

Final Draft **SUMMARY RECORD**

**MEETING OF THE WADDEN SEA BOARD
TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA COOPERATION**

WSB 15

Wilhelmshaven, 4 November 2015

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

The chairman, Mr Verdaas, opened the meeting at 09:00 h and welcomed the participants, in particular the new member of the Dutch delegation, Mr Klaas Kielstra, Executive of the Government of the Province of Fryslân, who represents the three Wadden Sea provinces.

A list of participants can be found at **Annex 1**.

A list of actions arising from the meeting is at **Annex 3**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Document: WSB 15/2/1 Draft Agenda

The agenda was **adopted** without amendments. The agenda is at **Annex 2**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: SUMMARY RECORD WSB 14

Document: Final Draft Summary Record WSB 14

Referring to the WSB14 final draft Summary Record, Mr Verhulst proposed and the meeting **agreed** that themes for the Wadden Sea Day 2016 should be submitted to the CWSS within 14 days. Mr Ilsøe proposed and the meeting **agreed** to discuss at WSB16 how best to use the WSD in a strategic way.

Mr Verheij informed the meeting that he had received the report of the Katja incident. He urged the WSB members to have a look at the report. The report (in German) is available at

http://www.bsu-bund.de/SharedDocs/pdf/DE/Unfallberichte/2014/UBericht_289_12.pdf?_blob=publicationFile

The chairman suggested that the report be discussed in the Shipping Group.

The final draft Summary Record of WSB 14 was **adopted**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: ANNOUNCEMENTS

Germany

- The AEWA MOP6 meeting will be held in Bonn, 9-14 November 2015. A side event on the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative will be held on 12 November.
- During the World Heritage Committee meeting (Bonn, 28 June-8 July 2015) a side event on the Wadden Sea and Beech Forests sites properties, co-

organized by CWSS and the Ministry of the Environment of the Federal State of Hessen was held on 6 July. It was financed by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment and was also attended by representatives from Mauritania.

- In Schleswig-Holstein an agreement on blue mussel fisheries in the National Park was signed by the Ministry and representatives of the sector and green NGOs. Cornerstones of the agreement are
 - o Restriction of fishing to four tidal basins;
 - o All of Zone I and substantial parts of Zone II will be free from fishing;
 - o Culture lots will be restricted to maximally 1700 ha;
 - o Regulations for seed collectors.
 Details (in German) and a map can be downloaded from http://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/Landesregierung/V/_startseite/Artikel/150713_Muschelfischer_Kompromiss.html
- In June 2015, the Schleswig-Holstein State Government adopted a “Strategy for the Wadden Sea 2100”. The strategy aims at maintaining the structures, functions (both for marine conservation and coastal risk management) and integrity of the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea in a changing climate. It can be downloaded (in German) from http://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/Landesregierung/V/_startseite/Artikel/150630_wattenmeer2100.html
- In Hamburg the 25th anniversary of the National Park was celebrated both by a press conference of the senator on the 8th of April and a visit of the First Mayor together with the senator of environment on the 17th of July on the island of Neuwerk. The visit included the opening of a new exhibition in the national park centre. This exhibition also gives information of the UNESCO World heritage and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve issues.

The Netherlands

- The new minister for Agriculture, also responsible for nature management in the Ministry of Economic Affairs (Min EZ) is Mr Martijn van Dam. He replaces Ms Dijksma who has become minister for the Environment at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment (Min I&M).
- The Programme towards a Rich Wadden Sea (PRW) has been prolonged by 4 years. PRW has an annual budget of 2 million Euros and is supported by Min EZ, Min I&M, the Wadden Sea provinces and NGOs
- In cooperation with Lower Saxony, the Ems Dollard will be designated as a Natura 2000 site; the final procedures start early 2016.
- The Ministry I&M has made an agreement with the German Generaldirektion Wasser und Schifffahrt on the future maintenance of the Ems harbour shipping lane.

Denmark

- After the elections of 18 June 2015, there is a new government in Denmark. Nature protection is now part of the ministry of Environment and Food, headed by Ms Eva Kjer Hansen. A decentralisation of the central administration in Copenhagen is planned. Several parts will be moved to the region. The Nature Agency will be split up in two parts: the (new) Nature Agency, placed in Jutland, responsible for managing state owned land and projects, and the Agency for Water and Nature Management, which will be based in Copenhagen. Mr Ilsøe will join the Nature Agency Jutland and leave the Wadden Sea cooperation. It is as yet undecided what this will mean for the Danish delegation in the Wadden Sea Board.
- Ms Christina Egsvang Føns will be the new representative for the Wadden Sea municipalities in the Danish WSB delegation.

- An international goose management workshop was held in Gram, Denmark, 27-29 October 2015. The conclusions and recommendations can be found at <http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/document/outcomes-international-conference-geese-management-challenges-2015-27-29-october-2015-gram>. They will be submitted to the AEWA MOP6 meeting, Bonn, 9-14 November 2015.
- There is a new Wadden Sea World Heritage exhibition at the Vidá sluce, in partnership between the Nature Agency and the National Park.

CWSS

- The selection process for a communications officer at the CWSS has started. Dates for the first series of interviews will be circulated. The secretary informed the meeting that the majority of applicants were German. He urged the parties to spread news about vacant positions at the CWSS nationally in order to increase the chances of employing non-German staff.

WWF

WWF has published a report on climate adaptation along soft coasts including case studies on nature-friendly approaches to adaptation to sea level rise; the report was developed in cooperation with MELUR SH and can be downloaded from <http://www.wwf.de/watt/KliAnpGlobal>.

The meeting **noted** the information and **agreed** that a presentation on the Schleswig-Holstein "Strategy2100" should be given at one of the forthcoming WSB meetings.

AGENDA ITEM 5: IMPLEMENTATION TØNDER DECLARATION

5.1 Wadden Sea World Heritage

Documents:

WSB 15/5.1/1 Progress Report TG-WH; WSB 15/5.1/1-Annex-Logo-Guidelines

WSB 15/5.1/2 World Heritage at ITB 2016

WSB 15/5.1/3 Report TG-STC

Ms Marboe, chairperson of TG-WH introduced the progress report:

Request World Heritage Committee

Ms Marboe stated that the report on request #5 on the role and responsibilities of the Danish National Park in management of the World Heritage would be submitted to the TG-WH in the draft SoC report.

Ms Liburd stated that World Heritage has been integrated in the recently adopted National Park strategy as a response to the request of the Committee. The current National Park Plan would be revised in 2016 in order to prepare a new plan for the period 2019 – 2022. Therefore, a translation of the current plan into English was not regarded as necessary.

The meeting **noted** the information.

The meeting discussed the proposal by the TG-WH on the development of a single integrated management plan (SIMP) following the request #6 of the World Heritage Committee. For the time being, the development would focus on priority issues which urgently need further harmonization, and which are already on the trilateral agenda.

A workshop with IUCN will be organized in spring 2016 to prepare an overall framework for the SIMP.

The meeting **approved** the proposed approach.

The meeting underlined that the results of the QSR must be available for the preparation of the State of Conservation Report (SoC) (request #8) and **endorsed** the timeline: delivery of QSR results by May 2016, preparation of a consultation version of the SoC report in July 2016, final report in November 2016. The meeting also **approved** the draft outline of the SoC report.

World Heritage Programme

The meeting **endorsed** the approach of TG-WH to use the road map implementing the World Heritage Strategy as a working document in order to take stock of ongoing and planned projects and for communication to potential partners, and to report to the WSB meetings accordingly.

World Heritage Logo Guidelines

Ms Liburd underlined the urgent need to link the Danish National Park partners to World Heritage.

Ms Knoke suggested that TG-STs and TG-WH should develop trilateral guidelines based on existing programmes on how business partners could engage with World Heritage.

The meeting **endorsed** the amended guidelines for the use of the World Heritage Logo as proposed by the TG-WH and **instructed** the TG-WH and TG-STs to develop a framework for a World Heritage business cooperation programme, possibly in connection with the PROWAD follow-up project.

Presentation on the potential use of Social Media

As announced by the Netherlands at the last WSB meeting, social-media expert Rijk Willemse gave a short presentation on Social Media.

He gave a short introduction on aspects such as 'brand experience management' and 'the social DNA'. The example of the new website portal www.waddensea-portal.com was presented by way of an example to gain insights into what a social media network might encompass. Mr. Willemse positioned WNF as a best-practice example of how to use and listen to social media. According to his analysis one of the major problems to face is long-term engagement and creating active involvement.

The meeting concluded that one of the tasks of the new Communications Officer would be to make use of these tools and that this would be discussed further in the next WSB.

World Heritage Campaign

Within the PROWAD project, a concept of a 3-year World Heritage Campaign was developed by a Dutch-German consortium consisting of the two agencies Merkmakers and Die Brüder). Mr. Peter van den Broek (Merkmakers) and Mr Urs Spindler (Die Brüder) presented the concept and distributed a handout to the meeting.

The meeting discussed the concept and welcomed it as a suitable tool to create World Heritage awareness amongst visitors and inhabitants but also expressed concerns about costs and testing the approach. The meeting **noted** that a more detailed implementation plan would be developed for communication to potential partners prior to the next WSB meeting.

Task Group Sustainable Tourism Strategy

The TG-STs Chairman, Mr Oeds Bijlsma introduced the TG-STs progress report including the Action Plan and the results of the 3-year PROWAD project which was concluded in June 2015. He underlined that PROWAD had achieved all project objectives, namely the joint strategy for sustainable tourism in the World Heritage destination, a transnational network of tourism partners, and a number of products to implement the strategy and action plan.

He shortly introduced the new project proposal "PROWAD LINK" (2016 – 2019), for which an Expression of Interest had been submitted by the Secretariat to the INTERREG North Sea Programme in June 2015.

As a practical example WWF demonstrated a World Heritage & Tourism video, which had been developed in the PROWAD-context (in 4 languages to be found at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYRzxEiSHoolO34pDaiObsw>)

The meeting **acknowledged** the outcome of the PROWAD project and thanked the Secretariat and all other partners for their commitment, also beyond the lifetime of the project.

World Heritage at ITB Berlin

The Secretary introduced the proposal to present the World Heritage at the ITB tourism fair in Berlin (9 – 13 March 2016). The proposed concept had been adjusted according to comments by the TG-STs because tourism organization in Germany and Denmark were not able to participate. The amended presentation concept would showcase how World Heritage can play a role in fostering sustainable tourism.

The meeting **approved** the concept 2016 and **agreed** to have a more in-depth consideration, integrating further marketing measures into the concept for 2017.

5.2 Nature conservation and integrated ecosystem management

Document: WSB 15/5.2/1 Report TG-MM

Ms Hedtkamp, chairperson of TG-MM, elucidated progress made by TG-MM.

Flyway

The meeting **took note** of the fact that the results of the 2014 bird counts have revealed that the Wadden Sea seems to be a weak link in the Flyway chain and **agreed** that the issue should have continued high attention. It will be on the agenda of the next TG-MM meeting.

Management and Wardening/Tidal Basin approach

The meeting **endorsed** the Dutch initiative to organise a trilateral management workshop in spring 2016. WSB also **endorsed** TG-MMs proposal to address the tidal basin approach at this workshop and to organise a separate workshop on wardening.

Natura 2000 roof report

The meeting was informed that work was ongoing at the national level to implement the actions from the N2000 workshop. WSB **noted** the information.

Breeding Bird Action Plan

The meeting **noted** that the first draft breeding bird action plan would be discussed at TG-MM 14.

Seal Agreement

The meeting **noted** the outcome of the TSEG meeting of 1-2 October in Roskilde, DK.

Fish targets

The meeting **noted** that the Programme towards a Rich Wadden Sea (PRW) would commission the elaboration of the Swimway project proposal.

Alien species

The meeting **noted** progress made by the Working Group Alien Species (WG-AS) in elaborating a trilateral alien species management and action plan.

Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP)

WSB **noted** that TG-MM 14 would discuss monitoring requirements under the MSFD and the EU Alien Species Regulation and invite monitoring experts to participate in this discussion.

Quality Status Report

See agenda item 5.6.

Trilateral research agenda

WSB **noted** progress in the development of a trilateral research agenda. Mr Verhulst stated that the process was also meant to encourage the scientific community to come up with ideas. Ms Knoke reminded to closely link the work to the requirements of the TWSC and OUV. Ms Liburd suggested requesting independent scientists to support the management of the Wadden Sea World Heritage site.

Transboundary Ramsar site

Mr Verhulst informed the meeting that there was now clarity about the boundaries of the Dutch Wadden Sea N2000 sites and that the letter to the Ramsar Secretariat would be signed.

Fisheries in the intertidal

The meeting **endorsed** the approach proposed by TG-MM to prepare an overview of developments according to topic and to compare this with the contents of the WSP2010.

Monitoring fisheries impact

The meeting considered two alternative options, proposed by TG-MM, for dealing with the UNESCO recommendation 7/2014 on assessing fisheries impact in the Wadden Sea. WSB **agreed** to first try out option 1, i.e. to use all the available material, in particular EIAs, to present a generalised overview of fisheries impact in the Wadden Sea.

5.4 Climate

Document: WSB 15/5.4/1 Progress Report Task Group Climate

The meeting **endorsed** document WSB 15/5.4/1, containing TG-C's approach to implementing the trilateral Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

5.5 Maritime safety and pollution prevention of shipping

Ms Schneider informed the meeting about consultations between the national contact persons. Germany had proposed to establish a shipping group outside the WSB with a portfolio comprising shipping safety issues from the Dutch/Belgian border in the South to the Skaw in the North, including those addressed in the Tønder Declaration. The group should consist of representatives of competent shipping authorities and maritime administrations. It is planned to establish a close cooperation with the WSB for those issues that affect the Wadden Sea Area. It was **agreed** that Ms Schneider would prepare a proposal together with the national contact persons before the end of the year.

Mr Rösner expressed the interest of the Wadden Sea Team to participate as a stakeholder.

5.6 Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme

Document: WSB 15/5.6/1 QSR/SoC 2016

The meeting **adopted** the proposal regarding responsibilities for the production and contents of the QSR and the SoC report, as proposed by TG-WH and TG-MM in document WSB 15/5.6/1. The Task Groups mentioned are responsible for the supervision of the OUV assessment/SoC and Thematic Reports and Synthesis Report respectively. Ms Knoke announced that Schleswig-Holstein had already given some additional suggestions for (co-) authorships to the CWSS.

Mr Ilsøe underlined the importance of the synthesis report for the regional level, such as the municipalities. The QSR Editorial Board should be made aware of this.

5.8 Wadden Sea Forum

The WSF Vice-chairman Mr Zettlitzer, informed the meeting that the upcoming WSF plenary meeting (5-6 November 2015) would be dedicated to discussing the future strategy and focus of the WSF.

He furthermore informed the meeting about progress made on the themes climate change, risk management, ICZM, goose management and the sustainability indicator tool.

The North Sea Commission was currently discussing the option of using the WSF planning portal and extending it to other North Sea countries.

WSF is elaborating a proposal for a climate-friendly Wadden Sea Region, to be discussed in the Wadden Sea Board. In June 2016 WSF intends to join an Interreg application on low-carbon economies. Other potential participants were the province of Groningen and District (Kreis) of Aurich. Contacts were being sought in the UK and Ireland.

The indicator tool would be merged with the Dutch sustainability barometer. The Dutch Waddenacademie supported this action with 20.000 Euros which would be used to engage master students at different universities in the Wadden Sea Region. With regard to goose management, the meeting was informed that the WSF recommendations would be integrated into the work of the Lower Saxonian goose management group. Cooperation with Dutch authorities is being sought.

The WSF Secretary had participated in the goose conference in Gram (see above) and submitted its proposals to this conference.

The meeting **noted** the information.

AGENDA ITEM 6: World Heritage Competence Centre

Document: WSB 15/6/1 Outcome high level meeting on WH Competence Centre

The chairman introduced document WSB 15/6/1, containing the report of the high-level meeting on the World Heritage Competence Centre, held on 9 October 2015 in Copenhagen. He emphasised that the outcome of the meeting had clearly shown that the parties were positive and recognised common ground and were willing to invest in and/or facilitate the establishment of a competence centre, starting with establishing an interface for three networks close to the TWSC: science, sustainable tourism and NGOs. These networks should be organised by creating a platform and forming a Partnership Steering Committee.

It was also concluded that further steps in the process of the development of a World Heritage Foundation should now be taken.

The chairman emphasized that various details on contents, structure etc. would have to be discussed in the coming years.

Ms Paulus and Mr Hebbelmann informed the meeting that Lower Saxony was willing to support this process with a sum of 290.000 Euro (period 2017-2019) for a project coordinator and project activities (see letter of intent [German and English] in **Annex 4**). Furthermore, a suitable building in Wilhelmshaven was being searched for. The meeting welcomed the announcement.

Mr Verhulst stated that this process should go hand in hand with the establishment of a World Heritage Foundation for which the Netherlands were prepared to invest resources in the coming years.

Referring to document WSB 15/6/1, Mr Rasmussen emphasised that municipalities and local stakeholders would become increasingly important for maintaining the OUV and that in light of this no additional complex government structure should be developed. This was supported by Ms Paulus. Ms Liburd preferred to use the term “partnership centre” and proposed to look more closely at who should become partner and how to involve these partners in the process of developing a Competence Centre.

Mr Verheij stated that he would like to see the role of the proposed Steering Committee more clearly and underlined that the Centre should be presented to the outside world as making the current structures more effective. This was supported by Ms Knoke. To this Mr Rasmussen added that there was a need for clarity about the position of the proposed Steering Committee and that this Committee should fit into the existing structure. It was **agreed** that Denmark would prepare a discussion document on the Steering Committee for the next WSB meeting.

Mr Rösner expressed the interest of the Wadden Sea Team in participating in the Steering Committee. He also proposed to include education in the activities of the Centre.

It was **agreed** to continue the discussion at WSB-16 and to prepare this discussion in a high level meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Next meeting

For 2016 the following meeting dates and locations were **agreed** upon:

WSB16	9-10 March (noon to noon)	Leeuwarden
WSB17	22 June	Schleswig-Holstein
WSB18	3 November	CWSS

AGENDA ITEM 8: Any other business

Document: WSB 15/8/1 Composition Task Groups

The meeting **took note** of document WSB 15/8/1.

AGENDA ITEM 9: CLOSING

The chairman closed the meeting 4 November, 16:00 hours and thanked the participants for their good cooperation.

Annex 1

PARTICIPANTS

WADDEN SEA BOARD: Members and Advisors

<p>Mr Co Verdaas, Chairman Wageningen UR PO. Box 88 NL - 6700 AB Wageningen NL Phone: + 31 317 486 816 Mobile: +31 612 506 809 E-mail: coverdaas@icloud.com</p>	
<p>Mr Peter Ilsøe Deputy Director General Nature Agency Ministry of the Environment and Food Skovridervej 3, DK - 6510 Gram Phone: +45 72 54 36 20 Mobile: +45 23 20 72 42 E-mail: pil@nst.dk</p>	<p>Mr Bent Rasmussen Chief Forester Nature Agency Wadden Sea Ministry of Environment and Food Skovridervej 3, DK - 6510 Gram Phone: +45 73 51 44 66 Mobile: +45 22 59 38 05 E-mail: brasm@nst.dk</p>
<p>Ms Janne Jørgensen Liburd Professor, D.Phil, PhD, Department of Design and Communication, Director, Centre for Tourism, Innovation and Culture Universitetsparken 1, DK-6000 Kolding Phone: +45 6550 1576 Mobile: +45 2813 9918 E-mail: liburd@sdu.dk</p>	
<p>Mr Jaap Verhulst Ministry of Economic Affairs Directorate-General for Enterprise and Innovation Regional Ambassador North PO Box 20401 NL – 2500 EK Den Haag Mobile: +31 (0) 6 - 525 259 10 E-mail: j.verhulst2@minez.nl</p>	<p>Ms Els van Grol Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management Directorate Noord-Nederland PO Box 2301 NL - 8901 JH Leeuwarden E-mail: els.van.grol@rws.nl</p>
<p>Mr Klaas Kielstra Executive of the Province of Fryslân Dutch Wadden Sea Provinces PO Box 20120 NL - 8900 HM Leeuwarden Phone: +31 652479408 Mobile: +31 E-Mail: secr.gs.kielstra@fryslan.nl</p>	<p>Mr Albert de Hoop Mayor of Ameland Gemeente Ameland Postbus 22 NL - 9160 AA Hollum - Ameland Phone: +31 519 5555 501 Mobile: +31 654293290 E-Mail: adehoop@ameland.nl</p>
<p>Ms Christiane Paulus Deputy Director General responsible for Nature Conservation, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, Germany Robert-Schuman-Platz 3 D - 53175 Bonn Phone: +49 228 99 305 2605 E-Mail: christiane.paulus@bmbw.bund.de</p>	<p>Ms Vera Knoke Ministry of Energy Transition, Agriculture, Environment and Rural Areas Schleswig Mercatorstrasse 3 D - 24106 Kiel Phone: +49 (0) 431-988 7288 Fax: +49 (0) 431-988-615 7288 E-mail: vera.knoke@melur.landsh.de</p>
<p>Mr Hubertus Hebbelmann Ministry of Environment, Energy, and Climate Protection of Niedersachsen Referat 52 Postfach 4107 D - 30041 Hannover Phone: +49 (0) 511120-3382 Fax: +49 (0) 511120-993382 hubertus.hebbelmann@mu.niedersachsen.de</p>	<p>Mr Klaus Janke Ministry of Environment and Energy Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg Neuenfelder Str. 19 D 21109 Hamburg Phone: + 49 40428403392 Mobile: + 49 178 860 2827 E-Mail: Klaus.Janke@bue.hamburg.de</p>

Advisors	
Mr Hans-Ulrich Rösner Wadden Sea Team WWF – Wadden Sea Office Hafenstraße 3 D - 25813 Husum Phone: +49 151 122 90 848 E-mail: wwf.husumr@mac.com	Mr Herman Verheij Wadden Sea Team Wadden Society PO Box 90 NL - 8860 AB Harlingen Phone: +31 51 749 3640 Mobile: +31 6 13 54 9964 E-mail: verheij@waddenvereniging.nl
Mr. Michael Zettlitzer RWE Dea AG Überseering 40 D – 22297 Hamburg Phone : +49 (0)40-6375 2131 Mobile: +49 162 273 2131 E-mail : michael.zettlitzer@rwe.com	
Secretariat	
Rüdiger Stempel, secretary Folkert de Jong Harald Marencic	

Supporting Staff

Ms Stefanie Hedtkamp Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) Division NI5 Marine Nature Conservation Robert-Schuman-Platz 3 D - 53175 Bonn Phone: +49 (0) 228 99 305 2629 Fax: +49 (0) 228 99 305 2694 E-mail: stefanie.hedtkamp@bmub.bund.de	
Ms Margrita Sobottka Nationalparkverwaltung Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer Virchowstr. 1 D - 26382 Wilhelmshaven Phone: +49 (0)4421 911 277 Fax: +49 (0)4421 911 280 E-mail: Margrita.Sobottka@nlpv-wattenmeer.niedersachsen.de	Ms Janne Lieven Ministry of Environment and Energy Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg Neuenfelder Straße 19 21109 Hamburg Phone: +49 4042840-2457 E-mail: Janne.Lieven@bue.hamburg.de
Ms Christina Schneider Dezernat Schifffahrt Generaldirektion Wasserstraßen und Schifffahrt Außenstelle Nord Kiellinie 247 24106 Kiel Tel.: 0431 3394 8102 Fax: 0431 3394 6399 Mail: christina.schneider@wsv.bund.de	Ms Anne Husum Marboe Danish Ministry of the Environment Nature Agency - Wadden Sea Skovridervej 3 DK - 6510 Gram Phone: (+45) 72 54 34 15 Mobile: (+45) 21 21 55 19 Email: anhma@nst.dk
Mr Bernard Baerends Ministry of Economic Affairs, Directorate-General Agro and Nature Department of Nature and Biodiversity Postbus 20401 NL – 2500 EK The Hague Phone : +31 (0)64 85860 58 E-mail: b.baerends@minez.nl	Mr Floris van Bentum Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management Directorate Noord-Nederland PO Box 2301 NL - 8901 JH Leeuwarden E-mail: floris.van.bentum@rws.nl

<p>Mr Oeds Bijlsma Directeur Beleid / Lid Algemene Directeur Provincie Fryslân Tweebaksmarkt 52 NL- 8911 KZ Leeuwarden Phone : +31 (0) 58 – 292 5977 E-Mail: o.bijlsma@fryslan.nl</p>	<p>Mr Manfred Vollmer Secretary Wadden Sea Forum Virchowstr. 1 D 26382 Wilhelmshaven Phone: +49 4421 910818 Mobile: +49 151 12158443 E-Mail: vollmer@waddensea-forum.org</p>
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Annex 2

**AGENDA
MEETING OF THE WADDEN SEA BOARD
TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA COOPERATION
WSB 15
4 November 2015**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Summary Record WSB 14
4. Announcements
5. Implementation Tønder Declaration
6. Wadden Sea World Heritage Competence Centre
7. Any Other Business
8. Next meeting
9. Closing

Annex 3**List of Actions**

Action	Agenda item	What	Who	Deadline
1	3	Submit themes Wadden Sea Day	all	18 November 2015
2	4	Presentation SH Strategy2100	SH	WSB 16 or 17
3	5	Develop a framework for a World Heritage business cooperation programme.	TG-WH and TG-STs	WSB-16
4		Proposal for Shipping Group	Ms Schneider + shipping contact group	End of 2015
5	6	Discussion paper Competence Centre Steering Group	Denmark	WSB16

Annex 4

Letter of Intent Lower Saxony

Durchschrift



Stefan Wenzel
Niedersächsischer Minister für
Umwelt, Energie und Klimaschutz

Bundesministerium für Umwelt,
Naturschutz, Bau und Reaktorsicherheit
Abteilungsleiterin
Dr. Elsa Nickel
Robert-Schuman-Platz 3
53048 Bonn

Abgesandt am:

29. Oktober 2015

**Letter of Intent zur Realisierung eines UNESCO-Weltnaturerbe
Kompetenzzentrums in Wilhelmshaven**

Sehr geehrte Frau Dr. Nickel,

mit der Auszeichnung des gesamten dänisch-deutsch-niederländischen Wattenmeeres zum UNESCO-Weltnaturerbe seit Juni 2014 sind neue Herausforderungen und Verpflichtungen für die trilaterale Wattenmeerzusammenarbeit entstanden. Die Auszeichnung ist aber auch eine Chance zur Stärkung und Erweiterung für die länderübergreifende Kooperation.

Bisher standen in der trilateralen Wattenmeerzusammenarbeit Naturschutz, Forschung und Monitoring im Vordergrund. Nun erhalten Themen wie Kommunikation, Wahrnehmung des Wattenmeeres in der Öffentlichkeit, internationalen Zusammenarbeit, länderübergreifende Umweltbildung, Marketing und nachhaltige Regionalentwicklung zunehmend Gewicht. Die UNESCO hat der trilateralen Kooperation anspruchsvolle Aufgaben gestellt.

Mit Bezug auf die Empfehlungen der Machbarkeitsstudie zum Kompetenzzentrum und Netzwerk Weltnaturerbe Wattenmeer vom Juni 2015 und dem Ergebnis der gemeinsamen Besprechung zur Umsetzung dieser Studien vom 06.10.2015 in Kopenhagen erklärt sich das Land Niedersachsen bereit, die Kosten für eine befristete Stelle eines „Projektkoordinators UNESCO-Weltnaturerbe Kompetenzzentrum in Wilhelmshaven“ zu übernehmen, sofern die hierzu noch zu führenden Haushaltsverhandlungen 2017ff. erfolgreich verlaufen. Aufgaben des Projektkoordinators wären in Zusammenarbeit mit der vorgeschlagenen Steuerungsgruppe:

1. Erarbeitung der organisatorischen Rahmenbedingungen inklusive der rechtlichen Aspekte (z.B. European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation, gGmbH oder andere Formen) eines UNESCO-Weltnaturerbe Kompetenzzentrums

Archivstraße 2
30169 Hannover
Telefon: 0511 120-3301
Fax: 0511 120-3199
E-Mail: stefan.wenzel@
mu.niedersachsen.de

2. Entwicklung eines trilateralen Weltnaturerbe Kooperationsprogrammes mit der Privatwirtschaft (Voraussetzungen, Qualitätsstandards, rechtliche und finanzielle Aspekte),
3. Darstellung der Rahmenbedingungen für eine unabhängige Stiftung unter der Dach eines UNESCO-Weltnaturerbe Kompetenzzentrums,
4. Aufbau eines Pilotprojektes inklusive eines Arbeitsprogrammes,
5. Erarbeitung eines Kostenplanes für Entwicklung, Etablierung und Betrieb eines Zentrums,
6. Akquise, um Partner für das Zentrum zu gewinnen.

Der Arbeitsplatz wird beim Gemeinsamen Wattenmeersekretariat (Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, CWSS) in Wilhelmshaven angesiedelt.

Die Kalkulation für diese Stelle eines Projektkoordinators basiert auf TVÖD 13 (Stufe 3). Die Gesamtkosten für diese Stelle mit einer Laufzeit von drei Jahren werden mit maximal 230.000,-€ kalkuliert.

Um dieses gemeinsame Weltnaturerbeprojekt in Verbindung mit dem beantragten INTERREG B-Projekt erfolgreich durchführen zu können, werden zusätzliche Mittel im Haushalt der niedersächsischen Nationalparkverwaltung in der Höhe von 20.000,-€ p.a. für die Jahre 2017, 2018 und 2019 eingeplant. Insgesamt für drei Jahre folglich 60.000,- €.

Die Haushaltsmittel in der Gesamthöhe von bis zu 290.000,-€ werden für den Haushalt 2017ff. angemeldet. Die Bereitstellung der Mittel steht unter dem Vorbehalt der Haushaltsverhandlungen und zuletzt der Zustimmung durch den Niedersächsischen Landtag und der Maßgabe, dass sich weitere Partner der trilateralen Wattenmeerkoooperation finanziell an der Entwicklung eines Weltnaturerbe Kompetenz-zentrums in Wilhelmshaven beteiligen.

Hinsichtlich einer angemessenen Immobilie für ein Weltnaturerbe Kompetenzzentrum werden vom Niedersächsischen Ministerium für Umwelt, Energie und Klimaschutz verfügbare Gebäude in Wilhelmshaven gesucht.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen



Ministerial Letter

Dr Elsa Nickel
Director-General
Federal Ministry for the Environment,
Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety
Robert-Schuman-Platz 3
53048 Bonn

Letter of Intent on the Establishment of a UNESCO World Heritage Competence Centre for the Wadden Seain Wilhelmshaven

Dear Dr Nickel,

The listing of the entire Danish-German-Dutch Wadden Sea as a UNESCO World Heritage site in June 2014 has created new challenges and obligations for the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation. At the same time, it provides an opportunity to intensify and expand transnational cooperation.

In the past, the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation focused on the fields of nature conservation, research and monitoring. Today, topics such as communication, public perception of the Wadden Sea, international cooperation, transnational environmental education, marketing and sustainable regional development are becoming increasingly important. UNESCO has assigned a number of demanding tasks to the Trilateral Cooperation.

Based on the recommendations of the feasibility study on the “Wadden Sea WorldHeritage Competence Centre/Network” in June 2015 and the outcome of the joint discussion on the implementation of this study in Copenhagen on 6 October 2015, the Land of Lower Saxony agrees to bear the costs for the temporary position of a “Projektkoordinator UNESCO-Weltnaturerbe Kompetenzzentrum in Wilhelmshaven” (project coordinator UNESCO World Heritage Competence Centre for the Wadden Sea in Wilhelmshaven) if the budget negotiations to be conducted on this topic for 2017 et seqq. are successful. Tasks of the project coordinator would be, in cooperation with the suggested steering group:

1. Establishing the organisational framework including the legal aspects (e.g. European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation, non-profit LLC or other organisation) of a UNESCO World Heritage Competence Centre
2. Developing a trilateral world heritage cooperation programme for partners from the private sector (prerequisites, quality standards, legal and financial aspects)
3. Presenting the framework conditions for an independent foundation under the umbrella of a UNESCO World Heritage Competence Centre
4. Initiating a pilot project including a work programme
5. Preparing a financial plan for the development, establishment and operation of a centre
6. Acquiring partners for the centre.

The position will be integrated into the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) in Wilhelmshaven.

The calculation for this project coordinator position is based on the German Collective Agreement for the Public Service (TVöD), pay group 13, level 3. Based on this calculation, the total costs of this position, which is limited to three years, will not exceed EUR 230,000.

Additional funds of EUR 20,000 p. a. will be included in the Lower Saxony National Park Administration budget planning for 2017, 2018 and 2019 in order to be able to successfully conduct this joint world heritage project associated with the INTERREG B project applied for. This amounts to a total of EUR 60,000 for three years.

Budget funds totalling up to EUR 290,000 will be included in the budget planning for 2017 et seqq. Provision of these funds is under reservation to the budget negotiations and finally, its approval by the Land Parliament of Lower Saxony and the condition that further partners of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation make financial contributions to the development of a World Heritage Competence Centre for the Wadden Sea in Wilhelmshaven.

The Lower Saxony Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Climate Protection will seek to find available, suitable premises in which to house a World Heritage Competence Centre in Wilhelmshaven.

Yours sincerely,