



Wadden Sea Forum
34th meeting
Büsum, 01-02 November 2018

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening

The vice-chair of the meeting, Preben Friis-Hauge, welcomed the participants in Büsum at the "mariCUBE" Competence Centre, which was briefly introduced by Mr Stefan Schüning, the head of the Centre. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**.

Following, the vice-chair informed the meeting that the order of the agenda was changed due to the tight timeframe of the meeting on the first day and postponed Agenda item 5 to the next day. The meeting **adopted** the agenda with the announced changes and is in **Annex 2**. A list of the agreements and decisions as summary of WSF-34 is in **Annex 3**.

2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF-33

Documents: WSF-33 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting **adopted** the final draft minutes of the WSF-33 meeting, Varde, 6-7 June 2018, distributed by e-mail of 25 June 2018. The final draft minutes are also available on the WSF website www.waddensea-forum.org.

3. WSF Chairmanship

At the plenary meeting WSF-33 the stakeholders discussed a change in chairmanship according to the terms of office procedures.

The Steering Committee discussed in its meeting on 21 September the new period of chairmanship and proposed to elect Preben Friis-Hauge as new chair of the WSF because he would be the best available candidate, chairing the plenary and Steering Committee meetings as well as representing the Forum in the Wadden Sea Board.

The WSF members **elected** Preben Friis-Hauge unanimously, who accepted the election and thanked the WSF for their trust in his work. Mr. Friis-Hauge pointed out that a German vice-chair should be nominated within the coming months. Negotiation about candidates would be still going on.

4. Membership WSF

Document: WSF 34-4.1 Membership list

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

- Lasse Guldberg Sörns from Rømø Fiskeriforening will replace Oluf Stenrøjl Kristensen in the WSF
- Anne Husum Marboe from the National Park Wadden Sea will replace Peter Saabye Simonsen
- Stefan Mohrdieck from the county Dithmarschen will replace Jörn Klimant in the WSF
- Lutz Jacobi from the Waddenvereniging will replace Herman Verheij in the WSF and SC
- Tineke Schokker, mayor from Vlieland, will replace Albert de Hoop and represent the Dutch Wadden Sea islands

6. Climate Adaptation: Water management in the marsh area

Presentation: Matthias Reimers, managing director Deichverband Dithmarschen

This part was integrated in the workshop session under agenda item 7.

Climate change adaptation is an ongoing very important topic for the Wadden Sea Region, its society and stakeholders. On the trilateral level, an adaptation strategy has been elaborated for the Wadden Sea, but not yet for the hinterland. The WSF expressed the necessity to broaden the view on climate change effects in the entire Wadden Sea Region. Matthias Reimers from the "Deich- und Sielverband Dithmarschen" gave a presentation about water management and drainage in the marsh area of Dithmarschen as an example of how to react on climate change effects (see further below).

7. Workshop Session in WSF Plenary Meetings

According to the brief assessment of possible workshop themes and the response of a number of WSF members, a workshop on climate change adaptation was implemented. The participants were invited to elaborate on three sub-themes, covering the interests of the stakeholders. The aim of the workshop was, being more active in the plenary sessions and to discuss topical issues more in depth, also in order to strive for common positions on selected themes. Information and experiences from the different sectors and regions would lead to a learning process among the stakeholders and finally, some recommendations could be concluded.

The workshop was implemented with the following structure and course:

- Introduction in the plenary, climate change adaption needs in the Wadden Sea Region, presentation by Jacobus Hofstede, Ministry for Energy Transition, Agriculture, Environment, Nature and Digitalization
- Water management and drainage in the marsh area of Dithmarschen as an example of how to react on climate change effects, presentation by Matthias Reimers, managing director Deich- und Sielverband Dithmarschen
- Split in 3 sub-groups, emphasis on water with regard to climate change
 - structure and needs of water management
 - society and nature
 - agriculture
- Presentation of results in plenary
- Final discussion and conclusions

Mr. Hofstede firstly introduced models about climate change effects with regard to agriculture, e.g. temperature, precipitation, growing seasons and frost days. Secondly, he focussed on health and presented models, compiled by the Norddeutsches Klimabüro and calculated for the Wadden Sea Region, with regard to hot days and tropical nights.

Further, he addressed the theme sea level rise as well as modelled effects on the bight of Sylt with a decline of mud flats due to higher water levels and sediment deficits. But he also stated that intertidal flats and saltmarshes behave quite robust under accelerating sea level rise by stronger accumulation of sediments. Finally, he presented some drainage scenarios for Schleswig-Holstein as bridge to the following presentation by Mr. Reimers.

(The presentation is placed on the WSF web site <https://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum/wsf-plenary>)

Mr. Reimers informed the meeting with his presentation about the structure of water boards in Germany and particularly in Schleswig-Holstein, followed by details of recent water management systems and challenges in the future. These were mainly sea level rise, siltation of river estuaries, increase of precipitation in winter months, more frequent and heavy rainfall events during summer and subsidence of fenland.

The decrease of natural drainage of the hinterland, parallel to the increasing need of pumping systems illustrated future challenges in water management.

Finally, Mr. Reimers presented a future modelling approach of water management in the river Miele catchment area.

(The presentation is placed on the WSF web site <https://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum/wsf-plenary>)

The three sub-groups discussed first a joint understanding of the subject and agreed on the most relevant topics. In the following, problems and challenges regarding water of the defined topics were discussed. Finally, responsibilities for measures were debated and recommendations were elaborated. Each group was chaired and facilitated by members of the ICZM working group.

Results of the sub-groups:

a) water management

Main challenges are

- Climate Change
 - Change of precipitation pattern, i.e. seasonality, amount of mean annual rain
 - Change in extreme rain fall events, i.e. quantity, frequency
 - Sea Level Rise, i.e. reduce or loss of gravitational drainage possibilities
- Others:
 - Siltation in front of the main dike, i.e. reduction of drainage capacity due to decreased possibility of gravitational drainage
 - Soil subsidence of the hinterland, by e.g. peat degradation or soil compaction
 - Competition between different problems and challenges at the coast, e.g. nature conservation, agriculture and water management
- Technical & organisational
 - Less drainage capacity
 - Power of water boards is differing between the countries
 - Inadequate financial support for the implementation of measurements, e.g. in DK and GER

Solution options:

- Room-for-the rivers
- Cooperative and integrative solution approaches to create win-win-solutions between e.g. nature conservation and water management
- Develop educative material
- Create the possibility to share knowledge between the trilateral cooperation region
- Bringing more information to the general public about water management issues

Possible role for the WSF:

- Collect good and bad example for water management in the TWSC Region and share them between stakeholders
- Try to provide the information on the challenges of water management for higher policy level

Conclusions

It was acknowledged that water management is an important sector in low-lying coastal areas and serves as the backbone for the society.

It was further acknowledged that different changing circumstances are putting pressure on water management, e.g. climate change, economic development (increasing sealing).

The WSF should work more in detail on a trilateral level to aim at learning processes, cooperation and joint measures.

b) agriculture

Main challenges are

- precipitation pattern over the seasons
Change of precipitation pattern, i.e. seasonality, amount of main annual rain.
- irrigation and water management
 - The water has to be managed immediately to avoid damage on the crops.
- Crop choice and crop rotation systems.
 - The farmers consider new robust plants and crops but the problem is floating. Clover is a resistant and robust plant with long roots.
 - Plants that are suitable for crop rotation and can be harvested twice a year.
- Soil cultivation and soil protection
Global heating and higher temperatures in the future will not affect the Wadden Sea Region in the same degree as the inlands because of the situation of the region next to the sea. There will still be problems with heating on sandy grounds in the region.
- Plant nutrition, fertilization and humus reproduction
- Operational management
The problem with choosing the right crops is handled by the farmers. The problems with climate change should be solved together with the politicians.
- Other climate problems like storms
The houses are affected by the more often strong winds.

Conclusions

Protect the value of the farms and agriculture land as with other values like houses and infrastructure in the planning.

Build stronger houses and plant trees around them to reduce the wind.

Drain wet fields immediately and pump the water to dry areas. Pump water to places where it can be stored until it is needed. Built water punts.

c) society and nature

Main challenges are

- living with water (long learning process, change in living conditions)
- acceptance of changing landscapes
 - importance and meaning of open landscape
 - value of biodiversity and distribution of species
 - changing perceptions
 - responsibility of the society
- maintenance and protection of cultural landscapes
 - prioritisation of developments
 - limitation of technical solutions and measures (cost-benefit)
- protection of the cultural heritage (buildings, monuments, archaeological sites)

Conclusions

The society must be made aware that living with increasing risks could become essential, if opportunities of changes are not taken up. Adaptation in various fields is needed to avoid unnecessary risks. As the society in general sticks to traditions, changes in behaviour and perceptions need to be supported in a slow but long lasting process. This will achieve more willingness to go for new opportunities.

Climate change adaptation needs shared responsibilities of the society, sectors and governments. Also an integrated approach is needed, which has to be developed and implemented in a long-lasting process.

The plenary welcomed the output of the sub-groups and discussed intensively the dealings with the results. It was consensus that this first round of discussion and reflection on climate change adaptation has not sufficiently worked out the theme. Therefore, the results should be used to elaborate further on challenges and recommendations in order to deliver a profound policy paper as output of the Wadden Sea Forum.

According to this agreement the WSF decided to implement a further workshop/session on climate change adaptation at the next plenary meeting in May 2019, rather than elaborate on a different theme as originally planned. The ICZM group was tasked to elaborate a draft policy paper, taking the results of the workshop into account. The policy paper should address

- efforts taken in mitigation measures
- adaptation challenges in the WSR with focus on area behind the dikes
- a trilateral view on climate change adaptation
- efforts of the TWSC working on climate issues in the Wadden Sea ecosystem
- emphasis on pressing issues

The policy paper will not be a comprehensive report, but it will explore the situation in the WSR and will deliver impulses how to deal with upcoming challenges and opportunities. It was agreed that the ICZM group should contact the WSF members to request necessary support. After having discussed the draft at the next plenary, the policy paper will be finalized. A time schedule for the whole process of elaborating the policy paper will be drafted by the ICZM group at its meeting on 28 November and forwarded to the WSF members.

8. Minutes Steering Committee

Documents: WSF 34-8.1 Minutes SC-2018-2

The meeting took note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting SC-2018-2 on 21 September 2018 in Hamburg. The items were not further discussed as all relevant topics were on the agenda of the plenary meeting.

9. Progress WSF Activities

Document: WSF 34-9.1 Summary progress report

The secretary referred to the summary progress report and introduced some activities in more detail. The work on demographic change in the WSR has caused new cooperation. It is envisaged that the universities of Vechta and Tilburg, the Wadden Academy, the municipality of Wangerland and the WSF will jointly work on consequences of demographic change as well as on challenges and opportunities to meet future needs. This collaboration could be used as best practice example, stimulating other municipalities to overcome problems and threats regarding sustainable and demographic development on local level.

The agricultural group of the WSF is still dealing with goose management. Before taking further actions, the group will await results of the "Meeting of the Parties", MOP7 on 4-8 December in South Africa, which will take decisions on the AEWA management proposals for Greylag and Barnacle Geese.

Further important topics like sustainability indicators and the implementation of the partner-hub were part of the following agenda.

10. Sustainability Indicators

Document: WSF 34-10.1 Sustainability Indicator Project

Presentation: Indicator assessment with the examples of German Wadden Sea counties

The document briefly describes the work on the indicators as well as the different approaches over time. Further, an outlook on envisaged activities is given.

In order to underline the value and the efforts of this important work, the secretary informed the meeting with a presentation about detailed results as basis for a following discussion.

In the beginning of the presentation, the timeline and efforts of the work were made clear. The large number of work hours of the secretary in 2017 and 2018 was attributed to the fact that a project on indicators, co-financed by the Wattenmeer-Stiftung, was carried out. The presentation further informed about an analysis of 44 indicators on county level in the German WSR. Some results were shown by spatial representation, which allows a quick comparison between the different counties. The method of analysing the indicators and explanation of values can be found on the WSF website <https://www.waddensea-forum.org/topics/projects/sust-indic-local-level>.

Besides the spatial depiction, the results were also shown in spider diagrams, which highlight the values on stock level for individual counties, and in sustainability triangles, which depicts the state of sustainability for the three dimensions.

Finally, some examples of indicator analysis on municipality level were shown. This level is lacking of sound data, only data for few indicators are available on the internet.

The meeting welcomed the presentation and stated that the work on the indicators has been valuable to get a general view on sustainability in the WSR. It was made clear that there ever would be a problem of preciseness in the analysis as well as in the availability of data. Nevertheless, the instrument with its huge amount of data provides an insight in developments and allows a deeper evaluation on sustainability, taking strengths and weaknesses of certain regions into account. The WSF has done the analysis with equal norms for all counties and municipalities to provide a general view and the possibility of comparison. An individual assessment should discuss the standard norms and its weight in the analysis. It was agreed to present the work and results to the counties and municipalities and ask for feedback. According to the value for the regions but also for the WSF as information of developments and awareness rising, the scope of continuing the work will be discussed again. (The presentation is placed on the WSF web site <https://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum/wsf-plenary>)

11. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards and WSB

Representatives of the advisory boards were invited to present relevant information about proceedings within their boards and organizations.

Denmark:

Preben Friis-Hauge informed about the Board meeting of 26 October, at which 26 participants registered.

A topic was the green map of Denmark, which is a planning tool to include recommendations of the Nature Council in planning of physical planning of the municipalities. A further issue was on the share of Natura 2000 areas in Denmark, which is currently 8%. Also the partner-hub of the World Heritage Partnership Centre was discussed. Further items were on clay mining for dike construction and flooding risks in larger cities.

Schleswig-Holstein:

Hans-Ulrich Rösner briefly informed about the topics, discussed in the Advisory Board Nordfriesland (Nationalpark Kuratorium). Main items were on shrimp fisheries, 10 years anniversary of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site and achievements with regard to the Leeuwarden Declaration.

Lower Saxony:

Manfred Vollmer informed about the topics discussed in the Advisory Board Lower Saxony (Nationalparkbeirat). The aims of German presidency were introduced, the partnership centre was extensively discussed as well as hunting in the National Park and dredging and dumping in estuaries.

12. Partnership Centre and the role of the WSF

Document: WSF 34-12.1 Evaluation Partner-hub

Presentation: Introduction of the report with main conclusions by Beate Ratter

The WSF is involved in the implementation of the partner-hub of the World Heritage Partnership Centre. The secretariat is part of the Operational Team Partner-hub, responsible for the implementation, and has forwarded perceptions and proposals of the WSF regarding the role in the partner-hub.

Recently, Beate Ratter from the university Hamburg has carried out a report about the integration of the WSF in the partner-hub (see document). Ms Ratter introduced the report and concluding remarks with a presentation for further discussion. (The presentation is placed on the WSF web site <https://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum/wsf-plenary>).

The meeting welcomed the report and presentation and stated that the report would give an excellent overview about the process of implementing a World Heritage Partnership Centre. Also the outlined proposal for partner-hub activities and responsibilities were taken as very helpful. According to the outlined deficits of the WSF it was agreed that sound improvements have to be made to broaden the projected network as well as to improve collaboration within the network.

Even though the proposal of integrating the WSF in the partner-hub structure was seen quite positive, some hesitations, particularly from WWF (shared by the tourism sector), were pronounced. In this case the role of the WSF was seen as overestimated, also due to little representation of organisations. Further, the networking organisations should act independently and not overruled by the WSF.

The WSF agreed to take these arguments seriously in further debates about contents and structure of the partner-hub. According to the hesitations, it was stated that the role of the WSF should be on coordinating the network; all organisations would speak for themselves and would stay independent, as the WSF itself in the network.

To proceed, it was proposed that the OPTeam Partner-hub should invite WSF, green NGOs and the tourism sector for a discussion about mutual understanding of the partner-hub and future role of the existing trilateral network of the WSF.

Further, it was **agreed** that the WSF should offer again a responsible role in the partner-hub to make use of the existing network.

13. WSF Budget 2018

The meeting was informed about the budget for 2018, which is in balance. The secretariat further informed the meeting about expected deficits in the budget 2019.

It was agreed to discuss the financial issues at the next plenary meeting in May 2019, when better and reliable information about the financial contributions for 2019 would be available.

14. Next Meeting

The meeting **agreed** to hold the next plenary meeting WSF-35 on the proposed meeting date on 8-9 May 2019, which will probably take place in the province of Groningen. The secretariat will take care of this matter and inform the WSF asap.

5. Announcements

Preben Friis-Hauge informed about a presentation about marine litter at the North Sea Commission annual business meeting. Marine litter would now not only be an issue on local but also on regional level. Also IMO has agreed to adopt a marine litter action plan to address marine plastic litter from ships, including from fishing vessels. He further pointed out that the IMO would have paraffin pollution on the agenda too.

Beate Ratter asked the meeting to continue the discussion about the deficits within the WSF to improve the performance.

She briefly introduced the report "Risk Perception in the Wadden Sea Region", which was distributed as hardcopy.

Hans-Ulrich Rösner informed that many stakeholders were involved in the elaboration of the Wadden Sea Strategy on Education for the sustainable development and World Heritage interpretation.

(see <http://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/resources/education-strategy>). The report "Shaping a Sustainable Tomorrow" was available as hardcopy.

Julia Busch informed that the Interreg Vb Prowad-Link project has been launched recently. She further announced that two additional staff members would complete the CWSS:

- Sergio Rejado Albaina, working for CAFF (Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna)
- Soledad Luna, responsible for the elaboration of a single integrated management plan (SIMP) for the World Heritage Site. Soledad would participate in one of the next WSF plenary meetings to get in contact with stakeholders.

Christian Lorenzen invited the WSF plenary to Fanø for one of the next meetings. The participants welcomed the invitation.

15. Any other Business

No other business discussed.

16. Closing

The chair summarized the agreements made, which are in **Annex 3**, thanked the participants for their commitment and contributions and closed the meeting at 12:00 hours on 02 November 2018.