



Wadden Sea Forum
30th meeting
Den Helder, 18-19 May 2017

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening

The chair of the meeting, Cees Loggen, welcomed the participants in Den Helder. Also the Mayor of the city, who was hosting the meeting welcomed the participants (see **Annex 1**) in Den Helder. The chair thanked the Mayor for his support and opened the plenary meeting at 13:00 on 18 May 2017.

The meeting **adopted** the agenda without amendments and is in **Annex 2**. A list of the agreements and decisions as summary of WSF-30 is in **Annex 3**.

2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF-29

Document: WSF-29 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting **adopted** the final draft minutes of the WSF-29 meeting, Husum, 13-14 October 2016. The final draft minutes of WSF-29 have been distributed by e-mail of 08 November 2016. The final draft minutes are also available on the WSF website www.waddensea-forum.org.

3. Membership WSF

Document: WSF 30-3.1 Membership list

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

- Lower Saxony: regional governments represented by Andreas Wagner, mayor of Wilhelmshaven
- Representative CWSS: Anja Domnick
- Sector shipping & harbour in NL: Groningen seaports has withdrawn their membership in the WSF

Herman Verheij asked the secretariat to contact Arjen Bosch to get Groningen Seaport back on board.

4. Announcements

Herman Verheij referred to the symposium "GreenCoast" (see document agenda item 6) and stated that it would be important to continue the cooperation with the shipping and harbour sector.

Secondly, he informed that the Waddenvereniging would publish a report on "climate change in the Wadden Sea". The report would also be translated in English within the coming weeks.

https://waddenvereniging.nl/wv/images/PDF/Toekomst%20van%20de%20Waddenzee/ToekomstvandeWaddenzee_rapport.pdf

Albert de Hoop informed about the conference "smart island initiative". (<http://www.smartislandsinitiative.eu/en/about.php>), which took place last month in Brussels. Municipalities of 16 countries participated and defined goals on sustainability to be reached by 2020.

Andreas Wagner, Mayor of the city of Wilhelmshaven and new member of the Forum introduced himself and highlighted the cooperation to implement the new World Heritage Partnership Centre in Wilhelmshaven. This would be a milestone for a sound network and collaboration to safeguard the Wadden Sea and to contribute to a sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region. Finally, he invited the WSF to hold the next plenary meeting in Wilhelmshaven.

Beate Ratter recalled the cooperation of HZG and WSF in the ENHANCE project, and thanked the WSF for its important role in the project. Further, she introduced a new online survey in the Trilateral Wadden Sea Region and invited the WSF members to contribute by circulating the questionnaire in their distinct network. The participants welcomed the new survey and announced support for this project.

Hubertus Hebbelmann stated that after 3 years the integrated management plan of the Ems/Dollard region was finished and would be presented at the end of May in Leer.

Bernard Baerends referred to the Trilateral Governmental Conference TGC-13, scheduled for 17 May 2018 in Leeuwarden and invited the WSF to contribute contents wise. It would be envisaged to attract a wider audience with themes on nature, culture, science, economy and youth.

Anja Domnick, representative of the CWSS announced the next **Wadden Sea Board meeting**, scheduled for **the 16th of June** in Harlingen.

She informed that the CWSS and the National Park Lower Saxon Wadden Sea invite to the annual **Wadden Sea Day**, 31 August 2017, at the UNESCO Wadden Sea World Heritage Visitor Centre in Wilhelmshaven. This year's event will focus on "**Partnering for World Heritage**" and showcase examples of successful cooperation across sectors and borders from the Wadden Sea Region and beyond.

Finally, she pointed at a CWSS job vacancy announcement at <http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/about-us/job-vacancy>. Deadline for application would be Friday, 26 May 2017.

Alma den Hertog informed about a new initiative "green industry" in the provinces of Fryslan and Groningen.

She further pointed at severe problems with geese in the province of Fryslan and announced a conference about this issue on 19 May in Leeuwarden. Fryslan would strive for a new approach, reducing compensation from 90% to 70% for damages while increasing permits for hunting geese.

Finally, she informed about a Lauwersmeer pilot project to rise the water level by 50 centimeters in total. The agricultural sector would be very worried about the impacts on the farmland.

Cees van Roon from the Watersportverbond introduced himself and appreciated participating in the WSF plenary meeting for the first time.

Manfred Vollmer briefly informed about the project on sustainable land use "Comtess", and announced the availability of two brochures, one in the language for children.

5. Minutes Steering Committee

Documents: WSF 30-5.1 Minutes SC-2017-1

The plenary took note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting SC-2017-1 on 22 February in Bremen. The secretary recalled the most important items, which would be on this agenda as well. Further discussion and decision-making should be made under the respective items.

6. Progress WSF Activities

Document: WSF 30-6.1 Summary progress report

The meeting was briefly informed about the progress of WSF activities, following the outline of the document.

a) The ICZM group is maintaining and elaborating on the three WSF instruments planning portal, climate atlas and indicator tool. The latter one has been recently improved by applying the approach of the Dutch Waddenbarometer, analysing dataset on municipality level to make it better applicable for the local governmental level (see also agenda item 7). The ICZM group is intensively working on risk management, also as preparation for the WSF plenary, who has defined this issue as an important work field in the future.

b) The WSF with the secretariat is involved in the Task Group Climate of the WSB. Stakeholder advice will be integrated in the Trilateral Climate Adaptation Strategy, to be forwarded to the Governmental Conference 2018 in Leeuwarden.

c) Climate change/CO₂ reduction

In cooperation with the WSB, the WSF is elaborating on an inventory of policies, management plans, measures and best practises regarding a reduction of greenhouse gases to work towards a climate friendly Wadden Sea Region. A first draft will be forwarded to the WSB-20 meeting on 16 June 2017.

d) In cooperation with MARIKO (Maritime Competence Centre) in Leer, the WSF has implemented a symposium on green shipping and green harbour approaches. More than 100 participants discussed emission reduction in shipping, alternative propulsions and environmental friendly port economics. Also trilateral collaboration in this field was addressed. It is envisaged to continue cooperation with the shipping and harbour sector as this sector plays an important role in the socio-economy of the WSR.

e) As follow-up of the WSF goose management group (GMG), the WSF supports the AEWA (African-Eurasian-Water bird-Agreement) concept and the implementation of a European goose management platform. An international symposium to work on a barnacle geese management plan under the umbrella of AEWA will take place on 12-14 June in Copenhagen. The WSF is invited to participate as observer and advisor.

f) Projects

- Finalization of the EU project Enhance in January 2017;
- Involvement in "Municipalities innovative", a project about demographic change in the WSR and co-financed by the German Ministry of Research;
- Project application under Horizon 2020 "Assets": Assessing the cultural heritage values of European marine and coastal landscapes to enhance sustainable use;
- Project application under Interreg Europe, "O.P.enScape", Operational programmes envisaging protection and valorisation of landscapes in its natural and cultural heritage meaning.

7. Sustainability Indicator

Presentation: Analysis of two municipalities in the Wadden Sea Region

The secretary presented the results of the elaboration on an improved indicator tool (see <https://www.waddensea-forum.org/en/forum/wsf-plenary.html>)

An inventory of more than 60 indicators for 570 municipalities in the German WSR as well as a detailed analysis for 2 municipalities have been carried out by two master students of the University Kiel. The compiled data would be valuable for further management and decision making on local level, but first a careful assessment has to be undertaken. Specific conditions and development emphases of the municipalities have to be taken into account. This could be applied by addressing distinct values to the different indicators.

The meeting **welcomed** the work on the indicators as well as the involvement of universities. It was stated that the indicator tool should be used as back bone for the future work of the WSF, similar to the TMAP in ecology. The challenge would be, to transfer the indicator data and assessment from a scientific to the political level. For this, dialogues with the municipalities discussing findings and realistic applications are necessary.

Finally, it was agreed to present the indicator approach with some examples at the Governmental Conference 2018 in Leeuwarden.

8. Risk management/demographic change

Document: WSF 30-8.1 Discussion paper demographic change

The meeting briefly discussed the document on risk management with an emphasis on demographic change in the Wadden Sea Region. It was **agreed** to use in future dealings the bow-tie analysis as valuable instrument to get a better view on causes and consequences of risks and uncertainties. Also the data of the indicator tool can be used as background information. The focus should not be on administrative borders but rather on contents and developments as such. As the Wadden Sea Region is a diverse region with many different characteristics, the differences have to be taken into account. Also the different perceptions of sectors and stakeholders will be part of the analysis of risks. As a next step, the ICZM group will elaborate further on this issue and forward new findings to the plenary meeting in November 2017.

9. WSF contributions to the Trilateral Governmental Conference TGC-13

The meeting intensively **discussed** contents and process to contribute to the next Trilateral Governmental Conference in May 2018 in Leeuwarden. It was **agreed** to follow two strands:

a) to forward and making visible the achievements and valuable outputs of the WSF:

- sustainability indicators
- planning portal
- risk management/demographic change

b) evaluation of the Ministerial Declaration 2014 with regard to WSF concerns

- CO₂ neutral Wadden Sea Region
- maritime safety
- sustainable development
- green harbour concept
- goose management
- cooperation and support WSF

The evaluation will lead to recommendations from different stakeholder perspectives, to be forwarded to the conference.

The meeting also discussed how the contents should be presented and promoted. It was **agreed** to apply for presentation time during the Conference event. To achieve this, the chair will send **a request** to the WSB to get full attention at the Conference.

Additionally, a document about the WSF achievements and working results will be elaborated. It was **agreed** that the WSF Steering Committee will be in charge of this. Beate Ratter agreed to support the elaboration of the document with advice.

10. Characteristics of the Frisian Wadden society

Presentation: Meindert Schroor

Meindert Schroor from the Wadden Academy and head of the Bureau Varenius on Geography, History and Spatial Planning presented the characteristics of the Frisian society in the Wadden Sea Region. He classified the society in five characteristics:

insularity – family structure – overpopulated – marginalized – decentralized

The presentation was highly welcomed and highlighted the population developments in the WSR as well as the richness of the area with regard to farmland, pottery and brick resources and peat.

The presentation slides are available on the WSF website <https://www.waddensea-forum.org/en/forum/wsf-plenary.html>

The story of the presentation will be published in a journal in the coming month. The participants will be informed about the availability by mail.

11. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards and WSB

Representatives of the advisory boards as well as of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) were invited to present relevant information about the proceedings within their boards and organizations.

Preben Friis-Hauge, as representative of the Danish Wadden Sea National Park advisory board, pointed at some relevant issues on the agenda of the board:

- coastal protection also in the light of climate change
- hinterland flooding due to heavy rainfalls (also theme in an Interreg project)
- Tønder marsh project, which is about nature conservation and cultural heritage
- strategy World Heritage Site
- dealings with pacific oyster

Manfred Vollmer informed that in Lower Saxony a new advisory board was elected in the beginning of May. The first meeting of the new board will take place on 19 June in Wilhelmshaven.

Hubertus Hebbelmann briefly informed about the last WSB meeting on 24 March in Wilhelmshaven. The main topics were on the implementation of the Tønder Declaration, the roadmap for the Trilateral Governmental Conference in May 2018 in Leeuwarden and the implementation of the World Heritage Partnership Centre.

12. Macroplastic in the North Sea

Presentation: Peter Schaal and Katharina Stephan

Peter Schaal and Katharina Stephan from the Center of Sustainable Development in Oldenburg presented the project "Macroplastics Pollution in the Southern North Sea - Sources, Pathways and Abatement Strategies". It is well known that a huge amount of plastic drifts in the oceans but still questions have to be answered about the sources and effect of impacts on the environment. Various work packages with the involvement of stakeholders were elaborated on hydrodynamic models, litter monitoring and lab experiments. Also experts interviews contribute to the project. Following the presentation, which is available on the WSF website <https://www.waddensea-forum.org/en/forum/wsf-plenary.html>, a questionnaire was circulated to be answered by the participants as contribution to the project. Project website: www.macroplastics.de

The meeting welcomed the presentation and started in a vivid discussion about the topic. It was stated that also KIMO international would elaborate on this issue too and that a broad support would be necessary to control plastic pollution. See the video on this topic of the Danish KIMO members at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAhNV_K_DGc.

The chair **proposed** to forward the issue and the needs for action to the political level. The WSF Steering Committee should take the theme on board in order to prepare an official letter of the WSF to the governmental representatives.

13. WSF Budget 2017

The meeting was informed about the budget for 2017, which will be balanced due to acquisition of third-party funds from the German "Wattenmeerstiftung" for a project on indicators. The secretary clearly indicated that from 2018 on big gaps in the budget will occur and that a long lasting solutions should be strived for.

Preben Friis-Hauge pointed at the circumstances that the German National Government does not support the WSF financially as the other Governments do. All negotiations have had no success. The chairman **proposed** to task the Steering Committee to elaborate on a budget for the coming years.

14. WSF Communication

The meeting **agreed** that an improvement in communication would be necessary to be better visible in the regions. On proposal of the chair, it was further agreed that the Steering Committee should be invited to elaborate a communication agenda at its next meeting. Beate Ratter requested to continue with organizing press briefings at the WSF plenary meetings. This was lacking in the past.

Also under this agenda item the meeting discussed the role of the WSF in implementing the World Heritage Partnership Centre (PC). For a sound involvement, participation in the preparation of concept and structure of the PC was seen as absolutely necessary. To get this attention, the meeting **agreed** to forward a document to the forthcoming WSB meeting on 16 June. The agreed document is in **Annex 4**.

15. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on **1-2 November 2017** and will be hosted by the city of Wilhelmshaven, Germany.

16. Any other Business

No other business discussed.

17. Closing

The chairman **summarized** the main actions to be taken (see also **Annex 3**), thanked all participants for coming and their fruitful contributions and closed the meeting at 12:10 hours on 19 May 2017.

ANNEX 2

**Wadden Sea Forum
30th meeting
Den Helder, 18-19 May 2017**

DRAFT AGENDA

- Agenda item 1. Opening**
- Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF-29**
- Agenda item 3. Membership WSF**
- Agenda item 4. Announcements**
- Agenda item 5. Minutes Steering Committee**
- Agenda item 6. Progress WSF Activities**
- Agenda item 7. Sustainability Indicator**
- Agenda item 8. Risk management/demographic change**
- Agenda item 9. WSF contributions to the Trilateral Governmental Conference TGC-13**
- Agenda item 10. Characteristics of the Frisian Wadden society**
- Agenda item 11. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards and WSB**
- Agenda item 12. Macroplastic in the North Sea**
- Agenda item 13. WSF Budget 2017**
- Agenda item 14. WSF Communication**
- Agenda item 15. Next Meeting**
- Agenda item 16. Any other Business**
- Agenda item 17. Closing**

ANNEX 3

**Wadden Sea Forum
30th meeting
Den Helder, 18-19 May 2017**

Decisions and Agreements

- 1) The secretariat will contact Arjen Bosch to get Groningen Seaport back as member in the Forum.
- 2) Risk management with demographic change will be a future task of the WSF. The topic will be discussed more intensively at the WSF-31 meeting on 1-2 November in Wilhelmshaven.
- 3) It was agreed to contribute to TGC-13 with two strands:
 - a) to forward and making visible the achievements and valuable outputs of the WSF:
 - sustainability indicators
 - planning portal
 - risk management/demographic change
 - b) evaluation of the Ministerial Declaration 2014 with regard to WSF concerns
 - CO2 neutral Wadden Sea Region
 - maritime safety
 - sustainable development
 - green harbour concept
 - goose management
 - cooperation and support WSF
- 4) The chair will send a request to the WSB to get full attention at TGC-13 in Leeuwarden.
- 5) The WSF Steering Committee will be responsible to deliver a document with the achievements of the WSF to the TGC-13.
- 6) The WSF members will be informed about the availability of the published presentation about Frisian characteristics by mail.
- 7) The WSF Steering Committee is tasked to elaborate on plastic pollution and to prepare an official letter of the WSF to the governmental representatives to take action.
- 8) The Steering Committee is tasked to elaborate on a WSF budget for the coming years.
- 9) The meeting agreed to forward a document about the integration of the WSF in the preparation of the World Heritage Partnership Centre to the forthcoming WSB meeting on 16 June.

ANNEX 4

Wadden Sea Forum
30th meeting
Den Helder, 18-19 May 2017

Offer of the WSF being strongly involved in the preparation process of the World Heritage Partnership Centre

On 19 May 2017 the WSF plenary discussed in its 2017-1 meeting the involvement, even more so the integration of the WSF in the Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Centre (PC).

The WSF very much acknowledges the efforts to preserve the outstanding values of the Wadden Sea as World Heritage Site. In the past, the Forum has supported the nomination process i.a. by contributing to the field study tour with stakeholders. The main task of the Forum, to support the sustainable development of the entire Wadden Sea Region, is seen also as contribution to taking responsibility for the WHS.

A sustainable development of the hinterland of the WHS will have positive effects to protect the OUVs and keep the area in a favourable conservation status. The WSF stands for this sustainable, climate friendly development of the WSR. This is underlined by the work on green shipping and green harbour concept, CO₂ reduction, regional products and a healthy agriculture. The objectives of the WSF as well as the commitment of the stakeholders contribute strongly to the enhancement of the WHS.

The PC with the integration of various partners (authorities, NGOs, science and business sectors) fosters solidarity to develop and preserve the WHS. If partners are taken equal and serious, more responsibility is gained. The WSF is a real partner with commitment and responsibility for the WHS. The WSF can contribute to a close collaboration between the state parties/authorities and stakeholders, necessary for a broad acceptance.

Taking the described challenges into account and reflecting the process of implementing the PC so far, the WSF plenary is ready to enter a better involvement in developing the concept of the PC. An involvement in the governance process of the PC from the beginning is important to get full support and to strengthen the future collaboration between the partners besides the authorities. The WSF is willing to take this responsibility and act as a multi stakeholder partnership for the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site and constructively support the sustainable, climate friendly development of the entire Wadden Sea Region.

Therefore, the WSF offers a strong involvement in all preparation steps with regard to the implementation of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Centre.