



Wadden Sea Forum
16th Meeting
Heide, 19-20 May 2010

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

Agenda item 1. Opening and adoption of the Agenda

Document WSF-16-1 Annotated Draft Agenda

The host and chair of the meeting, Mr. Klimant, welcomed the participants in Heide and opened the plenary at 13:00 on 19 May 2010. A special welcome was given to Preben Friis-Hauge, the new WSF vice-chair and chair candidate for election at the WSF-17 meeting in November. Mr. Klimant briefly introduced the program, which entailed an excursion to the Steinzeitpark Albersdorf, which was very much welcomed and appreciated by the participants. 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 15

Document: WSF-15 Final Draft Minutes

The **meeting adopted** the final draft minutes of the WSF-15 meeting, Aurich, 24-25 November 2009. The secretary briefly recalled the agreements of the WSF-15 meeting. All decisions were implemented, respectively were ongoing due to the agreed tasks.

Agenda item 3. Membership WSF

Document: WSF 16-3.1 Membership list

The secretary referred to the WSF member list and informed the meeting about changes since the last meeting in Aurich. The changes were marked in the document and are as follows:

- New vice-chair, Preben Friis-Hauge, nominated by SC-8 meeting
- DK regional authority: Thyge Nielsen
- DK Wadden Sea municipalities: Thomas Christensen
- DK Advisory Board: Jens Andresen (replaces Karen Madsen)
- Nds. Nature: Nadja Ziebarth (replaces Bodenstein-Dressler)
- NL Tourism: Janny du Bois (replaces Martin Loos, also in the shipping group)
- SH local authority: Insel und Halligkonferenz represented by Annemarie Lübcke

The chair and the meeting thanked Martin Loos for his engaged participation in the WSF and the shipping group, of which he was the chair for many years. The meeting expressed its appreciation about his fruitful contribution, controversy discussion points and social company. All participants wished him all the best for his future journey through life.

Agenda item 4. Announcements

John Frederiksen informed the meeting that the consultation phase about the Danish Wadden Sea National Park had started and would last till 9 September 2010. Later in autumn this year, the National Park would be officially opened by the responsible minister.

Furthermore, he referred to the Danish presidency of the Trilateral Cooperation and stated that a good cooperation with the WSF would be envisaged.

Thomas Christensen reported about the cooperation of five municipalities to strengthen sustainable tourism with a focus on the destination South-West Jutland.

Manfred Vollmer pointed out that hardcopies of the WSF report "Without Frontiers" would be available and asked the WSF members to distribute copies in their organisations. Additionally, he introduced the new CPSL report about the role of spatial planning and sediment in coastal risk management, of which hard copies were available too. Finally, he presented the two new WSF banner.

Agenda item 5. Minutes Steering Committee

Documents: WSF 16-5.1 Minutes SC-8

WSF 16-5.2 Minutes SC-9

The meeting took note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting, SC-8, Hamburg, 22 January 2010, and SC-9, Hamburg, 29 April 2010.

Agenda item 6. Progress WSF Activities

Document: WSF 16-6.1 Summary progress 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 referred to the results of the joint meeting of the WSF working groups ICZM and shipping on 20 April and emphasized the cooperation in Maritime Spatial Planning. Due to the huge amount of available information of various organizations and national/regional authorities it was agreed to establish a GIS-based information tool with data about economic uses, nature protection sites, spatial planning as well as policies in the southern North Sea EEZs of Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands. A cooperation with EUCC-D would provide the necessary support to deliver the information on multi-layer maps.

WG EII: Mr. Vollmer briefly emphasized the work topics outlined in the document. An update of the energy study "Inventory and Analysis of Impacts of Power Plants in the Wadden Sea Region" would be postponed as the midterm perspective had not changed much. An alternative to compile and discuss topical information would be the implementation of symposia and conferences like the energy symposium in November 2010 in Bremerhaven. The meeting agreed on this proposal of the EII working group. An important future topic would be Carbon Capture & Storage, CCS as well as the development of a CO₂ neutral Wadden Sea Region as stated in the Ministerial Council Declaration of Sylt 2010. This would need a close cooperation with the Trilateral Cooperation and responsible ministries of the three countries. A practical start was made by some Wadden Sea islands like Ameland, Juist and Pellworm, which envisaged to develop climate friendly till 2020.

WG Agriculture: Mr. Hinrichs referred to the report of the Goose Management Group and informed the meeting about the positive response at the TGC-11 on Sylt. He highlighted the results and requested a further development of a trilateral goose management plan with a spatial approach. This would contain the definition of go and no-go areas for geese. There was good commitment for a continuation of the work and Mr. Frederiksen as representative of the Trilateral Cooperation announced further input and support after the Wadden Sea Board meeting early June.

WG Shipping: Besides the work topics outlined in the document, Mr. Loos stressed the commitment of the shipping experts to the working group. He requested more support by the responsible authorities and organizations in this field as shipping safety would be more or less a matter of policies. An involvement of the municipalities would be possible through KIMO. It was said that the work topics should be defined according to the burning issues in shipping organizations and up-to-date policies. Also the WSB would define their tasks concerning shipping safety and a cooperation should be sounded out after the WSB meeting in June. The meeting agreed to discuss with the TWSC common tasks like shipping safety, emergency control and PSSA and to define the work program accordingly. Nevertheless, the WSF will independently debate their own topical issues with the aim to attract experts to cooperate actively.

WG Fisheries: With regard to a future perspective for the fishery sector, the secretary asked for specific actions by the WSF. The meeting agreed that perspectives would be provided by sustainable fishery and quality products as well as capturing new markets with regard to the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. In this respect, Andries de Leeuw informed the meeting that besides a certification in shrimp fishery also the mussel fishery sector was heading for certification by Marine Stewardship Council, MSC. Further issues, e.g. fishing for litter, have to be defined with the sector and, additionally, with the TWSC.

WG Tourism: The meeting took note of the information about the World Heritage tourism activities. The WSF will be involved in further developments and besides the tourism sector, also other economic sectors as well as the regions and municipalities will be deeper involved in the future.

The secretary raised the topic about the International Gastronomy Award, which was foreseen being implemented in Denmark this year. The responsible organization of Wadden Sea products has been closed and the tourism and marketing sector is under restructuring. Thomas Christensen informed the meeting that the new tourism organization South Jutland will take the issue of local products up as a column in their portfolio, but this would take time.

It was argued that the implementation of an International Gastronomy Award would need a better cooperation between the regions and common criteria had to be defined. But despite of the lacks, two international Awards had been implemented successfully. The secretary proposed that the Dutch and Lower Saxonian organizations, who are willing to implement the Award as soon as possible, should go ahead to organize the event in 2011 and should invite restaurants from Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein to participate. The emphasis would be on the cross border cooperation NL - Niedersachsen (Ostfriesland, Wesermarsch). This could also be considered under an event of the World Heritage campaign 2011.

Agenda item 7. Sustainability Indicator Tool

Document: WSF 16-7.1 Summary indicator tool

The sustainability indicator tool has been improved due to functionality and consistency. Furthermore, a documentation and manual of the tool has been elaborated. Herman Verheij introduced the indicator tool, including the history, the purpose and some examples. He explained the different levels, the calculation of values as well as the real data behind the values.

Before publishing/broadly announcing the indicator tool, data and indicators had to be completed and some experiences had to be made internally. Nevertheless, the available instrument clearly indicates the development of the three dimensions over years. An

analysis of the changes will label the reasons and following, necessary actions can be discussed.

The meeting welcomed the given information and progress made, but also requested the chair of the ICZM working group to elaborate and deliver a report about the indicator results. The report should be easy kept and understandable and be presented at the WSF-17 meeting in Vårde.

The indicator tool is not placed on the website yet, but interested WSF members can request the tool (Excel Format) as well as a documentation and manual (56 pages) from the secretariat.

Agenda item 8. Goose Management Group

Document: WSF 16-8.1 Guidance and recommendations document

Early March the report of the Goose Management Group had been finalized and also forwarded to the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC). The report is a basis for the further development of a goose management plan, a working group has to be established in close cooperation with the TWSC.

The meeting welcomed the report and took note of the information.

Agenda item 9. Cultural Landscapes

The Wadden Sea Region is a worthwhile cultural landscape and shares a common history in settlement development. Dwelling mounds were built in the Iron Age, more than 2000 years ago. But dike building influenced the landscape more than anything. Norbert Fischer, a social and cultural historian and honorary professor at the University of Hamburg, gave a presentation "Between Land and Sea: The Dike as an important element of the Wadden Sea coastal landscape".

The meeting welcomed the presentation which is available as pdf on the WSF website [www.waddensea-forum.org/forum/forum-WSF16 Documents.html](http://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum/forum-WSF16_Documents.html)

Agenda item 10. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards

The representatives of the advisory boards informed the meeting about new developments and activities.

Jacoba Westinga, NL: The advisory board has prepared a report about the implementation of the EU Habitat Directive. An issue was the differences among the three countries with regard to stakeholder competition and the implementation of the Directive. The report stated that the differences were of minor importance, only in the fishery sector assessment distinctions were the case.

An English summary of the report is in preparation and will be distributed soon.

Jens Andresen, DK: In its meeting on the 23rd of April 2010 the Danish WS advisory board focused its attention on discussing the development in populations of breeding meadow birds in the marsh areas along the Danish Wadden Sea.

The National Environmental Research Institute (NERI) has reported a general decline in numbers of breeding meadow birds in the marsh areas, which are designated NATURA 2000 sites. Special attention has been given to the Toender Marsh where farmers have received financial compensation for allowing wet conditions in their fields for a longer period. NERI in its report gives two main explanations to the decline in numbers of breeding meadow birds:

- A general decline in the quality of the habitat with regard to the requirements of the targeted bird species
- Serious predation pressure from especially foxes

Following a revision of the agri-environmental scheme for the Toender Marsh at the end of 2009 only a very small number of the farmers have shown interest in continuing with

the bird-friendly management claiming that the financial compensation is not sufficient to cover the actual cost of being involved in the scheme. A further decline in numbers of breeding meadow birds has now been foreseen.

The Danish Ornithological Society has lodged a complaint with the EU Court stating that Denmark is not fulfilling its obligations according to the EU Birds Directive. The Advisory Board had a presentation from NERI and heard statements from the ornithologists, farmers and hunters on the issue.

The matter is presently being discussed between the Toender Municipality, landowners and the Forest and Nature Agency under the Ministry of Environment and has also been raised in the national parliament.

Walter Theuerkauf, Nds: There have been two meetings of the advisory board of the National Park Lower Saxony since the WSF 15 meeting in November 2009. In the meeting on 04 December 2009 the advisory board gained knowledge of the project NorGer Seekabelverbindung (NorGer Sea cable connection). Aim of the project is to transport surplus energy mostly produced by wind energy from Germany to Norway and to transport energy generated by water power from Norway to Germany. The start of construction would be 2011, start of production is scheduled by 2015. The costs of the investment are about 1 billion €. The advisory board will oversee critically the routing of the cable through the Wadden Sea.

In the meeting on 22 January 2010 the advisory board discussed the draft of a new law regarding the rearrangement of the nature protection law. It is stated that other nature reserve areas north of the East Frisian Islands are to be integrated in the National Park (enlargement circa 60.000 ha). Aim of this procedures is to unify the responsibilities of maintenance and protection. The advisory board welcomed the law, which came into force on 01 March 2010.

The routing of the energy cable connection to the off-shore wind parks through the Wadden Sea was another point of the discussion.

It has to be stated that due to economical reasons the given routes for the cable are not completely used by the grid operators. This would lead to the requirement of new cable routes in the future. The advisory board asked the Federal Minister for the Environment to intervene in order to restrict the number of cable routes through the protected area.

Jörn Klimant, SH: The advisory boards in Schleswig-Holstein in their last meetings discussed the draft Ministerial Declaration for TGC-11 and forwarded comments to the Trilateral Cooperation. Furthermore, the issue of the treatments of oiled birds was discussed in detail.

Agenda item 11. Climate Change and Sea Level Rise

Climate change and adaptation measures, particularly with regard to coastal protection is one of the most relevant issues of today. Jacobus Hofstede from the ministry of agriculture, environment and rural areas of Schleswig-Holstein, department of coastal protection, informed the meeting with the presentation "Sustainable coastal protection in the Wadden Sea under a changing climate". The meeting welcomed the presentation which is available as pdf on the WSF website www.waddensea-forum.org/forum/forum-WSF16 Documents.html

Agenda item 12. Revision Rules of Procedure

Document: WSF-16-12.1 Proposal Rules of Procedure

The Steering Committee elaborated a proposal for a revision of the Rules of Procedure of 1 December 2006 as requested by the WSF-15 meeting on 24-25 November 2009.

The meeting went through the document in detail and finally agreed on the proposal as the new validated Rules of Procedure without further amendments. The new Rules are in **Annex 4**.

Agenda item 13. Revision Memorandum of Understanding

With the adoption of the Sylt Declaration 2010 by the three governments, a continuation of the WSF for the next period until 2013 is ensured. This is underlined by the willingness of the governments and the regions to financially support the WSF secretariat.

The secretary briefly informed the meeting about the proposed procedure to revise/adapt the Memorandum of Understanding between the TWSC and the WSF. The first step would be made at the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) meeting on 3-4 June in Ribe. The WSF should elaborate a new work plan and parts of it would be common projects with the Trilateral Cooperation considering the TC business plan. The secretary proposed to take the issue of cultural landscapes on board as this was not yet reflected in the Forums aim to contribute to a sustainable and innovative development of the Wadden Sea Region. The secretariat will draft a new work plan, including the topic of cultural landscapes to be discussed at the WSF.

The WSF plenary **mandated** the Steering Committee to take the responsibility elaborating on the revision of the MoU in cooperation with the Trilateral Wadden Sea Board and to oversee the elaboration of a new work plan, including the necessary budget.

Agenda item 14. Wadden Sea Board, members WSF

Document: WSF-16-14.1 2010 Ministerial Council Declaration

WSF-16-14.2 2010 Joint Declaration on the Protection of the Wadden Sea

With the 11th Trilateral Governmental Conference on 18 March 2010, a new Joint Declaration and governance structure for the TSWC has been agreed. In this respect, a new Wadden Sea Board has been established, in which the WSF will have two seats as advisors. Besides the WSF chair a second representative has to be designated by the plenary. The chair stated that the WSF representatives had to be deeply involved in the Forum business, preferably also active in the Steering Committee and with good contacts to the secretariat. This would guarantee a good knowledge and information base about the WSF activities and developments to represent the WSF in the WSB. He proposed to nominate besides the chair the vice-chair of the WSF.

The meeting **agreed** to follow this proposal at least for the next two WSB meetings. Furthermore, it was proposed to nominate a representative of the economic sector as second advisor but also as representative of all WSF members and sectors. This decision was postponed to the WSF-17 meeting in November.

Agenda item 15. Maritime Spatial Planning

Document: WSF 16-15.1 2009-2015 Policy Document on the North Sea (NL)

The secretary reported about the increasing off-shore activities in the German and Dutch EEZs. For coastal protection and adaptation to climate change huge amounts of sand would be extracted from the southern North Sea. Wind energy is rapidly increasing, as well as harbour developments and ship traffic. Oil and gas exploration and exploitation as well as options for carbon capture are also increasing developments. After the completion of a spatial plan for the German EEZ, the Dutch government recently published a "Policy Document on the North Sea 2009-2015", which describes the economic activities and policy targets. Information exchange among the three countries takes place on higher

ministerial level, but coordination among planning agencies and on regional level is lacking.

The meeting **agreed** that the WSF should get a stake in the maritime planning business to provide information and knowledge exchange among the sectors and the regions. The added value would be a broader as well as a cross-border view on the developments. Furthermore, the meeting **agreed** to adapt the geographical scope to the new spatial approach and to include the EEZs of the southern North Sea of the three countries in the delimitation of the Wadden Sea Region. It is envisaged to intensify a cooperation with the ministries to get the necessary information and to use the WSF as stakeholder information platform. Furthermore, it was proposed to invite experts from the ministries to one of the next WSF plenary meetings.

Agenda item 16. Next meeting

The meeting **agreed** on 17-18 November 2010 in Vårde, DK, as the proposed next meeting date. The meeting will be prepared by the Danish colleagues.

Agenda item 17. Any other business

No other business discussed.

Agenda item 18. Closing

The chairman thanked all participants for coming and their fruitful contributions and closed the meeting at 11:30 on 20 May 2010.

ANNEX 2

**Wadden Sea Forum
16th Meeting
Heide, 19-20 May 2010**

A G E N D A

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- Agenda item 3. Membership WSF
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- Agenda item 5. Minutes Steering Committee
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ANNEX 3

**Wadden Sea Forum
16th Meeting
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D E C I S I O N S A N D A G R E E M E N T S

1. The ICZM working group will establish a cooperation with EUCC-D to collaborate on ICZM and MSP as well as to develop a GIS-based information tool with data about economic uses, nature protection sites, spatial planning as well as policies in the southern North Sea EEZs of Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands.
2. The meeting agreed to postpone an update of the energy study "Inventory and Analysis of Impacts of Power Plants in the Wadden Sea Region".
3. With regard to shipping issues, the meeting agreed to discuss with the TWSC common tasks like shipping safety, emergency control and PSSA and to define the work program accordingly.
4. It was proposed that the Dutch and Lower Saxonian organizations, who are willing to implement the Gastronomy Award as soon as possible, should go ahead to organize the event in 2011 and should invite restaurants from Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein to participate.
5. The meeting requested the chair of the ICZM working group to elaborate and deliver a report about the indicator results. The report should be easy kept and understandable and be presented at the WSF-17 meeting in Vårde.
6. The WSF members can request the indicator tool (Excel Format) as well as a documentation and manual (56 pages) from the secretariat.
7. The meeting agreed on the new validated Rules of Procedure.
8. The secretariat will draft a new WSF work plan (as part of the new MoU), including the topic of cultural landscapes to be discussed at the WSF.
9. The WSF plenary mandated the Steering Committee to take the responsibility elaborating on the revision of the MoU in cooperation with the Trilateral Wadden Sea Board and to oversee the elaboration of a new work plan, including the necessary budget.
10. The meeting nominated the vice-chair as second WSF advisor in the trilateral WSB for the next two meetings. It was proposed to nominate a representative of the economic sector as second advisor, but also as representative of all WSF members and sectors, at the WSF-17 meeting.
11. With regard to MSP it was agreed to intensify a cooperation with the ministries to get the necessary information and to use the WSF as stakeholder information platform.
12. The meeting agreed to adapt the geographical scope to the new spatial approach and to include the EEZs of the southern North Sea of the three countries in the delimitation of the Wadden Sea Region.

ANNEX 4

Rules of Procedure
Revision May 2010
Adopted by WSF-16, 20 May 2010

1. Adoption and amendments

- i. The Rules of Procedure have been adopted by the Plenary Meeting of the Wadden Sea Forum, WSF-16 in May 2010.
- ii. They replace the Rules of Procedure as adopted by WSF-9, 30 November 2006.
- iii. The Rules of Procedure can be amended by the plenary meeting.

2. Membership

- i. Organisations/institutions in the sectors "agriculture", "tourism and recreation", "nature and environment protection", "fishery", "industry and harbours", "energy", "regional government" and "local government" in Denmark, Schleswig-Holstein, Niedersachsen and The Netherlands will mandate representatives each as member of the WSF. They may also appoint deputies. The WSF plenary can on case-by-case basis appoint new members, including organisations as members.
- ii. Members should represent their institution/organization and have a mandate to negotiate on behalf of their institution/organization
- iii. Members are expected to consult the sectors in which their organisations/institutions belong on WSF-related issues.
- iv. National governments of the Wadden Sea states and Wadden Sea advisory boards may appoint observers. The WSF may invite observers from other organisations/institutions to attend its meetings.

3. Chair

- i. The WSF chair and vice-chair will be elected by the members of the Wadden Sea Forum. Normally, the chair is appointed from the local/regional authorities.
- ii. The chair is responsible for chairing the plenary meetings of the WSF and the meetings of the Steering Committee.
- iv. In case the chairperson is prohibited, his/her duties are taken over by the vice-chair.
- v. The terms of office of the chair and the vice-chair should coincide with the period between the trilateral governmental Wadden Sea conferences.

4. Plenary WSF meeting

- i. The WSF plenary meeting consists of the members, described in paragraph 2.
- ii. The WSF plenary meeting is the decisive body concerning all WSF matters.
- iii. Decisions are in principle taken by consensus.
- iv. The WSF will meet at least once per year in plenary session.
- v. WSF plenary meetings are open to the public.

5. Steering Committee

- i. A Steering Committee (SC), consisting of the chair, vice-chair and one representative of each of the sectors represented in the WSF, is responsible for handling all matters arising between plenary meetings.

6. Secretariat

- i. The WSF secretariat reports directly to the WSF chair.
- ii. The WSF secretariat is hosted by the CWSS and financed as laid down in the MoU.

7. Preparation of meetings

- i. The draft agenda will be prepared by the SC and will be distributed to the WSF members by the secretariat 5 weeks before the meeting.
- ii. Documents will be normally distributed by the secretariat 4 weeks before the meeting.
- iii. Material to be discussed at the meeting should be submitted to the secretariat 5 weeks before the meeting.
- iv. Summary Records will be distributed to the members within 2 weeks after the meeting and also placed on the WSF website within 4 weeks after the meeting.

8. Working Groups

- i. The WSF plenary meeting may install Working Groups (WGs) for the elaboration of issues.
- ii. In principle all WGs are open for membership by all WSF members and their deputies.
- iii. Chairpersons of the WGs are elected by the WG members.
- iv. WGs may invite independent experts and observers to contribute to WG meetings.
- v. WGs are supported by the Secretariat and/or member organisations.
- vi. WGs report to the WSF plenary.

9. Work plan and external studies

- i. The work plan and the overall budget have to be adopted by the plenary. The SC has the mandate to manage the practical implementation.
- ii. The plenary meeting or the SC may initiate external studies into specific thematic issues, to be carried out by independent consultants.

10. Language

The language in the Forum, the subgroups and the external studies, including all documentation, is English.

11. Press contacts

- i. The chairperson has the mandate to contact the press regarding all WSF matters.
- ii. Press releases about WSF plenary meetings are prepared by the chair and the secretariat, in consultation with the members of the SC.
- iii. The chair is the first to inform the press about the outcome of the meeting.
- iv. Thereafter, all delegations are free to establish their own press contacts.