

FINAL DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD

MEETING OF THE WADDEN SEA BOARD TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA COOPERATION

WSB 9

Groningen, 9-10 October 2013

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

The chairman, Mr Ilsøe, opened the ninth meeting of the WSB at 13:00 h. Mr Lauenborg, Mr Holst Christensen, Ms Krag Svendsen, Mr Gabanyi, Mr Scherer and Mr Hebbelmann had apologised. Mr Gabanyi was represented by M Janke, Mr Hebbelmann by Ms Sobottka and Mr Scherer by Ms Knoke. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**.

The participants were welcomed by the host of the meeting, Mr Staghouwer, member of the executive of the province of Groningen who gave a presentation about the Groningen part of the Wadden Sea region.

During the meeting a presentation was given by the chairman of the Foundation Committee on the progress of developing a proposal for Wadden Sea World Heritage Foundation. The chairman of the Committee and its members entered into a dialogue with the meeting. Also a presentation was given by Mr Patrick Cnubben of the Foundation Energy Valley on the use of (Bio)LNG as transition fuel in the Wadden Sea region for various purposes.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Document: WSB 9/2/1 Draft Agenda

The meeting **adopted** the draft agenda of the meeting. The agenda is in **Annex 2**. It was **agreed** to discuss the feasibility study for a Wadden Sea World Heritage Centre under agenda item 7. It was furthermore **agreed** not to discuss the draft Ministerial Council Declaration (MCD) since the draft is now subject to national consultations.

AGENDA ITEM 3: SUMMARY RECORD WSB 8

Document: WSB 9/3/1 Final Draft Summary Record WSB 8

With regard to the Dutch proposals to the WSB 8 Draft Summary Record, as in document WSB 9/3/1, the meeting **agreed** that the proposal to make a reference to the shipping vision would be taken up again at WSB-10 and that the mentioning of innovative techniques in flyway monitoring in the Flyway Vision (Annex 3) would be done by WSB-10 without further discussion.

The Final Draft Summary Record of the WSB-8 meeting was **adopted**.

The secretary referred to the matter of financing the IWSS (agenda item 6 of the WSB-8 Summary Record). Germany had indicated to contribute its share of the future financing of the IWSS (1/3 of the total costs of € 40,000) at the meeting, whereas the Dutch and Danish shares were still outstanding. He informed the meeting that the network group education was very eager to continue the IWSS. At a meeting with the network group about two weeks ago, the Danish and the Dutch representative vowed to find the Dutch and the Danish shares of the financing of the IWSS. Concurrently the CWSS had circulated in accordance with the agreement at WSB a letter of invitation for alternative offers to the WWF offer. In case the Dutch and Danish shares would not be found, the IWSS would terminate by the end of this year.

Mr Rösner indicated that the offer of WWF was still valid and that it was willing to bridge the gap until a more permanent solution had been found. Beyond that he offered to develop a proposal for the development of an education strategy for the Wadden Sea World Heritage with involvement of the NG-E. Such a paper would be circulated in time for consideration at WSB 10.

All delegations declared to be optimistic about the chances for finding money for further supporting the IWSS. The matter will be taken up again at the WSB-10 meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 4: ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Netherlands

- On 4 September 2013 the World Heritage centre in Amsterdam, was opened with a display of the Dutch World Heritage properties including the Wadden Sea.
- The Netherlands and Lower Saxony are about to agree on a joint declaration on cooperation on the Ems area. This concerns the management of N2000 sites and economic development.

Denmark

- The attitude towards the Danish and Schleswig-Holstein National Parks has been investigated within the Interreg IVA programme for the German-Danish border region. The results of questionnaires show high positive attitudes for both national parks.

Germany

- There have been federal elections on 22 September 2013. CDU/CSU is the biggest party. A coalition with the SPD is expected.
- An evaluation of Wadden Sea biosphere reserves is currently on-going, following the UNESCO MAB guidelines.

Advisors

- There has been a positive decision on the MSC label for the mussel fishery in the Lower Saxony Wadden Sea. The nature organisations NABU and WWF had objected but this objection was rejected. NABU and WWF will now publicly express not to agree with the certification as they consider the fishery not to comply with the protection goals for the Wadden Sea and not yet sustainable.
- In the framework of the Prowad project a publication on the possibilities for climate friendly tourism in the Wadden Sea has been issued by WWF (in English and German).
- A guide on sustainable class trips has been published by WWF (in German).

The meeting **noted** the information.

AGENDA ITEM 5: BUSINESS PLAN 2010 – 13

Documents: WSB 9/5/1 Report TG-M; WSB/9/5/2 Information document sedimentation study

Task Group Management

Ms Hedtkamp introduced the report of TG-M (Document WSB 9/5/1).

With regard to the report of the ad-hoc working group alien species (WG-AS) the meeting discussed on the one hand the challenges resulting from the upcoming EU Regulation on

alien species and the LIFE+ proposal and, on the other hand, the need for showing progress on the issues of alien species management and control at the coming conference. Considering the regulations already in place or under development in the Wadden Sea countries, WSB **agreed** that the ad-hoc editorial group would prepare an additional text for the next draft of the MCD, reflecting progress in alien species policy and management.

The meeting **agreed** on the proposed approach to presenting nature restoration cases at the conference. It was furthermore emphasised that the exhibition could show different national approaches to and where appropriate reflect controversial aspects of nature restoration in the Wadden Sea.

Ms Hedtkamp emphasized that representatives from administration should participate intensively in the further development of the science-policy matrix by e.g. by participating the workshop “Trilateral Research Agenda and Wadden Sea Science-Policy Matrix” on 20 November.

The meeting **took note** of the report.

Task Group Climate

The meeting **welcomed** the information document on interim findings of the sedimentation study, prepared by some members of the Task Group Climate. It was left up to the members of TG-C to decide to prepare a brochure for the conference.

AGENDA ITEM 6: WADDEN SEA WORLD HERITAGE

Documents: WSB 9/6/1 Report Task Group World Heritage; WSB 9/6/2 Report Task Group Sustainable Tourism Strategy; WSB 9/6/3 Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative

The secretary presented the progress report of the Task Group World Heritage encompassing a report on the IUCN field mission in August to evaluate the Danish-German World Heritage extension, the proposal on a twinning arrangement between the World Heritage properties of Banc d’Arguin and the Wadden Sea and the information request of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre on the salt mining in the western Dutch Wadden Sea.

The meeting, having heard the explanation of the secretary, **agreed** to

- (1) Task TG-WH with coordinating the process leading up to the World Heritage Committee session in June 2014 including any follow up activities such as a possible request for supplementary information.
- (2) Authorize the secretary to discuss a twinning agreement with the Banc d’Arguin on the occasion of the Marine World Heritage Conference on Corsica under the conditions outlined and report to WSB 10.
- (3) Note the information on the World Heritage Centre information request on salt mining.

Task Group Sustainable Tourism Strategy

The secretary briefly informed the meeting that the Task Group Sustainable Tourism Strategy (TG-STs) has completed its work with regard to the strategy. The strategy is now undergoing final editing and will be submitted to WSB 10 for endorsement. He explicitly inquired whether the suggestion to sign the strategy on its last page by the stakeholders involved in the process and additional regional partners would have the consent of the meeting.

Ms Knoke commended the process leading to the drafting of the strategy resulting in an ownership of the strategy by the region. She very much favoured signing of the strategy by

the stakeholders to express this ownership. As communicated to the Task Group, she indicated, however, that Germany may still have outstanding comments to the strategy as the consultation process is still on-going in Germany. As for other annexes to the MCD, the outcome should be discussed at WSB 10. Mr Waalkens welcomed the strategy and indicated that stakeholders were very much willing to sign the strategy. He indicated, however, that there were outstanding questions related to its signing such as to what extent signatories would commit themselves with regard to the strategy, the position of the action plan and the financial implications ensuing from the action plan. Mr Rasmussen added that whilst there was clarity on the strategy, the status of the action plan being an ambitious programme was unclear in terms of commitments and financial implications.

The meeting **agreed** to instruct the TG-STG to review eventual additional comments from Germany before WSB 10 and consider the signing of the document in consultation with TG-WH.

Re. Communication and Marketing Programme 2010-13, the campaign 2014 to celebrate the 5th annual of the inscription on the List and the extension with the Danish part, state parties **promised** to look into the financial possibilities and **agreed** to instruct the TG-WH with overseeing the campaign.

Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative

In discussing the document and the request to stakeholders to sign, Mr Rösner requested clarification about what commitments signatories entered into when signing the vision and the action plan. Ms Knoke added that the vision is part of the on-going consultations. Such is not the case for the action plan, which had been presented for the first time in the context of the document by the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI). The proposed amendments to the draft Ministerial Declaration should be dealt with together with the outcome of the consultations.

It was **agreed** that the TG-WH should clarify the signing of the flyway vision including whether the action plan should be part of the signing in relation to the suggested amendments of the draft Ministerial Declaration to be considered at WSB 10. The chairman of the WSFI should be invited to present the vision and the action plan at WSB 10.

AGENDA ITEM 7: WADDEN SEA CONFERENCE

Documents: WSB 9/7.1/1 Programme Tønder Conference; WSB 9/7.2/1 Draft Agenda; WSB 9/7.3/1 Policy Assessment Report; WSB 9/7.4/1 Ministerial Council Declaration

7.1 Programme Wadden Sea Conference

The draft programme was presented by Ms Husum Marboe and commented by the meeting. Guidelines and invitations for the exhibition will be online soon, address see below. The discussion in particular centred around the panel discussion on the conference day.

Mr Verhulst underlined that the panel discussion should focus on sustainable development and the future of the cooperation including the Foundation with the overall aim to create ownership and act as a trigger for the whole conference. In this context he suggested to create an external event such as the opening of an exhibition that would provoke high level of public attention and attract the press. Ms Nickel concurred with Mr Verhulst on the event issue. She emphasized that the overall theme of the panel discussion was nature conservation and the OUV of the Wadden Sea World Heritage property as already agreed at WSB 8. Ms Knoke added that the panel discussion should be confined to one theme such as shared ownership for the World Heritage property and its integrity and the foundation as tool. It was **agreed** that the ad hoc drafting group should come up with the proposal for a title.

Further proposals for actions which might attract public attention for the conference are still welcomed.

Mr Rasmussen indicated the conference chair wished to invite James Rebanks to introduce the theme with special emphasis on World Heritage and sustainable development. In respect of the external event Mr de Hoop suggested to invite Ecco to design a Wadden Sea shoe.

It was **agreed** to request the conference organizer to circulate as soon as possible a revised draft conference programme for comments by the WSB with a view to have a final programme adopted at WSB 10. James Rebanks would be invited by the conference organizer to introduce the panel discussion.

The conference centre Website is at <http://www.conferencemanager.dk/Exhibition/the-event.html>

7.2 Agenda Ministerial Council Meeting

The proposed draft agenda as approved by WSB 8 was **confirmed**.

7.3 Policy Assessment Report

Comments to the draft PAR had been submitted by Germany and the Netherlands. After a controversial discussion the meeting **agreed** that the work on the PAR would continue and that the editorial group would discuss a consolidated draft in which comments made during the consultation phase would be included, as well as chapter 2, the ecosystem assessment.

It was furthermore **agreed** to work on the communication related to the PAR, for example by producing a brief popular version of the PAR.

7.4 Ministerial Council Declaration

The meeting **noted** the status of the consultations on the draft Ministerial Council Declaration including the annexes and concluded to wait until all consultations had been finalized by the end of November. The ad-hoc group was **instructed** to review the comments ensuing from the consultations and prepare an amended draft for consideration at the WSB 10.

The chair announced that following discussions amongst Head of Delegations preceding the WSB it was **agreed** that a Danish proposal for the future of the Cooperation would be presented for inclusion in the draft Declaration and discussed at WSB 10.

Mr de Jong informed the meeting that the Task Group Management, as well as experts from the fish expert network had discussed the need for having a text in the ministerial declaration emphasising the necessity for implementing the trilateral fish targets. He announced that in the coming month a policy document for submission to WSB-10 would be prepared with a text proposal for the MCD, including the necessary background information. The meeting **noted** the information.

Feasibility study on a Wadden Sea World Heritage Centre of Excellence.

The meeting further discussed the German proposal for a feasibility study on a Wadden Sea World Heritage Centre of Excellence.

Ms Nickel introduced the document and indicated that it was intended to carry out the feasibility study shortly after the Conference based on an agreement by the ministers to be included in the Ministerial Council Declaration. The approach has support of the Dutch Wadden Academy.

Mr Verhulst commented that it was interesting initiative but that it should be related to the discussion about the Foundation. It would be confusing if both would not be linked. The linkage to the Wadden Academy was also essential. At this stage the paper was not very operational, the study could include e.g. exchange of experience. Mr Rasmussen added that he also found it interesting but doubted that it would be necessary to bring this into the draft Declaration pending a discussion of the concrete Terms of Reference for the study.

Mr Rösner indicated that it might be seen as an opportunity for a further development of the Wadden Sea World Heritage but was worried about the focus and the centralisation of competencies and resources in the Dutch and the Lower Saxon Wadden Sea area. Mr Verheij though welcoming it as interesting initiative, warned against a proliferation of organizations.

It was **agreed** that Germany should come up with a concrete proposal for the draft Declaration including Terms of Reference for the feasibility study taking account of the comments to be considered at WSB 10.

AGENDA ITEM 8: WADDEN SEA FORUM

Document: WSB 9/8/1 WSF strategic report

Mr Vollmer introduced document WSB 9/8/1, which is a preliminary version of the WSF report to WSB. He stated that comments to the report made by the WSB meeting can be discussed at the WSF plenary meeting at the end of October. At this meeting also a text proposal for the MCD will be developed which will be more specific on the role of WSF in the cooperation, as well as on shipping and sustainable development in the world heritage site.

The meeting **took note** of the report.

AGENDA ITEM 9: CWSS BUDGET

Document: WSB 9/9/1

On the proposal of the chair, the 2014 budget for the CWSS was **adopted** with € 708,000 which amounts to € 235,000 per party.

AGENDA ITEM 10: NEXT MEETING

WSB 10 will be held **11-12 October 2013** in the Tønder, Denmark, as a full two day meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 11: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ms van Grol informed the meeting that there is a solution for the Dutch-German border issue in the 3-12 nm area. This will be the cornerstone for a new treaty.

Ms Schokker informed that Leeuwarden will be European capital of culture in 2018. She suggested that this might be combined with the 13th Wadden Sea Conference.

AGENDA ITEM 12: CLOSING

The chairman thanked the participants for a very pleasant meeting and constructive discussions, and closed the meeting at 11:00 hours.

Annex 1

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**AGENDA
MEETING OF THE WADDEN SEA BOARD
TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA COOPERATION
WSB 9**

Groningen, 9-10 October 2013

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Summary Record WSB 8
4. Announcements
5. Business Plan 2010 – 13
6. Wadden Sea World Heritage
7. Wadden Sea Conference
8. Wadden Sea Forum
9. CWSS Budget
10. Next Meeting
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