

TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA FORUM**3rd Meeting****Oldenburg, 30 - 31 October 2003**

FINAL MINUTES

0. Welcome

The vice-chairman, Mr. Andresen, opened the meeting on 30th October, at 13:00 h. He replaced the chairman for the first meeting day.

The meeting of the second day was opened at 8:30 h by the chairman Mr. Nijpels who chaired the meeting till closing.

The director general of the Oldenburg Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Fricke, welcomed the participants and expressed his pleasure to host the WSF 3 meeting at the Chamber of Commerce. He briefly introduced the Chamber and its district.

1. Adoption of the agenda and the program

Documents: WSF3-1-1. Annotated draft agenda. WSF3-3-2 Rev. draft program. WSF3-3-2 2nd Rev. draft program (handed out at the meeting)

The agenda was **adopted** without amendments. The agenda is in **Annex 1**. A list of participants in the meeting is in **Annex 2**. A list of documents is in **Annex 3**.

The meeting also **adopted** the program for the meeting.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of WSF2

Document: WSF2 Final Draft Minutes distributed by e-mail of 15 May 2003 (Ref. Letter WSF03-053)

The final draft minutes of the second WSF meeting (Tønder, DK, 24-25 April 2003), were **adopted** without any further comments and amendments.

3. Announcements

Documents: WSF3-3-1 Updated member list, WSF 3-3-3 WEG statement (distributed at the meeting)

Mr. Schuhbauer from RWE-DEA and chairman of the TG Energy, introduced a statement of the Association of German Oil and Gas Producers (WEG) with regard to oil and gas production in the Wadden Sea. The meeting **took note** of the statement.

4. Topical Issues

Document: WSF 3-4-1 Topical issues

The secretary briefly introduced the document on topical issues (WSF 3-4-1). He referred to the proposals in the document and asked the meeting for comments on further activities on topical issues.

Shrimp fishery

Mr. Revier proposed and the meeting **agreed** to carry out an inventory of national developments at the forthcoming TG Fishery in December and to consider on the basis of the inventory further actions and initiatives.

Offshore wind farms

The participants discussed the existing guidelines and the lacks in regulation concerning this issue. The cross-border agreements with regard to wind park areas and natural sites were regarded as insufficient. Mr von Wecheln pointed out that the unsatisfactory situation was caused by the difficulties in planning, particularly outside the 12-sm zone. The meeting supported his request that sound spatial planning should be developed in the North Sea. A decision on the planning of offshore wind turbines, drafted by Mr. von Wecheln and Mr. Schuhbauer, was discussed and amended by the meeting. The agreed document is in **Annex 4**.

Shipping safety

Some participants asked for further steps with regard to improving international coordination of shipping safety. Mr. Ahrens pointed at the responsibility of the German coast guard and asked the meeting to contact them for expert information on the current status. Mr. Rösner underlined the importance of the issue for the Wadden Sea region and proposed to invite experts to the next meeting. On the basis of a proposal by Mr. Ahrens, Mr. Rösner and Mr. Nielsen the meeting **agreed** to

- a) initiate a short study about gap analysis concerning the issue (finalization before the next WSF meeting),
- b) invite experts from the Wadden Sea countries for further reporting at the next WSF meeting,
- c) a) and b) should give guidance for the elaboration of final recommendations by the WSF at the next meeting.

It is expected that the agenda item "shipping safety" will need about 2 hours at the next WSF meeting.

Mr. Cazemier informed the meeting that the Dutch Wadden Sea Advisory Board had carried out a study on shipping safety in relation to the Wadden Sea PSSA which could be used for the gap analysis.

5. Reports from the Thematic Groups (TGs)

Document: WSF 3-5-1 Reports 3rd meeting Thematic Groups

The project manager, Mr de Jong, briefly introduced the results of the joint workshop of TG 2 and reported about the process of developing generic trends and scenarios. More detailed information about the workshop is on the download section of the WSF website.

After this introduction, the chairs of the 5 TGs informed the meeting about the progress of the work in the thematic groups and the results of the TG3-meetings. The final draft minutes of the TG meetings are also on the website.

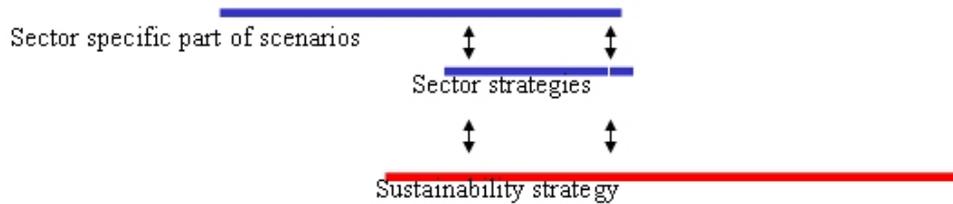
6. Scenario development

Document: WSF 3-6-1 Generic scenarios

Mr de Jong referred to the document and explained the links between generic and specific scenarios, sector specific strategies and sustainability strategies. These different working steps were also visualized by a time schedule, which is depicted below. The WSF meeting **adopted** the proposal to continue with the development of the scenarios and the related working steps as outlined in the document.

	2003												2004											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wadden Sea Forum Meeting				II 24-25						III 30-31						IV 15-16				V 16-17		VI 4-5		
Thematic Group Meeting		TG 1				TG 2			TG 3			TG 4			TG 5									

Generic scenarios



7. Studies

Document: WSF 3-7-1 Coastal protection and sea level rise (CPSL)

The chairman of the trilateral working group on coastal protection and sea level rise (CPSL), Mr. Hofstede, gave a presentation about coastal protection and its perspectives in connection with anticipated sea level rise. The full presentation is available on the download section of the WSF website. A summary is in document WSF 3-7-1.

Mr. Arndt of Prognos, Germany, presented preliminary results of an integrated assessment of the socio-economic studies of Planco (Germany) and COWI (Denmark), as well as the socio-economic analysis of the Dutch Wadden Sea region. Also this presentation is available on the WSF website. The meeting briefly discussed the presentation. It was mentioned that data about Bremen, as well as about the chemical cluster in Wilhelmshaven were missing. Mr. Arndt promised that this information would be included in the final report.

The secretary informed the meeting that all reports will be made available for the WSF members as hard copies. For the time being, the review of legal instruments, policy and management from Oxford Brooks University and the German socio-economic report from Planco are available on the website. The Danish socio-economic study will be available by mid November and the final results of the Prognos perspectives analysis are due by the end of November 2003.

8. Sustainable Development

The theme of sustainable development was introduced by a presentation of Mr Rönne from COWI, Denmark. The contents of the presentation can be recalled by the document on the WSF website.

After this introduction, Mr de Jong referred to the two important aspects of a sustainability strategy: substantial (aims, themes, indicators) and procedural (responsibility, participation) aspects. To structure the work, he proposed to focus at the WSF-3 meeting on the substantial aspects and at WSF-4 on the procedural aspects. The latter one will be elaborated also with the support of the TG discussions and the involvement of the TG Policy and Management.

In the following the meeting was asked to split into 4 subgroups (according to nationality) and to discuss the issues or parameters of sustainability relevant for the Wadden Sea region. If possible, the defined parameters should be ranked with regard to their importance.

All three dimensions, economy, ecology and the social dimension were to be taken into account in the group discussions.

In a following plenary session, the results were presented. In a further step, COWI integrated the results into a common matrix.

On the second day, the subgroups used the common matrix to discuss the parameters with regard to their sustainability value. The participants were asked to define which aims (related to the parameters) are sustainable and which are unsustainable.

Because of time constraints, the results could not be presented to the plenary, but on the basis of bilateral talks between the groups and COWI and further contributions in writing, COWI will summarize the results of the group discussions.

With regard to the follow-up procedure for the development of a sustainability strategy the meeting agreed

- a. that the results of the sustainability discussion will be used as a basis for further discussion in the TG-4 and TG-5 meetings;
- b. that the draft sustainability aims will be applied in TG-5 for the testing of the sector strategies;
- c. that TG-PM will discuss the structural aspects of the strategy on the basis of the draft COWI report;

It was furthermore **agreed** to continue the discussion on the sustainability strategy (both substantial and procedural aspects) at WSF-4 using the TG discussions as input.

Finally, the meeting mandated the executive board, in consultation with the TG chairs, to elaborate a proposal for a procedure to finalise and integrate the work of the TGs. The proposal will be submitted to WSF-4.

9. Communication Strategy

Document: WSF 3-9-1 Draft communication strategy

Mr. de Jong introduced the draft Communication Strategy, which is based upon the outcome of a questionnaire circulated after the WSF-2 meeting. He informed the meeting that two main conclusions could be drawn on the basis of the responses to the questionnaire. First, the respondents were not in favour of using the internet for communication. Second, there had, so far, not been much communication about the Forum within the sectors. One of the proposals from the draft strategy was, therefore, that the WSF secretariat should become much more active in approaching the sectors. The secretariat would, amongst others, provide the sectors with ready-made articles and presentations. The meeting unanimously supported this proposal.

A second question was whether and how there should be communication with the general public, i.e. people who live and work in the area.

In the following discussion Mr. von Wecheln stressed the need to inform the regional politicians after the TGs had finished their work. Mr. Keurentjes felt that the ideas of the inhabitants could be collected by means of the sectors. Mr. Andresen informed the meeting that in Denmark the communication was done via the Wadden Sea Advisory Board. He considered the Forum work too technical for communication with the public at large. He underlined that there will be national differences in the communication process.

Mr. Enemark asked whether the German and Dutch advisory boards could also be used in this way. Mr. Cazemier, chairman of the Dutch Wadden Sea Council, was in favour of organizing communication with the public via the municipalities. Mr. Theuerkauf, chairman of the Niedersachsen Advisory Board supported Mr. Enemark's proposal. The meeting agreed that the advisory boards would be the first contact point for the communication within the regions. It was furthermore **agreed** that the sectors were important as an intermediate for communication with the public and that also regional conferences would be organized for this purpose.

The question was raised what the aim of the communication should be. The meeting generally considered it important to inform and consult the public. Mr. Verhey asked what the Forum would do with the feedback and the chairman proposed that a procedure would be developed for discussion at WSF-4. The meeting agreed to this proposal.

10. Next meeting

Mr. Andresen invited the participants for the WSF 4 meeting on 15-16 April 2004 to Denmark. On invitation of Mr Nørgaard, the meeting will be held in Esbjerg.

11. Press release

Document: Draft press release

A draft press release, handed out during the meeting, was briefly commented by the meeting. The press release, in is **Annex 5**.

12. Any other business

Mr. Cazemier announced a conference, organized by Dutch Wadden Sea Advisory Council, about the European Water Framework directive and coastal waters on 13-14 May 2004 in Leeuwarden, NL.

13. Closing

The chairman closed the meeting on 31st October, at 13:00 hours. He thanked Mr. Ahrens for hosting the meeting and the participants and the secretariat for their constructive contribution, which had made the meeting a very successful one.

ANNEX 1. AGENDA

0. Welcome
1. Adoption of the agenda and the program
2. Adoption of the minutes of WSF2
3. Announcements
4. Topical Issues
5. Reports from the TGs
6. Scenario development
7. Studies
8. Sustainable development
9. Communication strategy
10. Next meeting
11. Press release
12. Any other business
13. Closing

ANNEX 3. LIST OF DOCUMENTS

doc. no.	contents	delivered		
		by	date	How
Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda				
WSF3-1-1	Draft agenda WSF-3	Secretariat	02/10/03	e-mail
Agenda item 2: Adoption of the minutes of WSF-2				
	Final draft minutes WSF-2	Secretariat	15/05/03	e-mail
Agenda item 3: Announcements				
WSF3-3-1	Updated member list	Secretariat	02/10/03	e-mail
WSF3-3-2	Draft program	Secretariat	2/10/03	e-mail
WSF3-3-2rev	Revised draft program	Secretariat	15/10/03	e-mail
WSF3-3-2rev 2nd	2 nd revised draft program	Secretariat	30/10/03	hand out
WSF3-3-3	Statement WEG	RWE-DEA	30/10/03	hand out
Agenda item 4: Topical issues				
WSF3-4-1	Topical issues	Secretariat	02/10/03	e-mail
Agenda item 5: Report from the TGs				
WSF3-5-1	Reports 3 rd meeting Thematic Groups	Secretariat	15/10/03	e-mail
Agenda item 6: Scenario development				
WSF3-6-1	Generic scenarios	Secretariat	15/10/03	e-mail
Agenda item 7: Studies				
WSF3-7-1	Coastal protection and sea level rise	Secretariat	02/10/03	e-mail
Agenda item 8: Sustainable development				
Agenda item 9: Communication strategy				
WSF3-9-1	Draft communication strategy	Secretariat	02/10/03	e-mail
Agenda item 10: Next meeting				
Agenda item 11: Press release				
WSF3-11-1	Draft press release	Secretariat	31/10/03	hand out

ANNEX 4. SPATIAL PLANNING IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ) OF THE GERMAN NORTH SEA

Proposal

In the knowledge that

- The Wadden Sea and the North Sea are precious and unique ecosystems
- The coastal areas are representing a valuable function for various industrial branches, tourism, fishery, shipping, agriculture and it is of existential importance to the people living there
- The coastal areas and the islands are of great recreational value to people living in the European industrial centres
- Future strategies for renewable energies have to be developed taking into consideration the current energy situation
- Planned offshore projects will make a contribution
- The implementation of wind parks is not allowed in the Co-operation Area

The Wadden Sea Forum states that

- The planned construction of offshore wind parks will influence the traditional uses by its spatial expansion
- A balanced planning will therefore be necessary on a national and trilateral level
- National legal responsibilities outside the sovereign territory are limited and the current legal possibilities concerning comprehensive industrial planning are not sufficient

And the Wadden Sea Forum is therefore requesting to implement

- Planning according to the national spatial planning procedure in co-operation with responsible authorities as well as in the EEZ
- A cross-border agreed trilateral planning of off- shore wind parks
- An overall view of all wind parks to be constructed under consideration of the other existing uses. and the nature values

The Wadden Sea Forum supports the starting points in the countries regarding the legal spatial procedures in the EEZ.

ANNEX 5. PRESS RELEASE**Sustainable development in the Wadden Sea region****3rd meeting of the Wadden Sea Forum, Oldenburg, 30-31 October 2003.**

“Economic vitality, high quality and diversity of employment, improving education and research to keep young people in the region, good infrastructure, preserving the characteristic Wadden Sea landscape and protection of Wadden Sea ecosystem”. These are some of the many issues which the trilateral Wadden Sea Forum regarded as important for sustainable development in the Wadden Sea region. The Wadden Sea Forum, which held its third meeting in the Chamber of Commerce Oldenburg, Germany, was in favour of maintaining the typical features of the Wadden Sea landscape, i.e. wide views, rural areas, and cultural history. Also the necessity of increasing the social cohesion of the countryside was stressed.

But, to be able to realize the social, ecological and cultural historical ambitions, sustainable economic growth is absolutely necessary.

At the next meeting in April 2004, the Forum will continue the discussion on sustainability aims and will furthermore discuss how such aims can be used by local and regional administrations.

The Forum furthermore discussed the topical issues of the planning of offshore wind farms, shipping safety and sustainable shrimp fisheries.

The Forum agreed that there should be balanced planning of offshore wind parks, both national and trilateral. With regard to shipping safety the meeting agreed to commission a study in which gaps in the existing national contingency systems for shipping casualties will be identified. On the basis of this study the Forum will, at its next meeting in April 2004, discuss the need for additional measures, mainly in the framework of the Wadden Sea PSSA (Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas).

The meeting adopted a strategy for communication and underlined the need for more communication with the sectors and with the inhabitants of the region. The latter will start in the second half of 2004 after concrete results are available.

The Forum has commissioned a number of studies on the social-economic situation of the Wadden Sea region and some of the results were presented at the meeting.

The Wadden Sea region shows a relatively high population growth, although there are large differences within the region. Population growth in the period 1990-2000 has been highest in the German Wadden Sea region: 5% whereas it was 3.6% for the whole of Germany.

A comparison of developments in GDP and employment showed that the Dutch and Danish parts of the region have done well in the past 10 years, but that most of the German Wadden Sea region showed negative figures. A positive exception is the Kreis Friesland with a relatively high increase in both GDP and employment figures.

In a follow-up, studies the specific perspectives and opportunities for the region will be investigated.

A particular challenge for the Wadden Sea region is the expected increase in sea level rise for which a trilateral expert group has worked out three scenarios. The first scenario is the present situation, meaning an average sea level rise of 10 cm/50 years. In the most plausible expectation for the future, which is a sea level rise of 25 cm per 50 years, the group expects that the system as a whole will be able to compensate the changes, but there will be large differences between different parts of the area.

However, if the sea level rise is faster, (50 cm/50 years), the size of the tidal flats could decrease by 15% (720 km²), the tidal basins taking on more the character of tidal lagoons.

A sea level rise of 50 cm in 50 years will result in a marked decrease in all waders, owing to an expected increase in flooding time, leaving less time for the birds to feed on the intertidal flats. Duck and geese stocks will also decrease in number because salt marshes will be flooded more frequently, leaving less time for feeding.

For dikes (maintenance and strengthening) the expected increase in costs for the most realistic sea level scenario (25 cm in 50 years) is expected to be in the order of 5 to 15 % for the German Wadden Sea. In the Dutch and the Danish Wadden Sea, the relative increase is estimated to be much higher. This results mainly from the fact that at present dikes are only maintained in these two countries, not strengthened as in Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony. For the high sea level scenario (50 cm in 50 years) the costs to maintain present dike safety in the year 2050 may rise by up to 75 % (Germany) and even more in The Netherlands and Denmark. Another important consequence of an increased sea level is that possibilities for discharging fresh water from the mainland into the sea will become less and that additional sluicing, pumping and/or fresh water storage capacity is needed.

The group will continue its work with developing proposals for best environmental practices to cope with the anticipated impacts in a way which guarantees safety but which is compatible with the protection of the ecosystem.