

Final Draft **SUMMARY RECORD**

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

WSB 13

Wilhelmshaven, 28-29 January 2015

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Chairman, Mr Verdaas, opened the meeting at 13:00 h and welcomed the participants, in particular the new Secretary, Mr Stempel. He thanked Mr de Jong for his work as interim secretary over the past 4 months. Mr Rasmussen and Ms Schokker had apologised for absence due to illness. Mr Verhulst informed the meeting that this would have been the last WSB meeting attended by Ms Schokker.

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

A list of actions arising from the meeting is at **Annex 4**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Document: WSB 13/2/1 Draft Agenda

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

AGENDA ITEM 3: SUMMARY RECORD WSB 12

Document: Final Draft Summary Record WSB 12

The final draft Summary Record was **adopted**. In relation to the WSB-12 Summary Record Mr Ilse noted that a printed version of the Tønder Declaration was now available. He also requested to take up the discussion on the Wadden Sea Day in relation to the budget.

AGENDA ITEM 4: ANNOUNCEMENTS

Documents: WSB13/4.1 World Parks Conference; WSB13/4.2 Call for Action

Germany

- Australia has to submit a State of Conservation Report on the Great Barrier Reef WH Site to UNESCO by February 2015. At the WH Committee meeting in Bonn/Germany this year the discussion as to whether the Great Barrier reef will be placed on the list of sites in danger will be continued. Representatives from several levels and authorities have contacted German authorities, also to exchange views on best practices applied in the Wadden Sea. The Government of Germany will, however, not adopt an official position prior to the publication of the Draft Decision document (containing IUCN's report).
- There is a new governing agreement on the disputed Dutch German area off the Outer Ems Estuary (3 to 12 sm-zone).

- The East German national parks will celebrate their 25th anniversary at a big event in the autumn of this year. Also, the Hamburg National Park has existed for 25 years, while the Schleswig-Holstein National Park will celebrate its 30th anniversary.
- On 27 February a new Wadden Sea World Heritage centre in Lower Saxony will be opened at Norderney.
- A "Master Plan" for the Ems has been adopted, which aims at improvement of the ecological situation and support of its assimilative capacity.
- Ms Janne Lieven is a new employee at the Hamburg National Park. She will work on World Heritage and MAB matters.
- The Heads of Delegations have agreed that Mr. Stempel may continue in his voluntary function as Chair of the UNEP/ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group.

The Netherlands

- The Dutch spatial planning policy is being evaluated. A new policy is expected in 2017.
- An agreement has been reached with the shrimp fisheries sector on shrimp fishing in the Wadden Sea. In the so-called Viswad agreement there are regulations for buying out licences and closed areas. An English translation by WWF is available.
- The Programme towards a Rich Wadden Sea (PRW) has been prolonged by four years (2015-2018). PRW has an annual budget of 2 million Euros for furthering nature restoration and is supported by the Wadden Sea provinces and the ministries of economic affairs (MinEZ) and infrastructure and environment (MinI&M).
- Plans for an optimal location for a wind park within 12 nm north of Ameland have been dropped.

Denmark

- A contact group has been established for the organisation of World Heritage matters at the local level. The contact group consists of representatives of the Nature Agency, the National Park, the directors of the four municipal nature conservation departments and the tourism destination.
- The 2nd generation N2000 management plans are subject to public consultation until 10 April 2015.
- The 1st generation water management plan has been published; the 2nd generation will have to be finalised this year.
- Ms Janne Jørgensen Liburd is the new chair of the National Park board. She is professor of tourism at the University of Southern Denmark. Furthermore five of fifteen members of the boards have been replaced.
- The Interreg project by the Danish and Schleswig-Holstein National Parks is finished. A joint, bilingual magazine on maritime experiences has been published.

CWSS

- The Wadden Sea Seal Agreement will have its 25th anniversary this year. The suggestion to celebrate the event jointly with CMS at the 2015 Wadden Sea Day was received positively.
- A Wadden Sea World Heritage coffee table book has been published in English and German by Wachholtz Verlag. The book contains aerial photographs of the entire property. Dutch and Danish versions are in preparation.
Mr Harald Marencic represented the TWSC and World Heritage at the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney (Document WSB13/4.1).

- The 2014 Wadden Sea Day was very well received with 200 participants, and speakers from various work fields.
- The World Heritage Committee will meet in Bonn on 28.6 - 6.7.2015. Possibilities to present the Wadden Sea (and international cooperation) through an exhibition and side event are currently being explored by the CWSS and TG-WH.

Advisors

- Mr Rösner, also on behalf of Mr Verheij, referred to the Call for Action by 10 nature NGOs, cf. document WSB13/4.2. The meeting acknowledged and welcomed the initiative of the Nature NGOs.
- WWF and six other German NGOs have filed a complaint against the Government of Germany (Federal Nature Agency) concerning the non-specification of measures in protected areas in the German EEZ.

The meeting **noted** the information.

AGENDA ITEM 5: IMPLEMENTATION TØNDER DECLARATION

Wadden Sea World Heritage

Document: WSB 13/5.1 Feasibility Study Competence Centre

The Chair informed the meeting that good progress has been made with the feasibility study Competence Centre and that an initial workshop would take place on 18 February 2015 to discuss the first results and to provide further guidance to implement the project. The final report was scheduled for the end of April 2015. It was **agreed** that the HoD Task Group, which had also prepared the Terms of Reference for the study, would prepare a proposal for governance for the next WSB meeting on the basis of the outcome of the study.

Document: WSB 13/5.3 World Heritage Strategy 2014 -20120 (§§ 4-6 TD)

The meeting **endorsed** the draft World Heritage Strategy with editorial changes resulting from the extension with the Danish part in June 2014, as the framework for engaging strategic partners to contribute to maintaining and protecting the OUV. The meeting **agreed** to identify strategic partners inviting them to sign the strategy and to organize a launch event, possibly in connection with the 2015 Wadden Sea Day. The meeting **instructed** the TG-WH to prepare a concise document with a road map and examples of how to implement the strategy, to be presented at the launch event.

Document: WSB 13/5.4 Education Network

The meeting expressed its appreciation for the report and all Parties **agreed** to provide funding for the World Heritage education network for 2015 and, contingent upon approval of the relevant budgets at the national level, also for 2016.

International Cooperation

Document: WSB 13/5.2 MoU Korea

The meeting appreciated the MoU activities carried out since 2010 and thanked all partners involved for their commitment. The meeting **agreed** to continue the exchange with Korea taking, into account the need to balance the efforts with other ambitions.

Document: WSB 13/5.5 Ramsar

The meeting **adopted** the proposal contained in the document to inform the Ramsar Secretariat about the intention of the Wadden Sea States to designate the Wadden Sea as a trans-boundary Ramsar site. It was **agreed** that the letter be sent by the Dutch presidency on behalf of the three partners.

Mr Ilsøe noted that in Denmark's view procedural decisions did not need to be taken at the WSB level but could be delegated to the Secretariat and the TG-M.

Nature conservation and integrated ecosystem management

Document: WSB 13/5.6 Fish workshop

The meeting appreciated the idea of developing a so-called "swimway vision" and **instructed** TG-M to elaborate a more detailed proposal on the basis of the full report of the workshop on fish conservation and management, for discussion by WSB-14. It was suggested that the work could best be done by a TG-M subgroup.

Presidency paper

Document: WSB 13/5.7 Presidency paper

Mr Verhulst stated that the Dutch presidency paper is not the same as the TD implementation matrix agreed by WSB-12, which comprises the whole Tønder Declaration, but rather outlines the Dutch view of priorities, and intends to highlight feasible deliverables with trilateral added value, which are of interest to policy-makers and the general public. The contents were fully in accordance with the Tønder Declaration. Furthermore it was the intention to produce some deliverables every year and not to wait until the 2018 Conference.

The German and Danish delegations pointed to the mandatory tasks, in particular the QSR and the requests of the World Heritage Committee and wondered whether there is sufficient capacity in the Secretariat and the trilateral working groups to deal with the issues proposed by the Dutch presidency. Furthermore the German delegation underlined that the TD was the basis for the work for the upcoming years, which was intensively discussed and consulted e.g. with the German Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure.

Mr Verhulst replied that it was important to use input from outside sources and also that The Netherlands are willing to take the lead in some of the proposed activities. In this respect the WSF chairman, Mr Staghouwer, offered support by the WSF and referred to agenda item 7.

The Chairman **concluded** that it was appreciated that the Dutch presidency had produced this paper, reflecting the Dutch ambition regarding the priorities for the coming years. There was agreement on the principles in this paper to deliver interesting products but that it was no template for the implementation of the Tønder Declaration.

The meeting **agreed** that

- comments on the paper would be submitted to the Dutch delegation;
- the Dutch delegation would prepare an amended draft on the basis of the comments and a comparison with the obligations from the business plan;

- it would need to be ensured that there was a common understanding regarding the interpretation of the objectives and the time-table; The Netherlands would organise another dialogue as an interim step. Because this was not a new operational plan for the next four years, the CWSS and the Task Groups would deliver an estimate of capacities available to give guidance on what is feasible.;
- the climate issue would be further elaborated in the paper. TG Climate would convene as soon as possible to discuss trilateral actions and deliverables on climate change adaptation.

AGENDA ITEM 6: PROGRESS TASK GROUPS

Composition Task Groups

Document: WSB 13/6/1 TG Composition

Mr Verhulst announced that The Netherlands had nominated Ms Hilde Boesjes as chairperson of TG STS. Ms Boesjes is director of the WH site Wouda Gemaal, the biggest steam-powered pumping station still operating worldwide.

He furthermore informed the meeting that Mr Willem Kattenberg of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment (MinI&M) had been nominated as chairman of TG Climate.

The WSF requested to take part in the TG-C meetings for a sound collaboration on climate issues. Mr Rösner expressed WWFs interest in participating in TG-C. The meeting agreed to both requests.

An updated overview of the composition of the Task Groups can be found at **Annex 3**.

With regard to shipping, Mr Verhulst informed the meeting that agreement had been reached on a joint trilateral-WSF shipping group under the auspices of the TWSC. Some members of the former WSF shipping group would participate in the new TG Shipping. The Netherlands would nominate a chairperson for the TG Shipping and would take the initiative to call a meeting as soon as possible.

The meeting **welcomed** the nominations and **agreed** on the new TG Shipping.

Task Group Sustainable Tourism Strategy

Document: WSB 13/6.2 TG-STs

The meeting acknowledged the successful work on developing the strategy "Sustainable Tourism in the World Heritage Destination" and an operational network implementing the action plan in the regions coordinated by the TG-STs and expressed thanks to Harald Marencic of CWSS for having assumed the dual role of secretary and chair to the TG. The meeting **agreed**:

- to develop a concept for a WH campaign for discussion at the next WSB,
- to prepare a proposal for a PROWAD follow-up project to the next WSB with the aim of submitting a project proposal to Interreg in autumn 2015, including a trilateral coordinator in order to further strengthen the cooperation with tourism stakeholders.

Task Group World Heritage

Document: WSB 13/6.3 TG-WH

The meeting **endorsed** the approach proposed by TG-WH to implement the requests of the WH Committee and instructed TG-M and TG-WH to report back at the next WSB, following the required clarification by IUCN.

Document: WSB 13/6.6 Amendment TOR

The meeting **endorsed** the proposed amendments and agreed that TG-WH would be the responsible TG for management of the WH brand. In accordance with a proposal by the Netherlands and Denmark, the meeting **decided** to discuss at the next WSB how to resolve the problems of using the WH brand and instruct the TG-WH to come up with a proposal.

Task Group Management

Document: WSB 13/6.5 TG-M

1. Flyway cooperation

The meeting **endorsed** the proposals contained in the document. It was **agreed** that the chairman would send a letter to Gerard Boere, thanking him on behalf of the WSB for his work.

With regard to the MoU with Mauritania, the Secretary called the attention of the meeting to a problem related to the workshop to be held at the end of March 2015. There was still a budget gap of some 35.000 Euros for this workshop. It was **agreed** to discuss the matter under agenda item 8.

2. Management and wardening

The meeting **acknowledged** that coordination and stimulation at the trilateral level is needed to get cooperation between field managers started and **endorsed** the approach proposed by TG-M.

3. Tidal basin approach

The meeting **endorsed** the approach.

4. N2000 roof report

The meeting **endorsed** the approach. Mr IIsøe suggested combining the work with the preparation of the QSR and the SOC.

5. Breeding bird action plan

The meeting **noted** the information

6. Seal Agreement

The meeting **agreed** to the proposals in the document. The Netherlands had **adopted** the Seal Management Plan.

7. Fish targets

See agenda item 5.

8. Alien species

The meeting **endorsed** the approach. Mr IIsøe informed the meeting that a report had been published with proposals for monitoring marine invasive species. This report also referred to new methods such as DNA coding.

9. Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAG)

Document: WSB 13/6.5 TMAG

The meeting **adopted** the proposals from the document, amongst which the proposal to dismiss the TMAG. It was **agreed** that the chairman would send a letter to the TMAG members thanking them for their work.

10. Quality Status Report

The meeting **endorsed** the approach as outlined in the document and was informed that the work on establishing the QSR editorial Board has not yet been finished. Efforts would be made to involve some young scientists as well.

11. Trilateral research agenda

Mr Verhulst presented a document proposing that the WSB appoint a team of three leading scientists (one from each country), operating under the responsibility of the WSB and supported by the CWSS. The team would be tasked with producing an overview of the most relevant research issues on the basis of the science-policy matrix. To this end the team would ask two scientists per research theme to identify the most pressing research questions.

The Danish delegation expressed support for the proposal. The German delegation and the Secretariat raised several questions related mainly to the practical feasibility of the proposal. It was **agreed** that the Dutch delegation would prepare an amended and more pragmatic proposal for the next WSB meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7: WADDEN SEA FORUM

Documents: WSB 13/7.1 WSF progress; WSB 13/7.2 WSF-WSB

The WSF Chairman, Mr Staghower, and the WSF Secretary, Mr Vollmer, informed the meeting about progress of the main WSF topics. With regard to the theme “CO₂ neutral Wadden Sea area” an inventory of CO₂ reduction measures and best practise examples had been initiated. To proceed, collaboration and commitment from the political level was needed, not only with regard to financial support, but also to define political specifications, such as the meaning of CO₂ neutrality, size of the area and trading mechanisms.

With regard to goose management support of the WSB is required, in particular to help getting local and regional authorities involved in the implementation, although already good progress has been made in the assignment of responsible authorities. In this respect Mr Hebbelmann informed that a goose working group will discuss the goose management in Lower Saxony. Mr Ilsøe informed that work on national implementation in Denmark has started.

After the reconvening of the TG Shipping a discussion in this TG is needed on the terms of reference, in particular whether or not to include harbour issues. The WSF was of the opinion that the involvement of the stakeholders would be of great importance to make progress in shipping safety, the introduction of LNG in ferry traffic and green harbour concepts.

The meeting was furthermore informed that work is ongoing to combine the WSF sustainability index with the Dutch Waddenbarometer approach. A test phase had started with the support of the Dutch Wadden Academy.

AGENDA ITEM 8: BUDGET CWSS

Documents: WSB 13/8.1 Supplementary budget

The CWSS supplementary budget was discussed in an internal HoD session. It was **agreed** to decide on budget matters at a skype HoD meeting in March.

AGENDA ITEM 9: NEXT MEETING

It was **agreed** that the secretariat and chairman would circulate a proposal for a date for the WSB-14 meeting. WSB-14 should preferably be held before summer 2015.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no contributions under this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 11: CLOSING

The chairman closed the meeting 29 January, 12:00 hours and thanked the participants for their good cooperation.

Annex 1

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Annex 2

**AGENDA
MEETING OF THE WADDEN SEA BOARD
TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA COOPERATION
WSB 13
28-29 January 2015**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Summary Record WSB 12
4. Announcements
5. Implementation Tønder Declaration
6. Report Task Groups
7. Wadden Sea Forum
8. Budget CWSS
9. Next meeting
10. Any Other Business
11. Closing

Composition Task Groups 2014 - 2018 (version January 2015)

	TG-C	TG-M	TG-STG	TG-WH
Chair	Willem Kattenberg	Stefanie Hedtkamp	Hilde Boesjes	Anne Husum Marboe
Secretary	Folkert de Jong	Folkert de Jong	Harald Marencic	Harald Marencic
DK	Bertram Hacke	Henrik Pind Jørgensen [Anne Husum Marboe] [Hanne Fogh Vinther]	Thomas H. Christensen	Bolette Lehn Petersen Erik Dam
D-federal		Nina Schröder	Barbara Engels	Stefanie Hedtkamp Barbara Engels
SH	Jacobus Hofstede [Astrid Dickow]	Klaus Koßmagk-Stephan [Maren Bauer]	Christiane Gätje, Kerstin Schneider, Frank Kette	Maren Bauer Klaus Koßmagk-Stephan
NdS	Margrita Sobottka Christian Jacobs	Arndt Meyer-Voßgerau	Juliane Reich, Stephanie Rohenkohl	Hubertus Hebbelmann Margrita Sobottka
HH	Klaus Janke	Klaus Janke	Janne Lieven	Klaus Janke Janne Lieven
NL	Saa Kabuta Peter de Vries Robert Zijlstra	Bernard Baerends Ronald van Dokkum Floris van Bentum	TBC: Albert-Jan Zijlstra, Eric Neef, Herman Verheij, Teatske Rienks	Bernard Baerends
Advisors	Manfred Vollmer (WSF) Hans Ulrich Rösner (WWF)		Anja Szczesinski (WWF)	

Note: Names between square brackets: participation depending on agenda

Annex 4

List of Actions

Action	Agenda item	What	Who	Deadline
1	5	Proposal for governance competence centre/foundation	HoD Task Group	May 2015
2		Identify strategic partners for signing World Heritage Strategy	WSB delegations	a.s.a.p.
3		Roadmap implementation WH Strategy	TG WH	a.s.a.p.
4		Letter to Ramsar secretariat on WS Transboundary Ramsar site	Dutch delegation/ CWSS	a.s.a.p.
5		Detailed proposal Swimway Vison to WSB	TG-M	May 2015
6		Comments to presidency paper	D, DK delegations, advisors	a.s.a.p.
7		Amended presidency paper	Dutch delegation	May 2015
8		Estimate of capacities available for dealing with non-mandatory tasks	CWSS and the Task Groups	May 2015
9		Possible trilateral actions and deliverables on climate change adaptation	TG Climate	May 2015
10	6	Concept WH campaign for discussion at the next WSB,	TG-STG	May 2015
11		Proposal for PROWAD follow-up	CWSS	May 2015
12		Clarification on implementation requests WH Committee	TG-WH; TG-M	May 2015
13		Discussion doc on use of WH brand	TG-WH	May 2015
14		"Thank you"-Letter to Gerard Boere	WSB chairman	a.s.a.p.
15		"Thank you"-Letter to TMAG members	WSB chairman	a.s.a.p.
16		Pragmatic proposal for procedure research agenda	Dutch delegation	May 2015
17	7	Discuss terms of reference TG Shipping	TG Shipping	a.s.a.p.
18	9	Circulation date WSB-14	CWSS	a.s.a.p.