

Wadden Sea Board

WSB 2
7 October 2010
Wilhelmshaven



Agenda Item:	5
Subject:	Programme Presidency 2010-13
Document No.	WSB 2/5/1
Date:	21 September 2010
Submitted by:	DK

Attached is the programme for the Danish Presidency 2010 – 13.

Proposal

The meeting is **proposed** to note respectively comment.

The Wadden Sea Board

Danish Forest and Nature Agency –
Regional Office Wadden Sea
J.nr. SNS-425-00029
Ref. jobfr
September 21 2010

**PROPOSED DANISH AIMS AND PRIORITIES
WITHIN THE TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA COOPERATION 2010-13****Introduction**

Denmark assumes the presidency of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) for the 2010-13 period. Denmark is thus responsible for setting the agenda for the development of the cooperation. The framework for this development, as expressed in the Joint Declaration of 2010, has the following major concerns:

- A natural ecosystem, its functions and characteristic biodiversity.
- Adaptability to climate change and other impacts.
- Maintenance of the landscape and cultural heritage.
- Sustainable use as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity and as referred to in the Habitats Directive.
- Public support for the protection of the Wadden Sea.

On this basis Denmark therefore proposes the following five main themes within the lines set out by the Sild Declaration, as the Danish priorities up until the next ordinary minister meeting in late 2013:

1. The Wadden Sea - a shared world heritage
2. Sustainable management of the Wadden Sea
3. Landscape and cultural heritage - an agreement between the relevant authorities
4. The Wadden Sea - information and education
5. The Wadden Sea - adapting to climate change

1. THE WADDEN SEA - A SHARED WORLD HERITAGEAims

- To bring the perspectives and content of the TWSC's work into line with contemporary demands
- To promote the role of the Wadden Sea Forum as a sparring partner for the TWSC working towards World Heritage status

Background

The designation of the German and Dutch Wadden Sea sectors as World Heritage Site in 2009 has given the two countries a new, common political position and development perspective within the TWSC, with broad support from local authorities and interest groups.

At the Sild Conference, the Danish minister promised to clarify the Danish position vis-à-vis World Heritage status before the next ordinary minister meeting (2013).

It is estimated that the Danish clarification process could begin after the opening of the National Park (mid-October this year) so that the final decision regarding Denmark's application for World Heritage status for the Danish Wadden Sea might be reached around 1st September 2011. The grounds for timing the Danish decision almost two years before the next conference are connected with the German decision to have the Hamburg sector of the Wadden Sea designated a World Heritage Area by 1st February 2012 at the latest.

German and Dutch experiences of the World Heritage Site tell of strong support and economical expectations from local authorities in both countries. Local and regional World Heritage Committees assure that decisions on development meet existing agreements between authorities and interest groups.

Working for

- 1. That the Environment Ministry works towards a Danish clarification concerning Denmark's application to have the Danish Wadden Sea designated a World Heritage Site before 1st September 2011, with a view to a possible application to UNESCO by 1st February 2012 at the latest.**
- 2. That the Wadden Sea Forum takes a central position in the World Heritage debate provided the conditions for appointments and admissions are accepted.**

2. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE WADDEN SEA

Aims

- To define and highlight TWSC's work towards a common sustainable Wadden Sea management and development involving the Wadden Sea Forum.
- To develop further the Wadden Sea Plan according to the stipulations of the High Level Review, including common principles of the future Cooperation Area.

Background

The Sild Declaration specifies a number of decisions touching on aspects of the future management that require trilateral participation. These are 1) to formulate and implement an overall development strategy for sustainable Wadden Sea tourism (§ 5), 2) to support the drawing up of a trilateral management plan for wild goose populations in cooperation with the relevant authorities (§ 14), 3) to specify trilateral principles for sustainable mussel and shrimp fishing (§ 17), 4) to investigate the possibilities for formulating a common trilateral policy on landscape and culture (§§

19-20) and 5) to design a common strategy for dealing with invasive species in the Wadden Sea (§ 26).

It is Denmark's position that the compilation of trilateral rulings should lie with the authorities responsible, in close cooperation with the interest groups concerned. In this connection, the TWSC should increasingly work with the Wadden Sea Forum, as seen in its initiative on analysing the wild goose population, field damage and national compensation rulings in the three countries. This 'division of labour' could be one way of achieving broad acceptance of trilateral decisions and initiatives.

The Sild Declaration also contains a series of decisions on the stewardship of the Wadden Sea with special focus on the continued refinement of the Wadden Sea Plan.

In the Danish view, further development of the plan should be informed by the recommendations from the external evaluation, including the final establishment of common principles for the future Cooperation Area.

Working for

- 1. To give high attention to the Sild Conference decisions dealing with the correlation between the protection, use and exploitation of the natural environment.**
- 1. To begin the necessary development of the Wadden Sea Plan of 2010, with particular regard to incorporating the recommendations of the external evaluation and with specific emphasis on the final establishment of the principles for the future Cooperation Area.**
- 3. To establish close cooperation with the Wadden Sea Forum, so its knowledge and potential can be fully exploited in connection with the points above, thereby creating a basis for broader understanding and acceptance for trilateral priorities and decisions.**

3. LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE - AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES.

Aim

- In order to promote the understanding of a shared responsibility for the preservation of the special characteristics of the Wadden Sea landscape and to protect its cultural heritage, the relevant authorities should be encouraged to commit to an agreement - a statement of intent – as the future basis for a trilateral policy.

Background

The Wadden Sea landscapes with its great and indispensable natural value combined with its cultural richness contributes to a unique eco-cultural niche of Europe. The recognition of the Wadden Sea being an international natural environment is due in part to the formation and development is a result of close interplay between nature and humans, for instance the fens at Tønder. Conversely, nature and environment protection measures influence the cultural landscape and the local Wadden Sea culture.

A comparative analysis of the Wadden Sea Region landscape and cultural heritage¹, as a follow up on the LancewadPlan project, indicates that these assets are also of international importance.

A more integrated view is needed, so that nature and environment protection on the one hand, and landscape and cultural values stewardship on the other, are better integrated in national, regional and local policies. Moreover the landscape and cultural heritage should be seen in relation to climate changes.

At the Sild Conference, the three ministers declared the necessity of selecting among the recommendations given by the two trilateral landscape and culture projects (Lancewad) on the preparation of a trilateral policy (§§ 19-20). This will be effected in cooperation with the relevant authorities in the three countries at provincial, regional and district level.

As the elaboration of the national and local efforts is well advanced in Denmark, the Danes will work towards a more specific agreement between the relevant authorities in the three countries.

Working for

- 1. that Denmark hosts a workshop in the spring of 2011, to consider the comparative analysis and the LancewadPlan recommendations with a view to proposing future focus of efforts and areas of cooperation between authorities and stakeholders.**

Given approval here, then:

¹ By Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch, March 2010

- 2. that a trilateral task group subsequently be set up with representation from the competent authorities. The group is to produce a proposal for a specific landscape and cultural agreement.**

4. THE WADDEN SEA - INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Aims

- To increase awareness among (school) children and young people about the Wadden Sea as an integral, natural environment in the three countries.
- To heighten the visibility of the three countries' responsibilities for the Wadden Sea environment according to the homogeneous principles set out by the TWSC.

Background

The International Wadden Sea School has so far comprised a number of partners - nature centres in the three countries - organised around a central coordinator whose original task was to market projects and coordinate educational institutions' traffic between the member centres. The project's strength and legitimacy today lies in the existence of a network of information generators along the entire Wadden Sea coast, developing, exchanging and disseminating teaching and information activities. One of the resolutions at the ministerial meeting on the Wadden Sea in March concerned teaching children and young people about the natural and cultural resources of the Wadden Sea area as part of the TWSC's future "Areas of Cooperation". This further implies that teaching and information activities lie with the TWSC. Positive Danish experience with teaching and informing school children about the Wadden Sea has led to the conviction that increased focus on these activities in the coming period is a necessary initiative. This must be an integral part of the common communications strategy.

Working for

- 1. Further development and delivery of educational programmes as an integral part of the total future trilateral communications strategy.**
- 2. Increased cooperation within the existing network in the four regions: two annual meetings concentrating on 1) educational implications of new aspects of the trilateral administration, and 2) development of educational initiatives, for example in the context of trilateral theme days and scientific symposia.**

5. THE WADDEN SEA - ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Aims

- Heightened awareness of transnational climate initiatives at state level.
- Further integration of the various authorities' plans and directives on climate matters.

Background

The Danish government's *Strategy for climate change* (2008) states that "*Denmark will take initiatives to inform and organise efforts to ensure that all future administration, planning and development take climate change into account so that authorities, business and interest groups have the best possible basis for deciding whether and, when necessary, how and when steps should be taken to counter climate change.*"

Among the measures the strategy provides for are:

- *A scientific, research-based strategy including the setting up of a coordinating body to ensure that climate research increases its focus on adaption.*
- *Setting up a cross-professional forum to coordinate climate change adaption between public authorities.*

The Danish government's policy clearly echoes the trilateral resolutions of the Sild Conference (§§ 21-24).

Working for

- 1. To initiate a trilateral study on sustainable solutions to balance the expected sediment deficits on the basis of research questions specified by the CPSL.**
- 2. Proposals for a planning model to counter climate changes, indicating pilot projects and a framework for cooperation between the relevant authorities.**
- 3. Investigation of possible initiatives to ensure the maintenance of the ecosystem and the preservation of character of the landscape in the face of climate changes.**