

# MEETING DOCUMENT

## Wadden Sea Board

### (WSB 42)

23 November 2023  
Wilhelmshaven, Germany



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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>5.2 Enhance Sustainability of Human Uses and foster Transformative Change (paras 17-37)</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<u>Activities report of the Ad hoc Working Group Cables and Pipelines</u>
<b>Document No.:</b>	WSB 42/5.2/1
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<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>Ad hoc WG CP and CWSS</b>

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TG-M formed the ad hoc Working Group Cables and Pipelines (ad hoc WG CP) at their meeting 22-1 on 17 January 2022, with the objective to tackle implementation deficits of paragraph No.29, Leeuwarden Declaration 2018, as far and pragmatic as possible:

*“Instruct the Wadden Sea Board to review and monitor the impacts of renewable energy production and energy transportation on the Wadden Sea ecosystem and to consider measures to avoid or mitigate possible negative impacts by looking for best environmental practices also with the aim of developing, for example, related common principles to evaluate the impact of high-voltage power cables in the Wadden Sea Area in close consultation with the responsible bodies and stakeholders”.*

With the adoption of the Wilhelmshaven Declaration (2023) the requests to the WSB were expanded to: §25 *“facilitate exchange and collaboration to develop a coordinated spatial strategy beyond 2030, to support the wind energy expansion targets in a way that they are in line with conservation objectives”*, §26 *“to explore the multi usage of space”*, §27 *“to evaluate possible effects of emerging forms of energy production”*, §29 *“end all forms of exploitation of oil and gas fields as early as possible and not to grant any new upcoming permits within the Wadden Sea World Heritage”*, and §30 *“to exchange on future plans and best practice of transportation infrastructures for emerging forms of energy potentially affecting the Site”*.

Likewise, the SIMP activities under the key topic energy aim at intensifying the application of common best practices to safeguard the OUV, to support nature friendly energy transition, and to foster a level playing field with the highest applied environmental standards for all three countries in a collaborative approach with the energy sector.

In view of the great importance to the topic energy, and also supported by the TWSC review process, it was considered that for the Danish presidency period, the ad hoc WG CP should address the topic of energy in a more comprehensive way. Therefore, it is proposed to adapt its scope from cables and pipelines to renewable energy. This document summarises the main achievements of the ad hoc WG CP for the period of 2022-2023 and gives a short outlook on next steps.

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

## Main achievements 2022-2023

### 1. Stakeholder mapping

Desktop study: “High Voltage PowerGrid Connections to Offshore Windfarms and biodiversity – Stakeholder Mapping” as a preparatory activity to develop an EU-Interreg B North Sea Programme project proposal and to identify potential project partners. It was undertaken by the external consultant s.Pro sustainable projects GmbH, between December 2022 and March 2023 in close collaboration with the trilateral ad hoc WG CP and CWSS.

The study provides a data base of key actors from the target stakeholder sectors: industry, governments, WSF, green NGOs, fisheries, tourism, farmers, and research institutions. Organisations and individuals from the Wadden Sea countries and other coastal areas with similar natural conditions in the North Sea region like Belgium and the UK (Norfolk) were also included. Furthermore, the study proposed a selection of potential partners of a project consortium and specified further their potential involvement and role (like being part of decisive processes, part of the solution, function as a multiplier, liaison person).

### 2. EU Project proposal LANICE

The “LANICE – North Sea wide acceleration of **LAN**ding offshore energy while mitigating **Impact on the Coastal Environment**” project proposal was initially aimed for submission under the EU-Interreg B North Sea Programme, Call 3, Priority 2: Green transition, objective 2.2 Promoting renewable energy in accordance with EU Renewable Energy Directive. The aimed budget to apply for was ca. €3.7 million (funding rate 60%) with full partners from the North Sea Region with similar natural conditions -identified in part in the Stakeholder mapping (above). The project proposal development and partner acquisition were led by the external consultant REM Consult GmbH between April and June 2023. Due to closing of the Priority 2 budget line of Call 3 by the EU-Interreg B North Sea Programme, the ad hoc WG CP members made every effort to redefine the proposal as a small-scale project (€0,5 Mio max., funding rate 60%) under a different priority, which unfortunately was not appropriate for the tasks envisaged. Therefore, the ad hoc WG CP decided not to submit the project proposal.

The overall objective in the LANICE project proposal was to improve & accelerate governance for transmission grid projects for an environmentally sound energy transition in the North Sea Region by 1) providing environmental efficiency & mitigation schemes, 2) establishing innovation capacity, 3) building cooperation capacity of authorities and operators.

### 3. LANICE-PAWOZ

Motivated by the Netherlands to provide additional input to the Dutch project PAWOZ Eemshaven program, specific activities from the LANICE project were selected by the ad hoc WG CP to produce a project proposal focusing on generating information on environmental impact of grid connections implementation, operation, and maintenance, and mitigation options (incl. a mitigation toolbox). Such information intends to be an additional input to the Dutch project PAWOZ Eemshaven program aimed at finding the best connection routes for offshore energy transmission.

The adapted proposal was submitted to LNV in August and approval was received in November 2023. The project is planned to run for two years starting in January 2024. The budget is of €500.000 from LNV and ca. €85.000 from the TWSC (SB 2023).

### 4. Outlook 2024-2026

Among the main activities for the upcoming period are the execution of the LANICE-PAWOZ project as well as the development of a proposal developing the coordinated spatial strategy beyond 2030. See draft Terms of Reference in document WSB 42/6.1/1 Proposal Trilateral Groups: Ad hoc Working Group “Renewable Energy” (ad hoc WG-RE).