



**Wadden Sea Forum  
Steering Committee  
Meeting 2019-1  
Hamburg, 6 March 2019**

Final Draft Minutes

**1. Opening**

The meeting was opened by the chair, Mr Preben Friis-Hauge, who thanked Mr Mattfeld for hosting the meeting, welcomed the participants and opened the meeting on 6 March 2019 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-2018-2**

*Document: SC-2018-2 Final Draft Minutes*

The meeting **adopted** the final draft minutes of SC-2018-2, Hamburg, 21 September 2018 (distributed by e-mail of 04 October 2018), which are also available at the WSF website.

**3. Membership Steering Committee**

The secretary briefly informed the meeting about the new composition of the WSF Steering Committee. After three members have retired in their business, new members stepped in, who were welcomed by the chair.

Furthermore, the SC proposed to elect the new member Stefan Mohrdieck from the county Dithmarschen as new vice-chair of the WSF. The proposal will be forwarded to the WSF plenary meeting in May 2019.

**4. Announcements**

Preben Friis-Hauge informed about a Danish National Park Board meeting, in which a financial contribution to the WSF was agreed on. This contribution should be used to further elaborate on sustainability indicators.

He also briefly reported about the national parliament elections in Denmark on 19 June. A new government would be expected, leading to new administrative structures with regard to the Danish regions like South Jutland.

Mr Friis-Hauge further informed that the Danish green NGOs have nominated a representative (besides the ones from Germany and the Netherlands) for the Wadden Sea Board.

Erich Hinrichs briefly reported about conflicts between the Wadden Sea islands in Lower Saxony and the National Park authority. The inhabitants would perceive too many

restrictions with regard to hunting, traffic and housing. Good communication would be necessary to solve the conflicts.

Pieter van Kuppenveld also informed about some conflicts due to restrictions of protection schemes in the Wadden Sea, which would affect the water sport sector. A sound dialogue between the parties could avoid unnecessary conflicts.

He further announced that provincial elections would take place in the Netherlands on 20 March.

Heiner Mattfeld informed the meeting that DEA had applied for an environmental award for sustainable and environmental friendly operations of the Mittelplate.

Manfred Vollmer announced that the forthcoming WSB meeting would take place on 13-14 March in Berlin.

He further informed the meeting that the UN organisation AEWA had invited the WSF as permanent observer to participate in the workshop about goose management (Barnacle and Greylag geese) on 18-20 June in Perth, Scotland. The secretary on behalf of the WSF will join the workshop to continue the cooperation with AEWA.

## 5. Future of the WSF

*Document: SC-2019-1.5.1 Future WSF*

The secretary recalled the discussions about the concept of the projected World Heritage Partnership Centre with the envisaged implementation of a partner-hub, in which the WSF should play an acceptable role. Therefore, 2019 and the first half of 2020 would be crucial for the WSF to settle new structures with long lasting commitment and financial support.

Already in the last plenary meeting in November 2018 it became clear that the business of the WSF as well as the commitment of the members have to be improved.

The document first lists a number of deficits, perceived by the WSF secretariat and also partly mentioned in the report of Beate Ratter regarding the integration of the WSF in the partner-hub.

The meeting was aware of the deficits, but agreed to start a discussion on the basis of the achievements, which have been reached in the past. The compilation in the document shows an outcome which is quite impressive. The achievements are also a basis to step into further discussions with WSF members to actively contribute to the work of the WSF. After an intensive debate the Steering Committee **agreed** on some fundamental steps to be taken:

- In the communication process the WSF should highlight the "Why", why we are working together instead of emphasizing what the Forum is doing (e.g. create a worth living region with a vivid society); such a procedure would better attract the audience;
- The WSF should use its network and platform to communicate between the political level and the society in the region;
- The WSF should focus on concrete tasks, elaborating on issues which are highly relevant for the political level and stakeholders. This would gain good attraction and acceptance. (An example from the past was "Breaking the Ice");
- The implementation of the partner-hub of the Partnership Centre would be an excellent opportunity to strengthen the role of the WSF in networking, information exchange and collaborating with partners in implementing projects;
- The establishment of ad-hoc expert groups to work on topical issues with high relevance should be initiated and coordinated by sector representatives and not by the WSF secretariat.

The findings and statements of the Steering Committee will be discussed with the other WSF members at the forthcoming plenary meeting to improve the work and appearance of the WSF. The communication tool of the introduced "Golden Circle" as well as the list of achievements will be presented with a document.

Finally, the meeting **agreed** to send a letter to all WSF members to stimulate the active involvement in future dealings and to strengthen the WSF network and communication. Furthermore, SC members will contact the addressees personally to highlight the necessity of more active involvement.

## **6. Draft agenda WSF-35**

*Document: SC-2019-1.6.1 WSF-35 proposed draft agenda*

The Steering Committee briefly discussed the proposed draft agenda for the WSF-35 meeting, 9-10 May 2019, and **agreed** on the listed items with the amendment to include the official election of the WSF vice-chair. The updated and agreed WSF-35 agenda is in **Annex 3**.

## **7. WSF finances 2019**

The secretary briefly informed the meeting about the preliminary budget 2019, which would not be balanced yet. An additional amount of around 20.000 Euro had to be found to safeguard the business of the WSF. The SC members took note of the information and promised to look after a solution to close the financial gap.

## **8. Any other business**

No other business discussed.

## **9. Meeting with Karin Lochte, Chair of the Wadden Sea Board**

The chair has invited Ms. Lochte, chair of the WSB, to inform her about the achievements and work topics of the WSF and to discuss future cooperation and the role of the WSF in the partner-hub of the World Heritage Partnership-Centre.

The meeting with the exchange of information and appraisals about the WSF and possible integration in the partner-hub was very fruitful. It was stated that the good network of the WSF should be used to identify topics for collaboration and joint projects, cooperation with other organisations like North Sea Commission and KIMO, facilitating meetings and workshops and to better integrate the Wadden Sea society in taking ownership for the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site.

Finally, it was agreed working together on the implementation of the partner-hub, in which the partners will stay as independent organisations.

## **10. Next meeting**

The Steering Committee **agreed** to hold the SC 2019-2 meeting on **7 October 2019** in Hamburg and proposed to have the plenary meeting (WSF-36) on **6-7 November 2019** in Leer.

## **11. Closing**

The chair thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting at 15:15 on 06 March 2019.

**Annex 2**

**Wadden Sea Forum  
Steering Committee  
Meeting 2019-1  
Hamburg, 06 March 2019**

Draft Agenda

- Agenda item 1. Opening**
- Agenda item 2. Adoption of the minutes SC-2018-2**
- Agenda item 3. Membership Steering Committee**
- Agenda item 4. Announcements**
- Agenda item 5. Future of the WSF**
- Agenda item 6. Draft agenda WSF-35**
- Agenda item 7. WSF finances 2019**
- Agenda item 8. Any other business**
- Agenda item 9. Meeting with Karin Lochte, Chair of the Wadden Sea Board**
- Agenda item 10. Next meeting**
- Agenda item 11. Closing**

**Annex 3**

**Wadden Sea Forum**  
**35<sup>th</sup> meeting**  
**Groningen, 09-10 May 2019**

D R A F T   A G E N D A

**1. Opening**

The meeting will be opened by the chair Mr Preben Friis-Hauge on 09 May at 13:00 hours. Members will be invited to adopt the draft agenda.

**2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF-34**

*Documents: WSF-34 Final Draft Minutes*

The meeting will be invited to adopt the final draft minutes of the WSF-34 meeting, Büsum, 1-2 November 2018, distributed by e-mail of 29 November 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 35-3.1 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-35-3.1. Participants will be invited to submit any further information.

**4. Election of WSF vice-chair**

The Steering Committee proposes to elect Mr. Stefan Mohrdieck, head of the county Dithmarschen, as vice-chair of the WSF. With this, the WSF would have again a German in a position of chair/vice-chair since 2010.

**5. Announcements**

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

**6. Minutes Steering Committee, Composition SC**

*Documents: WSF 35-6.1 Minutes SC-2019-1*

The meeting will be invited to take note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting SC-2019-1 on 06 March 2019 in Hamburg and to raise questions as appropriate. Further, the meeting will be informed about the new composition of the WSF Steering Committee.

**7. Progress WSF Activities**

*Document: WSF 35-7.1 Summary progress report*

The meeting will be informed about the progress of WSF activities. The meeting is invited to take note of the information and to engage in the activities.

**8. Climate Adaptation in the Wadden Sea Region**

*Documents: WSF 35-8.1 Matrix of challenges*

*WSF 35-8.2 Draft policy paper*

The plenary WSF-34 agreed to further elaborate on the results of the workshop on climate change adaptation and to further deal with challenges and recommendations in order to deliver a profound policy paper as output of the Wadden Sea Forum.

The meeting will be invited to take note of the matrix of challenges and the draft policy paper and to work on a final concept and document, to be forwarded to stakeholders and politicians.

**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 proceedings within their boards and organizations.

**10. Single Integrated Management Plan**

The Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation is going to elaborate a Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP) for the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. It is envisaged to integrate stakeholder views in this plan. The meeting will be informed about objectives and process of implementing the plan.

**11. Future of the Wadden Sea Forum**

*Document: WSF 35-11.1 Communication and achievements of the WSF*

2019 and the first half of 2020 will be crucial for the WSF. In this period decisions about the future will be made. Therefore, it is proposed to have an intensive discussion, how we should structure the work, debates and meetings of the WSF in the near future.

The meeting will be invited to discuss challenges and needs of the WSF and to elaborate on a structure and work plan for the coming year.

**12. WSF Budget 2019**

The meeting will be informed about the budget for 2019, which is not in balance yet. The stakeholders will be invited to comment as appropriate and to contribute finding solutions for a balanced budget in the long run.

**13. Next Meeting**

The meeting will be invited to agree on the proposed meeting date for the WSF-36 meeting in the period 6-7 November 2019, which will take place in Leer.

**14. Any other Business**

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

**15. Closing**

The meeting will be closed around 12:30 hours on 10 May 2019.