

## Final Draft SUMMARY RECORD

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

WSB 20

Harlingen, 16 June 2017

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

The Chairman, Mr Verdaas, opened the meeting at 09:00 and welcomed the participants. He thanked the Dutch delegation, and particularly Ms Le Roy, for yesterday evening's dinner and providing the meeting venue.

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 20/2/1 Draft Agenda

The draft agenda was **adopted** with amendments. It was **agreed** to address the future procedure around the PROWAD LINK project proposal under agenda item 8. The agenda is at **Annex 2**.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 3: SUMMARY RECORD WSB 19**

Document: Final Draft Summary Record WSB 19

The final draft Summary Record of WSB 19 was **adopted** with one amendment requested by Denmark. It was requested to better reflect Danish concerns on the campaign slogan under agenda item 5.1, where the meeting decided that the slogan "It's our nature" could not be adopted.

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

The chair announced that two presentations (progress regarding the Swimway project and the inventory on CO<sub>2</sub> reduction activities in the Wadden Sea Region) were scheduled to take place after the lunch break.

##### Denmark

- Claus Arnfeldt Andersen will no longer be a member of the Danish delegation due to other obligations; a successor was not yet appointed.
- A Danish national seal management plan would be implemented in accordance with the trilateral SMP.
- Mr Karsten thanked for the support regarding the ISWSS-14 in Tønder in May.

## Germany

### Lower Saxony:

- The PC architectural competition started in April 2017 with results to be expected in the fall of 2017. The ground-breaking ceremony was planned on 31 August 2017 in connection with the 2017 Wadden Sea Day.
- The Ems estuary management plan was finalized in close cooperation with the Netherlands.

### Schleswig-Holstein:

- As a result of the elections in May 2017, a new government needed to be constituted; corresponding negotiations between the political parties were ongoing.

## The Netherlands

- Mr Verhulst highlighted the good cooperation with Lower Saxony on the Ems estuary management plan.
- Pursuant to a report commissioned by the Waddenvereniging on the situation on the seafloor subsidence as a result of gas extraction activities, the national UNESCO Commission was addressed by a group of concerned inhabitants from one village.
- Following the elections, no new government was constituted yet, negotiations are ongoing.
- Dark Sky Park initiative serves as example of successful private initiative towards a sustainable Wadden Sea region.

## Waddenvereniging

- Mr Verheij welcomed the good cooperation on the Ems estuary management plan.
- New policies for the Dutch Wadden Sea were expected by the end of 2018.

## WSF

- A goose management meeting under the umbrella of AEWA took place in Copenhagen on 12-14 June 2017. Increasing numbers of barnacle geese caused intense discussion as ANNEX1 species are practically banned from hunting.

## CWSS

- The Meeting was briefly informed of the rejection of the PROWAD LINK project; however a recommendation to re-apply was given by the Interreg Steering Committee.
- Status of the recruitment procedure for the programme officer at CWSS: of 82 applicants seven had been selected for interviews. The selection process of the final candidate was ongoing.
- The UNESCO side event at the 'Ocean Conference' at the UN Headquarters in New York on 8 June 2017 on the occasion of the 'World Ocean Day' with participation of four children from all three Wadden Sea states was a great success in terms of extensive media coverage.

The Meeting **noted** the information presented.

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

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

#### Documents:

WSB 20/5.1/1 Campaign Slogan

WSB 20/5.1/2 Preparation of Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP)

WSB 20/5.1/3 Draft ITB 2018

#### *Campaign Slogan*

The Executive Secretary, Mr Stempel, and Mr Marencic introduced the document. Mr Stempel noted that the discussed slogan was potentially problematic due to trademark infringements. Ms Liburd stated her concern that the slogan was merely a common figure of speech and noted the missing added value to the Wadden Sea and the missing competitive advantage of such a slogan. She referred to the Wadden Sea World Heritage brand paper from 2014 and expressed her concern on the legal issue. Mr Stempel responded that legal issues could possibly be avoided if the slogan was used in conjunction with the words Wadden Sea World Heritage. The Netherlands stated that they were in favour of using the slogan. Germany agreed to use the slogan in combination with the reference to Wadden Sea World Heritage. Denmark was willing to follow this option but expressed its reservations against the slogan. The parties stressed their concern about the slow progress in implementing the joint campaign.

#### *Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP)*

Mr Marencic introduced the document on preparation of a SIMP for the entire transboundary property. Ms Paulus questioned the timetable displayed in the document and suggested amendments towards an extension to guarantee the required quality of the content. The Netherlands proposes to delay decisions on the content and the precise outlook to spring 2018, in order to consider an overall picture of the envisaged programme 2018-2022. It was **agreed** to rephrase the corresponding section of the document (see below) and to divide the timeline in two successive steps. It was furthermore **agreed** that the SIMP needs approval on the political level, but there is no need to achieve this during the upcoming ministerial conference. Mr Verheij pointed towards the importance of such plan for managing the property. Mr Karsten pointed out, that the SIMP was not the right document to discuss new projects for the TWSC. The Chairman summarized that different views on the shape and approach of the final product still exist and that further discussions would be necessary. Parties stated concern on limited capacities to prepare such document. The Meeting **agreed** to further elaborate on the final format.

The meeting **endorsed** the draft SIMP proposal for inclusion in the draft MCD and **amended** the timeline for the SIMP development as follows:

#### Step 1:

- Start of SIMP development in 2018 by preparing a project plan for the period 2018- 2020. *[by ad-hoc working group of WSB/TG-MM/TG-WH members]*
- Development of SIMP with involvement of key stakeholders and IUCN in the period 2018 – 2020.

**Step 2:**

- Depending on the stage of finalization and consultation with UNESCO, adoption of the SIMP and implementation preferably in 2021.
- Evaluation of the SMIP within two years after adoption.

*Draft ITB concept*

The draft paper on a concept for a participation in the ITB 2018 requested by WSB 19 was presented. Germany welcomed the proposal and agreed to the budget lines in principle, but stressed that there was also a need for consent with stakeholders and business partners regarding financial involvement. MS Knoke pointed out that it wasn't easy to attract potential partners as they, especially SMEs, had difficulties regarding financing their participation and are in need of funding.

Ms Liburd expressed concern that, with the rejection of PROWAD LINK, the corresponding funding was no longer available. The National Park is the Danish contact point. A new budget proposal would be needed in early autumn at the latest in order to involve National Park partners. The Netherlands accepted the financial proposal as a whole. Germany pointed towards the need for clarification regarding business cooperation as a long-term b2b and b2c platform "Stakeholder / business partner exhibition", to be preferably explored by CWSS.

It was **agreed** to accept the first proposal with the general budget (ref. 1.), while there was no agreement on the business partner involvement element (ref. 2.). CWSS was instructed to explore whether and to what extent this element was realistic.

**5.2 Nature conservation and integrated ecosystem management**Document:

WSB 20/5.2/1 Statement TSEG

WSB 20/5.2/2 Swimway

WSB 20/5.2/3 TG-MM report

*TSEG statement on Seal Monitoring programme (see ANNEX 4)*

The TSEG statement concerning seal monitoring in the Danish Wadden Sea was presented by the Executive Secretary. Mr Karsten informed the meeting that the reduction of seal monitoring activities in the Danish Wadden Sea was a result of the general cuts in the national monitoring programme due to increasing costs. The underlying rationale was the overall favourable conservation status under the Habitats Directive of harbour seals in the Atlantic region including the Danish Wadden Sea.

Ms Knoke pointed to resulting problems in the implementation of the SMP, which should reflect joint efforts in seal protection. She raised concern that reduction of seal monitoring in Denmark from 2017 onwards would also have negative implications for the whole programme from 2017 to 2021 as such data could not be assessed trilaterally. Ms Paulus recalled obligations arising from the Seal Agreement concluded under the Bonn Convention. The Executive Secretary mentioned potential legal implications of changed monitoring in this respect. Mr Verhulst requested further information from TSEG on consequences of reduced monitoring efforts on operational level and how to deal with it. It was **agreed** to forward this request to TSEG.

### *TG-MM report*

The new chairman of the TG-MM, Mr Jørgensen, thanked Mr Baerends for his interim chairmanship and introduced the report.

The Meeting expressed their discontent regarding the late delivery of documents to the WSB. The Executive Secretary replied that this was due to the fact that time periods between the WSB and the corresponding Task Group meetings were too short. Better coordination in scheduling was needed to allow document delivery three weeks before a WSB meeting.

Mr Jørgensen referred to the corresponding document and proposed to elaborate options as to how the N2000 roof report could be created in the light of the production of the Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP). The meeting **agreed** to discuss this option during WSB 21.

### *Wadden Sea Seals Agreement:*

The item was discussed in the context of the TSEG note (cf. above).

### *Fish Targets*

Ms Buitenkamp, coordinator of the Swimway preparatory activities, presented the current status of the preparation of the Swimway project as also reflected in the related document. She summarized that next steps towards a project application, potentially resulting in European funding, could be organized by in-kind contributions by the parties. The presentation is available [here](#). The meeting requested a draft text element for the Ministerial Declaration from the Swimway group as soon as possible, as well as a draft Swimway programme to be presented at the ministerial conference.

## **5.3 Energy**

No documents.

## **5.4 Climate**

Mr Alhorn, interim Secretary of TG-C, reported on latest developments as discussed at the task group meeting, which had taken place on the two days immediately prior to the WSB meeting. A first draft of the evaluation report would be provided for WSB 21 and a workshop in the framework of the “Building with Nature” project was scheduled for 26 and 27 September 2017 in Wilhelmshaven. The Meeting **agreed** to investigate options for broadening the focus of the task group e.g. with ecological contents. The issue should be discussed during WSB 21.

Ms Verbree (Waddeneilanden) provided a presentation on an “Inventory Climate friendly Wadden Sea region”. The presentation is available [here](#). Mr Verhulst suggested that the future partnership hub could facilitate such initiatives and that an exchange of knowledge and experience should take place, maybe with a first workshop as a starting point. Ms Verbree added that comments for a final version of the inventory were welcome. Mr Verheij recalled the ambition to achieve a climate neutral Wadden Sea by 2030 expressed during the Sylt Trilateral Governmental conference 2010. Mr Vollmer asked participants regarding potential support from the WSB for the initiative. Mr Karsten stated that the Danish approach to CO<sub>2</sub> neutrality

honors international agreements and existing obligations, but that Denmark cannot commit to further CO<sub>2</sub> reduction.

Mr Verheij provided a presentation on “Long-term perspective for the Wadden Sea” during the lunch break. The presentation is available [here](#).

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

Mr Verhulst requested information on the status of the workshop planned in autumn. Mr Karsten stated that no Danish representatives would be able to take part in any event on the 16 October 2017, the envisaged date for the workshop. The meeting **agreed** that any future activities will be expected after the workshop. Mr Verheij stated that there was risk of installing parallel structures to existing groups and suggested to carefully explore the relevance of targeted issues. Mr Karsten questioned the mandate of such MARAD Group since the WSB was not responsible. The Chairman replied that these activities had primarily been undertaken to establish a better connection with the shipping sector. Regarding the Operational Plans, CWSS was requested to collect any comments and suggestions received in writing by the end of July and to forward these to the MARAD Group.

### **5.6 Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme**

No documents.

### **5.7 Science Cooperation**

The Netherlands, Denmark and Germany expressed concern on the focus of the current document on the Trilateral Research Agenda and pointed out missing priorities. The WSB had requested a multidimensional agenda while the document focused on four thematic lines, based on input by the researchers. Mr van Dijk was currently elaborating the text, with the next draft to be submitted in September 2017. Mr Verheij referred to the efforts around the science policy matrix and the existing data infrastructure. Mr Karsten replied that it should be avoided to go back to the matrix and to use further policy input, but to use the elaborated information to proceed with policy. The Executive Secretary reported that TG-C had raised concern that comments from the group were not reflected.

### **5.8 Wadden Sea Forum**

Documents:

WSB 20/5.8/1 WSF offer regarding PC

It was decided to discuss the issue and the corresponding document under agenda item 6.

### **5.9 International cooperation**

No documents.

## **5.10 Communication and Education**

### Documents:

WSB 20/5.10/1 Progress report on website re-launch

Ms Bostelmann presented an update on the Secretariat's work regarding the merger of the World Heritage website and the current CWSS website and also showed examples of the QSR sub-website The Executive Secretary added that the new website would build on existing structures where this was feasible, using a time and cost-efficient approach, but would also modify where necessary to guarantee a more compelling and appealing web presentation. Parties thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and **welcomed** the approach and progress and considered the efforts as an important step forward. Ms Liburd congratulated CWSS on the work it had done and welcomed the consistency and clear message in the new approach. Ms Paulus stressed that the TWSC should remain clearly visible on the website, which should not focus on the World Heritage aspect only. The new website would be maintained by CWSS together with the responsible PR agency and with national support in terms of language adjustments. Germany suggested that a project group should be established to review the new website prior to the launch.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6: Status of discussion on the Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Center**

### Documents:

WSB 20/6.1/1 Information concerning the WSWH Foundation and Trust Fund

WSB 20/6.1/2 Outcome PCDG4 Meeting 2017-06-12

The Executive Secretary introduced the outcome document of PCDG 4 and explained the results of that meeting, referring also to the document on mandatory and non-mandatory tasks that CWSS had prepared for PCDG 4. He explained that model no. 4 as delineated in the outcome document was favoured by the majority of the participants of PCDG4. Germany commented positively on the work of the group, but requested further adjustments e.g. on fisheries. The Netherlands also welcomed the outcome paper and suggested discussing mandatory/non-mandatory issues in a more concrete way to explore those governmental responsibilities that would not fall into the mandate of the future PC. Mr Verhulst stressed the potential of private involvement. Mr Verheij apologized for not taking part in the drafting group. He stated that the WSB should be extended rather than replaced by another functional group. For better progress he requested a concrete proposal for ToR.

Mr Karsten welcomed the document and pointed towards two streams: the governance structure and the added value achieved by involving partners. Therefore, he considered the definition of such partners as important from the beginning. He also stressed the importance of a clear definition of the decision-making processes and the differences between the current WSB and a possible WSB+. Denmark was not prepared to discuss issues with policy implications in the WSB+. The added value of a possible WSB+ should be highlighted more clearly before installing such a body. Mr Verhulst added that the dark sky initiative could well be an example of such added value introduced by private partners.

The Executive Secretary reiterated that partners should be sectors (e.g. tourism) rather than individual companies. He furthermore stressed the need of a clear division between governmental body and the PC hub with/as WSBplus. The system has to be constituted in a way that parties cannot be outvoted by partners.

Mr Vollmer referred to the potential added value of the WSF in such framework, in terms of nature conservation and cultural heritage. In this context, he wondered on the dependency of the hub on governmental decisions. The Executive Secretary

replied that the WH OUV is the underlying legal obligation and that a hub would need to operate within the boundaries of the framework.

The Chairman stated that the initial idea of the partnership center had focussed on extending the cooperation beyond the purely governmental set-up. The Meeting requested that another draft document should be prepared by the drafting group in September 2017 and stressed that the guiding principle should be the basis for any development. Ms Liburd pointed towards the importance of the OUV and the potential of tourism to impact the OUV. Partners should be selected with care. The Executive Secretary agreed that any partner should display proven commitment to the conservation of the WSWH and its OUV.

Ms Paulus requested clarification on the term “office management” and further discussion of next steps in the following version of the document.

Mr Vollmer explained that the WSF paper was meant as an offer to enhance integration. On the initiative of Lower Saxony, the Meeting agreed to install an ad hoc working group, tasked with exploring possible options for enhanced stakeholder engagement by partners from the three sectors concerned (tourism, green NGOs, science and research) and other possible sectors/partners in the projected Partnership Hub (PH) of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Center (PC). This so-called Operational Team should constitute itself as soon as possible and its work should be complementary to that of the Partnership Center Drafting Group (PCDG). It should comprise representatives of the Parties as well as the CWSS and the Wadden Sea Forum (WSF). Hubertus Hebbelmann was tasked with organizing the team. The Executive Secretary designated Ms Domnick as the CWSS representative. Mr. Verhulst offered to explore the possibility of making funding available for this purpose.

The Chairman summarized that the PCDG would continue working on content while the parallel group would complement the work of the PCDG by carrying out some activities that would otherwise have been undertaken under PROWAD LINK.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7: Preparation 13<sup>th</sup> Wadden Sea Conference**

### Documents:

WSB 20/7.1/1 Draft Roadmap 2018 Trilateral Governmental Conference.

WSB 20/7.1/2 Ministerial Council Declaration 1st draft

WSB 20/7.1/3 Statement Wadden Sea Team

The meeting agreed to the draft roadmap to the TGC. A first draft of the MCD was requested for the first half of September 2017. The Executive Secretary noted that the Tønder declaration was difficult to read as the operative part contained long preambular passages. He suggested streamlining the future MCD by clearly separating the two types of content and limiting preambular text to the actual preamble and operative passages to the operative section of the document. He offered the help of the Secretariat in working to achieve this. Ms Paulus stressed that this would be the first MCD referring to a World Heritage Site covering the WS area of all three countries and that this should be appropriately highlighted in the preamble. Ms Knoke pointed to potential difficulties in stakeholder consultation and stressed the need to keep the issues comparable to former declarations. Several suggestions on content were made by participants (e.g. estuaries, private initiatives, CO<sub>2</sub> neutrality activities, sustainable shipping, 40 years of cooperation, data handling). Any submissions should be sent by 15 August 2017 to Mr Baerends. Mr Verhulst asked for clarification on the request by Denmark to include cultural heritage. Mr Verheij referred to the statement by the Wadden Sea team, which should be considered in the preparation process of the MCD.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: Any other business**

Mr Marencic reported on the rejection of the PROWAD LINK project, noting, however, that the INTERREG Committee recommended to re-apply to the next call (March 2018), as the validity of the overall project had been acknowledged, but it had been considered insufficient in detail. Critical issues and the impact of the programme were considered as insufficiently described. The role of partners and the potential overlap with other projects and the resulting risk of double funding were stressed. The chair suggested waiting for the final rejection letter as a first step and that parties would be informed in detail. The meeting **agreed** to the approach and re-application at the next call.

Ms Bostelmann brought up the question of a new logo for the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation on the occasion of its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CWSS. Mr Verhulst stated that he was not in favour of a completely new approach. Ms Knoke, on behalf of the German delegation, agreed to the Dutch statement. Changes - if necessary - should be restricted at the utmost to minor adjustments. The Meeting **agreed** to put the issue on the agenda of WSB 21.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: CLOSING**

The Chairman closed the meeting 16:00 hours. He particularly thanked the Dutch delegation for hosting the meeting.

**ANNEX 1****PARTICIPANTS WADDEN SEA BOARD:****Members and Advisors**

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**ANNEX 2**

**AGENDA  
20<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE WADDEN SEA BOARD  
(WSB 20)  
16 June 2017  
Harlingen**

- 1. Opening of the Meeting**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 3. Summary Record WSB 19**
- 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 Partnership Center**
- 7. Preparation 13<sup>th</sup> Wadden Sea Conference**
- 8. Any Other Business**
- 9. Closing**

## ANNEX 3

## List of Actions

Action	Agenda item	What	Who	Deadline
1	3.0	Action Point <b>Minutes of WSB 19</b> to be amended to better reflect Danish concerns on slogan	CWSS	WSB21
2	5.1	<b>Draft ITB 2018: Further development of cooperation with business partners</b> section	CWSS	WSB 21
3		Refine WH <b>Campaign slogan</b> to include reference to Wadden Sea World Heritage	CWSS	a.s.a.p.
4		Further elaborate <b>SIMP</b> format	TG-WH / TG-MM	tbc
5	5.2	Provide further background information on <b>impact of reduced seal monitoring</b>	TSEG	tbc
6		Elaborate options for creating the <b>N2000 roof report</b> within process of SIMP	TG-MM	WSB21
7	5.4	Explore option of <b>broadening focus of TG-C</b>	TG-C / TG-MM	WSB 21
8	5.5	Submit comments on Draft <b>Operational Plans</b> to CWSS	All parties	28 July 2017
9	5.7	Provide new draft of <b>Trilateral Research Agenda</b>	J. van Dijk	September 2017
10	6.1	Provide new draft on <b>PC</b>	PCDG5	September 2017
11		Convene " <b>Operational Group</b> " on PC	Lower Saxony	WSB 21
12	7.1	Submit contributions to <b>MCD</b> to Bernard Baerends	All groups	15 August 2017
13	8.0	Distribute <b>PROWAD LINK</b> rejection letter as soon as available	CWSS	Done
14		New <b>logo</b> proposal to WSB	CWSS	WSB 21

**ANNEX 4****Statement by the Trilateral Seal Expert Group (TSEG) concerning a change in the trilateral Seal Monitoring Programme**

The Trilateral Seal Expert Group (TSEG) was notified of the decision of the Danish government to reduce the harbour seal monitoring effort in the Wadden Sea to one flight in the pupping period and two flights in the moult period.

The TSEG regrets this, as it is not in line with the current Conservation and Management Plan for the Wadden Sea Seal Population, which was adopted by Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands at the Trilateral Governmental Wadden Sea Conference 2001 in Esbjerg for the first time.

International EU regulations request correct monitoring in the framework of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. To achieve this, it is imperative to produce data with sufficient statistical power as stated on several occasions, e.g. in Meesters *et al.* 2007 and Teilmann *et al.* 2010 and recent OSPAR and ICES evaluations.

The Danish government should also be aware of the consequences for the other Wadden Sea countries as this reduction below the requested minimum of five monitoring surveys per year lessens the quality of the total monitoring of the Wadden Sea, and decreases the value of data collected by the other Wadden Sea countries.

Furthermore, in view of future developments in the seal population as it reaches carrying capacity, adequate monitoring will prove imperative for management for example in the case of:

- interaction with fisheries where seal numbers might be an issue as potential competitors with fishery or necessary to estimate depredation on fish species
- potential reoccurrences of mass mortality (epizootics of phocine distemper virus in 1988 and 2002 and more recently Influenza virus in 2014)
- conflicts in recreation where decisions regarding spatial planning should include knowledge on the location and relative importance of breeding and moulting sites.
- long term effects of the development of human activities in and adjacent to the Wadden Sea such as shipping, mining and wind energy.

**Meesters, H. W. G., P. J. H. Reijnders, S. M. J. M. Brasseur, S. Tougaard, M. Stede, U. Siebert and T. Härkönen.** 2007. An effective survey design for harbour seals in the Wadden Sea: tuning Trilateral Seal Agreement and EU-Habitat Directive requirement. Pages 82 The meeting of the Trilateral Working Group TWG 07/1, Delfzijl, The Netherlands, 18 - 19 April, The Netherlands. Trilateral Working Group, Wilhelmshaven.

**Teilmann, J., F. Rigét and T. Harkonen.** 2010. Optimizing survey design for Scandinavian harbour seals: Population trend as an ecological quality element. ICES Journal of Marine Science 67:952-958.

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