

Wadden Sea Board

WSB 7
6-7 March 2013
Hamburg



Agenda Item:	7
Subject:	Ministerial Council Declaration
Document No.	WSB 7/7/1
Date:	7 February 2012
Submitted by:	Secretariat

The WSB 6 instructed the ad-hoc group on the elaboration of the Ministerial Council Declaration with the elaboration of the structure and outline of the draft Ministerial Declaration for presentation at the WSB 7. Attached is the cover note including the preliminary draft Ministerial Council Declaration 2014.

Proposal

The meeting is referred to the note.

1. Objective

Overview of documents for the 2014 Wadden Sea Conference including timetable and responsibilities.

2. Background

The WSB 6 instructed the ad-hoc group on the elaboration of the Ministerial Council Declaration with the elaboration of the structure and outline of the draft Ministerial Declaration for presentation at WSB 7; the draft should also address the energy issue and the impact on the Wadden Sea, e.g. as discussed on the Wadden Sea Day. The CWSS and the WSF secretariat were instructed to develop a proposal in this regard. Further the drafting group was instructed to provide an overview of the documents to be elaborated together with timetable and responsibilities for WSB 7.

Previous Governmental Conferences have basically been organized and prepared according to a similar approach. The organizing country was responsible for the logistics of the Conference. Also the programme was basically a matter for the arranging country to organize which ensured a nation or region specific approach. In 2005 e.g. the Conference was held on the island of Schiermonikoog and exhibitions were held in advance of and during the Conference. At the 2010 Conference a major stakeholder meeting was held in advance of the meeting of the ministers. At the venue exhibitions were held for a broad audience such as NGOs, scientific institutes and international organizations. The concept is to provide a platform for showing the potentials of the Wadden Sea Region specifically with regard to the Wadden Sea and to provide a platform for discussion which is broader than the political agenda.

The preparation of the conferences has been done in the context of the cooperation and includes the following key documents:

- Agenda of the Ministerial Council meeting; the main item on the agenda is the Council Declaration but also the designation of the chair of Wadden Sea Board was part of the 2010 agenda.
- Policy Assessment Report; a report of the progress with regard to the implementation of the decisions of the preceding conference and an assessment of the ecological quality of the Wadden Sea in order to define issues to be addressed by ministers; the document is an underlying document for the preparation of the Council meeting and not for approval; it is at the most being noted by ministers.
- The Ministerial Council Declaration which is the most important political outcome of the meeting and directs the work of the cooperation for the next period; the Declaration is signed at the end of the meeting with a press conference which is organized by the presiding country.

3. Preparing 2014 Conference

The approach which has been followed in preparing and implementing the recent Conferences as described above has worked well. In addition to its function as political conference it has also worked as a platform for stakeholder discussions and for exhibiting the achievements in the Wadden Sea in a very broad sense. A similar approach is therefore advocated with regard to the 2014 Conference:

(1) Organization Conference

The Conference will be held at a conference centre in Tønder, an old marsh town and the most southern one in the Danish Wadden Sea Region. The central event of the conference is the meeting of the Ministerial Council on the second day and it is conceivable that many of the activities will be centred around this meeting. The conference should however also meet its expectation of being a platform for stakeholders to present what they have done and how they contribute to the Wadden Sea work and to allow for a discussion between the various

stakeholders, governmental and non-governmental organizations, scientists and nature conservationists etc.

Lead: Danish delegation, consultation with other delegations at WSB-meetings; presentation of preliminary programme at WSB 8.

(2) Draft Agenda

The draft agenda for the meeting is a common responsibility of the WSB. The main agenda items would be: policy assessment report, council declaration and designation of the WSB chair for the next period. The draft agenda should be part of the package to be circulated for inter-ministerial consultations after WSB 8.

Lead: CWSS, submission WSB 8

(3) Policy Assessment Report

The Policy Assessment Report should be a brief 10-20 pages report on the status of the Wadden Sea and progress since the 2010 conference. The aim of the PAR is to point out gaps in implementation and issues that need to be addressed by the Conference. It is conceivable that the PAR will consist of two separate parts, the environmental assessment of the Wadden Sea quality based on the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP) and the progress of the implementation of the 2010 Declaration. The presentation of environmental data can be based on the information system which is intended presented at the Conference and will include central data with regard to chemical status, birds, seals and geographical information.

Lead: TMAG to develop report on the environmental status of the Wadden Sea for WSB 8; ad-hoc working group to develop progress report on implementation Sylt Declaration WSB 8.

(4) Draft Ministerial Declaration

As indicated above the ad-hoc work group was instructed to elaborate of the structure and outline of the draft Ministerial Declaration for presentation at WSB 7. Attached is a very preliminary draft for further consideration. The draft is based on the structure of the Sylt Declaration which worked well at that time. The Declaration was drafted on the basis of a couple of starting points:

- I. The declaration should basically be confined to decisions and agreements, assessment and conclusions, considerations preceding the decisions should be limited to the absolute minimum necessary, as appropriate, to understand the background of the decision or to highlight specific progress; assessments should basically be left to the PAR and other document.
- II. The decisions and agreements should be of a political nature and not enter into the realm of implementation to achieve a good delineation between the political level and the governing level of the Wadden Sea Board. They should, however, be specific enough to direct the implementation in terms of next steps and, as appropriate, resource needs.

The attached draft includes an indication of possible decisions based on the outline of the Council Declaration discussed at WSB 5 and 6. The meeting need to discuss more specifically the decisions which can be taken under the different themes and provide direction to the further drafting of the Declaration. The objective is to have a first full draft discussed and approved at the WSB June meeting.

Lead: ad-hoc working group MCD 2014

4. Proposal

It is proposed to

- (1) Invite the Danish presidency to present a draft Conference programme to be considered at WSB 8.
- (2) Instruct the TMAG with the elaboration of brief environmental assessment of the Wadden Sea based on the newest information ensuing in particular from the TMAP and making use of the information system.
- (3) Instruct the ad-hoc drafting group with the elaboration of a progress report on the implementation of the Sylt Declaration for consideration at WSB 8.
- (4) Instruct the ad-hoc working group with drafting the Declaration based on the comments WSB 7 for consideration at WSB 8.
- (5) Instruct the CWSS with elaborating a draft agenda for the Council meeting for consideration at WSB 8.

Attachments:

1. Overview Documents and Timetable
2. Preliminary draft Ministerial Council Declaration (separate file)

Appendix**Overview Documents and Timetable 20104 Conference**

There three main documents to be elaborated for the conference and Ministerial Council meeting on 5 February 2014:

- (1) Draft agenda
- (2) Policy Assessment Report (including a brief assessment of the Wadden Sea based on new TMAP (and other) data)
- (3) Draft Ministerial Council Declaration

The current draft refers to a number of documents but only those on which a decision resp. adoption is necessary are annexed to the draft Declaration. These are:

- Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy 2014-20
- Sustainable Tourism Strategy; it is proposed to consider whether this strategy needs a further broader approval e.g. through the signature of the stakeholders
- Flyway vision
- Alien Species Strategy; in principle this strategy has been adopted by the WSB, it is proposed to consider whether this should be formally adopted by the Council
- Sustainable Fisheries Principles
- PSSA Vision
- Goose Management; status to be considered

Overall, it may be advisable to consider whether it would be possible to reduce the number of annexes.

The table below provides an indication of the sequence of elaboration, consultations and negotiations of the documents. The red shaded area indicates the final phase where the complete draft documents must be available.

[illegible]