



**Wadden Sea Forum
Steering Committee
Meeting 2017-2
Wilhelmshaven, 27 September 2017**

Final Draft Minutes

1. Opening

The meeting was opened by the vice-chair, Mr. Preben Friis-Hauge, who welcomed the participants and opened the meeting on 27 September at 11:30 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-2017-1

Document: SC-2017-1 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting **adopted** the final draft minutes of SC-2017-1, Bremen, 22 February 2017 (distributed by e-mail of 13 March 2017), which is also available on the WSF website.

3. Announcements

Preben Friis-Hauge informed about elections of local and regional parliaments in Denmark on 21 November. Further, he announced the General Assembly of KIMO International on 12-13 October in Malmö, at which he would give a presentation about the WSF Planning Portal.

Herman Verheij informed about the delay in government building in the Netherlands. After the elections on 17 March new coalitions of parties were necessary and negotiations took more time than expected as four parties would be needed to form a stable government.

Manfred Vollmer informed about a meeting of the Wadden Sea National Park advisory board of Niedersachsen, which took place on 25 September 2017 in Wilhelmshaven. At that meeting he presented the work of the WSF with an outlook of future cooperation under the umbrella of the World Heritage Partnership Centre.

With regard to this SC meeting, he informed that he has had phone calls with the three SC members not present at this meeting to receive input on the agenda items.

4 . Progress WSF activities

The secretary reported about the progress of WSF activities, which are summarized in **Annex 3**. The meeting welcomed the progress and achievements made.

5. TGC 13, Ministerial Declaration

Document: SC-2017-2.5.1 Draft WSF proposal MD and outline report to TGC-13

The WSF agreed in its last plenary meeting to contribute to the Trilateral Governmental Conference in May 2018 in Leeuwarden.

The SC discussed the document in detail and finally **agreed** on a set of contributions including a time frame.

a) A chapter "Wadden Sea Forum" will be part of the Ministerial Declaration (MD 14) and was already forwarded to the Wadden Sea Board. The second paragraph will be changed as follows:

Expecting the WSF to continue this work on integrated coastal zone management and deliver stakeholder advice to the Trilateral Cooperation accordingly.

b) A report about the achievements of the WSF will be elaborated and delivered. The work on sustainability indicators and risk management will build the emphasis of the report. Furthermore, a proposal about an update of the planning portal, including costs will be included.

c) With regard to the evaluation of MD 12, the ICZM group will approach some experts to briefly analyze the developments since TGC-12 in February 2014 being compiled in a report. The role of the WSF in developments and actions will be described as well.

d) The WSF will get a time slot for a presentation at the TGC-13 and the WSF chair will inform about the achievements.

The two documents (b and c) have to be available by end of January 2018. **Comments and amendments by the SC members will be delivered in February 2018** and the final documents will be forwarded to the WSB meeting in March 2018.

The secretariat will **support** the chair elaborating the presentation for TGC 13.

6. WSF and Partnerhub

Document: SC-2017-2.6.1 Draft TOR Partnerhub

Document: SC-2017-2.6.2 Information World Heritage Foundation

At its last plenary meeting, the WSF decided to send a request to the WSB to be involved in the implementation of the World Heritage Partnership Centre (PC). At the 20th meeting of the WSB on 16 June 2017, the WSB decided to install an operational team (OPteamPH), tasked with exploring possible options for enhanced stakeholder engagement of possible sectors/partner networks in the projected Partnership Hub (PH) as Part of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Center (PC). The OPteamPH met twice elaborating TOR and a work program to establish a partner hub.

The SC members in general **agreed** to the TOR and discussed the role of the WSF in the PH in more detail. It was stated that the partnership centre and the embedded partner hub would be important for the future dealings within and management of the Wadden Sea Region. Governments, NGOs, the scientific community as well as stakeholders will build the partnership. This new network is supported by the highest political levels and will have a stake in decision making. Therefore, the WSF should play a strong role in this partnership. It was **agreed** that a fruitful collaboration among the partners and the governments needs commitment from both sides, supporting each other. This was seen as a precondition to gain added value for all involved parties.

The WSF can deliver input on sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region and particular on most relevant issues like green harbor development, sustainable energy, climate adaptation, goose management and risk management. Instruments of the WSF like climate atlas, planning portal and new sustainability indicator tool will support the development of a sustainable society in the Region. The WSF functions as a facilitator for information and knowledge exchange between sectors and governments.

Besides mutual commitment, the WSF needs a sound financial support from the governments to fulfill the tasks and expectation as stakeholder forum and facilitator of the PH. The WSF will **request** a long-lasting financial contribution as a basic budget. Additional support by the regions as well as by stakeholders and third party projects will support the implementation of studies and projects with regard to relevant topics of sustainability and the enlargement of ownership for the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. It was **agreed** to forward such a request to the forthcoming WSB meeting on 17 November.

In a second part of this agenda item, the meeting was informed about the developments to establish a World Heritage Foundation. Jochem Pleijsier from the Dutch government gave an overview of ongoing actions and agreement so far. He pointed at two major goals, to influence government decisions and to support concrete business cases with regard to safeguard the protected Wadden Sea.

The meeting **took note** of the information but doubted the added value of the described tasks of the Foundation.

7. Draft agenda WSF-31

Document: SC-2017-2.7.1 WSF-31 proposed draft agenda

The Steering Committee briefly discussed the proposed draft agenda for the WSF-31 meeting, 1-2 November 2017, **agreed** to the listed items and stated in particular to include three presentations on the following topics:

- Information about activities of Dong Energy
- Introduction of the Jade-Weser-Port and its developments
- Information about examples of sustainable transport

The updated draft WSF-31 agenda is in **Annex 4**.

8. WSF finances 2017 and 2018

The secretary informed the meeting that for 2017 a balanced budget would be reached if all agreed contributions will be delivered. For 2018 a big gap has to be closed to maintain the WSF and the secretariat financially.

Besides expected contributions from applied EU projects (see progress report in Annex 3), the meeting **agreed** to request a sound financial contribution from the national and state governments as commitment for future collaboration in the Partnership Centre and Partner-hub (see agenda item 6). A request in this respect, signed by the WSF chair, will be forwarded to the forthcoming WSB meeting on 17 November.

9. Any other business

No other business discussed.

10. Next meeting

The meeting **proposed** to hold the next Steering Committee meeting 2018-1 on 16 or 20 April 2018, prior to the WSF-32 meeting in June (6-8) 2018 in Varde, DK. The exact date will be fixed on time.

11. Closing

The vice-chair thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting at 15:30 on 27 September 2017.

Annex 2

**Wadden Sea Forum
Steering Committee
Meeting 2017-2
Wilhelmshaven, 27 September 2017**

Draft Agenda

- Agenda item 1. Opening**
- Agenda item 2. Adoption of the minutes SC-2017-1**
- Agenda item 3. Announcements**
- Agenda item 4. Progress WSF activities**
- Agenda item 5. TGC 13, Ministerial Declaration**
- Agenda item 6. WSF and Partner-hub**
- Agenda item 7. Draft agenda WSF-31**
- Agenda item 8. WSF finances 2017 and 2018**
- Agenda item 9. Any other business**
- Agenda item 10. Next meeting**
- Agenda item 11. Closing**

Annex 3**Overview of the Activities of the Wadden Sea Forum****A) WSF plenary**

The 30th meeting of the Wadden Sea Forum took place on 18-19 May 2017 in Den Helder. Topics were:

- Indicator on municipality level
- WSF achievements for TGC 13
- Characteristics of Wadden Society
- Macroplastic

B) Working Group and topical issues

In the following, brief summaries of the ICZM working group activities and topical issues are given.

1. ICZM

The working group has had its second meeting on 20 September 2017 and discussed a future work program. Several actions were defined with concrete time lines.

Sustainability indicator

workshops with municipalities
cooperation with universities
extension of analyses on trilateral level

Risk management

improvement of document and report to TGC

Contributions to TGC 13

Chapter Ministerial Declaration
Description of developments
Presentations of achievements

Sustainable transport

Presentation at WSF-31 and further discussion about contents

Conference off-shore wind

Cooperation with Dong Energy

2. TG-Climate of the TWSC

With the secretariat, the WSF cooperates with the Task Group Climate (TG-C) of the Trilateral Cooperation to discuss climate change adaptation strategies, taking into account social requirements and spatial planning developments. Also best practise examples are compiled and discussed and communicated.

3. Agriculture

The WSF secretary participated in an international symposium on Barnacle geese management plan under the umbrella of AEWA on 12-14 June in Copenhagen. Results will be discussed in the WSF agriculture group on 30 November.

4. Climate/CO₂

The WSF in cooperation with the WSB elaborated an inventory of policies regarding reduction of greenhouse emissions. The inventory encompasses the EU level, national and regional levels as well as best practices of municipalities.

5. Projects:

a) Indicator assessment in Lower Saxony, project co-financed by Wattenmeerstiftung

b) Project Openscape under Interreg Europe. This project is about improvements of regional operational programs envisaging protection and valorisation of rural landscapes in its natural and cultural heritage meaning. The application was submitted in June this year. A decision about approval is expected in December 2017 or early 2018.

c) Project Assets under Horizon 2020. This project aims at assessing the cultural heritage of European coastal and maritime regions to enhance sustainable use. The application was submitted on 13 September and a decision about approval is expected around 6 month later.

Annex 4

Wadden Sea Forum
31st meeting
Wilhelmshaven, 1-2 November 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-30

Document: WSF-30 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting will be invited to adopt the final draft minutes of the WSF-30 meeting, Den Helder, 18-19 May 2017. The final draft minutes of WSF-30 have been distributed by e-mail of 08 June 2017. The final draft minutes are also available on the WSF website www.waddensea-forum.org.

3. Membership WSF

Document: WSF 31-3.1 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-31-3.1. 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 31-5.1 Minutes SC-2017-2

The meeting will be invited to take note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting SC-2017-2 on 27 September 2017 in Wilhelmshaven and to raise questions as appropriate.

6. Progress WSF Activities

Document: WSF 31-6.1 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. TGC 13, Ministerial Declaration

Documents: WSF 31-7.1 Chapter WSF for MD

WSF 31-7.2 Outline WSF reports for TGC 13

The meeting will be informed about the forwarded proposal of a chapter Wadden Sea Forum in the Ministerial Declaration of the Trilateral Governmental Conference 2018 in Leeuwarden.

Furthermore, it is envisaged to deliver two reports to TGC 13 – a document about results of the main activities and a document about relevant developments in the WSR, in which the WSF was involved. The meeting will be invited to discuss the report outlines and to deliver comments and opinions to be included in the further elaboration.

8. The Jade-Weser-Port in Wilhelmshaven

Presentation: NN

The meeting will be informed about the developments and activities of the Jade-Weser-Port also as introduction to the proposed excursion to the facilities of the port in the afternoon of 1 November.

9. 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.

10. Developments within the renewable energy market

Presentation: Rena Paziorek from Dong Energy Wind Power Germany GmbH

The off-shore wind power market is growing fast. The Danish company Dong Energy reconstructed its portfolio and is active in the wind power business. Ms Rena Paziorek will give a presentation about the company and the developments in the wind energy business.

11. WSF Budget 2018

The meeting will be informed about the preliminary budget for 2018, which is not balanced yet. The stakeholders will be invited to comment as appropriate and to contribute finding solutions for a balanced budget in the long run.

12. Sustainable transport

Presentation: Herman Verheij, Waddenvereniging

At one of the last meetings, the plenary agreed to work on sustainable transport in the WSR. Many experiences have been made in the Netherlands. Herman Verheij will present initiatives and results of projects, mainly implemented in the Dutch WSR. The meeting will be invited to take note of the information and discuss possibilities to broaden the work in the entire WSR.

13. WSF projects

The meeting will be informed about three main projects, in which the WSF is deeply involved.

- a) Development and analysis of sustainability indicators in Lower Saxony, funded by the Wattenmeerstiftung Lower Saxony.
- b) Project application under Interreg Europe, "O.P.enScape", Operational programmes envisaging protection and valorisation of landscapes in its natural and cultural heritage meaning. Decision October?
- c) Project application under Horizon 2020 "Assets": Assessing the cultural heritage values of European marine and coastal landscapes to enhance sustainable use; submission has been end of September.

14. Next Meeting

The meeting will be invited to agree on a the proposed meeting date for the WSF-32 meeting in June 2018, which will take place probably in Varde, Denmark.

15. Any other Business

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

16. Closing

The meeting will be closed around 12:30 hours on 02 November 2017.