



Wadden Sea Forum
41st meeting
Breklum, 16 – 17 May 2022

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening

The chair of the meeting, Mr Preben Friis-Hauge, welcomed all participants in Breklum, thanked the county of Nordfriesland and the Landrat Mr. Lorenzen for his hospitality and the invitation to the Christian-Jensen-Kolleg as well as Mr Voß from the county for his support to the meeting and opened the meeting at 13:00 hours.

A list of participants is in **Annex 1**. 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 actions as summary of WSF-41 is in **Annex 3**.

2. Adoption of the Draft Minutes of WSF-40

Document: WSF-40 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting **adopted** the final draft minutes of the WSF-40, Skærbæk, 29 and 30 September 2021, distributed by e-mail of 4 November 2021. The final draft minutes are also available on the WSF website www.waddensea-forum.org.

3. Membership WSF

Document: WSF-41 3 Membership list

The WSF secretariat informed the WSF members that

- Ørsted decided to cancel the membership and the financial support of the WSF end of last year. There is still a contact person willing to take part of WSF meetings, but the official relationship has been cancelled.
- Christian Lorenzen (formerly representing the Danish municipalities) was not re-elected during the elections end of 2021, thus he left the Forum and the Steering Committee. His successor will be Poul Erik Kjær from Tønder municipality.

4. Announcements

Since we had some new members in the WSF, a short round of introduction took place.

Furthermore, Mr Voß gave some information about the excursion to **GP Joule** in the afternoon. The company started in 2009 and provides custom-made solutions with high added value from green fields to EV charging stations. Their portfolio is ranging from project development to the upgrading of electricity to produce hydrogen, heat or mobility. See more under <https://www.gp-joule.eu/>.

Hans-Ulrich Rösner informed the meeting that

- He welcomed the suspension of dumping of mud from the Hamburg harbour to an area near the island of Scharhörn. However, he is concerned that this is not yet a permanent decision and also about another location for dumping at „Neuer Lüchtergrund“, as being also too close to the Wadden Sea and therefore setting a risk for the World Heritage site.
- Concerning fossil fuel exploration, the green NGOs are objecting the intentions to extend the area where oil drilling is allowed from the Mittelplate-platform and to start drilling for natural gas in the North Sea, north of the islands Schiermonnikoog and Borkum.
- For the preparation of the Wadden Sea conference a „Call for Action“ was formulated by 24 green NGOs of the Wadden Sea Region (<https://www.wwf.de/fileadmin/fm-wwf/Publikationen-PDF/Deutschland/Call-for-Action-Wadden-Sea-2022.pdf>). This call is about: 1. tackling the most urgent deficiencies with high ambition, 2. safeguard and support successful work areas, and 3. structural decisions to strengthen the trilateral work for the Wadden Sea. Concerning the most urgent deficiencies with high ambition, the NGOs focussed their expectation on: „Protect and connect nature in and under water“, „Make energy production sustainable and environmentally sound“, and „Shipping and ports to improve the ecological and climate footprint“.

Soledad Luna informed the meeting about news within Trilateral Cooperation and CWSS:

- Interreg North Sea Proposal MANABAS Coast: Under lead of Rijkswaterstaat, a proposal for the project MAstreaming Nature Based Solutions through COASTal systems (MANABAS COAST) was submitted under the first call for applications of the Interreg VIB North Sea Region Programme/Priority 3. A climate resilient North Sea Region/3.1 Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches. MANABAS COAST aims at contributing to accelerating the process of climate change adaptation in a systematic way, by mainstreaming Nature Based Solutions (NBS) that integrate coastal flood risk management with biodiversity goals. This will be approached by testing solutions and translating the outcomes into a framework for Integrated System Based Asset Management. Amongst several pilot sites, also study pilots in the Wadden Sea Area are foreseen. The project is planned for a duration of 60 months, starting on 1 October 2022 – 30 September 2027. CWSS was asked to be partner of this project and is preparing a budget estimate and letter of support. Main proposed activities of

CWSS in MANABAS COAST are strongly related to plan activities of the trilateral Expert Group Climate Change Adaptation (EG-C). CWSS will provide knowledge exchange between MANABAS and trilateral bodies and activities. In addition, CWSS will provide a link to the World Heritage Marine Programme.

- East Atlantic Flyway Youth Forum 2022:
<https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/events/2022-east-atlantic-flyway-youth-forum>. The EAFYF 2021 has shown a lot of commitment by young people along the East Atlantic Flyway - they are ready to take action. While many of them volunteer their time for research and monitoring activities, or organising campaigns to raise awareness for flyway issues, it is clear that funds are urgently needed to ensure activities and outcomes are sustainable. The aim of the East Atlantic Flyway Youth Forum 2022 is to support young people in raising funds for conservation initiatives by increasing their capacity to successfully write grant proposals. Therefore, an online fundraising workshop is planned for up to 30 participants on 9th and 10th July 2022. The application process will start at the beginning of May. Information will be shared with the trilateral and international partners in due time.
- Wadden Sea World Heritage brand space platform:
<https://waddensea.brandspace.online>. The Wadden Sea World Heritage brand space platform is ready to be used online. The platform was developed in the framework of the PROWAD LINK project. The platform gives access to information on the World Heritage logo use, as well as content and marketing materials (texts, videos and photos) to use in Wadden Sea World Heritage Site communication efforts.

Hans-Joachim Uhlendorf stated that due to the changed situation of energy supply with the Ukraine crisis, construction works at Jade-Weser-Port for a new LNG terminal have started at 3rd of May 2022. The new terminal will be way outside of the Wadden Sea National park, so impact to nature will be at a minimum.

5. Minutes Steering Committee

Documents: WSF-41 5 Minutes SC-2022-1, WSF-41 5 SC-2022-2

The chair gave a short summary about topics of the two meetings, which took place in the beginning this year. Due to the regional/local elections in Denmark last year, Christian Lorenzen (formerly representing the Danish municipalities) was not re-elected and therefore, left the WSF and the Steering Committee (SC). The Forum is still looking for new members for the SC. The WSF secretariat prepared a more formal description of what is expected from members of the SC and suggested which composition the SC could have. These proposals are currently under discussion within the SC. Nevertheless, the WSF secretariat is happy about members who are willing to become member of the SC.

Another point was about the discussion of the latest version of the Wilhelmshaven Declaration and the role of the WSF. One member of the SC suggested to prepare a WSF statement on the deposition of sediment from the Elbe in the vicinity of the National Park and World Heritage site Wadden Sea. The WSF secretariat is still working on this point.

Furthermore, the SC discussed about the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the WSF this year as well as the WSF internal consultation process on the SIMP.

The meeting took note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting SC-2021-1 at 2 March and SC-2022-2 at 19 April (online).

6. Progress WSF Activities

Document: WSF-41 6 Summary progress report

The meeting took note of the WSF progress report 2021.

6.1 Processes & Projects

The secretary reported about some activities and status of

- Goose Management
- Siltation small harbours of WSR
- Progress on Regional Round Tables of WSF

6.2 Projects & Presentations

The project partners of the WSF presented their work, which were running in past month:

- [TrilaWatt](#) – Status and Prospects (Zakaria Mohamed)
- [Sustainable Shipping and Ports at the WSR](#) (Marine Perrin, Hans-Joachim Uhlendorf)
- [WattFossilFrei!](#) (in substitution by Pieter van Kuppenveld)
- [MediaWatt](#) – Status and Prospects (Frank Ahlhorn)

It was asked by some members if subtitles in English can be added to the movies. It would attract more viewers from other countries.

6.3 20th Anniversary WSF

Document: WSF-41 6.3 Proposal 20th anniversary WSF

Hence, the WSF was founded as an Interreg project in 2002, in August 2022 (at the WSF-42 plenary meeting) we would like to celebrate the 20th anniversary. The chair very kindly acknowledged that still some members are attending the plenary meetings, which have been there since the beginning and who accompanied the WSF all the time. He invited everybody to attend the next meeting and after asking for ideas and proposals for the event it was said that:

- the first part of the meeting should be open to public and an informal celebration
- to invite all founding and funding members and companies
- to invite participants from the previously held WS Youth conference

6.4 Active Role of WSF, Ministerial Conference Declaration (MCD) and TGC-14

Documents: WSF-41 6.4 WSF Input MCD, WSF-41 6.4 draft MCD April 2022

This year, the WSF got several opportunities to get involved in the work of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation. The German presidency ends and the Danish presidency is about to start with a new declaration for the upcoming period at the next Trilateral Governmental Conference end of November 2022 in Wilhelmshaven.

WSF Input in Draft Ministerial Conference Declaration

The meeting compiled and discussed the expectations of attendees for the Wilhelmshaven Declaration. Reflecting on the SIMP consultation process as there was sent the English version of the document, it was asked that a German translation of the draft declaration

could be sent to the members. Furthermore, based on the discussion at the plenary it was stated that the following topics should be included in the declaration:

Goose Management, outlook on the progress of Wadden Sea management (e.g. see "Call for action" from the Wadden Sea Team), policy assessment report about progress based on the last declaration Leeuwarden 2018 such as lessons learnt, especially on shipping safety, outlook for a healthy tourism sector (still operation on small harbours, sailing sports etc.), outlook of food and energy supply regarding World Heritage site now under Ukraine crisis.

WSF internal consultation on the SIMP

Document: 20220910_WSF_Statement_FinalDraft

This year, the first draft of the SIMP has been sent to our membership with the request to provide feedback. The members reflected that the SIMP is very a detailed document and, therefore, needs time to be read comprehensively. UNESCO suggested the five key topics to be dealt with. The participants express their concerns on future developments with regard to potentially new regulations in the trilateral Wadden Sea area. Soledad Luna (CWSS project officer for the SIMP) stated that the SIMP was required by UNESCO, but it should not be seen as a new regulation it is meant as a framework for the Trilateral Cooperation and future sustainable development.

The meeting proposed that reporting about the progress of the SIMP should become an agenda item at the next plenary meetings.

The WSF secretariat prepared a WSF statement on the SIMP based on the discussion and the internal consultation process.

WSF ideas to side-events at TGC-14 in Nov/Dec 2022 in Wilhelmshaven

Document: WSF-41 WHV_Declaration_Documentation_draft

The meeting was informed about the proposed events of the Trilateral Cooperation, which will be art exhibition, posters and movies, excursion at the last day, various exhibition stands at Hotel Atlantic, Pumpwerk and the World Heritage Visitor Centre. The WSF will show its work at a stand on the Wadden Sea market. For that, it was proposed to present our banners, flyers, reports, current presentations as background movies.

General expectations for the declaration

The general expectations of the participants at the WSF-41 were as follows:

- Goose management: the Ministers should commit to the appropriate management of goose population because farmers are experiencing severe harvest failures/damages and thus financial loss (partly existential)
- Tourism: water sport should be recognised as part of tourism and in line with this the accessibility to small harbours along the Wadden Sea should be taken into consideration
- Wadden Sea islands and Halligen: The habitability should be safeguarded
- As mentioned in the "Call for Action" of the Wadden Sea Team the following topics are relevant: underwater noise, energy (transition/transformation) and sustainable shipping and ports
- The WSF-41 discussed a "change of mind-set" in order to be able to manage change (or transition) in different topics caused by changing circumstances

- It was requested to work on finding a trilateral position on the topic of energy transition, e.g. the connection of off-shore windfarms to the main land

Expectations to the WHV declaration specifically linked to WSF

The more specific expectations for the WSF were as follows:

- Include “nice words about the WSF”
- Acknowledge the role of the WSF
- Appreciate the projects of the WSF, e.g. TrilaWatt and the Shipping and Ports project
 - Furthermore: support and encourage the execution of these projects
- Take into consideration to financially support the WSF (addressed to specific parts of the TWSC)

WSF statement towards TWSC on Wilhelmshaven Declaration

The WSF plenary is grateful to receive the invitation to the consultation process for the Wilhelmshaven Declaration. At the WSF-41 plenary, a general brainstorming on the potential and expected content of the Wilhelmshaven Declaration was conducted. In this document, the results of the brainstorming session are summarised.

7. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards, OBW and WSB

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

Denmark:

Mr Friis-Hauge briefly introduced the key topics discussed in the Danish Wadden Sea Advisory Board on 18 March:

- Constitution and new members of the RUV; the political consensus group for RUV has been established on 14 March. Preben Friis-Hauge has been elected as chair. Poul Erik Kjær from Tønder Municipality will represent RUV in the WSF.
- Tønder marsk initiative (TMI): Julie Rechnagel and Bjerre Hermansen from TMI informed about the project. The project is completed by the end of the year.
- 5th Strategy for the Wadden Sea as World Heritage 2021-2025: the strategy has been politically addressed in the four municipalities, which will be informed of the strategy and the progress of the process.
- Anne Husum Marboe of the National Park told us about the work on culture and some of the initiatives they work on in the National Park, in cooperation with other parties, where culture and nature are linked.

8. WSF Finances

The WSF secretary informed the plenary about the current financial situation of the WSF society. The cancellation of the Ørsted membership end of 2021 is still a setback, the formerly safeguarded financial situation until 2025 is now invalid. But, due to the new projects (MediaWatt, TrilaWatt and DBU Shipping) as well as the report on “Water as leverage” the status of the budget for 2022 will conclude with a positive balance of approx. 27,000 €. This surplus will be taken over into the next years and help provide a positive balance until 2024. The secretary stated that although it is desirable to work in projects in order to receive

external financial support for the WSF, it is very time consuming and reduces the work for WSF purposes.

The SH Ministry of energy transition, climate protection , environment and nature intends to continue its support for the activities carried out by the WSF to foster sustainable development in the Wadden Sea Region. This will be decided in the process of the Trilateral Governmental Conference 2022.

9. Next Meeting – 20th Anniversary WSF

The meeting agreed to hold the **WSF-42** meeting on **28 and 29 September 2022**, which will take place in Wilhelmshaven, Germany.

10. Any other Business

No other business discussed.

11. Closing

The chair summarized the agreements made, which are in **Annex 3**, thanked the participants for their commitment and contributions as well as Jan-Torge Voß (Landkreis Nordfriesland) for the organisation and closed the meeting at 11:45 hours on 17 May 2022.

ANNEX 3

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DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

Agenda Item	Action/Agreement	Status
6.2	Check if English subtitles are possible for the MediaWatt movies	In progress
6.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare draft invitation for 20th anniversary • Prepare draft programme for 28 September as open event • Prepare for and approach invitees for 28 September 	In progress
6.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministerial Declaration (WHV Declaration): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Request a German translation ○ Send the German translation to German members ○ Other translations will be sent during the consultation process ○ Prepare an internal consultation process on the WHV ○ Prepare WSF statement 	In progress: deadline WSF membership 20 June 2022 – only 1 comment received;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIMP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prepare a WSF statement 	Done: 10 June 2022