

Wadden Sea Forum
WG ICZM, 1st Meeting
Wilhelmshaven, 6 September 2006
FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening

The draft agenda was adopted. The agenda is in Annex 1. A list of participants is in Annex 2.

2. Election of a chairperson

The meeting elected Mr. Herman Verheij as chairperson for the meeting.

3. Announcements

Mr. Frederiksen informed the meeting about the restructuring of the Danish administrative system. In the new situation there would be four Wadden Sea municipalities (Tønder, Esbjerg, Fanø, Varde) and one Wadden Sea county (South Jutland). The new county was interested in having a representative in the forum.

Mr. de Jong announced that the WSF website had been renewed and asked for feedback.

4./5. Work contents and work programme

Documents:

Mr. Verheij presented an overview of recent developments with regard to integrated coastal zone management. He referred to the EU recommendation on ICZM and the national strategies, developed as a result of the recommendation. He underlined the need for a trilateral ICZM strategy, for which the report "Breaking the Ice" should be the basis. He also mentioned the decision of the 10th Wadden Sea Conference that the WSF would be consulted in the further elaboration of the national strategies.

Mr. Verheij pointed to the substantial differences between the ICZM strategies of the three Wadden Sea countries. Currently an evaluation was being carried of all national ICZM strategies by the Rupprecht consultancy. The results were expected by the end of the year and will probably contain recommendations on how to continue with ICZM in the European Union.

Mr. Frederiksen wondered whether there was uncertainty within the EU Commission on how to continue with ICZM. He noted that ICZM was mentioned in several EU policy documents as being important for implementing the EU sustainability strategy. He furthermore stated that the EU was interested in regional approaches to ICZM.

Mr. Frederiksen also felt that government representatives should participate in the working group. The other members shared this view.

Mr. Johanssen asked whether ICZM must be a binding or a voluntary process.

According to Mr. de Jong ICZM contained both informal (stakeholder participation) and formal (legislation, spatial planning) aspects. He made a plea to make the informal aspect an institutionalised part of ICZM.

Mr. Verheij asked the members of the group why they considered ICZM relevant.

Mr. Schuhbauer considered ICZM to be a good instrument for balancing ecologic, economic and social interests and for reducing the number of regulations. He emphasised that is important to make clear what area is being covered by ICZM. He proposed to develop measurable goals.

This was supported by Ms. Straßer , who also pointed to the many EU Directives and regulations and who underlined the need to make the system of rules and regulations more transparent for companies.

According to Mr. Frederiksen, the ICZM concept was the most feasible instrument for the development of a region, and should become an operational instrument for discussion with the public. He also underlined the relevance of ICZM for the further development of the Wadden Sea Plan.

Mr. Verheij pointed to the fact that the area covered by the WSP was much smaller than the Wadden Sea Region. He considered ICZM important for tuning the protection of the Wadden Sea, as covered by the WSP, with sustainable developments on the mainland.

Mr. Johanssen supported this view. He was, however, not yet sure about the added value of ICZM and wondered whether direct contacts between stakeholders about specific issues would not be more efficient.

Mr. Verheij then asked the participants what they expected as outcome of the work of the group. He himself aimed at governments subscribing to a common vision for the region.

Mr. Frederiksen pointed to chapter 3.2 of "Breaking the Ice", listing five basic elements for ICZM. It was his aim that these five elements be implemented.

Mr. Schuhbauer remarked that "Breaking the Ice" was already a little bit out of date. He pointed in particular to changes in the energy prices and (potential) problems with energy supply. He pleaded for a common understanding of the objectives and, in this respect, for measurable indicators. He proposed to use the outcome of the work of the Thematic Group for this purpose.

Mr. Johanssen wondered who would be able to develop such objectives. He stated to be in favour of a technical discussion on indicators.

The latter view was supported by Ms. Straßer.

After some further discussion the meeting decided the following:

1. To critically follow the further development of national ICZM strategies, based upon the criteria in section 3.2 of "Breaking the Ice" and to specify these criteria for the Wadden Sea Region. In this respect it would also be helpful that WSF members would present examples of best and worst practice.
 2. To develop Wadden Sea Region specific indicators for the specification of the sustainability objectives on pages 23 and 24 of "Breaking the Ice." Use should be made of the work done by Prognos and there should be a clear connection with the sectoral strategies.
- With regard to activity 1. it was **agreed** that a document for submission to the plenary forum meeting (WSF-9) would be elaborated by the secretariat. It was also **agreed** to contact Rupprecht consultancy with the request to give a presentation at WSF-9, in which, among other things, also a comparison would be made of national strategies with the WSf criteria from "Breaking the Ice" . For activity 2. it was **agreed** that the secretariat would work out the terms of reference for a consultant. These would also be submitted to WSF-9 for approval.

Mr. de Jong informed the meeting that for the implementation of the above tasks, cooperation with the German project "Coastal futures" might be profitable for both parties. In this project, among others regional indicators for sustainable development had been elaborated. The WSF could serve to try out the practical feasibility of these indicators.

The meeting **agreed** to investigate possibilities for cooperation between WSF and Coastal Futures.

6. Any other business

The next meeting was fixed at 17 January 2007.

7. Closing

Mr. Verheij closed the meeting at 15:00 hours.

Annex 1.

AGENDA

1. Opening

2. Election of a chairperson

3. Announcements

4. Work content

5. Work Programme

6. Any other business

7. Closing