



**Wadden Sea Forum
Steering Committee
4th Meeting
Hamburg, 16 April 2008**

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening

The meeting was opened by the chairman, Mr. Klimant, at 11:00 hours. The host of the meeting, Mr. Schuhbauer, welcomed the participants to the RWE/DEA office. The secretary informed that Mr. Holstein, Mr. Hinrichs and Ms. Kruisinga had apologised. Ms. Boel Madsen participates on behalf of Mr. Andresen. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**. The agenda was adopted and is in **Annex 2**.

2. Minutes SC-3

The final draft minutes of the SC-3 meeting, Wilhelmshaven, 31 October 2007 were **adopted**.

3. Announcements

Ms. Madsen informed that it had now been decided that the Danish Wadden Sea would become a national park. Realisation is expected in 2010.

Mr. Klimant informed that the World Heritage nomination discussion in Germany had been finalised. Hamburg was not part of the nomination. Mr. de Jong added that, following the submission of the application, there would be a scoping by IUCN in the Wadden Sea Region in the course of 2008, investigating several basic elements of the application, amongst which the opinion of stakeholders. Mr. Rothkopf informed that some amendments to the dossier had been made, following comments by the Wilhelmshavener harbour development union.

Mr. Schuhbauer informed that an exploration permit for parts of the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea had been applied for. Conditions were that there would be no additional exploitation platform and that future production would be carried out from allowed sites only. The exploration is expected to be done in 2009-2010. The lowest impact option is not yet available. Mr. Klimant added that in this way the activity was more acceptable to the general public. Answering a question by Mr. Verheij, Schuhbauer informed that plans for the Lower Saxonian Wadden Sea are still in the evaluation phase.

Mr. Verheij informed about a recent ruling by the Dutch administrative court, according to which a license for mussel fishery for the spring of 2006, has been declared invalid, because there is insufficient scientific information about the impacts. New scientific information is expected to become available within 2 years only, which has caused a problematic situation for the survival of mussel fisheries.

Mr. de Jong announced a trilateral workshop on mussel fisheries, addressing the future management, in particular in the light of requirements of the EU Habitats Directive. This issue is highly topical, not only in the Netherlands, but also in Lower Saxony and Denmark. Also for other types of human use, the outcome of the workshop might be relevant.

Ms. Madsen informed in this respect that a licence for mussel fisheries in the Danish Wadden Sea had been withdrawn because not all available scientific information had been applied.

Mr. Verheij informed about developments that had taken place after the Ems Campaign. His organisation had been approached by the Meijer Shipyard to start a discussion on a pragmatic basis, i.e. taking as a starting point that the shipyard will stay in Papenburg. There are also contacts with the Ems-Dollard Commission, which intends to develop a bilateral management plan for the region, and with the Interessengemeinschaft Ems. He particularly mentioned the development of a digital drawing board for the estuary as an interactive instrument for discussion.

4. Memorandum of Understanding WSF-TWSC

Document: SC-4-4-1 WSF budget

The chairman informed the participants about the outcome of a meeting between the TWSC Senior Officials and himself, held on 14 April in the evening. The main points of discussion had been the financing of WSF and the draft MoU.

The TWSC had proposed several amendments to the draft MoU, in particular with regard to the budget. Furthermore the wish had been expressed to attach a work programme to the MoU (see further agenda item 6).

The secretary first presented the amendments, requested by the TWSC, to the draft MoU, as adopted at the WSF-11 meeting. The amendments are in **Annex 3** and have been marked. The Steering Committee **strongly expressed** that it did not feel confident with these amendments, because on the one hand more was requested from WSF and, on the other hand, less support offered. The meeting feared this might negatively influence the quality of the WSF work. However, considering the urgent need for WSF to increase its activity level, the meeting generally **agreed** to the proposed amendments, with the following exceptions:

- Section 3.2. The meeting referred to the WSF final report "Breaking the Ice", that had been submitted to the Schiermonnikoog Conference and that contained proposal for sustainable development that had, so far not been reflected by TWSC. The meeting therefore **agreed** that the text under 3.2 should read "...report on the outcome of its work."
- Section 3.3. The meeting emphasised that it concerned a WSF work programme, still to be discussed and adopted by WSF. Moreover, the meeting strongly felt that WSF should have the opportunity to adapt the programme if necessary. It was therefore **agreed** that the text should read "base themselves on the outline of a work programme.."

The secretary then presented and elaborated the amended budget, as adopted by TWSC. The budget is in **Annex 4**. The meeting expressed its disappointment about the fact that TWSC had not stood to its promise of a 50/50 financing, but **adopted** the budget, considering the urgent need to finalise the negotiations.

It was **agreed** to mandate the chairman to negotiate the WSF position with the TWSC and to sign the MoU. It is the intention that this will be done at the SO-28 meeting, Bonn, 27 May 2008.

5. PROGRESS WGs AND WSF ACTIVITIES

Mr. Rothkopf reported about the meeting of the WG EII, held 11 April 2008. He presented an Excel sheet with an overview of projects along the Wadden Sea coast, mainly focusing on energy and infrastructure. It was the intention to keep the activity as simple as possible with regular updating by relevant WSF members. The meeting appreciated the initiative as a valuable contribution to the WSF work. After some discussion it was **agreed** not to make the data available to the general public.

Rothkopf promised to prepare a brief introductory document for WSF-12.

WG EII furthermore proposed, to arrange for two presentations at WSF-12 about offshore wind energy developments in and adjacent to the Wadden Sea, and on the potential impacts of energy development in the Region (amongst which dredging, harbour development). This proposal was **adopted**.

Mr. Verheij reported about the activities of WG ICZM. The group had worked on the analysis of several projects for their ICZM content. It is the intention to use the material as basis for a WSF workshop, planned for 11 November 2008.

WG EII had also discussed the further development of the sustainability indicator tool. It had been agreed to present the results of a first round of testing to WSF-13.

The secretary reported about a meeting of WG Agriculture on 2 April 2008 in the province Fryslân (NL). The meeting had been informed about meadow bird protection programmes and continued the discussion about geese management.

The secretary furthermore informed that it was currently being investigated whether there was sufficient material for a meeting of WG shipping.

It was noticed that Hans Janssen had taken the initiative to restart the WG Tourism. It was unclear whether this initiative would have a follow-up. It was **agreed** that the secretary would contact Janssen.

6. Work Programme WSF

Document: SC-4-6-1 Draft work programme WSF

The meeting discussed a first draft of a WSF Work Programme, including amendments proposed by the TWSC in the framework of the MoU (see also agenda item 4).

The amendments desired by TWSC are:

- section B to be divided into common projects and WSF projects;
- to list the common projects in order of priority, the sustainability indicator project having highest priority;
- to amend the objective of project No. 10 (sustainability indicators) now reading "Development of a tool for measuring progress in sustainable development *and evaluating projects*,";
- to amend the objective of project No. 11 (Rules/regulations), now reading "...where such is considered appropriate by the WSF *and TWSC*."
- to delete Running No. 19, since this had already been included in project No. 10.

The meeting **adopted** these amendments with the following annotations:

- the WP should have an introduction, describing the mission of WSF, in particular the elaboration of sustainable development perspectives, the background of the WP (Breaking the Ice, WSF Action Plan), as well as priorities set by WSF on the basis of a questionnaire circulated among its members.
- public relations should be added as an additional activity;

- the preparation of the WSP final report should be added as an additional activity;
- it should be mentioned that the number of WG meetings is indicative;
- the meeting emphasised that the priority setting of activities had already been done at the WSF-8 meeting in 2006. Nevertheless, it was agreed to put the sustainable indicators project at the top of the category B.I.

The chairman was **mandated** to further negotiate the finalisation of the WP with the TWSC.

7. DRAFT AGENDA WSF-12

Document: SC-4-7-1 Draft agenda WSF-12

The meeting **adopted** the proposed draft agenda for the WSF-12 meeting, Husum, 5-6 June 2008.

WSF-12 would have to decide upon a date and location for WSF-13. Since Denmark was due for hosting the meeting, it was **agreed** that Karin Boel Madsen would investigate the options. It was furthermore agreed that the meeting would be held in week 47.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no any other business.

9. NEXT MEETING

It was **agreed** to hold the next SC meeting (SC-5) on 15 October. Mr. Schuhbauer kindly invited to host the meeting.

10. CLOSING

The meeting was closed at 15:45 hours at the latest. The chairman thanked Mr. Schuhbauer for the excellent hospitality.

ANNEX 2. Agenda

1. Opening

2. Minutes SC-3

3. Announcements

4. Memorandum of Understanding WSF-TWSC

5. Progress WGs and WSF activities

6. Work Programme WSF

7. Draft agenda WSF-12

8. Any other business

9. Next meeting

10. CLOSING

Annex 3

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

the Wadden Sea Forum (WSF)

and

the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC)

[draft version, adopted by WSF-11, November 2007]
amendments proposed by SO-27, April 2008

1. Purpose and basic principles

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish a working arrangement between the Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) and the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC).

2.2 The MOU is based on the mutual acknowledgement by WSF and TWSC of the Guiding Principle, the Shared Principles, the Shared Vision, and the Targets, as laid down in the Wadden Sea Plan, respecting the existing protection levels and ensuring economic development and quality of life.

2. Background

Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation

In the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation the governments of the three Wadden Sea States Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands have cooperated on the Protection of the Wadden Sea since 1978, in particular on nature protection and wise management, for a transboundary wetland of international worldwide importance in terms of legal protection, harmonised targets and policies, management agreements, integrated monitoring and assessment procedures.

Wadden Sea Forum

The Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) is an independent platform of stakeholder organisations in the Wadden Sea Region, aiming at finding a balance between different interests in the Wadden Sea Region. To this end WSF will

- exchange information on experiences and best practice with regard to sustainable development in the Wadden Sea Region;
- exchange views on general themes and topical issues;
- prepare advice on issues related to sustainable development and integrated coastal zone management;
- implement projects and actions on topical issues;
- serve as consultation body for governments.

3. Working Agreement

3.1 Consultation and Advice

For the purpose of this Memorandum, WSF will serve as independent trilateral advisory and consultation body to the TWSC. To this end WSF will prepare relevant statements and background information to the TWSC, either upon request by TWSC or upon the initiative of WSF member organisations, in particular:

- WSF will be consulted and will prepare advice on matters regarding sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region;
- WSF will discuss and integrate, to the extent possible, relevant input by the regional Wadden Sea advisory bodies and submit the results to the TWSC on a regular basis;
- WSF will be consulted in the framework of the further development of the Wadden Sea Plan, the draft Declaration of the 2010 Wadden Sea Conference, national ICZM strategies and other issues of relevance for the Wadden Sea Region in so far this is within the mandate of the TWSC;
- WSF will be consulted with regard to the further development of national ICZM strategies.

3.2 For the purpose of this Memorandum WSF will deliver proposals for sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region to the 2010 Wadden Sea Conference.

Work Programme

3.3 The parties have agreed to a work programme, covering the period of the MOU and reflecting the purpose and working agreement of the MOU, which is in **Annex 1**.

4. Responsibilities

4.1 Representation

The WSF chairperson will, on behalf of the WSF, participate in the trilateral Wadden Sea Board to inform and advise the TWSC. Forum members will, if appropriate, have the opportunity to present views on specific matters to the TWSC.

National representatives of the TWSC will participate as observers in WSF plenary meetings and, in accordance with the Work Programme, as full members of relevant WSF working groups (see 3.2).

4.2 Facilitation

WSF members and the TWSC will jointly bear the costs of a WSF secretariat, as laid down in Annex 2, . with the basic contribution of the TWSC not exceeding annually 30.000€ not excluding the possibility for the partners to add additional financing at a later point or for specific activities The WSF secretariat will be hosted in the CWSS office and overhead costs covered by the CWSS.

The WSF secretariat will operate independently of the TWSC and will refer directly to the WSF chairperson.

5. Coming into Effect and Expiry

5.1 This memorandum will come into effect on the date of the signature by the parties.

5.2 The Memorandum will expire on 31 December 2010.

5.3 This memorandum will be evaluated with a view to appropriate decision making regarding renewal before the end of 2010