



Wadden Sea Forum

8th Meeting

Heide, 16 March 2006

FINAL MINUTES

1. Opening and adoption of the Agenda

Document WSF-8-1. Draft Annotated Agenda

Document WSF-8-1 Rev. Revised draft annotated agenda

Mr. Klimant opened the meeting at 13:00 hours. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**. The agenda was **adopted**. The agenda is in **Annex 2**.

Mr. Klimant first gave a brief introduction to the Landkreis Dithmarschen. He then invited the new chairman of the Trilateral Working Group (TWG), Mr. Dirk Schwenzfeier of BMU, to introduce himself and to present the trilateral position with regard to WSF.

Mr. Schwenzfeier informed the meeting that the work of WSF in the past three years was very much appreciated by the trilateral cooperation. At the first TWG meeting under German presidency (5-6 April) the national positions with regard to the WSF action plan would be discussed in more detail. He announced that the trilateral cooperation would concentrate on the following topics in the coming years:

- The Nomination of the Dutch and German part of the Wadden Sea as a transboundary World Heritage Site;
- The further development of the Wadden Sea Plan;
- The update and further elaboration of the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Program (TMAP), with the aim of meeting the requirements of the EC Directives;
- The continuation of the International Wadden Sea School (IWSS);
- Close cooperation with stakeholders to work in support of sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region;
- Shipping safety.

2. Election of WSF chairperson

At the 10th Wadden Sea Conference, Mr. Jörn Klimant was nominated as new chairperson of the Wadden Sea Forum. Mr. Enemark asked the meeting whether they could support this nomination. The meeting unanimously and enthusiastically welcomed Mr. Klimant as new chairman of WSF.

3. Adoption final draft minutes WSF- 7

The final draft minutes of the WSF-7 meeting, Hamburg, 26 September 2005, were **adopted**.

4. Announcements

Document WSF-8-4-1. Announcement infrastructure conference

Mr. Andresen announced that the national park project in Denmark had been finalised. Legislation was now being developed, after which it would become clear which of the seven pilot projects would indeed become the first national park(s) in Denmark.

Mr. Bijman informed that the cooperation between the three Dutch Wadden Sea provinces was in the process of reorganisation. This would have consequences for the representation in WSF.

Mr. Nielsen informed about the restructuring of the public administration and governmental levels of Denmark from 2007. Ten municipalities in the Danish Wadden Sea Region would be merged into four and the County level will dissolve.

Mr. de Jong referred to document WSF-8-4-1 in which an infrastructure conference was announced. He informed that the conference would be held 13-14 November in Brunsbüttel and requested the WSF to provide ideas for speakers from the Netherlands and Denmark.

Mr. von Wecheln informed that supplementary information would be circulated later.

5. Membership WSF

Document WSF-8-5-1 WSF membership

Document WSF-8-5-1 add WSF membership

Mr. de Jong informed the meeting about recent changes in the WSF membership (document WSF-8-5-1 add).

To this Mr. Frederiksen added that the Danish representative for tourism, Mr. Knud Hansen, would be replaced by Mr. Gammelgaard. Mr. Kristensen (now deputy for fisheries) would become the new Danish fisheries member. More changes were expected, which would be announced in due time.

Mr. de Jong furthermore stated that there were some remaining problems with representation for agriculture, industry and tourism in Schleswig-Holstein. The chairman expected that these could be solved in the near future.

Mr. de Jong expected that the problematic representation for tourism in Lower-Saxony had been solved because of the recent nomination of two new persons. Mr. Loos underlined the need for a better representation with regard to water tourism.

The meeting adopted the proposal from document WSF-8-5-1 for a better representation of branches by allocating member and deputy member positions to different organisations. Relevant organisations would be contacted in the coming months.

Mr. Bastian finally stressed the need for an additional incorporation of other responsible ministries into the WSF, for example ministries for infrastructure. This was generally supported by the meeting.

6. Continuation and Structure WSF

Document WSF-8-6-1 Ministerial Declaration Schiermonnikoog Conference

Document WSF-8-6-2 Proposal structure WSF

The chairman invited Mr. Schwenzfeier to elucidate the decisions of the 10th Wadden Sea Conference (Schiermonnikoog Conference, 3 November 2005) with regard to the WSF. Mr. Schwenzfeier stated that he was optimistic about the possibilities for close cooperation between the trilateral cooperation and the WSF.

The chairman then opened the discussion about the structure of WSF (document WSF-8-6-2).

Mr. Bijman stated that the first phase of WSF had been a phase of study and consultation and that it was now time for action. He stressed that the new structure of WSF should be simple and he pleaded for the installation of an Executive Board, consisting of the chairman and four vice chairpersons, one from every region, as had been the case in the IRWC. He was afraid that the Steering Committee, proposed as alternative 2, would repeat things done by the plenary meeting.

Mr. Verheij argued that it would be useful to have a body capable of keeping track of a variety of issues and he therefore favoured the proposed Steering Committee, consisting of representatives of all sectors.

Mr. Rösner wondered whether the forum should only concentrate on action. In his view the basic purpose of the forum was the exchange of views of different stakeholders, with the aim to finding compromises and common views for a sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region. With that function the WSF is really unique and necessary. This task remains to be important also during the

implementation of the agreed action plan, as there might come up a lot of issues with different views and interests, requiring a platform for dialogue also in the future.

Mr. Hinrichs supported the statement by Mr. Verheij. He also pointed to the anticipated low meeting frequency of the new forum and was therefore in favour of a small Steering Committee.

Mr. Bastian underlined the need for the forum to score in the coming period. He could accept a small Steering Committee of 8 persons.

Mr. Tougaard stressed the link between the Action Plan and the revision of the Wadden Sea Plan.

Mr. Andresen supported the proposal of Mr. Bijman for vice-chairpersons. He underlined the need for national coordination in the follow-up forum and the implementation of the Action Plan and suggested that this could be done by having representatives of the Wadden Sea Advisory Boards in the Steering Committee.

Mr. Verheij stated that a vice-chair was not really necessary with a well-functioning Steering Committee but that a vice chair could be elected from within the Steering Committee. With regard to Mr. Andresen's proposal to include the advisory boards in the SC he pointed to the need for Advisory Boards to prepare independent advice.

The chairman closed the discussion by summarising the different positions. With regard to the tasks of the forum he **concluded** that these would include both general discussions and concrete actions. He referred in this respect to the general task as contained in section 6.2 of "Breaking the Ice" and to the Action Plan.

With regard to the structure he proposed to install a Steering Committee as set out in alternative 2 of document WSF-8-6-2. To this he added that, dependent upon the experiences, the structure would be open for further discussion. He furthermore **concluded** that it would not yet be necessary to elect a vice chairperson but that such a person could be appointed within the Steering Committee.

With regard to national coordination he stated that this was a national responsibility.

The meeting **adopted** the proposals by the chairman. It was **agreed** that the Rules of Procedure would be amended accordingly.

Mr. Klimant then invited the meeting to propose, as far as possible, nominations for the Steering Committee. The following persons were proposed as SC members and **adopted** by the meeting:

Agriculture.	Mr. Keurentjes (NL)
Fisheries	Mr. Holstein (NL)
Tourism	vacant
Nature	Mr. Rösner (SH) (Deputy Mr. Verheij, NL)
Energy	Mr. Schuhbauer (SH)
Industry	vacant
Local Government	Mr. Salverius (NdS)
Regional Government	vacant

Referring to the amendment of the Rules of Procedure, Mr. Verheij asked whether participation of non-forum members in working groups would be possible. The meeting generally supported the presence of other persons (organisations) in working groups (as had been the case in the Thematic Groups) as far as this would be useful and appropriate.

Mr. Bastian then raised the question how the forum work could be financed.

The chairman requested Mr. Schwenzfeier to provide some clarity about facilitation by the secretariat.

Mr. Schwenzfeier stated that the conditions under which the CWSS could support WSF work had been laid down in terms of reference, agreed upon by the Senior Officials (document WSF-8-6-2, Annex 2). He did not want to enter into detail about these conditions before the outcome of WSF-8 and discussions in the coming TWG (5-6 April) and Senior Officials (17-18 May) meetings.

Mr. de Jong informed the meeting that the next opportunity for applying for financial support by the EU would be in spring 2007 with the start of the Interreg IV programme.

7. Work schedule WSF

Document WSF-8-7-1 Work schedule WSF

Document WSF-8-7-1Rev Work schedule WSF

The chairman proposed to discuss the relevant actions one by one and in order of their priority, resulting from the scoring of the filled-in questionnaires (Document WSF-8-7-1Rev).

Mr. de Jong informed that two more questionnaires had been received. The final results of the questionnaires are in **Annex 3**.

Below, the discussions on the activities from the Action Plan are summarised. An overview of the main decisions is in **Annex 4**.

GENERAL THEMES

I. ICZM

The chairman introduced this action by stating that it would first of all be useful to have an overview of the state of affairs with regard to ICZM, since many organisations were working on this issue.

Mr. Bastian considered the WSF final report "Breaking the Ice" to be the WSF ICZM strategy. He warned for discussing the theme in an abstract way. He furthermore underlined the need to work with regional authorities, because regional development strategies were most relevant for ICZM.

Mr. Wesemüller pointed out that ICZM was not restricted to regional planning. For example also the offshore area should be considered.

Mr. Verheij proposed to install a working group that should first of all take stock of what is currently going on. He offered to start this work. Important for the work of the group was, furthermore, the fact that the different activities related to ICZM were currently not trilaterally integrated.

Mr. Schuhbauer agreed to establish a working group, which should have close links with responsible national bodies.

Ms. Straßer supported Mr. Schuhbauer's view and referred to German national activities which were presented at www.ikzm-strategie.de.

Mr. Keurentjes stressed that ICZM was an issue for which national authorities should take first responsibility. This position was supported by Mr. Fromsejer and Mr. Hinrichs.

Mr. Wesemüller was in favour of taking action now and emphasized the Forum's own responsibility.

The meeting **agreed** to install an ICZM working group with the main task of transferring the Forum's strategy, results and ideas into running ICZM activities. The group, for which Verheij, Holstein, Keurentjes, Schuhbauer, Straßer and Frederiksen announced participation, would choose its own chairperson. Contact persons for this group are Keurentjes and Verheij.

VII. SHIPPING SAFETY

The meeting discussed the need for establishing a WSF working group on shipping.

Mr. Loos was very much in favour of such a group because of the importance of the issue and because "officials" were often hiding behind responsible organisations, in particular IMO.

According to Mr. Rösner it was, after the decisions by the Schiermonnikoog Conference, now time to implement these decisions. He suggested that WSF propose to the trilateral cooperation to install a trilateral shipping group. WSF could then advise this group, e.g. by taking part as observer. In this case it would possibly not be necessary to install an own WSF working group.

Mr. Dettmann stressed that shipping safety was a high priority issue in TWG.

Mr. Bastian suggested to do both, i.e. to install a WSF shipping group, with the aim to put pressure on the implementation process, and to participate in a trilateral group.

Mr. Wesemüller proposed to write a letter to the responsible governments, inviting them to participate in a WSF shipping group.

The meeting **decided** to install a WSF shipping group, consisting of Loos, Bußman, Salverius, Rösner, von Wecheln and a Danish member. Mr. Loos will be contact person.

III. RULES/REGULATIONS

Mr. Fromsejer stressed that problems with EU regulations were also relevant for agriculture. He pleaded for a broad approach to the issue of rules and regulations.

Mr. Holstein proposed to start with fisheries as a pilot project, as agreed in the Action Plan. His organisation was prepared to start with the first phase of the project, an inventory of existing rules and regulations.

Mr. Revier suggested and Mr. Holstein agreed that the 2nd phase would be to analyse and assess this material. This would be the task of a WSF working group.

Mr. Fromsejer proposed that governments should take the lead in this project. Mr. Holstein replied that governments would have to be responsible for the third phase of the project, i.e. implementing the relevant suggestions from phase 2.

The meeting **agreed** to the above outlined approach. The contact person for the inventory is Mr. Holstein. It was furthermore **agreed** that the project would be extended to other sectors depending upon the experiences with the pilot phase.

VI. INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. Bastian underlined the need for good infrastructure in the Wadden Sea Region. Therefore, the Schleswig-Holstein regions had taken the initiative for an international infrastructure conference, 13-14 November 2006.

Mr. Hinrichs suggested and **the meeting agreed** that the conference must cover the whole Wadden Sea region and that the outcome should be the starting point for further WSF activities within this field.

II. SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS

Mr. Holstein referred to a consensus conference in Ostend about sustainability indicators in aquaculture.

Mr. Verheij acknowledged that there were many approaches to sustainability indicators, amongst which by the EU in the framework of ICZM.

Mr. Bastian proposed and **the meeting agreed** that, as a first step, the issue would be dealt with by the ICZM working group.

IV. EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

Mr. Rösner could agree to the proposal from document WSF-8-7-1 that WSF would not directly deal with the IWSS programme, since this was being implemented within the trilateral cooperation. He, however, asked WSF to support the need for trilateral support for the continuation of IWSS.

Mr. Verheij pointed to the fact that Action Plan project No. IV covered more than IWSS only. The other themes should not be forgotten.

Mr. Tougaard expressed his concern that finances for IWSS would be sufficient for one year only.

Mr. Dettmann informed that the financing of IWSS was still being discussed. **The chairman concluded** that this issue would be discussed again at the next WSF meeting.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THEMES

X. PERSPECTIVES FISHERIES

Mr. Oberdörffer proposed to carry out the so-called COFAD study, which is an analysis of coastal fisheries in Niedersachsen, carried out in 2004, for the whole international Wadden Sea.

Mr. Wesemüller criticised that the study had no relation with sustainability.

Mr. Revier proposed to carry out an inventory of all available relevant material and then to come up with suggestions for further action. He was in favour of a broad perspective.

The meeting agreed to this proposal, which will be carried out by the fisheries group, also responsible for the inventory under Project No. III.

Mr. Oberdörffer promised to make available a digital version of the COFAD study.

XII. TOURISM.

Mr. Keurentjes proposed to integrate the issue "Wadden Sea Label" in the tourism project. Mr.

Hinrichs would rather like to see the Wadden Sea label combined with fisheries.

After some discussion it was **agreed** that the projects Wadden Sea Label and Tourism Marketing would be combined. Also project No. XIII (Wadden Sea event) would be covered. Mr. Bijman offered to facilitate the project. He informed that also some money would be available.

XI. OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY

Mr. Töpken referred to the action plan point XI, to install a working group for this theme. He informed the meeting that there was already a foundation for offshore wind energy in Niedersachsen (Deutsche Offshorestiftung), which could be asked to join such a group. In Niedersachsen a Competence Centre for Future Energy Supply had just been founded, which could also join the group.

According to Mr. Rösner there were several initiatives dealing with offshore wind energy. What was lacking, however, was trilateral coordination. This would, therefore, be the main task of a WSF working group.

Mr. Tougaard informed that at the end of November a conference will be organised at which the experiences with the Horns Rev offshore wind park will be presented.

It was **agreed** to install a WSF offshore wind energy working group, consisting, for the time being, of Mr. Holstein, Mr. Bußmann, Mr. Salverius and Mr. Revier. Mr. Bußmann will act as contact person.

VIII/IX. AGRICULTURE

Mr. Keurentjes proposed to skip project VIII (Agriculture and scale enlargement) and to concentrate on agriculture and nature management (project No. IX).

It was **agreed** to install a working group on agriculture and nature management. Mr. Hinrichs informed that the agriculture chamber of Niedersachsen might be willing to coordinate the group. Mr. Hinrichs will be contact person for this group.

Mr. Rösner requested the secretariat to circulate an overview of all groups, together with the possibility for the signing in of additional members. The meeting supported this request.

Mr. de Jong urged contact persons to inform the secretariat about any activities undertaken, so as to be able to keep track of developments.

Mr. Bijman underlined the importance of contacts between WSF and the trilateral cooperation.

The chairman concluded that this would be one of the tasks of the Steering Committee.

It was finally **agreed** that the Action Plan would be amended in accordance with the above decisions.

8. Any other business

The chairman proposed to hold the next WSF meeting at the end of November 2006. Mr. Loos offered to host this meeting in Lauwersoog. Also Mr. Andresen offered to host the meeting. To this he added that it would be the last opportunity for the Danish counties to host a WSF meeting. It was therefore **agreed** that WSF-9 would be held in Denmark.

9. Closing

The chairman thanked the participants for their cooperation and closed the meeting at 18:00 hours.

ANNEX 2. AGENDA

1. Opening and adoption of the Agenda

2. Election of WSF chairperson

3. Adoption final draft minutes WSF- 7

4. Announcements

5. Membership WSF

6. Continuation and Structure WSF

7. Work schedule WSF

8. Any other business

9. Closing

ANNEX 3: RESULTS QUESTIONNAIRE**General themes**

N = 18	Priority ¹	Input (personnel) ²	Input (Euro)	Participation ³	Coordination
I. Integrated Coastal Zone Management	15	<0.1 0.3		?, ?, +, +, +, +, +, +, +	Nature NL Energy SH?
II. Sustainability indicators	5			?, +, +	
III. Rules and regulations	9	+, +		?, +, +, +, +, +	Fisheries SH
IV. Education programmes	3			+, +	
V. Wadden Sea Label	4	0.1	5000	+, ?, +	
VI. Infrastructure	7	+, + 0.1	10,000	+, +, +, +, +, +	Regional govSH Agri NdS?
VII. Shipping safety	12	0.1		+, ?, +, +, +, +, +, +	Euregio?
Other: Tourism	2	+, ?		?, ?	
Other: Sustainability in general	1	+		+	Energy SH?

Sector-specific themes

N = 18	Priority ¹	Input (personnel) ²	Input (Euro)	Participation ³	Coordination
VIII. Agriculture. Scale enlargement	4	+, +		+, +, +	Agri NdS? Agri NL?
IX. Agriculture. Nature management	4	+, +		+, +, +	Agri NdS? Agri NL?
X. Perspectives fisheries	8	+, +, +, + <0.1 0.1		+, +, ?, ?, +, +, ?, +	Agri NdS? Fish NL?
XI. Offshore wind energy	6	+, ?, + 0.1		+, +, +, +	Energy SH
XII. Wadden Sea tourism marketing group	7	0.1 <0.1 +, + 0.1	5000	+, +, ?, ?, ?, +, +, +	Euregio?
XIII. Wadden Sea event	3			+	
XIV. Analysis regulations adaptation market	3	+		?, +	
Other: Oil/gas	1	+		+	Energy SH

¹ Number of organizations that have expressed priority

² In fte. Each entry concerns information provided by an organization. “+” means that there was a positive response but no specification was given. N.B. In several cases personnel input has been announced for participation in the forum in general. In the matrix only those entries have been presented for which personnel input was directly connected with a certain project.

³ Each entry concerns information provided by an organization. “+” = will participate. “?” = will maybe participate

ANNEX 4. DECISION LIST IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN

N.B.

- Tasks to be further specified by the Working Groups;
- Membership to be further specified in coming months (form will be circulated);
- Facilitation to be specified in the coming months.

1. Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)

Working Group installed.

Tasks

- Inventory running ICZM activities;
- Inventory sustainability indicators;
- Transfer of WSF results into national ICZM strategies.

Members

Verheij, Holstein, Keurentjes, Schuhbauer, Straßer, Frederiksen, ...

Contact/facilitation

Keurentjes, Verheij.

2. Inventory Rules and Regulations/Perspectives Fisheries

Working Group installed

Tasks

Phase 1

- Inventory rules and regulations fisheries
- Inventory information on perspectives sustainable fisheries Wadden Sea

Phase 2

- Analysis rules and regulations and development proposals for improvement
- Development proposals for further activities with regard to perspectives fisheries

Members

?

Contact/facilitation

Holstein

3. Infrastructure

International Conference 13-14 November, Brunsbüttel.

Further activities to be developed on basis outcome conference.

4. Shipping

Working Group installed

Task

Checking of implementation trilateral shipping decisions

Members

Loos, Bußman, Salverius, Rösner, von Wecheln,

Contact

Loos

5. Agriculture

Working Group installed

Task

Implementation project IX from WSF Action Plan

Members

?

Contact/facilitation (?)

Hinrichs

6. Energy

Working Group installed

Task

Implementation project XI from WSF Action Plan

Members

Holstein, Bußmann, Salverius, Revier, ...

Contact

Bußmann

7. Tourism/Wadden Sea Label

Working Group installed

Tasks

- Implementation WSF Action Plan Project No. XII
- Implementation WSF Action Plan Project No. XIII
- Implementation WSF Action Plan Project No. V

Members

?

Contact/facilitation

Bijman