



**Wadden Sea Forum**  
**31<sup>st</sup> meeting**  
**Wilhelmshaven, 1-2 November 2017**

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

**1. Opening**

The chair of the meeting, Cees Loggen, welcomed the participants in Wilhelmshaven. Also the Mayor of the city, Andreas Wagner, who was hosting the meeting welcomed the participants (see **Annex 1**). The chair thanked the Mayor for hosting the meeting and opened the plenary meeting at 13:00 on 01 November 2017.

On request of the plenary, an additional agenda item was included to intensively discuss the role of the WSF in the projected World Heritage Partnership Centre. This was done under the new agenda item 14. Following, the meeting adopted the agenda which is in **Annex 2**. A list of the agreements and decisions as summary of WSF-31 is in **Annex 3**.

**2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF-30**

*Document: WSF-30 Final Draft Minutes*

The meeting **adopted** the final draft minutes of the WSF-30 meeting in Den Helder, 18-19 May 2017. The final draft minutes of WSF-30 have been distributed by e-mail of 08 June 2018. The final draft minutes are also available on the WSF website [www.waddensea-forum.org](http://www.waddensea-forum.org).

**3. Membership WSF**

*Document: WSF 30-3.1 Membership list*

The secretary referred to the distributed WSF member list and informed the meeting about some changes.

- Frank Ahlhorn is a new member of the WSF as well as of the society and represents the consultancy Küste und Raum as well as EUCC-D.
- Rena Paziorek will represent the energy sector and is from DONG Energy Wind Power Germany, which will be renamed into Ørsted in the next days. She is also a member of the working group ICZM.
- Arjan Berkhuisen from the Waddenvereniging in the Netherlands will join the WSF too and replace Herman Verheij after his retirement.
- Durk Stoker from the Gemeente Sudwestfryslan will replace Mirjam Bakker and represents the local authorities in the Netherlands.

- Hilke Looden from the Landwirtschaftskammer Niedersachsen participated for the fishery sector. A decision about full membership was postponed.

#### **4. Announcements**

Preben Friis-Hauge announced that the Danish Wadden Sea National Park Board had at their last meeting decided to donate 5,000 Euro to the WSF in 2018. This was very much welcomed.

Pieter van Kuppenveld briefly reported that the project of providing digital data for sport boats in the Wadden Sea had been delayed by one year, but first results would be available soon.

#### **5. Minutes Steering Committee**

*Documents: WSF 30-5.1 Minutes SC-2017-1*

The plenary took note of the minutes of the SC-2017-2 on 27 September 2017 in Wilhelmshaven. The secretary recalled agenda item 6 of the minutes, which was addressing the partner hub of the World Heritage Partnership centre and the role of the WSF. Additionally, a letter requesting a sustainable financial contribution by the national governments supporting the WSF was distributed for further discussion.

The WSF members stated that the involvement of the WSF in the Partnership Centre combined with the financial support by the governments would need an extra agenda item with time for sufficient discussion. Following, it was agreed to discuss this issue under the new agenda item 14, WSF and Partnership Centre, on the second day.

#### **6. Progress WSF Activities**

*Document: WSF 31-6.1 Summary progress report*

The meeting was briefly informed about the progress of WSF activities, following the outline of the document.

##### ICZM working group

Currently the working group predominantly elaborates on contributions (reports) for the Trilateral Governmental Conference TGC-13 and on the analysis of sustainability indicators on municipality level. The next steps would be implementing workshops with representatives of the concerned municipalities to discuss the analysis taking local characteristics into account. A cooperation with universities will be necessary to broaden the scope and to extend the analysis on trilateral level.

Further topics were on risk management and sustainable transport.

##### Task Group Climate

According to the participation in the Task Group Climate of the WSB, the WSF secretariat delivered contributions for the climate adaptation strategy to be forwarded to the Governmental Conference 2018 in Leeuwarden. The input focuses mainly on participation and stakeholder involvement.

##### Goose management

The WSF secretary participated in an international symposium on Barnacle geese management plan under the umbrella of AEWA on 12-14 June in Copenhagen. A further meeting on management schemes for Greylag geese took place in September in Paris. Results of the AEWA meetings and possible actions of the WSF accordingly will be discussed in a meeting of the WSF agriculture group together with representatives of science and regional governments on 30 November in Hamburg.

### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

The WSF in cooperation with the WSB elaborated an inventory of policies regarding reduction of greenhouse emissions. The inventory encompasses the EU level, national and regional levels as well as best practices of municipalities. The study is also placed on the WSF website.

### Project applications

Some major workload was invested to contribute to the project applications under Interreg Europe and Horizon 2020, outlined in the progress report. The total envisaged WSF budget will be 250,000 Euro for each project, running for five, respectively three years.

## **7. TGC 13, Ministerial Declaration**

*Documents: WSF 31-7.1 Chapter WSF for MD*

*WSF 31-7.2 Outline WSF reports for TGC 13*

The contributions of the WSF to the Trilateral Governmental Conference TGC-13 will be multi-folded. At the conference itself a presentation about the achievements of the Forum will be given by the chair. Some paragraphs of the Ministerial Declaration will deal with the Wadden Sea Forum and reports about main achievements of the WSF. Relevant developments in the Wadden Sea Region, in which the WSF was involved, will also be forwarded to the conference. The meeting discussed some of the contributions in more detail.

### Ministerial Declaration:

The Steering Committee took the responsibility elaborating a proposal for a chapter about the WSF to be included in the Ministerial Declaration (MD) Leeuwarden 2018. The draft was already forwarded to the responsible MD drafting group and WSB.

The available first draft of the MD entails only a part of the proposed contents. Paragraphs about the achievements (no 1 in document WSF 31-7.1) and about the cooperation with regard to the Partnership Centre (no 5 in document WSF 31-7.1) were left out.

Following an intensive debate took place, and the meeting **agreed** to request the inclusion of the WSF achievements in the MD and to mention the WSF as strategic partner in the realization of the Partnership Centre in the relevant paragraphs of the MD. The requests together with an explanatory cover letter, drafted by the chair and the secretariat, will be forwarded to the Wadden Sea Board.

### WSF reports:

With regard to the reports for TGC-13 the meeting welcomed the initiative of the ICZM group and the secretariat to elaborate the drafts for further discussion. To get full support of the WSF members, it was **agreed** to convene a WSF plenary meeting end of January or beginning of February to discuss the draft reports and to contribute with comments and amendments. The chair invited the WSF members to Haarlem to host this meeting as WSF preparation for TGC-13. Proposals for a meeting date will be send in the first half of November.

## **Side event: Survey on risks in the Wadden Sea Region**

*Presentation: Beate Ratter, Helmholtz-Zentrum Geestacht*

Beate Ratter presented the results of an online survey on appreciation and perceived risks in the Wadden Sea Region. The questions were about the value of the Wadden Sea, economic use as well as about protection issues. In total, around 350 people responded to the survey, which gives a rough inside in the opinions about the coastal region of Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. The results will be presented on the WSF website.

The meeting welcomed the presentation and asked for a further evaluation of the statements given by the participants of the survey.

## **8. The Jade-Weser-Port in Wilhelmshaven**

*Presentation: Hans-Joachim Uhlendorf*

Hans-Joachim Uhlendorf informed the meeting by presentation about the developments of the city of Wilhelmshaven and its harbours. An emphasis was laid on the good natural conditions of the location at the deep channel of the Jade bay and the requirements for handling the different goods like coal, oil and container. The presentation is available on the WSF website.

The meeting welcomed the presentation.

## **9. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards and WSB**

The representative of the advisory board Danish Wadden Sea National Park, Preben Friis-Hauge, informed about the latest activities:

- The Danish Nature Agency participated in the recent Board meeting on 29 September 2017 and asked the municipalities and NGOs to deliver comments and input to the text of the Ministerial Declaration. Following, the Danish Wadden Sea Advisory Board would have a meeting on this issue in January 2018 to discuss and finally submit comments to the Agency.
- The Nature Agency briefed about procedures for pollution accidents in the Wadden Sea.
- The Danish Wadden Sea National Park informed about new developments in the area.

The meeting noted the information.

## **10. Developments within the renewable energy market**

*Presentation:*

*Rena Paziorek from Orsted Wind Power Germany GmbH (former Dong Energy)*

Rena Paziorek presented the portfolio from Dong Energy who transformed from an energy company based on coal, oil and natural gas to a global leader in renewable energy and a world leader in offshore wind. According to the new businesses, the companies name changed in Orsted Wind Power GmbH.

An emphasis was laid on the techniques and installation of offshore wind turbines in the southern North Sea. The complete presentation is available on the WSF website.

The meeting welcomed the presentation and discussed future developments as well as the impacts of wind power installation on the environment.

## **11. WSF Budget 2018**

The secretary informed the meeting about the preliminary budget for 2018, which would be not balanced yet. The guaranteed income 2018 would be far too little to cover the expenses.

In the following, the meeting discussed possibilities to reach a sufficient budget for the coming years. It was consensus that the WSF would need a long-lasting, structural financial support from the national governments, including Germany, who has not contributed for the past two years. The debate about the budget had to be seen in close collaboration with the Partnership Hub of the World Heritage Partnership Centre (see agenda item 14). The governmental commitment should be seen due to the fact that the WSF was established by the governments to deliver information and advice regarding sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region. This is underlined by the advisory role of the WSF in the political Wadden Sea Board.

It was **agreed** to make the governments/parliaments aware of the achievements as well as of the beneficial cooperation with representatives of the society and its various sectors.

Besides the financial support of governments (national, regional, local) and contributions from some WSF stakeholders, further financial income should be achieved through projects, carried out by the WSF secretariat. A little project on sustainability indicators is co-financed for two years by the "Niedersächsische Wattenmeerstiftung" and two project

applications under Interreg Europe, respectively Horizon 2020 have been made (see agenda item 13).

## 12. Sustainable transport

*Presentation: Herman Verheij, Waddenvereniging*

At one of the last meetings, the plenary agreed to work on sustainable transport in the WSF. Many experiences have been made in the Netherlands. Herman Verheij briefly presented a project about sustainable accessibility in the Dutch WSR. The project, which received broad participation, focused on four main themes, which were zero emission, demand driven travel, one transport chain and sustainable Wadden travel experience. The presentation in Dutch is available on the WSF website.

## 13. WSF projects

The meeting was briefly informed about three main projects, in which the WSF is deeply involved.

- a) Development and analysis of sustainability indicators in Lower Saxony, funded by the Wattenmeerstiftung Lower Saxony.
- b) Project application under Interreg Europe, "O.P.enScape", Operational programmes envisaging protection and valorisation of landscapes in its natural and cultural heritage meaning. Decision probably March 2018.
- c) Project application under Horizon 2020 "Assets": Assessing the cultural heritage values of European marine and coastal landscapes to enhance sustainable use. Submission has been made end of September, decision probably March 2018.

## 14. The role of the WSF in the projected Partnership Centre

*Document: WSF letter for WSB about the role of the WSF in the partnership centre*

Agenda item 14 was included because the discussion about stakeholder cooperation in the projected World Heritage Partnership Centre was of crucial importance for the WSF. The Steering Committee stated in its meeting of 27 November 2017 that the partnership centre and the embedded partner hub would be important for the future dealings within and management of the Wadden Sea Region. Governments, NGOs, the scientific community as well as stakeholders would build an important partnership. This new network would probably be supported by the highest political levels and would have a stake in decision making. Therefore, the WSF should play a strong role in this partnership.

The plenary in general agreed with the statements of the Steering Committee and underlined the importance of a strong and independent stakeholder forum within the envisaged partnership. As the WSF represents comprehensively a broad variety of private sectors, non-governmental organizations and representatives of local and regional governments of the WSR, it can play a substantial role within the networking partner hub.

It was stated that a clear commitment of all national governments for the WSF and its tasks would be necessary to intensify the cooperation. Only with an evident statement of support, the WSF could fulfill its tasks as facilitator in the partnership centre. The support would also include financial backing as the cooperation would be based on political agreements and decision.

In **conclusion**, it was **agreed** to strive for a fruitful cooperation with the Trilateral Cooperation (TWSC) and also to forward the discussed and improved letter, which is in **Annex 4**, to the WSB meeting, to get a clear answer about future cooperation, commitment and financial support.

**15. Next Meeting**

The meeting **agreed** to implement an additional plenary meeting in early 2018 to discuss the contributions to the Trilateral Governmental Conference TGC-13. This meeting will probably take place in Haarlem on invitation of the WSF chair.

A further meeting in connection with TGC-13 in Leeuwarden is also considered. The proposed meeting in the period of 6-8 June 2018 in Varde, Denmark is prioritised.

**16. Any other Business**

Preben Friis-Hauge informed about the elections of local governments in the Danish municipalities on 21 November. He himself and Kristine Kaas Krog were standing for re-election in their municipalities Varde, respectively Fanø.

Cees Loggen proposed to elaborate on a long-term agenda for the WSF. This was appreciated by the meeting.

He further asked for comments to improve the chairmanship of the WSF. Comments should be sent to [loggenc@noord-holland.nl](mailto:loggenc@noord-holland.nl) by 31 December 2017.

**17. Closing**

The chair thanked all participants for their fruitful contributions and closed the meeting at 12:00 hours on 02 November 2017.

**ANNEX 2**

**Wadden Sea Forum  
31<sup>st</sup> meeting  
Wilhelmshaven, 01-02 November 2017**

**DRAFT AGENDA**

- Agenda item 1. Opening**
- Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF-30**
- Agenda item 3. Membership WSF**
- Agenda item 4. Announcements**
- Agenda item 5. Minutes Steering Committee**
- Agenda item 6. Progress WSF Activities**
- Agenda item 7. TGC 13, Ministerial Declaration**
- Agenda item 8. The Jade-Weser-Port in Wilhelmshaven**
- Agenda item 9. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards and WSB**
- Agenda item 10. Developments within the renewable energy market**
- Agenda item 11. WSF Budget 2018**
- Agenda item 12. Sustainable transport**
- Agenda item 13. WSF projects**
- Agenda item 14. The role of the WSF in the projected Partnership Centre**
- Agenda item 15. Next Meeting**
- Agenda item 16. Any other Business**
- Agenda item 17. Closing**

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**Decisions and Agreements**

- 1) The WSF agreed to request the inclusion of the WSF achievements in the Ministerial Declaration and to mention the WSF as strategic partner in the realization of the Partnership Centre in the relevant paragraphs of the MD.
- 2) The WSF decided to convene a WSF plenary meeting end of January or beginning of February to discuss the draft reports and to contribute with comments and amendments.
- 3) The WSF agreed to make the governments/parliaments aware of the achievements of the WSF as well as of the beneficial cooperation with representatives of the society and its various sectors.
- 4) The WSF agreed to strive for a fruitful cooperation with the Trilateral Cooperation (TWSC).
- 5) The WSF agreed to forward the discussed and improved letter about the cooperation with the TWSC to the next WSB meeting, to get a clear answer about future cooperation, commitment and financial support.

**ANNEX 4**

**Wadden Sea Forum**  
**31<sup>st</sup> meeting**  
**Wilhelmshaven, 01-02 November 2017**

**Chairman Wadden Sea Board**  
**Co Verdaas**  
**CWSS**  
**Virchowstr. 1**  
**D-26382 Wilhelmshaven**

**WSF subject to be discussed at the WSB 21 meeting on 17 November 2017**

Dear Mr. Verdaas and WSB members,

on 27 September 2017 the WSF Steering Committee discussed in its 2017-2 meeting issues of cooperation between the WSF and the Wadden Sea Board. The Steering Committee emphasizes the intention, preparedness and need of close collaboration, commitment and support with regard to future cooperation under the umbrella of the World Heritage Partnership Center.

At the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WSB on 16 June 2017, the WSB decided to install an Operational Team Partnership Hub, tasked with exploring possible options for enhanced stakeholder engagement of possible sectors/partner networks in the projected Partnership Hub as part of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Center. According to the Terms of Reference, potential partners like the WSF should be approached to encourage active participation and engagement in the Partnership Hub.

The WSF Steering Committee agreed at its meeting on 27 September on the Terms of Reference for the newly established operational team of the projected Partnership Hub and underlined the role and potential contribution of the WSF in the Partnership Hub in detail. It was acknowledged that the Partnership Center and the embedded Partnership Hub will be important institutions for future cooperative activities in and management of the Wadden Sea Region (WSR). Governments, NGOs, the scientific community as well as stakeholders can build an important partnership to enlarge ownership for the World Heritage Site and to increase commitment to develop a sustainable society and Wadden Sea Region.

The WSF discussed in its meeting of 1-2 November 2017 the engagement of the WSF in the Partnership Hub. It was consensus that a fruitful collaboration among the partners and the governments demands mutual commitment from both sides in order to gain added value for all involved parties as well as for the protection of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. As the WSF represents comprehensively a broad variety of private sectors, non-governmental organizations and representatives of local and regional governments of the WSR, it can play a substantial role within the networking partner hub. Based on its activities, the Forum can contribute and deliver input on sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region and particular on most relevant issues like green harbor development,

sustainable energy and transport, climate adaptation, goose management and risk management. Furthermore, instruments of the WSF like climate atlas, planning portal and the locally based sustainability indicator tool will support the development of a sustainable society in the Region.

The WSF is best qualified to function as a facilitator for information and knowledge exchange between sectors and governments. Yet the envisaged role of the WSF in the future collaboration with the TWSC contains expectations.

Mutual commitment and active involvement of stakeholders in the partnership has to be based on sound financial support from the governments. In order to fulfill the vivid tasks as stakeholder forum and facilitator of the Partnership Hub, the WSF expects a sustainable financial contribution as a basic budget from all national and state governments. Additional support by the regions as well as by stakeholders and third party projects will support the activities, e.g. implementation of studies and projects with regard to relevant topics of sustainability and the enlargement of ownership for the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. Without the financial commitment and support of the political level, the WSF will not be able to fulfil its tasks and obligations in a sustainable manner.

Therewith, the Wadden Sea Forum appeals to the WSB to clear the way with the national and state governments for financial support to the WSF as facilitator of the Partnership Hub and to strive for agreements made at the forthcoming Trilateral Governmental Conference in May 2018 in Leeuwarden. It is the WSF's conviction that only the genuine involvement of the Wadden Sea society, its stakeholders and representatives in the implementation of the ambitious tasks of the Partnership Center will be successful and sustainable.

I am therefore looking forward to the outcome of the discussion about the demand of the WSF on the WSB 21 meeting on 17 November 2017.

Yours sincerely,



Cees Loggen  
Chairman Wadden Sea Forum