

Executive Secretary for the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat

Since 1978, the Netherlands, Germany, and Denmark have cooperated to protect the Wadden Sea as an ecological entity. The Cooperation has united partners from politics, nature conservation, science, and administration, along with local, regional, and international stakeholders, who together represent an enormous store of knowledge and experience. If you can support the operation of the trilateral Wadden Sea Board and a safe operation of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS), you could be the person we are looking for.

The assignment:

As CWSS Executive Secretary you play a central role in the future protection of the Wadden Sea as an ecological unit, and as UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is your responsibility to ensure that the secretariat supports the three countries' priorities and wishes for activities that will ensure the future protection of the Wadden Sea, for current and future generations.

You will be head of a team of 10 committed staff members, several of whom have a natural science background, and will be leading in an international environment that on the one hand must balance the shared natural heritage of three countries and on the other hand act as a unified UNESCO World Heritage site.

The Executive Secretary is delegated by the Wadden Sea Board. The Secretary's task is to facilitate the implementation of the [Joint Declaration](#) which constitutes the framework for the Cooperation together with other Council decisions, and you shall act as focal point for support and coordination of all activities, help the Cooperation to achieve a common conservation, management, research and outreach agenda and ensure the effective functioning of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat.

Profile:

As a person, you are responsible, skilled at handling large complexities, have management experience and preferably experience with international environmental protection/nature conservation. As such we assume you to be an excellent communicator in English both in writing and orally, that you have strong negotiation skills and also preferably fluency in more than one of the three languages (Danish, German, Dutch). The position requires a master's degree in natural, juridical, or political sciences.

It is expected that you:

- Have the ability to represent the Trilateral Cooperation for the Conservation of the Wadden Sea in the three partner countries and internationally.
- Have proven abilities as a leader at the operational as well as a strategic level.
- Hold an excellent capacity for leading and motivating a team as well as setting priorities for the team in a multicultural and multilingual environment.

It would be of advantage that you have:

- Previous experience from different governance levels or an executive level in a politically driven organization.
- Have experience in supporting the work of a Committee and its Chairperson.
- Have a fundamental knowledge and understanding of the ecological-socio-economic and governance systems of the Wadden Sea region.

Salary and allowances:

The Secretariat is located in Wilhelmshaven, Germany, and it is expected that you are physically present in the Secretariat in Wilhelmshaven at least 3 days a week. The salary will be comparable to other secretary positions in transboundary regional commissions.

Duration of appointment

This is a temporary position for the duration of 5 years with the possibility of extension.

For further information on the job description you may contact Anne Marie Vægter Rasmussen, Deputy Director General and Chair of the Board on +45 21 78 28 01 or via email anvra@mst.dk or Executive Secretary Bernard Baerends via email baerends@waddensea-secretariat.org or by phone +49 (0)4421-9108 12.

Please submit your email application in English to the Head of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Bernard Baerends (application@waddensea-secretariat.org) before the 15th of March. Interviews scheduled to take place in April 2023.