

Final Draft **SUMMARY RECORD**

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

WSB 14

Copenhagen, 11 June 2015

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

The chairman, Mr Verdaas, opened the meeting at 09:00 h and welcomed the participants, in particular the new member of the Danish delegation, Ms Janne Jørgensen Liburd, Chair of the Danish National Park Board, who replaces Mr Holst-Christensen. He also welcomed Ms Janne Lieven, State Ministry for Environment and Climate Change of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. Ms Paulus and Mr de Hoop were unable to attend. Ms Hedtkamp acted as a substitute for Ms Paulus. Mr Verhulst informed the meeting about the new member in the Dutch delegation: Mr Klaas Kielstra, deputy of the Province of Fryslân, will represent the three Wadden provinces. Mr Verhulst apologised for the absence of Mr Kielstra and Mr de Hoop.

On behalf of the WSB, the chairman presented condolences to Ms Paulus and Mr Hebbelmann on the recent loss of close relatives.

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 14/2/1 Draft Agenda

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

AGENDA ITEM 3: SUMMARY RECORD WSB 13

Document: Final Draft Summary Record WSB 13

The final draft Summary Record of WSB 13 was **adopted**.

Some amendments were made to Annex 3, composition of TGs.

Mr Verhulst informed the meeting that Mr Oeds Bijlsma, Director at the province of Fryslân, took over the position of chairman of the TG-Sustainable Tourism Strategy.

It was **agreed** that an updated list of TG members would be circulated.

AGENDA ITEM 4: ANNOUNCEMENTS

Germany

- The World Heritage Committee meeting 2015 will be held in Bonn, 28 June – 8 July. A reception will be hosted by the German Federal Ministry for the

Environment (BMUB) on 29 June for natural heritage sites. WSB delegation members, who are responsible for the World Heritage Property Wadden Sea, will receive an invitation. A joint side event on the Wadden Sea and Beech Forests will be held 6 July, co-organized by BMUB, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), the Hessian Ministry for the Environment and CWSS. For the Wadden Sea the focus will be on cooperation along the Flyway. The side event and an exhibition are being prepared by the CWSS and financed by Germany (BMUB).

- In Schleswig-Holstein mussel fisheries are being discussed at ministerial level with representatives of the sector and NGOs aiming at sustainable use of blue mussels in conformity with the National Park.

The Netherlands

- A Declaration of Intent has been signed between different parties involved in Wadden Sea monitoring with the aim of better coordination of monitoring efforts. The next step is the development of an implementation plan.
- A symposium on fish migration will be held 22-24 June in Groningen. The symposium is organised by, amongst others, the Ministry I&M and the Rhine Commission.
- The seal disease in the Dutch Wadden Sea is over. The Dutch parliament has been informed accordingly. The Danish and German delegations stated that this was also the case in their parts of the Wadden Sea.
- The issue of gas exploitation, potentially north of the island of Terschelling, is currently high on the political agenda because of a series of earthquakes caused by the extraction at other sites.

Denmark

- Because of the upcoming national election, there is currently little possibility for decision-making in the Danish administration.
- Ms Janne Jørgensen Liburd is the new chair of the National Park board. She is professor of tourism at the University of Southern Denmark.
- Ms Søren Lund has retired and is no longer a member of the Danish delegation.
- The Danish Environment Minister has launched an initiative in AEWA on developing an international management plan for Barnacle Geese. The Dutch and German delegations noted the initiative with interest and reminded the meeting of the involvement of regional governments (Provinces, Kreise) because of their responsibilities for the implementation of goose management.

CWSS

- The 2015 Wadden Sea Day will be dedicated to marine mammals, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Wadden Sea Seals Agreement.
- The trilateral Wadden Sea partners were represented at the International Tourism Fair (ITB) in Berlin in March 2015. There were a number of Wadden Sea events and a panel discussion on tourism and conservation in which a UNESCO representative had also participated. The meeting welcomed the activity and **agreed** that CWSS should participate again in the 2016 ITB and instructed the CWSS to prepare an outline.

The meeting **noted** the information.

AGENDA ITEM 5: IMPLEMENTATION TØNDER DECLARATION

Dutch presidency paper

Document: WSB 14/5

Mr Verhulst informed the meeting that comments on the presidency paper had been received and that a meeting had been held with the German delegation and the CWSS to discuss the paper.

On the basis of the comments and the meeting a new version of the presidency paper had been drafted and circulated to the WSB members. Mr Verhulst furthermore stated that this paper had been approved by the responsible Dutch Minister for Agriculture, Ms Sharon Dijksma.

Mr Verheij emphasised the relevance of using the term “transitional” under issue no 9 (more sustainable Wadden Sea ports).

Referring to section 8 (shipping), in particular the tri-annual PSSA report (Annex, page 16), he wondered whether and when a report on the Katja incident could be expected.

The meeting **welcomed** the document.

5.1 Wadden Sea World Heritage

Documents: WSB 14/5.1/1 Progress Report TG-WH; WSB 14/5.1/1-add-Nationalparkpartner WSB 14/5.1/2 Road map implementation World Heritage Strategy

Ms Marboe, chairperson of TG-WH introduced the progress report and the road map World Heritage Strategy:

Request World Heritage Committee

Ms Marboe stated that the report on request #5 on the role and responsibilities of the Danish National Park in management of the World Heritage had been delayed but would be submitted to the next TG-WH meeting.

Ms Liburd stated that the National Park was preparing for the next National Park Plan (2018-2022) | 2016. World Heritage would be central to the activities of the National Park and the National Park a natural focal point for the regional WH.

The meeting **noted** the information.

The meeting discussed the proposal to develop the Wadden Sea Plan into a single integrated management plan following the request #6 of the World Heritage Committee. The meeting **concluded** that it should be investigated where a further harmonization of management approaches is necessary and feasible and how a practical approach could look like.

The meeting **instructed** the TG-WH to prepare by the next WSB meeting an analysis of the challenges but also the opportunities of harmonization of management together with an outline of how to implement the request practically and a proposal for the next steps to be taken.

The meeting discussed the recommendation (request #7) to extend the monitoring of impacts of fisheries activities and **requested** the TG-MM to come up with a proposal as to how to deal with the recommendation and to report to the next WSB meeting.

With regard to the preparation of the State of Conservation Report (SoC) and the QSR 2016 (request #8), the meeting **agreed** to provide sufficient resources for the preparation of the QSR.

World Heritage Programme

Ms Knoke introduced the Schleswig-Holstein national park partner programme as an example of how to involve private sector partners in nature conservation. In the discussion the need for a high ambition level was emphasised as a prerequisite for both the safeguarding of the values of the national park and the benefits for partners as unique selling point.

Mr. Stempel informed the meeting that PROWAD would prepare an inventory of existing partnership programmes in the three states to identify possibilities of a cooperation programme for the entire World Heritage property. The meeting **welcomed** the information.

The meeting **agreed** to the proposal to appoint regional focal points to assist the CWSS in the application procedure for the WH logo. A joint meeting of the focal points should be organized by the CWSS to ensure quality and consistency of logo use across the entire property.

It was **agreed** to evaluate this approach after two years.

World Heritage Communication

On proposal by Mr. Verhulst, the meeting **agreed** to a social media presentation by The Netherlands at the next Board meeting.

Road Map World Heritage Strategy

The meeting discussed the road map, the proposed activities and strategic partners to be addressed and **welcomed** the approach. It was suggested that the role and concrete involvement of strategic partners in specific activities should be further clarified in a discussion with partners who are willing to get engaged.

The meeting **agreed**

- To provide written comments on the draft road map to the CWSS within 4 weeks (**by 12 July 2015**) to prepare, in cooperation with TG-WH a final version of the road map for approval at the next WSB meeting,
- To communicate the finalised road map as “Our approach on working with World Heritage” to strategic partners in the regions and to ask for their support and ideas,
- To document the progress in working with strategic partners, and subsequently
- To organize a WH Strategy launch/kick-off event at an appropriate moment (proposal to be prepared by CWSS).

Cooperation with LT&C

The meeting **agreed** that the CWSS should engage in a partnership with the international initiative “Linking Tourism and Conservation”. LT&C will be invited to hold a presentation at the next TG-STC meeting.

Feasibility study competence centre/network

The chairman informed the meeting about the results of the feasibility and governance studies prepared by Andy Brown and thanked him for his good work and high commitment.

On proposal by the chairman, the meeting **agreed**:

- To deliver comments on the draft report (distributed on 8 June 2015) to the CWSS by 18 June 2015 at the latest, to finalized the report as soon as possible.

- To establish a WSB sub-group (high level participants with mandate) to start the discussion of the reports and to prepare a proposal to the next WSB how to deal with the recommendation of the reports.
- That the chairman would prepare an agenda for the sub-group meeting.

5.2 Nature conservation and integrated ecosystem management

Document: WSB 14/5.2/1 Report TG-MM

Ms Hedtkamp, chairperson of TG-MM, elucidated progress made by TG-MM.

Flyway

Ms Hedtkamp stated that a follow-up of the capacity building project was under preparation in Germany. In the Netherlands a follow-up of the monitoring part of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative is planned.

The meeting **noted** the information.

Management and Wardening/Tidal Basin approach

The Netherlands offered to organise a workshop on wardening and a workshop on the theme nature restoration. The latter would be combined with the tidal basin approach.

The meeting **endorsed** the Dutch initiative.

N2000 roof report

The meeting expressed its appreciation for the work done and **agreed** to the proposals contained in the document.

Breeding Bird Action Plan

The meeting **noted** the information.

Seal Agreement

The meeting was informed that

- the new chairman of the TSEG is Mr Lasse Fast Jensen (Fisheries and Maritime Museum Esbjerg);
- the TSEG has adopted a time schedule for reviewing the Seal Management Plan;
- publication of seal numbers will be done separately for the grey seal (1st July) and the harbour seal (1st November);
- TSEG will support the preparation of the WSD 2015.

The meeting **noted** the information.

Fish targets

The meeting **endorsed** the approach proposed by TG-MM.

Alien species

The meeting was informed about progress made by the Working Group Alien Species (WG-AS). The proposals made by WG-AS will be discussed at the next TG-MM meeting (26 August).

The meeting **noted** the information.

Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP)

The meeting **endorsed** the proposals made by TG-MM.

Quality Status Report

WSB was informed about a meeting of TG-WH, TG-MM and the QSR editorial Board, held on 4 June 2015 at the Secretariat premises. The meeting had discussed the preparation of the QSR and the State of Conservation Report (SoC) and agreed that the QSR thematic reports would be the common basis for a QSR synthesis and the SoC. WSB would have to decide in a later stage whether or not one or two reports (QSR synthesis, SoC) would be published, as well as about responsibilities for the contents. From the side of the Secretariat it was emphasised that parts of the budget allocated for 2016 would already have to be used in 2015, in order to be able to commission all authors of the thematic reports.

The meeting **endorsed** the approach

Trilateral research agenda

At a meeting of the trilateral research coordination group, consisting of Jouke van Dijk, Mette Guldborg and Karsten Reise, the procedure for contacting scientists with the request to identify priority trilateral research issues had been agreed upon. The research issues will be classified according to the clusters geomorphology, ecology, socio-economy/cultural history and climate/safety. The ecology cluster would be addressed to the QSR Editorial Board.

Ms Liburd suggested to open up the process for researchers not directly working on Wadden Sea matters, for example global change experts.

The meeting **endorsed** the approach.

Transboundary Ramsar site

Mr Verhulst informed the meeting that the letter to the Ramsar secretariat was ready but that submission would have to wait until there is clarity about the delimitation of Dutch N2000 sites. At the last Ramsar COP The Netherlands had already announced that such a letter will be sent.

Fisheries in the intertidal

The meeting discussed the observation by TG-MM that apparently fisheries pressure in the intertidal had increased. The Dutch and Danish delegations wondered whether this should be judged negatively, since it concerned mainly cockle hand raking and picking of pacific oysters. They stated that a certain percentage of shellfish could be taken without causing damage. The German delegation reminded of the guiding principle and the request of UNESCO on impacts of fisheries to the WHS. It was **agreed** to refer the issue back to TG-MM with the request to provide more details on the current situation in the three countries and how it can be judged. .

Dutch presidency paper

TG-MM had discussed annex 4 of the Dutch presidency paper and concluded that there was little room for addressing non-mandatory issues.

The meeting generally **supported** TG-MMs conclusions.

5.4 Climate

Document: WSB 14/5.4/1 Project "Building with Nature"

The meeting **supported** participation of the CWSS in the Interreg application "Building with Nature", also noting that CWSS participation in the project would have to be continued after retirement of Mr de Jong in early 2017. The Secretariat stressed

that this implied that the post currently occupied by Mr. de Jong would need to be retained after his retirement as there was no staff capacity in the Secretariat to allocate the work related to “Building with Nature” to another staff member. Participation in the project was regarded as a good opportunity to help implementing the trilateral Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

5.5 Maritime safety and pollution prevention of shipping

Document: WSB 14/5.5/1 rev.1 Draft ToR TG Shipping

WSB discussed the membership of the Task Group Shipping, including whether or not to include regional authorities. It was **decided** to have a closer look at the membership balance at a later stage. Denmark, The Netherlands and the WSF could approve these ToR, but since the document had been submitted very late, it was **agreed** that comments should be submitted within the coming four weeks. It was also **agreed** to circulate the list of members of TG-S, together with the updated member lists of the other TGs.

5.8 Wadden Sea Forum

Document: WSB 14/5.8/1 Progress WSF

The WSF Chairman, Mr Staghouwer, and the Vice-chairman Mr Zettlitzer, presented progress made by the WSF. They particularly addressed the issues climate change, risk management, ICZM, goose management, and the review of the sustainability indicator tool data. With regard to the latter, Ms Liburd offered support. The WSF was also working on the implementation of TD\$47, to work towards developing the Wadden Sea Area into a CO2 neutral area. Mr Zettlitzer emphasised that financial support was needed for an analysis of best practices and also called upon the WSB.

The meeting **noted** the information.

5.11 Status of supplementary budget

The meeting was informed about the outcome of HOD negotiations on the supplementary budget. It was **agreed** to prepare for the budget negotiations for the coming years, including a more structural outlook, at an early stage, starting after the 2015 summer break. These negotiations should include *inter alia* how to handle activities now covered by reserve money, priorities and the structural budget.

AGENDA ITEM 6: NEXT MEETING

WSB-15 will be held 4 November 2015 at the CWSS as a full one-day meeting. It was **agreed** that a WSB meeting list 2016 would be circulated.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Marencic informed the meeting that a World Heritage bike tour would be organized starting in Skallingen on 5 July and ending on Texel on 29 July. The tour had been announced on Facebook and Tumbler.

Mr Verhulst informed the meeting about the World Heritage weekend in the Netherlands.

AGENDA ITEM 8: CLOSING

The chairman closed the meeting June, 14:00 hours and thanked the participants for their good cooperation. He particularly thanked Denmark for hosting the meeting.

Annex 1

PARTICIPANTS

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Annex 2

**AGENDA
MEETING OF THE WADDEN SEA BOARD
TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA COOPERATION
WSB 14
11 June 2015**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Summary Record WSB 13
4. Announcements
5. Implementation Tønder Declaration
6. Next meeting
7. Any Other Business
8. Closing

Annex 3**List of Actions**

Action	Agenda item	What	Who	Deadline
1	3	Circulate updated TG list	CWSS	a.s.a.p.
2	4	Outline participation ITB2016 to WSB	CWSS	a.s.a.p.
3	5	Analysis of challenges and opportunities of Integrated Management Plan	TG-WH	WSB-15
4		Proposal for implementation monitoring of impacts of fisheries activities	TG-MM	WSB-15
5		Appoint regional focal points to assist the CWSS in the application procedure for the WH logo.	Delegations	a.s.a.p.
6		Joint meeting of the focal points	CWSS	a.s.a.p.
7		Social media presentation at WSB-15	Netherlands	WSB-15
8		Provide more details on impacts fisheries intertidal	TG-MM	WSB-15
9		Comments to draft ToR TG Shipping	Delegations	8 July 2015
10		6	Circulate list of meeting dates 2016	CWSS