



**Wadden Sea Forum
9th Meeting
Tønder, 30 November-1 December 2006**

FINAL MINUTES

1. OPENING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Document WSF-9-1. Draft Annotated Agenda

The meeting was opened by the chairman at 13:00 hours.

Mr. Vagn Therkel Pedersen, mayor of Tønder, welcomed the participants to the Ecco Centre in Tønder.

The agenda was **adopted**. The agenda is in Annex 1. A list of participants is in Annex 2. The meeting documents are in Annex 3.

2. ADOPTION FINAL DRAFT MINUTES WSF- 8

The final draft minutes of the WSF-8 meeting, Heide, 16 March 2006, were **adopted** without amendments.

3. MINUTES MEETING STEERING COMMITTEE

Document: WSF-9-3.1. Report SC-1

Document: WSF-9-3.2. Letter WSF chairman

The meeting **took note** of the minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee, SC-1, Bremen, 4 October 2006.

Mr. Dettmann, representing the chair of the trilateral cooperation, responded to the letter of the WSF chairman to the Heads of Delegation of the trilateral cooperation. He stated that there was a good working basis between the WSF and the trilateral cooperation and invited the WSF chairman to a meeting with the Senior Officials, as well as the Steering Committee to a meeting with the HODs, to discuss in more detail the future cooperation.

Mr. Verheij suggested that next time letters be sent to the TWG and not to the HODs only, since the observers in the TWG had not received a copy of the letter.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Lenis forwarded greetings from Mr. Poelmann, who had not been able to come to the meeting.

He informed that on 7 March 2007 there would be elections for the parliaments of the Dutch provinces and that the outcome would determine whether or not Mr. Poelmann would come back to the WSF.

Mr. Andresen informed that, starting 1 January 2007, there would be 4 Wadden Sea municipalities, instead of 10. The four new municipalities had announced that they would take over the responsibilities with regard to the Wadden Sea advisory board, the WSF and the trilateral cooperation. Mr. Andresen would become the spokesman in the WSF. It had also been decided to establish a joint Wadden Sea secretary.

Mr. Andresen furthermore informed that a draft bill on national parks would be discussed in December in parliament and that in spring 2007 the designation of 2 or 3 national parks was expected. It was as yet unclear whether the Wadden Sea would be designated.

5. RULES OF PROCEDURE

Document WSF-9-5.1. WSF Rules of Procedure

Document WSF-9-5.2. Amendments to WSF Rules of Procedure

Mr. Verheij introduced document WSF-9-5.2, in which he proposed a number of amendments to the Rules of Procedure (RoP), which, in his view, made them easier to handle.

The proposed amendment to article 2i was **adopted**.

With respect to the sectors listed in 2i, Mr. Andresen proposed to split tourism and recreation, because these were two very different activities. In discussing this proposal, the meeting put forward several objections and it was agreed not to add a separate sector recreation. Instead, the suggestion was put forward that Denmark would divide its tourism and recreation representatives over the member and deputy member positions.

With regard to the proposed change in 2iii (observers), it was **agreed** to add that observers from governments and advisory boards would be listed as permanent observers, whereas from other organisations observers could be invited.

The meeting then discussed the proposed amendment to article 3i. Mr. Nielsen stated that it was important that the vice-chair would represent local and regional governments. Mr. Loos considered it necessary that nationalities were divided evenly over the chair and two vice chairs. Mr. Verheij was against a structure in which other sectors would be excluded from the vice chair position.

The meeting **decided** that the vice-chairpersons would be elected from within the Steering Committee, taking account of a balanced national representation. It was furthermore **agreed** to maintain the current situation with Dutch and Danish regional government authorities as vice chairs, but not to fix in the RoP that this was mandatory.

It was **agreed** to adopt the other changes proposed in document WSF-9-5.2, since these were editorial improvements.

The amended and final version of the Rules of Procedure is in Annex 4. Amendments have been marked.

6. MEMBERSHIP WSF

Document WSF-9-6.1. Member list

An overview of changes in WSF membership was presented by the secretary. The meeting took note of the information.

7. PROGRESS WSF WORK

Document WSF-9-7.1. Progress Report

Document WSF-9-7.2. ICZM

Document WSF-9-7.3. Sustainability indicators

Document WSF-9-7.4. Agriculture

The meeting discussed progress of WSF activities as summarized in document WSF-9-7-1. The outcome of the discussion is presented below, specified for the different themes.

INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

Mr. Verheij, chairman of the Working Group ICZM (WG ICZM), informed the meeting about the first meeting of this group. He introduced document WSF-9-7.2, containing an overview of the situation with regard to ICZM in the EU and a proposal by WG ICZM to start working on the further specification of ICZM on the basis of the criteria from "Breaking the Ice". To this end examples of good and bad ICZM practice in the Wadden Sea countries would be collected and evaluated.

Mr. Frederiksen remarked that this would also be relevant for the further development of the Wadden Sea Plan.

Mr. Rösner underlined the need for an active approach in collecting the information from the WSF member organisations.

The meeting **adopted** the proposals from the document.

Mr. Verheij then introduced document WSF-9-7.3 in which terms of reference for a study into Wadden Sea specific sustainability indicators were proposed.

Mr. Rösner referred to the discussion in the Steering Committee meeting of 4 October 2006 in which he had warned not to make the exercise too extensive. He considered a total number of e.g. 21 indicators (7 for each field of sustainability) sufficient and underlined the need for useful indicators.

Ms. Straßer remarked that it would be hard to limit the number of indicators beforehand and that this would have to be discussed by WG ICZM.

Mr. Verheij stated that the aim was to arrive at a workable package of indicators.

Mr. Rothkopf asked what would be done with the indicators, once they had been agreed upon. After some discussion the meeting came to a common understanding that the indicators would serve as the main instrument of the WSF to judge status and developments of sustainable development in the Wadden Sea Region.

The meeting **agreed** to include in §2.3 of the terms of reference (document WSF-9-7.3) that a workable package of indicators be developed, which could be used as a practical instrument for the WSF.

ENERGY

An introduction to the first meeting of the WG Energy was given by the secretary.

The WSF chairman stated that it would be necessary to formulate more specific tasks for this group.

Mr. Töpken pointed to the original task, as formulated in the Action Plan, which is to try and find ways to deal with the coexistence of offshore wind farms and other uses.

Mr. Rösner supported Mr. Töpken and stated that, given the fact that many national fora were dealing with energy matters, WSF would have to concentrate on those Wadden Sea specific topics, where there is an additional benefit to discuss them trilaterally.

Mr. Krijnen stated that oil and gas exploration and exploitation was also a typical Wadden Sea topic and proposed to keep it on board of the WG Energy.

He furthermore indicated to have the impression that the way forward of the WGs was not clear and that there was too much emphasis on policy making. In his view the WGs should focus more on sharing information and networking.

Mr. Rösner supported the view on sharing information and networking (i.e. examples on best environmental practises presented for the other countries) and stated that WGs would function better if there was no absolute need to arrive at compromises.

After some discussion it became clear that the lack of direction was a current problem of the energy group and not of the other WGs. The meeting acknowledged the relevance of exchanging best practice experiences but also underlined the importance of the formulation of political recommendations.

The meeting then discussed the option of broadening the scope of WG Energy by the inclusion industry, harbour and infrastructure themes.

Several members were in favour of such a WG and it was **agreed** that WSF organisations would be requested to nominate members. It was also **agreed** that the first meeting of WG Industry/Energy would replace the originally scheduled meeting of WG Energy (7 February) and would discuss possible issues of common relevance and interest to be dealt with.

SHIPPING

Mr. Loos, chairman of WG Shipping, stated that, in addition to its original task, the WG Shipping had proposed to discuss the EU Green Paper (see further agenda item 8). The group had also expressed the wish that governmental representatives be involved.

TOURISM

Ms. Lübcke, who had participated in the first meeting of WG Tourism (15 November 2006), briefly reported about the outcome. The group had discussed whether it would concentrate on marketing or on events. There were different expectations of the participants and it had been agreed that a short paper would be drafted outlining the common level of understanding of the tasks of the group. This paper would be discussed at the next meeting on 15 January 2007.

Mr. Tougaard and Mr. Hansen asked if the group also dealt with recreational issues, such as hunting and sailing.

Mr. Janssen stated that there could be no tourism without marketing and that, thus the two should be dealt with in combination. He furthermore stated that recreation was closely linked to touristic offers and infrastructure.

Mr. Verheij, who had also participated in the meeting of WG Tourism, stated that both marketing and tourism aspects would be addressed and that recreation as such was not excluded.

Ms. Lübcke then informed the meeting about progress with regard to the organisation of the international Gastronomy Award, which will be held in Schleswig-Holstein in 2007. She had had positive contacts with some organisations and was optimistic about the chances of realisation.

FISHERIES

Mr. Oberdörffer informed the meeting that there had not yet been a meeting of the fisheries group. The inventory of rules and regulations had started but there were problems with defining the working area. He expected a first report to be finalised by the beginning of next year.

AGRICULTURE

The Chamber of Agriculture Lower Saxony had submitted document WSF-9-7.4, in which results of a first inventory of agriculture nature management schemes were presented. It was proposed to repeat the exercise, since not all relevant organisations had responded. Continuation of the work was only possible with more support of the agriculture organisations in the Netherlands, Schleswig-Holstein and Denmark.

Mr. Fromsejer suggested evaluating nature management programmes according to the three dimensions of sustainability, to make sure that such programmes do not harm other uses more than necessary.

Mr. Rösner stated that the aim of the exercise was not clear to him. In his view the issue is very complex and the actual set of rules changes all the time. There are very few really good informed specialists on agriculture nature management schemes in each of the countries, and he wondered whether the exercise would make any sense without having them in the group. This could, according to Mr. Rösner, be a reason why there is some reluctance of the nature organisations to take part in the group.

Mr. Janssen made a plea for continuation of the work because it was important for the coastal region and also for tourism and marketing.

The meeting therefore called upon the agriculture organisations in the Netherlands, Schleswig-Holstein and Denmark, to support the continuation of the project.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The chairman referred to the international infrastructure conference, which had been scheduled for 13-14 November, and which had been cancelled because of a lack of registration. He wondered what could have been the reason for the low interest.

According to Mr. Frederiksen a reason for the low interest from Danish side, could be that there had been too few direct contacts with contact points in the Danish Wadden Sea Region.

Mr. Rösner suggested that there was possibly little interest in the issue.

IWSS

Ms. Szczesinski gave a brief introduction about progress of the International Wadden Sea School (IWSS). She stated that there was not yet sufficient financial basis for the continuation of the programme and requested WSF organisations to consider sponsoring the IWSS.

8. EU GREEN PAPER MARITIME POLICY

Document: WSF-9-8-1.Green Paper

An introduction to the EU Green Paper "Towards a future maritime policy for the Union: A European vision for the oceans and the seas", was given by Mr. Niels Wammen of the Danish Maritime Agency and member of the Member State Expert Group Green Paper.

Mr. Wammen informed that the Green Paper was intended as an input to several ongoing developments, such as the marine strategy, the 3rd maritime safety package, as well as international conventions (for example regarding ballast water).

He announced that there would be a high level conference about the Green Paper in Bremen in May 2007 in the framework of the German EU presidency. The Council would present conclusions in June 2007.

Mr. Dettmann asked if any financial support was foreseen for the implementation of the activities, proposed in the Green Paper. According to Mr. Wammen this was not the case; he referred to existing funding programmes.

Mr. Rösner underlined the importance of submitting Wadden Sea specific comments to the Commission and referred in particular to the proposal from section 5.4 of the Green Paper regarding ecosystem-based management and regional planning.

The chairman stated that the recommendations by WSF should first of all be based upon "Breaking the Ice". He suggested a comparison of the contents of "Breaking the Ice" and the Green Paper. It was **agreed** that such an overall comparison would be prepared by the secretariat.

It was furthermore **agreed** that WSF working groups would be requested to formulate more specific recommendations. It concerns the following themes and groups:

WG ICZM. Chapters 2.7, 3.1, 3.4, 4.2, 5.1, 5.4

WG Shipping. Shipping aspects of Chapters 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 4.1, 5.2, 5.3

WG Tourism. Chapter 3.3

WG Industry/Harbour/Energy/Infrastructure. Relevant aspects of Chapters 2.1, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 3.4

The trilateral CPSL group would be requested to have a look at chapter 3.2.

Mr. Rösner suggested and the meeting **agreed** that for the issues that would not be covered by the WGs, a general statement would be included in the recommendations, referring to the vision from Breaking the Ice.

Mr. Verheij suggested and the meeting **agreed** to include a remark about the fact that fisheries is not covered in the Green Paper.

Upon suggestion of Mr. Loos it was **agreed** that the secretariat would circulate a time table for the preparation of the recommendations.

9. INTERREG NORTH SEA PROGRAMME

An introduction to the new Interreg North Sea Programme, the so-called "Objective-3 Programme", was given by Ms. Malene Winblad of the Danish Forest and Nature Agency, member of the Programme Preparation Group (PPG). Ms. Winblad informed that the programme would run from 2007-2013 with a budget of 200 million Euros. She expected that the first call would be open in September 2007 and that applications would have been assessed before the end of 2007. The programme has four priority areas, namely Innovation, ICZM, Accessibility and Sustainable Communities.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next WSF meeting (WSF-10) will be held 29-30 May 2007. The secretary informed that there had been informal contacts with the Chamber of Commerce Groningen, which was willing to host the meeting. Negotiations about the sponsoring of the dinner were ongoing. The meeting gratefully accepted the offer.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no any other business

12. CLOSING

The chairman thanked Mr. Andresen as representative of the counties South Jutland and Ribe for the excellent meeting facilities and the participants for their constructive contributions. He closed the meeting 1 December 11:30 hours.

ANNEX 1

AGENDA

- 1. Opening and adoption of the Agenda**
- 2. Adoption final draft minutes WSF- 8**
- 3. Minutes meeting Steering Committee**
- 4. Announcements**
- 5. Rules of Procedure**
- 6. Membership WSF**
- 7. Progress WSF work**
- 8. EU Green Paper Maritime Policy**
- 9. Interreg North Sea Programme**
- 10. Next meeting**
- 11. Any other business**
- 12. Closing**

ANNEX 3**Documents**

Document No.	Contents	Delivered		
		by	date	how
	Draft Programme	Secretariat	28/11/06	e-mail
Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda				
WSF9-1	Draft annotated agenda WSF-9	Secretariat	1/09/05	e-mail
Agenda item 2: Adoption final draft minutes WSF-8				
	Final Draft minutes WSF-8	Secretariat	12/04/06	e-mail
Agenda item 3: Minutes Steering Committee				
WSF-9-3-1	Final Draft Minutes Steering Committee	Secretariat	3/11/06	e-mail
WSF-9-3-2	Letter WSF chairman to HODs	Secretariat	3/11/06	e-mail
Agenda item 4: Announcements				
Agenda item 5: Rules of Procedure				
WSF-9-5-1	Draft Rules of Procedure	Secretariat	3/11/06	e-mail
WSF-9-5-2	Amendment to Rules of Procedure	Verheij	23/11/06	e-mail
Agenda item 6: Membership WSF				
WSF9-6-1	Member list November 2006	Secretariat	28/11/06	e-mail
Agenda item 7: Progress WSF work				
WSF-9-7-1	Progress WSF work	Secretariat	3/11/06	e-mail
WSF-9-7-2	ICZM	Secretariat	21/11/06	e-mail
WSF-9-7-3	Sustainability indicators	Secretariat	21/11/06	e-mail
WSF-9-7-4	Progress agriculture	Agriculture NdS	28/11/06	e-mail
Agenda item 8: EU Green Paper				
WSF-9-8-1	EU Green Paper	Secretariat	3/11/06	e-mail

ANNEX 4.**RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE WADDEN SEA FORUM (WSF)****1. Adoption and amendments**

- i. The Rules of Procedure have been adopted by the ninth plenary meeting of the Wadden Sea Forum (WSF-9, Tønder, 30 November-1 December 2006).
- ii. They replace the Rules of Procedure as adopted by WSF-1, 30 August 2002.
- iii. The Rules of Procedure can be amended by the plenary meeting.

2. Membership

- i. Organisations/institutions in the sectors "agriculture", "tourism and recreation", "nature and environment protection", "fishery", "industry and harbours", "energy", "regional government" and "local government" in Denmark, Schleswig-Holstein, Niedersachsen and The Netherlands will mandate one representative each as member of the WSF. They may also appoint one deputy member each.
- ii. Members should represent their institution/organization and have a mandate to negotiate on behalf of their institution/organization
- iii. Members are expected to consult the sectors in which their organisations/institutions belong on WSF-related issues.
- iv. National governments of the Wadden Sea states and Wadden Sea advisory boards may appoint an observer and deputy observer each. The WSF may invite observers from other organisations/institutions to attend its meetings.

3. Chair

- i. The WSF chair will be elected by the members of the Wadden Sea Forum.
- ii. The chair is responsible for chairing the plenary meetings of the WSF and the meetings of the Steering Committee.
- iii. Two vice-chairs will be elected from within the Steering Committee
- iv. In case the chairperson is prohibited, his duties are taken over by one of the vice-chairs.
- v. The terms of office of the chair and the vice-chairs will coincide with the period between the trilateral governmental Wadden Sea conferences.

4. Plenary WSF meeting

- i. The WSF plenary meeting consists of the members, described in paragraph 2.
- ii. The WSF plenary meeting is the decisive body concerning all WSF matters.

- iii. Decisions are in principle taken by consensus.
- iv. The WSF will meet at least once per year in plenary session.
- v. WSF plenary meetings are open to the public.

5. Steering Committee

- i. A Steering Committee (SC), consisting of the chairman and one representative of each of the sectors represented in the WSF, is responsible for handling all matters arising between plenary meetings.
- ii. The decisions of the SC are subject to approval by the plenary meeting.

6. Secretariat

- i. The Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) of the trilateral Wadden Sea cooperation provides the secretariat of the WSF.
- ii. Responsibilities of the CWSS with respect to the trilateral cooperation and the WSF are laid down in Annex 1.

7. Preparation of meetings

- i. The draft agenda will be prepared by the SC and will be distributed to the WSF members by the secretariat 5 weeks before the meeting.
- ii. Documents will be distributed by the secretariat 4 weeks before the meeting.
- iii. Material to be discussed at the meeting should be submitted to the secretariat 5 weeks before the meeting.
- iv. Summary Records will be distributed to the members within 2 weeks after the meeting and also placed on the WSF website within 3 weeks after the meeting.

8. Working Groups

- i. The WSF plenary meeting may install Working Groups (WGs) for the elaboration of issues.
- ii. The members of the WGs are nominated by the members of the WSF.
- iii. Chairpersons of the WGs are elected by the WG members.
- iv. WGs may invite independent experts and observers to contribute to WG meetings.
- v. For reasons of functionality, the maximum number of participants in WGs, excluding chairperson, experts, observers and secretariat, is 12.
- vi. WGs are supported by the Secretariat and/or member organisations.
- vii. All activities of WGs are subject to approval by the WSF, either in advance or in retrospect.

9. External Studies

The plenary meeting may initiate external studies into specific thematic issues, to be carried out by independent consultants.

10. Language

The language in the Forum, the subgroups and the external studies, including all documentation, is English.

11. Press contacts

- i. The chairperson has the mandate to contact the press regarding all WSF matters.
- ii. Press releases about WSF plenary meetings are prepared by the chairman and the secretariat, in consultation with the members of the SC.
- iii. The chairman is the first to inform the press about the outcome of the meeting.
- iv. Thereafter, all delegations are free to establish their own press contacts.