



## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**between**

**the Wadden Sea Forum (WSF)**

**and**

**the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC)**

**2008 - 2010**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**between**  
**the Wadden Sea Forum (WSF)**  
**and**  
**the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC)**  
**2008 - 2010**

## **1. The Partners**

### **Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation**

The Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC), established in 1978 as a cooperation between the governments of Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands, aims to protect the Wadden Sea as a shared nature area of world-wide importance in particular through the Shared Principles including the Guiding Principle, the Targets, the common policies and management and the integrated monitoring and assessment programme.

### **Wadden Sea Forum**

The Wadden Sea Forum (WSF), established in 2001, 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 the WSF will

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

## **2. Purpose and Basic Principles**

2.1 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 the WSF and the TWSC of the Shared Principles including the Guiding Principle, 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.

### **3. Working Agreement**

#### **Consultation and Advice**

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

- The WSF will be consulted and prepare advice on matters regarding sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region;
- The 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;
- The 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.

3.2 For the purpose of this Memorandum the WSF will deliver a report on the outcome of its work to the 2010 Wadden Sea Conference as a follow up of the "Breaking the Ice" encompassing proposals for sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region.

#### **Work Programme**

3.3 The parties will base themselves on the 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**

#### **Representation**

4. 1 The WSF chairperson will, on behalf of the WSF, be an Advisor in the Wadden Sea Board, to be established after the conclusion of the evaluation of the TWSC. Forum members will, if appropriate, have the opportunity to present views on specific matters to the TWSC.

4.2 National representatives of the TWSC will participate as observers in WSF plenary meetings, and as full members of relevant WSF working groups, associated with the common activities in BI of the work programme referred to in Article 3.3. National representatives may participate in all other working groups.

## **Facilitation**

4.3 The WSF-members and the TWSC-parties will 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.

4.4 The WSF secretariat will operate independently of the TWSC and will refer directly to the WSF chairperson. The secretary of the CWSS oversees the functioning of the WSF secretariat.

## **5. Evaluation and Coming into Effect and Expiry**

5.1 This Memorandum and the arrangements established in accordance herewith will be evaluated in the period with a view to its continuation after 2010.

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.

Signed in two original copies,

Bonn, 27 May 2008

.....  
Dr. Elsa Nickel  
Deputy-Director General  
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation  
and Nuclear Safety  
Directorate Nature Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources  
On behalf of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation

Heide, 22 May 2008

.....  
Dr. Jörn Klimant,  
Head of County Council Dithmarschen, Chairman WSF  
On behalf of the Wadden Sea Forum

**MOU ANNEX 1**  
**WSF WORK PROGRAMME 2008 – 2010**  
**updated version, November 2008**  
**agreed by WSF-13**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The activities listed in this work programme are intended to further the mission of WSF, which is to develop proposals for sustainable development in the Wadden Sea Region and to find a balance between the interests of the different stakeholders in the Region.

The attached first draft WSF work programme is based upon the report "Breaking the Ice", the WSF Action Programme, priorities set on the basis of a questionnaire among WSF members, subsequent decisions by WSF meetings about the role and tasks of WSF, as well as progress made in relevant WSF Working Groups.

This programme contains two types of activities. First, regular meetings of WSF and its Working Groups (A); Second, specific projects and topical activities (B). The activities listed under B have been divided into activities done jointly with the TWSC (BI: Common Activities) and activities carried out by WSF only (BII).

In addition, the tasks of the secretariat are presented (C).

The projects and activities under B will be financed by WSF and will not imply additional financial support by TWSC.

## **A. REGULAR ACTIVITIES**

### **1. WADDEN SEA FORUM**

Tasks

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

Frequency: Two meetings annually

### **2. STEERING COMMITTEE**

Tasks

- Handling all matters arising between WSF meetings
- Prepare WSF agenda

Frequency: Two meetings annually

## **WORKING GROUPS**

### **3. WG INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT (WG ICZM)**

#### Tasks

- Prepare WSF plenary meetings regarding ICZM and sustainable development
- Coordination of work related to sustainability indicators project
- Coordination of work related to ICZM cases project

Frequency: Four meetings annually, depending on contents

### **4. WG ENERGY-INDUSTRY-INFRASTRUCTURE (WG EII)**

#### Tasks

- Prepare WSF plenary meetings regarding relevant energy, industry and infrastructure issues, in particular offshore energy (wind, waves ...) and long-term harbour development.
- Prepare advice and exchange information on the above themes;
- Collect information on coastal activities for coastal database (see also issue 13).

Frequency: Four meetings annually

### **5. WG SHIPPING**

#### Tasks

- Prepare WSF plenary meetings regarding shipping safety matters
- Prepare recommendations and exchange information on shipping safety matters

Frequency: Meets on an ad-hoc basis, pending relevant developments.

Expected: Five meetings in 2008 – 2010

### **6. WG AGRICULTURE**

#### Tasks

- Prepare WSF plenary meetings regarding matters of agriculture and related nature management
- Prepare recommendations and exchange information on themes relevant for sustainable agriculture

Frequency: Three meetings annually.

### **7. WG FISHERIES**

#### Tasks

- Prepare WSF plenary meetings regarding matters of sustainable fisheries
- Prepare recommendations and exchange information on themes relevant for sustainable fisheries
- Shrimp fishing is an explicit part of fisheries activities. Following, a discussion group on the Marine Stewardship Certificate (MSC) for all kinds of fisheries will be established

Frequency: Five meetings expected in 2008 – 2010, depending on contents

## **STEERING GROUP**

## **8. TOURISM/MARKETING**

### Tasks

- Initiate implementation of existing objectives and decisions (e.g. NetForum)
- Coordinate projects "Gastronomy Award/Regional products"
- Representing the WSF in the development of an overall marketing strategy

Frequency: Expected: Five meetings 2008 – 2010

## **OVERARCHING ISSUES**

### **9. PUBLIC RELATION**

#### Tasks

- Promote aims and objectives of the Wadden Sea Forum
- Communicate tasks, activities, progress and results of the WSF work, working groups and projects
- Provide relevant information through adequate instruments, particularly by the WSF web site

Responsibility: WSF-Secretariat in consultation with the Steering Committee and the working groups, depending on the issues to be communicated

Frequency: Continuously

## **B. PROJECTS AND TOPICAL ACTIVITIES**

### **B.I Common activities**

#### **10. SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS**

Objective: Development of a tool for measuring progress in sustainable development and for evaluating projects for compliance with the Guiding Principle and the Common Goals, as well as an information system for presentation of actual data on relevant sustainability indicators

Time: 2008 – 2010

Contents: Testing and optimising sustainability indicator tool.

Output: Functional tool for calculation and presentation of sustainability index and indicator data.

Participants: WG ICZM; WG Fisheries, national governments; regional governments; local governments

Resources: 20,000 Euros.

**11. FURTHER DEVELOPMENT ICZM**

Objective: Application of harmonised ICZM principles within the international Wadden Sea Region. Connecting ICZM with sustainable development, in particular in relation to management of coastal nature protection areas.

Time: 2008 – 2010

Contents: Inventory and analysis of specific cases for ICZM content. Organisation of Workshop for presentation and discussion results analysis. Exchange of experiences with other North Sea countries.

Output: Recommendations and guidance on further specification and application of ICZM

Participants: WG ICZM; WSF; national governments; regional governments; local governments

Resources: 20,000 Euros.

**12. PERSPECTIVES FISHERIES**

Objective: Improving perspectives for sustainable fisheries including shrimp fisheries

Time: 2008-2010

Contents: A study into perspectives for coastal fisheries including shrimp fisheries in the Wadden Sea. The study should make maximal use of already available material, such as the Niedersachsen Cofad study as well as the workshop on mussel fisheries and address several relevant aspects of coastal fisheries, amongst which maintenance goals (Habitat Directive 6-3), compliance with Natura 2000, infrastructure, hygiene requirements EU and perspectives as well as a social perspective.

The outcome of the study will be the starting point for the elaboration of more specific actions by the WSF.

Output: Recommendations to national governments and TGC-12

Participants: WG Fisheries; WSF; national/federal governments, regional governments, local governments, relevant communities, fisheries sectors, nature protection

Resources: 20,000 Euros

Remark: The study will be initiated as soon as the results of the MSC are available. The new study will build on the new available information and will formulate more concrete objectives for the perspectives. The WG Fisheries will take the responsibility as steering group for the study.

**B.II WSF Activities****13. IMPACT ENERGY**

Objective: Inventory and analysis of all existing and currently being planned power plants in the Wadden Sea Region and the EEZs of Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands including information on the proportion of the production of renewable energies in the region. Evaluation and assessment of the potential impacts and consequences of the energy plants and related facilities

Time: 2008-2010

Contents: A study to the objectives which includes a detailed description and analysis of the power plants, the capacity and the related facilities.

Output: Report, impact assessment and continuously update of data

Participants: WG EII, WSF, national/federal governments, regional governments, local governments

Recourses: 20,000 Euros

**14. GASTRONOMY AWARD/REGIONAL PRODUCTS**

Objective:	Continuation of the gastronomy award initiative. Promotion of production of regional products and improvement of regional marketing possibilities.
Time:	2008 – 2010
Contents:	Co-organisation and support gastronomy award 2009. Inventory and analysis promotion and marketing structures
Output:	Gastronomy Award 2009. Report on marketing situation for regional products and recommendations to governments on possible improvements.
Participants	WSF; Relevant national private producers' and marketing organisations (such as Stichting Waddengoud, Ostfriesland schmeckt nach meer, Danish Wadden Sea product organization)
Resources	25,000 Euros
Remark:	Danish Wadden Sea product organization will function as platform for Gastronomy Award in 2009. an official program will be available by the end of 2008.

**15. MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**

Objective:	Establishment of a Tourism Marketing Strategy to advance the marketing of the region on a common basis
Time:	2008 – 2010
Contents:	The development of a Wadden Sea Region wide marketing strategy for advancing sustainable tourism in the Wadden Sea Region and the facilitation of the implementation of projects in a Wadden Sea wide context. The nomination of the Wadden Sea as World Heritage Site will be used for a trilateral initiative. Furthermore, the Gastronomy Award will give rise to include the marketing and promotion of regional products as concrete task in the work of the group.
Output:	Functioning marketing group. Concrete concept for marketing sustainable tourism (nature; cultural history).
Participants	Euregio "Die Wadden"; Tourism Facilitation Group, NL; Kompetenzzentrum für Tourismus, Niedersachsen; Nordseebäderverband, Schleswig-Holstein; Tourismus Inseln & Küste, Niedersachsen; Touristgruppen, South Danish Tourism Board, DK municipalities; Wadden Society NL; WWF, National partners.
Resources	25,000 Euros
Remark:	Steering Committee proposes the project as a common project with the TWSC as the marketing should take up the World Heritage nomination. Therefore, an additional budget is needed and requested.

**16. ADVICE TO TWSC**

Objective:	Implementation of consultation task WSF to TWSC
Time:	2009 – 2010
Contents:	Develop recommendations to TGC-12, in accordance with agreements TGC-11, regarding national ICZM strategies (Sch.D. §13), the further development of the WSP (Sch.D. §12) and the draft TGC-11 Declaration. It would be important that consultation material (draft WSP, draft Ministerial Declaration) is available in time, WSF will deliver on requests of the TWSC
Output:	WSF report to TGC-12, covering the above themes, WSF report
Participants	WSF
Resources	15,000 Euro for lay-out and printing of final report

## **C. SECRETARIAT**

### **17. FACILITATION WSF, SC AND WGS**

Contents: Preparation, coordination and elaboration of meetings, including meetings with chairpersons. Participation in meetings. Public relations.

Resources: Annually: 75 days secretary. 20 days administrative support. 7,000 Euros travel and meeting facilities.

### **18. FACILITATION PROJECTS**

Contents: Overall coordination. Facilitation of project meetings. Organisation of workshops and conferences. Drafting of reports. Drafting terms of reference for studies. Evaluation of tenders. Public relations.

Resources: Annually: 85 days secretary. 35 days administrative support. 25,000 Euro for burning issues, workshops

### **19. MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY DATA BASIS**

Contents: Regular collection of data. Updating the database.

Resources: Annually: 5 days secretary.

### **20. MAINTENANCE WSF WEBSITE**

Contents: Regular updating WSF website

Resources: Annually: 5 days secretary. 5 days administrative support.

### **21. GENERAL SECRETARIAL WORK**

Contents: Coordination of secretariat. Administrative work

Resources: Annually: 40 days secretary. 40 days administrative support.