



Wadden Sea Forum
32nd meeting
Haarlem, 07 February 2018

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening

The chair of the meeting, Cees Loggen, welcomed the participants in Haarlem and opened the meeting at 10:00. A short round of introduction took place as some new WSF members joined the meeting. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**. The meeting adopted the draft agenda, which is in **Annex 2**.

The chair made some reflections about the WSF, its work and position. He experienced the WSF as stakeholder forum with responsibility for sustainable development in the Wadden Sea Region. To strengthen the commitment for the work he proposed to focus on future relevant issues with a clear mission and to elaborate an applied working concept for the coming four years. The progress should be discussed and assessed regularly also in order to tune the work program according to the envisaged outcome.

On this basis the WSF could position itself and formulate advice and recommendations. The meeting welcomed these reflections and agreed to increase the visibility of the Forum in the WSR and to raise the voice for sustainable developments.

2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF-31

Document: WSF-31 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting took note of the final draft minutes of the WSF-31 meeting, Wilhelmshaven, 1-2 November 2017 and no amendments were made. Officially, the final draft minutes should be adopted at the forthcoming meeting in June, as that would be the regular plenary meeting. The meeting in Haarlem was called in to elaborate contributions for the reports being forwarded to the Governmental Conference in Leeuwarden 2018.

3. Outcome WSB-21 and WSB-22

The vice chair Preben Friis-Hauge and the secretary briefly informed about the outcome of the Wadden Sea Board meetings on 17 November 2017 in Vester Vedsted and on 2 February 2018 in Hamburg.

At the meeting in Vester Vedsted the WSF offered its contribution as future partner in the projected World Heritage Partnership Centre and requested political appreciation and financial support. The WSB did not approve the WSF request and did not step into a further discussion about this issue either. Also the request to include a paragraph about the WSF achievements in the Ministerial Declaration was rejected.

At the WSB meeting in Hamburg the Dutch and Danish delegation referred to the dismissing attitude towards the WSF and expressed their appreciation towards the Forum. They stated that the WSF would deliver excellent work and that they would appreciate a cooperation between WSB and WSF also in the future.

4. TGC 13, Ministerial Declaration

Document: WSF 32-4.1 Draft MD TGC 13

WSF 32-4.2 Outline report WSF achievements

WSF 32-4.3 Draft report developments in the WSR

Under this agenda item it was envisaged to elaborate further on the report about developments in the WSF since the Governmental Conference in February 2014 in Tønder. Besides this report, two further reports as achievements of the WSF were distributed to take note of. Both of these reports, a discussion document on demographic changes in the WSR and a report on sustainability indicators were available as drafts but will be further elaborated to be forwarded to the forthcoming Governmental Conference in Leeuwarden.

Also the draft Ministerial Declaration of Leeuwarden was presented and being used as input for the discussion about the role and position of the Forum within the cooperation with the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC).

The discussion to improve the draft report on developments in the WSR as well as a brief evaluation of the role of the WSF in this respect was facilitated and moderated by Beate Ratter from the University of Hamburg. The relevant themes of the Tønder Declaration were chosen for further elaboration beforehand, which were Fisheries, Energy, Climate change, Science cooperation, maritime safety and harbour business as well as the Wadden Sea Forum.

First, the meeting split into three subgroups, who discussed 2 themes each with a view on developments, achievements, problems/obstacles and the role or contributions of the WSF in this respect. Following, short summaries about the outcome of the subgroups to the plenary were given and on this basis further debates about the presented results took place.

In the following, the results of this session are briefly summarized.

Theme fisheries

Developments:

- Elaboration and implementation of a swimway initiative
- Elaboration of a swimway action plan
- Implementation of electric pulse gear in shrimp fisheries
- New management approaches in NL

Achievements:

- MSC certification in mussel and shrimp fisheries (Germany & the Netherlands)

Problems:

- Overcapacities (NL) due to state support
- No subsidies for new vessels in Germany leads to distortion of competition

WSF role and contributions:

- Presentations about fisheries and its developments took place in plenary meetings
- Strive for better integration of fishery themes in the work of the WSF
- Attraction of fishery representatives

Evaluation:

The developments and achievements were seen quite positive. A better integration of the sector in the WSF was proposed / recommended.

Theme Energy

Developments:

- Increasing wind energy production off-shore
- Self-supporting (independent) energy supply on local level, particularly on islands
- Paris agreement 2015 on climate
- Switch off of wind turbines during bird migration in the province of Groningen

Achievements:

- Inventory climate friendly WSR, policies with regard to CO₂ reduction
- Increasing awareness within the society and among stakeholders
- Workshop on shipping (energy saving) of WSF and Mariko in 2017
- Smart island initiative
- Introduction of LNG in shipping (ferries to islands)

Problems:

- Conflicting space claims in offshore energy sector
- Spatial quality
- Acceptance of energy transition due to increasing costs

WSF role and contributions:

- WSF implemented workshops (energy workshops, shipping workshops)
- WSF as information platform

Evaluation:

The developments and achievements were seen quite positive. Support of the TWSC is missing, e.g. for smart island initiative and CO₂ reduction measures/concepts

Theme Climate change

Developments:

- Paris agreement on climate
- Measures and actions on regional and local level
- Best practice examples of a number of municipalities

Achievements:

- Inventory climate friendly WSR, policies with regard to CO₂ reduction
- Implementation of Task Group Climate of TWSC (climate adaptation)
- Elaboration of Strategy 2100 in Schleswig-Holstein

Problems:

- Recommendations made by stakeholders not sufficiently taken into account by governments (Ministerial Declarations of TWSC)
- Solutions and measures regarding sea level rise are based on outdated models
- Governments focus too much on bigger picture instead of support small scale measures
- Accessibility of Wadden Sea harbours under climate change impacts
- Missing awareness of climate change impacts on cultural heritage

WSF role and contributions:

- WSF involved in inventory on CO₂ reduction policies
- WSF involved in Task Group Climate
- Request for further cooperation, WSF should play a stronger role

Evaluation:

The developments, achievements and problems were seen very negative. Climate change is a huge and important issue which is broader than only sea level rise and increased storm surges. Climate change in its broad range of impacts has to be taken very serious to reach

a sustainable future. The national governments and the TWSC should better support necessary measures on regional and local level.

Theme science cooperation

Developments:

- Scientific cooperation on trilateral level, initiative by Dutch Wadden Academy
- Smart island initiative with support of scientific cooperation

Achievements:

- Elaboration of Trilateral Research Agenda
- Many collaborations of scientific institutes on specific themes, also cross border (e.g. WSF indicator analysis)

Problems:

- There is no equal organization like the Wadden Academy, neither in Germany nor in Denmark; the Wadden Academy is only partially representing the trilateral research community
- Tendency of weak connection between governments and science

WSF role and contributions:

- WSF has good and extensive connections to different representatives and organizations of the scientific community
- Scientific institutions in all countries are part of the network

Evaluation:

In the view of the participants, the developments and achievements regarding science cooperation were seen as positive. The WSF has a good network with science. The support of scientific institutions with regard to the tasks and work of the WSF is appreciated.

Theme maritime safety and harbour business

Developments:

- Increasing container shipping and bigger vessels
- Many green shipping approaches along the coast
- Shipping safety on the agenda of the TWSC
- IMO resolutions on e.g. anti-fouling, ballast water management, sulphur emissions
- DenGerNet, trilateral cooperation on pollution in the Wadden Sea

Achievements:

- Establishment of Havariekommando in Cuxhaven
- On-shore power supply in harbours
- Increasing construction of LNG vessels
- Implementation of green harbour concept at many locations

Problems:

- Lacking transnational cooperation with regard to emergency plans and management
- Little qualified staff on international vessels (cost pressure)
- Communication gaps between responsible authorities
- Conflicts between shipping and off-shore wind parks
- Insufficient container lashing control
- Use of heavy crude oil (smog line on the seas)

WSF role and contributions:

- WSF has forwarded recommendations on VTM and emergency towing capacity
- WSF to encourage cooperation on trilateral level, joint training and exercises

Evaluation:

Despite some achievements, the developments do not look promising. Impacts of increasing ship traffic and problems with bigger ships in rivers and estuaries are quite big. Impacts on ecosystems are threatening.

Theme WSFDevelopments:

- Decreasing interests in the work of the WSF (from outside as well as from WSF members)
- Involvement in EU projects
- Increasing focus on regional developments, being better visible in the region
- Still little influence in WSB and decision making

Achievements:

- Strong ICZM working group
- Implementation of Planning Portal
- Implementation of Climate Atlas
- Further development of indicator tool
- Cooperation with AEWA regarding goose management
- Inventory on CO₂ reduction policies
- Reports on demographic change and sustainability indicators
- Work on green shipping and green harbour concept

Problems:

- Lacking financial support from national governments
- WSF is not visible enough
- Decreasing interests of stakeholders to actively work in the Forum
- Little appreciation of the governmental level
- Lack in implementing WSF recommendations

WSF role and contributions:

- WSF need to clearly define a mission statement as message for the outside world and at the same time refocus the objective and task of the WSF for their own members
- WSF should play a responsible role in the planned Partnership Centre on World Heritage
- The network of the WSF has to be broadened and crucial sectors should be invited to actively take part in the WSF's work
- For being better visible, more CEOs (ambassadors) should be attracted to support the Forum

Evaluation:

The situation of the WSF was assessed as negative (possibly based on a misunderstanding of the perspective). At the same time the outputs of the WSF were very much appreciated as well as the necessity to continue the work on relevant themes.

However, the performance of the Forum in the WSR and on the political level has to be improved. Also the standing of the Forum can be enhanced. It is requested to clearly define the WSF position regarding developments in the WSR and to continue delivering advice.

The Forum is addressed in the Leeuwarden Declaration 2018 under various topics and the WSF should make use of its potential.

For defining positions of the Forum as well as the elaboration of sound advice and recommendations of the WSF, it is aimed at a new structure of the plenary meetings. Besides information and knowledge exchange on the basis of presentations, working sessions on specific themes should be part of the plenary meeting. Ideally, these sessions should be prepared and moderated by somebody experienced.

5. WSF Budget 2018 update

The WSF secretary briefly informed about the preliminary budget for 2018. With an expected approval of a project application to the Wattenmeerstiftung Niedersachsen, a balanced budget 2018 is likely to be reached. The chair announced that the financial contribution of the Dutch Wadden Sea provinces would be increased by 10,000 Euro annually. The participants very much welcomed this commitment of the provinces.

6. Future WSF and WH Partnership centre

The meeting was briefly informed about the progress of establishing a World Heritage Partnership Centre, which will encompass a governmental level based on the recent structure of the TWSC and a partner-hub. The partner-hub should build a network of partner organisations from green NGOs, science, education and economic sectors to strengthen the commitment for the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. The final structure is still under discussion and a so-called operational team elaborates on the implementation of the partner-hub. With the secretary, the WSF is represented in the operational team and secures the interests of the Forum.

The meeting **agreed to formulate role and position** of the WSF in the Partnership Centre to be taken into account in the further discussion and implementation.

7. Next Meeting

The regular forthcoming WSF plenary meeting will take place as WSF-33 two days meeting on 6-7 June 2018 in Varde, Denmark.

8. Any other Business

No other business discussed.

9. Closing

The chair thanked all participants for their fruitful contributions and closed the meeting at 15:30 hours on 07 February 2018.

ANNEX 2

**Wadden Sea Forum
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DRAFT AGENDA

- Agenda item 1. Opening**
- Agenda item 2. Taking note of the Minutes WSF-31**
- Agenda item 3. Outcome WSB-21 and WSB-22**
- Agenda item 4. TGC 13, Ministerial Declaration**
- Agenda item 5. WSF Budget 2018**
- Agenda item 6. Future WSF and WH Partnership centre**
- Agenda item 7. Next Meeting**
- Agenda item 8. Any other Business**
- Agenda item 9. Closing**