



**Wadden Sea Forum**  
**WG ICZM, 2014-Brainstorm Meeting**  
**Bremen, 17 September 2014**

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

**1. Opening**

*Document: WG ICZM 2014-brainstorm Draft agenda*

The chair Herman Verheij welcomed the participants and opened the meeting at 11:00 hours. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**. The agenda was adopted and is in **Annex 2**.

**2. Announcements**

David Kooistra reported about the Ems integrated management plan (IMP), which was foreseen to be finalized in February 2015. The IMP aims at governance improvement and sound restoration processes. Still, the plan needed to be translated into real measures. Furthermore, he pointed at possibilities to get integrated projects co-financed under the Life-program.

Petra Sewig informed the meeting that in Lower Saxony the consultation process on its spatial planning programme (Landes-Raumordnungsprogramm - LROP) with a focus on the conservation of bogs and fens has started. Until 14 November 2014, everyone would have the opportunity to make representations. An electronic version of the documents is available online at <http://www.lrop-online.de>.

Also the preservation of combined systems of biotopes with regard to climate change would be part of the spatial plans, which would probably be adopted by the end of 2015.

Manfred Vollmer informed the meeting about the Wadden Sea Day 2014, which was characterized by Wadden Sea World Heritage and the farewell of Jens Enemark, who has run the CWSS for almost 27 years. The successor Rüdiger Stempel would start his work by January 2015.

**3. Brainstorm draft work program**

*Documents: WG ICZM 2014-2.6.1 Draft work program*

*WG ICZM 2014-structure brainstorm session*

At the ICZM 2014-2 meeting, the working group agreed on the contents of the work program. As the implementation of the program, which reflects the elaborated and adopted ICZM strategy, will be a major task for the future, a focus meeting was requested to intensively discuss the steps of implementation.

David Kooistra briefly introduced the document and the scheme with the structure of the brainstorm session.

The implementation of ICZM strategy aims at reaching the formulated objectives in 2030-2040. Concrete actions and measures are linked to the recommendations, adopted by the stakeholders.

Risk management will be a new task to deal with risks and uncertainties within sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region.

The indicator tool, planning portal and climate atlas are valuable instruments of the WSF, which build the scientific and data background for management and decision making. Communication and partnership concern all other themes and will be also a matter of the WSF plenary and other working groups.

In the following, the participants discussed the themes according to the questions raised in the document. The main findings are listed below.

1. ICZM strategy: The aim of the strategy is to achieve the formulated objectives. For this, a set of recommendations were elaborated to support the WSF vision and aims. The recommendations refer to policy and planning, management, transnational integration and partnership, monitoring programs and awareness. The meeting agreed that the WSF should be involved in planning and management processes, which concerns the WSR. Responsible bodies should be made aware of the WSF interests and the WSF should proactively take part in these processes. This will lead to an increased workload. The WSF plenary and the Steering Committee should play a substantial role in this. The plenary sessions can help to strive for more commitment of the stakeholders. Discussion of questionnaires will compile stakeholder views and panel discussions can enlarge upon topical issues. This new role has to be discussed in the next SC meeting.

2. Risk management: The sectors and stakeholders are confronted with many uncertainties and risks with regard to future developments, also in the context of climate change. The aim is being prepared to face the risks.

The pressures on the WSR are described in the summary report of the workshop on risk management in May 2014. The main three pressures were considered as

- a) climate change and increasing water levels;
- b) demographic change in the WSR;
- c) spatial conflicts.

All are considered as significant with a high potential of impact.

It was agreed that a set of actions should be integrated in the implementation of the strategy. An inventory of current policies, measures and projects is needed to focus on open questions regarding adequate dealings with the risks. A targeted analysis would reveal tasks and actions of the WSF on transnational scale, cooperation possibilities and solutions to fill the gaps of knowledge and management measures.

With regard to climate change, the working group will collect information about policies and current measures. Also cooperation with the Task Group climate of the TWSC is envisaged. Regarding demographic change, the information of the indicator tool can be used to depict the current situation and possible trends.

3. Indicator tool: The indicator tool contains data of several indicators since 2002 and shows on the main level the overall trends of the social, economic and ecologic dimensions. The data base consists of thousands of entries and is a source of fundamental information.

In order to make the instrument more valuable and useful, the data should be analyzed due to the requirements of the target groups, which still have to be defined. This also means, the instruments should be adapted to specific needs. A further option is to elaborate the different sustainability trends on regional level to make it more attractive. This is a matter of ICT and can probably be managed by EUCC-D.

The assessment of contents due to the target groups needs scientific support, for which the secretariat will make the contacts.

Finally, the indicator tool has to be better promoted and the WSF can benefit from a widely used instrument.

4. Planning Portal: The portal has been developed by the EUCC-D for the WSF. Currently, the portal consists of more than hundred different layers reading uses and protection schemes in the WSR. Many stakeholders and public bodies do benefit from the information, but there is no information available about who is using the portal. On European level, a request was addressed to extend the portal North Sea wide.

The meeting underlined the value of the planning portal and it was agreed that a continuous update of data is necessary. A spatial extension has to be discussed with the users, but also with European bodies who do have an interest. This has to be coordinated with ongoing projects on EU level.

An integration of the indicator tool data has started and it was wished to continue with this work. This, as well the future maintenance can be done by EUCC-D, but a budget has to be found. EUCC-D will provide information on the use of the Planning Portal based on log-files of the GIS server.

Furthermore, an integration of cultural historic data would also be beneficial. This should be considered when discussing an extension due to contents and space.

5. Communication and partnership was seen as an overarching issue for the WSF. Communication is a task which concerns the WSF itself as well as all working groups. The meeting agreed to forward the discussion to the Steering Committee as responsible body.

#### **4. Any other business**

No other business discussed.

#### **5. Closing**

The chair thanked all participants for their fruitful contributions and closed the meeting at 15:30 hours.

**ANNEX 2**

**Wadden Sea Forum  
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**DRAFT AGENDA**

**Agenda item 1. Opening**

**Agenda item 2. Announcements**

**Agenda item 3. Brainstorm draft work program**

**Agenda item 4. Any other business**

**Agenda item 5. Closing**