

ADOPTED SUMMARY RECORD

33rd meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 33)

27 August 2021
Wilhelmshaven, Germany
Adopted version 18.11.2021



1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened by the chair, Karin Lochte, at 09:00 on 27 August 2021. She thanked CWSS for organizing and BMU for hosting the dinner the evening before.

The chair welcomed Joost de Ruig from Rijkswaterstaat, The Netherlands who attended the WSB for the first time. Karin Lochte passed on apologies by Ilka Wagner from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety in Germany; the Ministry will be represented by Thomas Borchers. The chair passed on apologies by Donné Slangen from the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality in the Netherlands; the Ministry will be represented by Peter van Velzen. The chair passed on further apologies by Theo Meskers of the Municipality of Hollands Kroon, by Marco Brode and by Henk de Vries representatives from Denmark and the Netherlands respectively in the Wadden Sea Team of environmental NGOs.

A list of participants is in Annex 1.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Document: [WSB 33/2 WSB 33 Draft Annotated Agenda](#)

The agenda contains a list of the key topics to be discussed and to be decided upon. An outline of the Agenda can be found in Annex 2.

The WSB **adopted** the agenda.

3. Record WSB 32

Document: [WSB 33/3 WSB 32 Draft Summary Record](#)

The WSB **adopted** the summary record of WSB 32 without changes.

4. Announcements

Denmark

- The Danish Delegation expresses their appreciation to the Chair and CWSS for well-prepared WSB documents sent in time and highlighting the main points for discussion and decision making.
- Denmark is in the process of preparing the next generation of Natura 2000 management plans which are expected to be finalised in November.
- Denmark is in the process of preparing the next monitoring period. One of the intentions with the Danish monitoring program for the next period will be to, as much as possible, to make use of digitalization, including the use of artificial intelligence (AI), satellite data, among other. The Danish Delegation is pleased to provide more information when the program starts.
- A pilot project between the University of Southern Denmark, the Danish Outdoor Council and the Danish Wadden Sea National Park on sustainable tourism development in 11 Danish parks has been conducted in the first part of 2021. Results will be presented on November 11, 2021 and shared with the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation.
- The Danish Government has completed an evaluation of the National Park Law (2007), which was positively received by the Danish Minister of Environment noting achievements based on voluntary arrangements and partnerships.
- The Wadden Sea Municipalities have requested the building of facilities for a Power-to-X facility for the production of ammonia for agriculture and for shipment using renewable energy (wind and solar). An environmental assessment report is planned as well as a communication to the World Heritage Centre. The communication letter will be sent in advance to TG-WH for comments. A formal consultation will take place in 2022.

Germany

- The German Delegation expressed their gratitude for an inspiring Wadden Sea Day meeting on the previous day reflecting about the importance of the global connexions in the Flyway.
- 26 September 2021 there will be federal elections in Germany. Climate change is one of the important political issues.
- In September 2022, there will be a Wadden Sea Youth Conference in Sankt Peter Ording. CWSS will take over the organisation of the Youth Conference for which one person will be contracted for 15 months, funded by Germany. One of the topics of the Conference will be voluntary service. A feasibility study on volunteering programmes in the three States is foreseen. The German delegation requests the support of WSB members during the interview process.
- The 15. International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS) is planned to take place in Büsum, Schleswig-Holstein, 30. November – 03. December 2021. The Symposium focuses on the role of science for the management of the Wadden Sea World Heritage in the context of Climate Change. Hopes are that the ISWSS can be an in-person event, having in mind the development of the COVID-situation, the final decision on the status of the ISWSS will be made at the end of September. Schleswig-Holstein as main organiser thanked the WSB members, advisors and supporting staff for their contribution to the ISWSS and is looking forward to welcome everybody..
- In June 2021, the Parliament of Lower Saxony adopted minor changes of the Lower Saxon National park Act to explicitly refer to the World Heritage status of the Wadden Sea: „The

area of the national park is part of the German-Dutch-Danish Wadden Sea World Heritage.“

- In the Lower Saxon parliament, a further change of law is under preparation at the request of government parties: It is intended to include the prohibition of all kinds of drilling in the Lower Saxon Wadden Sea National Park. In applicable law, drilling projects fall under the general prohibition of all kinds of activities that might destroy, damage or alter the protected goods. Prospectively, drilling will be explicitly forbidden.
- Hamburg: Janne Lieven referred to the upcoming retirement of Hans Gabanyi and announced that his successor will be Mr Bernd-Ulrich Netz.

Netherlands

- The governance in the Dutch Wadden Sea Region was restructured in 2020, now based on three pillars: the Policy Board, the Stakeholder Council of the Wadden Sea Region and the Management Authority. After one year, the early conclusion that can be drawn is that the structure contributes to a clearer division of responsibilities: the Policy Board makes strategic decisions on the policy level, the Stakeholder Council is the platform for stakeholders to discuss, exchange information and provide advice to the Policy Board. Finally, the Management Authority strengthens the cohesion of nature, fisheries and water management in close cooperation with the site managers.
- The Policy Board of the Wadden Sea Region has reached a new agreement on the governance organisation of development of knowledge. Tasking the Wadden Academy with the role of knowledge director will contribute to having an integral approach that responds to the current demands regarding the direction in which the area is developing in terms of implementation, management and use of the area. The recently adopted multistakeholder 2050 Agenda for the Wadden Sea Region and the Trilateral Research Agenda will be the base for a knowledge management agenda.
- After the elections in March 2021, the Netherlands expects to have a cabinet before the end of the year. It is not clear if this will have an influence on the Dutch representation in the WSB.
- There is an ongoing discussion about the laying of cables through the Wadden Sea. A decision on the subject is expected end of October

Nature NGOs

- The start date of the Wadden Sea Team (WST) shipping project is approaching. A complementary proposal has been submitted by the Wadden Sea Forum – in close cooperation with the WST - to the German Federal Environmental Foundation (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt DBU) and perspectives seem good.
- The WST has agreed to develop a new call for action that can be expected for the beginning of next year.
- The environmental NGOs are opposed to gas explorations planned on the Dutch side of the Wadden Sea Dutch-German border.

- The German Ministry of Transportation released a proposal for traffic regulations within the German Wadden Sea National Parks after a long period of discussions and compromises on the regional level. The Nature NGOs object the regulation in the presented form, as it is only partly in line with the compromises achieved on the regional level, in particular due to more fast-traffic channels in the outer part of the National Parks and more and larger kites surf areas.

Wadden Sea Forum

- The WSF handed in a project proposal to the German Ministry of Transport. The project proposal TRILAWATT proposes to develop infrastructure to maintain and analyse data on geomorphology, sedimentology and hydrodynamics (see 5.4 in [WSB 33/7 WSF Progress report](#)). The WSF expressed their appreciation for the letters of intent received from trilateral institutions part of the WSB.
- In Denmark elections at the Municipality and regional level might have an impact on the Danish participation in the WSF.

CWSS

See [WSB 33/4 Announcements CWSS](#)

- In addition, CWSS was approached by the World Heritage Centre with the request to host the next Marine Programme Conference in 2023. CWSS is positive about this request and asks the WSB on their opinion regarding the feasibility and interest. The Meeting agrees that it represents a great honour and a motivating opportunity for the TWSC. A decision needs to be taken by September 2021 considering resources and CWSS workload. Bernard Baerends clarifies that 50% of the costs will be assumed by the UNESCO Marine Programme, and that the commitment of the hosting country to also support the organisation of the Conference is key. Thomas Borchers emphasises that holding such a Conference in the Wadden Sea area was already is within the objectives of the german presidency but due to several reasons not realized. Nevertheless if there is a positive decision of the WSB, Germany will be able to contribute to the necessary resources. Janne Liburd suggests taking into consideration “Blue Carbon” for the Conference for its importance globally and for the Wadden Sea, referring to UNESCO (2021). UNESCO Marine World Heritage: Custodians of globe’s blue carbon assets. Paris, France

The WSB **noted** the information and gave conditional support to a potential hosting of the next Marine Programme Conference in 2023 if it takes place in the second half of the year.

5. Implementation Leeuwarden Declaration

5.1 Wadden Sea World Heritage

5.1.1 Progress report of the Single Integrated Management Plan

Document: [WSB 33 /5.1/1 Progress report of the SIMP](#)

Barbara Engels, chair of TG-WH and Soledad Luna, CWSS presented the progress achieved in the SIMP version 0.6 which includes examples of selected activities developed from the site managers’ input (Annex 4). In the presentation Engels emphasised that the SIMP integrates different plans, strategies as well as the input from stakeholders, site managers and other

sectors within the World Heritage, and the challenges that TG-WH found in the process of development. Two questions were discussed by the WSB 33 regarding the level of implementation that activities in the SIMP should address (site management and policy level) and the envisioned level of ambition, also considering the next Ministerial Declaration of Wilhelmshaven.

Thomas Borchers thanked the TG-WH for the work on the current version of the draft SIMP. Emphasised that the SIMP besides being a key priority for the German presidency and fulfilling the requirement of UNESCO, it is of added value for the Trilateral Cooperation by supporting coordination and collaboration trilaterally. The Chair of the WSB commented that in the development process an important step was already made by bringing the site managers together.

Anne Marie Rasmussen reaffirmed the importance of the SIMP and informed that in Denmark the basis for its implementation is integration of the implementation into the work on the on-going implementation of the relevant EU Directives. Therefore, the Danish Delegation suggested to further elaborate on the EU Directives in Chapter 3 of the SIMP and stated that it is important to decide what will be taken up in the SIMP and what should be addressed in the Declaration

Joost de Ruig also expressed the support of the Dutch Delegation to the draft SIMP and emphasised that they would like to achieve a strong connection to the Dutch site management objectives in order to strengthen the implementation of the common goals. The Dutch Delegation agreed that it is necessary to address the policy level, however, advised to define concrete activities for site management and to use the differences among the parties as a strength.

An approach of collaboration and mutual support between the site management and policy levels instead of separation was suggested by Janne Liburd. Hans-Ulrich Rösner supported the approach in the SIMP of addressing both levels in an integrated way. He expressed support to the overall draft SIMP version 0.6 and advised to aim for a higher level of ambition as currently presented in Chapter 5. Vera Knoke highlighted that the draft SIMP version 0.6 is an excellent concise document including self-explaining figures and supported further work to continue developing Chapter 5.

The suggestion of the chair to take up the ambitious policy priorities resulting from the SIMP on the 5 key topics in the Ministerial Declaration of Wilhelmshaven 2022 was supported by all parties.

Regarding the observation from Hans-Ulrich Rösner to have in mind that the SIMP is suggested for a 10-to-12-year period whereas the Ministerial Declarations have a 4-year period, Ingelore Hering advised to have a more general approach in the SIMP defining the goals of what we want to achieve and guidelines for how to achieve these goals, not differentiating too deeply between policy and site manager's levels. Anne Marie Rasmussen reminded the meeting of the importance of having an executive summary of the SIMP that can be annexed to the Ministerial Declaration.

Barbara Engels summarised the discussion thus far in the following main agreements:

- The SIMP guides the TWSC on the management of the Wadden Sea World Heritage for the coming 10-12 years in terms of direction and ambition level.
- The SIMP should present as concrete as possible objectives and activities, considering the site management and competences of all parties.
- Policy and site management levels should both be clearly addressed in the SIMP in an integrated way.

- Ambitious policy priorities should be taken up in the Ministerial Declaration 2022.
- The links to the policy priorities presented in the Ministerial Declaration should be shown clearly in the SIMP (so that the SIMP can be read as a stand-alone document).
- An executive summary (for policy makers) of the SIMP should be prepared for TGC 14.
- All parties supported postponing the consultation phase and approved the adapted roadmap proposal.
- All parties endorsed the draft SIMP version 0.6 as the basis for the upcoming work with the site managers and further discussions in TG-WH.

The WSB **noted** the information and **thanked** Barbara Engels and Soledad Luna and the members of the TG-WH for the good progress in the SIMP

The WSB **advised** to define activities as concrete as possible seeking ambition and articulating policy and site management in the SIMP. Ambitious policy priorities should be taken up in the Ministerial Declaration.

The WSB **endorsed** the proposed revised roadmap and the proposal to work with the site managers.

The WSB **endorsed** the draft SIMP document version 0.6 as the basis for the upcoming work with the site managers and further discussions in TG-WH, with the suggestion from Denmark to further elaborate on the EU Directives in Chapter 3 of the SIMP.

5.1.2 Ad hoc Working Group Wadden Sea World Heritage Foundation (WG WHF)

Document: [WSB 33/5.1/2 World Heritage Foundation progress report](#)

Thomas Borchers as chair of the ad hoc Working Group informed about the progress of the establishment of a World Heritage Foundation. Draft versions of the statutes and the endowment transaction were sent to the WSB by e-mail. These documents form the legal basis of the Foundation. Final draft versions of the statutes and all other relevant documents will be submitted to WSB34 for approval for the consultation phase. The meeting was invited to give feedback for further guidance in the process.

Martin Petersen expressed their agreement with the lean approach presented as well as with the objective of keeping the administration within a reasonable level. He suggested to improve clarity regarding the funding parties and their role in the foundation. Thomas Borchers pointed out that there will be 6 founders: the three states DK, NL and DE and - due to their competencies in the Wadden Sea - the three German Länder. Clarity will improve after consultation with the lawyers. And that due to the national foundation law the Foundation will have some kind of independence from the founders.

Hans-Ulrich Rösner expressed that the Wadden Sea Team (WST) is supportive of the proposal and the approach of maintaining a lean administration with very limited bureaucracy. Minor amendments were suggested by the WST to improve clarity and functionality of the statutes. He also proposed to put more money in the Foundation at the start

Peter van Velzen also expressed the Dutch support to the good approach and proposal and recognised the need of initial funding.

All parties were supportive of the approach and draft documents and look forward to the final draft version. Just a few observations were sent to improve clarity regarding who are the funders and on statutes detail to assure functionality.

The WSB **noted** the information and generally **agreed** with the proposed lean approach and expressed the need for a work plan including the necessary resources for the first 5 years to start this Foundation off the ground.

5.1.3 PROWAD LINK Progress Report

Document: [WSB 33/5.1/3 PROWAD LINK progress report](#)

Karin Lochte highlighted the prolongation of the Interreg PROWAD LINK project until December 2022 and entrance of the Geiranger World Heritage Foundation as second Norwegian project partner.

Thomas Borchers thanked the CWSS for attaining additional funding from PROWAD LINK to i.a. support the work on the establishment of the Foundation.

The WSB **noted** the information.

5.2 Nature conservation and integrated ecosystem management

Progress Report TG-M

Document: [WSB 33/5.2 TG-M progress report](#)

The chair invited participants to comment on the TG-M progress report.

Bernard Baerends announced that this year is the 30-year anniversary of the Seal Management Agreement. CWSS will issue a press release and will organise a celebration to take place in 2022. EG Marine Mammals will come forward with an update of the existing Seal Management Plan which ends in 2022 for possible adoption at TGC 14..

Janne Liburd advised to join forces to apply for third party funding to support ongoing initiatives, e.g., to the recently opened EU calls

The WSB **noted** the information

5.3 Climate

Document: [WSB 33/5.3 EG Climate adaptation](#)

Robert Zijlstra, chair of the trilateral Expert Group Climate Change Adaptation (EG-C) presented progress in the implementation of the trilateral Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in the Wadden Sea, including lessons learnt from the use of the Climate Vulnerability Index method in the Wadden Sea. (See annex 5).). Climate change is a direct threat to the OUV's which has been clearly documented.

The WSB discussed the level of ambition of the TWSC in this field, as well as possible directions between “laissez faire” and the need to act – allow dynamic adaptation of the system or (and how much) to intervene to combat climate change related changes to the system whilst securing the Outstanding Universal Value of the Wadden Sea World Heritage as shared core responsibility of the TWSC.

Karin Lochte emphasised the possibility to work with models for future scenarios, to analyse different management options. She also emphasised that the upcoming ISWSS will seek scientific advice for the management of the Wadden Sea under climate change. Janne Liburd commented in the systemic interlinkage and need for multidisciplinary experiments in respect of the dynamic Wadden sea as a living lab and possible model for sustainable development. The strong relation of the EG-C to Trilateral Research Priorities may be considered by the Trilateral Programming Committee on Wadden Sea Research (TPC-WSR) (compare Agenda item 5.5). Also the consideration of the landward-side of the Wadden Sea system, including socio-economic aspects, may need to gain more attention in future. Vera Knocke referred to the 2012 commitment in the Sylt Declaration to a climate neutral Wadden Sea in 2030.

The WSB **noted** the information and **thanked** Robert Zijlstra for the presentation and EG-C for their progress in climate change adaptation.

The WSB **agreed** on the immediate importance of climate change for the work of TWSC and the need to fill knowledge gaps in system understanding by research and at the same time to define and take actions with support of EG-C.

EG-C also was **asked** by the WSB to review the trilateral CC Adaptation Strategy and to make proposals for an adjustment if necessary.

5.4 Trilateral monitoring and assessment programme

TG-MA progress report

Document: [WSB 33/5.4 TG MA progress report](#)

The WSB chair invited comments on the progress report of the Task Group Monitoring and Assessment, including progress in developing the Quality Status Report of the Wadden Sea.

The WSB **noted** the information

5.5 Science cooperation

Documents: [WSB 33/5.5/1 Letter chair TPC-WSR to WSB 33](#), [WSB 33/5.5/2 TPC-WSR Trilateral Research Priorities 33](#)

Karin Lochte thanked the TPC-WSR and its chair, Bernd Scherer for the result which is presented to the WSB showing a coherent approach.

The WSB took note commented on the letter of Bernd Scherer, the chair of the TPC-WSR and discussed on the Trilateral Research Priorities and the methodological approach submitted by the TPC-WSR.

The WSB welcomed and supported the Trilateral Research Priorities and the methodological approach and **agreed** recommending to TPC-WSR further development of the Trilateral Research Priorities with particular focus on climate change, and under consideration of input and findings from ISWSS and in connection to the EG-C. The WSB will call the issue again in ist meeting in March 2022.

The WSB also concluded to further discuss the issues on decision-making / selection procedure as well as the financial implications, supporting in principle a certain

involvement of TPC-WSR in this procedure and realising that financial commitments for projects can at present not yet be given.

6. Trilateral Governmental Conference 2022

Document: [WSB 33/6 Dutch priorities Wilhelmshaven Declaration](#)

Karin Lochte listed recommendations for drafting group members: Henrik Jørgensen (DK), Maren Bauer (SH), Janne Lieven (HH), Margrita Sobottka (LS) and Thomas Borchers (DE), Karst Jaarsma (NL) and Bernard Baerends (CWSS).

The WSB appreciated the written input from the Netherlands and shortly commented on the Dutch priorities for the Wilhelmshaven Declaration. The Netherlands underlined their wish for a concrete and realistic approach with clear products. Karin Lochte suggested taking up the content discussion at WSB 34 in November 2021, with the input from Denmark and Germany as well. Thomas Borchers proposed to have the group co-chaired by Germany and the CWSS.

A 1st draft of the Ministerial Declaration would be available in March 2022.

The WSB **installed** the Drafting Group Ministerial Declaration with above listed members, which will be chaired by Germany and CWSS as co-chairs and full active member.

The group **noted** the Dutch priorities, which will be taken into the discussion of the Drafting Group.

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

Document: [WSB 33/7 WSF Progress report](#)

Preben Friis-Hauge summarised major achievements of the Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) since the last WSB meeting, which include the planned establishment of (four) regional round tables on the green coastal deal, consisting of members of the National Park Advisory Boards.

Point of attention was raised by Lower-Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein on these regional Round Tables as their Advisory Boards of the National Parks are defined by law and thus formally cannot take up this function as envisaged by the WSF.

In context of the shipping issue Karin Lochte referred to the SIMP process in which a group on the shipping issue is foreseen, which can give input to the Round Table Shipping.

Martin Petersen was impressed by the large list of projects of the WSF with the small number of persons.

The input of the Wadden Sea Team was already given by Hans-Ulrich Rösner in agenda items above. He further informed on a call for action towards the Trilateral Governmental Conference 2022 which is being prepared by environmental NGOs.

The WSB **noted** the information.

8. Any other business

There was no other business.

9. Next meeting

One more meeting is scheduled in 2021, on 18 November 2021 in Cuxhaven. Meetings for 2022 are already scheduled.

Overview:

WSB 35. 10 March 2022. Netherlands offered to host this meeting.

WSB 36. 26 August 2022 in Wilhelmshaven, back-to-back with Wadden Sea Day.

WSB 37. Optional Sept 2022 (no date fixed yet, pending also on the progress made in August meeting of WSB).

WSB 38. 6 October 2022. Denmark offered to host this meeting

WSB 39. 29 /30 November, Wilhelmshaven, day before Ministerial Council.

WSB 40. 30 Nov/1Dec, Wilhelmshaven, after Ministerial Council, start-up under Danish presidency

The WSB **noted** the information.

10. Closing

The group thanked the Chair and CWSS for good organisation and inspiring discussions. The chair closed the meeting at 14:00 on 27 August 2021 and thanked participants for their engagement and open discussions. In future, time for discussion on highlight topics which also shows outcomes of trilateral group's work will be more often included to the agenda.

ANNEX 1: List of participants

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**33rd meeting of the Wadden Sea Board
(WSB 33)**

27 August 2021
Wilhelmshaven, Germany



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ANNEX 2: Agenda

FINAL AGENDA

**33rd meeting of the Wadden Sea Board
(WSB 33)**

27 August 2021
Wilhelmshaven, Germany



- 1. Opening of the Meeting**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 3. Summary Record WSB 32**
- 4. Announcements**
- 5. Implementation Leeuwarden Declaration**
- 6. Trilateral Governmental Conference 2022**
- 7. Wadden Sea Board Advisors: Wadden Sea Forum; Wadden Sea Team**
- 8. Any Other Business**
- 9. Next meeting**
- 10. Closing**

ANNEX 3: Action items arising from the 33rd WSB

ACTION ITEMS

**33rd meeting of the Wadden Sea Board
(WSB 33)**

27 August 2021
Wilhelmshaven, Germany



Action #	Agenda item	Actions agreed upon	Person responsible	Deadline
1	5.1.2	Prepare workplan for the Foundation	Foundation working group	WSB 34
2	5.3	Define actions for Climate Change Adaptation and review of the trilateral CC Adaptation Strategy.	EG-C	Before TGC14
3	5.5	Consider taking input and findings from ISWSS into account and get in contact with EG-C	TPC-WSR	
4	5.5	Further discuss decision-making/selection procedure and financial implication and get back to TPC-WSR	WSB	
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6				
7				
8				