

To interested consultants.

Date: 16.08.2024 *revised*

CALL FOR TENDER AP0464 / K185

Development of monitoring and assessment guidelines to detect and mitigate impacts of tourism on the OUV

With this invitation to tender, the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) is seeking a qualified consultant or consortium of consultants to review existing data, monitoring parameters, and methods to evaluate their effectiveness in detecting, monitoring, assessing, and mitigating potential impacts of tourism on the Outstanding Universal Value of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. This work will follow a participatory approach and aim to support site managers and community landscape planners.

CWSS invites qualified consultants to submit a written proposal with the subject line “Development of monitoring and assessment guidelines to detect and mitigate potential impacts of tourism on the OUV” to Ms Soledad Luna, Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, (luna@waddensea-secretariat.org) **no later than 2 October 2024 / EOB.**

Please find the terms of reference and further information following.

1. Background

The UNESCO Wadden Sea World Heritage is a multifaceted dynamic natural system. The site stretches along the southern North Sea Coast from Den Helder in the Netherlands via Germany up to Esbjerg in Denmark. It is the commitment as well as the common responsibility of the states in the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation to do their utmost to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the site. Additionally, major parts of the Wadden Sea are designated as national parks, nature reserves, and Natura 2000 sites. The present-day management system of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site is almost entirely covered by EU law and international conventions, in addition to national regulations.

Tourism has a rich history along the North Sea coast, yet finding a harmonious balance between tourism and nature conservation remains an ongoing endeavour for the Cooperation. Responding to UNESCO's request, the TWSC collaborated with local and regional stakeholders to develop a trilateral strategy titled “Sustainable Tourism in the Wadden Sea World Heritage Destination”. This participatory approach aimed to raise awareness of the responsibility to preserve the Wadden Sea's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). It also sought and still seeks to promote high-quality sustainable tourism products and activities that benefit local communities.

Despite its benefits, there are clear concerns about the risks posed by tourism developments in certain areas and times of the year. The introduction of the [Wadden Sea Tourism Radar](#) in 2022 offered a proactive method for destinations to assess specific criteria and determine whether current tourism activities are negatively impacting the environment for humans, animals, and plants, thereby jeopardizing the values that led to the Wadden Sea's recognition as a World Heritage Site. The SIMP Integrated Management Plan for the ONE Wadden Sea World Heritage recognises tourism as a potential source with significant impacts, including habitat degradation, wildlife disturbance, and pollution in the Wadden Sea. Monitoring and assessment are crucial for identifying the scale of these impacts and potential cumulative effects, enabling the development and implementation of conservation measures to protect the ecosystem.

The [Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme \(TMAP\)](#) is one of the cornerstones of the TWSC and a prerequisite for inscription onto the World Heritage List. The aims of the trilateral Wadden Sea monitoring, assessment, and research are to provide a scientific assessment of the ecosystem status, to assess the implementation status of the [Wadden Sea Plan \(2010\)](#) Ecological Targets, and to use ecological monitoring and assessment to fulfil UNESCO obligations for the World Heritage Site. Different quality status thematic reports (QSRs) identify changes in the status and possible causes, classify issues of concern, and indicate possible measures for improvement, including evaluation of the likely effectiveness of these measures. They also identify knowledge gaps. The TMAP encompasses around 180 basic parameters, but there are currently no clearly defined trilateral parameters to monitor and assess tourism impacts.

Within the context of sustainable use, monitoring and assessing tourism impacts (also as a synonym for other recreational activities) in the Wadden Sea are imperative for ensuring the long-term sustainability of both the natural environment and the tourism industry. These efforts provide crucial data to stakeholders, empowering them to make informed decisions about tourism and nature conservation management, including government agencies, local communities, businesses, and conservation organizations.

This study should be in line with and support the implementation of the trilateral agreements in the [Wilhelmshaven Declaration 2023](#) and [The SIMP Integrated Management Plan for the ONE Wadden Sea World Heritage 2023](#) (Key topic Tourism).

2. Scope of Work and Key Tasks

The aim of this project is to work towards the development of guidelines for the monitoring and assessment of tourism impacts on the OUV. The potential impacts of tourism to be considered in this study include the range and intensity of activities taking place within the property (e.g. mud walks, water sports, ferry traffic, water taxis) as well as those taking place outside the property but with potential impacts on OUV (e.g. infrastructure). The proposed guidelines shall include methodological approaches to identify, monitor, analyse, and quantify impacts of tourism based largely on existing data, with the aim to provide adequate information for mitigating negative impacts. Further, the guidelines should be easily adaptable to address changing conditions in space and time, and they should recommend specific standards in order to produce trilaterally comparable results that explicitly consider tourism impacts on the OUV key values (see page 17 of [The SIMP](#)).

Key Tasks

1. Collate, analyse and visualise relevant existing trilateral data, including:
 - Trilateral or national monitoring data on biodiversity, communities, and ecosystems.
 - GIS data.
 - Other relevant data such as satellite data, administrative data, AIS, and information from site managers and stakeholders (in Danish, German, and Dutch).
2. Conduct trilateral workshop(s) and survey(s) designed in collaboration with trilateral groups and CWSS.
3. Assess the use of monitoring data in the development and effectiveness assessment of best practice mitigation/management examples.

4. Consider possibilities to differentiate the impacts of tourism and tourism-related activities from other potential disturbance sources.
5. Identify key information gaps and provide practical recommendations for monitoring and research needed to inform management.
6. Prepare monitoring and assessment guidelines with recommendations on data needs to take informed decisions on how to mitigate negative tourism impacts, and identification of additionally required TMAP parameters.

The project is expected to take a participatory approach with stakeholder engagement throughout the research process. Transnational exchanges of experiences and best practices from site managers and stakeholders, specific to the Wadden Sea, are foreseen with the intention of gaining more information on lessons learned on environmental monitoring and how such information has been used to inform best practice examples of managing tourism impacts. Depending on the local situation, stakeholders include site managers, landowners, tourism operators and companies of tourism-related activities.

The overall goal is to establish an approach to monitor and assess tourism impacts, which can then inform practical mitigation and management measures. This approach aims to safeguard the OUV and continuously improve visitor management.

3. Key deliverables

The main delivery of the selected consultant/consortium of consultants will be a final report, and its presentation at a relevant trilateral meeting. The main delivery must be based on the knowledge and experience of the relevant actors in the Wadden Sea acquired through stakeholder consultation, e.g. at workshops (with site managers) and interviews with the organisations in charge of nature conservation and visitor management in the Wadden Sea World Heritage, and a desktop study on the available information.

The selected consultant/consortium of consultants will be expected to provide the following deliverables including but not limited to:

1. A list and description of the parameters (including geographical information, time-series) from the TMAP (basic suite) and other existing national monitoring programmes that could contribute to a better assessment of the potential impact of tourism activities on the OUV's 10 key values, while also considering potential cumulative effects with other stressors.
2. Case Study: Analysis of the selected parameters from a specific site or activity (depending on availability of data), and including geographical information and time-series, to showcase how the selected parameters can be used to assess impacts of tourism on the OUV key values and cumulative effects (i.e. map overlaps in the use of areas, like resting or breeding birds/seals, mud walks, ferry lanes, etc.).
3. Compilation of the existing best practices examples in management/mitigation of tourism activities identified during stakeholder consultation. Include a description of the data and analysis that were used to develop and assess the effectiveness of these measures.
4. Identification of gaps of information and recommendations for monitoring parameters (to be discussed in the context of TMAP) or research activities important for assessing the impact of tourism activities in conjunction with other cumulative effects.
5. Monitoring and assessment guideline(s) to detect and mitigate impacts of tourism on the OUV, including monitoring parameters, analysis of data, mapping of threats (traffic light), and data gaps. The guideline(s) include(s) the description of the TMAP parameters used to monitor the status of the

ecosystem/areas/species potentially impacted by tourism activities (considering cumulative effects), the analysis and the visualisation methods.

At least two workshops and two feedback loops should be included in the offer.

The working language in the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation is English. All meetings, work documents, and the project application are in English language.

Throughout the study and the development of the main delivery, close collaboration and consultation with CWSS and the relevant trilateral groups are required. The selected consultant/consortium of consultants is further required to supply all GIS-material collected or produced within the framework of this project electronically in an open source or otherwise recognized format.

4. Budget

Tenders should provide an elaborated methodological approach and budget proposal that best reflects the requested set of deliverables as needed.

Proponents are advised that the budgeted amount for this assignment is expected to be in the mid 5-digit range excluding VAT depending on the project's agreed-upon list of tasks and timeline. If your agency cannot fulfil all that this call for tender has laid out within the budget range, CWSS encourages your agency to submit a proposal that does fall within this range and outline which deliverables you would be able to fulfil. Tender fees should be fully inclusive, including any proposed sub-contracted work.

Tenders should be inclusive of all travel and other expenses and disbursements.

Costs for meeting locations (room hire) and catering for meeting participants are not part of this contract and will be covered by other budget lines.

5. Time schedule

1. Invitation to submit a Tender:	06 August 2024
2. Deadline for delivery of tenders:	02 October 2024
3. Decision and selection of a consultant:	10 October 2024
4. Duration to undertake the tasks and deliver the expected outputs:	Oct. 2024 - May 2025
5. First Draft Report (deliveries 1 and 2):	17 January 2024
6. Second Draft Report (deliveries 3 and 4):	04 April 2025
7. Final Report:	30 May 2025

A first payment of 50% is done at the signing of the contract. The remaining is paid upon approval of the intermediate and final products.

6. Proposed tender format

Proposals in electronic form are to be submitted in a format that allows uniform review and easy access to information for the selection. To assist the evaluation process, the proposal shall contain the following information:

Letter of interest and signature page (max. 2 pages per agency/consultant):

This letter should include general information about the consultant or group of consultants such as: description of all services offered, the total years in business, number of employees, office location(s), etc. include name, home and email for authorized contact concerning proposal.

Budget (1 page)

Approach to project (max. 4 pages)

Short description of services offered describing how you would approach this study, and how you will work with the client (trilateral Ad hoc Working Group Renewable Energy and CWSS) and with other relevant actors. Explain the proposed methodology that will be used and demonstrate a clear understanding of the project's objectives. Include a work plan and schedule.

Relevant qualifications of the firm (max. 2 page)

Outline experience in carrying out similar assignments (including references of previous projects).

Specific qualifications of individuals (max. 3 pages)

Provide an overview of the qualifications of your project staff, including potential sub-contractors (if applicable). Describe who will perform the various tasks, and their anticipated level of involvement and responsibilities. Include resume from academic CV of individual(s) in appendix (appendix not included in page count).

7. Selection criteria

Award of the contract will be based on the best value service, which may or may not be the tender with the lowest cost. Incoming offers will be compared according to:

- 30% price (value for money)
- 35% consistency and quality of the offer in terms of approach and task management
- 35% Proven expertise (information on expertise, CV experience of assigned staff).

8. Contact address

Please submit your proposal with the subject line “Development of monitoring and assessment guidelines to detect and mitigate potential impacts of tourism on the OUV” **no later than 2 October 2024 / EOB to:**

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