

Final Draft SUMMARY RECORD rev.1

23rd Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board

(WSB 23)

23 March 2018

Wilhelmshaven, Germany

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the chairperson Mr. Verdaas at 09:00 on 23 March 2018. He thanked the German delegation for providing the meeting venue and particularly the Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Climate Protection of Lower Saxony for the organisation of the dinner with the Minister of Environment Olaf Lies the night before.

The chairperson announced invited guests who would attend the meeting: Mr. Onno Poppinga would explain the draft statutes of the WSWHF that he had elaborated and Mr. Hans Westra would outline the progress in planning of the Trilateral Governmental Conference (TGC). Furthermore, the Chairperson of TG-WH, Ms. Barbara Engels joined the meeting.

Annex 1: List of participants

2. Adoption of the agenda

Document: [WSB 23/2 Draft annotated agenda WSB 23](#)

The meeting adopted the draft agenda of the meeting as amended.

Annex 2: Agenda

Annex 3: Action items

3. Summary record WSB 22

Document: [WSB 23/3 Draft summary record WSB 22](#)

The meeting adopted the summary record of WSB 22 as submitted.

4. Announcements

Denmark

- The Port of Esbjerg is currently expanding the port. A further harbour expansion is planned, which will not extend as far as the UNESCO World Heritage Area. An environmental assessment report is required and in progress. The municipality of Fanø has submitted a complaint to the UNESCO.

Germany (Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety)

- The new government in Germany has been formed as the grand coalition between the Christian Democrats (CDU and CSU) and the Social Democrats (SPD) has been inaugurated, with the new Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety is Ms. [Svenja](#)

[Schulze](#). State Secretary Jochen Flasbarth, as well as Parliamentary State Secretaries Ms. Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter and Mr. Florian Pronold have again been appointed.

Netherlands

- The Scientific Advisory Committee on Seal Rehabilitation in the Netherlands has delivered its final report. The document clearly states that given the status of the seal population the rehabilitation of seals in the Wadden Sea should be limited to 5 percent (rather than 20 percent as also occurred). The document is submitted to the Dutch parliament and the policy reaction is anticipated around summer. Ms. Knoke (Schleswig-Holstein) added that the report already reached the political discussion in SH. She asked for submission of the report and discussion of the results in the TSEG.
- The new Afsluitdijk Wadden Center opened on 22 March 2018, while a new Wadden Sea World Heritage Center would be built in Lauwersoog and was scheduled to open in 2020. The project was funded by the Waddenfonds, which was providing EUR 9 million for this purpose.
- The Ministry of Defence has joined the dark sky initiative, which has the aim to reduce light emissions.
- A joint letter from the Wadden islands was issued to the government expressing concern on the insufficient shipping safety provisions around the area.
- The national bank lottery donated EUR 325.000 to the Stichting Werelderfgoed Nederland
- Wadden Sea Forum
- A WSF report about developments in the Wadden Sea Region, including achievements of the WSF will be delivered for WSB 24.

CWSS

- For the fourth consecutive year the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation, partnering with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, organized a stand at the world's largest tourism fair, the ITB in Berlin. The [Wadden Sea World Heritage stand was awarded the second prize](#) in the category "Travel Support and Media" at the Cologne Business School's "Best Exhibitor Awards" (BEA). The delegations congratulated CWSS on the achievement;
- The first official [Wadden Sea World Heritage travel guide](#), edited by CWSS, has been published. The guide is available in German with further language versions to follow;
- A co-location agreement with the Arctic Council's Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Secretariat regarding co-location of the new CAFF coordinator for the African Eurasian Flyway (established in the framework of the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative, AMBI) has been drafted by CWSS and accepted unamended by the CAFF Secretariat. Both parties have signed the agreement. The [recruitment process](#) for this new position is ongoing. CWSS is therefore poised to host the new CAFF staff member and gratified at the fact that this first new member of the future Partnership Hub would therefore enter on duty in the course of 2018.

The participants of the meeting **noted** and welcomed the information.

The latest draft of the Ministerial Council Declaration MCD (Agenda item 7) was discussed after the announcements.

5. Implementation of the Tønder Declaration

The participants were invited to remark and comment on documents delivered regarding activities related to the implementation of the Tønder Declaration. In conjunction with the sub-items below, the meeting took note of and discussed progress of the respective Task Groups.

5.1 Wadden Sea World Heritage (reported by the chairperson Ms. Engels)

5.1.1 TG-WH Progress Report

Document: [WSB 23/5.1/1 TG WH Progress Report](#)

Ms. Engels requested advice from the WSB with respect to two issues.

For the international WHC workshop, TG-WH chose marine litter as the main topic and would require a decision from WSB to proceed with its planning. Mr. Verhulst suggested inviting Local Authorities and International Environmental Organisations (e.g. KIMO) with the international campaign [fishing for litter](#) in the workshop.

The WSB **endorsed** the approach.

Regarding the cooperation with the Dolomites World Heritage property, the TG-WH would not be in a position to formulate a recommendation on the proposed MoU before an analysis of the suitability of other World Heritage sites as MoU partners, under certain criteria, would be completed by the Task Group.

The WSB **endorsed** the approach including the identified criteria.

On behalf of the German delegation Ms. Knoke complimented the Task Group for the excellent paper.

Due to time constraints, all other items raised in the document were postponed to WSB 24.

5.1.2 TG STS Progress Report

Document: [WSB 23/5.1/2 TG STS Progress Report](#)

Mr. Karsten commented on the use of “SMART” terminology in the Action Plan, which could be misleading. He suggested to leave the results for the period after the conference and to bring this issue back to the WSB.

The WSB **endorsed** this.

5.2 Nature conservation and integrated ecosystem management

5.2.1 TG-MM report (reported by Mr. Jørgensen, Denmark)

Document: [WSB 23/5.2/1 TG-MM report](#)

Three items of the TG-MM progress report required guidance from WSB. All others were postponed to WSB 24.

Management and wardening: Mr. Verhulst expressed disappointment at the cancellation of the management workshop and Mr. Borchers asked for an analysis on why only few registrations were received, as this would be helpful in improving future arrangements. The chairperson pointed out that the responsibility for realizing such events in the future rested with the trilateral network.

The WSB **agreed** to address this issue via regional networks.

Fish Targets:

Document: [WSB 23/5.2/2 Swimway](#)

Mr. Rösner asked if the planned signing event would concern the Swimway Vision (two-pager) or the Swimway Action Program and who would finally sign the document. Germany underlined that the Swimway Vision (also as Annex to the MCD) was ready for adoption, while the Swimway Action Program would require further discussion as it will have organisational as well as financial implications which are still under discussion. Ms. Knoke further underlined that the Swimway Vision as in the Annex to the MCD is a related but separate document and not a summary of the Swimway Action Programme.

The WSB **endorsed** the Swimway Vision (as Annex of MCD) and the signing text and **agreed** to come forward with a list of names for signature to coordinator to the Swimway group, Ms. Martha Buitenkamp. The WSB **decided** to discuss the Swimway Action Program at WSB 24.

Alien Species:

Documents: [WSB 23/5.2/3 Alien Species MAPAS](#) and [Annex Alien Species Communication Plan](#)

Mr. Borchers requested an adaptation of the two-pager to “a paper for working towards the MAPAS” in the Annex to the MCD on the Management and Action Plan for Alien Species (MAPAS). The two-pager could not be included in the present format of a summary, as the main MAPAS document had not yet been adopted. Ms. Knoke added that even if the MAPAS was technically ready for adoption, it would need to undergo further consultation in Germany.

Regarding the Alien Species Communication Plan, Mr. Borchers, supported by Ms. Knoke, expressed general concern on the content, and hence the need to further discuss this document in the respective trilateral groups internally as well as in the advisory board.

The WSB intended to adopt the MAPAS Annex (two-pager) after modifications from Germany and final consultation. The meeting further **agreed** to discuss how to proceed with the MAPAS main document and the communication plan again during WSB 24.

5.3 Energy

No document.

5.4 Climate

No document.

5.5 Maritime safety and pollution prevention of shipping

No document.

5.6 Trilateral monitoring and assessment programme

No document.

5.7 Science cooperation

No document.

5.8 Wadden Sea Forum

No document.

5.9 International cooperation

5.9.1 MoU Banc d'Arguin

Document: [WSB 23/5.9/1 mou pnba mauritania](#)

The Executive Secretary reported that the draft action plan 2018-2020 for the Banc d'Arguin MoU had been revised due to the budget issues as requested at WSB 22.

Mr. Karsten inquired if an adoption of the action plan would cover the entire budget, or merely that of the year 2018, as financial arrangements in 2019 and 2020 would depend on the outcome of the TGC.

The WSB **adopted** the action plan with the budget for 2018. The decision on the budget for 2019 and 2020 would be decided upon at a later stage.

5.10 Communication and education

5.10.1 Education Strategy

Document: [WSB 23/5.10/1 Education Strategy](#)

Mr. Rösner reported on the draft layout for the Education Strategy. Several minor issues were still under preparation.

Germany announced its intention to send editorial comments; Denmark pointed to the organisational framework with a policy and support box on page 15, in which the WSB and the Task Groups should be arranged on two levels instead of one.

The chairperson invited the WSB to address concrete suggestions, directly to Mr. Rösner and asked if support with the selection of signatories would be needed.

Germany informed the meeting that it is intended that the State Secretaries and the Senator of the Länder as well as the National Park administrations and NGO's will sign the strategy. Mr. Verhulst reported that the Netherlands appreciated the document.

The WSB **approved** the finalisation in the draft layout.

6. Status of discussion on Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Center and Foundation

6.1 Draft progress report OP Team

Document: [WSB 23/6.1/1 Draft Progress Report Operational Team Partnership Hub](#)

Ms. Sobottka reported on progress since WSB 21 on behalf of the team, like undertaking a quick scan network analysis of potential partner sectors and identifying and planning how these sectors could be approached with help from external consultants. The team proposed to continue its dialogue process after the Trilateral Governmental Conference, focussing on content and sound ways of building partnership relations and improving networks. Ms. Sobottka thanked especially Mr. Vollmer, Ms. Domnick and Ms. Bostelmann for their input and support. The Executive Secretary added that a draft template for future Agreements of Cooperation produced by CWSS had been submitted to the Partnership Center Drafting Group for comments.

The WSB **noted** the progress and **endorsed** the approach.

6.2 Draft statutes for WSWHF

Document: [WSB 23/6.1/2 Draft Statutes for WSWHF](#)

Mr. Poppinga, a German expert on national and international foundations, presented the draft statutes for the WSWHF that he had authored. He introduced himself and gave a short presentation on the WSWHF and the draft statutes from a consultant's perspective. As foundations were usually being based in one country, a trilateral foundation was a special case which not only aimed to address the different interests of various stakeholders in one foundation, but also needed to consider different national backgrounds.

The submitted document indicated general and clear directions, based on existing documents, preparatory proposals and intense considerations with several board members. Details could be discussed at a later point and specified in the final statutes. This would, for instance, concern the question as to the character of the future foundation as a mainly operative or non-operative entity.

One important issue was that of seed money for the foundation. Mr. Poppinga suggested initially endowing the WSWHF with > 1 million EUR. This seed money should be government money. The Board of the WSWHF should consist of strong representatives from the states and NGOs to gain the credibility required for fund raising.

Mr. Poppinga summarised that the foundation was feasible and its development was already making good progress. The most important element, however, would not be details in paragraphs of the statutes or money but enlisting the support of the right persons who would offer both quality and the right spirit for the job.

Mr. Poppinga answered the chairperson's questions as to whether a bilateral start, followed by a trilateral approach at a later stage, was feasible by noting that the foundation could initially be termed "international" instead of "trilateral" and a step-by-step approach was possible.

Mr. Karsten commented that fundraising in Denmark would be difficult as investors preferred to invest in projects that benefited Denmark. He inquired if there was any example for foundations that worked across borders that he could use to convince investors. Mr. Poppinga called attention to a nature conservation foundation for the Baltic Sea, where Denmark participates among other states and pointed to his personal experience as a board member.

Mr. Rösner underlined the "capital" of a well-functioning cooperation for over 40 years which, however, lacked a financial tool to support joint activities that were beyond the capacity and core budget of the trilateral cooperation. Though the Wadden Sea Team had been critical about the earlier papers on the foundation he considered the draft statutes as a positive development.

Ms. Knoke reported experiences from SH and pointed out, that the added value of a trilateral foundation approach would be essential to convince potential funders to pay into it. The Executive Secretary outlined the give-and-take nature of the projected foundation, which would in some cases support projects that were not beneficial for one country, but in others would support projects that the country could not finance without supplementary money so that ultimately all countries could come out as winners.

Mr. Verhulst was pleased to note that there was a common positive attitude towards the Foundation in the WSB.

The Chairperson and the Netherlands commented that the inclusion of a document on the WSWHF as an annex to the MCD would be discussed at ministerial level; the Dutch minister would be in contact

with the Danish and the German ministers to discuss the foundation issue. On request of Ms. Knoke the Netherlands assured that the Länder level will be included in the consultations.

The WSB **thanked** Mr. Poppinga for his work and presentation, and **considered** the document, which was currently only available in German. The Executive Secretary suggested that Denmark and the Netherlands could draft translations to their respective languages and CWSS would ensure that an English translation was available as a common basis for the discussions at WSB 24. The WSB endorsed this approach.

7. Preparation 13th Trilateral Governmental Conference

Ministerial Conference Declaration (MCD):

The chairperson opened the discussion of the current draft of the MCD. The Netherlands stated that they needed the final version of the draft before 5 April, by which time it needed to be submitted to the Dutch cabinet. It was agreed that following the discussions of WSB 23 CWSS would immediately produce an updated draft for consideration by the MCD Drafting Group and finalization by March 26.

The WSB discussed the MCD page by page. In addition to editorial changes a number of substantive issues were addressed by the Parties. These would be revisited by WSB 24.

In context of discussions around the MCD, Mr. Verhulst expressed his general concern regarding slow progress on certain TWSC processes, taking the Swimway programme as an example. He encouraged the meeting to address such processes with enhanced efficiency.

Annexes:

With regard to the Annexes the WSB **adopted** Annexes 1, 2 and 3. Annex 4 was expected to be adopted after final suggestions from Germany, which would be sent to Mr. Baerends. There was **no decision** on the annex regarding the WSWHF (Annex 5) as this issue requires further discussion within and between all parties, *inter alia* by the advisory boards of the National Parks of the Federal States in Germany. The WSB **rejected** Annex 6 (Wadden Sea Ports' Letter of intent).

Mr. Hans Westra reported on the current status of TGC planning. The program would correspond to the five themes nature, future, economy, youth and knowledge. About 100 participants and visitors were expected on 17 May 2018, and about 300 on 18 May 2018.

In parallel, a harbour conference would be held in Harlingen; a train shuttle between Leeuwarden and Harlingen would be possible.

Mr. Verhulst commented that the events on 17 May 2018 would be organised by the provinces and funded by the Wadden Fund.

The WSB thanked Mr. Westra for the report and **noted** the information.

8. Any other business

There was no other business.

The next meeting, WSB 24, will be held as one-day-meeting on 20 April 2018. As location, Groningen (NL) was suggested.

9. Closure

The meeting was closed at 15:30 on 23 March 2018.

ANNEX 1: Participants Wadden Sea Board

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23rd Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board

(WSB 23)

23 March 2018

Wilhelmshaven, Germany

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ANNEX 2: Agenda of the 23rd WSB

AGENDA

23rd Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board

(WSB 23)

23 March 2018

Hamburg, Germany

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting will be opened by the Chairman at 09:00 hours on 23 March 2018.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting will be invited to adopt the draft agenda of the meeting.

3. Record WSB 22

The meeting will be invited to adopt the final draft Summary Record WSB 22 and to check progress in the implementation of the Action List.

4. Announcements

Delegates and observers will be invited to make announcements relevant to the cooperation.

5. Implementation Tønder Declaration

The meeting will be invited to discuss progress in the implementation of the Tønder Declaration. In conjunction with the sub-items below, the meeting will be invited to take note of and discuss progress of the respective Task Groups.

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 and Foundation

The meeting will be invited to discuss the status of preparation of the WH Partnership Center and the World Heritage Foundation.

7. Preparation 13th Trilateral Governmental Conference

The meeting will be invited to discuss progress in working towards the 13th Wadden Sea Conference, including the preparation of the draft Council Declaration.

8. Any Other Business

The meeting will be invited to discuss any other business.

9. Closing

The meeting will be closed no later than 16:00 hours on 23 March 2018.

ANNEX 3: Action items arising from the 23rd WSB

ACTION ITEMS

23rd Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 23)

Action #	Agenda item	Actions agreed upon	Person responsible	Deadline
1	5.2	Assembling of signee list for swimway signing event	All regions	asap
2	5.2	Adjustment of MAPAS two-pager	Germany	WSB 24 done on 23 March 2018
3	6.1	Organization of English translation of WSB 23/6.1/2 Draft Statutes for WSWHF to English	CWSS	WSB 24
4	7	Preparation of revised draft MCD with changes and Annexes	CWSS/ MCD DG	26 March 2018