



**Wadden Sea Forum**  
**21<sup>th</sup> Meeting**  
**Leck, 13-14 November 2012**

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

**1. Opening**

The chair of the meeting, Preben Friis-Hauge, welcomed the participants in Leck and opened the plenary meeting at 13:00 on 13 November 2012. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**. He thanked the county of Nordfriesland for hosting the meeting and called attention to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WSF. The first meeting was held in August 2002 in Leeuwarden.

The meeting **adopted** the agenda without amendments and is in **Annex 2**. A list of agreements and decisions as summary of WSF-21 is in **Annex 3**.

The meeting was briefly informed about the program of the WSF-21 meeting, which included the excursion to the Hallig Oland in the afternoon of the first day.

**2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF 20**

*Document: WSF-20 Final Draft Minutes*

The meeting **adopted** the final draft minutes of the WSF-20 meeting, Esbjerg, 23-24 May 2012. The secretary briefly recalled the agreements of the WSF-20 meeting. All decisions were implemented, respectively were on-going due to the agreed tasks.

**3. Membership WSF**

*Document: WSF 21-3.1 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 Esbjerg:

- Mr. Wiebe van der Ploeg will replace Ms Tineke Schokker for the Dutch regional governments as well as for the vice-chair;
- Ms Constanze Höfinghoff will represent the SH tourism sector;
- Ms Natalie Eckelt will replace Carsten Massau from the Insel und Hallig Konferenz;
- Ms Pytsje de Graaf will represent the local governments in NL.

**4. Announcements**

Jens Enemark informed the meeting about the discussed issues and main results of the WSB-6 meeting on 5 October. One issue was the development of a framework for a trilateral strategy on alien species to avoid their introduction in the Wadden Sea. Stakeholders could help to implement the strategy. How this could be done practically would be further elaborated in the coming months. Also the seed mussel import was discussed within the WSB, whereas it would currently not be possible to come to a common trilateral position on seed mussel import. This was due to the fact that responsible German authorities would have to base their position on the ruling of the highest federal administrative court and possible following court cases.

Jens Enemark further informed about a PSSA workshop in September, at which a common vision for the PSSA was discussed and agreed on. Measures for reaching the vision had to be elaborated by the Task Group Shipping. Input from the WSF would be very much appreciated. Then he announced the Wadden Sea Conference, which would be held on 4-6 February 2014 in Tønder, Denmark. The issues of the Ministerial Declaration were under discussion and also a contribution of the WSF would be expected. Finally he pointed at the application of the nomination of the Danish Wadden Sea as World Heritage Site. It would be a chance for Denmark to join the World Heritage community and to strive for an important international label, of which all could benefit. Denmark could close the gap of having one entity of the Wadden Sea listed as World Heritage Site.

Hans-Ulrich Rösner informed about a process in Schleswig-Holstein, called "Wadden Sea Strategy 2100" which started a few days ago. This would be cooperation between the coastal defence and the nature protection sector. The process was expected to last two years and would end up with a strategy, to be followed then by further work on management plans. WWF, Schutzstation Wattenmeer and the Insel and Halligkonferenz were invited by the state of Schleswig-Holstein to take part in the work.

Hans-Werner Rothkopf informed about the latest developments at the Jade Weser Port, which was opened by beginning of August this year. The first big deal was to lighten the wrecked vessel Flaminia. Half of the containers were off-loaded now, but it would take another 2 month to complete the work. Further, a preparation process for an extension of the port would start next year. This would end up in many more kilometres of quays.

## 5. Minutes Steering Committee

*Document: WSF 21-5.1 Minutes SC-14*

The meeting took note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting, SC-14, Bremen, 04 October 2012.

## 6. Election Vice-Chair

On recommendation of the Dutch provinces, the Steering Committee proposed to elect Mr. Wiebe van der Ploeg from the province of Groningen as new vice-chair. Wiebe van der Ploeg is representative of the province of Groningen and responsible for agriculture, fisheries, nature conservation and rural development. His working fields are also on sustainable growth, energy and energy transition. He is also board member of the Dutch Wadden Fund. In his introductory speech he made clear that he would represent the WSF with his power and that he would support and promote the Forum in its activities as well as in his dealings as politician.

Finally, the meeting **elected** Wiebe van der Ploeg as new vice-chair of the WSF.

## 7. Progress WSF Activities

*Document: WSF 21-7.1 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 emphasized the work on the sustainability indicators, which would be discussed further under the next agenda item. The Planning Portal would be a most valuable instrument to get information about uses and protection schemes in the Wadden Sea Region on a transnational level. The portal would be extended by further data sets and layers until September 2013 to make it more complete. He also held out the prospect of achieving a better cooperation with the EU Commission with regard to ICZM and MSP.

**WG Shipping & Harbor:** Albert de Hoop underlined the importance of shipping safety in the southern North Sea due to increasing ship traffic and growing harbors. Somehow, a sound management and service system had to be implemented. The working group would further elaborate on recommendations on shipping safety, striving for acceptance on a broad level and would forward the results to the Wadden Sea conference in 2014.

**WG EII:** Hans-Werner Rothkopf outlined the need for an energy workshop to be held in spring 2013 in order to elaborate expert advice on energy production in the Wadden Sea Regions as well as on a reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Energy issues would play an extraordinary role in future policies and management and the WSF would deliver valuable input for the Wadden Sea conference in 2014. Experiences of the Wadden Sea Day 2012 would be taken into account.

**WG Agriculture:** Erich Hinrichs reported that the goose management groups would make progress in carrying out a goose management scheme on a trilateral level, also to be forwarded to the Wadden Sea conference in 2014. For the time being, an inventory of regional schemes were compiled and assessed. He underlined the need for a trilateral umbrella as goose accommodation schemes had to be similar to avoid conflicts between the different regions and the farmers living there.

**WG Cultural Identity:** Manfred Vollmer pointed at the success of having established a working group on cultural identity, which would get good attention among the various actors. He briefly informed about first results of a survey on cultural identity in the Wadden Sea Region, carried out by the Institute for Coastal Research at the Helmholtz Centre Geesthacht and the Dutch foundation WaddenArt. The perception and opinions about "Heimat" and cultural identity in Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands would differ to some extent. Final results would be placed on the WSF website in the coming weeks.

## **8. State of sustainability**

*Documents: WSF 21-8.1 State of sustainability  
WSF 21-8.2 Comparison analysis*

The meeting was informed about the state of sustainability and the developments during the years. The courses of the graphs were based on several changes in the indicator values, described in the document. In the following, the chair of the WG ICZM analysed the developments in sustainability in detail. With examples like the share of high-quality jobs, immigration of people into the WSR and settlement of businesses the differences of developments between the regions were shown. To figure out the real facts, which do cause the developments, a deeper analysis down to municipality level would be necessary. Also the connection of social and economic dependencies had to be taken into consideration. An example was given with the growing numbers of people older than 65 years while having a stable situation of young people living in the area.

It **was common sense** that scientific support is needed to assess the results of the indicator tool and to draw exact conclusions out of the sustainability developments. On the basis of this, regional and local governments can react accordingly. It was also **agreed** to strive for a closer cooperation with the Dutch Wadden Academy to get the necessary support.

## **9. Spatial Planning in the southern North Sea**

*Presentation Bettina Käppeler, BSH*

Ms Käppeler from the BSH gave a presentation about spatial planning and economic developments in the North Sea. After introducing the "Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency", she further described the concerned maritime areas with its huge range of uses. In order to solve potential conflicts between the users, an integrated and comprehensive management and planning would be needed. The presentation informed in detail about the planning demands, taking into account the requirements of the different sectors, and provided results of a strategic environmental assessment. Ms Käppeler also focused on wind energy projects in the North Sea and finally introduced the recently elaborated offshore grid plan of October 2012. The presentation is available on the WSF website in the plenary section.

The meeting welcomed the presentation. It was demanded to carefully assess the developments with regard to impacts on the environment and society. Particularly the developments in off-shore wind energy would have impacts on the Wadden Sea by cable connections to the main land as well as on shipping safety.

### Program inserts:

#### a) Speech 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary WSF

Ingbert Liebing, member of the German Federal Parliament, held a speech, highlighting the work and achievements of the Wadden Sea Forum. He struck an arc from the achievements of the Trilateral Cooperation for the protection of the Wadden Sea to the involvement of stakeholders with the implementation of the WSF in 2002. He emphasised the results of the first phase, which ended up with the report "Breaking the Ice". The application of the strategies and recommendations would to some extent still be valid. Finally, he underlined further achievements like the work on the sustainability indicator tool, the implementation of the planning portal and the work on goose management, but also the implementation of the workshops on ICZM and energy. Mr. Liebing recommended continuing the work and engagement of the WSF, as the Forum would have its place and role in policies and management more than ever.

#### b) Presentation "Shelduck monitoring in the Wadden Sea"

Norbert Kempf informed the meeting about a research study on shelduck monitoring in the Wadden Sea of Schleswig-Holstein. The investigations had been carried out over several years and would continue also in the coming years. A document about the results of the monitoring would be published soon. He also presented impressive aerial photos of huge flocks of shelducks in the Wadden Sea. A summary of the presentation is available on the WSF website in the plenary section.

### 10. Climate change scenarios update

*Document: WSF 21-10.1 climate change impacts on the WSR*

In continuation of the presentation about climate scenarios at the WSF-20 meeting in Esbjerg, the secretary informed the meeting about further developments of the climate atlas Wadden Sea Region. The climate office of the HZG has adapted the existing climate atlas to the requirements of the WSF sectors. Further information on water levels, wave heights and water currents would be carried out and integrated in the atlas within the coming month. It was also foreseen, to develop scenarios particularly for the wind energy and the shipping sectors. Up to now, the atlas is available in German and English. The Danish Wadden Sea secretariat and the vice-chair **agreed** to assist in getting support for translation in Danish and Dutch. Proposals of the WSF members regarding further issues to be integrated in the climate atlas would be implemented by the HZG, if possible.

The climate scenarios can be experienced under [www.coastalatlases.org](http://www.coastalatlases.org).

The meeting took note of the information and **agreed** to continue the cooperation with the HZG to improve the climate atlas.

### 11. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards

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

Denmark: Erling Krog briefly reported about the results of a Board meeting, which took place just a few days ago. The main topic was the nomination of the Danish part of the Wadden Sea as World Heritage Site (WHS). The Board generally was in favour of applying for the inscription on the Heritage list. Early December the four municipalities would deliver final statements to the ministry for further decisions. Another item concerned tourism in the Wadden Sea, which should be further developed.

Schleswig-Holstein: Jörn Klimant informed about a discussion concerning the dredging in the river Elbe and the dumping of sand close to Helgoland. The permission for dredging run out last year and agreements on a new permission and its conditions had to be in place for further measures.

## 12. Development Ems-Dollard

*Presentation Wiebe van der Ploeg, Province of Groningen*

With the example of the Ems estuary, Wiebe van der Ploeg presented a process of ecology and economy in convergence. The increasing developments at Eemshaven and Delfzijl had implied conflicts with regard to Natura 2000 sites and the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. He highlighted the process from conflicts to convergence, which was made possible by constructive talks between the parties. This resulted in shared ambitions as the Emsdelta had become one of the most sustainable industrial regions in the Netherlands, supported by NGO's and nature restoration in the Ems-Dollard supported by industry. On 31 October, a declaration of intent between the business sector, nature and environmental organizations and government bodies had been signed, expressing their intention to jointly achieve lasting cooperation in the areas of ecology and economy in the Ems delta. The presentation and the declaration of intent are also available on the WSF website.

The meeting welcomed the process of solving conflicts and **recommended** also to focus on the integrated Ems plan.

## 13. MESMA, lessons learnt

*Presentation Sandra Vöge, Senckenberg Institute*

The MESMA project under the FP7 program was expected to supply innovative methods and integrated strategies for governments, local authorities and stakeholders for sustainable development of European seas. Sandra Vöge presented the results carried out so far as well as the links to the work of the WSF. MESMA, a project on monitoring and evaluation of spatially managed marine areas, aimed at integrated management tools based on EU wide collaboration. Ms Vöge introduced the different case studies and the project work packages with a focus on the southern North Sea. The case Wadden Sea was used because of its long history of experiences, transnational cooperation and stakeholder involvement. A very interesting part was the governance analysis in the Wadden Sea. Three main governance mechanisms, the TWSC, WSF and UNESCO World Heritage Site were presented. Also the cooperation between the TWSC and the WSF was analyzed with the input of 18 interviews with experts in the Region. The scientific knowledge base was seen a very impressive. The outlook with a view on sustainability in the Wadden Sea Region stimulates a further engagement: "There do not appear to be major obstacles in achieving sustainability in the trilateral Wadden Sea".

The presentation is available as pdf file on the WSF website in the plenary section.

The meeting very much welcomed the results so far and stated that a view from outside on the Trilateral Cooperation and the WSF was very valuable. A big interest was expressed in the final report, which would include a comparison of all regional seas. The report will be elaborated by the end of 2013.

## 14. Future of WSF

The chair and the secretary have visited sector organizations and regional authorities to discuss contents and contributions of a report for presentation at the Wadden Seas Conference in 2014. Furthermore, the visit also focused on the future role and impact of the WSF. The chair briefly introduced the results, summarized in the document. Two main topics could be concluded and these would be to elaborate on energy issues and on communication to make the Forum better visible.

In the following discussion, the participants took note of the results and generally **agreed** to work towards the recommendations made. It was common sense that the WSF has to be better communicated. The structures as well as the goals were not clear to other organisations and in the regions. It was stated that a good communication would be based on sound achievements of the WSF. Expert advice with regard to climate

adaptation, energy production, shipping safety and sustainability would obtain good attention. With regard to the WSF meetings, more time for dialogues was requested. The generally very valuable topics needed to be discussed in more depths to conclude further actions.

Also the internal communication should be improved. The representatives in the WSF would have the task to forward the messages to their organisations. To reach a better backup in the regions, the WSF had to be present on this level more intensively. It was also stated that cooperation with bigger organizations would help to get more attention. For the further process, the chair proposed that the Steering Committee would assess the results of the visit tour, taking into account the contributions made at this meeting, and elaborate a strategy how to proceed in strengthening the WSF. The draft strategy would be forwarded to the WSF-22 meeting for further decision.

Statement of Hans-Ulrich Rösner, which is placed in the minutes on formally request:

Mr. Rösner suggested, that the WSF in the future should follow either a pure "forum approach", which would mean that there are many opportunities in terms of good dialogues among stakeholders, being an important value in itself and justifying all the efforts. This would also mean that there is just a small chance on finding more public attention. However, in his view another possible and proposed approach would be, in addition to the forum-approach to strongly focus on activities on an issue, on which the WSF could support a policy beyond the "smallest common denominator" and really make a difference. Such an issue would be to focus on the "2030 Goal" of the Trilateral Cooperation (*Sylt declaration § 24: "Support the global and national efforts to mitigate causes of climate change at the regional level, by calling especially upon local and regional competent authorities and stakeholders, to work towards developing the Wadden Sea Region into a CO2-neutral area by 2030 or before, putting the focus on the special threats for coastal zones by global warming and sea level rise."*).

As of now, the Wadden Sea Board did not seem to really work on this goal, which would leave many possibilities for the WSF to start initiatives. Actually, a strong focus of the WSF on the 2030 goal would possibly be the only issue which would allow virtually every sector to contribute. The discussion on this proposal was postponed.

## **15. WSF budget 2013**

The meeting was informed about the expenses and income of the WSF for 2012 and, a draft budget 2013, which had slightly increased in comparison to 2012.

The expected deficit for 2013 can be covered by contributions of third party projects. It was stated that for 2014 and onwards, an additional financial support of at least 40.000 Euro had to be acquired just to run the WSF secretariat. If this could not be reached by mid-2013, the General Assembly of the WSF society could not adopt the budget for 2014, which would result in a cancellation of the work contracts with the staff of the WSF secretariat.

It was agreed to start negotiations with the national governments to increase their financial support, which must not necessarily be generated from the environmental but also from other ministries. But also further commitment of the WSF itself had to be demanded.

During the discussion of the WSF budget, Jens Enemark commented that in addition to the contributions of the three national governments of € 10,000 each, the in kind contribution of hosting the WSF secretariat at the CWSS (leasing costs, telephone costs etc.) should also be calculated.

**16. Next meeting**

The meeting **agreed** on 23-24 May 2013 for the WSF-22 meeting, which will be hosted by the province of Groningen.

**17. Any other business**

a) The meeting briefly touched on the impacts of cable-laying in the Wadden Sea to connect the off-shore wind parks with the main land. Cable-laying would always have a big impact on the ecosystem and effects would be visible for many years. The concentration on only a few cable corridors could minimize the impacts.

b) Constanze Höfinghoff recommended taking attention on the tourism development in the Wadden Sea Region. The WSF should be continuously informed about the development within the tourism sector as this sector would be important for the Region. The meeting welcomed the offer being informed by the sector or representatives of the Task Group Tourism of the TWSC.

**18. 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 12:45 hours on 14 November 2012.

**ANNEX 2**

**Wadden Sea Forum  
21<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
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**A G E N D A**

- Agenda item 1. Opening**
- Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF 20**
- Agenda item 3. Membership WSF**
- Agenda item 4. Announcements**
- Agenda item 5. Minutes Steering Committee**
- Agenda item 6. Election Vice-Chair**
- Agenda item 7. Progress WSF Activities**
- Agenda item 8. State of sustainability**
- Agenda item 9. Spatial Planning in the southern North Sea**
- Agenda item 10. Climate change scenarios update**
- Agenda item 11. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards**
- Agenda item 12. Development Ems-Dollard**
- Agenda item 13. MESMA, lessons learnt**
- Agenda item 14. Future of WSF**
- Agenda item 15. WSF budget 2013**
- Agenda item 16. Next meeting**
- Agenda item 17. Any other business**
- Agenda item 18. Closing**

**ANNEX 3**

**Wadden Sea Forum  
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**Decisions and Agreements**

- 1) The meeting elected Wiebe van der Ploeg as new vice-chair of the WSF.
- 2) The working group EII will implement an energy workshop in spring 2013 to elaborate on contributions, particularly with regard to CO<sub>2</sub> issues, for the Wadden Sea Conference. WSF members should deliver further input to make the workshop a success event.
- 3) The working group shipping will continue to elaborate recommendations on shipping safety and management.
- 4) It was agreed to strive for a closer cooperation with the Dutch Wadden Academy to get the necessary support to analyse the development of sustainability.
- 5) The cooperation with the HZG will be continued to improve the climate atlas. The secretary will take care of the next steps.
- 6) The Danish Wadden Sea secretariat and the vice-chair will assist in getting support for translating the climate atlas in Danish and Dutch.
- 7) Information about the integrated Ems Plan will be made available.
- 8) The Steering Committee will assess the results of the visit tour, taking into account the contributions made at this meeting, and elaborate a strategy how to proceed in strengthening the WSF. The draft strategy will be forwarded to the WSF-22 meeting for further decision.
- 9) The chair, vice-chair and secretary were requested to start negotiations with the national governments to increase their financial support. Also WSF sector organisation and regional governments will be approached.
- 10) The tourism sector and the Task Group Tourism will continuously inform the WSF about the development within the tourism sector.