

Final Draft **SUMMARY RECORD**

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

**WSB 16**

**Leeuwarden, 9-10 March 2016**

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

The Chairman, Mr Verdaas, opened the meeting at 13:30 h. Mr Klaas Kielstra, host of the meeting, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Province of Fryslân. Mr Verdaas particularly welcomed the new member of the Danish delegation, Ms Christina Egsvang Føns, representing the Danish Wadden Sea municipalities.

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 16/2/1 Draft Agenda

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

**AGENDA ITEM 3: SUMMARY RECORD WSB 15**

Document: Final Draft Summary Record WSB 15

Referring to the WSB15 final draft Summary Record, Mr Verhulst raised the issue of a strategic discussion about the Wadden Sea Day, as well as submission of themes for future WSDs, as agreed by WSB-15. The Secretary informed the meeting that no suggestions for themes had been received, nor proposals on how to use the WSD in a strategic way. The meeting **agreed** to have such a discussion at WSB-17 and that CWSS would prepare an overview document about the history and organisation of the WSD.

Mr Verhulst announced that the Dutch delegation would prepare a mid-term review of the implementation of the Tønder Declaration for discussion at WSB-17.

The final draft Summary Record of WSB 15 was **adopted** without amendments.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Denmark

- A new member of the delegation was introduced, Ms Christina Egsvang Føns, on behalf of the municipalities.
- Mr Espen Lunde Larsen is the new Danish Minister of Environment and Food.
- The reorganisation of the Danish administration is rapidly proceeding. As of 1 July 2016 the Agency for Water and Nature Management and the Nature

Agency will have been established. The Agency for Water and Nature Management will be situated in Copenhagen and will be chair the Danish delegation in the WSB. Mr Ilsøe and Mr Rasmussen will both be posted to the Nature Agency, which will be located in Jutland. For that reason both Mr Ilsøe and Mr Rasmussen will leave the WSB. Mr Ilsøe announced that this would be the last Wadden Sea Board that he would be attending. Mr Rasmussen will continue for the rest of the year.

The Chairman expressed his gratitude for the many years of good cooperation and the many years Mr Ilsøe had successfully chaired the WSB and invited Mr Ilsøe to WSB-17 for a farewell event.

### The Netherlands

- The Dutch delegation introduced the double dyke pilot project that is being implemented in the Province of Groningen between Eemshaven and Delfzijl, in order to increase the coastal protection in the light of sea level rise and subsiding soil due to gas extraction. The project makes use of excess sludge from the Eems-Dollard. The delegation stressed the benefits for safety, nature conservation and saline agriculture. The second dyke was being constructed landwards from the existing dyke.
- Mr De Hoop informed the Board about the largest solar park in the Netherlands, which is located on the Wadden island of Ameland and will be officially opened in April. Ameland aims to be 100% self-supporting in terms of energy by 2020. Mr De Hoop further informed the meeting of the planned replacement of street lights in Ameland with green light, which does not contain infrared and does not confuse migratory birds. Furthermore, due to smart-LED lights, the street lights will only switch on when someone passes by. Mr De Hoop expressed the hope that these efforts in Ameland would be shared as a best-practice example to inspire other Wadden islands in the three nations to take similar measures.

### Germany

- At the AEWA MOP several Wadden Sea-related side events and the WSFI Workshop took place.
- Within two weeks a public hearing will take place about N2000 fisheries management in the German EEZ.
- The German national biodiversity strategy has been relaunched and an English version will be sent to CWSS for distribution to WSB members.
- Ms Knoke informed the Board about the difficulties arising from kite surfing in Schleswig-Holstein, as there were no specific kite surfing zones in the Schleswig-Holstein National Park, so the park was not able to make sure that kite-surfers do not disturb birds. The Danish, the Dutch, the Lower Saxonian and the Hamburg representatives all confirmed that they did have regulations in place. Mr Rösner added that evidence needed to be gathered about the harmful effects of kite surfing on birds. All delegations would provide CWSS with a description of their regulations regarding kite surfing, as well as of the evidence they have regarding negative effects. CWSS will compile this data in one package, which Schleswig-Holstein and others can use to draft their policies.
- At WSB-17 a presentation will be given by Mr Jacobus Hofstede about the Schleswig-Holstein Strategy for the Wadden Sea 2100.
- Mr Hebbelmann addressed the issue of the recently stranded sperm whales. It was **agreed** that TG-MM would discuss a coordinated approach to taking samples and managing the removal of the whales.
- The national Park Law Hamburg is being revised, taking account of the N2000 obligations.

### CWSS

- Mr Strempel noted that the recruitment procedures for the two new posts at the Secretariat had been successfully concluded and introduced the new CWSS Communications Officer, Mr Simon Lobach, who had entered on duty on 1 February. The new Assistant Administrative and Finance Officer, Ms Stefanie Fifelski, would join CWSS as of 1 April 2016.
- Mr Strempel also highlighted the participation of the Wadden Sea World Heritage at the International Tourism Fair (ITB) in Berlin from 9 to 13 March, 2016.
- A liaison meeting between the three natural World Heritage sites in Germany (Wadden Sea, Ancient Beech Forests of Germany, Messel Pit) had taken place in Wilhelmshaven on 11 February 2016. Mr Strempel added that a meeting with the cultural landscapes on the World Heritage list (“Culture meets Nature – Nature meets Culture”) was being planned in cooperation with the German Federal Agency for Nature conservation (BfN). It was slated for 30 May 2016 in Bonn.

### WWF

- Mr Rösner informed the meeting that heshrimp fisheries the shrimp fishery organisations from the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark had jointly applied for MSC certification. The Green NGOs welcome that in principle, but expect the fishery to go for considerable changes in order to obtain the certificate. The NGOs will jointly contribute to the process.

### WSF

- Mr Vollmer informed the meeting that WSF will no longer directly work on goose management but instead support the AEWA concept, which approaches goose management at a European level.

The meeting **noted** the information.

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

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

#### Documents:

WSB 16/5.1/1 Progress Report TG-WH  
WSB 16/5.1/2 Progress Report TG-WH, Road Map  
WSB 16/5.1/3 Report TG-STC  
WSB 16/5.1/4 WH Campaign 2016-2018  
WSB 16/5.1/5 Prowad Link Expression of Interest

Ms Marboe, chairperson of TG-WH elucidated the TG-WH progress report. WSB **noted** progress made by TG-WH in the preparation of the State of Conservation Report, the Business Cooperation Programme and the WH logo use. With regard to the elaboration of a Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP), the meeting **agreed** to wait for the outcome of the workshop with IUCN (31 May) before **deciding** upon a procedure.

With regard to the Roadmap for implementing the WH Strategy (document WSB 16/5.1/2), the meeting **agreed** that this should be a rolling document that should be

on the WSB agenda from time to time, in particular when major amendments were needed for which WSB approval would be required.

Ms Paulus proposed and the meeting **agreed** to include NGOs, science and education in the partner column of all matrices and to change the heading “PROWAD Link” into “Follow up PROWAD”.

Upon a question by Mr Vollmer about involvement of strategic partners, in particular WSF, Ms Marboe informed the meeting that it was intended to stimulate strategic partners to join in promoting regional sustainable development.

It was **agreed** to add some introductory sentences on the aims and intentions of the document, after which it could, together with the above amendments, be placed on the website.

With regard to the WH website the secretary stated that a relaunch was necessary and proposed to use the opportunity to merge this website with the trilateral website. There was general **support** for this idea and it was **agreed** that a proposal by CWSS would be submitted to the WSB-17 or WSB-18 meeting.

The meeting then discussed the TG-STs progress report (Document WSB 16/5.1/3). There was general **agreement** that a fundamental discussion was needed about the use and application of the World Heritage Brand and logo and that, as already agreed at WSB-15, a joint meeting of TG-WH and TG-STs was required to prepare this discussion, in particular by clearly identifying the main differences in position between the parties. Unfortunately it had not yet been possible to organise a joint meeting. The meeting **agreed** that the joint TG-WH/TG-STs meeting should be held in the first week of June and be chaired by Mr Verdaas. The outcome of the meeting should be submitted to WSB-17.

Next, WSB discussed document WSB 16/5.1/4 containing a comprehensive proposal for the WH campaign 2016-2018. The Danish delegation commented on the proposal for the campaign, noting that Denmark saw shortcomings regarding clear goals and targets in the proposed campaign and felt that it was not compatible with the Branding Manual. The concern was expressed that the campaign would be hard to align with the PROWAD-LINK concept. The German delegation stated that it had several questions regarding design, corporate identity and budget. The Dutch delegation could support the proposal and wondered why these comments had not been raised earlier. The Danish delegation remarked that the proposed campaign had been presented outside the agenda for WSB 15 and that the WSB would only take decisions on items prepared for the agenda.

The meeting **agreed** that CWSS would realign the proposal and then consult with TG-WH and TG-STs. All delegations were requested to submit their comments to CWSS.

WSB then addressed the PROWAD LINK “Expression of Interest”, as contained in document WSB 15/5.1/5. The German delegation raised questions about the meaning of several terms used in the document, such as “co-creation”, “co-design” and “bio-economics”. The Danish delegation criticized the EiO for a lack of clear objectives and alignment with the call. Ms. Liburd concurred with the German delegation and pressed for a clear terminology, clarification of the role of the WS WH (not as a case but context) and role of non-WS partners (as cases). She underlined the importance of having the Partnership Centre not as a project outcome, but to secure coordination and longevity beyond project duration. Ms. Liburd proposed a text to specify the PROWAD LINK objectives as follows: “Our ambitious aim is to use nature protection as a driver for sustainable growth and innovation in the Wadden Sea area. Innovation for sustainable growth engages businesses, organizations, planners and destinations in activation of the World Heritage Wadden Sea brand.

Based on the perpetual integrity of the Outstanding Universal Values, innovative product and experience development are enabled through local, national and transnational collaboration in the World Heritage Wadden Sea.”

For technical reasons, this proposed draft text could not be made available to the WSB as a whole during the meeting. However, the WSB mandated CWSS to amend the summary of the document, taking account of the draft wording proposed by the Danish delegation and then to submit the Expression of Interest to the Interreg Secretariat. Considering the fact that the Expression of Interest would have to be sent out by Monday, 14 March at the latest, it was **agreed** that the discussion on the contents of PROWAD LINK would have to be continued during the process of preparing a full project proposal.

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

### Documents:

WSB 15/5.2/1 Report TG-MM

WSB 15/5.2/2 Breeding Bird Action Plan

Ms Hedtkamp, Chairperson of TG-MM, elucidated progress made by TG-MM. WSB **took note** of the progress report and **endorsed** the actions proposed by TG-MM with the following additions:

- Seal Management Plan. The SMP 2016-2020 will be tabled for approval at WSB-18.
- QSR 2016. The involvement of scientists in preparing this and future QSRs should be connected with the trilateral research agenda. The issue of remuneration of QSR authors will be discussed at WSB-18 on the basis of a discussion document by CWSS.
- Ms Hedtkamp informed that topics related to data handling will be included in the TMAP revision.

Certificates for the transboundary Wadden Sea Ramsar site, which had been sent to Denmark by the Ramsar Secretariat, were handed out by the Danish delegation to the Dutch and German delegations, as well as CWSS.

WSB **adopted** the Breeding Bird Action Plan as in document WSB 15/5.2/2.

A presentation on the development of a trilateral research agenda was given by Mr Jouke van Dijk. He informed WSB that a joint meeting with economic and cultural-historic scientist had been held in October 2015, that a workshop with geologists is planned for April 2016 in Delmenhorst and that meetings of the Ecology and Climate and Water groups will be held back to back with the Wadden Academy Symposium 30 June-1 July 2016 on Texel. Mr van Dijk stated that a draft version of a trilateral research agenda would be ready by summer 2016 and could be considered for the scientific symposia in 2017 with the aim to have a full trilateral research agenda for the conference in 2018.

Ms Knoke emphasized the importance of a tight connection between the research agenda and central issues of the TWSC.

## **5.4 Climate**

Document: WSB 16/5.4/1 Progress Report Task Group Climate

The meeting **endorsed** document WSB 16/5.4/1, containing the TG-C approach to implementing the trilateral Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and producing deliverables for the 2018 Wadden Sea Conference.

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

Ms van Grol informed the meeting about progress made in the establishment of a Wadden Sea shipping group. Within the framework of the DenGerNeth process a Wadden Sea DenGerNeth Forum would be installed, which would focus on the implementation of the operational plans. For specific issues WSF or CWSS could be invited to participate. The Terms of Reference of the group were currently being developed.

A presentation was given by Mr Arjen Bosch on the implementation of the Green Port concept in the Dutch Wadden Sea. An international conference on this subject will be held 20 June 2016. The WSB expressed **support** for this initiative.

### **5.8 Wadden Sea Forum**

Document: WSB 16/5.8/1 WSF Progress Report

The WSF Chairman, Mr Staghouwer, informed the meeting about progress made by the WSF, in particular about the WSF plenary meeting (5-6 November 2015) which was dedicated to the future strategy and focus of the WSF. At this meeting it had, *inter alia*, been agreed to increase WSFs visibility in the region, to show more commitment and to obtain more input from the member organisations.

The meeting **noted** the information.

### **5.9 International Cooperation**

Document: WSB 16/5.9/1 MoU Wadden Sea-Korea

The meeting **endorsed** document WSB 16/5.9/1, containing the draft work plan MoU Wadden Sea – Korea.

### **5.10 International Wadden Sea School**

Document: WSB 16/5.10/1 IWSS Report 2014-2015

The meeting **took note** of the IWSS Report 2014-2015 and expressed its thanks for the IWSS work and products.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6: World Heritage Competence Centre**

Documents:

WSB 16/6/1 Competence Centre Roadmap

WSB 16/6/2 ToR Partnership Centre Drafting Group

WSB 16/6/3 WSWH Partnership Centre: Why and What

WSB 16/6/4 Outcome 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting HLG, Berlin, 3 Feb 2016

WSB first discussed the why and what of the Partnership Centre (PC) as outlined in document WSB 16/6/3, prepared by the WSB chair and CWSS.

More clarity was asked regarding the role of the so-called Steering Committee and the general governance structure of the PC.

Mr Verhulst stated that the government responsibilities would not be changed and that the proposed Steering Committee would be complementary to the existing responsibilities.

Ms Paulus considered the Steering Committee to have a supervisory function for the non-Secretariat component of the PC. She warned not to postpone the discussion on

governance. The chairman framed that no parallel structures should be developed and the meeting **agreed** that the PC drafting group should discuss governance as a priority issue.

The meeting then discussed the potential PC partners. Mr Verhulst stated that a clear common understanding was needed on who could participate as a partner. Ms Knoke made clear that in the view of Schleswig-Holstein partner organisations should subscribe to the Guiding Principle of the TWSC, the OUV and the Integrity of the WHS. Mr Verhulst referred to the Andy Brown report and stated that the PC was intended first of all to increase commitment for the Wadden Sea World Heritage and that PC partners should not be subject to the same conditions as possible future World Heritage partners.

The Secretary pointed to the fact that partners in the business programme and partners in the PC are not necessarily the same.

The Chairman **concluded** and the meeting **agreed** that in principle no organisation will be excluded from becoming a partner, provided the WH Strategy is supported. It was also **agreed** that the process would be continued and that a formal message to this effect would be sent to the Lower Saxonian government that intends to provide financial and personnel support for the PC (see Letter of Intent, 29 Oct. 2015, Annex 2 of WSB 15 Final Draft Summary Record).

The meeting furthermore **agreed** to amend document WSB 16/6/3 by deleting the last part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> para on page 2, starting with “in particular from civil society...”, and by exchanging the term “Steering Committee” by “Governance Structure”.

With regard to the proposed Roadmap (document WSB 16/6/1) it was generally **acknowledged** that this was very ambitious but that the next step in the process would only be taken after the previous one had been agreed upon by WSB. It was **agreed** that the work of the Drafting Group should start as soon as possible and not wait until all members of this group would be available. Work should start with a small group and at the same time potential members would be invited. In addition to the government representatives, these would be representing NGOs, Tourism and Science. For the latter two the TG-STs chair and Jouke van Dijk respectively would be contacted. A balancing of nationalities would be applied in selecting persons to be invited. WSB finally urged that the budget paper and the proposal for a legal structure be circulated in time.

### **AGENDA ITEM 7: Next meeting**

The WSB-17 meeting will be held 22 June, 9-16 hours in the Multimar Exhibition Centre in Tönning. Hotel bookings should be done as early as possible because of the high season.

### **AGENDA ITEM 8: Any other business**

### **AGENDA ITEM 9: CLOSING**

The chairman closed the meeting 10 March 2016, 13:00 hours. He particularly thanked the host, Mr Kielstra for the excellent arrangements.

## Annex 1

## PARTICIPANTS

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**Annex 2**

**AGENDA  
MEETING OF THE WADDEN SEA BOARD  
TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA COOPERATION  
WSB 16  
Leeuwarden, 9 -10 March 2016**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Summary Record WSB 15
4. Announcements
5. Implementation Tønder Declaration
6. Wadden Sea World Heritage Competence Centre
7. Next meeting
8. Any Other Business
9. Closing

## Annex 3

## List of Actions

Action	Agenda item	What	Who	Deadline
1	3	Overview Wadden Sea Days	CWSS	WSB 17
2		Midterm review Tønder Declaration	NL	WSB 17
3	4	Submit information on kite surfing to CWSS	All delegations	a.s.a.p.
4		Prepare trilateral overview kite surfing	CWSS	WSB 17
5		Discuss trilateral coordination dealing with stranded whales	TG-MM	a.s.a.p.
6	5	Amend WH Road Map and place on website	CWSS	a.s.a.p.
7		Proposal for merging WH and trilateral websites	CWSS	WSB 17 or WSB 18
8		Organise joint meeting TG-WH/TG-STs at the beginning of June	CWSS	a.s.a.p.
9		Submit outcome TG-WH/TG-STs meeting to WSB-17	CWSS	WSB 17
10		Comments to WH campaign proposal	All delegations	a.s.a.p.
11		Amend WH campaign proposal and consult with TG-WH and TG-STs	CWSS	a.s.a.p.
12		Amend PROWAD LINK Expression of Interest and submit to Interreg	CWSS	14 March 2016
13		Submit draft SMP to WSB-18	TSEG/TG-MM	WSB 18
14		Discussion paper involvement scientists in QSR preparation	CWSS/TG-MM	WSB 18
15		6	Amend document WSB 16/6/3	CWSS
16	Propose names of members PC Drafting Group to CWSS		All	a.s.a.p.
17	Invite potential members PC Drafting Group		CWSS	a.s.a.p.
18	Start drafting Terms of Reference PC Drafting Group		PC Drafting Group	a.s.a.p.