

Wadden Sea Forum
7th Meeting
Hamburg, 26 September 2005

Final Draft Minutes

1. Opening and adoption of the Agenda

Document WSF-7-1. Draft Annotated Agenda

The meeting was opened by the chairman, Mr. Nijpels, on Monday 26 September 11:00 hours. The agenda was adopted and is in Annex 1. A list of participants is in Annex 2. A list of documents is in Annex 3.

2. Adoption final draft minutes WSF- 6

The meeting adopted the final draft minutes of the WSF-6 meeting, Leeuwarden, 10 February 2005.

3. Announcements

Document WSF-7-3-1. Plaice Box.

Document WSF-7-3-2. Amendment §17 ministerial declaration

Mr. Marquenie handed out document WSF-7-3-2 containing a proposal for an amendment to §17 of the ministerial declaration of the Wadden Sea conference.

Document WSF-7-3-1 had been submitted by the German Fisheries Board. It contains information about discussions with regard to the future of the plaice box. Mr. Holstein stated that he could support the proposal by the flatfish working group of the North Sea Regional Advisory Council regarding this matter.

Mr. Holstein informed the meeting that Dutch shrimp fishermen do not fish in the weekends, whereas their German colleagues do so. He stated that a common approach is needed.

4. WSF Action Plan

Document WSF-7-4-1. WSF Action Plan

Document WSF-7-4-2. Amendment to Action Plan

The meeting discussed the draft WSF Action Plan, elaborated by the WSF Steering Committee meeting of 23 May 2005.

Mr. Verheij proposed and the meeting **agreed**:

- to include in Action II (Product) that there should be a balance with ecology.
- to make a reference in Action IV to the relevant recommendations of the Scientific Symposium in Esbjerg.
- that in Action VI (infrastructure) the aim should be to coordinate infrastructure planning in accordance with the infrastructure part of the WSF final report.
- To add nature protection as a partner in the fisheries project.

Mr. Schuhbauer proposed that in Action XVIII also other energy aspects (biomass, solar, oil/gas) should be taken into consideration. The meeting **agreed** to amend the penultimate sentence of the text under "Product" as follows: "The project will bear in mind and discuss".

Mr. Töpken informed the meeting that a foundation has been established in Germany with a task comparable to the contents of Action XVIII. He would send relevant material to the secretariat.

The secretariat had proposed to skip Action VII (shipping, see document WSF-7-4-2). The meeting did not support this proposal but **decided** to amend the action in the following way: “to closely monitor relevant shipping safety developments, in particular the priority issues from the WSF final report.”

Mr. Rösner asked what the terms of reference for the working groups dealing with the Actions would be and whether the different groups would function under the responsibility of the plenary forum. The chairman replied that in his view all activities must be carried out under the umbrella of the forum, but that a new forum would have to decide upon its own rules of procedure. He suggested that this be done in a meeting in January 2006. To this he added that in his view the chairman of the new forum should come from Germany, so as to enable good contacts with the German chair of the trilateral cooperation.

Mr. Verheij referred to Action I (ICZM) and pointed to the necessity to submit an Interreg IIIB application already in November this year. Mr. de Jong informed the meeting that it was the intention to prepare such an application and that support by all parties would be needed in order to generate sufficient self-financing.

The meeting **adopted** the Action Plan with the inclusion of the above amendments. The final version of the Action Plan is in Annex 4.

5. Continuation Wadden Sea Forum

Document WSF-7-5-1: Overview actions WSF members following letter WSF chairman to trilateral ministers

Document WSF-7-5-2: State of affairs WSF text in draft Ministerial Declaration.

The meeting took note of Document WSF-7-5-1.

The chairman introduced document WSF-7-5-2 and stated that the decisions of WSF-7 were a last signal to the trilateral cooperation before the Wadden Sea conference. He invited the members to comment upon the document and announced that he would prepare a letter to the trilateral cooperation with the main wishes of the meeting.

Mr. Klimant reported about the IRWC meeting at which it had been decided that there was a need for a new philosophy in the trilateral cooperation, meaning that both ecological and economical aspects must be taken into consideration. It was also necessary to better connect the trilateral cooperation and the Wadden Sea Forum. He also made a plea for a new system of communication. Mr. Bastian stated that the trilateral scope should be broadened and should not only address nature protection but also development. He proposed to take this up in the preamble of the ministerial declaration.

Mr. Schuhbauer referred to §10 of the ministerial declaration and proposed that it should be reflected here that the WSF had been able to balance economic, ecological and social interests. This would help achieving a better understanding of the term sustainability. It was **agreed** to take up this proposal in the chairman's letter.

Mr. Verheij asked what the forum would do if the proposal in the letter would not be adopted by the trilateral cooperation. The chairman replied that the forum could do nothing because the trilateral cooperation had its own responsibility. Mr. Klimant stated that the forum could review the decisions by the Wadden Sea conference at a meeting in January. If the decisions would be insufficient the forum would not continue its activities.

According to Mr. Rösner the Action Plan was not yet ready to be implemented and further negotiations with the ministries were necessary.

With regard to §12 of the ministerial declaration Mr. Bastian proposed to make clear in the chairman's letter that the forum was in favour of including the word “revision”. Mr. Rösner stressed that the Wadden Sea Plan covered a much smaller area than the Wadden Sea Region. Mr. Frederiksen explained that a revision of the Wadden Sea Plan was a Danish proposal because an update was regarded insufficient in terms of the integration process of the Wadden Sea Plan and “Breaking the Ice”. The meeting **agreed** to include the WSF preference for revision in the chairman's letter.

Mr. Verheij supported the deletion in §11 of “with other authorities” because the ministerial declaration was signed on behalf of governments. He furthermore stated that the facilitation of the new WSF would also imply that financial means would be made available. To this Mr. Holstein added that there should also be financial support for the transfer to sustainable activities. It was **agreed** to include in the chairman's letter that also financial support was necessary.

6. Draft ministerial Declaration 10th Wadden Sea Conference

Document WSF-7-6-1. Draft Ministerial Declaration. Version 31 August 2005

The chairman invited the meeting to comment on the whole draft ministerial declaration. Relevant suggestions by the WSF would also be included in the chairman's letter to the trilateral cooperation. With regard to §9 (World Heritage) Mr. Kjeld Nielsen informed that the Wadden Sea islands (Euregio) had made a statement according to which a nomination was considered too early. He stated that in Denmark there had been no discussion at all. Mr. Rösner replied that the discussion on a WHS nomination had been going on for 14 years now. He considered the text proposal in the current draft to be a wise solution.

The chairman stated that it was apparently hard to convince people that a WHS nomination would not imply additional restrictions. In his view it would be unwise not to continue the process.

Mr. Haerkens stated that the application should be a common process.

With regard to §17 (Climate change) Mr. Marquenie referred to his hand-out (Document WSF-7-3-2; see agenda item 3). Mr. Rösner stated that not all recommendations in the proposal had been unanimously adopted by the WSF. Mr. Verheij proposed and the meeting **agreed** to include in the chairman's letter the proposal that in §17 more of the WSF recommendations would be included, as a recognition of the work done by the WSF.

With regard to §16b (shipping) Mr. Frederiksen remarked that the Netherlands had not yet signed the DenGerNeth Plan. Mr. Baerends informed that the agreement would be signed before the conference. According to Mr. Andresen Denmark was not in favour of §28 regarding a more binding trilateral cooperation. Mr. Frederiksen felt that the first part of the sentence already was covered fully in §§ 5-7 and that the second sentence of this paragraph indicated a trilateral way to proceed, which did not correspond with the strategy of the Wadden Sea Forum. He proposed to delete this paragraph. The chairman closed the discussion and promised the WSF members that a copy of the chairman's letter would be circulated in the coming days.

7. Participation in the 10th Wadden Sea Conference

Document WSF-7-7-1. Programme Wadden Sea Conference

Mr. Baerends informed the meeting that the Wadden Sea Forum was a separate issue on the agenda of the trilateral conference. He stated that this was unique since in previous conferences there had only been one substantial agenda item, which was the ministerial declaration.

8. Any other business

Ms. Szczesinski gave a presentation on the "International Wadden Sea School" (IWSS). This project recently completed a 2-year-pilot-phase and is supposed to go into a 4-year-implementation-phase after the governmental conference. The idea is to facilitate trips of school-classes to the Wadden Sea areas of neighbouring countries. The IWSS is also part of the WSF action plan. The meeting welcomed the presentation

9. Closing

The meeting was closed on Monday 26 September, 13:00 hours.

Annex 1

Agenda

- 1. Opening and adoption of the Agenda**
- 2. Adoption final draft minutes WSF- 6**
- 3. Announcements**
- 4. WSF Action Plan**
- 5. Continuation Wadden Sea Forum**
- 6. Draft ministerial Declaration 10th Wadden Sea Conference**
- 7. Participation in the 10th Wadden Sea Conference**
- 8. Any other business**
- 9. Closing**

Annex 3**List of Documents**

Document No.	Contents	Delivered		
		by	date	how
Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda				
WSF7-1	Draft annotated agenda WSF-7	Secretariat	1/09/05	e-mail
Agenda item 2: Adoption final draft minutes WSF-6				
	Final Draft minutes WSF-6	Secretariat	8/03/05	e-mail
Agenda item 3: Announcements				
WSF-7-3-1	Plaice Box	German Fisheries	21/09/05	e-mail
WSF-7-3-2	Amendment to ministerial declaration	NAM	26/09/05	handout
Agenda item 4: WSF Action Plan				
WSF-7-4-1	WSF Action Plan	Secretariat	7/09/05	e-mail
WSF-7-4-2	Amendment to WSF Action Plan	Secretariat	23/09/05	e-mail
Agenda item 5: Continuation Wadden Sea Forum				
WSF7-5-1	Actions WSF member organisations	Secretariat	21/09/05	e-mail
WSF7-5-2	State of affairs MD text WSF	Chair	23/09/04	e-mail
Agenda item 6: Draft ministerial declaration 10th Wadden Sea Conference				
WSF7-6-1	Draft ministerial declaration	Secretariat	7/09/05	e-mail
Agenda item 7: Participation in the 10th Wadden Sea Conference				
WSF7-7-1	Programme Wadden Sea Conference	Secretariat	21/09/05	e-mail

Annex 4

WSF Action Plan

GENERAL

I. ICZM Strategy

Aim:

The elaboration of a Wadden Sea Region wide ICZM Strategy, tuned with the national activities in this field, with the involvement of all responsible authorities in consultation with the Wadden Sea Forum for the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the WSF report.

Product/Output/Contents:

An overall non-statutory strategy for the Wadden Sea Region which will be implemented into regional ICZM strategies and which includes and specifies the relevant WSF recommendations.

The WSF report basically constitutes the basis for an ICZM strategy as recommended in the report.

The WSF recommendations must be specified and incorporated into government policies in order to be an ICZM in the sense of the EU recommendation.

Partners:

All relevant national, regional and local authorities in the Wadden Sea Region. Overall coordination by the national authorities responsible for ICZM in the three countries during the establishment of an ICZM project group facilitated by a common secretariat. WSF as consultation partner.

If carried out as Interreg IIIB project (see below) then cooperation with comparable fora (Skagerrak Forum, Coastnet).

Time Frame:

2006 - 2008

Budget:

Most of the activities from the Action Plan (see further below) can be elaborated under the umbrella of the Wadden Sea Region ICZM.

Estimated budget for a 3-year project in which all actions from the action plan are carried out (including staff and external studies): EUR 2,000,000. The aim is to apply for co-financing by Interreg IIIB (call November 2005).

II. Sustainability indicators

Aim:

The development of indicators for the WSF sustainability objectives.

Product/Output/Contents:

The elaboration of a sets of relevant indicators for each of the social, economic and ecological sustainability objectives. The indicators must fulfil a number of criteria:

- Scientifically based, i.e. sufficient (statistical) information must be available on the indicator to enable statements on development, goals fulfilment etc.
- Societal relevant, i.e. the indicator must be considered relevant and appealing for a wider part of society

As a first step an expert review of the available (statistical) information is necessary on the basis of which the indicators will be discussed and selected. The indicators for the ecological objectives should be done by the trilateral cooperation since there is ample information to do this.

The output must be a proposal for a set of indicators, which will be adopted by the WSF including the national governments.

Partners:

National Governments. WSF

If possible cooperation with relevant research projects (for example the German projects Coastal Futures and IRIS).

Time Frame:

2006-2007

Financing:

Consultant, estimated consultant fee EUR 40,000

Facilitation by the WSF secretariat

Support (know-how, contacts) by partners.

III. Inventory rules and regulations

Aim: Harmonisation, simplification and reduction of rules and regulations, where such is considered appropriate by the WSF

Product/Output/Contents:

Inventory of rules and regulations that directly affect the sectors. Subsequent assessment by the WSF with the aim of developing proposals for harmonisation, simplification and/or reduction. If appropriate, direct contact with the EU will be sought.

The work will start with a pilot project about fisheries.

Partners:

WSF

Time frame:

2006-2008

Pilot: 2005

Financing:

Pilot: within existing WSF budget

Period 2006-2008. Inventory by consultant. Estimation costs on basis experiences with pilot project.

Facilitation by WSF secretariat

Support (know-how, consultation) by WSF partners

IV. Support Wadden Sea education programmes

International Wadden Sea School (IWSS)

TWG/CWSS together with NGOs as in the present IWSS pilot project, added up with educational ministries/administrations. Decision on a possible IWSS programme following the pilot project probably at TGC 10. Report on contents, organization and finances to be expected in September 2005.

Coordinated environmental education for schools. Exchange programmes for schools and universities.

Wadden Sea Academy

Extending the Dutch Wadden Sea Academy in development to become an international Wadden Sea Academy. Reference is in this respect made to the recommendations of the 10th International Wadden Sea Scientific Symposium.

Specific programmes must be developed to improve entrepreneurial qualities.

V. Wadden Sea Label

Aim:

To arrive at a principal decision about the feasibility Wadden Sea label and promotion and marketing of Wadden Sea products and a structure that leads to such a label.

Product/Output/Contents:

Report containing an inventory and assessment of chances for marketing of Wadden Sea specific products, including product requirements, an analysis of potential markets, an analysis of success of existing labels and provide an overview of introduction and running costs (development logo, maintenance) as well as the outline for a business plan.

The analysis will be discussed by a WSF working group that will prepare proposals for possible further action.

Partners:

Agriculture, food industry, fisheries, tourism/recreation, nature protection.

Time frame:

2006-2007

Financing:

Estimated consultant fee EUR 50,000

Facilitation by the WSF secretariat

Support (know-how, contacts) by partners.

VI. Infrastructure

Aim:

Better coordination of infrastructure planning in the Wadden Sea Region, in accordance with the infrastructure chapter of the WSF Final Report.

Product/Output/Contents:

Development of proposals by the WSF for the coordination of infrastructure projects.

Partners

WSF members

Time Frame:

2006-2009

Financing

Facilitation by WSF secretariat

Support (know-how, contacts) by WSF members

VII. Shipping

Aim:

To implement the WSF recommendations

Product/Output/Contents:

To closely monitor relevant shipping safety developments, in particular the priority issues from the WSF final report.

AGRICULTURE

VIII. Evaluate scale enlargement

Aim:

Develop specific recommendations on the how scale enlargement can be applied in such a way that it contributes to economic perspectives for agriculture as well as social, ecological and cultural interests

Product/Output/Contents:

Inventory and analysis of dimensions and effects of scale enlargement in the past, examples of "good" and "bad" scale enlargement (from a sustainability perspective) and proposals for sustainable spatial planning options in the WSR in relation to expected scale enlargement.

The outcome of the analysis must be discussed by a WSF working group, which will develop specific proposals for dealing with scale enlargement in the WSR.

Partners:

Regional agricultural organisations, nature protection, landscape protection, regional and national governments

Time frame:

2006-2008

Financing/Facilitation

Estimated consultant fee: EUR 30,000

Facilitation by the WSF secretariat

Support (know-how, contacts) by partners

IX. Evaluate Nature Management Programmes

Aim:

Development of common objectives for nature- and landscape protection in the WSR (in the framework of the implementation of the Bird- and Habitat Directives) and trilateral coordination of the introduction of new programmes

Product/Output/Contents:

Evaluation and analysis of running nature- and landscape protection programmes and inventory of Wadden Sea specific flora and fauna. Proposals for new improved programmes, as well as guidance on future nature- and landscape objectives.

On the basis of the analysis and inventory a WSF working group will develop concrete proposals for WSR nature- and landscape objectives, as well as programmes for the realisation of these objectives.

Partners:

Regional agricultural organisations, nature protection, landscape protection, regional and national governments

Time frame:

2006-2008

Financing

Estimated consultant fee: EUR 30,000

Facilitation by the WSF secretariat

Support (know-how, contacts) by partners.

FISHERIES

X. Perspectives fisheries

Aim: Development of more specific proposals on perspectives for fisheries

Product/output/contents:

A study, commissioned by the responsible ministries, into perspectives for coastal fisheries in the Wadden Sea. The study should make maximal use of already available material, such as the Niedersachsen Cofad study and address several relevant aspects of coastal fisheries, amongst which maintenance goals (Habitat Directive 6-3), infrastructure, hygiene requirements EU and perspectives. The outcome of the study will be the starting point for the elaboration of more specific actions by the WSF.

Partners:

National/federal governments, regional governments, relevant communities, fisheries sectors, nature protection

Time Frame:

Study: 2006 – 2007

Elaboration of more specific activities on the basis of the study: 2007-2009

Financing

Estimated consultant fee: EUR 30,000

Facilitation by the WSF secretariat

Support (know-how, contacts) by partners.

ENERGY

XI. Offshore wind energy

Aim:

Find a compromise for the coexistence of offshore wind energy farms off the Wadden Sea Region and other relevant stakeholders, which will be the basis for future offshore energy park projects.

Product/output/contents:

A group will be installed addressing the real (not political or sector-strategic issues) problems of the coexistence of offshore wind energy farms with other stakeholders of the region. In a second step the group will try to find solutions to solving the problems or to finding ways towards a compromise. The project will bear in mind and discuss all recommendations of the WSF final report regarding energy. The group can also monitor existing and pilot wind parks.

Partners:

Regional energy suppliers, windmill constructors, oil- and gasindustry, fisheries, shipping, tourism, environment, local and national governments. If possible the partners should be member of the WSF.

Time frame:

2006-2010

Financing:

Facilitation by CWSS

Support by stakeholders

TOURISM

XII. Wadden Sea tourism marketing group

Aim:

Establishment of a Wadden Sea Tourism Marketing Group to advance the marketing of the region on a common basis and to test some of the ideas.

Product/Output/Content:

The development of a Wadden Sea Region wide marketing strategy for advancing a sustainable tourism for the Wadden Sea Region and the facilitation of the implementation of projects in Wadden Sea wide context.

The Marketing Group shall as a first step develop a long term marketing strategy for the Wadden Sea Region which advances the sustainable tourism of the Wadden Sea Region in cooperation with the tourism sector. The marketing strategy shall develop new projects and facilitate the implementation of or linking existing projects such as those developed by WSF, which helps to support the overall marketing strategy objectives. The Marketing Group will furthermore act as a facilitator for trans-national projects and activities and promote the area in a wider international context, as well as act as a facilitator for applying for co-financing.

An outline marketing strategy has been elaborated by the IRWC.

Partners:

Euregio "Die Wadden"; Tourism Facilitation Group, NL; Kompetenzzentrum für Tourismus, Niedersachsen; Nordseebäderverband, Schleswig-Holstein; Tourismus Inseln & Küste, Niedersachsen; Turistgruppen Vestjylland/region/municipalities; Wadden Society, NL; WWF, D. The Marketing should be chaired by a representative from the tourism sector and be facilitated by the WSF secretariat

Time Frame:

2006-09; conclusion with a review and decision on continuation

Financing:

Financing of the strategy by the participating organizations.
Facilitation by the WSF secretariat.

XIII. Wadden Sea event

Aim:

The organization of a Wadden Sea wide event to enhance the common understanding of the cultural historic values within a marketing strategy of attracting tourist and to advance a positive impression of the Wadden Sea Region as an attractive region for visitors and support local tourist entrepreneurs.

Output/Product/Content:

The organization of a (bi)annual event on a cultural historic and landscape theme that is characteristic for the entire region as mentioned above. The event will be organized throughout the entire region on various locations as an offer to tourists and visitors to the region. The event will be held during the summer period according to a common format and by making use of common material/approaches ensure that the resources are use in a efficient way. The intentions are through a common approach to "sell" the region, to offer a cultural experience also in addition to the more traditional tourist offers, to enhance the cultural tourism as a part of an overall marketing of the area and to enhance the collaboration between tourist organizations and organizations working with the cultural historic dimension such as museums and towns and cities within the region.

Partners:

Regional and local authorities with the tourism organizations to be further elaborated by the Marketing Group.

Time Frame:

First small scale event to be organized in 2007, 25 years of Joint Declaration, with the theme "Celebrating the Wadden Sea Coast".

Financing:

By the partners; facilitation by the WSF secretariat.

Migrate with the birdsAim:

To provide a quality offer for tourists and provide a positive image of the region.

Output/Product:

The establishment of a network of bird watching localities throughout the Wadden Sea Region also as a specific offer for tourists.

Content:

On a number localities in the Wadden Sea Region bird watch localities have been established and special events organized around migratory birds in particular geese such as the "Ringelganstage", "Sort sol" etc. These events and localities have proved very successful in providing a quality event for special interested and tourists and important for local communities. The Wadden Sea Region is Europe's bird watching locality no. 1. This type of activities should be extended to the entire region with the aim of providing a quality offer for tourists and other interested parties and provide a positive image of the region. This can be done by 1) non-guided tours organize and inform about improved accessibility to a network of bird sites and 2) guided tours: linking existing spots (e.g. Lauwersoog) and events (e.g. Ringelgänztage; the Halligen, Sort Sol in Tøndermarsken) with new locations/events in all three countries (In Denmark a pilot project has launched).

Partners:

Local nature conservation organizations with tourist organizations linking existing initiatives.

Time Frame:

2006-07

Financing:**XIV. Analysis regulations adaptations market**Aim:

An analysis of regulations and market changes and adaptations to market changes.

Product/Output/Content:

Review by an external consultant with recommendations for possible adaptations. Review to encompass the following elements: Interview with the sector with a view to define the main regulations considered to be hamper adaptations to market changes. Subsequent description and analysis of the regulations (policies, spatial regulations, EU regulations etc.) with recommendations for changes in regulations and policies.

Partners:

The review to be carried out by the tourism industry (Tourism Facilitation Group, NL; Nordseebäderverband, D; Tourismus Inseln & Küste, D; Turistgruppen Vestjylland); review to be advised and informed by the Marketing Group on behalf of the WSF. Review to be submitted to WSF for consideration.

Time Frame:

2006-07 but await outcome pilot project fisheries (see above).

Financing:

Estimated costs review EUR 30,000