

WADDEN SEA FORUM

Thematic Group Policy and Management

TG PM 3

Vester Vedsted, 25-26 September 2003

FINAL MINUTES

AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING

Document: Proposed Annotated Draft agenda TG Policy and Management (TG PM 3-1)

The chairman welcomed the participants to the 3rd meeting of the Thematic Group Policy and Management. A list of the participants is in **Annex 1**. At the first day of the meeting also Mr Jens Sorensen of the University of Boston, international ICZM-expert, who gave a presentation about the issue in an international perspective in the evening, Ms Eva Roth of the University of South Denmark and Mr Joe Weston of the Oxford Brooks University, who presented the commissioned review, participated as observers.

The chairman noted that unfortunately a number of members had informed that they would not be able to attend the meeting. He further noted that Mr v.d. Mark and Mr Kohls had not shown up and furthermore the agricultural sector had a vacancy. The meeting **agreed** that it was very regrettable that the sectors were participating insufficiently in the meetings in view of the group's task of integrating the various approaches of the WSF work. The meeting strongly supported that the chairman should raise the issue of lack of participation at the next WSF meeting.

The meeting **adopted** the proposed draft agenda without amendments. The agenda is in **Annex 2**.

AGENDA ITEM 2. REPORT TG-2

Document: TG 2 Workshop. Assen, NL, 23-24 June 2003. Draft Report

The meeting **adopted** §7.5 of the draft report concerning the meeting of the Thematic Group. The action by the chair and the secretariat outlined in the report, had been superseded by the overall work program of the thematic groups.

AGENDA ITEM 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

AGENDA ITEM 4. EXTERNAL STUDIES

4.1 Review of Legal Instruments and Policies

Documents:

- Review of International Legal Instruments, Policies and Management in respect of the Wadden Sea Region. Executive Summary (TG PM 3-4.1-1)
- Review of International Legal Instruments, Policies and Management in respect of the Wadden Sea Region. Final Report for the Wadden Sea Forum. August 2003. Distributed to the members mail.
- Copy slides presentation by Joe Weston, Oxford Brookes University. Distributed at the meeting.

Mr Weston emphasized that the Impact Assessment Unit (IAU) of the Oxford Brookes, commissioned with the review, is an interdisciplinary and independent research team. The IAU had done e. g. the five

year review of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive for the European Commission and a guidance for the appropriate assessment of projects and plans with regard to the Habitats Directive also for the Commission. He summarized the overall conclusions of the review:

- There are areas where the key EU Directives are not being applied consistently across the Wadden Sea Region as a whole, the main approach to implementation is primarily "top-down" with little real or effective horizontal coordination
- There is little evidence that the competent authorities of the Wadden Sea are applying a "Wadden Sea perspective" to decision making, the State Declaration and the Wadden Sea Plan lack the required enforceable legitimate authority to ensure consistency of decision making
- ICZM is an ambitious project that requires both vertical and horizontal management and cooperation between agencies as well as commitment to establish the required enforceable legitimate authority to ensure its success
- The trends flowing from international and community policy initiatives suggest that in the future areas like the Wadden Sea will need to be managed on the basis of public consent, integration of conservation with social and economic needs and the application of management tools such as SEA and ICZM

The recommendations of the review have been divided into 4 strategic recommendations and 7 specific recommendations. The latter are such a kind that they could be implemented in the short term whereas the strategic ones are of a more general nature.

The participants briefly exchanged preliminary views on the report. Ms Mack, supported by Mr Rösner stated that the conclusions of the review are rather general and would probably be equally applicable to many other European Union members as well and therefore questioned the relevance of the conclusions and recommendations for the Wadden Sea specifically. Mr Weston responded that, whilst this might be true these were criteria against which the implementation should be tested. Mr Rösner added that in his opinion there is doubt whether the report acknowledged the progress made in the conservation of the Wadden Sea and the achievements of the trilateral cooperation sufficiently on all levels and that the conclusions and recommendations therefore needed to be discussed, taking account of the present level of protection and management.

The meeting agreed to proceed as follows:

- To collect written comments on the report from the members on the basis of which a common inventory would be made by the secretariat
- To discuss the conclusions and recommendations in detail at the next meeting with a view to report to the Wadden Sea Forum.

4.2 Socio-economic studies

The secretary briefly informed the meeting that the inventories socio-economic situation in the Danish and the German Wadden Sea Regions as commissioned by the Wadden Sea Forum would soon be available on the website.

The meeting **noted** the information and urged the secretariat to make sure that all necessary information would be available in time before the next round of TG meetings.

AGENDA ITEM 5. COASTAL PROTECTION

Documents:

- Coastal Protection and Sea Level Rise. Final Report of the Trilateral Working Group on Coastal Protection and Sea Level Rise. Wadden Sea Ecosystem No. 13 – 2001
- Communication note (in Dutch, Danish and German) on CPSL disseminated at the meeting

Mr Hofstede, chairman of the Coastal Protection and Seal Level Rise (CPSL) working group, informed the meeting of the work of the CPSL. He referred to the conclusions and the recommendations of the report. He in particular referred to the recommendation to start developing long-term inter-disciplinary policies for coastal defense, nature protection and economic development in the coastal area. Further the recommendation to investigate the feasibility of Best Environmental Practice options, is also a main task of the CPSL follow-up work. He considered the CPSL work to be very relevant for the TG PM also in relation to climate change and integrated coastal zone management and suggested a close collaboration between the CPSL and the TG PM.

The meeting **welcomed** the information and **agreed to** a close collaboration and exchange of information between the TG PM and the CPSL.

AGENDA ITEM 6. SCENARIO BUILDING

Documents: Generic Scenarios, Version 1 Summary (TG PM 3/6/1)
Generic Scenarios, Version 1. 28 August 2003

After a brief introduction by the chairman to the generic scenarios the participants commented on the 4 worlds of the scenarios. The comments were **noted** by the secretariat to be included in a further amendment of the scenarios. It was **agreed** that further comments should be delivered until 30 September 2003.

As a next step, the meeting discussed the sector specific trends identified at TG 2 as listed in the minutes in relation to the generic scenarios with a view to identify possible consequences in the four worlds.

SECTOR TRENDS	CAUTIOUS WORLD	FUTURE UNLIMITED	SATISFIED CITIZENS	CHALLENGING WORLD
Climate change	Reactive – avert risk	Innovative - adaptive	Proactive, innovative, locally oriented	Passive, letting go
Tourism & leisure time	Same level as today or little more	Diversification, increase pressure, niche market	Increase, diversification, mass tourism	
Environmental Quality	Slight improvement	Neutral	Decline	Neutral/ decline
Structural Funds European Union	Decrease	Neutral	Increase national funding	Decrease
Nature perception/ valuation	Increase	Decrease	Decrease	Neutral
Shipping safety	Increase	Strong increase	Decrease	Significant decrease

The secretariat was **tasked** with elaborating the sector specific scenarios to be included in the generic scenarios on the basis of the input of the TG PM.

AGENDA ITEM 7. STRATEGIES

The meeting discussed how to develop strategies. Strategies are policies, measures, actions and projects which will be carried out by the different stakeholders and institutions. If a strategy is able to “survive” or will be feasible in basically 3 out of the 4 worlds it is considered a robust strategy and therefore a strategy which would be worthwhile pursuing .

The meeting briefly brainstormed about possible strategies. Mr Marquenie stated that a central issue would be how to manage the Wadden Sea in a coherent way. An idea to be discussed could be the establishment of a Wadden Sea Council in which all governmental and non-governmental interests would be represented and which would aim to ensure coherence in terms of protection, management and the social-economic development of the area. Further he considered issues such as the shellfish fishery, coastal defense and the relevant EU Directives relevant for the strategy discussion.

Mr Rösner brought up three issues for further consideration. Firstly the need to strengthen the trilateral cooperation, however possibly not to the extent suggested by the Oxford review because it might be appropriate to maintain a certain level of regional differences and distinctiveness. Secondly, the establishment of a trilateral Wadden Sea national park could be an idea worthwhile pursuing to ensure coherency in protection and management. Finally, the awareness that the Wadden Sea constitutes a

shared and unique nature area with global responsibilities, should be promoted. The International Wadden Sea School (IWSS), currently running in a pilot phase, could be a central element in such a strategy.

Mr Blanner contested that the trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation was as weak as suggested in the Oxford review. He suggested to pursue three strategy-issues in the forthcoming discussions, namely the integrated coastal zone management strategy, a further review of the Habitats and Birds Directives areas and the Wadden Sea perspective as set out by Oxford with regard to screening and scooping in the framework of environmental impact assessments.

Mr Frikke added that in the spirit of the integrated coastal zone management and coherence of management and development, mentioned by the former speakers, it could be worthwhile to consider making one overall trilateral Wadden Sea Conference with representatives of all levels.

On the suggestion of Mr Rösner it was **agreed** that

- For the next meeting, each of the members should prepare a 5-10 min presentation of strategies reflecting her/his view to be discussed by the participants
- The conclusions and recommendations of the Oxford review mentioned above should be discussed in terms of strategies.

AGENDA ITEM 8. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

On the proposal of the chairman, the participants' ideas for further communication activities in addition to the already decided regional conferences in 2004 and the website, were collected.

Mr Frederiksen stated that all matters related to the WSF were also discussed in the Danish Wadden Sea Advisory Board. It could be an idea to do so in the German and Dutch Wadden Sea regions as well. Mr Rösner supported this view

Mr Frikke emphasized that the Wadden Sea Forum communication should be much more active with a view to reach a larger audience and ensure that the proposals, developed by the Forum, would enjoy broad support in the region.,

It was **agreed** to emphasize, at the forthcoming meeting of the Wadden Sea Forum, that a more active communication of the results of the work of the Forum should be pursued with a view to ensure a broader support of its work and in due course of the proposals developed by the Forum

AGENDA ITEM 9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held according to schedule on **16-17 December 2003** in Schleswig-Holstein. It was suggested to hold the meeting on the island of Föhr, but the exact meeting location will be settled by Mr Rösner and the secretariat.

Mr Marquenie informed that he would not be able to participate in the next meeting due to other obligations. Ms Mack agreed to present his input in the discussion.

AGENDA ITEM 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business

AGENDA ITEM 11. CLOSING

The chairman thanked the participants for interesting and constructive discussions and the organizers for the meeting arrangement. He closed the meeting at about 12:30 h. on September 26, 2003.

Annex 2

**Wadden Sea Forum
Thematic Group Policy & Management
TG PM 3
25 – 26 September 2003**

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Opening
2. Report TG 2
3. Announcements
4. External Studies
 - 4.1 Review of Legal Instruments and Policies
 - 4.2 Socio-Economic Studies
5. Coastal Protection
6. Scenario building
7. Strategies
8. Communication Strategy
9. Next Meeting
10. Any other business
11. Closing