

TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA FORUM

FIRST MEETING

LEEUWARDEN, THE NETHERLANDS

30 AUGUST 2002

FINAL MINUTES

1 Opening

Documents: WSF01-1-List of members; WSF01-1rev-Updated list of members

The chairman, Mr. Nijpels, welcomed the members of the WSF at 10:00 hours. He addressed the unique character of the Forum and the difficult task of materializing the concept of sustainable development.

With regard to the nominations, the chairman stressed that there were still a number of vacancies for deputy members.

Upon invitation of the chairman, the participants briefly presented themselves and their organization. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**.

2 Adoption of the Agenda

Document: WSF01-2.1-Draft agenda

The Agenda was adopted without amendments. The agenda is in **Annex 2**. A list of documents is in **Annex 3**.

3 Adoption of Rules of Procedure

Document: WSF01-3.1-Draft Rules of Procedure

The meeting addressed the draft rules of procedure as elaborated by the Preparatory Committee. Texts were still pending on paragraphs 5 and 10. For paragraph 5, Secretariat, the chairman proposed to include the text "The CWSS, in co-operation with the secretariat of the Inter-regional Wadden Sea Co-operation, is the secretariat of the WSF."

With regard to §10, Press contacts, the chairman proposed the following text:

- "- for each meeting a draft press release is prepared by the chairman and the secretariat, to be endorsed by the meeting;
- the chairman is the first to inform the press about the outcome of the meeting;
- thereafter all delegations are free to establish their own press contacts."

With regard to article 6ii it was **decided** that, in principle, documents would be sent out four weeks before the meeting.

With regard to article 7i about the number of thematic Groups, the chairman stated, upon request of Mr. Revier, that the number of groups was not fixed at four.

The meeting **agreed** to amend article 7iv in such a way that chairpersons of Thematic Groups would be elected by the plenary Forum meeting.

Mr. Rössner asked how a balanced representation in Thematic Groups could be achieved. The chairman answered that, if necessary, such would be decided by the Executive Board.

With the inclusion of the above amendments the Rules of Procedure were **adopted**. The final version of the Rules of Procedure is in **Annex 4**.

4 Election vice-chairpersons

The meeting **elected** Mr. Andresen (county council of South Jutland) and Mr. Klimant (District Government of Dithmarschen) as vice-chairpersons.

5 Tasks of the WSF

Document: WSF01-5.1-Tasks Trilateral Wadden Sea Forum

The chairman invited the meeting to express views about the implementation of the tasks of the WSF. Mr. Revier regarded the WSF a challenge. He underlined that the Common Principles of the first Esbjerg Declaration (1991), the Common Vision of the Stade Declaration (1997) and the Wadden Sea Plan should be the basis for developing definitions of sustainability in the different fields.

Mr. Klimant stressed the need for elaborating practical proposals, for example ideas for sustainable infrastructure.

Mr. Andresen regarded the WSF as important for achieving a better public understanding in the definition and elaboration of sustainable use.

Mr. Schipper underlined the need for making socio-economic perspectives visible in the scenarios. He stressed that practical proposals should be developed.

Mr. Witt made a plea for developing practical and understandable projects.

Mr. Wesemüller expressed the hope that at the end of the WSF project there would be a better understanding between interest groups and also that a "Wadden Sea feeling" would develop about how to live in harmony with nature.

Mr. Theuerkauf stated that the regions have problems with the way in which the trilateral cooperation works. He therefore would like to use the WSF as an opportunity to elaborate consensus in due time before the coming Wadden Sea Conference.

Ms. Stam stressed the need for doing something constructive.

The chairman informed the meeting that all ideas would be summarized by the secretariat and submitted to the Thematic Groups. He furthermore proposed and the meeting **agreed** that at the next WSF meeting more concrete proposals and ideas regarding sustainable development would be discussed. The Thematic Groups would provide input to this discussion.

6 Working Method and time schedule of the WSF

Documents: WSF01-6.1-Themes for thematic groups and external studies; WSF01-6.2-Time schedule; WSF01-6.1add Additional information from The Netherlands (This document was handed out at meeting; please note that it has a wrong doc. number)

The chairman introduced document WSF 01-6.1 and proposed the installation of Thematic Groups on Agriculture, Fisheries, Industry/Energy and Policy/Management.

Mr. Revier proposed to address the issues tourism and recreation, coastal defense and shipping.

Mr. Tougaard suggested that the theme education could be addressed in all Thematic Groups.

Mr. Klimant proposed to install a Thematic Group on communication and information.

Mr. Groenendijk was against clustering all industrial activities and stated that energy production was more related to spatial planning. He therefore proposed to install a separate group on energy production or to address the issue in a group on spatial planning.

Mr. Schipper stressed that the issue of tourism and recreation should be clearly visible in the recommendations made by the WSF.

Mr. Witt proposed to include the issue of coastal defense in the Thematic Group on agriculture.

Mr. Haerkens suggested to include energy in the Thematic Group on Policy and Management. He supported the idea of including coastal defense in the agriculture group.

There was extensive discussion about these proposals. The chairman summarized the outcome of the discussion as follows:

- an additional group on energy production would be installed;
- the issue education would be addressed in all five groups;
- at the next WSF meeting the secretariat will table an analysis of the still open questions from the Netforum project. Tourism and Recreation should, however, also be discussed in all five groups;
- communication and information would be a matter for the plenary WSF;
- infrastructure and spatial planning would be addressed in all five groups;
- coastal defense would be addressed in the Thematic Group on Policy and management, since the majority of the meeting was against including this theme in the Agriculture Group. Furthermore, the results of a Working Group on sea level rise and coastal defense, operating in the framework of the trilateral cooperation of the Governments, would be used;
- shipping would be addressed in the Industry/Harbor group;
- the installation of subgroups of Thematic Groups would not be possible.

The meeting **endorsed** the conclusions of the chairman.

With regard to the membership of the Thematic Groups the chairman made a detailed proposal which was in principle **adopted** by the meeting. The composition of Thematic Groups is in **Annex 5**. All member organizations were invited to find a balanced representation in the Thematic Groups and to submit nominations for members to the secretariat within two weeks.

Upon request of Ms. Westinga, the chairman suggested that observers could in principle participate in Thematic Group meetings and that they would receive all documentation.

The meeting then discussed the external studies as proposed in document WSF01-6.1. The chairman warned not to extend the number studies because of budgetary constraints. He however also stated that if a Thematic Group has good arguments for wishing a particular study, a proposal should be made to the WSF plenary meeting.

The meeting **agreed** upon the proposals from document WSF01-6.1 to continue the work necessary for starting up studies 1 to 4.

The meeting finally **agreed** upon the time schedule of the WSF project as in document WSF01-6.2.

7 Budget WSF

The chairman explained that there was no document for this agenda item, because negotiations on the budget were still ongoing. Two additional meetings had been held to solve budget issues but there was still a difference in opinion between the governments and the interregional cooperation.

Mr. Rösner stressed that the contribution of NGOs to the WSF was guaranteed and that there was a common interest that the secretariat would run smoothly and would not be hampered by financial constraints.

The chairman fully supported this statement and urged the parties to come to a compromise as soon as possible.

8 Meeting schedule

Document: WSF01-8.1-Meeting Schedule

The meetings dates proposed in document WSF01-8.1 were **adopted** with the exception of 27/28 March 2003. For these, an alternative will be found.

9 Any other business

The secretary proposed to publish names, functions and photographs of all WSF members on the WSF website. The meeting **endorsed** this proposal.

The secretary furthermore announced that documents for the meetings would be circulated in pdf format and invited members to contact the secretariat about details, if necessary.

Mr. Ahrens asked about the relation of the WSF work and the trilateral work and whether trilateral papers could be distributed to the WSF members.

Mr. Enemark explained the differences between the WSF and the trilateral cooperation and informed the meeting that there were no principal objections against making available trilateral documents to the WSF.

10 Closing

The chairman thanked the participants for their cooperation and closed the meeting on 30 August, 13:00 hours.

Annex 2

Agenda of the meeting

- 1 Opening of the meeting
- 2 Adoption of the Agenda
- 3 Adoption of Rules of Procedure
- 4 Election vice-chairpersons
- 5 Tasks of the WSF
- 6 Working Method and time schedule of the WSF
- 7 Budget WSF
- 8 Meeting schedule
- 9 Any other business
- 10 Closing

Annex 3**List of Documents**

Document No.	Subject	Submitted by	Distributed	
			on	by
AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING				
WSF01-1.1	List of members	Secretariat	20 August 2002	e-mail
AGENDA ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA				
	Draft Agenda		5 August	letter WSF02-04
AGENDA ITEM 3. ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE				
WSF01-3.1	Draft Rules of Procedure	Preparatory Committee	20 August 2002	e-mail
AGENDA ITEM 5. TASKS OF THE WSF				
WSF01-5.1	Tasks Forum	Secretariat	20 August 2002	e-mail
AGENDA ITEM 6. WORKING METHOD WSF				
WSF 01-6.1	Thematic Groups and External Studies	Chair and Secretariat	20 August 2002	e-mail
WSF 01-6.2	Time schedule	Preparatory Committee	20 August 2002	e-mail
WSF 01-6.1add	Additional information from the Netherlands	Min. LNV Netherlands	30 August 2002	handed out at meeting under doc. No. WSF1-9.1

Annex 4

Rules of Procedure for the Wadden Sea Forum

0. Adoption and amendments

The Rules of Procedure will be adopted at the first plenary meeting of the Wadden Sea Forum (WSF).

The Rules of Procedure can be amended by the plenary meeting.

1. Membership

i. The institutions/organizations listed in Annex 1 will mandate one representative as member of the Forum. The members are listed in Annex 1 to the Rules of Procedure.

ii. Members should represent their institution/organization and have a mandate to negotiate on behalf of their institution/organization

iii. The independent expert members of the WSF are listed in Annex 1 to the Rules of Procedure.

iv. The institution/organization/experts may appoint a deputy. The deputy members are listed in Annex 1 to the Rules of Procedure.

2. Chair

The Wadden Sea Forum is chaired by Mr. Nijpels, the queens commissioner of the Province of Fryslân (NL). The chair is responsible for chairing the plenary meetings of the WSF and the meetings of the Executive Board.

3. Vice-Chair

Two vice-chairpersons will be appointed at the first plenary session of the WSF.

4. Executive Board

An Executive Board, consisting of the chairman, the vice-chairpersons and the secretary is responsible for handling all matters arising between plenary meetings. The decisions of the Executive Board are subject to approval by the plenary meeting.

5. Secretariat

The Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS), in co-operation with the secretariat of the Inter-regional Wadden Sea Co-operation (IRWC), is the secretariat of the WSF.

6. Preparation of meetings

i. The draft agenda will be prepared by the Executive Board and will be distributed to the members by the Secretariat 6 weeks before the meeting.

ii. Documents will, in principle, be distributed by the Secretariat 4 weeks before the meeting at the latest.

iii. Material to be discussed at the meeting should be submitted to the Secretariat 5 weeks before the meeting.

iv. Summary Records will be distributed to the members within 2 weeks after the meeting and also placed on the WSF website within 2 weeks after the meeting.

7. Thematic Groups

- i. The meeting Wadden Sea Forum installs Thematic Groups for the elaboration of issues.
- ii. The members of the Thematic Groups are nominated by the organizations/institutions listed in Annex 1.
- iii. The meeting Wadden Sea Forum decides upon the nomination of independent experts as members of the Thematic Groups.
- iv. The Wadden Sea Forum elects the chairpersons of the Thematic Groups.
- v. For reasons of functionality the maximum number of participants in the Thematic Groups, excluding chairperson and secretariat, is 12.
- vi. Thematic Groups are supported by the Secretariat.
- vii. All activities of Thematic Groups are subject to approval by the WSF, either in advance or in retrospect.

8. External Studies

- i. The meeting may initiate external studies into specific thematic issues, to be carried out by independent consultants.
- ii. The choice and number of studies is limited by the available budget.

9. Language

The language in the Forum, the subgroups and the external studies, including all documentation, is English.

10. Press contacts

- i. For each meeting a draft press release is prepared by the chairman and the secretariat to be endorsed by the meeting.
- ii. The chairman is the first to inform the press about the outcome of the meeting.
- iii. Thereafter all delegations are free to establish their own press contacts.

ANNEX 5**COMPOSITION THEMATIC GROUPS**

The chairpersons have been indicated in bold.

	1.Agriculture	2.Industry/ harbor	3.Fisheries	4.Policy/ management	5.Energy
Agriculture	X X X X			X	
Tourism	X	X	X	X	X
Nature	X X	X X	X X	X X X	X X
Fishery			X X X X	X	
Industry/ Harbor	X	X X X X	X	X	X
Energy	X	X		X	X X X X
Local government	X X	X X	X X	X X	X X
Regional government	X X	X X	X X	X X	X X