

Wadden Sea Board

WSB 16
9-10 March 2016
Leeuwarden



Agenda Item:	6.2 Status of discussion on WSWH Competence Center
Subject:	ToR for the WS Partnership Center Drafting Group
Document No.	WSB 16/6.2
Date:	29 February 2016
Submitted by:	Secretariat

Attached are the Draft Terms of Reference for the Wadden Sea Partnership Center Drafting Group, as prepared by the Secretariat.

Proposal: **The meeting is requested to consider the document**

Draft Terms of Reference for the Wadden Sea Partnership Center Drafting Group

1. Background

Following the inscription of the Wadden Sea in the UNESCO World Heritage List, the institutions and mechanisms underpinning the trilateral cooperation are facing new challenges, some of which cannot be met completely satisfactorily by the existing structures. This triggered discussions about a possible partial institutional restructuring and realignment, conducted primarily under the headlines “Wadden Sea World Heritage Foundation” and “Wadden Sea Competence Center”. Feasibility studies covering both themes were commissioned. The study concerning a possible Competence Center underscored the broad acceptance of the notion that proceeding along “business as usual” lines was no longer a viable option and made the case that a competence center should be established (though not necessarily under this name).

On November 9, 2015, a High-level Meeting on a future Wadden Sea Competence Center (High-level Group, HLG) was held in Copenhagen, Denmark. The meeting was convened and chaired by the Chair of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB), Mr. Co Verdaas, and attended by Mr. Peter Ilsøe, Denmark, Dr. Christiane Paulus, Germany, and Mr. Jaap Verhulst, Netherlands, as well as the Secretary of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Mr. Rüdiger Stempel. The HLG shared the view that in terms of the future structure, preference should be given to a partnership model, as this seemed most likely to promote the aims of greater diversity and better engagement with key partners beyond the government sector. There was also agreement that networking was essential and that a competence center provided service to the network. Discussions therefore focused on the question as to how to move beyond theory and implement this model in practical terms. It was agreed that to operationalize the model a competence center and a Steering Committee (StC), as its governing body, should be established.

The 15th meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 15) endorsed this approach in principle, agreed to continue its discussion at WSB 16 and also agreed that this discussion should be prepared by a further meeting of the HLG. The HLG 2 meeting was held on February 3, 2016 in Berlin, Germany and further defined the process towards developing a center, to be established under the name of “Partnership Center” (PC) and intended to become operational in 2017. In particular, HLG 2 elaborated a roadmap towards the establishment of the PC. Among the steps contained in the roadmap is the fine-tuning of the

tasks and mandate of the future PC, as well as the composition of the StC by WSB 17 in June 2016. This work is to be undertaken by a drafting group comprising representatives of the sectors concerned (NGOs, science, tourism).

2. Composition and mandate of the drafting group

In accordance with the above, the drafting group should consist of representatives of the Wadden Sea States, the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) and one representative each of the sectors concerned (NGOs, science, tourism). Its task consists of drafting clearly defining the mandate and tasks of the PC, as well as the composition of the StC, for presentation to WSB 17 in June 2016. The Drafting Group should meet face-to-face at least once and continue its deliberations by email.

3. Deliverables

The scope of work for the Drafting Group will include the following tasks:

- a) Based on the outcomes of WSB 15 and WSB 16 as well as the HLG 1 and HLG 2 meetings, prepare a draft paper outlining the exact mandate of the future Partnership Center as well as the composition of the future StC
- b) Present the draft to the 17th Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 17), to be held on June 22, 2016.

4. Timelines

Draft 1 of the paper should be submitted to the members of the HLG no later than Friday, May 27, 2016.

Draft 2, based on input received from the HLG on Draft 1, should be submitted to the CWSS for distribution to the WSB no later than Friday, 9 June 2016