

# Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 10**  
**11-12 December 2013**  
**Tønder**



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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	6
<b>Subject:</b>	Wadden Sea World Heritage
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<b>Submitted by:</b>	Task Group World Heritage

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Attached is a progress report of the Task Group World Heritage. The meeting is referred to the report.

## **Proposal**

The meeting is referred to the proposal in the progress report.

## **PROGRESS REPORT WADDEN SEA WORLD HERITAGE**

### **1. Objective**

The Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH) has met once since the last Wadden Sea Board meeting in October and discussed a number of issues related to the extension nomination, the Tønder Conference and the World Heritage Programme in 2014 including the planned campaign. The progress report informs about the discussions and agreements and seeks the decision of the Wadden Sea Board on the International Wadden Sea School.

### **2. Nomination**

The IUCN World Heritage panel meets beginning of December and hence so far no request for additional information has yet been received regarding the Danish-German extension nomination. Should supplementary information be requested it must be delivered by the end of February 2014 according to the Operational Guidelines. Actually this means that the information must be delivered to permanent representatives at the UNESCO by mid of February. TG-WH is concerned that this will collide with the preparation of the Conference in the same period, but should supplementary information be requested it is necessary to look at priorities and work division.

TG-WH also considered the draft response letter of the Dutch government on the request for information by the World Heritage Centre on the planned salt mining in the western part of the Dutch Wadden Sea World Heritage property which will be submitted including a reference that Germany has been consulted on the response. The meeting further agreed to consider at a later stage to develop a common approach on how to deal with issues under para 172 of the Operational Guidelines concerning information to be sent to the World Heritage Committee on major restorations and new constructions which may affect the OUV of the property.

### **3. Tønder Conference**

In accordance with the instruction WSB 9, TG-WH discussed the twinning agreement between the Banc d'Arguin and the Wadden Sea World Heritage properties, the signing of the Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Flyway Vision, and the status of the World Heritage Strategy.

#### **Re. Memorandum of Understanding Banc d'Arguin-Wadden Sea**

Following the authorisation of WSB 9, the secretary discussed a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the director of the National Park Banc d'Arguin at the margin of the meeting of the marine World Heritage properties on Corsica mid October 2013. The MoU is elaborated in accordance with the starting points agreed at WSB 9.

Suggestions for amendments have been received from the Banc d'Arguin National Park and the World Heritage Centre which has offered to be the go-between the two properties and help getting the MoU ready for signing. The amended draft MoU is currently under consultation and comments received will have to be further discussed with the Banc d'Arguin and the World Heritage Centre.

Since the MoU is an agreement aiming at a very practical cooperation on management level between the two properties with flyway management as a core task with no political implications beyond what is already existing in the framework of the World Heritage Convention, it was agreed that the MoU should be signed by the National Park Director of the Banc d'Arguin and the secretary CWSS under the supervision of, as the National Park Director expressed, their respective ministers. TG-WH endorsed this approach.

#### Re. Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Flyway Vision

It was agreed that both the Sustainable Tourism Strategy and the Flyway vision should be signed by the relevant stakeholders at the Conference through a Declaration of Intent (DoI) to demonstrate the commitments to the vision and strategy. The DoI should make clear to what stakeholders commit themselves, i.e. signing the strategy and the vision respectively having also been involved in their elaboration and therefore also committed to the implementation whereas the different status of the action plans should be indicated (which had not been made subject to the same consultation procedure as for the strategy and the vision) and therefore a similar commitment could not be anticipated but rather a statement to help getting the actions off the ground within the financial and organizational possibilities.

DoI's are under preparation together with a list of signatories which are basically the stakeholders who have participated in the respective processes and attractive signing events will be organized as part of the programme.

#### Re. World Heritage Strategy 2014-20

No comments had yet been received on the World Heritage Strategy from the consultations and it was estimated that basically the Strategy would be accepted as such. The overarching function of the Strategy was recognized and therefore the necessity to commit the strategic stakeholders in its implementation. The strategy would form the basis of work in the next 6 year period.

It was however concluded that the Strategy could not be signed by strategic partners at the Conference since it had not yet been subject to consultations similar to the other documents and the strategic partners had not yet been approached. And moreover, the Danish Wadden Sea was not yet part of the Wadden Sea World Heritage which in a formal sense would exclude a signature.

It was agreed to suggest that the Strategy should be signed after the decision on the Danish inscription, preferably on the date of the inscription during a coordinated communicatively effective event. A list of strategic partners referred to in the strategy should be elaborated and these partners approached for their approval. The procedure should be reflected in the draft Ministerial Council Declaration.

#### **4. International Wadden Sea School**

Invitations to submit offers to host the International Wadden Sea School (IWSS) similar to the offer received from the WWF Germany were circulated broadly with a deadline of 22 November 2013. No further offers have been received and in conclusion the WSB should welcome the offer of WWF Germany and grant it the permit to run the IWSS in accordance with the document presented and the stipulations agreed at WSB 8.

The following steps are therefore necessary:

- (1) State Parties agree to fund the IWSS for a three<sup>1</sup> year period of € 40,000 annually, per State Party € 16,667 annually.
- (2) The CWSS is authorized to conclude on behalf of the Cooperation and with the consent of the NG-E an agreement with the WWF-Germany for a three year period starting at 1.1. 2014 with a possibility to prolong the arrangement after an evaluation after 2016;
  - a. the relocation document will be part of the agreement and additionally, IWSS products must be approved by the NG-E prior to production and distribution,
  - b. WWF-Germany declares its firm intention to seek additional external funding for the further development of the IWSS towards a World Heritage School in the framework of specific projects.

## **5. World Heritage Programme 2014**

TG-WH also discussed the continuation of the Communication and Marketing Programme in 2014 to bridge the period until the new strategy would be implemented and to ensure that the Denmark would be fully member of the programme on the date of the inscription. A budget for the programme has recently been circulated.

Also a campaign in 2014 to celebrate hopefully the Danish inscription and the 5 year since the 2009 initial inscription was discussed and to further promote the Wadden Sea World Heritage brand. The campaign should cover a short period but be effective in attracting media attention along the coast and engaging relevant organizations. The campaign concept will be further developed together with a budget with the aim to be settled very early 2014.

A final draft of the World Heritage brand description was discussed. TG-WH in principle approved of the paper but considered the brand proposition too broad and therefore suggested to slightly amend it. As stated in the Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy, the brand occupies a very central role in all future activities. A shorter and more popular version will be available for stakeholders to use.

## **PROPOSAL**

WSB is proposed to

- (1) Comment respectively note the information
- (2) Agree to the steps with the regard to the IWSS under 4

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<sup>1</sup> DK considers that it was discussed that the relocation was a temporary arrangement until a more permanent solution was found. Therefore a three years period might not be needed and do not agree to a three year period.