



**Wadden Sea Forum  
Steering Committee  
Meeting 2018-1  
Hamburg, 24 April 2018**

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 24 April 2018 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-2017-2**

*Document: SC-2017-2 Final Draft Minutes*

The meeting **adopted** the final draft minutes of SC-2017-2, Wilhelmshaven, 27 September 2017 (distributed by e-mail of 12 October 2017), which are also available at the WSF website.

**3. Announcements**

Herman Verheij announced that after his retirement in summer this year he would be replaced in the WSF by Ms Lutz Jakobi, the new director of the Wadden Vereiniging and former member of parliament for the social democrats.

Michael Zettlitzer referred to their exploration licenses in the Wadden Sea and informed that no exploration drillings would take place in the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea. Drillings would be undertaken either from onshore or from the platform Mittelplate.

He further informed about rejected compensation measures. Some time ago, DEA AG has bought mussel fishery licenses for 60 ha, which would not be used any more to reduce mussel fisheries. Recently, this former agreement with green NGOs and the fishery sector was rejected by the Ministry of Justice in Schleswig-Holstein.

Preben Friis-Hauge announced that new elections would take place 2019 in Denmark. Secondly, he informed the meeting that the Danish Wadden Sea municipalities and the National Park Board have delivered comments to the draft Ministerial Declaration for the Trilateral Governmental Conference (TGC 13) with the request to highlight the WSF achievements, but the comments were not taken on board.

He also reported about plans to lay 400KV high voltage cables as overhead transmission lines in the Danish Wadden Sea Region. Six municipalities collaborate to request installing the cables underground. Finally, he briefly reported about national agreements regarding grazing cattle in the National Park in the Varde River Valley, which will expire in these years. Varde municipality would try extending the agreements with the farmers to avoid scrub encroachment (growing bushes) of this part of the National Park.

#### **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.

According to the work of the WSF it was discussed and **agreed** on that the WSF should improve the role of advisor in the Wadden Sea Board. Besides presentations of the WSF activities, also the WSF position on certain issues should be forwarded and made clear. In small workshops at WSF plenary meetings, WSF positions on policies and developments could be elaborated. A basis for this would be the Leeuwarden Declaration, which summarizes the work topics of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) and will be on the WSF plenary agenda in June 2018. In order to best fulfil the tasks, the WSF meetings would need better preparation, which will be done in the Steering Committee meetings.

#### **5. TGC 13, Contribution WSF**

*Document: SC-2018-1.5.1 WSF report on developments in the WSR*

*Document: SC-2018-1.5.2 Draft program TGC 13*

The WSF has elaborated a report about developments in the Wadden Sea Region, including status report about the work on demographic change and sustainability indicators. The report, which will be forwarded to the Trilateral Governmental Conference (TGC 13) in May 2018 in Leeuwarden, was distributed as hardcopy to the SC members, who welcome the report.

The secretary briefly introduced the program of the (TGC 13) as well as the draft agenda of the Ministerial Conference Meeting (closed session). He informed that the WSF would have a few minutes in this session to introduce the WSF, the work done, achievements as well as the goals for the coming period.

It was **agreed** to prepare a one pager as hand out for the conference and to place the WSF roll-ups at the conference venue.

#### **6. Draft agenda WSF-33**

*Document: SC-2018-1.6.1 WSF-33 proposed draft agenda*

The Steering Committee briefly discussed the proposed draft agenda for the WSF-33 meeting, 06 – 07 June 2018, **agreed** to the listed items and requested some amendments. Agenda 7 item would need further annotations to discuss political goals and possible contributions of the WSF. It was requested to include an additional agenda item with regard to chairmanship and new SC members. The updated draft WSF-33 agenda is in **Annex 4**. The vice-chair informed the meeting that the planned excursion would be a visit of the new Tirpitz museum in Blavand, located in the dunes at the coast. The museum would provide several adventure tours and a world class architecture.

#### **7. WSF and Partner-hub**

*Document: SC-2018-1.7.1 Network structure Partner-hub*

The WSF is involved with a project, co-financed by the "Niedersächsische Wattenmeerstiftung", in the implementation of the partner-hub of the World Heritage Partnership Centre . Representatives of the Operational Team Partner-hub, responsible for the implementation, introduced the objectives as well as the process of implementation as starting point for the debate about the possible role of the WSF in the network.

In the first phase of implementation, some main partners besides the WSF like green NGOs, the tourism sector, education and research are approached to discuss contents and process. The goal is to better involve the society and stakeholders in the ownership for the World Heritage Site and the sustainable development of the hinterland. A broad network could demonstrate commitment and responsibility.

The partner-hub will strive for agreements regarding ownership, develop a strong World Heritage community, provide information about developments as well as facilitations for meetings and common actions.

The WSF Steering Committee welcomed the early involvement in the implementation of the partner-hub and the political will to open the political discussion about the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. There was no doubt that the organizations engaged in the partner-hub will stay independent.

A summary of the discussion will be provided by the representatives of the Operational Team Partner-hub. This summary will be forwarded to the WSF-33 meeting to inform about the status of implementation and to serve as basis for further discussion and action taking.

## **8. WSF finances 2018**

The secretary informed the meeting that for 2018 a balanced budget would be reached if all agreed contributions would be delivered. For 2019 a gap has to be closed to maintain the WSF and the secretariat financially.

## **9. Any other business**

The meeting briefly discussed status and procedure of chairmanship of the WSF. It was **agreed** that there would be no need to automatically rotate chairmanship according to the procedure of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation. There would also be no need that the chair would be a representative of the regional political level.

Of importance would be that the elected chair should be **committed** to the WSF plenary and Steering Committee meetings as well as to the Wadden Sea Board meetings as advisor of the WSF. The availability at these meetings would demonstrate responsibility and strengthen the position of the WSF, particularly in the WSB.

With regard to the position of advisors in the WSB it was **agreed** to nominate chair and vice-chair as WSF representatives.

Finally, it was agreed to make a request at the WSF-33 meeting to join the WSF society as member to build a sufficient quorum for decisions.

## **10. Next meeting**

The meeting **proposed** to hold the next Steering Committee meeting 2018-2 on 12 September 2018, prior to the WSF-34 meeting, proposed for 1-2 November 2018.

## **11. Closing**

The vice-chair thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting at 15:30 on 24 April 2018.

**Annex 2**

**Wadden Sea Forum  
Steering Committee  
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Draft Agenda

- Agenda item 1. Opening**
- Agenda item 2. Adoption of the minutes SC-2017-2**
- Agenda item 3. Announcements**
- Agenda item 4. Progress WSF activities**
- Agenda item 5. TGC 13, Contribution WSF**
- Agenda item 6. Draft agenda WSF-33**
- Agenda item 7. WSF and Partner-hub**
- Agenda item 8. WSF finances 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 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Wadden Sea Forum took place on 01-02 November 2017 in Wilhelmshaven.

With regard to contents, the plenary focused on some main work topics, which were the WSF contributions to the Trilateral Governmental Conference 2018 in Leeuwarden, a survey on risks in the Wadden Sea Region (WSR), the Jade Weser Port in Wilhelmshaven and on developments within the renewable energy market. Also a brief view on sustainable transport in the WSR was part of the program. As introduction to the themes, presentations were given.

A further important topic was the role of the WSF in the projected World Heritage Partnership Centre. As result of an intensive discussion the WSF agreed on a letter to the Wadden Sea Board to outline the perceptions and proposals of the WSF with regard to future cooperation.

The WSF 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting took place as an intermediate meeting on 7 February 2018 in Haarlem, the Netherlands. The main item was to discuss the WSF report as contribution to the Trilateral Governmental Conference 2018 in Leeuwarden. The subject was discussed in workshop and plenary sessions, moderated by Beate Ratter from the University Hamburg.

**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 two meeting since November 2017, a third meeting in 2017 on 18 December and the ICZM 2018-1 meeting on 11 April. The group continued with its specific work program and adapted the different tasks to new circumstances.

Sustainability indicator:

- Discussion about the assessment with municipalities Norden and Wangerland
- Support of university of Oldenburg assisted in this debate.
- Not much progress for additional data on local level, the approach to measure sustainable development has to be modified
- Close cooperation with the municipalities is necessary to evaluate sustainability as new and local indicators have to be defined according to objectives which still have to be defined too
- Continue with assessment on county level
- Contact to Denmark to broaden the scope

Demographic change:

- Intensive and progressing discussion at last ICZM meeting with expert presentation
- Possible cooperation with university of Kiel (workgroup meeting in May)

## 2. TG-Climate of the TWSC

The Task Group Climate (TG-C) of the Trilateral Cooperation met several times to finalize the report on adaptation strategies. The task group also contributed to the Governmental conference with a flyer and poster about climate change adaptation strategies as well as with a model of a Wadden Sea ebb-delta as exhibit.

## 3. Agriculture

The WSF goose management group (GMG) met on 30 November in Hamburg to discuss the results of the AEWA goose workshops on barnacle and greylag geese, held in Copenhagen and Paris. As introduction, Jesper Madsen from the University Aarhus presented the outcomes of the workshop. The GMG was in favour of the AEWA approach and work and agreed to trace the progress.

To continue this process, the WSF secretariat became a permanent observer (on application) in the AEWA European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG) and will participate in a meeting of the AEWA European Goose Management Platform on 19 June 2018 and in the EGM IWG meeting on 20-21 June 2018 to review and improve the draft management plans for barnacle and greylag geese.

## 4. Projects:

- Municipalities innovative, WSF involvement as associated partner
- WH Partnership Centre, partner-hub project, co-financed by Wattenmeerstiftung, 2018
- Indicator assessment in coastal region, co-financed by Wattenmeerstiftung, 2017-2018
- EU project application rejected, The project applications **Openscape** under Interreg Europe and **Assets** under Horizon 2020 were not approved

**Annex 4**

**Wadden Sea Forum**  
**33<sup>rd</sup> meeting**  
**Varde, 06-07 June 2018**

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-31 and 32**

*Documents: WSF-31 and WSF-32 Final Draft Minutes*

The meeting will be invited to adopt the final draft minutes of the WSF-31 meeting, Wilhelmshaven, 1-2 November 2017, distributed by e-mail of 20 November 2017, and of the WSF-32 meeting on 7 February in Haarlem, distributed by e-mail of 5 March 2018. The final draft minutes are also available on the WSF website [www.waddensea-forum.org](http://www.waddensea-forum.org).

**3. Membership WSF**

*Document: WSF 33-3.1 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-33-3.1. 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 33-5.1 Minutes SC-2018-1*

The meeting will be invited to take note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting SC-2018-1 on 24 April 2018 in Hamburg and to raise questions as appropriate.

**6. Progress WSF Activities**

*Document: WSF 33-6.1 Summary progress report*

*Document: WSF report "Developments in the Wadden Sea Region" (distribution hard copy)*

The meeting will be informed about the progress of WSF activities. The meeting is 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 Outcome**

*Document: WSF 33-7.1 Leeuwarden Declaration*

The meeting will be informed about the outcome of the Trilateral Governmental Conference 2018 in Leeuwarden. The Leeuwarden Declaration will serve as basis for discussing WSF contributions and actions to the political agenda.

**8. Culture and Landscape - Use and Misuse**

*Presentation: Mette Guldberg, Fisheries and Maritime Museum Esbjerg*

Mette Guldberg will present some examples of stories in connection to landscape and cultural heritage in at trilateral picture. The main period will be 17th-18th century including an outlook for present time.

**9. Cultural Tourism and Wadden Sea World Heritage**

*Presentation: Anne Husum Marboe, Nationalpark Vadehavet Denmark*

The meeting will be informed about the Interreg 5A project NAKUWA, which is on "Sustainable Nature and Culture Tourism Wadden Sea World Heritage".

**10. Workshop Sessions in WSF Plenary Meetings**

The meeting will be invited to discuss about relevant themes, valuable for further explorations in half day workshops. The meeting is also invited to discuss and agree on a concept of these workshops and to consider further support by experts to introduce the themes as well as by a moderator, guiding through the workshops.

**11. WSF Chairmanship**

The meeting is invited to discuss status and procedure of chairmanship of the WSF, considering the proposal of the Steering Committee, outlined in the SC 2018-1 minutes (see agenda item 5). The meeting is also invited to agree on WSF representatives as advisors for the WSB.

**12. 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 proceedings within their boards and organizations.

**13. WSF projects**

The meeting will be informed about two 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 to contribute to the implementation of a partner-hub of the World Heritage Partnership Centre. The project is co-financed by the Wattenmeerstiftung Lower Saxony.

**14. Partnership Centre and the role of the WSF**

*Document: WSF 33-14.1 Discussion paper Partner-hub*

The WSF is currently involved in the implementation of the partner-hub of the World Heritage Partnership Centre. Representatives of the Operational Team Partner-hub, responsible for the implementation, had a first dialogue with the WSF Steering Committee to introduce the objectives as well as the process of implementation as starting point for the debate about the possible role of the WSF in the network. The meeting will be invited to discuss and build on these first considerations as well as to agree on further steps in contributing to the partner-hub.

**15. WSF Budget 2018**

The meeting will be informed about the budget for 2018, which is in balance. The stakeholders will be invited to comment as appropriate and to contribute finding solutions for a balanced budget in the long run.

**16. Next Meeting**

The meeting will be invited to agree on the proposed meeting date for the WSF-34 meeting on 1-2 November 2018, which will take place probably in Dithmarschen, Schleswig-Holstein or in Groningen.

**17. Any other Business**

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

**18. Closing**

The meeting will be closed around 12:30 hours on 07 June 2018.