51st meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 51)

Meeting Document No. WSB 51/4

28 May 2026
Esbjerg

Agenda Item	4 Announcements
Document Title	WSB 51/4 Announcements by CWSS
Submitted by	CWSS
Submitted on	22 May 2026
Proposal	The WSB is invited to **note** the document

The following paper gives a written overview of the announcements of CWSS to the WSB 51.

Announcements by CWSS to WSB 51

eDNA Expeditions 2026-2028

More than 650 high-quality applications from around the world were submitted to UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), with the Wadden Sea proposal standing out among the 25 selected. The second phase of the eDNA Expeditions will run from 2026 to 2028. The Wadden Sea coordination team comprises a representative from the Danish National Park, one representative from each of the three German National Parks, a representative from the Dutch LVVN, the Waddenvereniging, and CWSS in a coordinating role.

The eDNA Expeditions aim at developing a global bioinformatics workflow that transforms eDNA samples into actionable data, enabling marine site managers to detect invasive species, track ecosystem changes, and monitor conservation efforts. At the global level, integration with the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) ensures these data also contribute to expanding marine knowledge and supporting action for a healthier ocean.

The Wadden Sea was also among the 25 marine World Heritage sites that participated in the first phase (2022–2025). For more information see: https://ednaexpeditions.org/

People and Nature in UNESCO Sites

In the framework of the collaboration with the UNESCO Marine Programme, the TWSC contributed €2000 to the UNESCO publication People and Nature in UNESCO sites. The report was published on 21 April 2026 and presents the findings of the first-ever global assessment of the conservation status of UNESCO-designated sites, including World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves, and Global Geoparks.

UNESCO's Marine Programme has shared the following set of communication materials:

Report: People and Nature in UNESCO-designated sites: global and local contributions

YouTube: A short video available here

Social media material: A series of visuals to be used on social media (see Trello, X, Facebook, LinkedIn: Report and Video).