



**Wadden Sea Forum
Steering Committee
Meeting 2019-2
Hamburg, 04 October 2019**

Final Draft Minutes

1. Opening

The meeting was opened by the chair, Mr Preben Friis-Hauge, who welcomed the participants and opened the meeting on 4 October 2019 at 11:00 hours. He informed the meeting that Mr Mohrdieck and Mr Lyon, the successor of Mr Mattfeld, could not participate. The chair particularly welcomed Mr Bert Wassink, mayor of Terschelling, as new member in the WSF Steering Committee. A round of introduction took place to get known to each other. 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-2019-1

Document: SC-2019-1 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting **adopted** the final draft minutes of SC-2019-1, Hamburg, 06 March 2019 (distributed by e-mail of 21 March 2019), which are also available at the WSF website.

3. Announcements

Preben Friis-Hauge informed that Mr Poul Frommelev would be new member of the Danish National Park Council and representative in the WSF.

He further reported that the new Danish Government would keep the existing administrative structure of the regions, which would give the region Southdenmark a stake in Wadden Sea matters.

Pieter van Kuppenveld informed that the politicians Henk Staghouwer from the province Groningen and Cees Loggen from Noord-Holland were re-elected and would continue their work on Wadden Sea matters.

Bert Wassink informed the meeting that in the Dutch part of the Wadden Sea area a new vision for the future of the area has to be elaborated. It would be ready by mid-2020.

4. Progress WSF activities

The secretary informed the meeting about the progress of activities.

The work on sustainability indicators is still an emphasis as it provides valuable information about the socio-economic developments on regional and local level. A presentation about the latest results will be given at the WSF-36 meeting in November 2019.

A Dark Sky initiative on trilateral level has been started and a first meeting was scheduled for 14 October. It is envisaged to bring local initiatives together and use the experiences to aim at a trilateral approach to reduce light emissions and to experience darkness and the night sky. Several stakeholders, organisations (research, education) and politicians have to be involved in the further process to reach broad acceptance and to get support and commitment.

The WSF was involved in a stakeholder workshop on macro-plastic, which took place on 1 October at the university of Oldenburg. The results will be compiled and available soon. An extensive report, which includes data about wooden drifters in the North Sea, is under preparation and will be published in spring 2020. Detailed information is also provided on the project websites:

General: <https://uol.de/makroplastik>

Overview: <http://www.macroplastics.de/index.php?x=1763>

Drifter: <http://portal.macroplastics.de/index.php?page=drifter-meldung>

A new cooperation initiative with the fishery sector has been started. The German fishery sector has elaborated a position paper, which is currently translated into English by the WSF secretariat. The WSF will step into political discussions to sound out the further process. The paper will also be forwarded to the Danish and Dutch fishery sector with the request to elaborate of their position accordingly.

The WSF elaborated a proposal to establish a joint shipping group between stakeholders and shipping authorities (see document SC-2019-2.4.1). The proposal was sent to the Task Group Management of the Trilateral Cooperation for information. Further, it will be forwarded to the Wadden Sea Board to get support to establish the proposed group. WSF members should be prepared to join the group.

5. Future of the WSF-secretariat

As already discussed in the Executive Committee of the WSF society, the WSF secretariat will have a change of leadership in summer 2020. Manfred Vollmer will retire end of July 2020 and Frank Ahlhorn is supposed to be the successor.

Contract agreements have been made with the Executive Committee, the responsible board of the WSF for administrative matters. The meeting welcomed the smooth process of these changes and stated their support for the secretariat also in the future. An emphasis would be on communication and funding to continue the work on contents.

6. Partnership Centre and WSF

Documents: SC-2019-2-6.1 MoU Partnership

On 30 June, the WSF has signed a MoU with the Wadden Sea Board about new partnership and cooperation. End of September 2019 a draft concept for a partner-hub was discussed with the different participating organisations and is now under revision.

Part of this was a proposal for a structure of the partnership centre with the two pillars trilateral cooperation (TWSC) and partner-hub. The SC members discussed the proposed structure (hand-out) and agreed that the partner-hub should stay independent from the TWSC. Nevertheless, a sound communication and cooperation would be essential to make the concept of the partnership centre a success. The task of coordinating the partner-hub and acting as communicator with the TWSC could be taken by the WSF secretariat, if this would be extended with staff.

7. Draft agenda WSF-36

Document: SC-2019-2.7.1 WSF-36 proposed draft agenda

The Steering Committee briefly discussed the proposed draft agenda for the WSF-36 meeting, 18-19 November 2019, and **agreed** on the listed items with the amendments of additional documents and proposed dates for WSF-37. The updated and agreed WSF-36 agenda is in **Annex 3**.

8. WSF finances 2019 and 2020

The secretary introduced the budget for 2019, which is not balanced. A solution to close the financial gap is under discussion with the environmental ministry Lower Saxony so that the continuation of the WSF work and the WSF secretariat would not be endangered.

The preliminary budget for 2020 shows a severe financial gap, which has to be closed. It was stated that it should be aimed to rise financial contribution due to inflation and rising prices in general. Also new financial contributors have to be found, as well as co-financed projects by the partner-hub.

9. Any other business

Preben Friis-Hauge mentioned that members of Region South Denmark have attended a meeting with members of a Schleswig-Holstein ministry in Kiel. Schleswig-Holstein is interested in having the region of South Denmark with full membership in the STRING project (Geo area: Stockholm - Copenhagen - Fehmarn - Hamburg).

Region South Denmark is considering this due to interest in strengthening the Jutland corridor.

10. Next meeting

The Steering Committee **agreed** to hold the SC 2020-1 meeting on **30 March 2020** in Bremen.

11. Closing

The chair thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting at 15:00 on 04 October 2019.

Annex 2

**Wadden Sea Forum
Steering Committee
Meeting 2019-2
Hamburg, 04 October 2019**

Draft Agenda

- Agenda item 1. Opening**
- Agenda item 2. Adoption of the minutes SC-2019-1**
- Agenda item 3. Announcements**
- Agenda item 4. Progress WSF-activities**
- Agenda item 5. Future of the WSF secretariat**
- Agenda item 6. Partnership Centre and WSF**
- Agenda item 7. Draft agenda WSF-36**
- Agenda item 8. WSF finances 2019 and 2020**
- Agenda item 9. Any other business**
- Agenda item 10. Next meeting**
- Agenda item 11. Closing**

Annex 3

Wadden Sea Forum
36th meeting
Leer, 18-19 November 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 18 November at 13:00 hours.

Members will be invited to adopt the draft agenda.

2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF-35

Documents: WSF-35 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting will be invited to adopt the final draft minutes of the WSF-35 meeting, Groningen, 09-10 May 2019, distributed by e-mail of 29 May 2019. The final draft minutes are also available on the WSF website www.waddensea-forum.org.

3. Membership WSF

Document: WSF 36-3.1 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. Announcements

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

5. Minutes Steering Committee, Composition SC

Documents: WSF 36-5.1 Minutes SC-2019-2

The meeting will be invited to take note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting SC-2019-2 on 04 October 2019 in Hamburg and to raise questions as appropriate. Further, the meeting will be informed about the new composition of the WSF Steering Committee.

6. Progress WSF Activities

Document: WSF 36-6.1 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.

7. Climate Adaptation in the Wadden Sea Region

Documents: WSF 36-7.1 Policy Paper water management

The Wadden Sea Forum has elaborated a policy paper on challenges of water management in the Wadden Sea Region due to climate change. The paper reflects the view of the different stakeholders of the WSF and is forwarded to responsible organizations and decision makers to consider WSF recommendations in their dealings.

The meeting is invited to take note of the final policy paper and to comment as appropriate.

8. Results sustainability indicators 2019

Presentation: results indicators on county level

The WSF secretariat has continued the work on sustainability indicators on county level in Germany and municipality level in Denmark. Some results will be presented to inform the WSF about latest developments in the Wadden Sea Region.

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. Progress SIMP

Soledad Luna will give an overview about the progress of elaborating a "Single Integrated Management Plan" for the Wadden Sea.

11. WSF cooperation and recommendations for the WSB

Documents: WSF 36-11.1 Implementation of joint shipping group (WSF-WSB)

Shipping in the southern North Sea, an area directly adjacent to the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site, is an important and increasing business, which demands better attention to minimize risks and to safeguard the environment. Recent incidents underlined the need for joint forces to improve shipping safety in the southern North Sea. The WSF secretariat together with Rijkswaterstaat have elaborated a proposal to implement a joint shipping group under the responsibility of WSF and WSB to work on an improvement of shipping safety. The meeting is invited to discuss the proposal and to express their expectations regarding the added value of such a working group.

After a long time with low communication, the cooperation between the WSF and the fishery sector has started again. Mussel and shrimp fisheries are important local businesses for the coastal regions and play an important role in cultural history and cultural historic identity in the WSR also nowadays. The fishery sector would like to get support of the WSF to state their position to the trilateral political level.

The meeting is invited to take note of the position paper of the sector and to discuss as appropriate, also in the view of further cooperation.

12. Cooperation WSF with Partnership Centre

Documents: WSF 36-12.1 MoU Partnership

WSF 36-12.2 Draft concept partner-hub

The WSF has signed a MoU with the WSB on working arrangements on safeguarding the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site and to sustainably develop the WSR. The meeting will be informed about actions and progress with regard to the partnership, partner-hub and World Heritage Foundation. Further, the WSF is invited to take decisions on WSF activities according to the agreed partnership on the basis of the presented information.

13. Trilateral Research Agenda

A newly installed committee is discussing the implementation of the Trilateral Research Agenda with a prioritization of research fields. The meeting will be informed about the results and ongoing process. Further, the meeting is invited to briefly discuss research needs in the view and perception of sectors and stakeholders.

14. Dark Sky Initiative

Presentation: Quality an importance of dark skies by Nynke-Rixt Jukema

In the discussion about the future work of the WSF it was agreed to elaborate on and promote a dark sky initiative in the WSR. On initiative of the WSF secretariat, a meeting dark sky with representatives from all three Wadden Sea countries took place on 14 October 2019. The meeting will be informed about the outcome of the meeting and is invited to discuss and agree on concrete actions to proceed with this issue.

15. Platform for Municipalities

From 2016 to 2019 the WSF was associated partner in WatNu, a project about demographic change with the case study Wangerland municipality. This has strengthened the network on local level. At a meeting in spring it was agreed among the partner municipalities and the WSF to continue and broaden the network to discuss future challenges for municipalities in the Wadden Sea Region.

The meeting will be informed about the progress and is invited to discuss supportive actions to take responsibility for the Region.

16. WSF Budget 2020

The meeting will be informed about the budget for 2020.

17. Next Meeting

The meeting will be invited to agree on the proposed meeting date for the WSF-37 meeting on 18-19 May 2020, which will take place on the island of Fanø in Denmark.

18. Any other Business

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

19. Closing

The meeting will be closed around 12:30 hours on 19 November 2019.