**Draft**

**SUMMARY RECORD**

**NETWORK GROUP**

**Sustainable Tourism**

**NG-ST 27**

**Büsum**

**23 September 2021**

(Amendments by Catharina Greve & Mira Hohmann)

**1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda**

Document: NG-STS 27/1-draft agenda

Anja Domnick opened the meeting, welcomed the participants, and thanked the colleagues from Schleswig-Holstein for preparing this meeting. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**. The proposed draft agenda of the meeting was **adopted** without amendments. Agenda is in **Annex 2**.

**2.     Summary Record NG-ST 26**

The meeting approved the final draft Summary Record of NG-ST 26, send by mail to the NG-St members on 11 March 2021.

**3.     Announcements**

The meeting exchanged the following information on relevant issues not covered by the other agenda items:

* Heike Kulessa is the successor of Stephanie Rohenkohl in the “Amt für regionale Landesentwicklung Weser-Ems” in Lower Saxony. Heike chaired her first meeting of the AG Weltnaturerbe Wattenmeer Niedersachsen/ Fahrtziel Natur on the 14 September 2021.
* Island of Pellworm (SH) and Spiekeroog (NDS) were awarded Dark Sky Islands.
* The National Park Partner Annual meeting in Schleswig-Holstein / took place on Tuesday, 21.09.21 with 100 participants
* In the Netherlands the position of Sjon is discussed. If no solution is offered, Sjon´s work for the WSWH will terminate on 01 October.
* Amelie Banke was introduced to the meeting. She will spend the next year in the CWSS as she is participating in the German volunteering programme, Freiwilliges Ökologisches Jahr (FÖJ) / volunteer ecological year.
* In September 2022 a Youth Conference prior to the Trilateral Governmental Conference will take place. CWSS is recruiting, for a temporary position, a Project Coordinator /Youth Conference (depending on project approval). First rounds of interviews were conducted, 2nd round in preparation, decision expected by Mid of October. Also received the CWSS the formal confirmation for two additional permanent staff positions (start 2022).

**4.     Overview on planned or ongoing regional WH activities**

Presentation uploaded on WSWH webpage / document library.

The hosts from Schleswig-Holstein presented current projects and activities in Schleswig-Holstein:

* WWF (Anja Szczesinski)
  + [Wadden Sea Explorer](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/explorer)
  + Tourism Monitor & Video Tutorials
* Nordsee-Tourismus-Service (input by Frank Ketter, presented by Anja Szczesinski)
  + North Sea Cycle Route – Blogger tour
  + North Sea Cycle Route – Marketing aspects
  + E-Learning Platform
  + The North Sea E-Mobil
* National Park Administration (Catharina Greve & Christiane Gätje)
  + 83 World Heritage columns installed at locations in North Frisia and Dithmarschen
  + Study on *Regional economic effects of National Park Tourism*
  + Visitor Survey – update and response numbers
  + Residents‘ Survey on Health and wellbeing

Christiane Gätje presented on behalf of the National Park Hamburg the new WH-licensed merchandising products by Lisa Claussen.

Mira Hohmann informed about activities in Lower Saxony (detailed overview as annex No. 3)

* The PROWAD LINK activity to develop supporting tools and guiding material to include OUV into Wellness businesses, eg, Yoga studios was met with great interest by the NG-ST members.

Sjon de Haan gave an overview about ongoing activities in the Netherlands:

* The [Agenda for the Dutch Wadden 2050](https://www.fryslan.frl/waddenagenda-2050) (not to mix up with the Interreg A project Waddenagenda) developed objectives and activities. It is a project of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, together with other authorities and regional parties. The Agenda focuses on the Wadden Sea area: Wadden Sea, Wadden Islands, North Sea coastal zone.
* The Waddenvereniging has conducted a questionnaire of people living on the islands as residents.
* [Wij & Wad:](https://www.waddoejij.nl/) Vogelbescherming Nederland joins forces with Natuurmonumenten,

Staatsbosbeheer, Waddenvereniging, It Fryske Gea, Landschap Noord-Holland and Het Groninger Landschap for the wading birds. The nature organizations want to reverse the downward trend in breeding and migratory bird populations in the Wadden area

* Monitoring: organise in a better way as different entities organise monitoring, important to connect (Province Fryslân very active in this respect)
* Visit Wadden initiate a Wadden Festival on 04 November. Topics / themes: darkness of the Wadden, local producers, sustainable ambition.
* National Geographic: (aerial) photos by Chris in this month edition
* Study on Warften / terps in preparation

Supplemented by information from Monique Pruyt:

* Visit Wadden close to finalize Brand box 🡪 exchange and connection with Brandspace urgently requested.
* In the framework of the Wadden agenda, the Nordsee GmbH plans on 13 of October a workshop on sustainable mobility.
* Several new rules, light pollution 🡪 Dark Sky is a theme often addressed in different projects, so difficult to link everyone
* 360 videos made from the Wadden Sea from the sky

Anja Szczesinski suggested to have a Wadden Sea wide sustainable tourism destination approach to be put into PROWAD LINK follow up project.

Catharina Greve informed about activities in Schleswig-Holstein (detailed overview as annex No. 3).

The meeting noted the information.

**5.     Overview on planned or ongoing trilateral WH activities**

Anja Domnick informed the meeting about the status of the Integrated Single Management Plan (SIMP): a draft SIMP version was submitting to WSB 33. This document includes the integrated input from the site managers looking at five key topics for joint management: 1) Fisheries, 2) Tourism, 3) Shipping and Ports, 4) Renewable Energy and Energy from Oil and Gas and 5) Coastal Flood Defence and Protection Measures. The SIMP will guide the TWSC on the management of the Wadden Sea World Heritage for the coming 10-12 years in terms of direction and ambition level. Therefore, the SIMP should present as concrete as possible objectives and activities, considering the site management and competences of all parties. This will be further discussed in TG-WH and exchanged with the editorial board STS Action Plan.

Quality Status Report (QSR): the process of updating selected QSR Thematic Reports during the German presidency (2018-2022) has started. The tourism chapter is authored by Stefan Hartmann of Stenden University NL, Julius Arnegger Private consultant D, and Barbora Gulisova of University of Southern Denmark.

She also reported about upcoming/ongoing projects in the framework of the Partnership Hub: Trilateral Dark Sky Initiative, Wadden Sea Team (NGOs)/Wadden Sea Forum proposal on Shipping.

Also, a short overview was given about the event “Clean Wadden Sea Sailing”17 – 19.09.21 in the Netherland as part of the collaboration with the Swiss watch maker Oris, and in celebration of World Clean Up Day.

Additional note: The PROWAD LINK project was extended until the end of 2022. Some new or extended activities address e.g., brand activation and trainings, innovation challenge, nature experience and health and also dark sky.

**6.     Preparation Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2022 – onwards**

As introduction and before the work in small groups started, Anja Domnick shortly presented the Editorial board for the preparation of the upcoming draft action plan 2022 - onwards and its task to integrate in a bottom-up approach the local levels and make the action plan more tangible and mutual beneficial for stakeholders to the participants of the meeting.

The draft action plan matrix which was developed based on work fields and objectives mentioned in the Sustainable Tourism Strategy like:

1. Tourism Operations and Nature Conservation

2. The Unique Selling Point – ONE World Heritage Destination

3. Transport, Accommodation and Gastronomy

4. Environmental Education and Interpretation

5. Capacity Building and Raising Standards

Supplemented by a 6 work field which is currently discussed with TG-WH:

6. (Joint) Management / SIMP

was explained before in small working groups each work field and the received input was addressed.

After 2 hours the following conclusion was made:

It was a valuable step towards a “single integrated action plan”, nourished by good discussions. Nevertheless, it showed that there are quite some challenges still in front of us like getting started entangling the complex structure, getting acquaint as some work fields are much more complex than others, showing that the KISS approach a necessity to proceed.

The meeting decided on the following way to proceed:

The editorial board will meet for a lunch-to-lunch workshop looking at all world fields and related activities to entangle the regional input and to draft in an intense session a joined but simplified draft.

Proposed dates are:

16/17 November 2021

22/23 November 2021

Meeting location: BUKEA Hamburg

Sjon de Haan will inform and consult the Danish colleagues.

Anja Szczesinski will check with BUKEA if a meeting room is available.

**7. Next Meeting**

No new meeting dates were proposed as the Danish colleagues were not present.

**8. Any Other Business**

None.

**9. Closing**

Anja Domnick thanked the participants for the productive meeting and closed the meeting at 13:15 hrs.

**ANNEX 1 - List of Participants NG-ST-27**

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| **Ms Amelie Banke** (FÖJ CWSS)  Common Wadden Sea Secretariat  Virchowstr. 1  D - 26382 Wilhelmshaven  phone: +49 (0)4421 9108-25  [banke@waddensea-secretariat.org](mailto:banke@waddensea-secretariat.org) | **Mr Sjon de Haan**  Coordinator Werelderfogoed Waddenzee  Huis voor de Wadden  Ruiterskwartier 121 A  NL 8911 BS Leeuwarden  Phone +31 619 712 309  [s.dehaan@waddenzee.nl](mailto:s.dehaan@waddenzee.nl) |
| **Ms Anja Domnick** (project officer PROWAD LINK)  Common Wadden Sea Secretariat  Virchowstr. 1  D - 26382 Wilhelmshaven  phone: +49 (0)4421 9108-24  [domnick@waddensea-secretariat.org](mailto:domnick@waddensea-secretariat.org) | **Ms Christiane Gätje**  Landesbetrieb für Küstenschutz, Nationalpark und Meeresschutz Schleswig-Holstein (LKN)  Schlossgarten 1, D - 25832 Tönning  Phone: +49 (0)4861 616-35  Fax: +49 (0)4861 616-69  [Christiane.Gaetje@lkn.landsh.de](mailto:Christiane.Gaetje@lkn.landsh.de) |
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| **Ms Stephanie Rohenkohl**  Amt für regionale Landesentwicklung Weser-Ems Dezernat 2 - Regionale Landesentwicklung Theodor-Tantzen-Platz 8  26122 Oldenburg  Tel: +49 441 799-2395  [Stephanie.Rohenkohl@arl-we.niedersachsen.de](mailto:Stephanie.Rohenkohl@arl-we.niedersachsen.de) | **Ms** **Anja** **Szczesinski**  WWF - Germany  Hafenstraße 3  D - 25813 Husum  Phone + 49 (0)4841 66 85 45  Fax: + 49 (0)4841 66 85 39  [anja.szczesinski@wwf.de](mailto:anja.szczesinski@wwf.de) |
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**ANNEX 2**

**Proposed Draft AGENDA**

**NETWORK GROUP SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**

**NG-ST 27**

**Watt’n Hus, Büsum**

**23 September 2021**

**1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda**

The meeting will commence at **09:00**. Adoption of the draft agenda of the meeting.

**2.     Summary Record** **NG-ST 26**

The meeting will be invited to approve the final draft Summary Record of NG-ST 26.

**3.     Announcements**

Exchange of information on relevant issues not covered by the other agenda items.

**4.     Overview on planned or ongoing regional WH activities**

The members are invited to report ongoing or planned bilateral/regional projects implementing the strategy and action plan on the regional level (The Netherlands, Lower Saxony, Hamburg, and Schleswig-Holstein, Denmark) in order to coordinate and link the activities trilaterally by the NG-ST, and to specify what kind of support is expected from NG-ST members.

**NG-ST members should provide information about ongoing local activities by mail before the meeting to CWSS.**

4.1. Overview of current project in Schleswig-Holstein

**5.     Overview on planned or ongoing trilateral WH activities**

**6.     Preparation Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2022 - onwards**

Overview that has integrated outcome from the local levels prepared by editorial board for the upcoming draft action plan. NG-ST is proposed to discuss and agree on the draft plan for submission to WSB in November.

**7.     Next Meetings**

        The meeting will be invited to select upcoming meeting dates and locations.

**8.     Any Other Business**

The meeting will be invited to discuss any other business.

**9.     Closing**

        The meeting will be closed at **13:00** at the latest.

**Annex 3**

**Announcements (received by Mail)**

By Mira Hohmann / Regional activities of NLPV

**National Park Partner:**

* The annual partner meeting took place as a digital meeting on 30 April 2021
* Despite Corona, there have been further entries into the National Park's partner initiative; 5 new members in the last few weeks alone, including the first shipping company, DB Fernverkehr AG / Inselverkehr Wangerooge. The partner network of the Lower Saxony Wadden Sea National Park and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve now comprises around 270 partners. See <https://www.nationalpark-wattenmeer.de/news/gemeinsam-aktiv-fuer-das-wattenmeer/>
* Projects of the Partner program:
  + Biosphere menu Days (Biosphärenmenütage) 11 -19 September 2021. The partivcipating restaurants are offering a menu based on regional food. The response was good, some of the dishes were already booked up. <https://www.nationalpark-partner-wattenmeer-nds.de/biosphaeren-menue-tage>
  + 6 Biosphere concerts 24 June – 18 September 2021 This is a series of concerts in summer with up to 150 guests. There is an educational part at the beginning, introducing partnership initiative and other projects and aspects linked to the biosphere; involving several members of the partnership initiative. The musicians involved are regional bands. <https://www.nationalpark-wattenmeer.de/news/es-geht-wieder-los-biosphaeren-konzerte-2021/>

**Expansion of the transition zone of the UNESCO Biosphere reserve Lower Saxon Wadden sea**

* The proces of the expansion has reached the next level: 12 communities have signed a cooperation agreement and committed their intent to be part of the future transition zone. On this base an application to the national MAB Committee is prepared by NLPV to End of October 2021. There it will be discussed before an Application is placed to the Unesco, a proces that is meant to take 1,5years.
* Meanwhile the cooperation with the communities starts already with local and regional projects defined in the cooperation agreement to bring the transition zone as a model region for sustainable development to live. The participating communities are representing urban areas as well as rural areas. A map and more information is shown on <http://www.watten.land>

**Other topics of NLPV**

* The next migratory bird days will be held 9 -17 September 2021. This year partner country is Gambia, a delegation will visit Lower Saxony.

<https://www.zugvogeltage.de/>

**PROWAD LINK**

* a training concept to better transmit the OUV of the world heritage is ready as a draft version. A pilot took place in May. The training is planned as a two days training for certified national park guides; guidance material is in progress too.
* A virtual co-creation workshop took place in March to develop a business concept of a sustainable gastronomical offer beyond the classic restaurant business; the business concept is in draft version, a implementation partner for a pilot is to be found

**Watten-Agenda 2.0**

* A checklist sustainable event management is published in german and dutch, developed in cocreation with regional event managers, german version <https://www.watten-agenda.de/fileadmin/ostfriesland/PDF/Checkliste_Nachhaltig_Veranstalten_Wattenmeerregion-Watten-Agenda2_0.pdf>
* In August 2021, the islands of Pellworm and Spiekeroog were recognised as Star Islands by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) from Tucson, USA. Katrin Kirfel from the NLPV worked on the application for Spiekeroog and the establishment of three observation sites with local stakeholders as part of the Wadden Sea Agenda 2.0. <https://www.nationalpark-wattenmeer.de/news/pellworm-und-spiekeroog-als-erste-sterneninseln-deutschlands-ausgezeichnet/>
* Watt Mooi Style Guide for accommodations and restaurants published by Die Nordsee GmbH in german (and Merk Fryslan in dutch ) and distributed to local DMOs and National Park partner. The brochure is available online <https://www.watten-agenda.de/styleguide>

A roadshow with visits of best practice cases is planned for autumn.

* Audio guide mudflats walk with joke Pouliart is in process of producing, at 4 stations aspects of the OUV of WSWH are explained. The audio guide is to be distributed by QR-Codes at points of interest in the region.

**WNE-Forum:** *The date and location of the regional World Heritage Forum is fixed: 9th December 2021 in Aurich*

By Catharina Grewe / Regional activities in Schleswig-Holstein

**National Park Theme**

* this year’s theme is ***Science in the Wadden Sea*** (more here [Nationalpark-Themenjahr 2021: Wissenschaft im Wattenmeer | Nationalpark Wattenmeer (nationalpark-wattenmeer.de/sh)](https://www.nationalpark-wattenmeer.de/sh/themenjahr))
* Activities of NOGs in the Wadden Sea Region
  + Open day on Amrum: Nature Conservation NGOs (Schutzstation Amrum, Naturzentrum des Öömrang Ferian und Verein Jordsand) present their work on 11 September 2021 to the public: introduce activities such as scientific monitoring and spring tide counts; the recycle-mobil on wheels: visitors as ask to bring collected litter which is then sorted correctly with with recycle-mobil on wheels to create new materials
* The National Park Authority conducts environmental education on the topic of "Marine litter“ to address aspects such as the consequences for animals and plants and what can be done to counteract, eg. Activities such as „Fishing for litter“
* 2022 year’s theme is ***Bird migration during the year***

**National Park Partner**

* **Training courses & workshop**: courses and workshops were held online so far but will restart as face-to-face events soon.
* The annual partner meeting was split into two events: the virtual round tables with different themes (held on 4 February 2021) and the plenary meeting held in presence on 21 September 2021.

The National Park Visitor Center **Multimar Wattforum**:

* Photo exhibition shows faces of the Danish-German Wadden Sea region. A special kind of photo documentation by the Danish artist Luca Berti is currently on display at the Nationalpark-Zentrum Multimar Wattforum.

**PROWAD LINK**

* Transnational Visitor Survey (Contractor/implementation: NIT/ETFI): The survey has been completed at the end of August. Sorting, Coding and checking of collected questionnaires will take till the end of October, however, first results may become available as early as beginning of October
* The tender for the survey of residents on „Wadden Sea Nature: Positive effects on wellbeing of residents?“ has been awarded and will start in October..

**Other**

* A regional bank (VR Bank Westküste) financially supports the educational work of the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park Administration over the next three years. Within the framework of a new cooperation, support amounting to 35,000 euros per year has been agreed. “Wadden Sea Corners” will be installed in schools and child care centres to promote awareness of the Wadden Sea and its World Heritage status.
* After more than 20 years, the "Wadden Sea National Park" exhibition in the Wiedingharde Information Centre in Klanxbüll was revised and redesigned as part of the interactive German-Danish experience exhibition. The exhibition renovation was largely made possible by funding from the Schleswig-Holstein National Park Foundation.
* New info units on seals: After a first edition of 13 units last year, the National Park Authority has now followed up and had another 14 of these mobile boxes made. They are intended for other information facilities on the National Park coast and beyond, for example for the Baltic Sea Information Centre in Eckernförde, and are now being delivered one by one.
* Opening of the circular walk and the visitor information system in Friedrichskoog with live music, a champagne toast and a walk around the circular hiking trail and the Visitor Information System (BIS). The walk and BIS opened on Thursday, 24 June 2021 in the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park.
* The Whale Trail of Sylt - The harbour porpoise (Phocena phocena) - Schleswig Holstein's little dolphin. Along the entire western beach of Sylt, harbour porpoises can be spotted when the sea is calm. To learn more about the native whale species and to get to know Europe's first whale sanctuary a trail has been developed specially for the little whale trail with 22 interactive information displays and pillars provide nature information on the island of Sylt, along the West Beach and Königshafen in List.
* Construction of the West Coast Integrated Station in Beltringharder Koog takes shape. Exhibition on nature conservation (focus on Beltringharder Koog, also Wadden Sea National Park and World Heritage Site, Halligen Biosphere, coastal protection)
* The island of Pellworm becomes a Dark Sky island: in August 2021, the islands of Pellworm and Spiekeroog (Lower Saxony), both located in the UNESCO World Heritage Wadden Sea, were recognised as Dark Sky Islands by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) from Tucson, USA.
* The annual regional **Symposium on *Nature and Tourism*** takes place on 18 November 2021.
* The bi-annual meeting of the World Heritage Working Group West Coast will be held on 24 November 2021.