

Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 19
24 March 2017
Wilhelmshaven**



Agenda Item: 5.8
Subject: WSF progress report
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Date: 28 February 2017
Submitted by: WSF

Proposal: The meeting is invited to take note of the WSF progress report and to comment as appropriate.

Overview of the Activities of the Wadden Sea Forum since WSB-18

WSF plenary

Since WSB 18 in November 2016 no WSF plenary meeting took place. The next plenary meeting is scheduled for 18-19 May in Den Helder. The main topics will be risk management, sustainability indicators on municipality level, macro plastic pollution in the North Sea and Frisian heritage.

Working Group and topical issues

In the following, brief summaries of the ICZM working group activities and topical issues are given.

1. ICZM

The working group elaborated on a work program which covers the issues ICZM strategy implementation, risk management, indicator tool, Planning Portal as well as new structural and communication approaches of the WSF.

Indicator tool: Two master students from the University of Kiel in cooperation with the Dutch Wadden Academy and Telos from the University Tilburg have used the applied Wadden Barometer approach to make the WSF tool more applicable and attractive. The focus was on coastal municipalities in Germany. Data for more than 60 indicators for each municipality has been collected and analyzed on a general level. The results show very clearly the status of sustainability. The assessments of the three capitals as well as of examples of some stocks allowed valuable interpretations.

Risk management: The group discussed a proposal, how the work on risk management can be integrated in coastal management and which concrete tasks can be defined. It was consensus to focus on the theme demographic change, which is also very much linked to other themes like socio-economic development, future of sectors, loss of identity and living conditions.

The risk analysis encompasses the elaboration on causes and consequences of the risks as well as on actions to mitigate the causes and to minimize and adapt to consequences. Formulating the right questions by the WSF, the scientific community and politicians would be lived up to deliver the answers. In this respect, there should be a demand to include risk management in the trilateral research agenda, which is under elaboration in these days.

2. Energy

Energy issues, particularly CO₂ reduction in the Wadden Sea Region, will be dealt with in cooperation with the WSB network. A first meeting with representatives and contact persons from The Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and the WSF met on 28 February in Bremen. It was agreed to start the work on compiling actions and best practises regarding CO₂ reduction in the Wadden Sea Region. It is envisaged to elaborate a report about this issue to be forwarded to the forthcoming governmental conference 2018 in Leeuwarden.

3. Shipping & Harbour

The WSF agreed to pick up the work on shipping & harbour again. Instead of implementing a work group on this topic, the WSF is going to implement a symposium on green shipping and green ports on 26 April in Norden. This will be done in close cooperation with the maritime competence center (MARIKO) Leer. As shipping and harbor business is an important business in the WSR, this topic will be on the agenda also in the future. A trilateral view is self-evident.

4. Agriculture

The WSF goose management group (GMG) discussed the further dealings with geese problems and agreed that the WSF group has done an excellent work and that immediate tasks of the GMG were not relevant. It was seen as necessary to shift the responsibility on an higher international level to make progress in management decisions. The group very much supports the AEWA (African-Eurasian-Water bird-Agreement) concept and the implementation of an European goose management platform. An international symposium to work on a barnacle geese management plan under the umbrella of AEWA will take place in may this year. Still, the WSF network will be maintained to exchange information and knowledge from time to time.

5. Risk management

An emphasis of the WSF work was and will be on risk management. This resulted out of the collaborative work in the Enhance project and was agreed by the WSF members. Currently, the WSF is working on a position paper on risk management with an emphasis on demographic change.

6. Projects in 2016:

a) Municipalities innovative

This project is about demographic change in the WSR and co-financed by the German ministry of research. Partners are four municipalities, the consultant ARSU as well as the Universities of OL and Groningen. The WSF was invited to participate as sub-partner. A first meeting took place on 26 October in the municipality of Wangerland. A public event is scheduled for 25 March.

b) ENHANCE

In cooperation with the Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht (HZG), the WSF in 2016 finalized its work on the Enhance project. The final report was published in October 2016 and describes the novel multi-partnership in disaster risk management. With the last activity report and financial statement delivered in January 2017, the WSF has completed its contribution to the project. The Enhance project was a very valuable experience for the WSF.

7. Communication

The WSF web site was continuously updated and maintained. Furthermore, the WSF is present on Facebook.

As an on-going task, several presentations about the WSF have been given on events, and to other organizations. The WSF contributed to events on climate change, coastal management, goose management and cultural history of the WSR (e.g. Enhance conference, EU Commission, Universities Oldenburg and Kiel, symposium cultural landscapes).