

# Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 15  
4 November 2015  
Wilhelmshaven**



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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	5.4
<b>Subject:</b>	Climate
<b>Document No.</b>	WSB 15/5.4/1
<b>Date:</b>	22 October 2015
<b>Submitted by:</b>	TG-C

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Attached is the progress report of the Task Group Climate (TG-C)

**Proposal:**      The meeting is invited to endorse the approach proposed by TG-C

## **TASK GROUP CLIMATE (TG-C)**

### **REPORT TO WSB-15**

The Task Group Climate (TG-C) has held two meetings (TG-C 11, 17-18 June 2015; TG-C 12, 7-8 October 2015) under the chairmanship of Mr Willem Kattenberg (NL, Min Infrastructure and Environment). The members of TG-C are listed in **Annex 1**.

The discussions of TG-C 11 and TG-C 12 focused on work priorities for the coming years.

The tasks of TG-C as listed in its Terms of Reference are:

- (1) Coordinate and supervise the implementation of the trilateral climate change adaptation strategy;
- (2) Consider the trilateral sedimentation study;
- (3) Exchange best practice on relevant spatial planning;
- (4) Implement and/or coordinate any other activities and projects assigned by the Board.

The following considerations were made with regard to these tasks:

Re.(1) and (3). TG-C generally acknowledged that the tasks from the Strategy (see **Annex 2**) would in most cases have to be carried out nationally and agreed that “coordination and supervision” should be understood as monitoring progress made in the implementation of the Strategy at the national and regional levels, and that it would inform the WSB accordingly about progress and possible additional actions required.

TG-C agreed to focus its activities on the exchange and dissemination of information on best practices with regard to managing possible future impacts caused by sea level rise and storminess, including relevant spatial planning aspects.

TG-C identified two main instruments for monitoring progress in the implementation of the Strategy and the exchange of information on best practices:

- a. Organisation of a trilateral symposium, dedicated to the major themes of the Strategy;
- b. Development of a Climate Change Adaptation website at which best practices will be presented to a broader audience.

The extent to which these activities can be implemented will depend on available financial and personnel resources, made available by the WSB or the individual nations. The Interrreg project “Building with Nature (BwN)” (see document WSB 14/5.4/1) may provide additional opportunities for carrying out these actions (decision expected in November 2015).

Re. (2). Currently, the sedimentation study is being finalised. Denmark and Lower-Saxony have hardly or not participated so far. Continuation and extension of the study to include more than (the currently four) tidal basins may be possible within the above mentioned BwN project.

Re. (4). TG-C discussed the drafting of the Climate Change and Coastal Defence chapters for the QSR2016. It was agreed that TG-C members will deliver information to the authors of the chapters and will review the drafts.

**Proposal: The WSB is invited to endorse the approach**

**Annex 1. TASK GROUP CLIMATE (TG-C): MEMBERS** [status October 2015]

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## **Annex 2. Trilateral Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Section Implementation**

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The focus of the implementation of this Strategy will be on activities with trilateral added value, in particular to

#### **Best practice**

- Evaluate the effects of different measures (e.g. for coastal risk management) on natural dynamics.
- Secure and enhance the interconnectivity of habitats, both marine and terrestrial.
- Continue and further strengthen joint activities, including exchange of best practices.
- Promote and support trilateral pilot projects on integration of disciplines and sectors, including administrative layers.
- Evaluate site-specific solutions from the trilateral perspective of the Strategy.
- Promote and support the development of a common knowledge base that can be drawn upon locally and communicate these solutions broadly for eventual application at other sites.

#### **Policy and management**

- Support trilateral scientific and planning cooperation on climate change adaptation (drivers, impacts and no-regret measures) as part of adaptive management.
- Promote the inclusion of climate change adaptation management as a central issue in long-term spatial planning and relevant policies and legislation
- Investigate and promote the implementation of so-called bench marks for action with respect to future developments in long-term planning.
- Support the option to promptly enhance long-term policies as appropriate.
- Provide advice on the implementation of the Wadden Sea Plan regarding these priorities.

#### **Monitoring and assessment**

- Optimize and secure the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Program (TMAP) for rapid feedback regarding climate change issues.

#### **Communication and education**

- Exchange and communicate practical field experience with restoration measures
- Strengthen the cooperation with the Wadden Sea Forum on communication and participation regarding climate change adaptation
- Include climate change adaptation in the overall trilateral communication strategy.
- Support the International Wadden Sea School in developing relevant education material.