



**Wadden Sea Forum
Steering Committee
Meeting 2017-1
Bremen, 22 February 2017**

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening

The meeting was opened by the chair, Mr. Cees Loggen, who welcomed the participants and opened the meeting on 22 February at 11:00 hours. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**. The agenda was **adopted** without amendments and is in **Annex 2**.

2. Adoption of the minutes SC-2016-2

Document: SC-2016-2 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting adopted the final draft minutes of SC-2016-2, Bremen, 08 June 2016 (distributed by e-mail of 29 June 2016), which is also available at the WSF website.

3. Announcements

Preben Friis-Hauge informed about the PROWAD LINK project, which aims to invite small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the North Sea Region to contribute to nature protection areas such as World Heritage sites and thus unlock economic benefits. Denmark is represented with 3 partners out of 17 in this project with a total volume of 4,5 million Euro. Approval would be in autumn this year.

He further announced a study tour of the Danish National Park Board on 17-19 March to Germany and the Netherlands.

Herman Verheij informed about the Dutch program Ems-Dollard 2050, which would be linked to the German Ems Masterplan 2050. A cooperation would be desirable to improve the ecological value in the heavily just Ems estuary.

Furthermore, he pointed at the parliament elections on 15 March and hoped on continuation in Wadden Sea politics and management.

Thirdly, he announced that the Dutch government would assess the current Wadden Sea policy structure with a view on concentrating the management of the area due to planning and management. It would be envisaged to establish one responsible entity, similar to the German and Danish National Park Authorities.

Erich Hinrichs informed that Germany would now also support the AEWA Goose Management Platform to elaborate management plans for Barnacle and Greylag Geese. Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein instead of the national government had supported

the implementation of the platform with 20,000 Euro. A commitment from the German side was necessary for cooperation on European level. A first meeting of AEWA with regard to a barnacle goose management plan would take place in June in Copenhagen.

Manfred Vollmer informed the Steering Committee about some new developments with regard to the World Heritage Partnership Centre (PC). Lower Saxony had nominated Margrita Sobotka from the National Park Authority to coordinate the process of implementing the centre, mainly financed by the German government, Lower Saxony and the city of Wilhelmshaven. It would be envisaged that the WSF secretariat together with the CWSS would move to the new built offices in 2020.

4. Progress WSF activities

The secretary briefly reported about the progress about some agreed "speed boat" actions. These were agreed in a former plenary meeting as contributions of small ad hoc groups elaborating on different themes. The main activities of the WSF are described under agenda item 5. Ad hoc group actions:

Communication: A link to Facebook has been installed but still, contributions and articles from WSF members are missing. Up to now, just a few likes had been counted.

Sport boats: Water sport and sport boat tourism is a prominent theme of an WSF ad hoc group. Information about rules and regulations and nature conservation are compiled and provided for the users. The Trilateral Wadden Sea Sailing Association (TWSSA), which was founded by the Danish Vadehavets Bådklubber, the German Soltwaters e.V and the Dutch Wadvaarders, aims at sustainable water sport and respect for nature. First results would probably available at the forthcoming plenary meeting.

Sustainable transport: Recently a sub-project within the program Naar een Rijke Waddensee (for a rich Wadden Sea) with regard to sustainable transport in the Netherlands has started and results would be available by mid-May. Herman Verheij will check possibilities to enlarge the project also to the German and Danish region and how the WSF can deal with this issue.

5. Topical issues of the WSF

The meeting discussed the main work topics relevant for the Wadden Sea Region and agreed to have a focus on these as most important ones.

1. CO₂ reduction

Energy topics, climate change and CO₂ reduction have been on the WSF agenda for many years. Recently, a cooperation with the WSB has been arranged to elaborate on elements of a CO₂ neutral Wadden Sea Region. The national delegations of the WSB have nominated contact persons responsible to contribute to an inventory of policies, plans and measures with regard to the aim. A first meeting will take place on 28 April in Bremen to discuss the scope and aims considering a joint approach. The WSF together with the Dutch contact point Rosanne Verbree will oversee the project. The meeting agreed that the WSF should contribute to the inventory with best practice examples of measures on the local and regional level and to deliver advice with regard to completeness from a stakeholder point of view.

2. Green harbour concept

With the initiative of the Netherlands, new movements in working towards green shipping and green ports were made. Also the WSF took this issue on board and is cooperating with the Maritime Competence Center (MARIKO) to implement a symposium on 26 April 2017 in Norden. A trilateral approach is guaranteed as Dutch and Danish representatives are invited to a podium discussion.

The SC members welcomed the implementation of the symposium and pointed also at a broader view. This could be achieved in getting support of the North Sea Commission transport group, who is working on the same issue North Sea wide. A harbor concept,

strengthening the specialization of the Wadden Sea harbors and working together on infrastructure and logistics would contribute to a green harbor concept too. Future dealings should emphasize the differences and characteristics of the Wadden Sea harbors in comparison with other harbors and work on the challenges. The symposium can be used to draw conclusions and recommendations for further actions in the WSR.

3. Risk management

Based on the results of the three workshops on risk management in the framework of the Enhance project, the WSF agreed to continue with this issue with an emphasis on demographic change. At the last meeting the ICZM group decided to elaborate on an analysis of problems regarding sustainable development of the WSR. In a second step, the causes of defined problems as well as possible consequences have to be discussed in order to find solutions. This could be on the mitigating but also on the adaptation level. Problems could be seen differently among the regions. This requires non static approaches and strategies dealing with defined problems. On the trilateral level the WSF could function as communicator for information exchange and learning processes.

The meeting **agreed** that the draft analysis should be distributed to the Steering Committee to get support by commenting the document, which should be discussed at the plenary for further input.

4. Sustainability indicator on municipality level

The WSF has elaborated on indicators since 2003 and recently, in cooperation with the Wadden Academy and the universities of Tilburg and Kiel, a new approach was elaborated to make the indicator tool more applicable and attractive for decision makers. An inventory of more than 60 indicators for 570 municipalities in the German WSR as well as a detailed analysis for 2 municipalities have been carried out.

While in the municipality Meldorf in Schleswig-Holstein, interviews with representatives of the municipality were conducted, a workshop with more than 20 representatives was implemented in the municipality Wittmund in Lower Saxony.

The aim was to discuss the scientific results with stakeholders and practitioners in order to consider characteristics of the local level and to make it more applicable.

The SC **welcomed** the work on the indicator instrument and stated that the work on the analyses on municipality level should be continued in cooperation with universities as the scope of the work is limited with the available resources within the WSF. In the end, the municipalities themselves should execute the analyses. For this, it is proposed to provide the instrument and a manual for usage.

The meeting **agreed** that the results of the analyses should be presented at the plenary meeting in May for information and further discussion.

5. Cultural identity

Cultural identity is the glue for social cohesion of a region. If people do identify themselves with the WSR, more commitment and responsibility will be taken. Also the risk analyses have shown that demographic change has a lot to do with cultural history and identity, which is necessary to keep the WSR vivid.

The SC members **agreed** on the importance of the cultural history for the WSR and that the WSF should consider this in their dealings. Nevertheless, it was **agreed** not to initiate a project or lay emphasis on this issue as the resources were limited. In line with this, a contribution on cultural identity would not be delivered to the Trilateral Governmental Conference in 2018 in Leeuwarden, even the city will be nominated as European Cultural Capital.

6. Central themes at WSF-30

The Steering Committee **agreed** to present four main topics at the WSF plenary on 18-19 May in Den Helder. These are:

1. Macro plastic in the marine environment; the university of Oldenburg has started a project investigating in sources of macro plastic in the North Sea as well as it drifts and deposit places. A presentation about this project will be given.

2. Frisian heritage, a trilateral trans-media project on Frisian heritage in NL, DE and DK; first results about interviews along the coast, portraits of people and film material will be presented.

3. Risk management, a document with a first draft analysis of demographic change in the WSR will be presented by the ICZM group to be further discussed among the stakeholders.

4. Sustainability indicators, the analysis of the two municipalities Wittmund and Meldorf will be presented for further discussion and work agreements.

7. Draft agenda WSF-30

Document: SC-2017-1.7.1 WSF-30 proposed draft agenda

The Steering Committee briefly discussed the proposed draft agenda for the WSF-30 meeting, 18-19 May 2017, **agreed** to the listed items and **decided** to amend the draft agenda by two additional items:

- The results of the indicator analyses on municipality level will be presented under an additional agenda point.
- A discussion about the WSF contributions to the Trilateral Governmental Conference in 2018 in Leeuwarden (TGC 19) will also be dealt with as an extra item.

The updated draft agenda is in **annex 3**.

8. WSF finances 2017

The secretary introduced the preliminary budget for 2017. There is a slight increase due to labour agreements in public services. For 2017 a balanced budget is envisaged if the last payment of the Enhance project will be received and if a project application under the German "Wattenmeerstiftung" will be approved. Positive signals have been received already.

Still, a contribution of the German Ministry for Environment is missing, as no project in nature conservation can be found, which can be implemented within the secretariat, which is a pre-condition to support the expenses of the secretariat.

The meeting **agreed** that a long lasting solution to maintain the WSF secretariat has to be found. For the next meeting in September a strategy will be elaborated how the WSF will get the necessary commitment and financial support. The integration of the WSF in the Partnership Centre will play an important role in this strategy. The support of the sectors and stakeholders for the preservation and management of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site requires also commitment and support of the political level for maintaining the WSF secretariat. After agreement within the Steering Committee, the strategy will be forwarded to the WSB meeting in November, also in the view that this should be an item at the TGC-19.

9. Any other business

No other business discussed.

10. Next meeting

The meeting **proposed** to hold the next Steering Committee meeting on **27 September 2017** in Bremen prior to the **WSF 31 meeting on 1-2 November 2017**.

11. Closing

The chair thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting at 15:00 on 22 February 2017.

ANNEX 2

**Wadden Sea Forum
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DRAFT AGENDA

- Agenda item 1. Opening**
- Agenda item 2. Adoption of the minutes SC-2016-2**
- Agenda item 3. Announcements**
- Agenda item 4. Progress WSF activities**
- Agenda item 5. Topical issues of the WSF**
- Agenda item 6. Central themes at WSF-30**
- Agenda item 7. Draft agenda WSF-30**
- Agenda item 8. WSF finances 2017**
- Agenda item 9. Any other business**
- Agenda item 10. Next meeting**
- Agenda item 11. Closing**

**Wadden Sea Forum
30th meeting
Den Helder, 18-19 May 2017**

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Opening

The meeting will be opened by the chairman Mr Cees Loggen at 13:00 hours. Members will be invited to adopt the draft agenda.

2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF-29

Document: WSF-29 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting will be invited to adopt the final draft minutes of the WSF-29 meeting, Husum, 13-14 October 2016. The final draft minutes of WSF-29 have been distributed by e-mail of 08 November 2016. The final draft minutes are also available on the WSF website www.waddensea-forum.org.

3. Membership WSF

Document: WSF 30-3.1 Membership list

An overview will be presented of all relevant changes in WSF membership. The latest version of the WSF member list is attached as document WSF-30-3.1. Participants will be invited to submit any further information.

4. Announcements

Participants will be invited to inform the meeting about relevant developments.

5. Minutes Steering Committee

Documents: WSF 30-5.1 Minutes SC-2017-1

The meeting will be invited to take note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting SC-2017-1 on 22 February in Bremen and to raise questions as appropriate.

6. Progress WSF Activities

Document: WSF 30-6.1 Summary progress report

The meeting will be informed about the progress of WSF activities. The meeting will be invited to discuss the contents of the WSF activities and to come up with further proposals for actions. Further initiatives and responsibilities should be defined contributing to the role of the WSF as stakeholder forum of and for the Wadden Sea Region.

7. Sustainability Indicator

Presentation: Analysis of two municipalities in the Wadden Sea Region

An inventory of more than 60 indicators for 570 municipalities in the German WSR as well as a detailed analysis for 2 municipalities have been carried out by two master students of the University Kiel. The meeting will be informed about the results and are invited to discuss and comment with a view on continuing the work.

8. Risk management

Document: WSF 30-8.1 Position paper risk management

Within a series of workshop- introducing risk management in the WSR, the WSF members clearly indicated a future role of the WSF in risk management. The work on risk management will be facilitated and guided through the ICZM working group. As a first step, the group drafted a position paper of the WSF with regard to risk management of demographic change in the Wadden Sea Region to be discussed by the plenary. The document will be forwarded to policy and decision makers to take management steps on board to keep the WSR in a favorable living status. The meeting will be invited to discuss the document and to contribute to the further elaboration.

9. WSF contributions to the Trilateral Governmental Conference TGC-19

The next Trilateral Governmental Conference will take place in May 2018 in Leeuwarden. The meeting will be invited to consider achievements and WSF positions to be forwarded to the conference as part of the Ministerial Declaration as well as possible contributions or presentations as side events.

10. Frisians Then and Now

Presentation: Dorien Theuns

The Netherlands, Germany and Denmark share the natural and cultural values of the Wadden Sea Region. An important part plays the inhabitation through time and the preservation of myths and traditions. A trilateral trans-media project is focusing on the folk of the Frisians to illustrate the culture including language and traditions within the WSR. It is envisaged to elaborate an exhibition and to establish a website with regard to the outputs. Dorien Theuns from the Allard Pierson Museum in Amsterdam will introduce the project and encourage the WSF members to contribute with their knowledge.

11. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards and WSB

Representatives of the advisory boards as well as of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) will be invited to present relevant information about the proceedings within their boards and organizations. The meeting is also invited to take note of the results of the scientific conference on 9 – 11 May, including the trilateral research agenda and to consider how the WSF could/should contribute.

12. Macroplastic in the North Sea

Presentation: Katharina Stephan

The import/contamination of macro plastic in the world's oceans is still growing and has severe impacts on the ecology. The Institute for Chemistry and Biology for the Marine Environment of the University Oldenburg has started a project, to analyse the sources, places of import and the drifts of the particle. With these basic data, measures can be defined to reduce the import of plastic and to investigate on the consequences for the ecosystem. Ms Stephan from the University Oldenburg will inform about the project and the WSF will be invited to contribute with their knowledge and expertise.

13. WSF Budget 2017

The meeting will be informed about a budget update for 2017. For 2017 a balanced budget is envisaged if the last payment of the Enhance project will be received and if a project application under the German "Wattenmeerstiftung" will be approved. Nevertheless, from 2018 on, big gaps in the budget will occur. The meeting is invited to consider possibilities to close the financial gaps and to take actions accordingly.

14. WSF Communication

The meeting will be invited to discuss the improvement of communication to be better visible in the regions. Furthermore, the stakeholders will be asked to come up with ideas and opinions how the WSF can contribute to the World Heritage Partnership Centre.

15. Next Meeting

The meeting will be invited to agree on a meeting date for the WSF-31 meeting in autumn 2017, which will take place probably in Lower Saxony.

16. Any other Business

Participants will be invited to raise other issues, not addressed in the agenda.

17. Closing

The meeting will be closed around 12:30 hours on 19 May 2017.