**Principles governing the framework for Cumulative Effects Assessment of offshore wind farm development (EIHA 2023 Summary Record, § 8.7)**

The following principles governing the Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) framework have been adopted by ICG-ORED:

1. The results of the CEA should be used to elaborate recommendations on additional OSPAR measures to protect the marine environment.
2. The work of ICG-ORED in general and the CEA framework in particular must abide by the OSPAR overarching principles.[[1]](#footnote-1)
3. The effects assessment should be based on the DAPSIR framework including a pathway approach based on spatial information.
4. The description of effects should be based on the most recent publicly available knowledge and the following underlying principles:
* transparency about knowledge gaps and assumptions and use of expert judgements to address knowledge gaps;
* use of the precautionary principle assuming a realistic worst-case approach within the range of expected developments;
* absolute clarity about the geographical scale and time horizon of the calculated effects; and
* focus on species that are expected to suffer significant negative effects.

In what concerns the development of the CEA framework and its subsequent assessments, including, in a first step, the bird pilot, the following has been agreed:

* The framework should be applicable within the entire OSPAR area, but separate assessments could be carried out for each of the OSPAR sub-areas. The selection of sub-areas in the first phase should be done as part of the bird pilot.
* The development of the CEA framework will be done in a step-wise manner:[[2]](#footnote-2)
* in a first phase, include one activity (offshore wind energy) and associated pressures, and one receptor (birds, including seabirds and migratory birds);
* in a second phase, add other receptors; and
* in a third phase, add other stressors that together with offshore wind may affect the receptors of interest. Only stressors that are directly or indirectly related to offshore wind developments are to be considered.[[3]](#footnote-3)
* The assessment should consider two time-frames: up to 2030 and beyond 2030, in line with the development of scenarios, which is carried out in parallel.

These include the application of the ecosystem approach, the precautionary principles, the polluter pays principle and the application of best available technique and best environmental practice, as well as the principle that preventive action should be taken, the principle of sustainable development, including circular economy approaches, and the principle that priority is given to environmental damage being rectified at source.

1. These include the application of the ecosystem approach, the precautionary principles, the polluter pays principle and the application of best available technique and best environmental practice, as well as the principle that preventive action should be taken, the principle of sustainable development, including circular economy approaches, and the principle that priority is given to environmental damage being rectified at source. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Since ICG-ORED will be conducting a bird pilot, the order of the second and third phases may be reversed, in order to assess the effects of additional pressures on birds. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Examples of such stressors are changes to marine food webs caused by offshore wind that impact food availability or changes in fishing activities resulting from offshore wind development. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)