

Task Group

Monitoring and Assessment

**TG-MA 21-1**

20 January 2021

Online meeting

FINAL SUMMARY RECORD

1. **Opening and adoption of the Agenda**

*Document: TG-MA 21-1 draft agenda*

The meeting was held as a video conference call due to the contact and travel restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The chairperson, Mr Adi Kellermann, opened the meeting at 09:30 and welcomed the participants. Mr Jørgensen was only able to attend the second half of the meeting due to technical problems. Ms van der Stap and Mr Körber apologized due to other obligations.

The agenda was **adopted** with one change requested by Schleswig-Holstein: The International Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS) would be discussed as an additional agenda item (**Annex 1**). A list of participants is in **Annex 2**, a list of actions is in **Annex 3**.

1. **Summary record**

*Document: TG-MA 20-4 Summary Record*

The meeting **adopted** the summary record of TG-MA 20-4 without amendments.

1. **Announcements**

Lower Saxony:

* During the weekend of 16-17 January 2021, the midwinter count of migratory birds was successfully conducted in Lower Saxony, despite COVID-19 restrictions. This activity was part of a world-wide counting campaign.
* A new staff member, Mr Benedikt Wiggering, joined the National Park authority at the beginning of January, being mainly responsible for biodiversity and monitoring.

CWSS:

* Ms Kristine Meise started as ‘Programme Officer Flyway and Biodiversity’ at CWSS on 15 January 2021.

1. **Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP) and data handling**

The chairperson summarized the TMAP data inventory workshop in December and noted that the major progress on the table would be the foundation for next steps. In this regard, he requested members to further complete the table where necessary and to foster investigations on discovered gaps. To proceed with the data handling issue, he announced that he would contact the persons in charge of the regional data handling to initiate an exchange with TG-MA on the development of a common strategy for the future.

The secretary informed on the commission of a consultant to explore the TMAP contaminants data set with the aim of its reorganization and to develop a sufficient data handling process as basis for the corresponding future QSR Thematic Report. He added that this report would be delayed due to this process but was still scheduled for completion in time for the Ministerial Conference end of 2022.

Members expressed their concern of having any physical workshops/meetings in the first half of 2021. The meeting **agreed** to explore alternatives in an online format. Responsibilities for envisaged workshops were allocated as follows:

* Beaches and Dunes: Mr Vossebelt and Mr Scheiffarth in consultation of WG Salt Marshes and Dunes
* Subtidal Habitats: Mr. Eskildsen
* Geomorphology / Hydrology: Mr Kellermann, Mr Frederiksen and Mr Eskildsen

Mr. Kellermann and Mr Klöpper would take the lead on an additional expert workshop, with a broader participation envisaged, for discovering options for further improving TMAP by considering new challenges (e.g. Climate Change and Alien Species).

It was **agreed** to draft outlines for the events by 15 February 2021 and to involve the expert/working groups where necessary.

1. **Quality Status Report (QSR)**

*Documents: TG-MA 21/1/5.1 Set-up QSR Thematic Reports 2020-22*

*TG-MA 21/1/5.2 QSR Editorial Board - ToRs and composition*

Mr Klöpper summarized the document on the status of the QSR Thematic Reports. The meeting **agreed** that the formerly not considered Flyway report should be considered for updating due to the availability of new data. Mr Scheiffarth and Mr Jaarsma suggested Mr Marc van Roomen (SOVON) as lead author as he was issuing the corresponding count data report anyway and the secretary would investigate funding options. The secretary noted that the WG Alien Species suggested to commission the authors of the 2017 report and offered support to authors. He added for consideration if trilateral working groups on certain topic should have automatically the lead on the corresponding QSR Thematic Report (TR).

The secretary informed on the adjusted deadlines for the QSR Thematic Reports (due to the postponement of the ISWSS):

First concept and potential content ready for discussion: during March 2021

First draft of Thematic Reports: 01 June 2021

Final draft: **15 October 2021**

ISWSS for discussion/presentation: 30 Nov - 03 Dec 2021

The chairperson requested views on the document on the ToRs for and the composition of the future QSR Editorial Board (EB). Members generally expressed consensus on the listed qualifications and potential background of the EB members. It was furthermore **agreed** that a clear distinction of tasks and responsibilities between the involved groups and bodies was needed. This was considered as valid for the drafting process, the reviewing and the policy driven reception of the products. It was **agreed** that the QSR Thematic Reports should be scientifically independent products and that authors and members of the EB should have a corresponding background. Mr Klöpper added that overlaps in involvement in trilateral groups should be avoided but should also not be strict exclusion criteria either. Mr Eskildsen replied that an involvement of these s groups would be essential on certain topics.

The secretary noted the necessity of the EB as a permanent body as a logic result of the envisaged continuous updating process of the QSR Thematic Reports. Mr Jaarsma expressed his discontent and argued that once the concretely requested products would be finished, there would be no need to continue for such panel at that time. The secretary suggested alternatively to install the EB at least for the duration of a presidency since final products would need to be produced for the Ministerial Conference anyway. Mr Jørgensen added that a duration would also depend on a road map for the QSR Thematic Reports. The secretary agreed that such road map would need to be produced once the necessary TMAP data reporting cycles would be explored as part of the investigations on the data handling processes.

It was **agreed** that CWSS would draft a new version of the EB ToRs after the meeting in time for being integrated into the TG-MA progress report to WSB.

1. **15th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium 2021**

Mr Eskildsen informed on recent developments concerning the ISWSS. Unfortunately, there is insufficient participation on the sessions on ‘Fish’ and on the session on ‘Future Wadden Sea’. The National Park Authority propose to cancel these sessions and to integrate two new sessions instead: ‘International perspectives’ and to split the still existing session on ‘Sustainable Development’ into the sectors ecology and socio economy. Any new arrangements would be finally discussed by the Organizers (representatives involved from the Schleswig-Holstein and Federal Ministry, CWSS and NPA) in February and TG-MA would be informed accordingly. Mr Jaarsma explicitly offered support from the Netherlands.

1. **Timeline 2021 – How to proceed?**

Member considered that next steps were already discussed sufficiently under the agenda items 5 and 6.

It weas agreed that CWSS would draft the TG-MA progress report in time for a sufficient e-mail consultation process within the group. Deadline for the upload of WSB documents would be the 11 February 2021 (three weeks ahead of the meeting).

Keywords would be: QSR, TMAP and Data handling, ISWSS contribution, SIMP contribution. Further content would be elaborated on basis of the first draft by CWSS.

1. **Any other business**

Mr Jørgensen informed on EU-wide updating activities of the major directives (WFD, MSFD, N2000) and that Denmark was trying to coordinate the activities with the renewal of the statutory framework for the Wadden Sea.

Mr Jaarsma informed that the Dutch government resigned shortly before the election.

1. **Next meeting**

The next meetings would be held on **15 March 2021 at 3 pm** (TG-MA 21-2)

and **19 April 2021 at 3 pm** (TG-MA 21-3) as video conference calls due to the COVID-19 contact and travel restrictions.

1. **Closing**

The chairperson closed the meeting at 11:45 am hours on 20 January 2021 and thanked CWSS for preparations and participants for another constructive meeting.

**ANNEX 1: Agenda**

TG-MA 20-4 AGENDA

1. **Opening and adoption of the Agenda**
2. **Summary record**
3. **Announcements**
4. **Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP) and data handling**
5. **Quality Status Report (QSR)**
6. **15th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium 2021**
7. **Timeline 2021 – How to proceed?**
8. **Any other business**
9. **Next meeting**
10. **Closing**

**ANNEX 2: List of participants**

TG-MA 21-1: List of participants

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| Denmark | |
| Mr Henrik G. Pind Jørgensen  Ministry of Environment and Food  Environmental Protection Agency |  |
| Germany (Federal, Hamburg, Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein) | |
| Mr Kai Eskildsen  Schleswig-Holstein Agency for Coastal Defense, National Park and Marine Conservation  National Park Authority Schleswig-Holstein | Mr Gregor Scheiffarth  National Park Authority Lower Saxony |
| Netherlands | |
| Mr Karst Jaarsma  Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality |  |
| Mr Gerrit Vossebelt  Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management |  |
| Participants from advisors to WSB and external experts | |
| Mr Adi Kellermann (Chair)  Kellermann Consultants  Friedrichstadt, DE |  |
| Secretary | |
| Mr Sascha Klöpper  Common Wadden Sea Secretariat |  |

ANNEX 3: List of actions

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| **Action #** | **Agenda item** | **What** | **Who** | **Deadline** |
| 1 | 4 | Further complete TMAP parameter inventory | all | ongoing |
| 2 | Submit draft workshop proposals | as listed under 4 | 15 February 2021 |
| 3 | 5 | Explore finding options for QSR TR Flyway | CWSS | Before next meeting |
| 4 | Submit updated draft for Editorial Board ToR | CWSS | asap |
| 5 | 6 | Inform on final changes on programme and procedure | Mr. Eskildsen | on availability |
| 6 | 7 | Draft TG-MA Progress Report (see keywords under 7) | CWSS | asap  (upload deadline 11 February 2021) |