

TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA FORUM (WSF)

FIRST MEETING

LEEUWARDEN, THE NETHERLANDS

30 AUGUST 2002

Agenda Item: 6
Subject: Themes for Thematic Groups and External Studies
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Submitted by: Secretariat

Attached is a listing of possible themes for Thematic Groups, external studies, as well as, publications of relevance for the WSF work.

PROPOSAL: The meeting is invited to take note of the information and to decide upon the proposals contained in the document

1. Introduction

At the meeting of the Preparatory Committee the idea was supported that Thematic Groups should discuss technical issues, whereas the WSF itself should deal with strategic issues. It was, however, stressed that the WSF should decide whether and when to install subgroups and for which issues. It was therefore agreed that a comprehensive list of thematic issues would be prepared for the first meeting of the WSF.

The Preparatory Committee was also in favor of commissioning external studies for those issues where gaps in knowledge exist. Also with regard to external studies, it is the responsibility of the WSF to decide whether such studies must be carried out and if yes, which issues should be studied. In this document proposals for the installation of thematic working groups (section 2) and external studies (section 3) are given.

2. Themes for Thematic Groups

In the meeting of the Preparatory Committee of January 2002 the following possible themes for further discussion and elaboration in Thematic Groups were considered:

- Agriculture;
- Fisheries;
- Tourism, recreation and marketing;
- Education;
- Industry (incl. harbor, energy and shipping);
- Policy, management and legal aspects.

Additional themes could, amongst others, be coastal defense and infrastructure.

It is stressed that it is the responsibility of the Forum to select the themes for which Thematic Groups should be installed. In addition to discussing possible themes for Thematic Groups it is important to identify the main issues of interest for the themes.

Essential in this respect are the conditions laid down in §99 of the Esbjerg Declaration:

*“To **convene**, therefore, in accordance with the Terms of Reference in **Annex 6**, a Trilateral Wadden Sea Forum, as a consultation project, with the participation of the governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, with the task of developing proposals for sustainable development scenarios and strategies for their implementation, respecting the existing protection levels and ensuring economic development and quality of life. This will be done on the basis of the Shared Vision, the Wadden Sea Plan Targets and the Shared Principles, and as a contribution to the further development of the Wadden Sea Plan. The results of the work of the Forum will be presented to the 10th Trilateral Governmental Conference.”*

The meeting is invited

- **to decide which themes should be covered by Thematic Groups and to discuss which are the main elements to be covered within the themes, i.e. issues of concern, perspectives, specific wishes etc..**
- **to install the Thematic Groups with the draft Overall Terms of Reference for Thematic Groups, as in Annex 1;**

3. External Studies

Although the reports and studies listed in Annex 2 provide an important knowledge basis, there exist several gaps, especially with regard to socio-economic facts. In order to fill these gaps, the draft budget of the Forum has a provision for external studies.

On the basis of a tentative analysis of available material, a number of studies have been identified as being necessary to provide information which is currently not available. It is stressed that it is the responsibility of the Forum itself to decide which issues should be addressed in external studies.

1. Overall inventory of socio-economic facts

Collection of basic data regarding employment, turnover, profits, property structures etc. of all main activities in the Wadden Sea region (tourism, fisheries, energy, shipping, industry, agriculture, coastal defense etc.).

2. Socio-economic perspectives analysis

General integrative study into socio-economic perspectives (short term, medium term) for the various sectors in the Wadden Sea region.

3. Investigative capitalization of natural values

Several attempts have been made to express the value of nature (also the Wadden Sea) in monetary terms. These attempts should be evaluated and a first assessment of the suitability/applicability for the Wadden Sea be given. If appropriate, methodology should be developed further.

4. Comparative analysis of policy and management

Implications EU Directives (Habitat Directive and Water Framework Directive) and possibilities for harmonized implementation. Possibilities for integrated coastal zone management and perspectives for integrated management structures.

5. Restoration projects and socio-economic perspectives

Study into possibilities for large-scale nature restoration projects in relation to socio-economic perspectives (f.e. estuarine transitions and tourism, agriculture and tourism).

6. Specific studies into perspectives for sustainable activities

Detailed studies into possibilities for sustainable development of various economic sectors in the Wadden Sea region (fisheries, agriculture, industry, transport and tourism).

With regard to studies of a general nature (1, 2, 3 and 4) it is proposed to instruct the Secretariat, to immediately start the work by further specifying the studies and seeking contact with suitable institutes/consultancies to carry out the studies with a view to commission such studies.

With regard to the studies of a specific nature (Nr. 5 and 6) it is proposed that the Terms of Reference for such studies be developed by the relevant Thematic Groups.

Annex 1**OVERALL TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS OF THE TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA FORUM****1. Overall objective**

Thematic Groups are installed by the Trilateral Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) with the aim of preparing background material for consideration and further elaboration of the plenary meetings of the WSF.

2. Tasks

The thematic groups have the following overall tasks

- To collect relevant information in the thematic fields and to analyze and assess this information with a view to elaborate various sustainable development scenarios based on the information collected and analyzed, and on different forecasts, expectations and visions;
- To develop, on the basis of an assessment of the various scenarios, proposals for the most appropriate scenarios;
- To elaborate recommendations and proposals for strategies for the implementation of selected scenarios, as well as general recommendations for visions and strategies on sustainable development in the Wadden Sea region;
- To commission, if necessary, studies and analyses for the work of the groups and invite, if necessary, experts to support its work;
- To ensure the necessary dialogue with the organizations not represented in the WSF, both nationally and locally, regarding analyses, proposals and recommendations in the work field of those organizations;
- To deliver, upon request of the WSF, further input to the work of the WSF.

3. Composition

The chairperson of the thematic groups will be elected by the WSF.

Members of the Thematic Groups will be nominated by the organisations represented in the Wadden Sea Forum. Members of Thematic Groups must not necessarily be members of the WSF. Each member organisation may nominate one member for each of the groups. This does not include the chairperson.

In accordance with § of the Rules of Procedure, the maximum number of members per Thematic Group, not including the chairperson, is twelve.

4. Time schedule

Each Thematic Group will deliver its final report, including proposals for recommendations, by March 2004 ultimately.

The meetings of the Thematic Groups will be prepared by the chairperson of the thematic group and the secretariat. The first meeting will be held as soon as possible taking account of the available secretarial resources.

5. Reporting

The Thematic Groups will deliver to the WSF2 meeting a work plan for its work including a specification of its tasks and deliveries, to be approved by the WSF.

The Thematic Groups report to the WSF-meetings.

6. Facilitation

The Thematic Groups are facilitated by the WSF secretariat.

Annex 2. Relevant reports and studies

In recent years a large number of studies about sustainable development, integrated coastal zone management and other issues of possible relevance for the WSF have been published.

Below a number of such studies is listed.

Most reports are available on the WSF website. For reports for which this was not possible, the relevant contact address has been given.

Title/Subject	Pages	Year	Status/Reference
TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA POLICY			
Stade Declaration/Trilateral Wadden Sea Plan	100	1998	CWSS
Verklaring van Stade/Trilaterale Waddenzee Plan	216	1998	CWSS
Erklärung von Stade/Trilateraler Wattenmeerplan	220	1998	CWSS
Stade-deklarationen/Den trilaterale Vadehavsplan	216	1998	CWSS
Esbjerg Declaration/Esbjerg-deklarationen/Erklärung von Esbjerg/Verklaring van Esbjerg + Policy Assessment Report/Politik-Bewertungsbericht/Beleidsevaluatierapport	277	2002	CWSS
NATURE/ECOSYSTEM			
Wadden Sea Quality Status Report 1999	260	1999	WSE No. 9-1999
Waddenzee Quality Status Rapport 1999	246	2000	Rapport RIKZ/2000.008
Wattenmeer Qualitätszustandsbericht 1999. Bewertung und Empfehlungen	66	2000	BMU
Proceedings 10th Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium			Min. LNV. In preparation
The nomination of the Wadden Sea Conservation Area as a World Heritage Site	30	2000	Burbridge 2000
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT			
Entwicklung von Umweltindikatoren für Niedersachsen. Statusbericht.	104	2002	Niedersächsisches Landesamt für Ökologie
Perspektiven für Deutschland. Unsere Strategie für eine nachhaltige Entwicklung	326	2002	BMU
Danish Nature. Status, trends and recommendations for future biodiversity policies	69	2001	Wilhelm Committee
INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT SPATIAL PLANNING			
Raumordnerisches Konzept für das Niedersächsische Küstenmeer		2002	Bezierrksregierung Weser-Ems
Derde Nota Waddenzee. Deel 3	150	2001	Min.VROM
Visie Integraal Beleid Kustgebieden.	44	2002	WAR.
Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2002 concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe.	4	2002	2002/413/EC
COMMUNICATION/INFORMATION			
Caring for the Wadden Sea as an interactive process	84	1999	Min.LNV
Common Package: Shipping Security and Disaster Prevention/Regional Oriented Public Participation/Trilateral Convention on the Protection of the Wadden Sea Region		2000	Wadden Sea Team/ Seas At Risk, Harlingen, Bremen
SHIPPING			
PSSA Wadden Sea Feasibility Study	91 + Annex	2001	Southampton Institute
Schutz des Wattenmeeres vor Schiffsunfällen durch Einrichtung eines "PSSA Wattenmeer"	50	2000	WWF Deutschland, Frankfurt am Main
Protection of the Wadden Sea from ship accidents through the establishment of a "PSSA Wadden Sea"	48	2000	WWF Germany, Frankfurt am Main
Common Package: Shipping Security and Disaster		2000	Wadden Sea Team/

Title/Subject	Pages	Year	Status/Reference
Prevention/Regional Oriented Public Participation/Trilateral Convention on the Protection of the Wadden Sea Region			Seas At Risk, Harlingen, Bremen
LANDSCAPE AND CULTURE			
Final Report Lancewad Project	336 + maps	2001	WSE No. 12-2001.
SEA LEVEL RISE/COASTAL DEFENSE			
Final Report Working Group Coastal Protection and Sea Level Rise	64	2001	WSE No. 13-2001.
SHELLFISH FISHERIES			
Trilateral inventory shellfish fisheries	22	2002	Final Report in preparation
AGRICULTURE			
Possibilities for sustainable agriculture in the Wadden Sea region	91 + maps	2000	CWSS Working Document
TOURISM AND RECREATION			
Sustainable Tourism Development and Recreational Use in the Wadden Sea Region	82	2000	IRWC
Bæredygtig udvikling af turismen og den rekreative udnyttelse i vadhedsregionen	79	2000	IRWC
Nachhaltige Entwicklung des Tourismus in der Wattenmeerregion und Nutzung des Gebiets für Erholungszwecke	68	2000	IRWC
Final Technical Report Netforum Project	36	2001	IRWC