

# Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 7**  
**6-7 March 2013**  
**Hamburg**



**Agenda Item:** 9

**Subject:** Progress WSF Activities

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**Submitted by:** WSF Secretariat

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Attached is the progress report of the Wadden Sea Forum which will be introduced by the WSF chair.

## **Proposal**

The meeting is proposed to comment respectively note.

## **Wadden Sea Forum**

### **Overview of the Activities of the Wadden Sea Forum since WSB 6**

#### **WSF plenary and Steering Committee**

The 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Wadden Sea Forum took place on 13-14 November in Leck, Schleswig-Holstein. At this meeting, a new vice-chair was elected (Wiebe van der Ploeg, Province of Groningen). The emphasis of the meeting was laid on the state of sustainability and maritime spatial planning in the southern North Sea. Further presentations were about Shelduck monitoring, the development of the Ems-Dollard region and the EU MESMA project with a close link to the WSF objectives. Also an update about climate change scenarios was given. An important item was a debate about the future of the WSF with an emphasis on future work topics and the role in the political scene as well as in regional development.

A special topic was an expressive speech with regard to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WSF by a member of the German parliament.

A preparing Steering Committee meeting took place on 04 October in Bremen.

WSF-22 meeting is scheduled for 23-24 May in Groningen. The Steering Committee will meet on 17 April.

#### **Working Groups**

In the following, brief summaries of the working group activities are given.

##### **ICZM**

The working group further elaborated on the Sustainability Indicator Tool (see further below). New data have been integrated and the new indicator air quality has been assessed and finally amended. The various application possibilities, like correlating indicators with each other, were intensively discussed.

The work on the WSR Planning Portal continues as this will be financially supported by RWE Dea AG. Technical tools will be improved and data will be amended on various themes.

##### **Energy, Industry & Infrastructure**

The most important topic of the working group is on the preparation of an energy conference on 3 June 2013. This workshop will address energy production and distribution as well as reduction of greenhouse emissions, particularly CO<sub>2</sub>. Recommendations of the workshop will be forwarded to the governmental conference in February 2014. A further topic was particularly on energy storage possibilities.

##### **Shipping & Harbour**

The shipping group elaborated further on shipping safety, reflecting the recent accidents of the two vessels Katja and Flaminia and discussed the measures taken. The cases should be used to improve shipping safety in general. This would concern transnational agreements, pilotage, storage of cargo, towing capacity and other safety measures and regulations. With these examples, the improvement respectively implementation of Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) and Vessel Traffic Management (VTM) were further debated. The work on a shipping safety resolution has continued. It is envisaged to reach a common view of all stakeholders to get commitment for implementing necessary measures to protect the vulnerable

environment. The resolution will be forwarded to the Wadden Sea Board to be addressed at the Wadden Sea Conference in 2014.

### **Agriculture**

The Goose Management Group (GMG) met several times since October 2012 with a focus on the compilation of information on regional geese distribution and management schemes. A sound inventory was seen as a precondition to work towards a trilateral management scheme with regional solutions for implementation. The GMG agreed on a draft work plan, which covers four main themes, policy development, communication and awareness, measures and knowledge.

### **Cultural Identity**

The WSF intended to bring together the different topics and initiatives on cultural identity in order to better integrate the cultural issues in the development of the Wadden Sea Region and to further elaborate on the cultural grounds of the people living in the Region. This includes different cultural aspects like art, literature, traditions, organ culture and other modes of expression. Several projects have been initiated or supported by the WSF working group. The WSF is also supporting the implementation of the project Wadden Summer 2015.

### **Topical Issues**

Besides the work in the different working groups, the WSF elaborated on topical issues, which had an overarching character and concerned different stakeholders and authorities.

### **WSR Planning Portal**

The Wadden Sea Region (WSR) Planning Portal, based on a GIS, has been further developed. Due to funding by RWE Dea AG, new data and layers with regard to fisheries, tourism, AIS (ship traffic) as well as the integration of socio-economic data will be implemented. Of particular interest are data of fish catches from 2003 to 2011 in the southern North Sea. Also included is the density of ship traffic by AIS data.

Further data investigation includes archaeological sites and coastal power plants on land. Also the possibilities to upload geological features (Geest/marsh) for the WSR or parts of it will be checked. It is envisaged to have a final version of the Planning Portal ready in autumn 2013. The Portal can be explored through the WSF website under

<http://www.waddensea-forum.org/Specialissues/wsr-gis.html>.

### **Sustainability Indicator Tool**

In the second half of 2012, the indicator tool has been updated with new data and fine-tuned following an internal assessment. The developments in sustainability have been analysed in detail. To figure out the real facts, which do cause the developments, a deeper analysis down to municipality level was necessary. Also the connection of social and economic dependencies had to be taken into consideration to explain sustainability developments in the WSR. In cooperation with the Dutch Wadden Academy further research on sustainability and data analysis will be undertaken.

### **WSR strategic report**

The WSF Steering Committee and the working group ICZM are going to elaborate a strategic report, encompassing a review of "Breaking the Ice", achievements and recommendations for the political level. The report will follow the ICZM principles and will be forwarded to the Wadden Sea Conference in 2014.

## **Projects**

### **ENHANCE**

The WSF participates in the project "ENHANCE" (Enhancing risk management partnership for catastrophic natural disasters in Europe) under the EU 7<sup>th</sup> framework program (FP7). A work plan of the WSF was elaborated for being integrated in the overall project. In late 2012, the project has been successfully approved and was officially launched by 1 December 2012. A first project meeting took place in January 2013.

## **Cooperation**

Carrying out the WSF work plan and elaboration on topical issues and projects, the WSF cooperates with some appreciable organizations (besides the sectors and authorities involved), namely

TWSC: goose management, cultural heritage, CO<sub>2</sub> reduction, sustainable tourism....

EUCC-D: WSR Planning Portal, Indicator tool, ICZM/MSP

North Sea Commission: MSP and stakeholder involvement

Wadden Academy: information and knowledge exchange

## **Communication**

A number of communication and awareness activities were on-going. The tools were multi-faceted:

- The WSF web site which is continuously updated and extended and serves as the main information tool.
- A flyer has been produced to inform about the WSF
- Conferences and workshops have been used for information and knowledge exchange, agreements on collaboration and promotion of the Forum.
- Several presentations have been given on events, training measures and to other organizations.
- An open dialogue within the WSF and its working group was self-evident.
- In order to set the course of the future work and to define the role of the WSF, a visit tour of the chair and the secretary was undertaken. Several governmental bodies and stakeholders were visited to get response and commitment about a continuation of the WSF.