

# Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 5**  
**14 - 15 March 2012**  
**Leeuwarden**  
**The Netherlands**



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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	7
<b>Subject:</b>	Extension Wadden Sea World Heritage
<b>Document Nr.</b>	WSB 5/7/2
<b>Date:</b>	16 February 2012
<b>Submitted by:</b>	TG-WH

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This document seeks the decision of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) on

- (1) The commencement of the procedure for the nomination of the extension of the Wadden Sea World Heritage property with the Danish part and the Niedersachsen part until 1 February 2013 at the latest.
- (2) The Terms of Reference for a committee of 4 wise persons to investigate the feasibility, merits and advantages of establishing a Wadden Sea World Heritage Foundation.

Further the document informs the WSB on recent relevant developments and activities with regard to the property and the stakeholder cooperation.

## **Proposal**

The meeting is referred to the document.

## WADDEN SEA WORLD HERITAGE

This document seeks the decision of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) on

- (3) The commencement of the procedure for the nomination of the extension of the Wadden Sea World Heritage property with the Danish part and the Niedersachsen part until 1 February 2013 at the latest.
- (4) The Terms of Reference for a committee of 4 wise persons to investigate the feasibility, merits and advantages of establishing a Wadden Sea World Heritage Foundation.

Further the document informs the WSB on recent relevant developments and activities with regard to the property and the stakeholder cooperation.

### EXTENSION DANISH WADDEN SEA AND NIEDERSACHSEN OFFSHORE

On inscription of the Dutch-German Wadden Sea on the List under natural criteria viii, ix and x and the associated Statement of Outstanding Universal Value in June 2009, the World Heritage Committee also decided to encourage Denmark to nominate its part of the Wadden Sea as soon as feasible to complement the existing Property.

In response to this decision it was agreed in the Sylt Declaration (§4) “.. *to start in the forthcoming period a possible nomination of the Danish Wadden Sea in accordance with encouragement of the World Heritage Committee and the nomination of the Hamburg Wadden Sea National Park including, where necessary and appropriate, minor boundary modifications for inclusion on the World Heritage List to complement the existing property*”.

The Hamburg Wadden Sea National Park was included on the List in June 2011 through a minor boundary modification procedure. The extension of the Wadden Sea World Heritage property with the Danish part of the Wadden Sea is however considered a significant modification of the boundaries of the existing property according to para. 165 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention and therefore requires the submission of an extension nomination for the Danish part which will be subject to a similar complete evaluation as the previous nomination. The preparation of such a nomination dossier is therefore relatively time consuming compared to the Hamburg modification and must be carefully prepared.

According to para. 96 of the Operational Guidelines protection and management of World Heritage properties should ensure that the outstanding universal value and the conditions of integrity at the time of inscription are maintained or enhanced in the future. The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property adopted by the World Heritage Committee shall be the basis for the future protection and management of the property. The basis for the new extended nomination are the already existing criteria viii, ix and x, the conditions of integrity and the existing protection and management regime as outlined in the existing nomination document.

The IUCN/World Heritage Center has advised to make the planned offshore extension of the Niedersachsen part of the property a part of the nomination dossier but to have clearly distinct sections of the parts in the document (see document WSB 5/7/1).

Prior to commencing the elaboration of the nomination dossier two conditions must be fulfilled:

- (1) An official green light must be given from the Danish party to guarantee transparency and the backing the relevant municipalities and the advisory board, as appropriate. At

a later stage the local support for the nomination is also critical for a positive evaluation of the nomination by the IUCN.

- (2) Clarification of the boundary of the extension which fulfils the criteria, meets the conditions of integrity and the requirements in terms of protection and management. The Danish Conservation Area meets these conditions and would be consistent with the approach taken for the Wadden Sea World Heritage property. It is however important to review the area e.g. with regard to the military area within the Conservation Area in terms of the possible inclusion in the nominated property taking account of the fact military areas in the Netherlands have been excluded.

Once these conditions have been clarified the elaboration of the nomination dossier can commence with a view to the submission of the dossier on **1 February 2013** at the latest according to the following time schedule:

Work steps	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J
"Go" decision, decision on boundary											
Elaboration of full draft nomination dossier, inter-ministerial consultations, consultations of other authorities, amendment of dossier											
Public Consultations including a pre-submission of draft document to WHC for check											
Amendment nomination document, final consultations and approval of local governments, advisory boards											
Approval cabinets, signing of dossier and transfer to permanent representative UNESCO, Paris											
Delivery dossier to World Heritage Center, deadline 1.2 is critical!											

Deliveries in terms of the nominations dossier has been discussed and agreed in TG-WH.

Once the dossier has been completed and approved by the state parties it must be signed by the responsible ministers and transferred via the permanent representation of the coordinating country at the UNESCO to the World Heritage Center. It is suggested that the coordinating state party, in this case is Denmark, will be responsible for the submission of the nomination dossier. Sufficient time must be available for this process which will take about two weeks. The decision on the extension will be taken by the World Heritage Committee at its session the year after the submission of the nomination document.

### Proposal

- (1) The Danish delegation is invited to approve of the commencement of the procedure for the nomination of the extension of the Wadden Sea World Heritage property with the Danish part including the Niedersachsen part according to the above timetable.
- (2) The TG-WH is authorized with the elaboration of the nomination dossier to be delivered to the World Heritage Center by 1 February 2013 at the latest.
- (3) The TG-WH is instructed to report on the progress cf. 2 to the WSB at consecutive meetings.

## WADDEN SEA WORLD HERITAGE FOUNDATION

At a previous meeting of the WSB the Dutch delegation together with the secretariat was authorized to develop draft Terms of Reference for investigating the feasibility of establishing a Wadden Sea World Heritage Foundation. A draft of the attached Terms of Reference was discussed by the Task Group which recommends the establishment of a small group of 4 wise persons to investigate the feasibility, merits and advantages of establishing a foundation for promoting the Wadden Sea World Heritage Property.

In discussing the draft it was underlined that the wise persons for the committee should be designated by the WSB including the nomination of the chairperson. A balanced representation both in terms of countries as well as background should be secured. It was further emphasized that a framework condition when discussing the foundation was the obligation of the state parties to ensure that the outstanding universal value, the conditions of integrity and/or authenticity at the time of inscription are maintained or enhanced in the future.

A further point of discussion were the costs related to the establishment and working of the Committee. It is understood that the members of the Committee works pro-bono but related costs such as travel costs will be reimbursed. Further, it will be necessary to cover meeting costs, engagement of consultants for specific investigations. A further key point in relation to budget is whether an external secretary is engaged to facilitate the Committee.

TG-WH recommends WSB as a first step to agree in principle to establish the Committee including its objective and tasks and as a next step agree on the composition of the Committee in terms of balance between the regions and the backgrounds and then approach potential members on high level. Once this has been sorted out a budget should be elaborated and agreed between the state parties.

### Proposal

The WSB is **proposed** to

- (1) Agree in principle to the attached Terms of Reference.
- (2) Consider the composition and possible candidates including chairperson of the Committee and agree on a procedure to approach and nominate members.
- (3) Consider the issue of secretarial facilitation.
- (4) Instruct the CWSS together with the parties elaborate and agree on a consolidated budget prior to commencing the work.

## COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING PROGRAMME 2010 – 13

At its last meeting TG-WH further took stock at the implementation of the Communication and Marketing Program 2010 – 13 and noted that good progress had been made and that the program was largely on schedule. In this context the evaluation of last year's campaign as elaborated by the TG-STC was discussed which also contains some critical remarks regarding the coordination in the Netherlands (an issue which has now been addressed) and concept of the campaign (too many heterogeneous objectives), and was looking forward to the planning of the campaign 2012/13.

With regard to the commercial use of joint World Heritage products, a merchandising concept should be developed.

TG-WH regarded the stakeholder workshop in Hamburg on 26 January 2012 as a suitable event to exchange information and to involve a broad range of stakeholders from various sectors into the World Heritage issue. The inspiring contribution by Mr. Rebanks on the opportunities of World Heritage as a place-making catalyst for regional development was very much welcomed. However, the goal to better involve regional decision makers has not been reached yet.

It was concluded that

- The lacking participation of regional decision makers is a concern. It should be discussed in the region how to improve the situation,
- The stakeholder workshops have to be better aligned with other WH activities (e.g. regional tourism workshops). It should also be considered how to better overcome the language problem of regional stakeholders in joint workshops.
- World Heritage should be discussed in a broader framework (WH as place-making catalyst) and should not be confined to tourism.

### Proposal

WSB is proposed to comment respectively note.



## **WADDEN SEA WORLD HERITAGE**

### **Terms of Reference for Investigating the Feasibility, Merits and Advantages of Establishing a Foundation for Promoting the Wadden Sea World Heritage Property**

#### **1. Background**

In June 2009 the Dutch – German Wadden Sea was inscribed on the World Heritage List. The property was extended with The Hamburg Wadden Sea National Park in June, 2011 through a minor boundary modification of the property. It is expected to be extended with the Danish part in the foreseeable future. The inscription of the World Heritage List represents the highest global recognition of a natural area in its kind and the acknowledgment and appreciation by the World Community of the efforts of the responsible state parties and its inhabitants to protect and conserve its Outstanding Universal Value.

The Wadden Sea World Heritage has enjoyed an amazing support by all governmental and non-governmental stakeholders since the inscription. A Communication and Marketing Programme has been elaborated in cooperation with and approval of the partners. In the framework of the Programme a broad scale of activities unfolded within four work priorities. So far the cooperation between the governmental and non-governmental stakeholders has generated synergies and partners have profited from the cooperation both in terms of content and efficiency. The property has been promoted equally by the responsible authorities and other public and private stakeholders.

An international investigation of all natural and cultural World Heritage properties has substantiated that the World Heritage designation has a huge potential promoting regional sustainable development, i.e maintain, enhance and develop the natural values of the property, lead and further regional economic development and enhance social coherence of communities. Regional cooperation between public and private stakeholders is a pre-condition for achieving such potentials.

In order to further promote, strengthen, consolidate and enhance such regional sustainable development safeguarding and enhancing the values of the World Heritage, the feasibility of establishing a Wadden Sea World Heritage Foundation shall be investigated.

#### **2. Objective and Tasks**

The aim is to investigate the feasibility, merits and advantages of establishing a trans-boundary Foundation for promoting and supporting the conservation of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Property including

- The objectives of the Foundation and the activities and developments to be executed and/or promoted within the framework of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property
- The governance of the Foundation which shall ensure regional involvement and commitment and delineate the relationship between the Foundation and the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation respectively Wadden Sea Board
- The financing of the activities and developments through a trust fund including how to establish and source the trust fund

### **3. Committee**

The feasibility study will be done by a committee of 4 wise persons designated by WSB including the nomination of the chairperson of the Committee. The members of the committee must represent experience both from high level public and private cooperate service. [The secretary will serve as a secretary to the Committee.]

### **4. Reporting**

The Work of the Committee must be concluded with the delivery of a report with recommendations in the field of the objective and the tasks before (...in relation to the Conference).

The Committee may draw upon the experiences gained with similar foundations.

### **5. Budget**

The Wadden Sea Cooperation will make sufficient funding available to facilitate the work of the Committee including reimbursing travel costs for its members and for contracting external consultants for making investigations within the terms of the Committee.