

## Final Draft Summary Record

# 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 21)

17 November 2017

Vester Vedsted, Denmark

### 1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chairperson Mr Verdaas at 09:00 hours on 17 November 2017. He thanked the Danish delegation and particularly the Ministry for the Environment and Food for the dinner the night before and for providing the meeting venue;

Two new Wadden Sea Board members introduced themselves: Ms Attema (Rijkswaterstaat, Netherlands) and Mr Martin Petersen (Ministry of the Environment and Food, Environmental Protection Agency, Denmark).

*Annex 1: List of participants*

### 2. Adoption of the Agenda

*Document: Draft Agenda WSB 21 Rev 1*

The participants adopted the draft agenda of the meeting.

*Annex 2: Agenda*

*Annex 3: Action items*

### 3. Summary Record WSB 20

*Document: Summary Record WSB 20*

The participants adopted the final draft Summary Record of WSB 20;

The German delegation requested that in the future CWSS seek to submit the WSB summary record early enough, to enable informed decisions in time to the Task Groups and their chairs.

### 4. Announcements

#### Denmark

- A project on healthy, active aging in “world class nature”, dedicated to primary prevention in people aged 55+ was launched by the University of Southern Denmark in cooperation with the Danish Wadden Sea National Park, addressing not only residents but also tourists. The project complies with the Danish Wadden Sea Park research concept and will be conducted from January-June 2018. Denmark invites the trilateral partners to engage in the second phase of the project as partners, to extend the project to the international level.

## Germany (Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Protection, Building and Nuclear Safety)

- On 22 September 2017, six marine areas have been placed under legal protection (via [ordinances](#)) in the German Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The MPAs cover approximately 30 per cent of the German EEZ and have been part of the EU Natura 2000 network since 2007. Three of the MPAs are located in the North Sea: Doggerbank, Borkum Riffgrund and Sylter Außenriff- Östliche Deutsche Bucht. According to the new provisions, it is no longer permitted to introduce dredging waste into the sea in the marine protected areas, to operate aquacultures or to build artificial islands. Anyone wanting to generate energy in these areas, exploit natural resources or lay submarine cables has to prove with an environmental impact assessment that the project will not have considerable adverse effects on the marine environment. Recreational fishing will be covered by a staged protection concept. Information is available in [German](#)<sup>1</sup> and [English](#)<sup>2</sup>];
- At the 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP 23) in Bonn the important relationship between Ocean and Climate Change received substantial recognition, *inter alia* via the Fiji-Presidency's ocean initiative, the [Ocean Pathway](#)<sup>3</sup>. It focuses among other things on the contribution of oceans to mitigation and adaptation while identifying a strong need for policy-relevant science to support efforts to recognize the potential of mangroves, seagrasses and tidal marshes for carbon mitigation and effectively integrate these ecosystems into national accounting efforts to ensure they are properly reflected in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This is an approach that could be of interest for the Wadden Sea. Further information available in the [summary](#)<sup>4</sup>.

## Germany (Lower Saxony)

- A grand coalition (CDU/SPD) has been inaugurated in Lower Saxony. New Minister for the Environment, Energy, Building and Climate Protection of Lower Saxony is Olaf Lies;
- On 29 October 2017 the freighter "Glory Amsterdam" ran aground near the island of Langeoog and was freed under the command of the German Central Command for Maritime Emergencies five days later. The accident posed a threat of leakage of 1,800 tonnes of heavy oil and 140 tonnes of marine diesel on board, but fortunately no leakage occurred. The Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation is going to analyse the accident;
- There is further progress in the building of the World Heritage Partnership Centre in Wilhelmshaven (PC). Funding was provided by Lower Saxony to the City of Wilhelmshaven, which will support the rehabilitation of contaminated ground and ground water of the planning area. The jury of the Partnership Center architectural competition will take its final decision on 07 February 2018. This will be followed by a press conference on the outcome of the competition on 22 March 2018 in Wilhelmshaven, back-to-back with the WSB meeting. On the same day, a ground breaking ceremony with the minister of the environment of Lower Saxony is planned in Wilhelmshaven;

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<sup>1</sup> URL: <https://www.bmub.bund.de/pressemitteilung/sechs-neue-meeresnaturschutzgebiete-in-nord-und-ostsee>

<sup>2</sup> URL: <https://www.bmub.bund.de/en/pressrelease/sechs-neue-meeresnaturschutzgebiete-in-nord-und-ostsee>

<sup>3</sup> URL: <https://cop23.com.fj/the-ocean-pathway>

<sup>4</sup> URL: <https://rocainitiative.files.wordpress.com/2017/11/oceans-action-day-at-cop-23-summary.pdf>

- On 21 November 2017, the regional World Heritage Forum will meet in Misselwarden. Focus is on young people and their future visions. A poetry slam (Watt´n Slam) is planned as new format.

### **Germany (Schleswig-Holstein)**

- As a result of the elections in May a so-called “Jamaica coalition” (CDU, FDP, Green Party) has been established in Schleswig Holstein; the Minister of Ministry for Energy, Agriculture, the Environment, Nature and Digitalization of Schleswig-Holstein remains Mr. Habeck.

### **Netherlands**

- There is a coalition agreement of the new Dutch government (of two liberal parties and two Christian Democrat parties). The former Ministry of Economic affairs has been divided up into the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy and a re-established Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. The new minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality is Mrs Carola Schouten. The former Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment is now called the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management and also deals with the Wadden Sea;
- The Waddenfonds is starting a new subsidy scheme that will sustainably strengthen the ecology and economy in the Wadden Sea Region, with 10 million euros being available;
- The management plan for the Natura 2000 area in the Wadden Sea has been adopted; it includes measures for improving breeding sites for birds, pasture, salt marches, and reducing impacts of fisheries and bycatch;
- Rijkswaterstaat organised a large scale oil spill response exercise from 4-6 September in the Wadden Sea, with a focus on cooperation with many stakeholders. Media attention was high. Evaluation will follow.

### **Wadden Sea Forum**

- The WSF reported on progress regarding the in-depth analysis of sustainability indicators at the municipality level. Data of 67 chosen indicators were collected for around 570 municipalities in the German Wadden Sea Region. An analysis for seven municipalities has been carried out to discuss causes and consequences of the state of sustainability with representatives of the municipalities. The further development of this indicator tool would be a valuable instrument for working towards a sustainable Wadden Sea Region.

### **Waddenvereniging:**

- Referred to the new coalition agreement in which it is stated that there will be a new management authority for the Wadden Sea, including management of nature.

### **WWF**

- On 16 November 2017, the annual conference on nature and tourism for the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea was held in Hörnum, Sylt. It was also the Kick-Off for the new INTERREG A project NAKUWA (Denmark & Schleswig-Holstein);

- After final report of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) concerning shrimp fisheries, WWF, the Waddenvereniging and other NGOs filed an [objection](#)<sup>5</sup>. The consultation period is still ongoing (follow-up remark: a settlement between the shrimp fishery and the NGOs concerning the MSC issue was achieved at the end of November 2017);
- WWF published a study on sub-tidal mussel banks<sup>6</sup>. Main information is from Schleswig Holstein, but findings can be of use also for other parts of the Wadden Sea, e.g., to what extent sub-tidal mussel banks existed before intensive fishery started.

## CWSS

- Introduction of Ms Busch as new Programme Officer, Emerging Issues, Science and Data Management;
- CWSS organised a side event on climate change adaptation and mitigation at UNFCCC COP 23 in Bonn, in cooperation with the government of the Federal State of Schleswig Holstein (Mr Jacobus Hofstede) with the government of the Republic of Korea, as well as the Australian organization Climate Planning Australia. The Korean contribution dealt with the “Blue Carbon” project, related to using marine areas and salt marshes as CO<sub>2</sub> sinks;
- The Quality Status Report (QSR) will be published shortly; the QSR website is in the phase of final polishing and will be launched in mid-December 2017;
- Under the motto “People Protecting Places”, the Wadden Sea World Heritage and the UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme will be represented at the ITB Berlin, the world’s largest tourism fair, from 9 to 13 March 2018 in Berlin, Germany – with a concept as approved by WSB20. For 2018 the ITB theme “The Coast – A wealth of beauty, cultural treasures and biodiversity .... Facing major threats” offers a broad spectrum to address World Heritage relevant topics like climate change, plastic litter, wildlife watching tourism etc. Additional space for stakeholder presentations was facilitated with Dutch support (Province Fryslan). Also the UNESCO European Journeys Project will be presented at our stand enhancing the area of the TWSC to 108 square meters in total. Invitations to partners will be sent in due time;
- For the rejected INTERREG project application PROWAD Link a re-application is currently being prepared and will be submitted by 5 March 2018. A decision is expected in June 2018. A first meeting with all partners was held on 13 November where critical issues have been addressed and the framework for the revised application was defined. The WSB will be informed accordingly and is asked for governmental support;
- All partners of the trilateral cooperation are invited to join a social media workshop at the beginning of December in Hamburg. Aim of this workshop is to find synergies, to create a core message and to discuss the strategy and a common approach in managing trilateral social media channels;
- In the future, CWSS plans to provide a media-relations report to the WSB on a yearly basis. Report for 2017: 11 press releases, 123 direct results of CWSS and partners and 145 overall articles related to CWSS work (statistic based on articles found in search; it’s possible that entries were overlooked/not found) (Annex 4).

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<sup>5</sup> URL:

<https://cert.msc.org/FileLoader/FileLinkDownload.aspx/GetFile?encryptedKey=tp6rVvQzZvulBi4pegUCSohfwMXDLPrUdlEqZtk7sDz2H1axLCarEHpMfstr9lc0>

<sup>6</sup> URL: [http://www.wwf.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/PDF/Muschelbaenke-in-der-Unterwasserwelt-des-Wattenmeeres.pdf](http://www.wwf.de/fileadmin/user_upload/PDF/Muschelbaenke-in-der-Unterwasserwelt-des-Wattenmeeres.pdf)

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

## **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 WSB 21/5.1**

#### **World Heritage Strategy**

*Document: WSB 21/5.1/1 TG-WH Progress Report*

The WSB considered the report as appropriate and thanked the secretary of the TG for the precise document. Delegates from Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands were pleased by the implementation of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy; the German delegation, supported by the Netherlands, underlined that they are still in favour of a trilateral campaign. The PROWAD Link re-application was received positively by the delegates. In response to a question of CWSS the German delegation pointed out that specific governmental support concerning the decision-making process of the North Sea Programme is essential.

Denmark noted that in budgetary terms it could not agree commitments beyond 2018 and recalled that the High Level Group had agreed that after the 2018 Ministerial Conference a discussion about the future work plan of CWSS must take place.

#### **TG Sustainable Tourism**

*Document: WSB 21/5.1/2 TG-STC Progress Report*

The WSB considered the document as appropriate and thanked the secretary of the TG for the good overview and good document.

The four-item proposal (p 9) was considered target-oriented.

The following remarks were made by the various delegations concerning each proposal item:

Proposal item 1: Germany and the Netherlands agreed with the provision of resources for a tourist officer, to secure work and continue through 2018; the Danish delegation would see this within the discussion about the future work plan of CWSS;

Proposal item 2: The broad support of the tourism sector for protecting and maintaining the OUV by jointly implementing the Sustainable Tourism Strategy and action plan as a shared responsibility of governments and stakeholders, supporting the World Heritage Convention and implementing the request by the WH Committee was acknowledged;

Proposal item 3: The SMART approach to the implementation of the Sustainable Tourism was confirmed by the WSB. However, it was noted by the Danish delegation that “smart” could be misleading as it is frequently associated with smart cities and big data and therefore should be more precisely defined. The TG-STC was encouraged to come up with a new action plan which priorities should focus on practical work and regional and local implementation;

Proposal item 4: Germany noted two issues regarding the fourth proposal: The mandate and responsibilities in relation to the WS/WH Brand lies with the TG-WH like decided on WSB 19. The presence of the TG STS chairperson on WSB meetings was welcomed. There was agreement on the Dutch suggestion to confirm the mandate as it is now (WSB 19 Final Draft Summary Record, Annex 4), but the Netherlands, supported by Denmark, made a general reservation to reconsider this issue in relation to the Partnership Hub development. The suggestion to invite all Chairs of the task groups to join WSB meetings to present the reports of the TGs received general support.

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

### **5.2.1 Harbour porpoises**

*Document: WSB 21/5.2/1 ASCOBANS letter on coverage of Harbour porpoises by TWSC*

The three delegations stated that they basically had a positive attitude to enhancing cooperation with ASCOBANS and and requested time for further analysis and discussion with their experts.

The participants of the meeting considered the letter and decided that the issues should be addressed by TG-MM.

### **5.2.2 TG-MM Report**

*Document: WSB 21/5.2/2 TG-MM 19 Report*

**Flyway:** The meeting noted the information and agreed with the approach suggested.

**Management and wardening:** The WSB noted the information.

**Natura 2000 roof report:** The WSB endorsed the approach. Germany asked TG-MM to take into account that new data will possibly be available from the next reporting exercise in 2019.

**Breeding Bird Action Plan:** The WSB noted the information. The Netherlands added that based on this trilateral Framework for an Action Plan a national Action Plan was developed containing many substantial measures.

**Wadden Sea Seals Agreement:** The WSB anticipated having the plan ready for adoption in time and endorsed the approach.

**Fish Targets:** The WSB endorsed the approach. In response to a question by Germany, the chairperson of TG-MM (Mr Pind Jørgensen) pointed out that the Vision would be shortened significantly and presented to WSB 22, including a proposal for potential signatories, referring to the process around the Flyway Vision. The Netherlands requested that the Swimway Vision will be included in the draft Ministerial conference Declaration.

**Alien Species:** see 5.2.3;

**Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP):** The WSB noted the information. The Netherlands stated they were in favour of working with European data handling systems. Mr Baerends explained that the common methodology of TMAP currently in

place was not in question. The next procedural steps in data handling – how to collect data and present data – would be proposed by the Netherlands in time for the next WSB. Germany suggested underscoring the importance of TMAP and development of a long term strategy at the Ministerial Conference, e.g., by planning a TMAP side event to demonstrate the trilateral approach to the outside world and to generate support. Germany offered to prepare a related document for discussion by TG-MM. This offer was welcomed by the participants of the meeting.

**Quality Status Report:** The WSB noted the information. The Waddenvereniging expressed concern regarding synchronisation of the different chapters of the QSR and its availability for use in writing the Ministerial Declarations. The Chair of TG-MM and the Executive Secretary of CWSS stressed that uploaded chapters of the QSR were available as a preview, that the synthesis report was still under preparation and that information contained in the draft chapters of the QSR had been used in elaborating the MD and the PAR. Nonetheless, CWSS apologised for the delay, which was due to circumstances beyond the Secretariat's control.

### **5.2.3 Alien Species Management and Action Plan**

*Document: WSB 21/5.2/3 Alien Species Management and Action Plan*

The WSB endorsed the approach suggested by TG-MM and took note of the information. Germany requested a change of the second paragraph, from “encouraged” to “requested”:

*“The TG-MM emphasises the added value that this trilateral paper represents for the cooperation, a task that was encouraged by the World Heritage Committee in the wake of recognizing the Wadden Sea as World Heritage in 2009, which was followed up by the WSB commissioning The World Heritage Strategy (2015) and -Road Map (2016/2017)”.*

As there was a clear request by UNESCO when inscribing the Wadden Sea on the WH List, Germany further stressed that there were not only EU obligations to fulfil, but also trilateral obligations beyond and that there is a strong need for a common understanding, including data harmonisation, and asked for strong commitment, which was supported by the Dutch delegation;

### **5.3 Energy**

No document.

### **5.4 Climate**

#### **5.4.1 Progress Report of the Task Group Climate**

*Document: WSB 21/5.4/1 Group Climate (TG-C) Progress Report*

The WSB considered the progress report, thanked the TG-C and appreciated the very good work of the task group. The Netherlands stressed the importance of Ebb tidal deltas for the Wadden Sea system. They also noted that the Climate Adaptation Workshop held in Wilhelmshaven in September had revealed that there was a lack of familiarity with the topic. More communication was therefore needed. The [platform](#) on the CWSS was good, but could possibly be made more attractive.

#### **5.4.2 Trilateral Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Monitoring Report**

*Document: WSB 21/5.4/2 Trilateral Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Monitoring Report*

The WSB considered the document and noted the recommendations contained therein. The Netherlands stressed the importance of communication of the seven CCAS principles. A respective side event at the TGC is planned.

#### **5.4.3 Inventory on climate-friendly Wadden Sea**

*Document: WSB 21/5.4/3 Inventory climate-friendly Wadden Sea Rev1*

The WSB noted the 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**

*Document: WSB 21/5.7/1Draft TRA WSB Nov 17*

The WSB discussed the Trilateral Research Agenda draft document and gave a quick round of comments:

- Denmark acknowledged the progress made since the International Wadden Sea Scientific Symposium in May and noted that multidisciplinary was well considered in the document, but showed concern about the lump sum for trilateral scientific activities. Instead, the delegation suggested a project based approach. Denmark recommended to ask how financing could be obtained for projects and project ideas. Additionally, Ms. Liburd suggested to invite researchers to pitch 1-3 multidisciplinary project idea(s) at the Ministerial conference;
- Germany appreciated the work done and requested time to comment on the content of the TRA. In addition, Germany requested to include recommendations for policy-makers and a clear reference and expression of commitment to the OUV. Furthermore, Germany noted that the document lacked an executive summary;
- The Netherlands pointed out that this Agenda was also meant to encourage the scientific community to work together; and that there was a need to prioritise scientific research instead of giving an overview of topics and Mr Verhulst suggested asking the group (again) to prioritise the research agenda in planning, a next step. Denmark cautioned that the group should not be sent “back to the drawing board”.
- Schleswig-Holstein agreed with the Dutch suggestion of prioritisation, in particular with respect to the UNESCO World Heritage site. This should be worked out together with TG-MM and TG-WH. Schleswig-Holstein requests an improvement in the topics geomorphology and sea level rise. Also, the question of sub-tidal habitats and relation of human impacts should be stressed more. The use of the term OUV in the paper was not in line with UNESCO usage; this should be checked with TG-WH;



- CWSS pointed out that this document was drafted by the scientific community and hence technically could not be adopted by the Ministerial Conference. Therefore the Ministerial Declarations should use the wording “Welcome the efforts”.
- The Waddenvereniging recalled the science-policy matrix developed in the framework of the TWSC and suggested that it be used to structure the further discussion and to foster the debate on what was needed.

The WSB concluded that a dialogue between scientists and task groups (TG-MM and TG-WH) should be established. The TG chairs should participate themselves or choose selected members of the respective task group. The WSB requested to organise a meeting between authors and task group members and to try to come up with a prioritisation on the scientific agenda by WSB22.

### **5.8 Wadden Sea Forum**

*Document: WSB 21/5.8/1 Letter cooperation TWSC and WSF and involvement in WH-PC*

*Document: WSB 21/5.8/2 WSF Request 1st draft MD*

It was decided to discuss the two documents under Agenda item 6.

### **5.9 International cooperation**

The WSB expressed the ambition for the future to address and to specify content and mutual value of international cooperation. The Secretariat stressed that the cooperation with other WH sites was required by UNESCO.

#### **5.9.1 MoU Korea**

*Document: WSB 21/5.9/1 MoU Korea*

- New members of the WSB were informed about the background for a cooperation with Korea (worldwide one of the few comparable Wadden Sea Areas);
- Denmark expressed concern about the cooperation with Korea, due to a perceived lack of mutual benefit. Denmark noted that progress in the quality of cooperation and added value of Korean visits was not apparent. Denmark also pointed out, that Korea is not yet a World Heritage Site.

The work plan was not discussed and not endorsed. It will need to be considered by WSB22.

#### **5.9.2 MoU Mauritania**

*Document: WSB 21/5.9/2 MoU PNBA Mauritania*

The work plan was not discussed and not endorsed. It will need to be considered by WSB22.

#### **5.9.3 MoU Dolomites**

*Document: WSB 21/5.9/3 Cooperation Dolomites*

- CWSS presented the proposal for discussion and explained the rationale behind its proposal to conclude an MoU with the Dolomites and informed the meeting about the rapid progress in cooperation with that World Heritage Site, which faced similar challenges as the Wadden Sea World Heritage. Given the Dolomites' seven years of experience, in particular their network approach to science and education and their

successful establishment of a foundation, this cooperation would be mutually beneficial and, in fact of great value to the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation. The Memorandum of Understanding would put this cooperation on a more formal footing and foster enhanced cooperation;

- Germany raised the question of the benefits for the TWSC and of the availability of the necessary resources at CWSS and stated that it saw no necessity to conclude a formal MOU at this time;
- The Netherlands expressed a generally positive attitude towards the MoU with the Dolomites. However, the delegation requested a short inventory of how much time and effort this will cost and what the trilateral cooperation will gain, before signing a MoU;
- Denmark supported the Dutch approach.

The WSB took up the Dutch suggestion and requested an inventory of financial and work time implications of the MoU before a final decision is taken at the next WSB (1 pager).

## **5.10 Communication and education**

### **5.10.1 Logo adaptation**

*Document: WSB 21/5.10/1 TWSC Logo adaptation Document*

The rationale behind a need for a new logo of the Trilateral Cooperation and the CWSS was presented by Ms Bostelmann of CWSS, based on theoretical principles for developing a well-designed logo. While the old logo was distinctive and known in the trilateral community, it was neither simple, nor practical, nor transferable beyond the trilateral community. Most importantly it conveyed the message that there were three parts instead of one connected WH area. CWSS presented an adaptation of the old logo as requested at the previous WSB as well as a suggestion for a new logo which complies with all desired conditions.

The WSB concurred on the need for a new logo, but expressed their view that neither the old logo nor its adaptation were appropriate for future use. The suggested new logo was not uniformly accepted, hence the Board requested the CWSS to start a “lean and mean” process with three young designers/agencies to develop a new logo. The delegations should be involved in the decision and creation process.

### **5.10.2 Environmental Education and Interpretation Strategy**

*Document: WSB 21/5.10/2 Environmental Education and Interpretation Strategy*

- WWF reported that the Environmental Education and Interpretation Strategy was drafted together with the network education group and IWSS. Competent multipliers are an important component in connecting between the national and trilateral levels – more than 90 % of communication happens on a local level and these activities would also get an umbrella through the strategy. The strategy could be designed and signed in a similar way as the tourism strategy in 2014, and a signing event could take place at the Ministerial Conference, e.g., on the operating level (e.g., including visitor centres and NGOs);
- The delegations expressed their approval of the environmental education and interpretation strategy and were in general in favour of exploring a signing ceremony at the Conference as suggested;
- Germany stated that it had minor remarks, which would be communicated to the authors by email;

- Denmark expressed concern about the title, which was limited to environmental issues but did not cover the broader issue of sustainability. Additional concern was due to the use of the expression “interpretation”. CWSS explained that this term was part of the common World Heritage terminology.

The WSB endorsed the presented Environmental Education and Interpretation Strategy. The title should consist of a short and easily graspable main title and the formal sub-title suggested by CWSS (Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development and World Heritage Interpretation in the Wadden Sea World Heritage). The authors were asked to change the title accordingly and to submit the final document for adoption by one of the next WSB meetings.

## **6. Status of discussion on Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Centre and Foundation**

### **6.1 Partnership Hub**

*Document: WSB 21/6.1/1 Outcome of the PCDG 5 Meeting Document:*

CWSS explained that the Agreement of Cooperation concept the Secretariat had developed for the Partnership Hub had been endorsed by the Partnership Center Drafting Group held in Bremen in September (PCDG 6). This approach was “lean and mean” and facilitated the rapid establishment of a Partnership Hub. The PCDG had decided to launch a pilot phase to test this approach. The pilot phase was supposed to begin as soon as possible and last until December 31, 2018. At the end of 2018 an evaluation should be carried out.

The approach proposed by the PCDG was endorsed by the WSB.

The chair of the Operational Team Partnership Hub (OpTeam PH), Mr Hubertus Hebbelmann, informed that the WSB that the team had so far met three times and presented the related WSB documents and proposals; a further meeting was scheduled for the middle of December. The OpTeam PH was now in the process of identifying and approaching potential partner organisations or networks within the sectors research, sustainable tourism, green NGOs, education and the Wadden Sea Forum;

*Document: WSB 21/6.1/2 TOR OpTeam PH*

The Terms of Reference were adopted by the WSB by email prior to WSB 21. The meeting noted the amended TOR.

*Document: WSB 21/6.1/3 OpTeam PH Progress Report*

- The Netherlands expressed concern regarding the openness of the process. It was necessary to proceed in a more framed and focussed way. The OpTeam PH should bring in experienced people to consult them in their work;
- Denmark agreed and also noted that new potential partners needed to be identified and it needed to be decided what types of partners the TGC was looking for. Denmark expressed concern, however, regarding the intention of the Op Team to conduct further interviews to do this. Interviews had already been conducted in late 2016 and at the beginning of 2017. It was not necessary to repeat this. This view was shared by the WSF.

The meeting agreed that instead of conducting a new round of interviews, the Op team PH should start a dialogue process with already agreed potential partner organisations and networks. The Chairperson recalled that in identifying new partners, the existing criteria should be observed.

CWSS offered to draft a generic template of an Agreement of Cooperation and suggested that this be reviewed by the PCDG. The WSB agreed to this.

### **EXTRA ITEM 5.8 WSF**

*Document: WSB 21/5.8/1 Letter cooperation TWSC and WSF and involvement in WH-PC*

- The Vice Chair of WSF presented the document and outlined the possible role of the WSF in the PH of the WH-PC. The WSF contributions would contribute to an enhancement of sustainable development and facilitation of partner networking. He also referred to the financial situation of the WSF and requested additional support by the national governments. The WSF would only survive with a sufficient budget. Without changes, the WSF would have to close down in September 2018 due to the financial situation;
- Denmark stressed the importance of having the WSF as an active partner;
- The Netherlands proposed that the WSF should aim at joint projects, which could be supported by additional funding;
- Germany expressed the view that no institutional funding could be provided but that financing on a project basis was possible and relevant applications were still welcome.

-----12:45 - 13:30 Lunch-----

### **6.2 WSWH Foundation**

*Document: WSB 21/6.1/4 Progress paper WSWH Foundation; Draft statutes WSWH Foundation WSB*

The Chairperson invited to delegations to engage in a quick tour de table in which concerns with respect to the Wadden Sea Foundation were expressed:

- Germany thanked the Chair for the document and expressed the view that further work was needed on the statutes of the Foundation, especially its objectives and bodies. Discussion with partners from green NGOs should be encouraged, to find a common understanding that this foundation should offer added value without competing with NGOs for funding. Germany felt it was too early to explore the legal options for establishing the Foundation. Germany cannot confirm any financing as it is too early at the moment;
- Schleswig Holstein added that a dialogue with the regions would be needed as asked for by the national park advisory boards;
- Denmark noted that it was not currently in a position to decide on the Foundation, but suggested that further dialogue with national stakeholders was needed;
- The Netherlands welcomed the production of these papers and stated that there was a generally positive attitude towards such a Foundation. The Netherlands were in favour of starting consultations on this subject and would therefore strongly recommend to already

include this in the Declaration. They supported the German call and encouraged the discussion with green NGOs.

- The Waddenvereniging suggested writing a two-pager, not in legal terms but in understandable words in what the Wadden Sea Foundation was expected to achieve;
- WWF commented that the concept that had now been presented was an improvement with regard to former concepts, but still far from the approach favoured by the NGOs (see the [“two-pager” presented to WSB19](#)). He stated that there were already several similar instruments at the national level (e.g., Wadden Sea Fund and National Park foundations), but that these were focused accordingly. A financial tool was lacking for projects that were not eligible for support by such national funds but has a trilateral focus. The Foundation should play the role of a funding instrument, predominantly for projects on trilateral level;
- The WSB Chair welcomed the document and the progress that had been made with regard to the Foundation. But the objectives for a foundation needed to be made clear. The Chairman concluded that the proposal was supported by some parties and that there was a generally positive attitude towards the foundation, but some details still needed to be clarified. He suggested leaving the respective sentences in the draft Ministerial council Declaration in brackets so it could be discussed at the political level. In addition, NGOs should be consulted and competition concerns addressed. He stressed that the approach now followed in developing the Foundation constituted a switch from a classic foundation, with a major endowment and focused on philanthropy, towards a project-wise approach. It should be made clear that the Foundation filled a niche instead of competing with existing instruments and mechanisms. He also requested to give him names of persons with whom he should start talking.

The WSB did not yet come to a conclusion but outlined that dialogue with different stakeholders should be started.

## **7. Preparation 13th Trilateral Governmental Conference**

### **7.1 Wadden Sea Conference**

The WSB discussed the progress in working towards the 13<sup>th</sup> Wadden Sea Conference.

*Document: Roadmap for the 2018 Trilateral Governmental Conference WSB 21/7.1*

The participants of the meeting considered the document.

- The Netherlands stated that it would issue invitations for the Ministerial Conference to all trilateral parties (including the three Länder). The official delegations should consist of no more than 20 persons;
- Schleswig Holstein expressed concern about the kite surfing side event in the program of the Ministerial Conference presented by the Presidency.
- Mr Baerends responded that there was an opportunity to have a look at kite surfing before the conference starts, but that this would be an unofficial side event, presented by a company that sought to offer a particularly sustainable way to engage in kite surfing.

### **7.2 Ministerial Declaration**

The chairperson of the Ministerial Conference Drafting Group explained that the draft Ministerial Declaration had been elaborated in such a way as to be as concise as possible,

and with a clear differentiation between the preamble containing all acknowledgements, and the operative part. The current document contained 39 reservations (in square brackets).

*Document: WSB 21/5.8/2 WSF Request 1st draft MD*

- All delegations thanked CWSS and the drafting group for the good work;
- The Netherlands noted that all three Parties had made a general reservation on the entire draft. The Netherlands pointed out that they were in favour of (again) making a Business Plan with more SMART formulated targets on the basis of this Declaration after the Conference, followed by a mid-term review and a final review at the end of the next period (four years). The Netherlands finally stated that they were in favour of having all annexes in, and submitted some additional items for the Declaration;
- Denmark stated that following consultations with the minister some of the brackets could be lifted. Nevertheless Denmark upheld its general reservation as well as some specific reservations. Denmark also noted that following its adoption, the MCD would need to be fleshed out with regard to its precise content and a “business plan” would need to be developed;
- The WSF suggested re-wording the WSF-related paragraphs of the Ministerial Declaration, to include proposed text about the achievements of the Forum. This was not endorsed by the WSB;
- The WSB reviewed all reservations in the document and a number of reservations were lifted. The Declaration will be amended accordingly, discussed and finalized by the Ministerial Declaration Drafting Group (MCDG) on 20 November 2017 in Bremen, Germany. The final draft produced by the MCDG will be circulated for national consultation, which will take place from December 2017 to early March 2018, in accordance with the Ministerial conference roadmap approved by the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Wadden Sea Board.

## **8. Any other business**

The Netherlands thanked CWSS for the preparation of the draft Policy Assessment Report and requested that in addition CWSS produce a concise summary of the report.

## **9. Closure**

The meeting was closed at 16:00 hours on 17 November 2017.

## ANNEX 1: PARTICIPANTS WADDEN SEA BOARD

### PARTICIPANTS

#### 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 21)

17 November 2017

Vester Vedsted, Denmark

#### Members and Advisors

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## **ANNEX 2: Agenda of the 21<sup>th</sup> WSB**

# **AGENDA**

## **21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 21)**

**17 November 2017**

**Vester Vedsted, Denmark**

### **1. Opening of the Meeting**

The meeting will be opened by the Chairman at 09:00 hours on 17 November 2017.

### **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

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

### **3. Record WSB 20**

The meeting will be invited to adopt the final draft Summary Record WSB 20 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 Centre and the World Heritage foundation.

### **7. Preparation 13<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Governmental Conference**

The meeting will be invited to discuss progress in working towards the 13<sup>th</sup> Wadden Sea Conference. The meeting will discuss and decide upon a consolidated draft Council Declaration, including annexes, to be subject to national consultation procedures.

**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 17 November 2017.

### ANNEX 3: Action items arising from the 21th WSB

## ACTION ITEMS

### 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 21)

Action #	Agenda item	Actions agreed upon	Person responsible	Deadline
2	5.2.1	Analyse issue of harbour porpoise and address fostering a stronger cooperation between ASCOBANS and the Trilateral Cooperation.	TG-MM	During 2018
	5.2.2	Draft Dutch proposal on trilateral data handling.	Mr Baerends/TG-MM	2017-12-15
	5.2.2	Publish Quality Status Report.	CWSS	End of 2017
	5.2.3	Instruct WG Alien Species to draft the Management and Action Plan by following the common ground.	TG-MM	2018-01-15
	5.4	Include enhanced communication on Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and improvement of Information Platform in future work of TG-C.	TG-C	Upcoming period
	5.7	Set up dialogue (meeting) between Trilateral Research Agenda scientists and task group members TG-WH and TG-MM for prioritisation of TRA by WSB22.	TG-MM	2018-01-05
	5.9.1 & 2	Discuss work plan of MoU Korea and Mauritania	WSB	WSB22
	5.9.3	Draft inventory of financial and work time implications of the MoU Dolomites.	CWSS	2018-01-05
	5.10.1	Present new approach on logo development incl. agencies	CWSS	2018-01-15
	5.10.2	Formulate new title for strategy for Education for Sustainable Development and World Heritage Interpretation in the Wadden Sea World Heritage.	Authors of strategy	One of next WSB meetings
	6.1	Draft generic template of an Agreement of Cooperation.	CWSS	2018-01-05
	6.2	Start dialogue between different stakeholders of WSWH Foundation.	TBD	TBD
	7.2	Finalise Ministerial Declarations.	MD drafting group	2017-11-20

## ANNEX 4: Press review 2017

### Press review 2017

1 January – 15 November 2017

#### # of press releases

11 press releases on ITB, ISWSS, UN Ocean pledge campaign, WSD, seal reports, and partnership centre (some shared with partners)

#### # of overall articles related to CWSS work

145 mentions in printed, broadcasting and online media

14 NL, 11 DK, 118 DE, 2 other

#### Direct results of CWSS (and partners) press work

123 entries are a direct result of CWSS work in cooperation with its partners

#### Distribution by topic

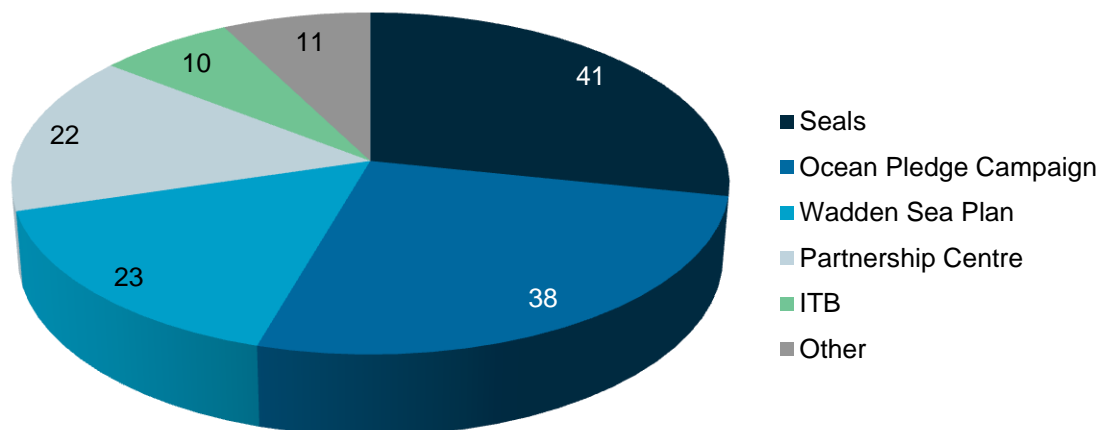


Fig: Pie chart with the number of items per topic from 1 January – 15 November 2017.