



**Wadden Sea Forum
12th Meeting
Husum, 5-6 June 2008**

FINAL MINUTES

1. Opening and adoption of the Agenda

Document WSF-12-1. Draft Annotated Agenda

The chairman, Mr. Klimant, opened the meeting at 13:00 hours. He welcomed Ms Tineke Schokker (representing the Dutch provinces on behalf of Rinske Kruisinga), the new members Mr. Melf Melfsen and Ms. Susanne Werner (both representing Agriculture Schleswig-Holstein) and Mr Theo Schröder representing the Lower Saxon Government, on behalf of Mr. Hebbelmann. A special welcome was given to Mr Dieter Harrsen, the host of the meeting.

A list of participants is in **Annex 1**.

The meeting **adopted** the agenda. The agenda is in **Annex 2**. A list of meeting documents is in **Annex 3**.

2. Adoption final draft minutes WSF-11

The meeting **adopted** the final draft minutes of the WSF-11 meeting, Wilhelmshaven, 26-27 November 2007.

3. Membership WSF

Document: WSF-12-3.1. Member list

The secretary referred to the WSF member list and introduced the new members. He informed the meeting that Groningen Seaports had requested membership for the sector harbour and Industry NL. The meeting **welcomed** the request.

4. Announcements

Ms. Schokker informed about

- a sailing covenant, agreed between the government and the sailing sector, setting out a code of conduct for sailing in the Wadden Sea;
- a covenant on tidal flat walking between the government and the flat walkers, containing a code of conduct for flat walkers;
- a management and development plan for the Wadden Sea, a first draft of which will be submitted to the responsible minister on 21 June;
- the 1st tender of the Wadden Sea Fund, in which projects will be supported with a total volume of 41 million Euro. The WS Fund has a total volume of 680 million Euros, to be spent in the coming 20 years. She also informed that there were still unsolved problems with the EU Commission about the funding of commercial projects.

It was **agreed** that information about the covenants and the Wadden Sea Fund would be circulated to WSF members.

Mr. Rösner emphasised that the Dutch Wadden Sea Fund shows the high value of the Wadden Sea for the Dutch society.

Mr. Koßmagk-Stephan informed that the Schleswig-Holstein Agency for Coastal Defence, National Park and Marine Conservation was established on the 1st January 2008. The National Park authority is now in the department "National Park and Marine Conservation" of the new agency, which has in total some 750 employees.

Mr. Christensen informed that the atlas of cultural heritage for the Danish Wadden Sea Region that was developed as a result of the LancewadPlan Project is now serving the Danish Wadden Sea municipalities as a basis for their planning of cultural heritage. He also announced that in week 34 a Wadden Sea Festival will be held with themes covering gastronomy, art and music (www.vadehavsfestival.dk). He finally informed the meeting that in autumn 5 thematic workshops will be held as a warming up for the national park implementation process.

Mr. Klimant informed that the SH government and the oil industry had agreed that oil exploitation would only be carried out from the existing Mittelplate platform and/or from land.

Mr. Verheij informed about a ruling by the Dutch Administrative Court (Raad van State) regarding a license for mussel fishery in the Dutch Wadden Sea. According to the ruling, the license, issued in 2006, should not have been given because the information about possible impacts on the ecosystem (sediment, food availability for birds) was considered insufficient. The ruling has caused much debate because it will take a while before new scientific information will become available and it is unclear what will happen to the sector. The government has decided that, for the time being, fisheries may continue on a smaller scale.

To this Ms. Schokker added that the application of mussel seed catch installations may interfere with shrimp fisheries, both making use of the same area.

5. Minutes 4th meeting Steering Committee

Document: WSF12-5.1. Report SC-4

The meeting took note of the minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee, SC-4, Hamburg, 16 April 2008. No further comments were made.

6. Memorandum of Understanding TWSC-WSF

Document: WSF12-6-1 Memorandum of Understanding

The chairman introduced the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) and WSF, which has recently been signed by both parties. The secretary explained the development of the MoU, a first draft of which had been adopted by WSF-11. The trilateral Senior Officials had proposed several amendments to this draft, which had been discussed and partly amended by the SC-4 meeting (see minutes SC-4 meeting). Furthermore, he explained the budget and its reduction from 120,000 € to 90,000 € per year. Taking into account the overhead of 15.000 € covered by the CWSS, a 50/50 financing by TWSC and regional authorities in WSF has been settled.

The Danish Wadden Sea municipalities had, for principal reasons, informed the WSF chairman, that they would contribute 10,000 €, while the Dutch provinces had increased their contribution to 20,000 €. Considering the final budget of 90,000 €, Mr. Andresen informed that the Danish

municipalities would reconsider their position and investigate whether a Danish contribution of 15,000 € would be possible.

Ms. Schokker stated that the Dutch provinces would investigate whether the 20,000 € contribution could be maintained.

In conclusion, the chairman recalled the benefits of the MoU and the necessity of a good cooperation between the TWSC and the WSF. With the new agreement, the WSF would get a better stake in the trilateral cooperation and a sound information exchange is guaranteed by the participation of members in each of the meetings.

7. Progress WSF activities

Document WSF-12-7.1. Progress Report; WSF12-7.2 Wadden Sea Project Inventory

The meeting was informed about progress of several WSF activities.

A) ICZM

Mr. Verheij gave a short report about the working group activities as outlined in the document. He informed that the workshop on the status of ICZM implementation and the interpretation of ICZM principles, planned for 11 November, will have to be postponed, because the analysis of different cases for ICZM content has not yet been concluded. Furthermore, the ICZM group together with an external bureau will further develop and test the sustainability indicator tool.

B) AGRICULTURE

Mr. Sinnema reported about the activities of the WG agriculture. The emphasis was on the protection of meadow birds on which a workshop was held 2 April 2008 in the province Fryslân. The management approach being developed looks very promising. It was **agreed** that the presentation would be put on the Internet and that it would be tried to invite Mr. Engelman to give a presentation at WSF-13.

Another important topic discussed at the 2 April meeting was geese grazing, effecting agriculture. What is particularly needed is more flexibility in EU compensation schemes, as well as the possibility to compensate for damage.

A WSF letter has been sent to the European Committee of the Region, asking to pay attention to the problem. Upon request of the Committee additional information is being collected.

The secretary informed that the Danish government plans a workshop on goose grazing in autumn this year. It was **agreed** that it should be tried to involve WSF in the planning of this workshop.

Ms. Schokker added that the increasing goose populations now also interfere with meadow birds.

Mr. Rösner stated that goose grazing should not only be regarded as a problem, since it also provided opportunities for tourism. He emphasised that an international approach was needed.

C) ENERGY, INDUSTRY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The secretary briefly reported about the activities of the WG Energy, Industry & Infrastructure which has met on 11 April 2008. WG EII would concentrate on offshore energy development, as well as the impacts of energy development in general. For these themes it was proposed to commission an inventory and analysis of all existing plans. The meeting **agreed** that WG EII would submit Terms of Reference for such a study to WSF-13.

WG EII had also developed a simple tool to inventory energy and harbour-related activities along the coast. The meeting briefly discussed document WSF-12-7-2, submitted by the chairman of WG EII, describing the merits of the tool. Generally it was considered worthwhile for the work of WSF. It was however recognised that it might not be easy to keep the information updated. The meeting was not in favour of keeping the information confidential.

It was **agreed** that WG EII should further develop the tool as pilot project.

D) SHIPPING

Mr. Loos presented the result of the WG shipping, which had a meeting prior to the WSF plenary meeting. The shipping group discussed the existing towing capacity in the southern North Sea and pointed at the lacking capacity in Denmark. Although new capacities will be installed in Germany, several insufficiencies do exist, e.g. a missing emergency capacity between NN -10m and the coastline, insufficient cooperation between the three countries and gaps in radar control in estuaries. The WG welcomed the IMO decision to ban heavy fuel oil from 2020 on (2015 North Sea) in order to reduce the emissions, but pointed also at problems of implementation and fair competition. With regard to the PSSA evaluation, the WG shipping proposed to designate the WG chair as member of the evaluation steering group.

Finally, the project "Fishing for litter" was briefly introduced to the Forum. In The Netherlands the fishermen have started with a project, to bring by-caught litter to the harbours for further disposal. It was **agreed** that at the next WSF meeting in November, a presentation will be given about the approach and status of the project as well as about the cooperation at transnational level. It was also **agreed** to include the issue, which has been carried by KIMO since 2000 (www.kimointernational.org/Default.aspx?tabid=129), into the work of WG Shipping.

E) TOURISM

Also the Tourism group had met shortly before the WSF meeting and Mr. Vollmer recalled the main items discussed. Whereas the tourism boards focus primarily on the local level and concrete projects with benefits for the region, the tourism group considers the different levels of interest, and sees advantages in a common vision and strategy for marketing a common brand. It was made clear that the two levels have to be combined. The nomination of the Wadden Sea as World Heritage Site would be a good opportunity to restart the process. To begin with, an inventory of the needs and views of the local tourism boards will be undertaken. Also the international gastronomy award had been discussed and it was agreed that WG Tourism would coordinate relevant activities. Mr. Christensen mentioned that a Danish platform for participating in the Gastronomy Award will be developed this year in cooperation with a newly formed Danish NGO called Wadden Sea Products (DK) and that gastronomy is a theme in the coming Danish Wadden Sea Festival from 16th to 24th of August (www.vadehavsfestival.dk).

8. Interreg IVB

Mr. de Jong informed the participants about relevant developments with regard to an Interreg IVB application. The application would be coordinated by the CWSS and a meeting had been held with possible partners from the UK, Belgium and Sweden. There was a high degree of overlap between the interests of the participants, who agreed that the project would focus on evaluating experiences with ICZM, assessing the practical relevance of sustainability indicators and investigating differences in sustainability within and outside nature protection areas. The project would be a very good opportunity for implementing the common activities of the TWSC and the WSF, as laid down in the WSF work program (see agenda item 9). The meeting supported the approach and considered the project a good opportunity for raising the profile of WSF.

9. Work Programme

Document: WSF 12-9.1 draft work programme

At WSF-11 it had been decided that a WSF work programme would be submitted for discussion to WSF-12. Document WSF 12-9.1 contains a first draft WSF Work Programme, which is also attached as Annex to the MoU (see agenda item 6). The meeting comprehensively discussed the document and **decided** as follows:

GENERAL.

Add public relations as a regular activity, relevant for all WSF meetings, actions and projects

A. REGULAR ACTIVITIES

1. Replace tasks by text as in the MoU.
6. Replace "Agriculture and related nature management" by "sustainable agriculture".
7. Shrimp fishing to be an explicit part of this activity. It will be useful to start a discussion group on the Marine Stewardship Certificate (MSC).
8. Add. Coordinate projects 13 and 14.

BI. COMMON ACTIVITIES

General: local governments to be added.

11. As a start, all WSF sectors will submit rules/regulations they consider redundant or too complicated.
12. Project description to be updated. Shrimp fisheries to be included. Outcome of mussel fisheries to be taken into account.

BII. WSF ACTIVITIES

13. Data base. Use energy/harbour activities as pilot (see also agenda item 7c). Make use of information contained in WHS inventory and relevant national report prepared for Habitat Directive implementation.
14. Gastronomy. Possibly to be organised as part of Danish Wadden Sea festival.
15. Tourism. To be amended in accordance with discussion WG Tourism (see agenda item 7e).
16. Advice TWSC. Important that consultation material (draft WSP, draft Ministerial Declaration) is available in time.

It was **agreed** that an updated version of the Work Programme will be submitted to WSF-13.

10. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards

Documents: WSF12-10-1 Report Dutch Advisory Board; WSF12-10-2 Report Danish Advisory Board

The representatives of the advisory boards presented some information about the proceedings within their boards. The report of the Dutch Advisory Board is in document WSF12-10-1.

Ms. Boel Madsen reported about the work of the Danish Advisory Board. A full report is in document WSF12-10-2.

Mr. Klimant reported about advice prepared by the Dithmarschen Advisory Board concerning oil drilling, dredging of the Elbe river and dumping of dredged material.

11. Progress trilateral cooperation

The secretary reported that the German minister Gabriel, the Dutch minister Verburg and the Danish minister Poulsen had signed a letter of intent on 27 May, declaring that the process of developing a refreshed foundation agreement for the TWSC would be finalised in spring 2009. In the framework of the evaluation of the TWSC it had furthermore been agreed that meetings of the Council of Ministers would be held every three years. Other elements of the organisational structure were still under discussion.

The secretary furthermore informed the meeting that a first consultation version of the further developed Wadden Sea Plan (WSP) would be published in summer 2009.

Mr. Rösner informed that on the occasion of the Biodiversity Convention in Bonn, a Wadden Sea exhibition had been prepared, including a video. Those who were interested could request a copy of the video.

12. Next meeting

The meeting **agreed** on 18 – 19 November as the dates for the next meeting, which will take place on Fanø, DK.

13. Any other business

Ms. Lübcke informed about the MAB activity of the Halligen: "Prima Klima in der Biosphäre".
www.halligen.de

She also informed that on 29 October the 10th anniversary of the Pallas accident will be memorised. There will be talks with politicians and a conference in Cuxhaven. Mr. Rösner suggested linking these activities with a meeting of the shipping group.

Mr. Verheij presented a brochure of the Wadden Sea Society about adaptation to climate change.

14. Closing

The chairman thanked all participants for coming and their fruitful contributions.

He particularly thanked Mr. Harszen for the excellent hosting of the meeting and the sponsoring of the dinner. He furthermore thanked Manfred Vollmer, Georg Nehls and Hans von Wecheln for their interesting presentations.

Finally he thanked the secretary Folkert de Jong for his efforts in supporting and facilitating the WSF and its working groups in the past 6 years. Folkert de Jong will step back from the job as secretary of the WSF. His successor will be Manfred Vollmer, who will lead the new Wadden Sea Forum secretariat as of 1 July.

The chairman closed the meeting 6 June 2008 at 12:00 hours.

Annex 2

Wadden Sea Forum
12th Meeting
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Agenda

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5. Minutes 4th meeting Steering Committee
6. Memorandum of Understanding TWSC-WSF
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8. Interreg IVB
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12. Next meeting
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14. Closing

List of documents**Annex 3**

Document No.	1 Contents	1.1 Delivered		
	2	by	date	2.1 how
	3 Preliminary Draft Programme	Secretariat	22/05/08	3.1 e-mail
Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda				
WSF12-1	Draft annotated agenda WSF-12	Steering Committee	24/04/08	e-mail
Agenda item 2: Adoption final draft minutes WSF-11				
	Final Draft minutes WSF-11	Secretariat	13/12/07	e-mail
Agenda item 3: Membership WSF				
WSF12-3-1	Member list May 2008	Secretariat	26/05/08	e-mail
Agenda item 4: Announcements				
Agenda item 5: Minutes SC-4				
WSF12-5-1	Final Draft Minutes Steering Committee (SC-4)	Secretariat	9/05/08	e-mail
Agenda item 6: Memorandum of Understanding				
WSF12-6-1	Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) WSF-TWSC	Secretariat	29/05/08	e-mail
Agenda item 7: Progress WSF activities				
WSF12-7-1	Progress WSF activities	Secretariat	29/05/08	e-mail
WSF12-7-2	Wadden Sea Project Inventory	Chair WG EII	29/05/08	e-mail
Agenda item 8: Interreg IVB				
Agenda item 9: Work Programme				
WSF 12-9-1	Draft WSF Work Programme	Secretariat	26/05/08	e-mail
Agenda item 10: Advisory Boards				
WSF 12-10-1	Advices Dutch Wadden Sea Advisory Board	Dutch WS Adv Board	26/05/08	e-mail
WSF12-10-2	Report Danish Advisory Board	Karen Boel Madsen	06/06 08	Hand-out