

Final Draft **SUMMARY RECORD**

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

**WSB 17**

**Tönning, 22 June 2016**

**AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING**

The Chairman, Mr Verdaas, opened the meeting at 09:00 hours and welcomed the participants. He particularly welcomed the new WSB members Mr Hans Christian Karsten and Ms Nicola Breier. Mr Karsten is the new Danish WSB delegation leader. He is deputy director of the Agency for Water and Nature management, located in Copenhagen. The Agency is responsible for legislation, EU matters and servicing the Ministry and will officially start on 1 July. Ms Breier, who is the head of the unit Marine Nature Conservation of BMUB, participated in this meeting but will not be taking part in WSB meetings on a regular basis. Ms Sobottka apologised for the absence of Mr. Hebbelmann on his behalf. Mr Verhulst informed the meeting that Mr Kielstra and Mr de Hoop had apologised. He also announced that Mr Kielstra would be replaced by Mr Staghouwer as representative of the provinces and that Ms LeRoy of the municipality of Harlingen would replace Mr de Hoop as representative of the Wadden Sea municipalities. Ms van Groj announced that this will be her last WSB meeting because she has taken up another position. Mr Verheij and Mr Rösner had apologised. In their absence, Ms Anja Szczescinski would act as NGO advisor for the duration of this meeting.

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

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

**AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Document: WSB 17/2/1 Draft Agenda

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

**AGENDA ITEM 3: SUMMARY RECORD WSB 16**

Document: Final Draft Summary Record WSB 16

Referring to the WSB16 final draft Summary Record, Mr Verhulst stated that he was not happy with the reflection of the discussion about the World Heritage partnership centre (page 7). However, taking into consideration that the chair of the Wadden Sea Board is heading an ad-hoc working group dealing with this partner-issue and anticipating that on the next Wadden Sea Board this group will submit a paper on this issue, he would adopt these minutes.

Ms Liburd expressed the regret of the Danish delegation that in their view the Danish contribution to the Expression of Interest for the PROWAD LINK Interreg project had not been sufficiently reflected.

The final draft Summary Record of WSB 16 was **adopted** without amendments.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: ANNOUNCEMENTS**

##### Germany

- A first informal consultation with EU regional member states (DK, NL, F, UK, BE) on fisheries management in Natura 2000 sites in the German EEZ will be held in Bonn in week 26 of 2016;
- A symposium on sperm whale strandings was held by the National Park Authority and the Ministry for the Environment Lower Saxony in Wilhelmshaven on 18 May. The meeting was attended by some 100 participants and it was recommended to enhance research into the causes of the strandings and the protection of marine species;
- A movie on bird life throughout the year has been produced by the National Park Authority Lower Saxony. The movie was made intentionally with low technical effort and impact. Copies of the movie were handed out;
- A symposium on whale stranding was held in the Multimar Centre, together with the opening of an exhibition on the topic.
- Dutch animal welfare activists, who have close links with Schleswig-Holstein veterinarians, are currently touring through the Dutch and German Wadden Sea, and have raised protest against the Schleswig-Holstein seal management policy which they call "illegal".

##### The Netherlands

- In the Dutch Parliament questions were raised about breeding success of birds in the Wadden Sea, referring to the trilateral Breeding Bird Action Plan.
- The dispute on seal management is ongoing and an international scientific committee will be appointed to advise the government on this matter.
- Two permits for gas exploration north of Schiermonnikoog, outside the WHS, are under discussion.
- On 26 June the World Heritage Day will be dedicated to 7 years of Wadden Sea World Heritage. A special Wadden Sea World Heritage five Euro coin has been issued as part of series of special Dutch coins dedicated to Dutch World Heritage sites.
- The island of Texel is among the 10 most favourite spots listed by Lonely Planet Europe.
- The Wadden Sea has been featured as "special place" in the National Geographic.
- A project of the government and NGOs to protect the island of Griend as an important site for migratory birds has started.

##### Denmark

- Anne Husum Marboe will change positions within the Nature Agency and will no longer be involved in trilateral Wadden Sea matters. A replacement for Anne is being sought for.
- A 30 million donation has been received for cultural heritage and climate change mitigation in the Tønder Marsh. Financial support for nature restoration is being sought.
- Two workshops are planned this year on the implementation of the Sustainable Tourism Strategy for the Wadden Sea.

##### CWSS

- The IUCN Environmental Law Program has produced a video on the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation for its video series on protected areas law. The video was produced in cooperation with CWSS and features interviews with experts from all Wadden Sea countries and CWSS: The film is available at: [www.protectedareaslaw.org](http://www.protectedareaslaw.org).
- A workshop with the cultural landscapes on the World Heritage list (“Culture meets Nature – Nature meets Culture”) was held 30 May 2016 in Bonn, in cooperation with the German Federal Agency for Nature conservation (BfN). The process will be continued, if possible also beyond Germany.
- A Korean film team is currently under way in the Wadden Sea. They will ask for statements of WSB members.
- The secretary pointed to the late delivery of documents by the parties and underlined that, according to the WSB Rules of Procedure; documents should be delivered at least 4 weeks before the meeting.

#### WSF

- Mr Preben Friis Hauge has been appointed vice-chair of the Wadden Sea Forum.

#### Chair

- Mr Verdaas informed the meeting that he had taken up two new side-jobs:
  - o Chair of the Dutch advisory board on mining issues
  - o Member of the Dutch advisory board on environment and infrastructure

The meeting **noted** the information.

### **AGENDA ITEM 5: IMPLEMENTATION TØNDER DECLARATION**

#### ***5.1 Wadden Sea World Heritage***

##### Documents:

WSB 17/5.1/1 Wadden Sea World Heritage and Tourism in a Changing Climate  
 WSB 17/5.1/2 Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP)  
 WSB 17/5.1/3 Draft State of Conservation Report  
 WSB 17/5.1/4 Application World Heritage Brand  
 WSB 17/5.1/5 Report Task Group Sustainable Tourism Strategy  
 WSB 17/5.1/6 World Heritage Campaign 2016-2018  
 WSB 17/5.1/7 Wadden Sea Documentary

##### *Wadden Sea World Heritage and Tourism in a Changing Climate*

The meeting **noted** the study on “World Heritage and Tourism in a Changing Climate” in which the Wadden Sea was mentioned as a successful case study on how to integrate both climate change and tourism into long-term sustainability planning, with the sustainable tourism strategy as an example.

##### *Single Integrated Management Plan*

The meeting **tasked** the TG-WH with further elaboration of the proposed outline and timeline for the Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP) and **approved** its inclusion in in the draft State of Conservation Report.

##### *State of Conservation Report*

On proposal by Ms Paulus, the meeting **agreed** not to attach the draft alien species strategic framework to the SoC Report. With regard to the response by Denmark on

the World Heritage Committee's (WHC) request #5, Ms Paulus was concerned that the statement that a new binding agreement was considered as not necessary might raise new questions by the WHC.

The meeting **instructed** the TG-WH to prepare a final draft for consultations by the parties by 7 July 2016.

#### *World Heritage Brand*

The meeting discussed the outcome of the joint meeting of TG-WH and TG-STs and **agreed** to establish a working group, chaired by Co Verdaas, in order to prepare a detailed proposal of a Wadden Sea World Heritage partnership or cooperation programme for business partners by the next WSB, and **instructed** the Secretariat to prepare draft Terms of Reference for that working group.

Mr Verhulst stressed the fact of incorporating the no trade-off principle in this proposal and suggested to explore also different levels of partnership.

Mr Rasmussen suggested that the national focal points should be mandated to decide on the non-commercial use of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Logo because the current procedure was regarded as too bureaucratic. Ms Knoke did not share this view and referred to the constructive and helpful cooperation with CWSS on the logo application.

The Secretary underlined the legal implications regarding the logo use and it was **decided** that CWSS would provide a paper on the underlying legal basis to the WSB.

#### *Report TG-STs*

The meeting **expressed** its satisfaction on the work progress in implementing the sustainable tourism strategy and action plan, and the successful presentation of the Wadden Sea World Heritage at the ITB. Ms Liburd underlined the need to integrate the ITB in a long-term strategy as part of the STs action plan.

The meeting **agreed** that the Wadden Sea World Heritage should again participate in the ITB 2017 as outlined in the proposal and tasked TG-STs with the further elaboration of the concept, programme and budget for approval by WSB 18.

#### *World Heritage Campaign*

Mr Karsten raised concern that the pending decision on PROWAD Link had also consequences on the proposed campaign activities in 2016 because funding for 2017 and 2018 was not yet secured. Ms Liburd asked for clear targets for the campaign and a better definition on what should be achieved by the campaign.

Ms Knoke and Ms Paulus suggested to already start the work projected for 2016 in line with the approved supplementary budget and to await the decision on PROWAD Link before starting the work planned for 2017 and 2018.

Mr Verhulst suggested that the planned stakeholder workshop should be carried out first to look in more detail at the suggested contents of activities in 2016.

Mr. Vollmer proposed to involve stakeholders also from other sectors than the tourism sector in the workshops to reach broad acceptance in the region.

The meeting **instructed** CWSS together with the agencies to organize a stakeholder consultation workshop, to implement the activities for 2016 as appropriate and to develop campaign plan including budget for the time period 2017–2018, for discussion at WSB 18.

#### *Wadden Sea Documentary*

The meeting **took note** of the project "Life on the edge of water and land" that is being implemented by Shoreline Productions and discussed possible options for leveraging synergies between the project and the TWSC/WSWH in connection with trilateral communications and outreach work (inter alia in connection with the 2018 Ministerial Conference). The meeting **agreed** that Germany and Denmark should

provide contact persons for the film project as soon as possible who should help the Dutch producers to get in contact with media and broadcast companies.

## **5.2 Nature conservation and integrated ecosystem management**

### Documents:

WSB 17/5.2/1 Report TG-MM

WSB 17/5.2/2 Swimway

WSB 17/5.2/3 Kite surfing

The meeting **took note** of the progress report of TG-MM.

With regard to the planned workshop for site managers, Ms Paulus warned that not too many issues should be addressed and proposed to define 2-3 major topics the site managers should discuss trilaterally.

With regard to the new Seal Management Plan the meeting **agreed** that it intended to sign the document in 2018.

The meeting **endorsed** the road map for developing a Swimway strategy, as proposed in document WSB 17/5.2/2. Ms Knoke stated that the fish species to be addressed should be discussed. Mr Verhulst urged to speed up the process.

The meeting took note of document WSB 17/5.2/3 on regulations for kite surfing. Ms Knoke was grateful for the information which was very useful for the discussion in Schleswig-Holstein.

## **5.4 Climate**

Document: WSB 17/5.4/1 Progress Report Task Group Climate

The meeting **endorsed** document WSB 17/5.4/1, containing the TG-C approach to implementing the trilateral Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and for producing deliverables for the 2018 Wadden Sea Conference and asked for delivering an overview on the actual progress at the next WSB.

The meeting suggested that TG-C connect the process with the development of the trilateral research agenda and to take note of the contents of the UNESCO report on climate change and tourism.

A presentation was given by Mr Hofstede of the Schleswig-Holstein Ministry MELUR on the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea Strategy 2100. (<http://www.nationalpark-wattenmeer.de/sites/default/files/media/pdf/strategie-wattenmeer-2100-web.pdf>)

## **5.5 Maritime safety and pollution prevention of shipping**

Document: WSB 17/5.5/1 Terms of Reference DenGerNeth Maritime Group

The meeting **adopted** the draft Terms of Reference of the DenGerNeth Maritime Administration Group. Ms Paulus informed the meeting that Germany will soon circulate a proposal for a date for the first meeting of the group.

## **5.7 Science Cooperation**

Document: WSB 17/5.7/1 14<sup>th</sup> ISWSS

The meeting **endorsed** the proposed process for organising the 14<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS 14) in Tønder, Denmark. The Danish

delegation promised to look into possibilities for other dates, since the proposed dates coincided with the Dutch King's Day.

Mr Verhulst emphasised that innovation was very important for sustainable use. The Danish delegation would bring this into the symposium organizing committee.

### **5.8 Wadden Sea Forum**

Mr Zettlitzer referred to the letter of the WSF chair to the WSB chair, requesting the WSB to support the WSF in the project on CO<sub>2</sub> neutrality and to involve the WSF in the WH Partnership discussion in an early stage. So far, no response had been received.

The chairman replied that he had not interpreted the contents of the letter in the way as brought forward by Mr Zettlitzer and that therefore no answer had been written.

Mr Vollmer explained that the letter was intended to ask for support for implementing the project on CO<sub>2</sub> neutrality on trilateral level, considering the agreements made at the Sylt and Tønder Conferences. In practise this would mean getting financial support for a consultant for preparing an inventory of relevant projects and activities in the Wadden Sea Region.

It was **agreed** that the WSF would again send a letter, more clearly stating the requests to the WSB.

### **5.10 Communication and Education**

Document: WSB 17/5.10/1 Wadden Sea Day

The meeting discussed contents and strategic purpose of the annual Wadden Sea Day (WSD) event. The Danish delegation called for a rethinking of the WSD concept, in particular with a view to the need for strengthening and broadening the Wadden Sea community. The Dutch delegation questioned whether the WSDs had addressed the right themes and underlined the need for better aligning the themes with the trilateral agenda.

The German delegation expressed the view that the WSDs, which were funded by BMUB and Lower Saxony, had been very successful in profiling the trilateral cooperation, and referred in this respect to one of the recommendations of the 2007 Brown-Moser Evaluation Report.

The meeting then discussed the organisation of an additional event, for example a Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership day, such as the one that had taken place in 2012.

Generally, there was no support for an additional event.

### **AGENDA ITEM 6: International Wadden Sea School**

Document: WSB 17/6/1 Report International Wadden Sea School

Ms Szczesinski presented the status report by the International Wadden Sea School on the development of World Heritage educational outreach and products (TD § 76) and the World Heritage education network (according TD § 77) for the two-year period from July 2014 to May 2016.

The meeting **acknowledged** the work of the IWSS, especially the impressive amount of products, and regarded it as a good example for partnership and networking, also as a contribution to the envisaged Partnership Centre.

The Dutch delegation raised some concern regarding the overall outcome.

The Danish delegation raised concerns that some products were not available in Danish, and that the IWSS did not consider new developments in interpretation. The need for an evaluation to further develop and improve the IWSS was underlined.

The meeting **agreed** on a 'light' evaluation of the IWSS, contracted for the WWF for the last three years, which should be carried out before WSB 18 by the IWSS coordinator, including a proposal for the follow-up. On the proposal by Ms Liburd, the meeting **instructed** the IWSS to develop, as a first step, a trilateral questionnaire regarding the performance of the IWSS by August and to circulate it to WSB for comments.

### **AGENDA ITEM 7: Midterm Review 2014-2018 of Implementation of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation Tønder Declaration**

Document: WSB 17/7/1 Midterm Review

Mr Verhulst introduced document WSB 17/7/1 containing an evaluation of progress made in the implementation of the Tønder Declaration. The meeting **agreed** to focus on the themes for which not sufficient progress had been made and which were marked red in the document. For these issues more detailed and action-oriented proposals should be made. It was **agreed** that the Dutch delegation would submit proposals to this end to the November WSB meeting. Delegations were invited to send comments and proposals to the Dutch delegation before next WSB

### **AGENDA ITEM 8: Status of Discussion on World Heritage Partnership Centre**

Documents:

WSB 17/8/1 Action plan for the realization of a trilateral WHF

WSB 17/8/2 Profile for advocates Partnership Centre

WSB 17/8/3 The Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Center: why and what

WSB 17/8/4 Mandate for the PH Governing Body

Mr Verhulst introduced the "Action plan for the realization of a trilateral World Heritage Foundation" (Document WSB 17/8/1), submitted by the Netherlands. He suggested starting with phases 1 and 2.1 of the proposed roadmap.

The German delegation considered it difficult to approach sponsors as long as the criteria for identifying appropriate sponsors are not clear. This delegation would also like to investigate the legal aspects of a Foundation.

The Danish delegation expressed concerns for possible competition of the WHF with regional and national funds and stated that the governance structure was still to be considered with regard to national legal aspects.

After some discussion the meeting **agreed** to start working on contacting sponsors for which it was quite sure that they would be acceptable to all parties with the Dutch delegation to take the lead. Furthermore, a discussion on the legal aspects of the WHF should start. It was furthermore **agreed** to assign national focal points and to install a trilateral WHF working group in order to inform each other at each step.

The list of potential sponsors should, if possible, already be agreed upon before the WSB-18 meeting.

The meeting then discussed the progress made in the development of a World Heritage Partnership Centre. The Secretary introduced documents WSB 17/8/3 and WSB 17/8/4 and explained that they were based upon the outcome of the first meeting of the PC Drafting Group, which had been held on 2 June in Hamburg, stressing these were "living" documents. He proposed to merge the two documents in future reporting about the PC discussion. He furthermore informed the meeting that due to the timing of the invitation not all the representatives of the science and tourism sector had been able to participate. The Drafting Group had collected the main discussion items, in particular the governance issue. It had furthermore

underlined that the main aims of the PC should be the protection of the OUV and sustainable development.

The Dutch delegation had submitted a document on World Heritage advocates or ambassadors. It was **agreed** to include this document in the future discussions about the PC.

Mr Verhulst emphasised the need for having the planning document available and updated continuously.

Upon request of Mr Vollmer, the meeting **agreed** to involve the WSF in the PC discussion at an early stage.

Finally, Mr Verhulst informed the meeting that the proposal for a legal structure of the PC had been delayed and would be submitted to the WSB-18 meeting.

The meeting also stressed the fact to become very clear on the responsibilities/mandate of the representatives in this set-up and that a clear organogram would be helpful.

### **AGENDA ITEM 9: Any other business**

The chairman thanked Ms Anne Husum Marboe and Els van Grol for their input to the trilateral cooperation and wished them all the best for their new positions.

Mr Verhulst informed the meeting about a Dutch initiative to label the Wadden Sea as a “dark sky park”.

He furthermore informed the meeting about the outcome of the Wadden Sea Ecoport Symposium, held 20 June in the Netherlands. He asked for support of all parties concerned to put more effort into this topic in order to realise this port-certification throughout the area.

### **AGENDA ITEM 10: CLOSING**

The chairman closed the meeting 15:15 hours. He particularly thanked Schleswig-Holstein, which had hosted the meeting, for the excellent arrangements.

## Annex 1

## PARTICIPANTS

## WADDEN SEA BOARD: Members and Advisors

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**Annex 2**

**AGENDA  
MEETING OF THE WADDEN SEA BOARD  
TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA COOPERATION  
WSB 17  
Tönning, 22 June 2016**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Summary Record WSB 16
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. Future of the International Wadden Sea School (IWSS)
7. Status of discussion on Wadden Sea World Heritage Competence Center
8. Any Other Business
9. Closing

## Annex 3

## List of Actions

Action	Agenda item	What	Who	Deadline
1	5	Prepare SoC Consultation Version	TG-WH/CWSS	7 July 2016
2		Draft Terms of Reference WH Partnership Programme	CWSS	WSB 18
3		Legal note WH logo use	CWSS	WSB 18
4		Concept ITB 2017	TG-STG	WSB 18
5		Workshop WH campaign	CWSS	a.s.a.p.
6		Draft Campaign Plan 2017-2018	CWSS	WSB 18
7		Appoint contact persons for documentary	DE / DK	a.s.a.p.
8		Submit draft SMP to WSB-18	TSEG/TG-MM	WSB 18
9		Invitation first meeting DenGerNeth Group	DE	a.s.a.p.
10		Change dates ISWSS 14	DK	a.s.a.p.
11		WSF letter to WSB chair	WSF	a.s.a.p.
12	6	IWSS draft evaluation questionnaire	IWSS	August 2016
13	7	Proposals for implementation TD issues	NL	WSB 18
14	8	Contact potential sponsors WHF	NL	a.s.a.p.
15		Start drafting Terms of Reference PC Drafting Group	PC Drafting Group	a.s.a.p.
16		Assign national focal points WHF	All	a.s.a.p.
17		Install trilateral WHF Working Group	CWSS	a.s.a.p.
18		Document legal structure PC	NL	WSB 18