



Wadden Sea Forum

15th Meeting

Aurich, 24-25 November 2009

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

Agenda item 1. Opening and adoption of the Agenda

Document WSF-15-1 Proposed Annotated Draft Agenda

The host of the meeting, Mr. Theuerkauf, welcomed the participants in Aurich. The chairman thanked Mr. Theuerkauf and his staff for the invitation as well as for the preparation and organisation of the whole course of the meeting and opened the plenary at 13:00 on 24 November 2009. After an excursion to the cloister Ihlow, which was very much welcomed and appreciated by the participants, the meeting continued with the agenda. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**. The meeting adopted the agenda without further amendments. The agenda is in **Annex 2**.

A list of agreements and decisions as summary of WSF-15 is in **Annex 3**.

Agenda item 2. Adoption of the minutes WSF 14

Document: WSF-14 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting adopted the final draft minutes of the WSF-14 meeting, Harlingen, 16-17 June 2009 with a slight amendment to the announcement of Mr. Verheij. The announcement in the minutes reads: "Mr. Verheij referred to the agreement between the NGOs and the mussel fisheries sector in The Netherlands and underlined the importance of this agreement for a sustainable fishery for the coming decade."

Agenda item 3. Membership WSF

Document: WSF 15-3.1 Membership list

The secretary referred to the WSF member list and informed the meeting about changes since the last meeting in Harlingen. The changes were marked in the document, whereas Mr. Ohmes from Spiekeroog had disconfirmed his membership as deputy in the Tourism sector of Lower Saxony. The meeting was asked to consider new representatives in the vacant positions.

Agenda item 4. Announcements

The chairman referred to the WSF Newsletter and requested the meeting to contribute to the continuation of the newsletter and to deliver relevant information from the sectors and regions to the secretariat. Only a good support would make the newsletter to a success and a worthwhile information source.

Bernard Baerends recalled the plan for nature recovery in the Wadden Sea and handed out a summary of the plan to the secretariat for further distribution (see **Annex 6**).

Agenda item 5. Minutes 7th meeting Steering Committee

Document: WSF 15-5.1. Minutes SC-7

The meeting took note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting, SC-7, Hamburg, 27 October 2009.

Agenda item 6. Progress WSF activities

Document: WSF 15-6.1 Summary progress report

Document: WSF 15-6.2 Energy Symposium final program

Document: WSF 15-6.3 ICZM workshop report

Additionally to the information given in the progress report, the meeting was informed about further progress of the WSF activities by the chairs of the working groups.

WG ICZM: Mr. Verheij underlined the importance of Maritime Spatial Planning and the need for attention by the working group. Secondly he recalled the sustainability indicator tool and pointed at the aim to introduce the tool and a first sustainability index at the next WSF plenary meeting. Finally, Mr. Verheij recalled the recommendations of the ICZM workshop in June 2009, and asked for adoption by the meeting in order to forward the recommendations to the TGC-11 in March 2010. The meeting agreed that it would be worthwhile to support the cross-sectoral function and horizontal cooperation as well as addressing ICZM at a high governmental level. The meeting agreed to forward the recommendations and to elaborate on the improvement of ICZM.

WG EII: Mr. Rothkopf briefly informed the meeting about the update of the inventory of energy and harbour related activities and asked all WSF for their support to extend the inventory with relevant information. Furthermore, he pointed at the energy symposium, which entailed an excellent program, and invited the meeting to participate in the symposium. Finally, Mr. Rothkopf mentioned the lacking contribution within the working group from Denmark and asked for filling the gaps. In this respect Thomas Christensen informed the meeting about the developments in the harbours of Esbjerg and Horneby on Rømø and promised to help with new representatives.

WG Shipping: Mr. Loos emphasised the need for safe container shipping, as many of the containers would contain dangerous loads and would endanger the Wadden Sea in case of container losses. He further pointed to the PSSA evaluation, of which he very much supported the conclusions drawn by the Solent University Southampton. The main recommendations were:

- extension by including the inner traffic separation scheme
- extended co operation and collaboration
- a more cohesive and effective monitoring program
- raising the level of awareness and education of the PSSA
- development of a northern TSS

Mr. Loos further requested a working group extension by more shipping experts and government representatives to provide a sound knowledge base within the group.

The meeting welcomed the tasks of the shipping group, particularly the support of KIMO in safe container shipping and the dealings with the PSSA evaluation.

WG Agriculture: The work of this working group was only related to goose management and the related information were given under agenda item 7.

WG Tourism: The involvement of the WSF in tourism was discussed under item 15.

WG Fisheries: For the time being, the working group fisheries is passive due to time constraints and missing advantages of a trilateral cooperation. Nevertheless, the representatives of the sector, Manuela Gubernator and Andries de Leeuw, stated the work of the Forum as useful and announced their further participation in plenary meetings to inform about activities and developments of the fishery sector.

Agenda item 7. Goose Management Group

Document: WSF 15-7.1 Draft summary goose report

The secretary introduced the work of the goose management group, the achievements and the preliminary recommendations for the TGC-11. The meeting stated the achievements so far as very valuable and made some amendments to be considered in the final report of the group. It was recommended to draw proposals for go-areas for geese and for measures to attract the geese for these areas. Furthermore, it was proposed to precisely consider the financial framework of compensation schemes when elaborating recommendations for the TGC-11.

Agenda item 8. Harbour development

Document: WSF 15-8.1 Presentation Brunsbüttel Ports

Harbors are very important infrastructure facilities for the economic and social development of the Wadden Sea Region. For an insight in the recent developments, Mr. Schnabel from Brunsbüttel Ports and Mr. Fehrs from the Hamburg Port Authority gave a presentation on the Lower Elberiver Port Cooperation (Hafenkonzept Unterelbe) between Hamburg, Brunsbüttel, Glückstadt, Stade and Cuxhaven. The presentation is **Annex 4**.

In the following, the meeting discussed the harbor concept with regard to benefits for the environment, an increasing shipping safety and economic development.

The harbour concept Unterelbe was seen as a first step of a collaboration of harbors. Cooperation in logistic, disposal of waste and hazardous substances and nautical issues were seen as very valuable, also to protect the environment. It was requested that the harbors should play a bigger role in controlling the container business and not leaving this only to the terminal operators and shipping companies. The WSF tasked the working group shipping to elaborate also on harbor developments and responsibilities.

Agenda item 9. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards

Document: WSF 15-9.1 Report Danish Wadden Sea Advisory Board

Document: WSF 15-9.2 Report Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea Advisory Board

Document: WSF 15-9.3 Report Lower Saxony Wadden Sea Advisory Board

Document: WSF 15-9.4 Report Dutch Wadden Sea Advisory Board

The meeting took note of the reports of the advisory boards. Mr. Theuerkauf amended that on the forthcoming advisory board meeting on 4 December a divisive issue would be discussed, a planned electric power cable from German to Norway to store electricity via water power. Ms. de Boer referred to the outlined Wadden Sea Fund and explained that the fund would be used for improving ecology and cultural landscapes as well as supporting sustainable economy supporting sustainable economy as well as improving ecology and cultural landscapes.

Agenda item 10. Shipping safety , KIMO Resolution

Document: WSF 15-10.1 KIMO Resolution on Container shipping

First issue: Mr. Harm Post from Groningen Seaports gave a presentation about the development of Groningen Seaports and shipping safety and control systems in the Ems estuary. The presentation is in **Annex 5**.

The meeting welcomed the presentation and discussed it controversially, also the issue of the planned power facilities in Eemshaven with regard to climate goals. A traffic management plan and ship management system was very much requested to safeguard the traffic in the Ems estuary, shared by two countries. Mr. Post stated that with the further development of the harbours of Emden and Eemshaven, the management would be installed. There were also concerns about the dredging activities, which would have severe impacts on the fishery sector. And, also the towing capacity would not keep up with the growth rates in the port business.

It was agreed that the working group shipping should take the developments in the Ems estuary on board to work towards sustainability. A representative from Groningen Seaports was announced as a new active member in the working group.

Second issue: At the WSF-14 meeting, the WSF agreed to support KIMO International in its work, to strive for a good cooperation and to forward the concerns to the political level. KIMO forwarded a resolution with regard to container shipping with the request, to adopt the resolution and to make the political level aware of this.

Albert de Hoop as president of KIMO International emphasized the importance of a wide support. It would be very worthwhile to deliver continuously information and expertise to the governmental level to convince the responsible actors. He further informed the meeting that KIMO and OSPAR are cooperating with regard to safe container shipping.

Finally, he asked the WSF to send letters to the EU Commission and to the national governments with the statement that the WSF has adopted the KIMO resolution and that the recommendations were supported. The meeting agreed to this task.

Agenda item 11. WSF Report and Strategic Recommendations for TGC-11

Document: WSF 15-11.1 Outline WSF report

The secretary introduced the outline of the WSF report, to be delivered to the TGC-11 in March 2010. It was common sense that it would be of importance to get support for a continuation of the WSF at the TGC-11. To achieve the support, the report should demonstrate the worthwhile results and benefits of a close cooperation between WSF and TWSC. The report should entail an explanation of future tasks and proposals for concrete projects. But rather than aiming at defining ultimate tasks, this should be taken as a process and tasks would develop throughout the cooperation.

It was emphasized that only a sustainable development of the coastal zone and the EEZs will guarantee best nature protection and its management. Therefore, the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) would benefit from a close collaboration with the WSF. This should also be made clear in the report.

Herman Verheij proposed to amend the report by the topics achievement of the shipping group, future energy production and the evaluation of the MOU. Further, it should also be pointed at a necessary dialogue with other responsible ministries as well as at the WSF position as advisory body.

Thomas Christensen added to mention the achievements of the secretariat like the installed website, the newsletter and the cooperation with Korea.

Hans-Ulrich Rösner proposed to be realistic and not to over emphasize the achievements of the Forum and also to mention the difficulties in the work.

Finally, the meeting agreed to deliver further proposals about contents and structure of the report to the secretariat to be taken into account when elaborating the report. For practical reasons, the meetings mandated the Steering Committee to take further decisions and to oversee the elaboration and delivery of the report.

Agenda item 12. WSF Rules of Procedure

Document: WSF 15-12.1 Rules of Procedure 2006

The chairman referred to the WSF "Rules of procedure" and stated that with the Trilateral Governmental Conference in March 2010, the chairmanship of the Trilateral Cooperation would change from Germany to Denmark. According to the WSF Rules of Procedure, this would also influence the terms of office of the WSF chair.

According to § 3.v., a new chairman had to be elected by the WSF plenary or the present chairman had to be confirmed by the plenary for the coming period.

Mr. Klimant made clear that he would also be available for the next period but that he also could understand the Danish partners if they would like to come into office with the chairmanship. He asked the meeting to discuss the options and to come to a decision in his absence.

Jens Andresen as representative of the Danish authorities submitted a proposal about the future chairmanship of the Wadden Sea Forum. At the beginning, he thanked Mr. Klimant for his excellent job and stated that Denmark was very satisfied with the work of the Forum and also with Mr. Klimant as chair. Following, Mr. Andresen elaborated that a shift of the chairmanship to Denmark would strengthen the Danish partnership in the WSF and that they could use this opportunity to delegate further representatives in the Forum and members in the working groups.

Finally, he proposed to elect Mr. Klimant for a further year and to decide on the new chairman at the WSF-17 meeting, probably in November 2010. Denmark would introduce their candidate at the WSF-16 meeting to make him known to the plenary.

The vast majority of the meeting supported the proposal from Mr. Andresen and saw an advantage of forwarding the chairmanship to Denmark according to the close cooperation with TWSC.

Being informed about the agreement on the chairmanship, Mr. Klimant thanked Mr. Andresen for the proposal and accepted the decision of the plenary.

The chairman continued with further issues of the Rules, particularly with regard to MOU, vice chairs and the WSF secretariat, which had to be settled newly. The vice chairs would be elected in the forthcoming Steering Committee meeting. The SC would also deliver a proposal of the amended Rules of Procedure for adoption to the next WSF meeting.

Agenda item 13. Advice and comments for Wadden Sea Plan

Document: WSF 15-13.1 Revised Wadden Sea Plan (distributed by email 06 Oct 09)

Document: WSF 15-13.2 Comments Wadden Sea Plan

At the beginning of October, the CWSS has provided the WSF with the draft consultation version of the Wadden Sea Plan (WSP) with the request to deliver comments by the end of November 2009. The SC discussed in its meeting on 27 October 2009 the frame of the comments and a draft version of the comments was forwarded to WSF-15.

The secretary introduced the document and further explained the need for an integration of the WSF in the WSP. The plenary welcomed the comments and agreed in general on the available version and on the comments made during the meeting. Adjustments should be made by secretariat on the basis of the written comments, which had to be delivered until 30 November.

Agenda item 14. Maritime Spatial Planning

Document: WSF 15-14.1 Road Map for MSP (EU document of 25 November 2008)

Document: WSF 15-14.2 Pre-policy document on the North Sea (The Netherlands)

The secretary introduced briefly the available documents and elaborated that Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) was increasingly in the focus of the EU Commission and had a close link to ICZM as all off-shore activities are connected to the coast. Particularly EEZ

planning would concern the WSF as discussed in previous meetings. Meanwhile, also a draft Spatial Plan for the Dutch EEZ would be available and come into force soon.

The secretary proposed to compile all available information of the use, projects and activities in the EEZ and to provide an overview by depicting the uses in maps. The following discussion was quite controversial as some participants were of the opinion that the information was already available and that this would be in the responsibility of the governments. However, a map with all available information in a comparable way for the three countries was missing. This should be requested from the governments.

It was stated that such an information base would support the work of the WSF with regard to ICZM and MSP. It was agreed that the working group ICZM should contact EU working groups in this field and consider how to proceed in compiling the necessary information about economic uses in the EEZ.

Agenda item 15. Tourism and marketing strategy for Wadden Sea Region

Document: WSF 15-15.1 Results Tourism and marketing strategy meeting

Within the TWSC, two working groups have been installed with regard to communication and marketing of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. These are a stakeholder group to elaborate on a "Wadden Sea World Heritage communication and marketing strategy" and a Tourism Strategy Group for developing a strategy for sustainable tourism. The WSF secretariat is involved in these groups and is representing the Forum.

The meeting **decided** not to work parallel to these groups but to pursue the work and objectives of these groups and to support as appropriate.

Agenda item 16. Next meeting

The meeting **agreed** on 19-20 May 2010 as the proposed next meeting date. The host of the meeting will be the county of Dithmarschen.

Agenda item 17. Any other business

No other business discussed.

Agenda item 18. Closing

The chairman thanked the representatives of the county of Aurich for hosting the meeting and the very remarkable organization. Furthermore, he thanked all participants for coming and their fruitful contributions and closed the meeting at 12:30 on 25 November 2009.

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Wadden Sea Forum

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DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

The meeting adopted the recommendations of the ICZM workshop in June 2009 and agreed to forward the recommendations to the TGC-11 and to elaborate on the improvement of ICZM.

The WSF supports the work of the GMG and requested the group to work towards a spatial approach (go-areas, no go-areas) within a sound management plan.

The WSF tasked the working group shipping to elaborate also on harbor developments and responsibilities. It was also agreed that the WG shipping should take the developments in the Ems estuary on board to work towards more sustainability.

The WSF (chair) will send letters to the EU Commission and to the national governments with the statement that the WSF has adopted the KIMO resolution and that the recommendations were supported.

The WSF welcomed the outline of the final report to be forwarded to the TGC-11 to get support for a continuation of the Forum in the coming period 2011 – 2013. The members will deliver further proposals about contents and structure of the report to the secretariat to be taken into account when elaborating the report.

The WSF mandated the Steering Committee to take further decisions with regard to the final report and to oversee the elaboration and delivery of the report.

The WSF re-elected Mr. Klimant as chairman, at least till November 2010. Then the WSF will decide on a new chair on the basis of a Danish proposal.

The meeting requested the Steering Committee to elaborate on amendments and improvements of the "Rules of Procedure" and submit a proposal the next meeting.

The WSF tasked the secretary to adjust the comments on the WSP on the basis of written deliveries from the members by 30 November at the latest.

The WSF tasked the working group ICZM to contact EU working groups in the field of Integrated Maritime Policy, Maritime Spatial Planning and economic uses in the EEZ as well as to consider how to proceed in compiling the necessary information.

The meeting decided not to work parallel to the tourism and marketing groups under the umbrella of the TWSC but to pursue the work and objectives of these groups and to support as appropriate.

The meeting agreed on 19-20 May 2010 as the proposed next meeting date.

TOWARDS A RICH WADDEN SEA - SUMMARY

Summary of the (concept) programme plan for nature restoration in the Wadden Sea November 2009

The Wadden Sea – World Heritage Site, the largest and perhaps only wilderness in the Netherlands – is a beautiful and dynamic natural area. Many people visit it every year and many others earn their living here. We are very proud to have been given World Heritage Status, but this also brings responsibilities. Despite international recognition of the unique values of the Wadden Sea, the area is also under pressure. But this is going to change. We have to make every effort to ensure that the Wadden Sea becomes a stronger and more resilient nature area again while appreciating that the whole Wadden Sea area must remain robust and healthy in socio-economic terms as an area for living, working and recreation. In short, a Rich Sea for nature and people.

In 2008 the mussel fisheries sector, nature organisations and the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality signed a formal agreement (covenant) to bring about the transition of the mussel sector and nature restoration in the Wadden Sea. The covenant creates a framework in which partners confirm their ambition to achieve a Rich Wadden Sea by 2030, benefitting both the natural environment and the users. This report outlines our approach for reaching this goal. We have opted for a flexible approach. This programme plan is much more than a strict road map. We intend to work towards the target scenario through consultation and collaboration with all users, nature organisations and government bodies in the area, learning from each step as we go before taking the next step.

The publication of the Nature Restoration Plan represents the first step. The parties have agreed on a common aim: to create a Wadden Sea area with a rich and resilient natural environment, in combination with sustainable perspectives for the users in the area. Now we can set our sights on the course of action described.

The Rich Sea Nature Restoration Programme

The Wadden Sea area is unique in the world. It is therefore not surprising that in 2009 it obtained World Heritage status. The wonderfully varied nature in the land and water transition zones is vital to its rare plants and animals and to the 12 million migratory birds which visit the area every year. But this nature and co-use of the Wadden Sea are also under pressure. From fisheries, dredging activities, recreation, dike-cutting and land reclamation and from external influences such as climate change and the invasion of exotic species. These have consequences for water quality, the food web dynamics, development of eco-engineers such as mussel banks, resilience to climate change and the role of the Wadden Sea in international ecology.

At the beginning of this year Minister Verburg commissioned a multi-year Nature Restoration Plan for the Wadden Sea. The direct reason was the covenant on the transition of the mussel sector and nature restoration in the Wadden Sea that was signed by the Government, the mussel sector and several nature organisations in the autumn of 2008. This covenant also aims to promote sustainable alternatives to the practice of dredging the seabed to harvest mussel seed. The nature restoration plan is an elaboration of the key planning decision and the management and development plan for the Wadden Sea, linked at regional level to the commitments of the Third Wadden Sea Memorandum. Together these serve as an integrated framework for the further elaboration of the various development pathways. To facilitate this, the programme has

links to the Natura 2000 management plan, the Wadden Sea Fund, individual projects and the Wadden Academy knowledge agenda.

As well as streamlining these and other initiatives, the Nature Restoration Plan will also seek new solutions. Finding solutions that benefit nature, while also providing opportunities for people working in the area demands a new approach. It will involve the different parties working together to achieve a sustainable future for the Wadden Sea where the natural environment and economy go hand in hand.

Learning by doing approach

The Wadden Sea is a complex system and it is not always easy to determine which nature restoration measures should be used and how and precisely when. But the course is clear. The target scenario for a rich Wadden Sea describes a common ambition for nature restoration and at the same time creates new opportunities for sustainable use of the area. It is not a fixed objective, but a perspective that can be adjusted and fine-tuned during the process on the basis of experience gained as we go along.

The search for synergy between the natural environment and its' exploitation calls for an agenda drawn up by governments, nature organisations and users. This requires serious collaboration and involves learning by doing. The first steps will be based on our current understanding of the natural system. Their effects on the ecology and economy will determine what steps must come next. In some cases the learning process will take priority over the action to be taken depending on the complexity of each step and the knowledge available. The exact route will be worked out along the way and in consultation.

The target scenario for 2030

The target scenario is based on a Rich Sea in 2030. Rich not only in ecological terms, but also in terms of a healthy tourist industry, fisheries and other sectors which can utilise the natural environment to generate added-value for their products. The process will demand creativity and innovation.

The target scenario comprises five core themes:

- food web dynamics
- development of eco-engineers such as mussel banks
- water quality (that is clear enough)
- the Wadden sea as safe haven
- optimal international embedding

From target scenario to development pathway

In the spring of 2009 five groups of experts started work on the five themes to examine the problems, possible solutions and measures to be taken. A sixth group worked on recommendations on the organisation and funding of the programme's implementation. This delivered the building blocks for the nature restoration programme which were discussed in the summer of 2009 with various users of the Wadden Sea and other stakeholders. The resulting ten development pathways are a collection of activities and initiatives for the short and long term aimed at achieving the target scenario.

Development pathways

The ten development pathways are divided into a number of clusters based on content, type of user and type of measure. The clusters vary in the extent to which the stakeholders agree about the problems and the effect of the measures. The greater the consensus, the greater the emphasis on action and achieving cohesion. If there is less consensus, the emphasis will be on the learning process. The following clusters have been identified:

Food web cluster

1. food web dynamics
2. development of sediment stabilising eco-engineers
3. learning from tidal storage areas
4. sustainable fisheries

Morphology and water cluster

5. innovation in dredging and transport
6. integrated management agenda Eems-Dollard

Coastal zone cluster

7. transition zones between land – tidal flat
8. Climate and innovative sand suppletion
9. Nature restoration and the barrier dam (Afsluitdijk)

International embedding cluster

10. international embedding

In the coming months the development pathways will be further elaborated with users, nature organisations, experts and regional governments.

Organisation and funding: support and decisiveness

As many national and regional partners are participating in the nature restoration programme, it can count on the necessary support. However, implementation will require a decisive organisation, strong enough to act on initiatives in the short term and flexible enough to allow scope for developments in the future. The nature restoration programme will therefore have its own independent organisation which can rely on support from existing programme partners.

The programme will be managed by the Operations Planning Group, comprising representatives from government, nature organisations and users. The programme office, headed by a programme manager, will coordinate implementation and organise monitoring. The programme activities will be implemented through existing organisations in the area.

In consultation, the various programme partners will supply the necessary funding and capacity. For the implementation of the restoration measures various funds and budgets will be called on, including the Wadden Sea Fund.

How to proceed

From October 2009 users, nature organisations, experts and governments will further elaborate the ten development pathways referred to above. At first version of the final Nature Restoration Programme will be complete by the end of 2009. During its' further development the plan will give shape to the concrete measures to be taken in the short term, and will demonstrate the ambitions for the long-term.