

5th WSF Newsletter, 25 March 2010

A. WSF Steering Committee and Working Groups

1. Steering Committee-8 Meeting

The 8th meeting of the WSF Steering Committee took place on 22 January 2010 in Hamburg. Main topics were the WSF contributions to the Trilateral Governmental Conference (TGC-11) on Sylt like final improvements of the WSF report "Without Frontiers" and comments on the Ministerial Declaration. Furthermore, the meeting discussed and finally adopted the financial statements and balance sheets for the previous years. As a special topic, the SC meeting nominated Mr. Preben Friis-Hauge from Denmark as Vice Chair. He stands for election as new WSF chair in November at the WSF-17 meeting.

2. ICZM

At the ICZM-9 meeting in January 2010 the issue Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) was raised again in order to discuss a collaboration with other bodies to use all available information and knowledge. It is envisaged to cooperate with the WSF shipping group as well as with EUCC and the German Küsten-Kontor, a coordination office for ICZM activities. This will be a first step to install a MSP information network on trilateral level.

The sustainability indicator tool has been further developed and improved by a consultant. The structure and formula of the different levels have been cross-checked and a comprehensive documentation and manual is now available. Some ecological indicators are still under development and the data will be filled in soon.

The indicator set is a tool for the WSF to communicate the developments in sustainability with so-called indexes to the Forum members for discussing the developments, for politicians and decision-makers in the Wadden Sea regions and municipalities to know about the sustainability development trends.

3. Energy, Industry and Infrastructure (EII)

The EII-9 meeting took recently place in Wilhelmshaven and discussed future tasks and work topics. The main topics will be:

- harbour development
 - container handling in harbours
 - off-shore wind industry (support, facilitation, transport)
 - harbour related infrastructure
 - harbour concept, cooperation
- electric grid development, on and off-shore
- energy production on local level, e.g. zero emission concept on islands
- update of information (study, data sets, web site)
- CCS (further debate and knowledge exchange about developments; ad hoc decisions on activities)

4. Shipping

With regard to the Trilateral Governmental Conference (TGC-11) on Sylt, the meeting discussed shipping safety related recommendations, particular the PSSA evaluation by Solent University and a PSSA extension for which no political commitment could be reached for the time being. The meeting supported measures for better data availability, the need for awareness raising and the development of a joint vision for the PSSA. In this respect, the shipping group aims at a close cooperation between the Trilateral Wadden Sea Board and the WSF.

Besides Maritime Spatial Planning, which will be an important work topic in the forthcoming period, further topical issues will be shipping safety, including traffic controls systems, traffic management and container shipping.

B. Topical Issues

1. WSF final report

In early March the WSF report "Without Frontiers" was finalized and printed. The report compiles the achievements in cross-border and cross-sector collaboration since the signing of the MOU between the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation and the WSF in May 2008. The report was introduced and distributed at the TGC-11 in Westerland/Sylt and is available on the WSF website. Hardcopies can be ordered at the WSF secretariat.



2. Goose-Recommendations and guidance document

The effective management of geese is an issue of increasing relevance in the Wadden Sea Region. On the one hand, geese "belong" to the area and are a typical element of the Wadden Sea Region biodiversity. They also constitute an important tourist attraction. On the other hand, some goose species cause loss in quantity and quality of some agricultural yields. Agri-environmental payment schemes are in some parts of the area considered as acceptable, whereas in other regions these are insufficient and inflexible, or non-existent. However, goose management effectiveness in general needs improvement.

A first step to a common management was made by the Goose Management Group, who elaborated a common perspective and approach for developing a trilateral goose management plan. The report was delivered to the TWSC in early March. In the coming month, a decision has to be taken by the Wadden Sea Board and the WSF how to proceed.

The report of the Goose Management Group is available on the website http://www.waddensea-forum.org/Specialissues/Goose/GRD-final_layout.pdf



3. TGC-11 results

On 17 – 19 March 2010 the 11th Trilateral Governmental Conference of the Dutch-German-Danish Wadden Sea cooperation took place on the island of Sylt. An highlight was the signing of the Joint Ministerial Declaration by Parliamentary State Secretary Ursula Heinen-Esser of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Germany, Karen Ellemann, Minister of Environment, Denmark and Gerda Verburg, Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, The Netherlands on 18 March.

The three governments in their statements welcomed the work of the Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) and supported a continuation for the coming period. Also the panel discussion made clear that a close cooperation between the Trilateral Cooperation and the WSF would be very worthwhile to tackle the challenges of a sustainable development in the coastal zone and the off-shore areas.

Further information about the conference, including all documents:

<http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/tgc/TGC-Sylt-2010.html>



4. Maritime Spatial Planning

The call for proposals for the implementation of the "*preparatory action on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in the North East Atlantic / North Sea / Channel area*" has been renewed as no project proposal was submitted last year. The new deadline for project submission is now 30 April 2010. The WSF is still in contact with Wageningen UR, Centre for Marine Policy, the envisaged lead partner. The focus of the project will probably be on two case studies: southern North Sea and German Bight.

5. Energy SuperGrid



Several North Sea countries are aiming to create a clean and green supergrid. This supergrid should connected off-shore wind farms with installation onshore in UK, Germany and hydro-lectric dams of Norway. This project aims to be ready soon with a network of thousands of kilometers of highly efficient undersea cables. These network cables will cost around 30 billion Euro. But legal uncertainty and the risk of stranded investments are hindering the development of such an offshore grid. In most of the countries the regulatory framework does not clarify what support an offshore wind farm could be eligible for, if the farm is connected to several different countries.

C. WSF Meetings

20 April 2010	ICZM-10, Hamburg
26 April 2010	EII-10, phone conference
29 April 2010	SC-9, Hamburg
19 – 20 May 2010	WSF-16 meeting, Heide

D. Symposia & Events

11 - 17 April 2010, Estoril, Portugal

International Conference on Coastal Conservation and Management in the Atlantic and Mediterranean
<http://icccm.dcea.fct.unl.pt>

15 April 2010, various venues in Germany

Tag der Logistik, www.tag-der-logistik.de/events/events.php

17 - 25 April 2010 Nationalpark Wattenmeer Schleswig-Holstein

13. Ringelganstage in der Biosphäre Halligen, www.ringelganstage.de/programm.phtml

28 - 29 April 2010, London, UK

Water and Environment 2010, CIWEM's Annual Conference, www.ciwem.org/events/annual_conference

3 - 6 May 2010, List/Sylt, Germany

The Wadden Sea: Changes and Challenges in a World Heritage Site

ECSA 46 Scientific Conference, AWI Wadden Sea Station List, www.hull.ac.uk/iecs/ecsa/index.htm

3 – 7 May 2010 Paris, France

5th Global Oceans Conference 2010

www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/GOC5_leaflet_English.pdf

26 - 27 May 2010, Göteborg, Sweden

SAWA Mid-Term-Conference, www.conference.sawa-project.eu/

27 - 28 May 2010 Helsinki, Finland

ESPO Conference 2010 'Living and Working with Ports - the Human face of a global business sector,
www.espo-conference.com

2 – 4 June 2010, Quebec City, Canada

World Heritage and Tourism: Managing for the Global and the Local

<http://english.fsa.ulaval.ca/sgc/faculty/quebec2010>

15 - 18 June 2010, Nyborg, Denmark

EUTRO2010: The symposium will focus on existing knowledge in relation to coastal eutrophication, in particular the most recent scientific results, monitoring and modelling, socio-economy and valuation of eutrophication and adaptive and knowledge-based nutrient management strategies. www.eutro2010.dhi.dk

28 – 30 June 2010 Nouakchott, Mauretania

PRCM Conference

www.prcmarine.mr/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=128&Itemid=397

26 August 2010, Wilhelmshaven, Germany

5th Wadden Sea Day, Annual trilateral Wadden Sea conference

21 - 23 September, London, Great Britain

Littoral 2010 – an international conference for researchers and practitioners

"Adapting to global change at the coast: Leadership, Innovation, and Investment"

www.coastnet.org.uk/Littoral2010

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