

SUMMARY RECORD

39th Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 39)

29 November 2022
Wilhelmshaven, Germany
Atlantic Hotel, Jadeallee 50, 26382. Wilhelmshaven



1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chairperson at 13.00 on 29 November 2022

The chair passed on the apologies of Ilka Wagner, who was substituted by Thomas Borchers. The chair passed on the apologies of Nanou Beekman, who would be substituted by Marre Walter and welcomed Johan Hamster. She announced that some members of the Dutch delegation would leave the meeting early to welcome the Minister.

The chair welcomed Bernd Scherer as guest, who would give a brief oral presentation on the Trilateral Programming Committee – Wadden Sea Research.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Document: WSB-39-2 Draft annotated agenda.pdf

The Chair expressed the necessity to shorten the agenda, due to time constraints. She suggested focussing on the draft Joint Statement, on the involvement of the young generation, who would also have a role at the Conference and would take part in the WSB 40 and on the presentation of Bernd Scherer. The Chair suggested that all other points should be discussed only if time allowed, or otherwise postponed to the next WSB.

With regard to the Wilhelmshaven Declaration, Anne-Marie Vægter Rasmussen clarified that in Denmark negotiations regarding the new government were still ongoing and that, for this formal reason, the Declaration cannot be signed at that point. More detailed explanations would be given at the Trilateral Governmental Council meeting.

As the Declaration could not be signed, the three States agreed on adopting a Joint Statement, which had been drafted and should be agreed upon. It was clarified and agreed that the Joint Statement would be adopted and not officially signed. The Joint Statement would be officially presented to and adopted by the Council meeting, to be annexed to the meeting's minutes, and would be launched publicly at the ceremony at the end of the conference and published simultaneously on the TWSC-website and all delegation websites on November 30th. The German presidency thanked all the parties for their endeavour and flexibility which resulted in this Joint Statement.

The WSB **adopted** the agenda as amended during the meeting and agreed on the draft Joint Statement to be submitted to the Council meeting for adoption.

3. Record WSB 38/37

Documents: WSB 39/3/1 WSB 37 summary record FINAL DRAFT

WSB 39/3/2 WSB 38 summary record FINAL DRAFT

Anne-Marie Vægtter Rasmussen suggested an amendment of the Danish announcements in the summary record of WSB 37, specifying that the Danish government was in the process of allocating test sites for a new type of extra high windmills and not an “agreeing on test sites”.

The WSB adopted the Summary records of the WSB 37 and 38, including the suggested amendment of summary record WSB 37.

4. Announcements

Document: WSB 39/4 Announcements by the CWSS

The Netherlands:

Marre Walter announced that she would leave the meeting earlier to welcome the Dutch Minister, but the rest of the Dutch delegation will remain at the meeting.

Denmark:

Janne Liburd informed the meeting that, as announced at the WSB 37, the Danish National Park remained concerned about the plans to allocate a test centre for the new type of extra high windmills in the National Park area, including one windmill planned to be installed within the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site.

Janne Liburd congratulated the PROWAD Link Consortium on the accomplishment of the project which was coming to an end this year and encouraged a follow-up project that would be instrumental for the implementation of the new sustainable tourism strategy.

Christina Egsvang Føns informed the meeting that a course had been developed by the Wadden Sea National Park for the four Danish Wadden Sea Municipalities to inform employees at the Municipalities about the meaning and the implications of the World Heritage designation. The course would be offered once per year.

Germany:

Vera Knoke reiterated the Danish National Park’s position in congratulating PROWAD Link and supported the suggestion for a potential new project on sustainable tourism to further support the cooperation in this topic.

Advisors:

Hans Ulrich Rösner, on behalf of the WST and the WSF, announced that the “Joint Statement on Sustainable shipping and ports initiative for a well-protected Wadden Sea” would be signed by representatives of the NGOs, the WSF, the Ports and the shipping owners as side event to the Wadden Sea Conference. He underlined that this statement was regarded as one of the most important achievements of the project and thanked the WSB for its support. The

statement should serve as an umbrella for joint activities that would need to be put into action in the near future. He also underlined that its implementation should be seen as a common responsibility.

The Chair congratulated all partners for this achievement and encouraged the implementation of this statement.

Thomas Borchers thanked the WST, WSF and all involved actors for engaging in this sensitive but important topic and looked forward to continuing and participating in the dialogue. Bernard Baerends announced that the shipping statement would also be presented during the Conference, within the slot of the Partnership Hub. At this occasion, the statement would be handed over to the Chair of the WSB.

CWSS:

Bernard Baerends announced that the CWSS Annual Report 2022 has been published and it was distributed during the WSB meeting. He also thanked Janne Liburd for contributing to it with a Lead Article.

The WSB noted the announcements and acknowledged the “Joint Statement on sustainable shipping and ports initiative for a well-protected Wadden Sea”, encouraging its implementation.

Youth Involvement

Document: WSB 39/5.1/f (Draft) Statements by and the involvement of the Younger Generation.

The presented document contained a summary of the Trilateral Youth Conference (TYC) and also some requests to the Wadden Sea Board from the youth. In the document the youth highlighted their interest in continuing their engagement at the trilateral level. They would welcome the establishment of a youth network and also a follow up conference, for which financial support would need to be sought. Furthermore, they expressed their wish of having a contact person at the CWSS.

Thomas Borchers expressed appreciation for the youth’s eagerness and enthusiasm to participate in the trilateral cooperation and suggested that appropriate support should be made possible (not only financially, but also on plans for a Trilateral Youth Network). He also highlighted the importance of the trilateral approach and that the TWSC should be careful not to disappoint the youth representatives. The Cooperation should use the momentum. The TYC should be seen as a start and as a first step to discuss how future activities/conferences can be shaped (e.g. with a less fixed format like a workshop). He suggested that at least some support for networking might be offered by the PH Officer at the CWSS.

Marre Walter strongly supported Thomas Borchers view and suggested discussing a potential role of the youth in the TWSC, suggesting that they could eventually be assigned an advisory role in the WSB.

Anne-Marie Vægter Rasmussen supported the previous statements and suggested to start the discussion with the youth at WSB 40 and prepare an in-depth discussion on youth

involvement for WSB 41. She also advised not to discourage the younger participants by overloading them with too much bureaucracy.

The Chair highlighted that the youth could make a meaningful contribution and that no big or complicated structures were needed, but a rather simple network. The Chair also highlighted the need for a contact point.

The WSB acknowledged and responded very positively to the engagement by the youth to get involved in the TWSC, agreed that the CWSS will deliver a contact-point to the Youth, and to discuss further steps with the Youth representatives in the next WSB meetings.

**Trilateral Programming Committee - Wadden Sea Research (TPC-WSR).
Presentation by the chair of the TPC-WSR, Bernd Scherer, on the state-of-affairs
of the work of the TPC-WSR and future perspective. (See reference draft WD art.
60,61)**

Bernd Scherer, chair of the Trilateral Programming Committee on Wadden Sea Research (TPC-WSR), presented the activities of the group during the last period and outlined plans and proposals for the upcoming presidency. He pointed towards the trilateral summer school, planned by the Partnership Hub with financial support and contributions to content by TPC-WSR, starting in 2023. Initial funding could be provided by the TPC-WSR by partly using the donation of the TWSC (approximately 60,000€ for the first two years). He added the proposal to use a remaining amount 40,000€ to initiate a Trilateral Science Platform (TSP) during the next presidency. In this respect, Bernd Scherer was asking for a positive attitude from WSB to proceed on this, especially in the light of the TGC held at that time.

The meeting acknowledged the work of the TPC-WSR, underlining the importance of the group in realising the upcoming joint research call. Furthermore, the new proposal on a trilateral science platform launched by the chair was positively received in general. However, it was commonly stressed that only an initiating role could be envisaged by the TWSC in this respect. The platform should be made operational and governed by the scientific community itself.

Janne Liburd expressed concerns regarding the suggested initiatives. Firstly, another research platform would require management to ensure regular updates and is not needed. Secondly, several summer schools already exist, and the proposed duration is unrealistic. More information would be needed to assess what the common ground would look like. The secretary added that a careful expectation management would be necessary as a realistic approach.

The chair thanked Bernd Scherer for the good work during the German presidency. Anne-Marie Vægter Rasmussen also thanked Bernd Scherer very much and announced that he already agreed to continue as chair of TPC-WSR until the trilateral groups would be established for the period to come. This was welcomed by the delegations.

5. Draft Wilhelmshaven Declaration

WSB 39/5.1/f. (Draft) Statements by and the involvement of the Younger Generation. (reference draft WD art. 83)

See above.

WSB 39/5.1/b . The Seal Management Plan for the years 2023-2027, reference draft WD art. 30

Germany requested the addition that in case of re-structuring of the trilateral working groups, the responsibilities described in the Seal Management Plan would be transferred to the respective newly responsible working group. With this change accepted, the plan was adopted and the reservation could be lifted in the WD.

WSB 39/5.1/c . The Action Plan on Sustainable Tourism, (reference draft WD art. 35)

The plan was adopted and the reservation could be lifted in the WD.

WSB 39/5.1/a. The Action Plan under Memorandum of Understanding between the CWSS and Parc National Banc d'Arguin (reference draft WD art. 6)

Bernard Baerends explained that the Action plan would be signed at CWSS stand during the Minister's round tour through the exhibition. The WSB agreed that the action plan can be signed by the Executive Secretary. It was considered as a prolongation of a former action plan under the existing MoU with the Parc National du Banc d'Arguin.

New partners signing up to the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative: (reference draft WD art. 7).

The meeting acknowledged the new signatories (Regional Partnership for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Area in West Africa (PRCM), National Institute for Biodiversity management of Protected Areas (IBAP), Hamburg National Park, Wadden Academy, SOVON, Dutch Management Authority) of the WSFI and congratulated them on their signing decisions.

The meeting decided that the reservation on this topic still highlighted in the draft declaration could be lifted when the declaration can be officially agreed upon.

WSB 39/5.1/e. The Trilateral Vision on Dark Sky over the Wadden Sea; (reference draft WD art. 49)

Over 40 organisations were signing the Trilateral Dark Sky Vision over the Wadden Sea. The Trilateral Vision on Dark Sky is a living document which would remain open for new signatories also after the Conference. The reservation in the WD could be lifted.

Leo Pieter Stoel expressed appreciation in seeing such a broad support and underlined the importance of the topic for many stakeholders.

New partners signing up to the "Trilateral Partnership in support of the UNESCO Wadden Sea World Heritage" (reference draft WD art. 76)

National partner- and ambassador programmes would sign the Memorandum of Understanding and join the trilateral partnership in support of the Wadden Sea World Heritage. Also, the Dutch Ambassador programme would continue, as funding had been secured for an additional year.

WSB 39/5.2/1 TMAP parameter proposals. (also reference to draft WD art. 63+64)

The proposal on new TMAP parameters was acknowledged but the discussion on the new parameters needed to be postponed due to time limitations. It was suggested that new parameters have to be introduced following a step-by-step approach.

WSB 39/5.1/d. The Joint Statement by eNGO's, ports, shipowners and WSF ; (reference draft WD art 37)

The meeting took note of the list of signatories, agree on the expression of appreciation ("acknowledge and welcome") and lifted the reservation in the draft WD. See above (under announcements).

WSB 39/5.2/2 Note from the chair of the TG-MA

The note from the chair was acknowledged and the main messages would be taken up during the review processes regarding the upcoming presidency.

The chair thanked Adi Kellermann very much for his chairmanship of TG-MA during the German presidency, especially for tackling the data and parameter issues within TMAP.

6. Trilateral Governmental Council Meeting and Trilateral Governmental Conference 2022

Germany as presidency did not envisage any last-minute interventions on the draft Joint Statement of the Council meeting and was inviting the delegations to come up with any further questions. Thomas Borchers indicated that the last two weeks in preparing the council meeting had been a great experience in many ways and thanked the delegations for their cooperation and support.

7. Wadden Sea Board Advisors: Wadden Sea Forum; Wadden Sea Team

Wadden Sea Team:

Hans Ulrich Rösner announced that green NGOs and other organisations organized a small demonstration to take place in the afternoon. A banner will be displayed in front of the conference venue, the Hotel Atlantic. The main message of the demonstration was "nature first". All political representatives were welcome to join.

Wadden Sea Forum:

Preben Friis-Hauge invited the members of the delegations to visit the WSF stand at the conference's exhibition.

8. Any Other Business

none

9. Next meeting

The meeting of WSB 40 was scheduled for the next day, right after closing of the conference.

10. Closing

The meeting was closed at 14.15 on 29 November 2022. Being the last meeting chaired by Karin Lochte, the secretary thanked the chair of the WSB, Ms Karin Lochte for her great work during the German presidency. Since the secretariat was, due to its organizational nature, completely dependent on the chair, it was gifted due to the way of cooperation as it turned out very pleasant, instantaneous, and reliable.

Thomas Borchers thanked Karin Lochte very much for her engagement over the last four years, with special appreciation of her efforts during rather difficult times at the beginning. He also sent best wishes from the head of the German delegation, Ilka Wagner.

The appreciation for the contribution by Karin Lochte was distinctly echoed by the Dutch (also in the name of the head of Dutch delegation, Nanou Beekman) and the Danish delegations, explicitly mentioning the chairs quality of adding a bit of humour to the discussion when needed.

The chair thanked for the warm words and wished everybody, and the cooperation as a whole, a good and successful future and concluded that a little bit of humour would sometimes be of help.

ANNEX 1: List of participants

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**39th meeting of the Wadden Sea Board
(WSB 39)**

29 November 2022



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Invited Guest

Bernd Scherer
 Chair of Trilateral Programming Committee Wadden
 Sea Research

ANNEX 2: Agenda

FINAL AGENDA

**39th meeting of the Wadden Sea Board
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29 November 2022



- 1. Opening of the Meeting**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 3. Record WSB 38/37**
- 4. Announcements**
- 5. Draft Wilhelmshaven Declaration.**
- 6. Ministerial Council Meeting and Trilateral Governmental Conference 2022**
- 7. Wadden Sea Board Advisors: WaddenSea Forum; Wadden Sea Team**
- 8. Any Other Business**
- 9. Next meeting**
- 10. Closing**