

Final Draft
SUMMARY RECORD

**MEETING OF THE WADDEN SEA BOARD
TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA COOPERATION**

WSB 5

14-15 March 2012

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

The chairman, Mr Ilse, opened the meeting at 09:00 h. and welcomed the participants and supportive staff to the fifth meeting of the WSB. He in particular welcomed Mr Albert de Hoop, mayor of the island Ameland, who replaces Mr Klimant as advisor of WSF. Ms Sobottka replaces Mr Hebbelmann who is ill.

A list of participants is in **Annex 1**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Document: WSB 5/2/1 Draft Agenda

The meeting **adopted** the draft agenda of the meeting. The agenda is in **Annex 2**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: SUMMARY RECORD WSB 4

Documents: Final Draft Summary Record WSB 4

The final draft Summary Record WSB 4 was **adopted**.

The following remarks were made with regard to the record:

- p.4. Member TG-S from nature protection authority. Denmark has found a representative for TG-S. The Netherlands indicated that it will not delegate a member from the Nature Department to the Task Group.
- p.4. Seal Management Plan. The formal approval by NL is still pending. It will be tried to get his done before the coming TG-M meeting (beginning of May).
- p.4 Goose management. Good progress is made. A meeting is scheduled for April.

AGENDA ITEM 4: ANNOUNCEMENTS

Germany.

- The law of the legal status of the CWSS has entered into force Dec. 6, 2011. The CWSS is now a legal person *sui generis* under German public law, comparable to an institution. It can, amongst others, sign contracts and acquire property.
- The public consultation of the MSFD Art. 8,9,10 reports has started and will last until 16 April 2012. Also bilateral meetings with neighbouring countries have been organised. At the end of 2011 there was a meeting between the Netherlands and Germany about the implementation of the MSFD. A meeting between Denmark and Germany will follow; the date has not been fixed yet.
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- In November 2011 RWE Dea has started the application procedure for exploration drillings in locations within the national parks of Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony but outside the World Heritage area. As soon as the complete formal application has been submitted to public agencies, the World Heritage Centre will be informed
- The Schleswig-Holstein high court has ruled that blue mussel imports from the UK and Ireland do not comply with the federal and state nature protection laws. The implications of the ruling will still have to be studied in detail.

Netherlands

- Permitting blue mussel imports from the Eastern Scheldt to the Wadden Sea under strict conditions is under development. The conditions mainly relate to the risk of alien species introductions.
- A Dutch World Heritage book has been presented by the Dutch State Secretary of the Ministry EL&I on Texel on 12 March 2012.
- There will be more efforts on World Heritage promotion in the Netherlands. A person will be employed for this task.

Denmark

- The national park plan will be subject to public consultation 2 April – 30 June 2012. The postal address is: Wadden Sea National Park, Havnebyvej 30, 6792 Rømø.
- The office of the national park has been installed on the island of Rømø.
- The staff of the nature agency has been reduced by 125 persons. An adjustment of tasks and organisation is currently ongoing.

Advisors

- Mr. Rösner informed that five German green NGOs have formed a coalition against the RWE Dea application. He also informed that the Schleswig-Holstein blue mussel import ruling not only concerns formal aspects but also considerations about the risks of such imports. The WWF has started a 3-year project, financed by BMU and BfN, on supporting the transition towards shrimp fisheries which complies with the Wadden Sea protection regime. To this Mr Verhulst added that also in the Netherlands a transition process towards sustainable shrimp fisheries is in operation. He suggested to exchange information.

The meeting **noted** the information.

AGENDA ITEM 5: BUSINESS PLAN 2010 – 13

Documents: WSB 5/5/1 Business Plan; WSB 5/5/2 Life application

The secretary stated that Business Plan works well and that some issues have been flagged in document WSB 5/5/1.

CO₂ neutrality.

Ms Nickel informed that information had been collected by the German federal environment agency (UBA). There are two different approaches:

1. At the national level there are sectoral projects (research, traffic, housing, agriculture etc.)
2. Municipality level. Projects funded by the federal level from certification revenues.

With regard to the Sylt Declaration decision, UBA recommends to focus on the municipality level or sectoral, in particular through cross-border networking, for example through a platform like the WSF or Euregio the Wadden. Additional studies are not needed since sufficient information on best practice is available.

Ms Sobottka added that in the 1st week of June there will be a Conference on Juist about CO₂ neutral islands.

Mr Friis-Hauge stated that in the WSF there is cooperation with the municipalities and with shipping on this issue.

Mr de Hoop informed that the Dutch Wadden Sea islands have a goal of energy self support in 2020.

A presentation about this initiative was given by Mr Y.de Haan, mayor of Vlieland, in which he underlined the positive support which is encountered in all the island municipalities.

Mr Rasmussen informed that the Danish municipalities currently are collecting information about projects and that this information will be ready before summer.

Mr Verhulst asked how, on the basis of the above, the Sylt decision would have to be implemented.

Mr Rösner and Mr Verheij underlined in this respect the need for specifying the area under consideration and for defining the term CO₂ neutrality, which should be ambitious. They also pointed to possible negative impacts on nature, such as wind farms on Wadden Sea islands if energy self-support would be focused on too small an area and the need to link with the mainland which is better suited for this. However, they were also very much in favour of the different island initiatives and the energy initiative of Nordfriesland and encouraged them to jointly develop good models.

The meeting **adopted** the offer by the Wadden Sea Forum to ask the WSF energy group to assist in defining CO₂ neutrality.

Communication Strategy

The secretary informed that the draft Communication Strategy is anticipated to be delivered before summer 2012.

LIFE alien species

The meeting was generally positive about a LIFE+ application invasive alien species (document WSB 5/5/2).

The German delegation informed that a German preparatory meeting will be organised in April and that German participation will focus on monitoring and assessment. They stressed the obvious relationship with the MSFD and the new EU Directive on Invasive Species. The Dutch delegation was critical about the necessity and feasibility of treating recreational ships. There was also uncertainty about the self financing.

The Danish delegation did currently not see internal financing possibilities. These would have to be sought outside the ministry once the application was more specific.

The meeting **agreed** that the CWSS would sort out financing options and try to give clarity about remaining questions.

Fisheries

It was **agreed** that the report sustainable fisheries would be discussed in TG-M (beginning of May) and then submitted to the WSB.

It was **decided** that the chairpersons of the different Task Groups will be invited to inform the WSB as appropriate.

AGENDA ITEM 6: WADDEN SEA CONFERENCE

Documents: WSB 5/6/1 Conference. WSB 5/6/2 Scientific Symposium

Outline Ministerial Council Declaration Wadden Sea Conference

The chairperson of the ad-hoc working group, Ms Marboe, introduced document WSB 5/6/1. The meeting considered the document a good working basis for preparing the conference. It was **agreed** that

- (1) The document was a work in progress and should be discussed at consecutive WSB-meetings
- (2) A flexible approach was necessary to allow new or emerging issues to be addressed such as mining and energy
- (3) Comments of this meeting should be reflected in the document.
- (4) 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.

The document is in **Annex 3**.

In reviewing the document the meeting **confirmed** its conclusions, i.e. that there are sufficient relevant political issues to attract and necessitate political attendance and that there were an issue of timing and postponement of the conference would be appropriate to allow the issues to mature.

The meeting therefore **decided** to postpone the governmental conference to the 1st week of February 2014. It was **agreed** to convey this message to the Task Groups with the request to keep up the current momentum. This would also be valid for all other issues outlined. It was also **acknowledged** that some issues, in particular the sustainable tourism strategy, could already be decided before the conference.

Finally it was **agreed** that WG Shipping of the WSF and the Task Group Shipping of the WSB should coordinate their activities. The chairman of the WSF shipping work group should therefore be requested membership of the Task Group Shipping. The wish of NGOs participating in other TGs will be considered further at the TG-meetings and the next WSB-meeting.

Scientific Symposium

The meeting briefly discussed the latest draft of the programme of the 13th scientific Wadden Sea symposium. The question was asked whether there were sufficient presentations on socio-economic and cultural issues. It was also suggested to address cumulative impacts. It was **agreed** that comments could be sent to the secretariat within one week.

AGENDA ITEM 7: WADDEN SEA WORLD HERITAGE

Document: WSB 5/7/1 Revision Boundary/Extension World Heritage; WSB 5/7/2 Wadden Sea World Heritage

Extension Wadden Sea Area and Conservation Area

In discussing the proposed extension of the Wadden Sea Area and the Conservation Area pursuant the extension of the Niedersachsen Wadden Sea National Park, it was **agreed** in accordance with Art 1.2 of the Joint Declaration to

- (1) Extend the Wadden Sea Area to include the extension of the Niedersachsen Wadden Sea National Park.
- (2) Extend the Conservation Area to include areas off shore qualifying for a boundary modification of the Wadden Sea World Heritage in conjunction with, as appropriate, the extension of the Wadden Sea World Heritage property with the Danish part.
- (3) Instruct the CWSS to amend the boundaries of the Wadden Sea Area and Conservation Area; the amended map is in **Annex 4**.
- (4) Consider in preparation of the next Wadden Sea Conference whether an amendment of Art. 1.1 of the Joint Declaration is required taking account of the status with regard to the extension of the Wadden Sea World Heritage property.

Extension Wadden Sea World Heritage Property

As regards the extension of the Wadden Sea World Heritage property to include the Danish part of the Wadden Sea, the Danish delegation indicated that it could not yet give formal approval of the commencement of the procedure, as proposed by the TG-WH, but was confident that an approval could be given within the next couple of weeks to ensure that the timetable suggested would be adhered to.

The meeting **noted** the information and **agreed** that the secretariat should commence with the technical preparation of the nomination dossier to include both the Niedersachsen extension, as well as the extension with the Danish part, in order to increase the likelihood that the timetable for a delivery of the nomination on 1 February 2013 could be met.

In the eventuality that the extension of the Wadden Sea World Heritage with the Danish part would not meet the 1 February 2013 deadline it was **agreed** to submit a minor boundary modification proposal in accordance with Art. 164 of the Operational Guidelines to include the Niedersachsen extension.

The TG-WH was **authorized** with the further work and instructed to report to the next WSB-meeting.

Wadden Sea World Heritage Foundation

The Danish delegation indicated a number of concerns with regard to the establishment of a Wadden Sea World Heritage foundation in particular with regard to its purpose and the position in relation to other foundations.

The Dutch and the German delegations supported the establishment of a foundation. There were however a number of clarifications necessary with regard to the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the feasibility study.

In further discussing the ToR a number of issues of concern were stated, in particular

- What is its legal status and how is it related to the position of the WSB and the competent authorities
- How can double or redundant administration be avoided?
- Is there a risk that it will compete with similar bodies?
- Under which conditions will the Wadden Sea World Heritage brand be used and what will be role of the foundation in this regard?
- What is the function of the foundation within the framework of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and how will the foundation promote the values?

It was **agreed** to instruct TG-WH to review the above issues and amend the ToR with a view to an approval at the next meeting of the Board. The TG-WH may incorporate relevant expertise from the countries in the process of reviewing and amending the ToR.

Communication and Marketing Programme 2010 – 13

The secretary briefly presented the progress made with regard to the implementation of the programme in addition to the overview in the document. He underlined the significant progress made and the potentials of the brand for further securing and enhancing the values of the property and its function as place making catalyst. For the next Ministerial Conference a three year programme would be drafted as a follow up of the current programme.

The meeting **noted** the information.

On the suggestion of Ms Nickel it was **agreed** to invite Mr Rebanks to a coming WSB meeting to tell about the results of his investigation of many of the World Heritage properties of the benefits of being a World Heritage property.

AGENDA ITEM 8: WADDEN SEA FORUM

Document: WSB 5/8/1 Progress WSF activities

The chairman of the WSF, Mr Friis-Hauge, provided supplementary information to the progress report of the Wadden Sea Forum. In particular, he pointed at the finalization of the Planning Portal, the establishment of a working group on cultural history and identity and the re-establishment of the WSF Goose Management Group.

The meeting **noted** the progress report.

AGENDA ITEM 9: RULES OF PROCEDURE AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Document: WSB 5/9/1 Rules of Procedure

The meeting **agreed** that the ad-hoc group on the conference preparation should take the initiative to carry out mid term evaluation of the rules of procedure.

AGENDA ITEM 10: CWSS BUDGET

Documents: WSB 5/10/1 Budget CWSS 2013. WSB 5/10/2 Project activities CWSS. WSB 5/10/3 Financial statement CWSS 2010

Germany indicated that it could approve of the 2013 CWSS budget. It noted the indicative planning for 2014-15 but could give no guarantee of approval. Denmark indicated that it could approve of the 2013 budget pending approval of the state budget. For 2014 and beyond no statement could be provided. The Dutch delegation welcomed the zero budget development in 2013 but could at this point not provide approval of the budget.

The secretary explained that a significant increase of the salary for public employees in Germany could be expected for 2013 and the years after resulting from the ongoing collective bargaining after several years of zero increases and downscaling of the salary scales for new employees.

It was **agreed** to aim at an adoption of the 2013 budget at the WSB-autumn meeting.

As regards the project activities document, on the suggestion of Denmark it was underlined that the states parties referred to under World Heritage were the state parties of the Wadden Sea World Heritage, namely Germany and The Netherlands. Delegations may submit comments to the project activities document which was **noted** for the time being.

The Financial Statement 2010 was **approved**.

AGENDA ITEM 11: REPORT CWSS

Document: WSB 5/11/1 Report CWSS

The meeting **noted** the CWSS progress report on developments since the last meeting of the WSB. The meeting was informed that in November 2012 the CWSS will have existed 25 years. Delegations were in favour of celebrating this event.

With regard to the Wadden Sea Day 2012 it was **agreed** that delegations would provide suggestions for possible themes and that a list of themes of former Wadden Sea days would be made available.

AGENDA ITEM 12: NEXT MEETING

The WSB-6 meeting of June was skipped. The next meeting will be held on **5 October 2012 at the CWSS**. A new meeting schedule will be prepared taking account of the postponement of the Wadden Sea Conference.

A – preferably video but otherwise telephone – conference would be held on **28 June 2012** to take stock of the progress made with regard to issues discussed a.o. fishery project, foundation and communication strategy. The CWSS was **instructed** to elaborate a two page progress report to be circulated as a basis for the discussion.

AGENDA ITEM 13: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The secretary informed the meeting about the three vacant positions at the CWSS. The post of coordinator of the Prowad project has been filled in, starting 1 April. Last Friday interviews with candidates for the Scientific Officer post were held. A second round of interviews with two remaining candidates for the Project coordinator post will be held next week.

AGENDA ITEM 14: CLOSING

The chairman thanked Ms Schokker for the excellent meeting venue, dinner and excursion and the participants for a very pleasant meeting and constructive discussions, and closed the meeting at app. 12:00 h.

ANNEX 1

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ANNEX 2

**AGENDA
MEETING OF THE WADDEN SEA BOARD
TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA COOPERATION
WSB 5
14-15 March 2012
Leeuwarden, The Netherlands**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Summary Record WSB 4
4. Announcements
5. Business Plan 2010 – 13
6. Wadden Sea Conference
7. Wadden Sea World Heritage
8. Wadden Sea Forum
9. Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations
10. CWSS Budget
11. Report CWSS
12. Next Meeting
13. Any Other Business
14. Closing

OUTLINE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DECLARATION WADDEN SEA CONFERENCE

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)

Political relevance	+ or – indicates relevance
Will Encourage attendance ministers	Yes/No

1. Wadden Sea World Heritage

The overall Communication and Marketing Plan for the current period is under implementation; the Wadden Sea World Heritage property was extended with the Hamburg Wadden Sea and the Danish extension is anticipated to be elaborated in 2012. Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH) coordinates overall activities but proposal for Declaration has not yet been developed and discussed pending a key stakeholder meeting in January 2012.

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 through 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 for advancing the Wadden Sea World Heritage in collaboration with the stakeholders; possible foundation arrangement.

Political Relevance

Political relevance	++
Will Encourage attendance ministers	Yes

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It was acknowledged that this theme is closely related to the foundation issue and to sustainable tourism. Commitment from stakeholder essential. Necessary to look into the management and cooperation arrangements for the property.

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

Review

The draft strategy will be elaborated in a participatory approach with relevant local and regional stakeholders in 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 is complex and time consuming. The elaboration of a concrete action plan 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

WSB 5

Draft for further consultation by the WSB will be available in 2nd half 2012 or later. At the WSB autumn meeting consider how the strategy could be embedded in the Ministerial Council Declaration.

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
- Considerations with regard N2000 roof report, conservation priorities etc. has just 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).

Political Relevance

Political relevance	++
Will Encourage attendance ministers	Yes

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In order to focus the work on this theme the focus should be on the Conservation Area. TG-M requested to address the issue of nature restoration. Consultation and information are important with regard to harmonization, the extent to which harmonization is possible will be discussed in WSB autumn meeting.

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.

The terms of reference for a trilateral sediment study have been prepared. It is expected that the study will start 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 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

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Draft strategy for adaptability to climate change to be discussed with the WSB in order to determine the political relevance. With regard to CO₂ neutrality the meeting adopted the offer by the Wadden Sea Forum to ask the WSF energy group to assist in defining 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.

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

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Important to develop and ambitious vision and to show operational products and to include the proposals developed by the Wadden Sea Forum including proposals with regard to shipping safety and VTM. Chairman of the WSF shipping work group to participate in TG-S

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

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

8. Cultural Heritage

The Sylt Declaration stipulates that only those Lancelwad 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

WSB 5

Workshop on indicative planning maritime cultural heritage scheduled in autumn in Schleswig-Holstein. Danish initiative to be presented to autumn meeting WSB.

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 VTM and other deliverables, particular with regard to CO2 reduction.

Political Relevance

Political relevance	+
Will Encourage attendance ministers	Likely

WSB 5

Include all the anticipated WSF products in the list of deliverables as announced at WSB 5.

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 have been held to discuss flyway cooperation. Recommendations of the workshop is 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

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