



Wadden Sea Forum
26th meeting
Ameland, 21-22 May 2015

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening

The chair of the meeting, Henk Staghouwer, welcomed the participants in Hollum on Ameland and opened the plenary meeting at 10:00 on 21 May 2015. He thanked the Province of Groningen for hosting the meeting and the municipality of Ameland for providing the venue and for the organisation of the excursion, which was a boat trip to the north-west coast of Ameland. The participants were briefly informed about the program of the WSF-26 meeting. A special focus was laid on agenda item 15, the third workshop on risk management, which will be an emphasis in the future WSF work. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**.

The meeting adopted the agenda without amendments and is in **Annex 2**. A list of agreements and decisions as summary of WSF-26 is in **Annex 3**.

2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF 25

Document: WSF-25 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting adopted the final draft minutes of the WSF-25 meeting on 20-21 November 2014 in Heide. All decisions were implemented, respectively were on-going due to the agreed tasks. Agreements with regard to the work groups were recalled in following agenda items. The final draft minutes of WSF-24 have been distributed by email of 15 December 2014. The final draft minutes are also available on the WSF website www.waddensea-forum.org.

3. Membership WSF

Document: WSF 26-3.1 Membership list

The secretary referred to the distributed WSF member list and informed the meeting about some changes.

- For Region South Denmark Henning Ravn replaces Thyge Nielsen.
- The new representative for the Danish Wadden Sea Municipalities is Kristine Kaas Krog.
- Preben Friis-Hauge replaces Bo Jessen in the Danish Wadden Sea Advisory Board.
- Janny Du Bois-Minholts gave her farewell after 5 years of participation. Because of her retirement she will be replaced by Cees van Roon, also from Watersportverbond.
- Hilbrand Sinnema himself said goodbye to the WSF. He represented the Dutch agricultural sector in the plenary since 2007 and due to a new position he will now be replaced by Alma den Hertog, also a representative of LTO Noord.
- Ingrid Klinge from energy valley will be the new representative for the Dutch energy sector and follows Eric Dorenbos of NAM.

- Thomas Holst Christensen has left his position as head of the Danish Nationalpark Authority. The new representative will be announced by the Nationalpark Authority in due time.
- Vacancies are still the case in the sectors Tourism and Energy of Lower Saxony.

4. Announcements

Janny du Bois-Minsholt informed about a campaign "Code of honour for Wadden Sea" ('Ik pas op het Wad'), which is an initiative of the Wadden Sea provinces Fryslân, Groningen and Noord-Holland together with harbor municipalities, nature organizations and the watersport union. This campaign started in 2006 with guidelines to tourists and ship owners on 'do's and don'ts in the Wadden Sea. Now the guidelines are revised and a leaflet is published for further distribution. More information: www.ikpasophetwad.nl

Herman Verheij informed that sadly Karel van der Zwiep passed away. Karel had been legal advisor to the Dutch Wadden Sea Society since 1976 and from 1978 on its foreign secretary. Karel published several books regarding the Wadden Sea and was also one of the founding fathers of the legal trilateral level of the Wadden Sea as well as one of the PSSA architects. His idea of a trilateral stakeholder forum became reality with the Esbjerg declaration in 2001 to establish the WSF.

Ingrid Klinge informed about the end of the Interreg Project IVB on clean shipping and that there would be a new project under the next Interreg Project VB regarding clean shipping and LNG. She pointed out that WSF should play a role in this new project.

5. Minutes Steering Committee

Documents: WSF 26-5.1 Minutes SC-2015-1

The plenary took note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting SC-2015-1, Hamburg, 13 March 2015. The secretary recalled and further informed, besides the two documents WSF 26-5.1 and WSF 26-7.1, about some important items, combined with issues of the progress report of agenda item 7.

a) The ICZM group is working on an action plan for the implementation of the ICZM strategy. A scheduled meeting for 1 June had to be postponed to the second half of 2015. The work on the indicator tool has made further progress. In cooperation with Telos from the Brabant University and the Wadden Academy the Dutch approach has been tested on the WSF instrument to make the instrument more valuable and useful for stakeholders and policy makers on local and regional level. Still missing valuable indicators such as environmental indicators, safety, housing and living conditions should also be considered and finally integrated in the existing instrument. A further cooperation with the University of Kiel to involve master students is still under discussion.

An extension of the WSR Planning Portal is discussed in the framework of an Interreg VB project, in which Energy Valley will be the lead partner.

b) The work of the energy group is lacking and no further progress can be reported. To proceed with the elaboration of energy transition measures and CO₂ reduction, support from the political level is necessary as a CO₂ neutral Wadden Sea Region is a political aim. The WSF chair will **forward a request** at the WSB-14 meeting on 11 June in Copenhagen.

c) The WSF cultural group is focusing on various themes under the headline "cultural demography" and will strive for a cooperation with the Wadden Academy with their expertise on socio-economy and cultural history of the Wadden Sea Region.

d) Cooperation WSB and results WSB-13 meeting:

The WSF forwarded a document about cooperation issues between WSB and WSF, which was discussed at the WSB-13 in January 2015. It was agreed that a representative of the WSF will participate in the TG Climate. Furthermore, the implementation of a joint shipping group was agreed. Depending on the Terms of Reference of the Task Group, the WSF will **request** membership of representatives of the different sectors. If the joint shipping group will elaborate on shipping safety, LNG and green harbors as discussed earlier, port operators, ship owners, municipalities and NGOs should be represented.

e) Cooperation with other projects and organizations is doing well. The WSF is involved in two EU FP7 projects, ENHANCE and ARCH. Furthermore, the WSF secretariat was invited to give presentations at the workshop "Geography of seas and coast" and to deeply cooperate with the Celtic Seas Partnership. These international contacts highlight the reputation of the WSF on European Level.

The **meeting** welcomed the information and **tasked/mandated** the two WSF advisors of the WSB, Henk Staghouwer and Michael Zettlitzer, to forward the position of the WSF regarding energy and shipping to the WSB-14 meeting.

6. Climate friendly Ameland

Presentation: Albert de Hoop

Albert de Hoop, Mayor of the Island of Ameland and head of the Dutch Wadden Sea Islands gave a presentation about the development of Ameland into a CO₂ neutral region. It all started in 2007 when the five Dutch Wadden Sea Islands had the same ambition to be selfsupporting in energy and water by the year 2020. Ameland started to convert its school into an energie-neutral building (wood chip-fire stove, PV, grey-water) and is now installing a solar park. The capacity can easily supply all households on the island including energy consumption during tourism seasons with energy. One of the future steps will be the installation of a battery for the solar park and to replace the local gas busses by electric busses. As the first island, Ameland installed "green-light" at beaches and ports to prevent birds being distracted by artificial lighting by night.

7. Progress WSF Activities

Document: WSF 26-7.1 Summary progress report

The WSF progress activities have been discussed under **agenda 5**.

8. Overview mussel fisheries

Presentation: Addy Risseeuw, PO Mosselcultuur Yerseke

Besides shrimp fisheries also mussel fisheries has a long tradition in the Wadden Sea. Nevertheless, the sector is under pressure due to political restrictions as well as to the fact that the pacific oysters cover partly blue mussel beds. Addy Risseeuw from the mussel producer organization in Yerseke, Netherlands, informed about the development of the sector and the covenant 2008-2020 with the government and nature organization. The closed areas for mussel seed fisheries would be enlarged to contribute to sustainable fisheries. He highlighted the cooperation with the green NGOs striving for joint solutions and minimizing conflicts.

9. ICZM Strategy Implementation

Document: WSF 26-9.1 ICZM Action plan

The secretary briefly introduced the draft action plan for the implementation of the ICZM strategy for the Wadden Sea Region. The proposed actions refer to the recommendations as well as to the objectives of the strategy and encompass proposals about further needs, measures and actions for a successful implementation of the strategy. The meeting welcomed the detailed action plan but doubted that all proposed actions could be implemented. Due to the limited work forces it was **requested** to prioritise the actions and to define a time table for implementation.

With regard to policy and planning integration it was proposed to better link the WSF instruments to the requirements of the political level. This could be further discussed between WSB and WSF. An intensification of cooperation with the scientific community could also deliver support and expertise to proceed with the implementation of the strategy. The meeting stated further that partnership and commitment in general have to be strengthened to support the work of the WSF plenary and its working groups. This item was also picked up under agenda item 12, communication.

10. Panel discussion

Presentation: Pier Vellinga, Climate change and CO₂ reduction

As introduction to the panel discussion, Pier Vellinga, Professor from the Wageningen University and Director of the Wadden Academy gave an introductory presentation about climate change and CO₂ reduction.

Mr. Vellinga informed about the decrease of the ice caps on global level as well as on the consequences on sea level rise. He drew a line from CO₂ and CH₄ emissions in the past to predictions in the future and its effects on climate change. Finally, he introduced sustainable alternatives in energy production and consumption as well as in food production and consumption of resources. An important recommendation was to change the present way of life to reach a sustainable future for all humans of this world.

In the following, the plenary discussed some questions across the sectors and stakeholders:

- How does your sector/organization experience climate change?
- What are the biggest concerns for your sector/organization?
- Can mitigation measures avoid impacts of climate change?
- Which adaptation measures are necessary to make effects of climate change liveable?
- Which cuts in lifestyle and living must be taken to cope with the future?

In summary, the stakeholders and sectors have already experienced effects of climate changes, particularly the agricultural sector. There was agreement that mitigation measures should be intensified to reduce future impacts. It was a broad consensus that changes in lifestyle would be necessary to meet the goals for sustainability. Technical developments and progress would support adaptation.

11. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards

No representatives of the advisory boards were present.

12. WSF Communication

The meeting used this agenda item to discuss trends in participation and commitment within the WSF and its working groups. It was also referred to agenda item 5 of this meeting. The situation was introduced as follows:

“The commitment for active participation is quite low and it is even decreasing. This goes particularly for the working groups. Currently, the WSF has just one active working group, the ICZM group. But on international level, the WSF gets positive response about stakeholder participation in management processes and decision making and the governance structure.”

The question was how could the WSF bridge this divide? It was agreed that an intensive discussion within the WSF would be necessary to find solutions. A discussion about future tasks, how to elaborate on these tasks and how to reach the commitment of the WSF was seen as necessary. Also the possible roles in decision making should be considered. As already proposed for the ICZM strategy implementation, a concentration on one burning issue for a certain period, e.g. climate change and its risks could be an option for the future work. Workshops and conferences as starting point and information provision could strengthen the issue. The advantage would be, to have stakeholders from different sectors in the group and the results would reflect the WSF opinion to the outside world.

To get clarity about the future of the WSF, the meeting agreed to change the contents of the November meeting. The November plenary should debate the future of the WSF and this should be the only agenda item. It was further **agreed** to involve an external and independent mediator to provide the necessary support and expertise to succeed in defining the role of the WSF and the benefits for the stakeholders.

The secretariat in cooperation with the Steering Committee was **mandated** to prepare the strategy workshop in November and to hire an external mediator. A necessary budget should be made available. In this respect, the stakeholders are requested to contribute to the implementation of the agreed workshop.

13. Next Meeting

The WSF-27 meeting will be held on 5-6 November 2015 and will take place probably in the county of Aurich, Germany.

14. Any other business

No other business discussed.

15. Workshop risk management

Document: WSF 26-15.1 Outline risk management workshop

The trilateral Wadden Sea Region (WSR) is a multi-risk area where risks are dealt with on different levels of responsibility – on local, regional or national level. Building on the results from the two previous workshops the third workshop addressed the question about the potential role of the trilateral level in any future risk management in the WSR.

The workshop was guided by the questions:

Where could activities on trilateral level increase effectiveness of risk management processes?

What role can the Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) play today and in the future?

In three break-up groups these questions were addressed by elaborating on and discussing three different visionary future risk situations:

- a) a very low pressure storm system heading towards the WSR;
- b) the closure of grocery shops in peripheries cause special problems of provision especially for the rural WSR;
- c) an oil tanker crashes in the Offshore Windfarm Borkum Reef and leaked.

Findings from the discussions in the working groups as well as from the plenary discussion highlight practical steps about the potential role and contribution of the WSF to the improvement of a trilateral risk management. Practical steps were developed with regard to the given particular future risk situations, but most of them could be transferred to a more general level characterizing the role of the WSF.

In conclusion, the WSF plenary supports their role as ambassador to communicate and highlight best practice examples in risk management in the WSR. In order to foster its role there is agreement on the need to (re)focus aims and common goals of the WSF. In order to become more visible, communication of the WSF's aims, tasks and position to the public is essential and has to be strengthened. In addition enhanced communication and cooperation between the WSF and the Wadden Sea Board is recommended in order to join forces fostering implementation of existing rules and strategies (e.g. with regard to existing shipping rules). Existing products of the WSF can be used to enhance necessary cross-country planning to address different risks in the WSR (e.g. the planning portal can support coordinated spatial planning on a trilateral level).

16. Closing

The chair thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting at 12:30 hours on 22 May 2015.

ANNEX 2

**Wadden Sea Forum
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A G E N D A

- Agenda item 1. Opening**
- Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF 25**
- Agenda item 3. Membership WSF**
- Agenda item 4. Announcements**
- Agenda item 5. Minutes Steering Committee**
- Agenda item 6. Climate friendly Ameland**
- Agenda item 7. Progress WSF Activities**
- Agenda item 8. Overview mussel fisheries**
- Agenda item 9. ICZM Strategy Implementation**
- Agenda item 10. Panel discussion**
- Agenda item 11. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards**
- Agenda item 12. WSF Communication**
- Agenda item 13. Next Meeting**
- Agenda item 14. Any other business**
- Agenda item 15. Workshop risk management**
- Agenda item 16. Closing**

ANNEX 3

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Decisions and Agreements

- The meeting tasked the ICZM group to continue with the sustainability indicator tool and to cooperate with the Wadden Academy and universities to get the necessary expertise for improvement.
- The WSF agreed to strive for being partner in an Interreg VB project to apply for third party money and to further develop the WSR Planning Portal.
- The WSF chair will forward a request at the WSB-14 meeting on 11 June in Copenhagen, to support the project on CO₂ neutrality of the WSR.
- The plenary tasked/mandated the two WSF advisors of the WSB, Henk Staghouwer and Michael Zettlitzer, to forward the position of the WSF regarding energy and shipping to the WSB-14 meeting.
- With regard to the ICZM action plan, the WSF requested the work group ICZM to prioritise the actions and to define a time table for implementation.
- The meeting agreed to change the contents of the November meeting. The November plenary should debate the future of the WSF and this should be the only agenda item. It was further agreed to involve an external and independent mediator to provide the necessary support and expertise to succeed in defining the role of the WSF and the benefits for the stakeholders.
- The secretariat in cooperation with the Steering Committee was mandated to prepare the strategy workshop in November and to hire an external mediator.
- The stakeholders were requested to contribute to the implementation of the agreed workshop, also financially.