

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 31)

18 June 2020
Online-meeting: 14-16:00



Agenda Item: 7.1 Wadden Sea Forum

Subject: Progress report

Document No.: WSB 31/7.1

Date: 28 May 2020

Submitted by: Wadden Sea Forum

Proposal: The meeting is invited to note the document.

Overview of the Activities of the Wadden Sea Forum

Indicator tool:

The WSF secretariat has continued the work on sustainability indicators on county level in Germany and municipality level in Denmark. The analysis of sustainability indicators delivers still basic information about the performance of the WSR. In the discussion about challenges and opportunities for the regions, the WSF will use the results of the

In spring 2020 some fine tunings have been made as well as data of the three Dutch Wadden Sea provinces has been integrated. Further, the compilation of new data of 2018 and 2019 has started.

Dark Sky initiative:

A second trilateral dark sky meeting took place on 28 January 2020 in Bremen at which a first inventory of local and regional initiatives to reduce light pollution and to raise awareness about dark skies was presented. It is envisaged to implement an international symposium on dark sky in autumn 2020. This is to bring organisations and stakeholders working on dark sky issues Wadden Sea Region (WSR) wide together to raise broad awareness and to discuss possibilities to make progress in developing the WSR into a dark sky region.

A dark sky WSR across borders will probably receive worldwide recognition too. The progress in implementing a dark sky WSR can be highlighted at the forthcoming Trilateral Governmental Conference 2022 in Wilhelmshaven. This could be a first step to work on more ambitious policies regarding light pollution and dark skies.

It is also intended to work on longer lasting program on dark sky. The aim of the program is not only to maintain but also to improve and explore one of the key values of the World Heritage Site Wadden Sea, **darkness**. Conservation of values starts with awareness whereas possibilities to experience values leads to public support and finally policies to secure good practices.

Therefore the aim of the program should be threefold

- Create more darkness and awareness accordingly;
- Create more opportunities (places and moments) to experience and enjoy darkness;
- Develop policies to incorporate the value of darkness in societal living.

A member of the working group is a professional astronomer and an expert on light reduction measures. For the Wadden Sea Region some investigations have been carried out to analyse the quality of the night sky. As a result it can be stated that the quality of darkness can be compete with those of the approved dark sky parks in Germany.

Macroplastic:

The WSF continued to some extend the work on macroplastic. The results of the workshop on 1 October 2019 have been further analysed. The following measures were seen as most suitable:

- Reusable dishes in coastal tourism
- Awareness rising in coastal tourism
- Mitigation measures at events
- Enlargement of dual use systems
- Level playing field in port charges
- Abrasion protection in fishing industry
- Improvement of storage systems in harbour areas

The full report (66 pp) of the workshop is now available on the WSF website (only in German).

Climate Change

The WSF cooperated with the Expert Group Climate (EG-C) of the Trilateral Cooperation on climate change adaptation issues as well as on the elaboration of a “Climate Vulnerability Index” for the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. A workshop on this matter was conducted in February 2020 in Hamburg.

The WSF follows the EU road map of a “Green New Deal” and will emphasize activities and projects under this umbrella.

Goose management

The WSF is supporting AEWA in implementing goose management plans for Greylag and Barnacle Geese. Currently, Favourable Reference Values (FRVs) have to be defined for the implementation of the plans. The sector stakeholders of the WSF contribute with comments and recommendations.

As this process was lacking, the WSF elaborated a resolution, which requests the responsible ministries to speed up the process and support the AEWA concept. The WSF adopted the resolution without any vote of dissent. The resolution (in German) is available on the WSF website.

The is also going to participate in the 5th Meeting of the AEWA European Goose Management International Working Group, which will take place from 15 - 18 June 2020 in an online conference format.

Shipping safety

Shipping and harbour developments are important businesses along the Wadden Sea coast and contribute to socio-economic welfare in the Wadden Sea Region. For a healthy future, these sectors should face necessary sustainable improvements, also to reach wide acceptance as growing economic branch

Therefore, the Wadden Sea Forum with the support of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) as political body of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation is going to establish a round table shipping, to elaborate on advice, how shipping safety in the southern North Sea can be improved, considering the vulnerability of the Wadden Sea ecosystem, distinguished as World Heritage Site. Many organization have been approached and the response due to participation is very positive. It is envisaged to have a first round table meeting in autumn 2020. Concrete steps of preparation will start after summer holidays.

Fisheries

It was envisaged to continue the dialogue with the fishery sector to strive for a trilateral approach regarding sustainable fisheries. This initiative should support the efforts of the Trilateral Cooperation of sustainable fisheries according to the implementation of the Singles Integrated Management Plan (SIMP). Due to the Corona crisis, not much progress was made.

World Heritage Partnership Centre

The WSF was continuously involved in the further preparation of implementing the partner-hub of the World Heritage Partnership Centre (PC). The WSF secretariat was and still is part of the Operational Team Partner-hub, responsible for the implementation, and has forwarded perceptions and proposals of the WSF regarding the role in the partner-hub. Recently, a process has started to elaborate a position paper of the WSF to clarify the role of the WSF within the partnership World Heritage. In the autumn 2020 plenary meeting the WSF will discuss and finally adopt the paper to be forwarded to the partner-hub.

Projects:

Resilient Cities

The WSF is involved in an application for a 4 years EU Horizon 2020 project about climate resilient cities, called Clarence. The first phase submission was on 11 February. If the project is approved in the first step, a full application has to be submitted in summer 2020. The project will probably start early 2021.

Prevention of crisis

The WSF is preparing a project application under the program "Kommunen Innovativ". The project will elaborate on prevention of crises on local level. This will encompass management of services of general interests, civic participation and sustainable spatial and settlement development. Partners will be some municipalities and the red cross organization.

Tourism, work environment and digital infrastructure

The WSF is preparing a second project application under the program "Kommunen Innovativ". This project will elaborate on more balanced use of the existing tourism infrastructure and on linking work, vacation and health in the Wadden Sea Region. Partners will be some municipalities and the organization ARSU from Oldenburg.

Sediment management

In cooperation of the Maritime Cluster North-Germany (MCN) the WSF has developed a proposal for a joint project on sediment management in small harbours and estuaries. The trilateral project will work on hydraulic engineering measures, sediment management and structural reforms. The project will probably start in autumn 2020.