and in this context considerations on the future management and cooperation arrangements for the property
- An evaluation of the Communication and Marketing Programme 2010 – 13 including a proposal for the objectives and directions of a follow up programme as an overarching programme for the property
- The feasibility and role of the possible foundation and relationship with the Wadden Sea Board

2. Sustainable Tourism Strategy

The elaboration of a sustainable tourism strategy for the Wadden Sea World Heritage and the Danish National Park was agreed at the Sylt Conference. Draft strategy is under development in the context of the Interreg IV project PROWAD together with the development of an action plan. TG-STC coordinates the work in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders in the regions.

Review

The draft strategy will be elaborated in a participatory approach with relevant local and regional stakeholders by end 2012, defining vision, principles and objectives of sustainable tourism, and establishing a stakeholder network to implement the strategy. On the basis of an action plan, joint projects will be carried out enhancing awareness for nature and its protection amongst visitors and inhabitants, and supporting regional development and marketing of sustainable high-quality tourism products. The drafting of the strategy and the involvement of the stakeholders (four regional workshops in spring 2012, second round of consultation in autumn 2012) is complex and time consuming. The elaboration of a concrete action plan based on the joint strategy which also includes synergies is an essential part of the follow up.

Anticipated Decision:

Adoption of the Wadden Sea Sustainable Tourism Strategy for the World Heritage and the Danish National Park together with an action plan.

Political Relevance

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Political relevance | ++ |
| Will Encourage attendance ministers | Yes |
| Timely deliverable | Yes |

Intermediate Deliverables

Delay in delivery of the strategy including the action plan which is now anticipated to be delivered to WSB 7 for further consideration. It is aimed to develop a strategy that has the approval of the main relevant stakeholders and it is therefore suggested to consider whether the strategy should be signed separately by those stakeholders at the Conference to underline the common commitment. Alternatively, a special event/stakeholder workshop in spring 2013 with stakeholder signing (e.g. combination with WSB meeting) and presentation some results at TGC.

3. Wadden Sea Plan/Nature Management

Wadden Sea Plan/Nature Management may cover several sub-issues such as (mussel) fishery, alien species, EU harmonization including roof report N2000, alignment WSP, overall sustainability and establishment of common policies for specific fields (e.g. mining, dredging, goose management, restoration).

Review

Activities with regard to the Wadden Sea nature management have been initiated:

- Inventory of alien species policies has been produced, the development of a strategy is under consideration together with the planning of a LIFE+ project
- Sustainable fishery study has been initiated and is now finalised
- Considerations with regard N2000 roof report, conservation priorities etc. have commenced.

The progress has not yet been substantial and reached a stage at which it is possible to indicate the exact outcome and feasibility of political decisions in this regard.

Anticipated Decision:

(1) alien species strategy, (2) principles and policies on sustainable fisheries, (3) N2000 roof report approach and harmonization initiatives (assumption Conference in early 2014), (4) specific management issues (ecosystem management, nature restoration).

Political Relevance

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Political relevance | ++ |
| Will Encourage attendance ministers | Yes |
| Timely deliverable | Yes |

Intermediate Deliverables

- Draft Alien species strategy, will be delivered for consideration at WSB 6
- Fishery report together with follow up recommendation will be delivered to WSB 6
- N2000 roof report will be delivered for first intermediate discussion WSB 7
- A report on nature restoration in the Wadden Sea will be submitted to WSB7 for first discussion.

The issues addressed under nature management should be part of a coherent package which is related to the issues of this document.

4. Climate

The Task Group Climate (TG-C) is responsible for the implementation of the Sylt Declaration agreements regarding increasing the linkage between climate change and coastal protection, nature protection, the adaptability of the Wadden Sea ecosystem and spatial planning, initiating a trilateral study on sustainable solutions to balance the expected sediment deficits on the basis of research questions specified by the CPSL, as well as initiating a project developing model spatial plans for pilot sites in the Wadden Sea region with the aim of developing a practicable spatial planning methodology to meet the challenges of climate change (MCD §23).

Additionally work is ongoing to implement the first steps of developing the Wadden Sea Region into a CO₂ – neutral area by 2030 or before (MCD §24).

Review

TG-C is preparing a draft trilateral vision on adaptability of the Wadden Sea to climate change. The vision will integrate the main elements of the work carried out in the past decade by the CPSL, as well as the current work of TG-C with regard to spatial planning. The vision will set out the trilateral policies for the coming decade. TG-C proposes to discuss the draft vision in a workshop with the WSB at the WSB-6 meeting.

A trilateral sediment study has started in the first half of 2012 under the lead of the authorities responsible for coastal protection. It is not expected that this task will already deliver politically relevant results for the coming conference.

With regard to spatial planning, TG-C has elaborated dossiers for several pilot sites which will be discussed in a workshop on 9 October with local and regional spatial planning authorities with the aim of identifying policy recommendation to enhance the possibilities for spatial planning to anticipate on climate change impact.

As a first step of the implementation of the CO₂-neutral area objective an inventory will be made to provide an overview of the state of the art regarding specifically on CO₂ emissions, analyse the role and efforts of the region in a European respectively global context and on the basis of the above provide recommendations for the main elements of developing a climate friendly, respectively a CO₂ neutral Region.

Anticipated Decision

Trilateral Wadden Sea (policy) vision on climate change adaptability. Political recommendations regarding enhancing possibilities for spatial planning to anticipate on climate change impact. Decision on further steps to implement the CO₂-neutral objective e.g. with emphasis on the islands together with the WSF.

Political Relevance

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Political relevance | To be further determined |
| Will Encourage attendance ministers | Depend relevance |
| Timely deliverable | Yes |

Intermediate Deliverables

- Discussion at WSB 7 on strategy climate change adaptability
- WSB 7 delivery of recommendations for spatial planning to anticipate climate change impact
- WSF to deliver input for the discussion on CO₂ neutrality

5. Maritime Safety and Pollution Prevention of Shipping

The Task Group Shipping (TG-S) has been tasked with the implementation of the agreements of the Sylt Declaration. Currently a draft vision is under development based on a.o. the outcome of the Hamburg workshop. The draft vision is intended to be an operational vision to guide activities of the cooperation in the inter-sessional period.

Review

The elaboration of a vision on maritime safety and pollution prevention of shipping is one of the central decisions of the Sylt Declaration. It expresses the aspiration of all stakeholders to attain a consensual understanding of the concerted efforts to maintain and enhance maritime safety and prevent pollution from shipping. The development of such a vision will support the Wadden Sea World Heritage listing. Issue is considered a regional priority by stakeholders. The vision in principle covers the relevant issues addressed in the 2010 Declaration. Issue is potentially controversial because of the economic interests shipping and harbour industries and world class ecological interests and high vulnerability of the Wadden Sea. A proposal for a vision will be developed at a stakeholder workshop on 19 September 2012.

Anticipated Decision

Wadden Sea PSSA Vision together with an operational action plan (prevention, emergency assistance etc.).

Political Relevance

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Political relevance | ++ |
| Will Encourage attendance ministers | Yes |
| Timely deliverable | Yes |

Intermediate Deliverables

- Delivery of report from workshop on developing a Wadden Sea PSSA vision including a first draft proposal for a vision including an indication of operational part for WSB 7
- Vision and operational part for WSB 8

6. Monitoring & Assessment

The TMAP was reconfirmed at the 2010 Conference being of central importance for the cooperation. TG-M is current working on the long term TMAP strategy in accordance with §43 of the Sylt Declaration. WSB has indicated that a starting point for developing the strategy is cost neutrality of the TMAP. Furthermore TG-M suggests that an update Quality Status report be prepared for 2016 to feed into various EU reporting schemes.

Review

The submission and agreement of a long term TMAP monitoring strategy is very important for the Wadden Sea World Heritage property central to the reporting commitment and for a wider

audience. The International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS), November 2012 may provide input to the further long term monitoring strategy.

Anticipated Decision

Adoption of the long term TMAP strategy to be further made operational in the inter-sessional period.

Political Relevance

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Political relevance | Highly relevant for policy and management |
| Will Encourage attendance ministers | No |
| Timely deliverable | Yes |

Intermediate Deliverables

Draft monitoring strategy will be delivered at WSB 6 for consideration how to address this in the draft Ministerial Declaration.

7. Science Cooperation

Sylt Declaration promoted the development of a joint inter-disciplinary research agenda in conjunction with the establishment of common research platform. The Wadden Academy has held an international scientific conference in 2010 and a bilateral German-Dutch programme to fund Wadden Sea projects has been established by the funding authorities. The ISWSS is in principle also a stage for discussing science cooperation.

Review

The establishment of the platform has become central with the inclusion of the Wadden Sea on the World Heritage List. Being a World Heritage property assumes the responsibility to maintain high level of scientific investigations and coordination in order to help maintain the values of the property. It is anticipated that the ISWSS recommendations will provide further input to the discussion, but too premature to anticipate decision on platform before the feasibility is investigated and science ministries have been involved.

Anticipated Decision

Acknowledge the establishment of a research platform pending investigation feasibility together with science ministries and support of the trilateral research agenda.

Political Relevance

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Political relevance | Low |
| Will Encourage attendance ministers | Unlikely if political process is well advancing |
| Timely deliverable | (Yes) |

Intermediate Deliverables

Await outcome of International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium in November 2012. The preliminary programme of the Symposium is at [http://www.waddenacademie.nl/Event_details.464.0.html?&tx_kbeventboard_pi1\[evt\]=16](http://www.waddenacademie.nl/Event_details.464.0.html?&tx_kbeventboard_pi1[evt]=16)

8. Cultural Heritage

The Sylt Declaration stipulates that only those Lancewad recommendations which are relevant for the Wadden Sea Conservation Area shall be implemented trilaterally coordinated by the responsible authorities consistent with the overall trilateral policies. Denmark to take in initiative to implement decision.

Review

The cooperation on the issue has been resumed in in 2011 with holding a workshop for responsible authorities and other stakeholders. In the coming period further steps must be taken to implement Sylt Agreement under Danish initiative including possible collaboration between the responsible authorities.

Anticipated Decision

Unclear

Political Relevance

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Political relevance | Low |
| Will Encourage attendance ministers | No |
| Timely deliverable | (Yes) |

Intermediate Deliverables

Workshop on indicative mapping to be held 25-26 September 2012 in Husum, outcome to be awaited prior to taking further steps.

9. Wadden Sea Forum

Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) has established itself an independent organisation. It is at this stage unclear how the WSF will report to the Conference. The WSF has agreed to take responsibility for implementing a number of agreements of the 2010 Declaration including the development of a goose management plan.

Review

It is to be expected that the recommendations of the WSF will relate to activities, developments and policies outside the Wadden Sea Area and therefore not directly within the mandate of the Cooperation, which will, however, also have an impact on the Wadden Sea Area and the Conservation Area. The recommendations should in substance aim to advance sustainable development and in this sense the sustainable indicators are central to policy development. Relationship with the Wadden Sea World Heritage stakeholder involvement to be considered together with the continued financing.

Anticipated Decision

Adoption goose management plan, adoption resolution on Vessel Traffic Management (VTM) and other deliverables, particular with regard to CO2 reduction.

Political Relevance

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Political relevance | + |
| Will Encourage attendance ministers | Likely |
| Timely deliverable | Yes |

Intermediate Deliverables

Delivery of package of suggestions and recommendations to WSB 8.

10. International Cooperation

The international cooperation concerns the cooperation with Korea in the context of the MoU and the flyway cooperation in the context of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Cooperation. The activities with regard to the Korean MoU are developing as planned.

With regard to the flyway cooperation a workshop with participation of international experts has been held to discuss flyway cooperation. Recommendations of the workshop are under implementation through projects.

Obligation to support the UNESCO World Heritage activities internationally in particular through the marine programme is strongly recommended.

Review

MoU Korea will be confined to political statement of follow up cooperation between the world's largest tidal area systems. Concrete proposal for decisions flyway not anticipated, an overall vision for flyway cooperation to be prepared and of high political importance.

Attendance of representatives from authorities along the flyway (West Africa, Russia) would signal commitment and contribute to enhance awareness.

Anticipated Decision

Continuation Cooperation Korea, confirm commitment for international support World Heritage, adopt vision Flyway and have this statement supported by attendance 2-3 key persons

Political Relevance

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Political relevance | Low |
| Will Encourage attendance ministers | No |
| Timely deliverable | Yes |

Intermediate Deliverables

Delivery vision for flyway management to WSB 7/8. Proposals for statements/issues on MoU Korea to WSB 7/8. It is suggested to relate international cooperation to theme 1.

11. Communication, Awareness, Education

Communication Strategy is under development and a network of educational centers has been extended to promote the cooperation between the centers with regard to education and the production of common educational material.

Review

The Communication Strategy is anticipated approved by the WSB in autumn 2012 and will direct the Communication around the Wadden Sea in the coming period. The promotion of the International Wadden Sea School has a clear objective and mandate and is widely supported by the "field" but lacks financial resources for coordination and development of educational material.

Anticipated Decision

Confirmation Communication Strategy, support continuation of the International Wadden Sea School as part of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Marketing and Communication Plan.

Political Relevance

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Political relevance | Low |
| Will Encourage attendance ministers | No |
| Timely deliverable | Yes |

Intermediate Deliverables

Discussion Communication Strategy at WSB 6 and decision on follow up.