



Wadden Sea Forum
20th Meeting
Esbjerg, 23-24 May 2012

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening

The chair of the meeting, Preben Friis-Hauge, welcomed the participants in Esbjerg and opened the plenary meeting at 13:00 on 23 May 2012. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**. He thanked the municipality of Esbjerg for hosting the meeting.

The meeting adopted the agenda without amendments. The agenda is in **Annex 2**. A list of agreements and decisions as summary of WSF-20 is in **Annex 3**.

2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF 19

Document: WSF-19 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting adopted the final draft minutes of the WSF-19 meeting, Norden, D, 15-16 November 2011. The secretary briefly recalled the agreements of the WSF-19 meeting. All decisions were implemented, respectively were on-going due to the agreed tasks. Particularly, cooperation with other international organisations still has to be enhanced.

3. Membership WSF

Document: WSF 20-3.1 Membership list

The secretary referred to the distributed WSF member list and informed the meeting about new members and changes since the last meeting in Norden as well as about the latest updates not considered in the document:

- DK Fishery: Mr. Oluf Stenrøjl Kristensen, Rømø Fiskeriforening, will replace Mr. Jesper Juul Larsen
- D Tourism and Recreation: new decision will be taken by the Island Council
- NL Advisory Board (Observer): Ms Margreeth de Boer and Ms Jacoba Westinga - Decision on continuation of "Raad voor de Wadden" will be taken by the Dutch parliament

4. Announcements

Anne Krag Svendsen invited the meeting to the opening of the National Park office and the secretariat of the Danish Wadden Sea municipalities on 24 May in the afternoon on Rømø.

Theo Schröder reported about the extension of the National Park Wadden Sea in Lower Saxony by 68.000 ha. An application would be sent to the UNESCO in February 2013 to include 47.000 ha of the extended area into the World Heritage Site Wadden Sea.

Shipping lanes and mining areas, mainly located in the Jade channel would be left out to avoid conflicts with the sectors. Additional restrictions would not be associated with the extension.

Jörn Klimant informed the meeting that a change of policies would be expected in Schleswig-Holstein due to the formation of a new parliament after state elections some weeks ago. A coalition would be built by the social democrats, the green party and the Danish minority party.

Kirsten Dreijøe Nedergaard informed that the port of Rømø would cooperate with the smaller ports in Schleswig-Holstein with regard to off-shore businesses. The network had just started and benefits of such cooperation would be expected in the near future.

Jens Enemark informed the meeting that the annual Wadden Sea Day would be held on 30 August 2012 in Wilhelmshaven. The theme would be energy transition and the impacts on policies and management of the Wadden Sea.

He further announced that the WSF would have its 10th anniversary in autumn this year. He emphasized the constructive cooperation between the Trilateral Cooperation and the WSF and expected a worthy celebration.

Bernard Baerends reported about the agreement between the government and the NGOs to allow transport of mussel seed from the southern delta into the Wadden Sea. This step forward in sustainable fisheries would compose confidence between the sector and the green NGOs.

Hans-Ulrich Rösner amended that in Schleswig-Holstein the Schutzstation Wattenmeer, supported by WWF, succeeded to stop the translocation of mussel seed into the National Park, which was allowed on the basis of the fishery law in the past, but involved a risk also to introduce alien species.

5. Minutes Steering Committee

Document: WSF 20-5.1 Minutes SC-13

The meeting took note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting, SC-13, Bremen, 18 April 2012.

The secretary referred to the "North Sea Maritime Forum" project application for Interreg IVB co-funding and informed that the application was rejected due to an unbalanced project partner structure. UK partners and sub-partners would make up a dominant majority and almost 80% of the project budget would have been allocated to the UK partners. Therefore, the Interreg Steering Committee decided to reject the application.

6. Progress WSF Activities

Document: WSF 20-6.1 Summary progress report

Additionally to the information given in the progress report, the meeting was informed by the chairs and secretary of the working groups about further progress of the WSF activities.

WG ICZM: Herman Verheij referred to the achievements of the working group like the ICZM workshop with strategic recommendations, the planning portal and the sustainability indicator tool. Furthermore, he recalled the objectives of "Breaking the Ice" with regard to ICZM and concluded that ICZM had not lost its relevance and importance. Still, an integrated coastal management strategy on a transnational level would support coordinating and implementing the many activities in the Wadden Sea Region. Also Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), a core issue of DG Mare of the EU Commission, had been taken up by the working group and should be linked to coastal zone management. In the future, the working group would strive for a closer cooperation with the EU Commission with regard to ICZM and MSP to tackle future needs and work towards an integration of WSF activities according to the still valid recommendations of "Breaking the Ice."

Action: ICZM group will invite contact person in DG Environment

WG EII: The secretary referred to the document and emphasized the topic of working towards a CO₂ neutral Wadden Sea Region, as announced at the Sylt conference. The planned WSF workshop in 2013 would contribute to deliver advice for the Wadden Sea conference in 2014 and would elaborate on specific topics like CO₂ emissions in the trilateral Wadden Sea Region, sources of CO₂ and its share of total CO₂ emissions (traffic, industry, energy production, households...). Further, the definition of an area of concerns geographically and the identification of management tools (CCS, CO₂ trading, taxes, etc.) would be issues of the workshop too.

With the implementation of the workshop, concrete actions would be in place to attract further participants for the working group, particularly representatives of the regional governments and NGOs.

Action: Working group EII to prepare and implement energy workshop

WG Shipping: The secretary underlined the wish of the working group to forward a resolution on Vessel Traffic Management (VTM) to the three governments for voluntary implementation in order to increase shipping safety in the surroundings of the vulnerable Wadden Sea. The draft resolution would need a further debate among the stakeholders like ship owners and harbor and shipping authorities to reach broad consensus on the resolution.

The meeting discussed in general a better cooperation between the WSF working group and the TG shipping of the Trilateral Cooperation. The aims and objectives of both groups were seen as quite close. As a further step, the WSF stakeholders could contribute to a PSSA vision, which of course includes adequate shipping safety measures.

Jens Enemark invited the working group to give a presentation on VTM at the PSSA workshop on 19 September in Hamburg.

Action: Working group shipping to carry out a presentation to be given at the PSSA workshop in Hamburg

WG Agriculture: discussed under item 8 Goose Management

WG Tourism: Jens Enemark briefly reported about activities with regard to tourism under the umbrella of the World Heritage Site. Some infrastructure activities as well as communication measures had been quite successful and an emphasis would be on the elaboration of a sustainable tourism strategy, a requirement of the World Heritage Committee. A draft strategy would be available in the second half of this year; it covers nature conservation issues and addresses benefits for the sectors. Further, the strategy would aim at a better cooperation within the regions and among the sectors. Also an adequate, nature friendly marketing of the Site was encompassed by the strategy. All in all, the recently approved Interreg project PROWAD, coordinated by the CWSS, covered the defined tasks.

7. Cultural Identity

Document: WSF 20-7.1 WSF-C 2012-1 final draft minutes

The secretary informed about several initiatives and projects with regard to cultural history, identity and cultural tourism in the recent past. Concrete projects like Footprints and AnyQuestions, carried out e.g. by Wadden Art, as well as organ culture were implemented. The WSF intended to bring the different topics and initiatives together in order to better integrate the cultural issues in the development of the Wadden Sea Region and to further elaborate on the cultural grounds of the people living in the Region. A first meeting resulted in new collaborations between the participating organizations. A project of HZG (Helmholtz Zentrum Geesthacht) and WaddenArt is developing a questionnaire about cultural identity in the WSR; the project "Hartslag" is supported by the province of Groningen to links art and culture with health and vitality to better understand the development of identity and, the daily painting project of the university of Paderborn is promoted through the WSF website.

The meeting noted the information and welcomed the activities in this field.

8. Goose Management

Document: WSF 20-8.1 GMG Terms of Reference

The chair of the re-established goose management group (GMG), Hilbrand Sinnema, referred to the goose report 2010 and recalled the statements of the Sylt declaration in this respect. He emphasised the need for a framework of bird management in the WSR and requested clear commitment of national and regional governments for implementation, also with regard to financial support. The WSR would be an excellent pilot region for common aims on bird protection and management, which should be addressed to the EU Commission as well. Due to the clear request of the farmer organisations to work towards a strategic framework on goose management, the meeting agreed on three steps to proceed:

- The work of the re-established goose management group should continue according to the draft Terms of Reference (TOR), which would be amended by the development of a pilot project (see further below);
- A document with the most important findings of the 2010 report, including recommended activities in the regions, will be elaborated and translated into the three national languages. The document will be forwarded to the regional governments for discussion and adoption by the regional parliaments;
- The GMG will develop a pilot project for long term management to be co-financed by European funds.

Action: Implementation of three bullet points above

9. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards

Representatives of the advisory boards informed about topical issues and latest developments within their boards.

Denmark: At its last meeting in April, the board focussed on themes like the consultation of the national park plan, water and wildlife plans, climate change and CO₂, goose management and the future of the Danish Wadden Sea advisory board.

The municipalities considered not to continue the work of the board as the new established national park council could cover the tasks too. As the council do not represent all interests, there would be no consensus about how to proceed. For the time being, the advisory board would continue its work until the end of 2013.

Schleswig-Holstein: A topic in the advisory board was the oil exploration drillings of RWE Dea, for which the permission had not been given yet. Further, the meeting discussed the cable connection to off-shore wind farms and resulting conflicts with fishery sector. A third topic was about mussel fisheries in the Wadden Sea, for which permission until 2016 was in place. The government recently prolonged the permission until 2026 and also announced support for the installation of smart farms. The environmental NGOs objected the prolongation, because – among other issues - the core zone of the National Park would still not be fully protected and the environmental assessments did not fulfil an acceptable standard.

Lower Saxony: no further information given than under announcements (Theo Schröder).

The Netherlands: The Dutch Wadden Sea advisory board is currently not active; a decision about the future of the board will be taken by the Dutch parliament.

10. Cooperation

The secretary informed the meeting about cooperation within the EU FP7 program. The WSF would be partner in the project ENHANCE, which is about "Enhancing risk management partnerships for catastrophic natural disasters in Europe". In total, 23 partners from all over Europe would contribute to the project with a budget of 7.5 million Euros, of which the EU contribution would be close to 6 million Euros. The budget of WSF would be around 120.000 Euros of which 50% is financed by the program.

The main goal of the ENHANCE project is to develop and analyse new ways to enhance society's resilience to natural hazard impacts. This will be done by providing new

scenarios and information in selected hazard cases in close collaboration with stakeholders.

Main ENHANCE objectives over a period of four years:

- (a) to assess the characteristics of (un-) successful partnerships in improving resilience, and identify processes for fostering novel multi-sector partnerships (MSPs);
- (b) to develop a harmonized scheme for risk assessment through an inventory of existing risk information;
- (c) to enhance resilience by linking MSPs to economic instruments, including insurance and risk management policies; and
- (d) to provide guidelines and policy recommendations for the horizontal integration of risk management and climate-proofing in policies.

11. Climate change scenarios

Presentation Insa Meinke, HZG

Ms Meinke from the HZG, Institute of Coastal Research, and head of the department "Norddeutsches Klimabüro" gave a presentation about climate scenarios in the WSR. The scenarios cover a period till 2100 and addresses temperature, precipitation, wind velocities, sea level rise and other issues.

The meeting very much welcomed the presentation and stated that this issue of both climate protection and climate adaptation would be one of the most important topics for the future work. It was agreed to start a closer cooperation with the "Norddeutsches Klimabüro", which could deliver extended data for the whole Wadden Sea Region.

The presentation can be found on the WSF website under http://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum-wsf_plenary.html

Further and detailed information are available at <http://www.norddeutsches-klimabuero.de/>

Action: Elaborate climate scenarios for the entire Wadden Sea Region

12. Climate Friendly Wadden Sea Region

Presentation Jürgen Gabriel, Bremen Energy Institute

Mr Jürgen Gabriel from the Bremer Energy Institute informed about energy development and CO₂ reduction in the WSR. He introduced energy and climate concepts and pointed to actions on the regional and local level. Finally, he focussed on key elements to work towards a climate neutral Wadden Sea Region. The meeting welcomed the information, which will serve as a basis for the further work in this field.

The presentation can be found on the WSF website under http://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum-wsf_plenary.html

As an example, further information about perspectives regarding climate adaptation for the region Bremen-Oldenburg can be found at www.nordwest2050.de/index_nw2050.php

13. Wadden Sea Conference

The meeting was aware of the need to support the 12th Trilateral Governmental Conference with contributions on topics like CO₂ reduction, goose management, shipping safety, sustainability indicators and WSR planning portal. Reflecting the work and role of the WSF in the past ten years, the **meeting agreed** to elaborate a more strategic report, emphasizing the added value of the WSF work, also with a view on the cooperation with the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation. This more holistic report should also revisit the aims and objectives of "Breaking the Ice", analysing the developments and achievements of the past decade and defining future tasks as well as the role of the WSF with regard to the development of the WSR.

More concrete, the report would address, besides the themes mentioned above, climate adaptation, energy development, ICZM and MSP and regional themes. Following, an outlook for the coming ten years should be given.

With regard to the Wadden Sea Conference it was stated that the collaboration between the WSF and the Trilateral Cooperation should be clarified and consolidated to get strong commitment for cooperation at the Conference itself. This cooperation could clearly link the trilateral with the regional and local level, a precondition to reach acceptance for transnational agreements and policies for the development of the Wadden Sea Region with its natural and cultural assets.

The meeting **agreed** that for the elaboration of the report support and commitment of the WSF members would be essential. The chair and the secretary will visit sector organizations and regional authorities to discuss contributions and requests in order to define the future role of the WSF. As preparation, a draft agenda, respectively a discussion paper will be sent after summer holidays.

Actions: Elaboration of advice and recommendation on certain topics to be forwarded to the Wadden Sea Board; elaboration of a strategic WSF report for the Wadden Sea Conference; preparation of a discussion paper for regional governments and sector organisations; implementation of a visit tour of chair and secretariat.

14. WSF Budget

The meeting was informed about the expenses and income of the WSF for 2011 and, a draft budget 2012, which had slightly increased in comparison to 2011, was introduced. The meeting noted the information. It was **agreed** that the secretariat should start negotiations with additional regional governments as well as with sector organisations about regularly financial contributions for the WSF.

Action: Negotiations about additional financial contributions

15. Next meeting

The meeting **agreed** on 13-14 November 2012 for the WSF-21 meeting, which will be hosted by the county of Nordfriesland, Schleswig-Holstein. It was recommended to put the "climate concept Nordfriesland" on the agenda.

16. Any other business

No other business discussed.

17. Closing

The chairman **summarized** the main topics discussed at the meeting (see also decisions and agreements in **Annex 3**), thanked all participants for coming and their fruitful contributions and closed the meeting at 12:30 on 24 May 2012.

ANNEX 2

**Wadden Sea Forum
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Esbjerg, 23-24 May 2012**

A G E N D A

- Agenda item 1. Opening**
- Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF 19**
- Agenda item 3. Membership WSF**
- Agenda item 4. Announcements**
- Agenda item 5. Minutes Steering Committee**
- Agenda item 6. Progress WSF Activities**
- Agenda item 7. Cultural Identity**
- Agenda item 8. Goose Management**
- Agenda item 9. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards**
- Agenda item 10. Cooperation**
- Agenda item 11. Climate change scenarios**
- Agenda item 12. Climate Friendly Wadden Sea Region**
- Agenda item 13. Wadden Sea Conference**
- Agenda item 14. WSF Budget**
- Agenda item 15. Next meeting**
- Agenda item 16. Any other business**
- Agenda item 17. Closing**

ANNEX 3

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Decisions and Agreements

- 1) The ICZM group will invite Mr Jeroen Casaer from DG Environment to discuss the future role of ICZM on the European level, to be taken up by the working group.
- 2) The working group EII is requested to prepare and implement an energy workshop in spring 2013 to elaborate on contributions, particularly with regard to CO₂ issues, for the Wadden Sea Conference.
- 3) The working group shipping is requested to carry out a presentation on VTM to be given at the PSSA workshop in Hamburg.
- 4) With regard to goose management, the following was agreed:
 - The work of the re-established goose management group should continue according to the draft Terms of Reference (TOR), which would be amended by the development of a pilot project (see further below);
 - A document with the most important findings of the 2010 report, including recommended activities in the regions, will be elaborated and translated into the three national languages. The document will be forwarded to the regional governments for discussion and adoption by the regional parliaments;
 - The GMG will develop a pilot project for long term management to be co-financed by European funds.
- 5) The meeting agreed to contribute to the ENHANCE project under the EU FP7 program.
- 6) The WSF in cooperation with HZG, "Norddeutsches Klimabüro", will elaborate climate scenarios for the entire Wadden Sea Region, also as basis for the future work.
- 7) With regard to the Wadden Sea Conference and the collaboration with the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation, the following was agreed:
 - Elaboration of advice and recommendation on certain topics to be forwarded to the Wadden Sea Board;
 - Elaboration of a strategic WSF report for the Wadden Sea Conference;
 - Preparation of a discussion paper for regional governments and sector organisations; implementation of a visit tour of chair and secretariat.
- 8) The secretariat is asked to start negotiations about additional financial contributions with regional authorities and sector organizations.