



**Wadden Sea Forum**  
**WG ICZM, 2018-2 Meeting**  
**Bremen, 21 August 2018**

Final DRAFT MINUTES

**1. Opening**

*Document: WG ICZM 2018-2, Draft agenda*

The secretary of the working group, Manfred Vollmer, welcomed the participants and opened the meeting at 11:00 hours. The list of participants is in **Annex 1**. The agenda was adopted and is in **Annex 2**.

**2. Adoption of the Minutes ICZM 2018-1**

*Document: Final Draft Minutes ICZM 2018-1*

The meeting adopted the final draft minutes of the 2018-1 meeting of WG ICZM, Hamburg, 11 April 2018, as distributed by e-mail of 25 April 2018.

The final draft minutes are also available at the WSF website [www.waddensea-forum.org](http://www.waddensea-forum.org)

**3. Announcements**

The secretary briefly informed the participants about the program, course and contents of the Trilateral Governmental Conference 2018 on 17 – 18 May in Leeuwarden. While the first day was dedicated to a Dutch Wadden Congress and a symposium on ports development, on the second day a conference open to public and the closed Council Meeting with the signing of the Leeuwarden Declaration took place. Additionally, a WSB meeting took place prior to the conference to finally discuss the draft Ministerial Declaration and a new constitutional WSB meeting was scheduled right after the conference, opened by the new German chair, Ms Karin Lochte. At the closed Council meeting the WSF chair introduced the work and achievements of the WSF and presented the ministers and state secretaries the WSF report "Developments in the Wadden Sea Region". The feedback from the ministers was quite positive.

**4. Sustainability Indicator Project**

Since 2003 the WSF is working on sustainability indicators with an intensification on local level from 2015 on. This project takes a large part of the work of the secretariat, while the use of the results by the regional and local governments is almost not visible. On one hand it has to be considered that the planning authorities and decision makers use their own data and expertise instead of the WSF indicator tool, but on the other hand the results of the instrument provide information to a wider community about the progress of sustainable development in the Region, which could lead to new actions.

The ICZM group discussed the development of the indicator tool and adaptation processes with a view on future approaches.

a) From 2003 to 2014 the indicator tool provided data of about 33 indicators, comparable in the entire Wadden Sea Region, to measure sustainability on a more general level. This was appreciated by the stakeholders as well as by the political level, who were informed about the developments regularly.

b) In 2015 the stakeholders of the WSF intensively discussed relevance and value of the indicator tool and agreed to improve the instrument by in-depth analyses to make it more valuable and useful for stakeholders and policy makers on local and regional level. To get the necessary support to elaborate on the new approach, the WSF cooperated with Telos from the University of Tilburg and the institute for geography of the University Kiel. The aim was to use the analysis approach of Telos, who analyzed more than 100 indicators for all Dutch municipalities, also for the German coastal municipalities. Following, data sets for some 65 indicators for 570 German municipalities were compiled and further analysed for two municipalities. Workshops were held in these municipalities to discuss the results and to get a feedback for the further work.

c) Build on the promising workshops, the secretariat approached further German municipalities to continue with analyses on local level to provide support in decision making for increasing sustainability in the Wadden Sea Region. It turned out that most of the indicator data was available on county level and quite weak on municipality level. Therefore, the further analyses of municipalities was skipped.

d) Taking the experiences of the work on indicators into account, the secretariat started in 2018 a new phase of data analyses. Data on NUTS-3 for 53 indicators were compiled and analysed as well as illustrated in different diagrams. Parallel, the Wadden Academy and Telos from the university Tilburg gathered data of a wider region in the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark. It was agreed that Telos will cooperate with the WSF to compile and analyse data regularly to get a time series to analyse the developments over time. Furthermore, a few municipalities will be approached to discuss the elaboration of a mission statement and to define local indicators to measure progress in developments. These few examples could be used as best practises and incentives for other municipalizes to follow this approach.

The ICZM group **agreed** to follow the approach outlined above under d). The WSF with its work should function as initiator and will compile local best practise measures of sustainable development. Differences of approaches and developments within the trilateral region could be used as opportunities to solve problems.

## **5. Demographic Change**

At the last meeting, the ICZM group intensively discussed the work on demographic change in the Wadden Sea Region. For the future work on this theme, it was agreed that it should be combined with the approach of the indicator project, namely to elaborate a vision on sustainability with some municipalities as best practice examples for the WSR. In this approach, the challenges of demographic change could be integrated.

The university of Vechta is very much interested to cooperate with the WSF and to support the work on demographic changes. It is foreseen to carry out interviews on local and regional level to get information regarding perception of demographic changes, the need to steer developments and options to develop concepts to meet the challenges. The university will deliver an outline of possible working steps to be discussed in the WSF.

It was recommended to add relevant demographic data in the indicator instrument as further contribution for the work on demography in the Wadden Sea Region.

## **6. Preparation of thematic workshops for plenary sessions**

*Document: ICZM 2018-2-6.1, Thematic workshop themes*

At the WSF-33 meeting on 6-7 June in Varde it was agreed to integrate thematic workshops in the plenary meetings to aim at active involvement of the WSF members. It was also agreed to implement a first thematic workshop at the next plenary meeting on 1-2 November. The secretariat has briefly analysed various themes of the Leeuwarden Declaration with relevance for the WSF with a view on its potential for involving almost all stakeholders and for elaborating on a common position (see document).

The meeting welcomed this first assessment of the secretariat and **agreed** to the given estimation for implementation. Denmark internally discussed the document and proposed to take up the following themes in a short-list: Climate change and adaptation strategies, light emissions, cultural landscapes, demographic change and partner-hub.

Finally, the ICZM group **recommended** to implement a workshop on light emissions and darkness at the forthcoming WSF plenary meeting on 1-2 November 2018. The topic would receive broad attention, a dark sky would increase the attractiveness of the Wadden Sea Region and would also contribute to the political agenda, expressed in the Leeuwarden Declaration.

### **7. Partnership Centre and the role of the WSF**

The secretary briefly informed about the developments and progress regarding the implementation of the partner-hub of the World Heritage Partnership Centre. The partner-hub would build a broad network of stakeholders including science, green NGOs and education sector to enhance the idea of ownership towards the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. Instead of implementing a new network, the WSF as only trilateral stakeholder forum could play a major role. This message was already forwarded to the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) by the WSF in 2017.

A first draft concept would be elaborated under the lead of Lower Saxony and would hopefully be presented to the WSB for further discussion at the next meeting mid-November in Copenhagen. Based on WSB decisions, the WSF should debate the concrete role of the Forum in the partner-hub.

### **8. Any other business**

Jacobus Hofstede informed the meeting that he would not participate in future ICZM group meetings due to reduction of workload. Still, Mr. Hofstede is willing to contribute with expertise in his field on request and, he will continue his membership (observer status) in the WSF plenary.

The working group showed understanding for his decision but it was also expressed that he would be missed with his profound knowledge as well as personally.

### **9. Next meeting**

The meeting **agreed** to hold the ICZM-2018-3 meeting end of November 2018. A meeting date will be defined by an internet questionnaire.

### **10. Closing**

The chair thanked all participants for their participation and contributions made and closed the meeting at 14:30 hours.

**ANNEX 2**

**Wadden Sea Forum  
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DRAFT AGENDA

- 1. Opening**
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes ICZM 2018-1**
- 3. Announcements**
- 4. Sustainability Indicator Project**
- 5. Demographic Change**
- 6. Preparation of thematic workshops for plenary sessions**
- 7. Partnership Centre and the role of the WSF**
- 8. Any other business**
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