

## Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 6**  
**5 October 2012**  
**CWSS**



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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	11
<b>Subject:</b>	Report CWSS
<b>Document No.</b>	WSB 6/11/1
<b>Date:</b>	28 September 2012
<b>Submitted by:</b>	CWSS

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Attached is a progress report by the secretariat on developments and activities since the WSB 5.

### **Proposal**

The Wadden Sea Board is **proposed** to comment and note, as appropriate, the progress report by the secretariat.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT SINCE WSB 5**

### **Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI)**

The two projects under the Initiative aim to increase capacity for migratory bird conservation and monitoring along the western seaboard of Africa. The projects, which run from 2012 to 2014, are funded by the BMU and the EL&I. The Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative works in close collaboration with other migratory bird conservation projects and initiatives in West Africa, most notably AEWA and the Conservation of Migratory Birds (CMB), the project of Birdlife International and Wetlands International.

The WSFI has been successfully presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties (MOP) of the 'The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds' (AEWA) in La Rochelle, France, on 15 May 2012. The WSFI flyer with information on the Initiative has been presented and distributed at the AEWA/MOP5 as well.

A West African regional monitoring workshop with NGOs and Governmental parties from Mauritania to Sierra Leone developed a regional monitoring strategy in Dakar in June 2012.

The first Advisory Board meeting with 10 international migratory bird experts was held in Wilhelmshaven on 5 September 2012. The meeting appreciated the close cooperation of the WSFI with other projects and partners in West Africa and gave input for the development of a trilateral flyway vision, which shall support and interpret the requirement of the UNESCO, to strengthen the cooperation with countries along the African Eurasian flyway and the Wadden Sea World Heritage. The Board invited Denmark to participate in the WSFI from now on and not only after the planned WH inscription.

### **Trends of Migratory Waterbirds in the Wadden Sea up to 2009/2010**

The annual calculations for trends on 34 migratory bird species were published by the Joint Monitoring of Migratory Birds (JMMB) Group on the website in September 2012. The calculations were done for 23- and 10-trends and based on trilateral count data from 1987/88 to 2009/2010. The trends are shown for the entire Wadden Sea, as well as for The Netherlands, Niedersachsen, Schleswig-Holstein, and Denmark: [http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/TMAP/Migratory\\_birds.html](http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/TMAP/Migratory_birds.html)

The recent overall trend since 1987/88 in many cases confirms the results presented in the QSR 2009. Further conclusion on trends on single species, short- and long-short term trends and regional trends, requires further detailed analysis by the JMMB.

## **OSPAR Report on Contaminants in Bird Eggs**

As part of the OSPAR activity on Ecological Quality Objectives (EcoQO) for the North Sea, a co-operation with monitoring institutes in Belgium, Norway, Sweden and the UK has been established to carry out a pilot study on “The EcoQO on Mercury and Organohalogens in Coastal Birds Eggs” in the framework of TMAP in the period 2008 – 2010. The report was published in 2012 and can be downloaded as PDF at: <http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/TMAP/3-hazardous-substances.html>

A scientific, peer-reviewed publication on the pilot study was published in August 2012 (T. Dittmann *et al.*, 2012. Large-scale spatial pollution patterns around the North Sea indicated by coastal bird eggs within an EcoQO programme. Environmental Science and Pollution Research, DOI: 10.1007/s11356-012-1070-2)

The report was submitted to the OSPAR working groups MIME 2011 and HASEC 2012 for discussion. They agreed to establish an Inter-sessional Correspondence Group (ICG) Bird Eggs, with the task to develop the monitoring further for inclusion in the OSPAR monitoring program (CEMP). The secretariat took over the role as convenor of the ICG and is currently preparing a meeting of the ICG together with the Institute of Avian Research by end of 2012.

## **International Cooperation – MOU Korea**

Since the start of the MOU in 2009, several activities have been carried out focusing on three topics: 1) information and education (cooperation info centers), 2) policy and management (integrated ecosystem approach), and 3) monitoring and research (migratory birds, benthos, monitoring strategies).

A Korean delegation toured the Wadden Sea mid July to explore how the Wadden Sea has been inscribed on the World Heritage List. The responsible authorities are intending to nominate a part of their tidal area in the most southern area characterized by the many islands for the Worlds Heritage List. Following the visit, the secretary and Hubert Farke were invited to a workshop for local and regional decision makers to explain the Wadden Sea World Heritage nomination process. The workshop took place in Mokpo, Korea on 12-13 September 2012.

On the occasion of the workshop the secretary also attended the IUCN Congress on Jeju Island for a couple of days. The Congress had particular focus on marine World Heritage sites and flyway issues on the East Asiatic Pacific Flyway on which a central motion was adopted: calling for improved flyway management. Basis for the motion was a report published by the IUCN in preparation of the Congress. The motion is also relevant in the context of the MoU with Korea. At the margin of the Congress a meeting was organized with the representatives of MLTM/KOEM to discuss progress with regard to the MoU activities.

In 2012, the Korean partners are planning to attend the 13th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium in Leeuwarden on 21 -23 November 2012 which will be another opportunity to strengthen the scientific cooperation with Korea. A keynote lecture will be dedicated to the Korean tidal flat protection, local communities and economic benefits. Representatives from the Korean Ministry MLTM and the management agency KOEM will attend the symposium which would be an opportunity to prepare MOU activities for 2013.

In November 2012, a 3-day workshop will be planned with the Korean tidal flat visitor centers on information and environmental education, focusing on the development of educational programs, exhibitions and partnerships with research institutes.

### **Wadden Sea Day**

The seventh annual Wadden Sea Day entitled “Energy transition in the Wadden Sea” that took place on the occasion the 25th anniversary of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat in Wilhelmshaven, was dedicated to one of the most pressing issues of today’s public debate – energy transition. Over 80 experts from the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark, from the energy sector and nature protection organizations participated in the conference.

The speakers provided insights into recent developments in the energy sector and discussed how to address the challenges to mitigate climate change, protect and maintain the outstanding universal value of the Wadden Sea World Heritage. In particular, the experts examined the progress in transformation of the Wadden Sea region into a CO<sup>2</sup>-neutral area by 2030, as agreed by the Sylt Declaration 2010. The recent progress in the energy sector on the coast did contribute to this objective, but at the same time this progress may also increase pressure on the sensitive ecosystem of the Wadden Sea in the future. It has been commonly agreed that energy experts will have to closely cooperate with local authorities and nature protection organizations to assess and mitigate the potential risks for the Wadden Sea.