



Wadden Sea Forum
36th meeting
Leer, 18-19 November 2019

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening

The chair of the meeting, Preben Friis-Hauge, welcomed the participants in Leer at the Mariko building. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**. A special welcome was given to Ms Jenny Daun and Mr Matthias Groote, representatives of the county of Leer and host of the meeting.

After a short round of introduction of the new members Anna Schlag, Shawn Lyon and Poul Fremmelev, the chair introduced the program and the draft agenda, which was adopted without any changes and which is in **Annex 2**. A list of the agreements and decisions as summary of WSF-36 is in **Annex 3**.

2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF-35

Documents: WSF-35 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting **adopted** the final draft minutes of the WSF-35 meeting in Groningen, 09-10 May 2019, distributed by e-mail of 29 May 2019. The final draft minutes are also available on the WSF website www.waddensea-forum.org.

3. Membership WSF

Document: WSF 36-3.1 Membership list

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

DK Nationalpark Advisory Council: Poul Fremmelev will replace Karen Boel Madsen

Regional Government Authority Lower Saxony: new Landrat in Aurich (Olaf Meinen) and mayor in Wilhelmshaven (Carsten Feist)

Regional Government Authority Schleswig-Holstein: new Landrat in Nordfriesland (Florian Lorenzen)

Energy HH, SH: Shawn Lyon will replace Mr. Zettlitzer/Mattfeld; the new name of the company is Wintershall Dea GmbH

Local Government Authority Netherlands: Bert Wassink, new mayor of Terschelling

4. Announcements

Soledad Luna informed the meeting that the CWSS has launched a new website, which combines the CWSS and the Wadden Sea World Heritage website, both URLs can be used. She further announced that Bernard Baerends would be the new executive secretary of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation.

Anna Schlag briefly reported that Ørsted would have four off-shore wind parks in operation. New cable corridors would be needed in the future, for which the companies TenneT and Amprion would be responsible.

Pieter van Kuppenveld informed that not all lost containers from the accident of the MS Zoe have been retrieved. Activities would be going on.

Preben Friis-Hauge informed about a new museum "Escape", constructed just a few kilometres north of the Wadden Sea. This refugee Museum in Oksbøl has received 1,3 million Euro from the German Bundestag, which would be the first time that Germany has supported a Danish museum. Approximately 5,8 million euro of the total costs of 13,3 million Euro have already been collected, supported by the municipality of Varde, the Danish Parliament and the German Bundestag.

5. Minutes Steering Committee, Composition SC

Documents: WSF 36-5.1 Minutes SC-2019-2

The chair briefly introduced the document, referring to the main topics, which were also on the WSF-36 agenda.

According to the subject future of the WSF secretariat, he informed the meeting that Manfred Vollmer will retire end of July 2020 and that the Executive Committee of the WSF e.V. has decided to recruit Frank Ahlhorn as new managing director of the WSF and its society. Finally, he pointed out the new composition of the WSF Steering Committee, which is Preben Friis-Hauge (chair), Stefan Mohrdieck, Bert Wassink, Erich Hinrichs, Christian Lorenzen, Ingrid Klinge and Pieter van Kuppenveld.

The meeting noted the information.

6. Progress WSF Activities

Document: WSF 36-6.1 Summary progress report

Additionally to the information given in the document, the secretary reported about some topics in more detail.

Dark Sky: On local level, quite a number of initiatives and actions have been taken to foster the dark sky idea. These local actions can contribute to the aim, to designate the Wadden Sea Region or parts of it as Dark Sky Park according to international regulations, or, in a broader sense, as dark sky community/area. The WSF took the initiative for a first meeting in October to bring local actors together discussing a trilateral approach and concept for a dark sky region. The meeting reached a common understanding and discussed common goals and objectives. As a first step, it was agreed to start a process of awareness rising and of changing mind settings. At a later stage, a project application under an EU program could be elaborated. A second meeting will take place end of January 2020.

Macroplastic: A joint workshop of the University Oldenburg and the WSF about macroplastic reduction measures took place on 1 October. Stakeholders from various organizations like tourism, shipping, retail industry and producers discussed reduction measures according to defined criteria. As an outcome, the following measures were seen as most suitable:

- Reusable dishes in coastal tourism
- Awareness rising in coastal tourism
- Mitigation measures at events
- Enlargement of dual use systems
- Level playing field in port charges
- Abrasion protection in fishing industry
- Improvement of storage systems in harbour areas

A full report, encompassing an analysis of drifting particles in the southern North Sea, will be available beginning of 2020.

Goose Management: The meeting was briefly informed about the process and progress of implementing the AEWA management plans for Greylag and Barnacle geese on flyway level. These management plans were adopted by the range states in December 2018. For the implementation in the different countries Favourable Reference Values (FRVs) have to be defined. As this process is lacking, the WSF elaborated a resolution, which requests the responsible ministries to speed up the process and support the AEWA concept. The Meeting adopted the resolution without any vote of dissent. The resolution (in German) is available on the WSF website <https://www.waddensea-forum.org/topics/projects/goose-grazing>.

Fisheries: The meeting was informed about a new dialogue process with the fishery sector. The German sector has provided a position paper of their sector as basis for further communication about sustainable fisheries. The Dutch sector is going to deliver a similar position paper, which will contribute for a joint approach within the trilateral Wadden Sea Region.

Sediment management: Ports are important hubs for freight distribution as well as for Wadden Sea fisheries and tourism on the Wadden islands. The WSF participated in a workshop on challenges and solutions maintaining the access to ports and keeping them vivid. The workshop was organized by Interreg North Sea Region Dual Ports www.dualports.eu, Groningen Seaports (Delfzijl and Eemshaven) www.groningen-seaports.com/en and Niedersachsen Ports (15 ports) www.nports.de/en. Key topics were on sediment transport, environmental effects, technologies of dredging and on best practices, which can be experienced on the websites <https://eemsdollard2050.nl/pilot-kleirijperij> and www.delfzijl.nl/waterfront-delfzijl-marconi.

It was consensus that sediment management would be an important issue also for the small harbours along the Wadden Sea. The Steering Committee was requested to come up with suggestions how to further deal with this topic.

7. Climate Adaptation in the Wadden Sea Region

Documents: WSF 36-7.1 Policy Paper water management

The Wadden Sea Forum has elaborated a policy paper on challenges of water management in the Wadden Sea Region due to climate change. The paper reflects the view of the different stakeholders of the WSF and is forwarded to responsible organizations and decision makers to consider WSF recommendations in their dealings.

It was stated that the policy paper documents a good cooperation of the stakeholders and means a good product of the WSF and it was already very much welcomed at a political meeting about water management in Lower Saxony.

The policy paper is available in the 4 Wadden Sea Region languages and can be downloaded from the WSF website <https://www.waddensea-forum.org/>

8. Results sustainability indicators 2019

Presentation: results indicators on county level

The WSF secretariat has continued the work on sustainability indicators on county level in Germany and municipality level in Denmark. The analysis of sustainability indicators delivers still basic information about the performance of the WSR. In the discussion about challenges and opportunities for the regions, the WSF can use the results of the indicator analysis as valuable background data.

Manfred Vollmer presented the latest results and developments in the Wadden Sea Region. The presentation is available on the WSF website <https://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum/archive/meeting-documents/plenary-meeting-docs-2018-2019>.

The meeting welcomed the information and tasked the secretariat to continue the work on sustainability indicators.

9. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards and WSB

Representatives of the advisory boards were invited to present relevant information about proceedings within their boards and organizations.

Denmark:

Preben Friis-Hauge briefly introduced the key topics discussed in the advisory board on 25 October 2019:

- Information of KIMO Denmark and KIMO international about plastic pollution in the sea. The Oldenburg study about drifters in the sea was also mentioned.
- The municipalities agreed on an application of the Danish Botanical Association for membership in the Advisory Board Danish Wadden Sea.
- Oyster and mussel fishing in the Danish Wadden Sea seen in the view of the Danish Fisheries Authority.
- Karen Sandrini, Councillor from Esbjerg municipality, informed about the Dark Sky project on Mandø.

Lower Saxony:

Holger Wesemüller reported about the main topics of the advisory board meeting on 24 October in Wilhelmshaven. Besides an overview of compensation measures and nature protection projects, the emphasis was on shipping safety and related recommendations to the government of Lower Saxony by the advisory board. These recommendations support the initiative of the WSF to establish a round table with regard to shipping safety (see agenda item 11).

Schleswig-Holstein:

Manfred Vollmer briefly informed the meeting about the topics of the advisory board meeting in Dithmarschen on 27 August. The focus was on the report of the National Park Authority, on developments of the municipality Meldorf (presentation by the mayor Anke Cornelius-Heide) and a report about the Wadden Sea Forum (presentation by Manfred Vollmer).

10. Progress SIMP

Soledad Luna from the CWSS gave an overview about the progress of elaborating a "Single Integrated Management Plan" for the Wadden Sea. The management plan should involve stakeholders and take into consideration various views.

Currently, key topics would be identified, which were fisheries, tourism, shipping and impacts from outside. The WSF members agreed that the Forum could support the further development of the SIMP with regard to an analysis of the key topics, as these would be on the agenda of the WSF too. The presentation is available on the WSF website <https://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum/archive/meeting-documents/plenary-meeting-docs-2018-2019>.

11. WSF cooperation and recommendations for the WSB

Documents: WSF 36-11.1 Implementation of joint shipping group (WSF-WSB)

Shipping in the southern North Sea, an area directly adjacent to the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site, is an important and increasing business, which demands better attention to minimize risks and to safeguard the environment. Recent incidents underlined the need for joint forces to improve shipping safety in the southern North Sea. The WSF secretariat together with Rijkswaterstaat have elaborated a proposal to implement a round table under the responsibility of WSF and WSB to work on an improvement of shipping safety.

The meeting appreciated the initiative to discuss shipping issues on a broad level. In this context, the WSF could play a role in setting a trust environment, networking and facilitation of the shipping group. It was consensus that the proposed round table should be installed and that this should be strongly recommended at the WSB-30 meeting. WSF members will help to approach responsible organizations to dispatch a representative to the round table.

12. Cooperation WSF with Partnership Centre

Documents: WSF 36-12.1 MoU Partnership

WSF 36-12.2 Draft concept partner-hub

As written in the agenda, the WSF has **signed** a MoU on 30 June with the TWSC to cooperate on World Heritage preservation and sustainable development in the WSR. For a successful cooperation, a partner-hub under the umbrella of the World Heritage Partnership Centre will be implemented. The hub should foster collaboration among the different organizations.

Hubertus Hebbelmann from the environmental ministry of Lower Saxony emphasized the importance of having the WSF as partner, as the Forum would be the voice of the Wadden Sea Region. Provinces, counties and municipalities as well as socio-economic sectors would build the network of the Forum, which would function as an important brick in the partner-hub. The meeting appreciated the statement of the ministry, but also saw difficulties regarding the ambitious level of the concept with its outlined objectives and tasks. The additional work of the Forum within the partner-hub as well as the value added for the WSF were seen rather unclear, even though a stronger voice of the Forum at the political level and better backing in delivering advice could probably be reached.

To be better prepared in the discussion of implementing a partner-hub concept and in order to play a pro-active role in this process, the WSF members **agreed** to discuss these issues intensively at the next plenary meeting in May 2020. As an outcome, the WSF should deliver recommendations and advice how to implement the partner-hub with a broadly expected role of the WSF in the cooperation with other organizations. Furthermore, the WSF will discuss in this context the contents of the future work.

13. Trilateral Research Agenda

The meeting was briefly informed about the process of implementing the Trilateral Research Agenda (TRA). Currently, a so-called road-map committee prepares the installation of a TRA program committee. This committee will work towards implementation of the TRA on research issues relevant to the Wadden Sea World Heritage, including to stimulate and search for funding possibilities. It should also discuss and agree on the prioritization of TRA research lines.

The proposal for the composition of the program committee is that 4 members per country are in the committee (2 policy members, two researchers). The WSF raised the question, if stakeholders and NGOs should also be in the committee to deliver advice on research needs in their point of view. This would be more in line with the concept of the partner-hub.

After a short discussion, the meeting **agreed** that it should be guaranteed that stakeholder's advice on research needs should be considered in the TRA, but a membership in the committee would not be necessary.

14. Dark Sky Initiative

Presentation: Quality an importance of dark skies by Nynke-Rixt Jukema

In the discussion about the future work of the WSF it was **agreed** to elaborate on and promote a dark sky initiative in the WSR. On initiative of the WSF secretariat, a meeting dark sky with representatives from all three Wadden Sea countries took place on 14 October 2019 (see agenda item 6).

To get a deeper insight in the quality of darkness and the beauty of the night, Nynke-Rixt Jukema presented facts about policies, awareness and experiences in this field. The night with the attributes of darkness and silence would have effects on health, tourism, innovation, cultural identity and biodiversity. She presented many examples from Dutch experiences and activities, which should be seen as incentives for the further work on trilateral level.

The meeting very much appreciated the presentation and recommended to continue the work on a trilateral approach to reduce light emissions and to experience the dark skies. Possible negative impacts by increasing tourism and infrastructure measures have to be taken into account.

15. Platform for Municipalities

From 2016 to 2019 the WSF was associated partner in WatNu, a project about demographic change with the case study Wangerland municipality. An important value of the Forum is its network with the municipalities and the regions. This makes the WSF better visible in the Region.

Now, an initiative is taken to broaden the network and to intensify cooperation on local level. The WSF secretariat invited some municipalities for a meeting to discuss future challenges and to define core topics to jointly work on. Before stepping into a discussion about this initiative, it was agreed to await the results of a first meeting with the municipalities. The issue will be on the agenda in May 2020.

16. WSF Budget 2020

The chair briefly explained the budget lines of 2019 and 2020. A lot of efforts had been taken by the secretariat to close the financial gap for 2019. For this year, an additional payment of 10,000 Euro had been acquired from the Lower Saxonian Government and the budget would be in balance.

The plenary noted the information of the budget for 2020, which from today's view would show a deficit. Even though the salary of the secretary's post will be lower than in 2020 due to changes in personnel, a minus of around 20,000 Euro had to be covered for a balanced budget.

17. Next Meeting

The meeting **agreed** to hold the WSF-37 meeting on **18-19 May 2020**, which will take place on the island of Fanø in Denmark.

18. Any other Business

Hubertus Hebbelmann from the environmental ministry of Lower Saxony will retire by the end of this year. The chair thanked Mr Hebbelmann for his engagement in the WSF and his support in financial matters. The meeting underlined this by a big applause and wished him all the best for his new life period.

19. Closing

The chair summarized the agreements made, which are in **Annex 3**, thanked the participants for their commitment and contributions and closed the meeting at 12:30 hours on 19 November 2019.

ANNEX 2

**Wadden Sea Forum
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A G E N D A

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ANNEX 3

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DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

1. The Meeting adopted a resolution to support the implementation of the AEWA management plans for Greylag and Barnacle geese and to define Favourable Reference Values (FRVs) as part of it.
2. The meeting requested the WSF Steering Committee to elaborate on proposals how to further deal with sedimentation in harbours and management options accordingly.
3. The meeting tasked the secretariat to continue the work on sustainability indicators.
4. The WSF members agreed that the Forum could support the further development of the SIMP with regard to an analysis of the key topics, as these would be on the agenda of the WSF too.
5. It was consensus that the proposed round table on shipping safety should be installed and that this should be strongly recommended at the WSB-30 meeting. WSF members will help to approach responsible organizations to dispatch a representative to the round table.
6. The WSF members agreed to discuss contents and structure of the projected partner-hub intensively at the next plenary meeting in May 2020. Furthermore, the WSF will discuss in this context the contents of the future work.
7. The meeting agreed that it should be guaranteed that stakeholders advice on research needs should be considered in the TRA, but a membership in the committee would not be necessary.
8. In the discussion about the future work of the WSF it was agreed to elaborate on and promote a dark sky initiative in the WSR.
9. A discussion about facilitating a platform of municipalities in the Wadden Sea Region will be on the agenda of the WSF-37 meeting.
10. The meeting agreed to hold the WSF-37 meeting on 18-19 May 2020, which will take place on the island of Fanø in Denmark.