



**Wadden Sea Forum  
Steering Committee  
Meeting 2020-1  
Phone Conference, 30 March 2020**

**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 30 March 2020 at 13:00 hours. He informed the meeting that Mr Mohrdieck and Mr Bert Wassink could not participate. The chair particularly welcomed Mr. Ivan Abdoellakhan from Wintershall Dea GmbH (the successor of Shawn Lyon) as well as Frank Ahlhorn as coming WSF managing director.

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-2019-2**

*Document: SC-2019-2 Final Draft Minutes*

The meeting **adopted** the final draft minutes of SC-2019-2, Hamburg, 04 October 2019 (distributed by e-mail of 30 October 2019), which is also available at the WSF website.

**3. Announcements**

Preben Friis-Hauge reported about a meeting of the North Sea Commission in February 2020, in which the transport and marine working group as well as KIMO international participated. An emphasis was laid on future challenges of dealing with container shipping.

Pieter van Kuppenveld informed that it would be intended to buy out the Dutch shrimp fisheries with the support of the Wadden Fund, similar to the cockle fisheries.

Erich Hinrichs reported that the tourism business in Lower Saxony has been shut down, all hotels were closed for tourist and restaurants were closed too. For the time being there would be no date for removing existing restrictions.

Manfred Vollmer briefly informed that all meetings concerning the WSF business are postponed or cancelled till end of May.

#### **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. Data from 2017 and 2018 are available, latest data from 2019 would be available for analysis after summer holidays.

A trilateral working group on dark sky has been established and several actions have been agreed to make progress in this field. Two trilateral meetings were held and an international symposium is under preparation to be held in autumn 2020.

AEWA is working on the implementation of management plans for Barnacle and Greylag Goose. For the time being, Favourable Reference Values (FRV) and population targets are in a consultation process among the Range States. The WSF delivered comments and proposal to this process.

The Wadden Sea Forum with the support of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) as political body of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation is going to establish a round table group on shipping, to elaborate advice about how shipping safety in the southern North Sea can be improved, considering the vulnerability of the Wadden Sea ecosystem, distinguished as World Heritage Site. Agenda and course of the round table, which is envisaged being implemented in the second week of June 2020, are under development.

The cooperation with the fishery sector has started but needs further input. The aim is to agree on a joint trilateral approach, which might be difficult as national views and developments differ a lot.

As reported earlier, the WSF would like to intensify a collaboration with municipalities to be better visible on the local level and to take up the needs of the local society. Due to the corona crisis, the started initiative has to be postponed by some month.

The WSF is involved in a 4 years EU Horizon 2020 project about climate resilient cities, called Clarence. The first phase submission was on 11 February. If the project is approved in the first step, a full application has to be submitted in summer 2020.

The Steering Committee took note of the information and welcomed all the initiatives and work of the WSF secretariat.

#### **5. Sedimentation in harbours**

Accumulation of sediments in harbours and river outlets are causing problems for shipping and water sports. The WSF plenary requested the WSF Steering Committee to elaborate on proposals how to further deal with sedimentation in harbours and management options accordingly.

The meeting discussed options to get more information about management options and best practises to provide a basis for further discussion in the plenary. Current practises like dumping harbour sediments in outer estuaries as well as construction of flooding basins would cause conflicts with sectors and nature conservation. It was **agreed** to provide expert presentations at the plenary meeting in autumn this year to form a basis for elaborating joint WSF statements for decision makers.

#### **6. Discussion Partner-hub at WSF-37**

The establishment of a World Heritage Partnership Centre aims at a sound collaboration among socio-economic sectors, green NGOs, science, education and the political and administrative levels in order to create sound ownership and commitment for the values of the Wadden Sea as well as to jointly work on a sustainable development of the Wadden

Sea Region. Therefore, a partner-hub concept is being developed to bring the different interest together.

It is envisaged to discuss the role of the WSF in this concept intensively. The WSF with its network of stakeholders could play an important role and could have a stake in decision making. It is important to have a clear view about this cooperation on the one hand, it could be an advantage to work within a political organisation, on the other hand, the WSF should stay independent. It is foreseen to discuss this issue intensively at the forthcoming plenary meeting end of June 2020. To deliver some guidelines for a structured discussion, the SC members **agreed** to deliver written statements and proposals to the secretariat by **20 April**. Following, a document for the plenary will be compiled by the secretariat.

## **7. Platform of municipalities in the Wadden Sea Region**

As reported at the last plenary meeting in November, it was foreseen to establish a platform of municipalities to discuss and work on topical issues for the local level.

Due to the corona crisis, the started initiative has to be postponed by some month as the municipalities do have a different focus right now.

The Steering Committee **agreed** to postpone this project by some month months.

## **8. Draft agenda WSF-37**

*Document: SC-2020-1.8.1 WSF-37 proposed draft agenda*

The chair briefly introduced the draft agenda for the WSF-37 meeting, hopefully taking place end of June 2020. The agenda is quite full and ambitious too. Three presentations and the bigger discussion about the partner-hub will be the emphasis.

To provide enough room for the exchange of views and discussions, the SC **agreed** to delete the issue of sedimentation in harbours from the agenda and to postpone this to the autumn meeting. The updated and agreed WSF-37 agenda is in **Annex 3**.

## **9. WSF finances 2020**

The secretary informed the meeting about the financial situation for 2020, which shows a financial gap to be closed in the coming month. The WSF secretariat has approached many German counties as well as VW in Emden and NAM in Assen to support the Forum but up to now there is no further commitment. It was strongly requested to reach agreements with the German national government to financially support the WSF as the governments of Denmark and Netherlands do.

The chair **requested** the SC members to increase their efforts to find solutions for a balanced budget. Particularly, the Region South Denmark as well as the state of Lower Saxony will be approached. Further, the Dutch Wadden Fund will be asked to finance a project integrating Dutch sustainability data in the existing WSF instrument.

## **10. Any other business**

The chair mentioned that this SC meeting would be the final meeting for the secretary Manfred Vollmer and he thanked him for his work and engagement for the WSF.

He further welcomed Frank Ahlhorn as his successor.

## **11. Next meeting**

Date and venue of the SC-2020-2 meeting as well as for the WSF-38 meeting in autumn 2020 will be settled as soon as the corona crisis allows reliable predictions.

## **12. Closing**

The chair thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting at 15:00 on 30 March 2020.

**Annex 2**

**Wadden Sea Forum  
Steering Committee  
Meeting 2020-1  
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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. Sedimentation in harbours**
- Agenda item 6. Discussion Partner-hub at WSF-37**
- Agenda item 7. Platform of municipalities in the Wadden Sea Region**
- Agenda item 8. Draft agenda WSF-37**
- Agenda item 9. WSF finances 2020**
- Agenda item 10. Any other business**
- Agenda item 11. Next meeting**
- Agenda item 12. Closing**

**Annex 3**

**Wadden Sea Forum**  
**37<sup>th</sup> meeting**  
**Skærbæk, probably end of June 2020**

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 30 June at 13:00 hours. Members will be invited to adopt the draft agenda.

**2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF-36**

*Documents: WSF-36 Final Draft Minutes*

The meeting will be invited to adopt the final draft minutes of the WSF-36 meeting, Leer, 18-19 November 2019, distributed by e-mail of 10 December 2019. 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 37-3.1 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-37-3.1. Participants will be invited to submit any further information.

**5. Announcements**

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

**6. Minutes Steering Committee**

*Documents: WSF 37-6.1 Minutes SC-2020-1*

The meeting will be invited to take note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting SC-2020-1 on 30 March 2020 in Bremen and to raise questions as appropriate.

**7. Progress WSF Activities**

*Document: WSF 37-7.1 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. 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.

**9. Goose Management**

*Presentation: AEWA, Prof. Jesper Madsen*

AEWA Goose management plans of Greylag and Barnacle Goose are under implementation in the AEWA Range States. Jesper Madsen will inform about the objectives, management requirements and the process of implementation.

**10. Discussion Partner-hub at WSF-37**

*Document: WSF-37-10.1 proposed discussion contents*

To be better prepared in the discussion of implementing a partner-hub concept and in order to play a pro-active role in this process, the WSF members agreed at the last meeting to discuss these issues intensively at the WSF-37 meeting.

**11. Connection of offshore wind parks**

*Presentation: TenneT and Amprion*

Currently, some off-shore wind parks have to be connected to the mainland electricity grid. This will have impacts on nature and society. Representatives of TenneT and Amprion will inform about construction plans and environmental impact assessment.

**12. WSF Budget 2020**

The meeting will be informed about the budget for 2020, 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-38 meeting in the period xx November 2020, which will take place in Schleswig-Holstein.

**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 01 July 2020.