

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 31)

18 June 2020
Virtual meeting



Agenda Item:	5.3 rev
Subject:	Progress in Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI) project
Document No.:	WSB 31/5.3
Date:	04 June 2020 (originally 28 May 2020)
Submitted by:	CWSS

This is a revised version of the document submitted on 28 May due to delays in workshop report revision process.

At WSB 28, a [proposal](#) by The Task Groups Climate (now: Expert Group Climate, EG-C), taking into account comments by the Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH) was endorsed, for the Wadden Sea World Heritage property to be a pilot site for development and application of a Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI). This proposal entails an expert workshop CVI Wadden Sea as Work Package (WP) 2, with Task 2.1 Organisation of a workshop.

This document contains a short progress report of the Workshop "Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI) at UNESCO Wadden Sea - Phase 1: Outstanding Universal Value Vulnerability", which was successfully conducted on 10 – 11 February 2020 in Hamburg, Germany. The document also contains a short outlook on next steps in the CVI method (Phase 2: community vulnerability).

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information and progress and to instruct CWSS in collaboration with TG-WH and EG-C to come forward with a proposal for the second phase of the CVI workshop: Community Vulnerability.

Progress in Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI) project

Development of a Climate Change Vulnerability Index (CVI) for the Wadden Sea World Heritage

Climate change is a growing threat impacting World Heritage (WH) properties worldwide. The consequence is a decline in the values that collectively comprise the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for many World Heritage properties.

At WSB 28, a project [proposal](#) for the Wadden Sea World Heritage property to be a pilot site for development and application of a Climate Change Vulnerability Index (CVI) – OUV vulnerability was endorsed. The CVI is a methodology to rapidly assess climate vulnerability for all types of World Heritage properties (natural, cultural or mixed) (see Figure).

Core of this project is the assessment of **OUV vulnerability (CVI method phase 1)** in an international expert workshop (Task 2.1). This workshop “*Climate Risk Assessment for Wadden Sea World Heritage property. Application of the Climate Vulnerability Index – Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)*”, was successfully conducted in Hamburg on 10 and 11 February 2020. Mr Jon Day and Dr Scott Heron of James Cook University, Australia, co-developed the CVI and facilitated the workshop, which was organized by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) as part of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation. 40 participants with diverse expertise including government agencies, nature conservation, science and administration of the three Wadden Sea countries attended the workshop. This was the first workshop with international Wadden Sea experts of different scientific and academic sectors centred around the OUV of the property.

Workshop participants identified **three key climate stressors** impacting the OUV of the Wadden Sea:

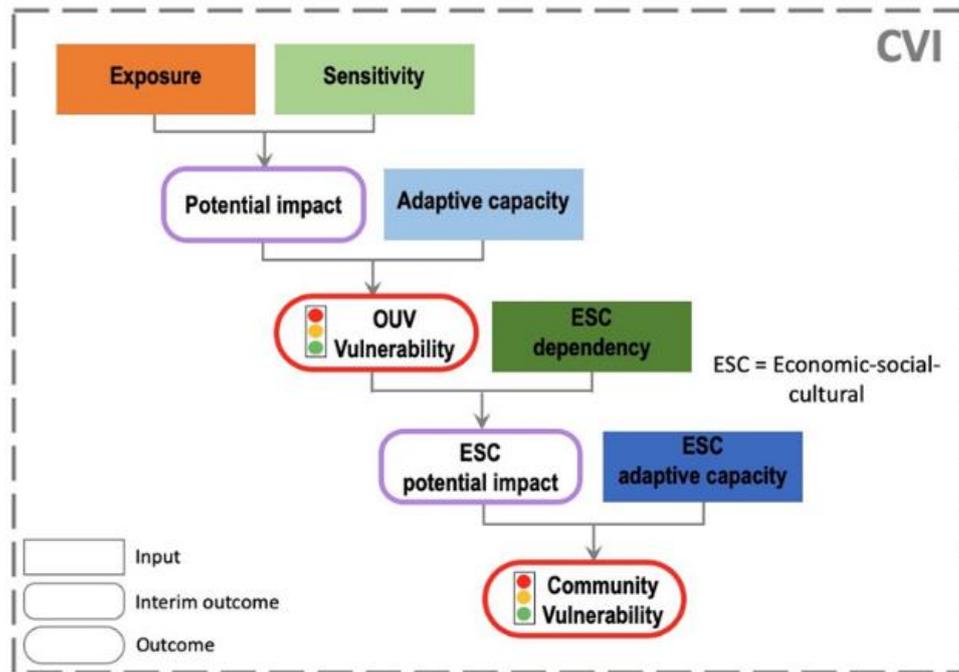
- sea level rise
- temperature increase
- extreme heat events

These key stressors were then held against selected climate scenarios to assess the Wadden Sea’s exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity against the threats. When considered over two time-scales (ca. 2050 and ca. 2100), the workshop assessed the **OUV Vulnerability as High**, indicating the potential for major loss or substantial alteration of attributes that convey the OUV.

The workshop planning committee (consisting of the chairpersons of Task Group World Heritage, TG-WH and Expert Group Climate Change Adaptation, EG-C (Ms Barbara Engels, Mr Robert Zijlstra) and respective CWSS secretaries to these groups (Mr Harald Marencic, Ms Julia Busch), as well as the CVI developers (Mr Jon Day, Mr Scott Heron) are currently finalising a workshop report with insights/lessons learned on the CVI method under lead of Mr Heron (Deliverable 2.1 and 2.3 of the CVI project). The report is currently being reviewed by EG-C and will then undergo revision by TG-WH. The revision process has been delayed due to the Corona pandemic. With these deliverables, the Wadden Sea CVI project will be successfully completed.

Building upon the results of this workshop, assessment of the next phase of the CVI (i.e., **Phase 2: Community Vulnerability**) is considered both logical and compelling in the draft workshop report. This second phase should be planned by CWSS in collaboration with TG-WH and EG-C.

The OUV Vulnerability (i.e., the level of vulnerability of the key values that collectively comprise the OUV) is an important outcome of the CVI process. The implications of this for the surrounding community who depend upon the World Heritage property (economically, socially and/or culturally) may also be very significant. Phase 2 of the CVI process is to assess the Community Vulnerability, and is an important aspect that is rarely undertaken in most other assessments of climate impacts. The CVI framework evaluates Community Vulnerability by considering the economic, social and cultural (ESC) dependencies of the community associated with the property (which include local, domestic and international people) and the community’s adaptive capacity to cope with climate change (see Figure).



*Figure: The CVI framework to undertake rapid assessment of climate change vulnerability of World Heritage properties and associated communities. The CVI Wadden Sea project covers phase 1 with the outcome **Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) vulnerability**. The entire CVI method comprises also a second phase with the outcome **Community Vulnerability**.*