MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 46)

20 November 2025
Hamburg, Germany

Common Wadden Sea Secretariat

Agenda Item:	**4**
Subject:	**Announcements by CWSS**
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Submitted by:	**CWSS**

The following paper gives a written overview of the announcements of CWSS to the WSB 47.

Proposal: The meeting is invited to **note** the document.

Announcements by CWSS to WSB47

1. International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium

The 16th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS) from 28 to 30 October 2025 in Groningen attracted more than 200 in-person participants and several online viewers (60 on Day 1, other days yet unknown). Under the theme "The Wadden Sea in Transition: Cumulative Pressures and Conservation", the symposium explored how natural and human-induced forces together interact with the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. 60 presentations were given in 10 sessions and 3 keynote speeches. About 40 posters were presented. A symposium report with recommendations to the Trilateral Governmental Conference in May 2026 is foreseen to be finalised by end of 2025/early 2026. The event was organised by the Waddenacademie and the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, on behalf of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature (LVVN).

2. TWSC branding & communications

The Brand Taskforce workshop held on 3 September 2025 focused on testing a draft propositions framework to ensure consistent yet locally adaptable communications that implement the recently adopted brand platform. The workshop insights, together with the brand platform and propositions framework, will be formalised in a consolidated communications framework to be submitted for adoption by the Wadden Sea Board in early 2026. This document will serve as a communications guideline and conclude the revision of the 2012 Communication Strategy, as requested in the Wilhelmshaven Declaration (§56). In addition, three regional online workshops will train multipliers on applying the brand platform and integrating the TWSC in their communications.

3. IUCN World Heritage Outlook 4 published

The IUCN World Heritage Outlook 4 was officially launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi on 11 October 2025. Alongside the global report, individual site assessments are available on the Outlook website.

The assessment shows that only 57% of natural World Heritage sites now have a positive conservation outlook (down from 62% in 2020). Climate change has become the leading threat, affecting 43% of sites and surpassing invasive species and other pressures.

For the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site, the conservation outlook has declined from "good" (2020) to "good with some concerns," making it one of seven European sites with a reduced rating in this assessment cycle.

4. Climate resilient East Atlantic Flyway project

The extension of the 'Climate resilient East Atlantic Flyway' has been granted by the International Climate Initiative. The project started with a limited set of activities in March 2025. The extension now allows to expand project activities and to implement activities as outlined in the original proposal. Timeline of the project is until February 2033. The project includes 15 partners from 11 flyway countries and focuses on making advanced progress in knowledge gain, wetland management, updates of relevant policies, livelihood improvements and education/communication.

5. Meeting of Parties: African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement

CWSS is participating with two staff members in the 9th Meeting of Parties that took place in Bonn. CWSS organises a side event on how the better integrate monitoring results in management and policies '*Building Climate Resilience along the Flyway: Considering Migratory Waterbird Conservation in Management and Policy*'.

6. New EU project: Integrated environmental monitoring informs adaptive management of coastal wetlands

The new EU-funded project “Integrated environmental monitoring informs adaptive management of coastal wetlands” has started in September 2025 to address knowledge gaps on the status of coastal wetlands for effective management. Building on the TSI FLYWAY project, it brings together experts and authorities from the Wadden Sea countries (Denmark, Germany, and the Netherlands), along with Belgium and Spain (Cantabria and Asturias), to develop a harmonised environmental monitoring framework for coastal wetlands. The project aims to strengthen cross-border cooperation and to embed flyway conservation more strongly into EU Nature Restoration and Marine Spatial Plans.