

Final Draft
SUMMARY RECORD

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

WSB 4

3 November 2011, Ribe, Denmark

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

The chairman, Mr Ilse, opened the meeting at 09:00 h. and welcomed the participants and supportive staff to the fourth meeting of the WSB. He in particular welcomed the new members of the Danish delegation Mr Bent Poulsen, chairman of the Danish National Park, Ms. Anne Kragh Svendsen, representing the Danish municipalities and Ms Anne Husum Marboe, successor of Mr John Frederiksen. Mr Verhulst informed the meeting that the remaining Dutch representative would be designated following the conclusion of the reorganization process in the Netherlands.

A list of participants is in **Annex 1**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Document: WSB 4/2/1 Draft Agenda

The meeting **adopted** the draft agenda of the meeting. The agenda is in **Annex 2**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: SUMMARY RECORD WSB 3

Documents: Final Draft Summary Record WSB 3; Record Telephone Conference 7/7/11 WSB contact persons

The final draft Summary Record WSB 3 was **adopted** with the following amendment: page 3, agenda item 6.1, 1., 5th line, delete last part of sentence "...and that it should be considered further within the WSB on the basis of the German (Dutch) proposal".

The meeting **noted** the Record of the WSB contact persons Telephone Conference on 7 July 2011.

AGENDA ITEM 4: ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr Rasmussen introduced the new members of the Danish WSB delegation, and informed the meeting that Mr Tomas Holst Christensen had changed position and was now head of the National Park secretariat. He furthermore informed the meeting that there was a new left wing government in Denmark. The new environment minister is Ms Ida Auken from the Socialist People's Party. He finally announced that N2000 and WFD management plans are expected to be finalised by the end of 2011.

Mr Verhulst apologised for the absence of Mr Heysman. He informed the meeting that due to internal reorganisations the Dutch WSB delegation would only be completed in March 2012. In the framework of the national reorganisation of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (EL&I) it was still unclear

which part of the ministry would be responsible for the trilateral Wadden Sea portfolio. The same was the case for the budget. A national vision on goose management had been developed, aiming at maintaining sustainable levels. He also informed the meeting that work is ongoing on sustainable fisheries in the Wadden Sea, in particular shrimp fishery.

Ms Schokker informed the meeting that in the framework of the delegation of nature policy responsibilities from the national government to the provinces, negotiations were ongoing about reallocation of resources. The new responsibilities of the provinces would also affect the participation in different fora. To this Mr Verhulst added that the trilateral cooperation would remain a national responsibility.

Ms Nickel informed the meeting that the law on the legal status of the CWSS had passed parliament in September and was scheduled for approval by the Federal Council on 25 November 2011. She announced a major conference on marine conservation in Europe, Stralsund, 18-22 June 2012.

Mr Scherer informed the meeting that an extension of the Schleswig-Holstein mussel fishery programme is in preparation. Negotiations are still ongoing between the sector, the ministry and NGOs. The programme allows licensing of mussel fishing under the condition that N2000 assessments are positive. The oil company RWE/DEA had announced that it would apply for a permit for oil exploration activities and that it would adhere to the agreements made in the framework of the World Heritage application.

Mr Hebbelmann informed the meeting that a start had been made with the process for extending the World Heritage part of Lower Saxony, in line with the extension of the national Park. He stated that it would be good if this extension procedure could be combined with a Danish application.

Mr Janke informed the meeting that Mr Lange, former WSB member, was now Hamburg state secretary for the environment. The Hamburg National Park was now an integral part of the Wadden Sea World Heritage site.

Mr Rösner stated not to agree with the planned RWE/DEA application for Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony and that the environmental NGOs would carefully study any application as to whether it fulfils the legal requirements. He also stated that the environmental NGOs could not agree with the plans for extending the Schleswig-Holstein mussel programme because the running programme was still valid until 2016 and neither the old nor the new programme would comply with the legal requirements. Moreover, he was of the opinion that such a long-term programme with its guarantee-like conditions was not suited for a dynamic area like the Wadden Sea.

The meeting **noted** the information.

AGENDA ITEM 5: BUSINESS PLAN 2010 – 13

5.1 Business Plan

Documents: WSB 4/5/1-1 Business Plan: Amendment

The secretary briefly presented the amended Business Plan 2010-13 and on inquiry indicated that the actions and projects were largely on schedule and that the Business Plan fully fulfilled its purpose of planning and directing the various agreed activities of the Cooperation and its entities. He underlined that there were a number of bottlenecks such as the CO₂ issue which had not yet been solved but albeit this he

was confident that the Business Plan would deliver sufficient political substance to the drafting of a Ministerial Council Declaration.

On inquiry with regard to the problems with the delivery of the Dutch data to the TMAP data system (page 6) he explained that the TMAP data handling and information system had been developed and installed but could not function because of the lack of an operational data unit in the Netherlands. Mr Verhulst **promised** to have the problem solved as soon as possible.

The meeting **endorsed** the amended Business Plan 2010 – 13.

5.2 Annual Work Plan CWSS 2012

Document: WSB 4/5/2 Annual Work Plan

In introducing the CWSS work plan 2012 the secretary referred to the performance report for the 2011 work plan and emphasized that the targets/output had for the most part been fulfilled but that there were still a number of issues under elaboration, such as the communication strategy and the LIFE+ project on alien species.

The Annual Work Plan 2012 of the CWSS was **adopted** without further discussion.

5.3 CWSS Budget

Documents: WSB 4/5/3-1 Budget CWSS; WSB 4/5/3-2 Project Finances

Budget CWSS

The CWSS Budget 2012 of € 223,200 per contracting party was **adopted** pending a final formal approval by the Danish and Dutch delegations.

The indicative budget 2013-14 was **noted**.

Project Finances CWSS

It was **agreed** to endorse the overview of ongoing and planned projects 2010-14 with the following corrections:

- Exclude the Danish contribution to the Sustainable Tourism Strategy of € 30,000 in 2012 since this has only been promised on the approval of the Interreg IV application which is not part of the overview pending acceptance or rejection by the Interreg Programme.
- Include the fisheries project which had now formally been approved by Germany and the Netherlands with € 25,000 each amounting to € 50,000 in 2011.

AGENDA ITEM 6: TASK GROUPS AND PROJECTS

Report Task Groups (Documents: WSB 4/6/1, 4/6/8)

The meeting **agreed** that an overview would be presented at the next WSB meeting of the deliverables including timeframes by the TGs, relevant for the Wadden Sea Conference.

The meeting **noted** the reports of TG-S, TG-M and TG-C with the following comments:

With regard to TG-S, the meeting acknowledged that with the retirement of Mr Farke there would be no ecologists in TG-S. The Dutch and Danish delegations promised to investigate possibilities for delegating members with an ecological background. Mr Rösner stated that nature NGOs would be prepared to participate in the TG-S and support the nature conservation input.

With regard to the TG-C report, the meeting requested the TG-C to hold the planned workshop with the WSB at an earlier date.

Cultural Heritage (Document: WSB 4/6/2)

On the suggestion of the German delegation it was **agreed** that a discussion should be held and agreement reached on the implications of §§ 18-19 of the Sylt Declaration prior to a discussion on the establishment of an expert group. The Danish delegation offered to take the lead by contacting responsible authorities and preparing a proposal.

TMAP Requirements (Document: WSB 4/6/3)

The meeting **adopted** the proposals from the document under the condition that any changes in the TMAP would be cost neutral.

Tidal Basins (Document: WSB 4/6/4)

The full report was handed out at the meeting. The meeting **took note** of the document.

CO₂ Neutral Review (Document: WSB 4/6/4)

The meeting thanked for the review. It was **noted** that Carbon Capture and Storage, CCS, is not seen as an option to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the Wadden Sea region. The meeting **concluded** that it was not possible to find money for the proposed study. It was **agreed** that the Netherlands and Denmark would prepare overviews of ongoing activities in their countries and that the CWSS would investigate possibilities to have the study done by institutes with experience in this issue. The German delegation offered to request the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) to see what could be done.

Invasive Aliens Species (Document: WSB 4/6/5)

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

Goose Management (Document: WSB 4/6/7)

The meeting **welcomed** the proposals of the document. The German delegation reminded the delegations that in Germany the Goose Management takes place mainly outside the Wadden Sea Area and that responsible authorities are not part of the Trilateral Cooperation but promised to help contacting relevant organizations and authorities. Mr Friis- Hauge emphasized that the WSF could only do the work if sufficient information would be delivered by experts and responsible authorities.

Sustainable Tourism Strategy (Document: WSB 4/6/8)

The meeting **took note** of the document. The Danish delegation additionally referred to the development of a tourism strategy for the Danish Wadden Sea National Park and the intended trans-boundary cooperation with Schleswig-Holstein in the context of an Interreg IV A project. The meeting **noted** the information.

Trilateral Communication Strategy (Document: WSB 4/6/9)

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

MSC Certification Process (Document: WSB 4/6/10)

The meeting **agreed** to the first two proposals of the document and, concerning the third one, to await the outcome of the study on sustainable fisheries before inviting MSC representatives.

AGENDA ITEM 7: SEAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Documents: WSB 4/7/1 Seals Management Plan, Annex SMP

The meeting **adopted** the proposals from the document, pending formal approval by the Dutch delegation, which needed some more time for national consultation.

AGENDA ITEM 8: WADDEN SEA WORLD HERITAGE

Document: WSB 4/8/1 Progress Report World Heritage

The secretary introduced the World Heritage progress report. A major progress in 2011 was the inclusion of the Hamburg Wadden Sea National Park into the World Heritage site. On that occasion, the World Heritage Committee reinforced its request to extend the property with the Danish Wadden Sea. The WSB is proposed to also give guidance regarding the plans by Lower Saxony to align the extension of the National Park and World Heritage property at the earliest possible date (January 2012).

As a next step, a World Heritage stakeholder workshop is planned on 26 January 2012 to inform all key persons about on-going and planned activities in the property.

Mr Rasmussen informed the meeting that the Nature Agency together with the Danish municipalities have taken the first step to discuss a potential extension of the World Heritage site with the Danish Wadden Sea.

The meeting **noted** the report.

AGENDA ITEM 9: WADDEN SEA CONFERENCE 2013.

Documents: WSB 4/9/1 Conference DK; WSB 4/9/2 Meeting Schedule; WSB 4/9/3 ISWSS

Mr. Rasmussen introduced an outline for the next Trilateral Wadden Sea Conference in March 2013, which addressed five priority issues (World Heritage, sustainable management, landscape and culture, information and education, and adaptation climate change) and requested the meeting to give guidance on the further preparation of the conference.

The meeting acknowledged the document as a good starting point for the next work steps. On proposal by Germany and the Netherlands the meeting **agreed** that:

- (1) The draft Declaration must have political substance and direct the work in the following period to ensure that the Conference would be politically relevant and be attended by ministers.
- (2) An ad-hoc working group of one member of each of the responsible ministries and the secretariat should elaborate a systematic catalogue of themes until WSB 5 to be included in the draft Ministerial Declaration based also on the Sylt Declaration and other topical issues with an indication of the agreements and decisions to be taken including, as appropriate, different positions.
- (3) The Danish delegation would together with the CWSS take the initiative to form and convene the ad-hoc working group, chaired by Denmark.
- (4) Based on the draft referred to in 2, the issue of whether the Conference should be postponed would be considered at WSB 5.

It was further **agreed** that an internal manageable evaluation would be made of the governance and planning arrangements introduced on the occasions of the 2010 Conference and, as appropriate, be reflected in the draft Declaration 2013. An outline of the evaluation would be discussed at the WSB 5.

The draft meeting schedule of the WSB until the 2013 Conference was **endorsed** with the amendment that the October-2012 meeting would be confined to 5 October 2012.

The meeting **noted** the draft programme of the 2012 International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS) (document WSB 4/9/3) and made the following comments and suggestions:

- The Dutch programme on climate change adaptation was also involved in the organisation
- Merge the themes sustainable use and ecosystem management
- More presentations per theme so that more balanced recommendations to the 2013 Council Meeting could be expected
- More emphasis on World Heritage relevant issues, such as the Flyway
- More attention for biodiversity of estuaries.

Mr Rasmussen remarked that focusing on the World Heritage was a bit premature for Denmark.

AGENDA ITEM 10: WADDEN SEA FORUM

Document: WSB 4/10/1 Progress Report WSF

The chairman of the WSF, Mr Friis-Hauge, introduced the progress report of the Wadden Sea Forum. In a special presentation, the sustainability indicator tool and the Wadden Sea Region (WSR) Planning Portal was introduced by the chairman of the working group ICZM Mr Verheij.

The meeting **noted** the progress report.

AGENDA ITEM 11: REPORT CWSS

Document: WSB 4/11/1 Report CWSS

The meeting **noted** the CWSS progress report on developments since the last meeting of the WSB without further discussion.

AGENDA ITEM 12: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

On the occasion of his retirement, Ms Nickel thanked Mr Farke for his determined work and great commitment for Wadden Sea conservation during his entire work-life. On behalf of the WSB, she wished him and his family the very best for his futures

Ms Schokker-Strampel invited the WSB to hold the next meeting at the new building of the Province of Fryslân in Leeuwarden.

AGENDA ITEM 13: CLOSING

The chairman thanked the participants for a very pleasant meeting and constructive discussions, and closed the meeting at app. 14:00 h.

ANNEX 1

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ANNEX 2

**AGENDA
MEETING OF THE WADDEN SEA BOARD
TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA COOPERATION
WSB 4
3 NOVEMBER 2011
RIBE/DENMARK**

1. Opening of the Meeting
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8. Wadden Sea World Heritage
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13. Closing