

Final Draft **SUMMARY RECORD**

**MEETING OF THE WADDEN SEA BOARD
TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA COOPERATION**

WSB 18

Wilhelmshaven, 3 November 2016

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Chairman, Mr Verdaas, opened the meeting at 09:00 h and welcomed the participants. He particularly welcomed Mr Henk Staghouwer and Mr Sieben Poel as new members of the Dutch delegation, Ms Heidi Nielsen, the successor of Ms Anne Husum Marboe and Mr. Claus Arnfeldt Andersen, the designated successor of Bent Rasmussen.

A list of participants can be found at **Annex 1**.

A list of action points arising from the meeting is at **Annex 3**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Document: WSB 18/2/1 Draft Agenda

The agenda was **adopted** without amendments. The agenda is at **Annex 2**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: SUMMARY RECORD WSB 17

Document: Final Draft Summary Record WSB 17

The final draft Summary Record of WSB 17 was **adopted** without amendments.

AGENDA ITEM 4: ANNOUNCEMENTS

Germany

- Following a first informal consultation with EU regional member states (DK, NL, FR, UK, BE) on fisheries management in Natura 2000 sites in the German EEZ, a follow-up meeting is planned and scientific information is being collected. Currently, a meeting on the Dogger Bank is being held in Brussels.
- The Schleswig-Holstein blue mussel fishery was MSC certified in October 2016, on the basis of the new mussel agreement concluded in Schleswig-Holstein.
- The 8th Lower Saxony National Park migratory bird days were held 8-16 October 2016 with more than 300 events and 16.000 visitors, a substantial increase compared to previous years. This year's partner was Sweden. For more information (in German) see: www.zugvogeltage.de.
- The Lower Saxony National Park Information Centre Norderney "Watt Welten" has officially become a regional Wadden Sea World Heritage Visitor

Centre. The Centre is run by the municipality of Norderney in cooperation with the green NGO BUND. Connected to this new function is a higher rate of state funding from Niedersachsen. Information offers can now be extended to meet increased requirements for modern and broad communication and World Heritage interpretation work and communication of National Park issues. It is one out of three Wadden Sea World Heritage Visitor Centres in Niedersachsen along with those in Wilhelmshaven and Cuxhaven.

- With considerable financial support by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) from a funding programme for architectural projects of nation-wide importance, the City of Wilhelmshaven has offered to host the trilateral Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Centre. The city will provide a representative and suitable site in the vicinity of the Wadden Sea, and is planning to erect a new, sustainable office building.

The Netherlands

- On Saturday 29 October the so-called "Dark Sky Initiative", a declaration on light extinguishing, was signed. It is an initiative of stakeholders from the Dutch Wadden Sea region, which fits to and supports the World Heritage status.
- The Wadden Sea was elected most beautiful nature area in a national Dutch contest.
- On the Wadden Sea islands and in the N2000 North Sea coastal zone area, outside the World Heritage area, licenses for the placement of new mining works for exploration or exploitation of mineral resources will not be issued anymore. This information will be included in the SoC report.
- A document on the planning of the upcoming Wadden Sea Conference will be submitted to the next WSB meeting. The Conference is scheduled to be held within the period 14-18 May 2018.

Denmark

- The first invitation for the 14th Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium was handed out.
- The National Park, Esbjerg Municipality, Den Danske Naturfond and the Nature Agency will start a project on agriculture on Mandø, with the aim of improving conditions for meadow birds.

CWSS

- The Executive Secretary introduced the new communications officer, Ms Annika Bostelmann.
- The expression of interest for the Interreg VB North Sea Region Programme project PROWAD LINK has been approved. The full application will now be drafted in cooperation with a consultant.
- In September 2016, the PROWAD project (concluded in 2015) was voted one of the Top 10 Green Solutions in Tourism by the International Green Destinations Jury .

WWF

- The above mentioned MSC status for the Schleswig-Holstein mussel fishery is subject to the condition that the framework agreement from July 2015 is being implemented in the beginning of 2017.
- The island of Borkum will file a legal complaint against the deposit conditions of dredged material from the Ems shipping lane. In response to this information, Mr Verhulst informed the meeting that the Dutch authorities

would comply with the regular German conditions for dumping of dredged material.

The meeting **noted** the information.

AGENDA ITEM 5: IMPLEMENTATION TØNDER DECLARATION

5.1 Wadden Sea World Heritage

Documents:

WSB 18/5.1/1 Legal Note WSWH Logo
WSB 18/5.1/2 Draft ToR WH business programme
WSB 18/5.1/3 State of Conservation Report Final Draft
WSB 18/5.1/4 Report Task Group World Heritage
WSB 18/5.1/5 Draft concept and budget ITB 2017
WSB 18/5.1/6 Presentation ITB 2017
WSB 18/5.1/7 Campaign Workshop
WSB 18/5.1/8 Report Task Group Sustainable Tourism Strategy

Wadden Sea World Heritage Logo

The meeting **welcomed** the Secretariat's note clarifying the legal implication on the logo use across the three countries.

Denmark reiterated that national focal points should be mandated to decide on the use of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Logo in order to avoid long application processes and additional paper work.

The Netherlands suggested that, according to the guidelines, focal points should help applicants who would like to use the logo and assist CWSS in the procedure by preparing a short assessment which can be checked and approved by CWSS.

Germany was consent with the current procedure but understood the situation in Denmark and the Netherlands. The Netherlands and Denmark stressed the importance of speeding up progress to solve regional differences.

Upon proposal by the chairman, the meeting **agreed** to keep the logo guidelines unchanged, and invited the Netherlands and Denmark to prepare a paper before the next WSB meeting, describing in detail the application procedure and the role of the focal points in this procedure by producing an assessment which can be checked and approved by the CWSS without surprises regarding the outcome.

World Heritage Business Cooperation Programme

The meeting **adopted** the draft Terms of References for the working group and instructed the Secretariat with the implementation accordingly.

State of Conservation Report

The meeting **adopted** the final draft for submission to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre as proposed by TG-WH.

Denmark would submit a letter on the Danish National Park to the WH Centre before end of November 2016. This letter would also be annexed to the SoC report.

Progress Report TG-WH

The meeting **tasked** the TG-WH with further elaboration of the proposed outline and timeline for the Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP) and **welcomed** the approval of the EoI of the PROWAD LINK project.

Preparation ITB 2017

Ms Domnick introduced the concept for the presentation of the Wadden Sea World Heritage at the ITB 2017, which was approved by the TG-STs. The aim is to showcase how sustainable tourism can play a role in the protection of the OUV and how the Wadden Sea cooperates with partners on local, national and international levels in the framework of World Heritage.

Denmark suggested focusing more on sustainable tourism instead of raising awareness of the OUV. Germany emphasized the need for raising awareness. The meeting **approved** the concept and the establishment of a small preparatory group to support CWSS.

World Heritage Campaign

The meeting **approved** the concept as outlined in the document.

Progress Report TG-STs

The meeting **noted** the progress report and welcomed the overview of projects and activities implementing the sustainable tourism strategy and action plan through Interreg A projects, regional EU programmes, and partner initiatives.

The meeting supported the proposal by the TG-STs to address the logo issue by the new working group on WH business cooperation programmed.

5.2 Nature conservation and integrated ecosystem management

Document: WSB 18/5.2/1 Report TG-MM

Mr Baerends, who had chaired the TG-MM 16 meeting, elucidated the TG-MM report. The meeting **noted** the information and made the following specific comments and agreements:

Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative. With regard to the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI), the meeting **acknowledged** that financing would have to be secured for the period beyond 2018. Mr Verhulst informed the meeting that a Life project, called "Delta Nature" had been granted with an overall budget of 17 million Euros for a 6 year period. Part of this budget could be used for the WSFI, for the Swimway Strategy and for implementing the Breeding Bird Action Plan.

Workshop for managers. The meeting underlined the importance of a workshop for site managers. It was suggested that such a workshop should be organised each year and that WSB should select the themes. For the upcoming workshop it was **agreed** that the TG-MM would coordinate the process.

Seal Management Plan. The meeting **agreed** on a joint meeting of TSEG and TG-MM to discuss the final draft SMP before submission to WSB. It was also **agreed** that the Dutch scientific report on seal management, which will be available in spring 2017, should be taken on board in the discussion.

Swimway. The meeting **endorsed** the approach to implement the road map for developing a Swimway strategy.

Quality Status Report. WSB **agreed** upon a slim evaluation of the process for preparing the 2016 QSR process.

5.4 Climate

Document: WSB 18/5.4/1 Progress Report Task Group Climate

The meeting **endorsed** document WSB 18/5.4/1, containing the TG-C time schedule for implementing the trilateral Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and for producing deliverables for the 2018 Wadden Sea Conference.

5.5 Maritime safety and pollution prevention of shipping

Document: WSB 18/5.5/1 REV 1. ToR for a DENGERNETH Maritime Admin Group

WSB **took note of** and discussed the minutes of the 1st meeting of the DenGerNeth Maritime Administration Group, as submitted by the Group.

WSB **expressed concerns** about the outcome of the meeting and **acknowledged** that the mandate of the group was apparently not clear enough.

WSB **stated** that the group itself should be responsible for awareness raising and education and use its network for this purpose. The CWSS should in this respect act as the interface between the group and the WSB and not act as secretariat of the group.

It was furthermore criticised that stakeholders were not sufficiently involved. To this Mr Vollmer added that WSF had offered to cooperate but that this offer had not been taken up.

It was **agreed** to

1. Invite a representative of the DenGerNeth Maritime Administration Group to the next board meeting (WSB19) to present themselves and to commonly elaborate upon the agreement concerning the relevant specific paragraphs of the Tønder-declaration.
2. Request the DenGerNeth Maritime Administration Group to provide an overview of the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Tønder Declaration (§ 55-57 incl. annex 5). The overview should also include a timeframe and should be submitted in time for the 19th meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (1st quarter of 2017, exact date tbd).
3. Invite the DenGerNeth maritime administration group to deliberate on the issue of awareness and education, including how to involve and make use of its relevant professional network.
4. Ask the DenGerNeth group to consider how involvement of stakeholders can take place (which stakeholders/organizations, frequency, agenda, etc.) and to provide an overview to the 19th meeting of the Wadden Sea Board.

5.6 Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme

See Agenda Item 5.2

5.7 Science Cooperation

Mr Speelman, member of the board of the Dutch Wadden Academy, informed the meeting about the process for developing a trilateral research agenda. Five draft thematic reports had been drafted for the five scientific fields covered (ecology, economy, climate and water, cultural history and geology), which would now be merged into a draft Trilateral Research Agenda. This draft agenda will be the central theme at the upcoming 14th Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (Tønder, Denmark, 9-11 May 2017). Mr Verhulst remarked that also a trilateral research community should be addressed, to which Mr Speelman replied that the process itself had already stimulated communication between scientists.

Mr Vollmer asked how the research themes would be linked to the political agenda.

Mr Speelman answered that the CWSS was involved in the process and also that most scientists were aware of the trilateral political agenda.

It was **agreed** that the draft agenda would be discussed in the Wadden Sea Board, in particular to assess the political relevance.

5.8 Wadden Sea Forum

Mr Vollmer informed the meeting about the activities of the Wadden Sea Forum:

- The new chairperson of the WSF is Mr Cees Loggen, who will succeed Mr Henk Staghouwer. Mr Loggen is provincial executive of the province of Noord-Holland. The new vice-chair is Mr Preben Friis Hauge.
- A goose management platform has been installed within the AEWA framework. The financial support has not yet been finally clarified.
- The indicator tool has been developed further in cooperation with the universities of Kiel and Brabant (Netherlands). It was **agreed** that at the next WSB meeting a presentation about the tool will be given.
- A green harbour-green shipping conference will be held in April 2017 in Norddeich. WSF will contribute to this symposium.

Mr Verhulst added that a side event is planned for the 2018 Wadden Sea Conference with amongst others the aim of having all Wadden Sea harbours certified.

- Following the discussion at WSB-17, WSF has again submitted a letter to the WSB, requesting support for the inventory on CO₂ reduction activities in the Wadden Sea Region. There should also be clarity about the definition of CO₂ neutrality.

The meeting **agreed** not to focus on definitions but instead to collect best practice examples, with the possible aim of presenting these at a side event at the conference. For Denmark a contact person is available to provide WSF with the necessary information. The Netherlands will do the inventory itself and offered to take the coordination for providing such an overview. Germany supports the approach and will nominate contact persons in time. The WSF offered to give the secretarial support. Within 6 months a report will be submitted to the WSB

Mr de Hoop gave a presentation on energy self-sufficiency projects on the island of Ameland.

5.10 Communication and Education

Document: WSB 18/5.10/1. Visitors Certification

The meeting discussed a proposal by the University of Oldenburg for a study concerning granting certificates to visitors of museums and visitor's centers and the related request to provide a letter of support for the study. The meeting **agreed** not to meet this request because this might involve financial implications in a later stage. It was also **agreed** to draw up general rules on how to deal with requests for letters of support.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Status of Discussion on the Trilateral Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Centre

Document: WSB 18/6/1 PCDG2 Final Minutes

WSB **noted** the outcome of the 2nd meeting of the Partnership Centre Drafting Group (PCDG) and was informed that the High Level Group had endorsed the proposal by the PCDG to ask potential partners about their expectations on the basis of a list of questions. This should be done through personal interviews and/or national meetings for which focus groups were being set up.

Mr Hebbelmann informed the meeting that the necessary funding for the building of the Partnership Centre in Wilhelmshaven (8.5 million Euros) is available and that the

city of Wilhelmshaven would like to receive a letter of intent that the building, which is planned to be finalised in 2020, will indeed be used for the intended purpose. He also informed the meeting that as of the beginning of 2017 a staff member of National Park Administration, will be made available to support the further elaboration of the PC approach.

Mr Verhulst and Mr Carstens expressed concern with the progress and procedure, because there were still many unclaritys about the purpose of the PC.

The meeting **agreed** that the letter should be formulated in such a way that it would not imply any legal commitment and that the secretary would prepare a draft text.

It was furthermore **agreed** to install a small group of partner contact persons to coordinate the process of specifying the PC concept and providing a time frame.

Mr Verhulst informed the meeting that the promised document on the legal structure of the Foundation had not yet been submitted to the WSB because some fine-tuning was still required. The document would furthermore be amended on the basis of developments with regard to the PC and consultations with Denmark and Germany. The chairman informed the meeting that he will be supported by Mr Jochem Pleijssier in further elaborating the World Heritage Foundation initiative. A proposal would be delivered by the end of 2017.

AGENDA ITEM 7: International Wadden Sea School

Document: WSB 18/7/1 IWSS evaluation

Mr Rösner introduced the evaluation of the International Wadden Sea School, as requested by WSB 17, based on input of 112 respondents of an online questionnaire. From the results of the evaluation, he concluded that a change of the existing IWSS concept was needed. He suggested two options: development of a sophisticated new strategy with educational partners in the three countries, or, on the basis of the existing information, focus on a limited number of core products which can be developed and used easier than complex educational material such as teaching resources. He also noted that a change of the name "IWSS" could then be considered.

Germany underlined the importance of World Heritage education activities to implement the objectives of the WH convention and was in favour of keeping the high spirit and quality of IWSS instead of downsizing the programme and the ambitions.

The Netherlands supported continuing IWSS and of keeping users / educators more involved in the development of high quality educational products. The existing educational network should be kept and intensified.

Denmark underlined the importance of an educational programme but referred to severe criticism because IWSS had not yet adapted to demands of Danish education programmes, and because of lacking Danish translations of some of the IWSS products. For Denmark both options were possible if these condition were accepted by IWSS.

The meeting **concluded** that World Heritage education (IWSS) should be continued, focussing on core products (as proposed in option 2) and enhancing cooperation with the users by activating educational networks in the three countries. The meeting asked Mr. Rösner to prepare a budget proposal for core funding in 2017 at the next WSB meeting accordingly.

Finally the meeting **decided** to evaluate the development in due time to make a decision about the future.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Midterm Review 2014-2018 of Implementation of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation Tønder Declaration

Document: WSB 18/8/1 Midterm Review Follow-up Oct 2016

Mr Verhulst briefly introduced document WSB 18/8/1 containing an updated version of the midterm review discussed at WSB-17. The meeting **noted** the document.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Any other business

It was agreed that a time table for the preparation of the 2018 Wadden Sea Conference would be submitted to WSB-19 by the CWSS.

The Netherlands will provide an overview regarding the planning of the Wadden Sea Conference itself.

AGENDA ITEM 10: CLOSING

The chairman closed the meeting 15:15 hours. He particularly thanked the German delegation for providing yesterday evening's dinner.

Annex 1

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Annex 2

**AGENDA
MEETING OF THE WADDEN SEA BOARD
TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA COOPERATION
WSB 18
Wilhelmshaven, 3 November 2016**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Summary Record WSB 17
4. Announcements
5. Implementation Tønder Declaration
 - 5.1 Wadden Sea World Heritage
 - 5.2 Nature conservation and integrated ecosystem management
 - 5.3 Energy
 - 5.4 Climate
 - 5.5 Maritime safety and pollution prevention of shipping
 - 5.6 Trilateral monitoring and assessment programme
 - 5.7 Science cooperation
 - 5.8 Wadden Sea Forum
 - 5.9 International cooperation
 - 5.10 Communication and education
6. Status of discussion on Wadden Sea World Heritage Competence Center
7. Future of the International Wadden Sea School (IWSS)
8. Midterm review
9. Any Other Business
10. Closing

Annex 3

List of Actions

Action	Agenda item	What	Who	Deadline
1	5	Document on application procedure and the role of the focal points	NL, DK	WSB 19
2		Further elaboration SIMP	TG-WH	a.s.a.p.
3		Establish preparatory group ITB	CWSS	a.s.a.p.
4		Workshop for site managers	TG-MM	a.s.a.p.
5		Discuss progresss SMP	Chair TSEG /interim chair TG-MM	a.s.a.p.
6		Invite representative Maritime group to WSB19	CWSS	WSB 19
7		Inventory CO2 projects	NL	a.s.a.p.
8		Provide contacts for inventory	DE	a.s.a.p.
9		Develop general rules for dealing with support requests	CWSS	a.s.a.p.
10	6	Draft letter of support PC for city of Wilhelmshaven	CWSS	a.s.a.p.
11		Install partner contact group	CWSS	a.s.a.p.
12		Finalise document legal structure WH Foundation	NL	a.s.a.p.
13	7	Draft funding core budget 2017 IWSS	Rösner	WSB 19
14	9	Time table preparation 2018 conference	CWSS	WSB 19