

# Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 8**  
**26-27 June 2013**  
**Copenhagen**



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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	6
<b>Subject:</b>	Report Task Group World Heritage
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<b>Submitted by:</b>	Chair TG-WH

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The attached report of the Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH) provides an overview of the main issues with which it has been working since the WSB 7. In particular it includes information on 4 issues, the field mission in August, the IWSS, the flyway vision and the strategy, on which decisions and/or guidance of the WSB is required.

## Proposal

The meeting is proposed to

- Comment and note the information.
- Discuss the proposal with regard to the IWSS relocation with a view to provide guidance to TG-WH for the further process.
- Approve of and instruct the TG-WH with the elaboration and negotiation of a draft Flyway vision agreement with relevant partners with a view to a signing at a side event at the Tønder Conference.
- Approve of the draft Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy and provide guidance on which partners to engage with to obtain consent with the strategy.
- Instruct TG-WH to report to WSB 9.

## REPORT TASK GROUP WORLD HERITAGE

### 1. Objective

To inform the WSB on issues dealt with in the context of the work of the Task Group World Heritage and to obtain the guidance respectively the approval on the International Wadden Sea School relocation, the concept of developing a flyway vision MoU and the Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy.

### 2. Status

The Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH) has met on two occasions since WSB 7 in March 2013. Main discussion points related to the follow up of the Danish-German Wadden Sea World Heritage nomination in particular with regard to preparing the anticipated field mission, the discussion of a vision for the flyway management as developed by the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSWI) and education and outreach including the location of the International Wadden Sea School. A central issue was the elaboration of the announced Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy 2014-20 which is intended to be adopted at the Tønder Conference. Also the status of the periodic reporting on the property 2014 to the Convention which is due for July was reviewed.

Further, TG-WH took stock of the implementation of the Communication and Marketing Programme 2010-13. Overall the progress on the implementation of the programme is very good and in the context of the programme a substantial amount of activities and partner co-operations have developed. Currently a campaign is planned to be implemented for 2014 also to celebrate the anticipated inscription of the Danish part on the List. The campaign is a follow up of the 2011 story hunter campaign in the sense that it is conceived as a campaign aiming at reaching the local communities and raising the awareness of the area.

The first meeting of the Foundation Committee is to be held on 2 July 2013 in Copenhagen. With the (financial) support of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, The Netherlands, the Wageningen University is currently elaborating a background report for the work of the Committee. The report addresses a.o. the organizational framework, experiences from other organisations and based on a review of the current activities possible functions of a Wadden Sea World Heritage Foundation.

### 3. Issues

#### Field Mission

The IUCN has informed that a field mission will be carried out in 2013 for the Danish-German Wadden Sea World Heritage nomination and has requested the designation of a single contact person of contact for both State Parties including establishing dates and programme for the field mission and details of other persons to be kept informed.

The TG-WH agreed to designate the chair TG-WH/secretary as the contact person and in principle the other members TG-WH as additional persons to be kept informed. It is proposed that the field mission will be held in in week 34 (19-23 August) with 3.5 days in the Danish part and the 1.5 days in the German part

including half a day for a presentation of the trilateral context. This part of the programme a representation of WSB members of all 3 countries is required.

A draft programme will be elaborated until the first week of July and be transmitted to the IUCN for comments respectively approval.

A letter will be sent to the IUCN confirming the above through the official channels by Denmark and agreed between the State Parties.

#### International Wadden Sea School

At WSB 7 the secretary was authorized to enter into discussion with the WWF to explore cooperation options for the International Wadden Sea School (IWSS). In the meantime discussions have been undertaken which has resulted in the attached consolidated position paper which outlines the background, the (future) objectives, the function and tasks of the IWSS and the implementation and the associated financial implications.

It is estimated that the continuation and further development of the IWSS will demand an overall budget on average of approximately 80.000€ per year. This includes staff costs for the coordination, overhead costs (office costs, administration), travel, costs for the annual IWSS workshop and project-based production costs for educational material as core deliveries of the IWSS. The WWF offers to host and implement the project for an amount of € 40,000 (under the assumption that overhead costs are covered by WWF and additional project money can be obtained via fundraising) for some half of the costs.

The TG-WH is of the opinion that the relocation of the IWSS to the working level is worth further consideration pending further discussion of the financial implications in the context of total arrangements. A number of conditions were outlined for the further process, in particular:

- Offers should be obtained from other organisations whether they would be willing to host the IWSS comparable to the offer made by WWF,
- The relocation should be confined to a specific time period with a possibility to prolong the arrangement after an evaluation,
- 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,
- Agrees to the above terms within a formal agreement concluded with the CWSS on behalf of the Cooperation and with the consent of the Network Group Education (NG-E),
- Approval of the products IWSS by the NG-E prior to production and distribution.

#### Flyway Vision

The draft vision on the flyway as delivered by the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative as attached was approved by TG-WH. It was further agreed that the vision should be developed into a specific proposal draft agreement/ MoU to be signed by the relevant partners to support the continuation of the flyway initiative at a side event at the Tønder Conference. For the implementation of the flyway vision an action plan should be developed.

The CWSS was invited to a UNESCO mission to the Banc d'Arguin in March this year. The Banc d'Arguin World Heritage property is the most important wintering

area for migratory birds on the flyway and hence intimately linked to the Wadden Sea World Heritage property. The World Heritage Centre is welcoming that a twinning arrangement will be made between the two sites to support the conservation and flyway management at both sites and to provide input to the work of the Convention. The centre is willing to support such an arrangement. TG-WH is of the view that this should be considered within the flyway agreement proposed above and should be open also to other properties.

#### Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy 2014-20

The outcome of the discussion of the draft is attached. TG-WH considers the strategy to be of high priority for further work in the context of the Wadden Sea World Heritage by involving also strategic partners. Pending further discussion of the draft at WSB 8 there is a need to clarify whom should be consider strategic partners and how to engage them in the preparation of the conference in order to ensure their consent with the draft. Furthermore there may be a necessity to outline what the benefits will ensue to the strategic partners from signing up to the strategy.

#### **4. Proposal**

The meeting is proposed to

- (1) Comment and note the information.
- (2) Discuss the proposal with regard to the IWSS relocation with a view to provide guidance to TG-WH for the further process.
- (3) Approve of and instruct the TG-WH with the elaboration and negotiation of a draft Flyway vision agreement with relevant partners with a view to a signing at a side event at the Tønder Conference.
- (4) Approve of the draft Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy and provide guidance on which partners to engage with to obtain consent with the strategy.
- (5) Instruct TG-WH to report to WSB 9.

#### Attachments:

1. 10 Years of International Wadden Sea School – Towards a World Heritage Awareness.
2. Flyway vision.
3. Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy 2014-20 (separate file).

Attachment 1**10 YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL WADDEN SEA SCHOOL – TOWARDS A WORLD HERITAGE AWARENESS****Background**

1. The International Wadden Sea School (IWSS) was established as a joint initiative of the Wadden Sea nature conservation organizations operating in the context of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (in particular WWF and Waddenvereniging), and the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation itself. The IWSS was hosted from 2003 to 2010 by the Schutzstation Wattenmeer, was then transferred to the CWSS and is currently part of the tasks of the communication officer at the CWSS.
2. The IWSS is a successful program to advance the awareness of the Wadden Sea as one ecological entity, the world's largest tidal barrier island system and the most significant internationally important nature area in the three Wadden Sea countries. With the assumed inscription of the Danish Wadden Sea on the World Heritage List in 2014 the entire Wadden Sea will be on the List. Therefore, the opportunities and importance of the IWSS will even expand.

In the framework of the Trilateral Communications Strategy the IWSS plays a key role for achieving general acceptance and popularity of the aims of the TWSC. The strategy proposes to continue the successful work of the IWSS with the aid of the existing means of communication, but also to enlarge the circle of recipients.

3. The past period has however shown that the current organizational framework is not an appropriate and effective one and therefore needs to be reconsidered. The IWSS serves a much broader audience than is possible to for an inter-governmental organization and demands a competent pedagogic and almost full time background which is not currently available at the CWSS.

**Objective**

4. The objective of the IWSS to advance the awareness of the Wadden Sea as one nature area remains the core task of the IWSS. The inscription of the entire Wadden Sea on the World Heritage List as of 2014 accentuates the function of the IWSS. According to the World Heritage Convention awareness raising and education is an essential task associated with being a World Heritage property and should be an integrated part of maintaining the integrity of the site. The objective and the activities of the IWSS need to be further aligned with the objective of the World Heritage Convention and its main task is to provide a communication and exchange platform in the sense of a network of visitor centres

together with concrete educational hardware products for the Wadden Sea World Heritage property.

## **Function, Tasks & Implementation**

5. The main function of the IWSS remains to link the Wadden Sea information centers and education institutions dealing with the Wadden Sea to a partnership for the World Heritage and to develop and produce in agreement with the partners high level Wadden Sea World Heritage educational material in particular for use by school classes and in educational courses, but also for the general public.
6. The educational activities as outlined under #6 demand a close interaction with the work field of information and education centres and integration of the different educational activities already ongoing, based on an education competency. The products must be developed and produced, must be adapted to the working field and its demands and use must be made of synergies help spreading them to the whole Wadden Sea World Heritage property. These tasks are beyond the formal tasks and capabilities of the CWSS.
7. The IWSS-program must therefore be given back to the working field. Locating the IWSS at the WWF, represented by its Wadden Sea office, will have the following advantages:
  - a. WWF has been instrumental in developing the IWSS and supporting it since its beginning,
  - b. WWF fully supports the objective of the IWSS,
  - c. WWF has a broad network and liaises also with management organizations and can hence operate on different levels,
  - d. WWF has potentials for successfully seeking additional funding for the project, which the CWSS is excluded from,
  - e. WWF fully appreciates the challenges and the efforts in establishing and running the IWSS and is capable of guaranteeing its long term functioning.
8. A precondition for the “outsourcing” of the IWSS is that the WWF guarantees that the IWSS will be embedded within the Wadden Sea World Heritage strategy and ensure that it will be located within the organization on a long term basis (the latter under the condition that core funding is available, see #10). The annual workshops will be held as a common event with the CWSS to ensure consistency with the World Heritage as well as the Trilateral Communications Strategy.
9. To enable the WWF to fulfil the task a core funding has to be ensured by the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation. The overall budget to continue the IWSS activities is estimated to amount to 80.000€ per year on average, including staff costs for the IWSS coordination, overhead costs, travel expenses, costs for the annual IWSS workshop and project-based production costs for educational resources. A core funding of 40.000€ per year to be provided by the Trilateral

Wadden Sea Cooperation equals 50% of the estimated average costs and is considered a realistic basis to sustain the successful work of the IWSS. The core funding will allow WWF to raise additional funds to further develop the IWSS towards a World Heritage School in the framework of specific projects.

10. Further details of the cooperation should be laid down in a formal agreement between the WWF and CWSS. The organization around the IWSS must be simple. A project coordinator must be made responsible for the project. S/he must be able to consult a broader group of people representing the work field of information centres, education institutes etc.

Attachment 2**Vision Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative****Objective**

The aim of the flyway vision is to guide the implementation of the request of the World Heritage Committee at the inscription of the Wadden Sea as a World Heritage Site in 2009 to *'the States Parties of Germany and the Netherlands to strengthen cooperation on management and research activities with States Parties on the African Eurasian Flyways, which play a significant role in conserving migratory species along these flyways.'*

The vision should thus:

- strengthen cooperation across the flyway on the conservation, management and research of migratory birds depend on the Wadden Sea;
- be ecologically sound, cost effective and feasible;
- have full endorsement of the Trilateral Wadden Sea cooperation, other flyway states and relevant stakeholder.

The vision shall be adopted at the 12<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Governmental Wadden Sea Conference in 2014 together with a formal endorsement by other relevant partners in conjunction with a framework of cooperation and plan of action for its implementation. The Plan of Action (a rolling document) will subsequently take account of the results and outcomes of current and planned activities within the flyways for which the Wadden Sea plays a major role, especially activities of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI).

**Introduction**

The International Wadden Sea of The Netherlands, Germany and Denmark is of outstanding universal value for global biodiversity, especially for migratory birds. Yearly millions of migratory waterbirds stop over in the area to build up energy for their onward journeys between the Arctic and Africa. They depend on the presence of suitable safe breeding, resting and non-breeding sites. International cooperation and coordination are mandatory to provide the right conditions for them along their flyway.

The State Parties of the Wadden Sea World Heritage will mutually support, advance and communicate a sustainable and long-term management of the East Atlantic Flyway to improve the living conditions for migratory birds together with partners along the flyway on an equal and shared basis. This engagement will stimulate cooperation among other flyways for migratory bird conservation. Coming generations will thus continue to enjoy and admire the Wadden Sea World Heritage site when it is occupied by millions of birds, whilst such an appreciation will be fostered elsewhere along the flyway, connecting people and reminding us of our global shared responsibility to conserve migratory species.

**Vision**

*Migratory birds find lasting refuge along the East Atlantic Flyway from northern breeding areas to their key Wadden Sea stopover and to the African coastline, and inspire and connect people for future generations.*



### Annotation

In human societies across the world - even far back in history - migrating birds have played an important role in the perception of nature. People recognise the periodic coming and going of birds and are in awe of their incredible feats of endurance. In the African-Eurasian region millions of migrating birds fly long distances between their breeding and non-breeding grounds, for instance between the Arctic and Southern Africa, or Central Siberia and Western Europe. Migratory birds are ambassadors connecting countries and people, ignoring our own political and social barriers. Flyways encompass the whole life cycle of migratory birds and include essential sites for breeding, resting, moulting and feeding. This requires conservation and management to take place at the flyway scale, recognising the ecological connectivity between critical sites along the flyway.

Every year, the Wadden Sea in Northern Europe serves as a central hub and cross-over point for some 10-12 million migrating waterbirds of the East Atlantic Flyway, moving between the Arctic and Africa. At this critical stop-over in their long voyage, many bird species, often in huge flocks, refuel on the tidal flats and shallow waters of the Wadden Sea, forming a lively and magical spectacle. The presence of these migratory waterbirds attracts many visitors to the area, bringing significant economic and cultural benefits.

For more than 25 years the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation has been active in promoting wise use management of the Wadden Sea and migratory birds benefit from the implementation of nature protection targets and plans of the Trilateral Cooperation. However, nearly half of the trilaterally monitored migratory bird species in the Wadden Sea have declining trends in numbers. Factors threatening protection and conservation efforts can be found within the Wadden Sea itself and along the flyway. Thus there is a permanent risk of the Wadden Sea losing vital parts of its ecology, character, attraction and economic and cultural value.

In 2009 UNESCO acknowledged the protection efforts of the Trilateral Cooperation and the significance of the Wadden Sea for migratory waterbirds on the African-Eurasian flyways by inscribing the Dutch and German Wadden Sea on the World Heritage list. The Danish Wadden Sea applies for World Heritage status in 2014. According to the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value adopted by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, the Wadden Sea '*... is a key site for migratory birds and its ecosystems sustain wildlife populations well beyond its borders.*' (criterion ix). The statement continues with '*The clearest indicator of the importance of the property is the support it provides to migratory birds as a staging, moulting and wintering area. Up to 6.1 million birds can be present at the same time, and an average of 10-12 million each year pass through the property. The availability of food and a low level of disturbance are essential factors that contribute to the key role of the nominated property in supporting the survival of migratory species. The nominated property is the essential stopover that enables the functioning of the East Atlantic and African-Eurasian migratory flyways. Biodiversity on a world wide scale is reliant on the Wadden Sea.*' (criterion x)

This trilateral joint flyway conservation vision has been drawn up to interpret and fulfil the UNESCO request. It will form part of the trilateral policy and should subsequently be extended within the Wadden Sea Plan. As flyways span continents and countries, all potential partners along the flyway will be invited to share and join the vision.

The recognition that international cooperation between countries along the flyways is essential has already led to the creation of a number of international environmental treaties/instruments, of which the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement

(AEWA) developed under the framework of the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS) is the most relevant for the WSFI. AEWA's geographic range includes the whole East Atlantic Flyway, whilst the trilateral Wadden Sea state parties are also Contracting Parties to AEWA.

The flyway vision foresees effective implementation of the UNESCO request in terms of future cooperation, communication, coordination, management and implementation strategies through, focused activities guided by a framework of cooperation and a plan of action.

The vision draws on and is guided by the following elements:

- The Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation is aware of its global responsibility to protect and manage migratory waterbirds on a flyway level. The World Heritage designation has highlighted the need for flyway conservation at the global level both within the African-Eurasian Flyways and elsewhere.
- The Wadden Sea plays its most significant ecological role within the East Atlantic Flyway, which embraces the western coastlines of Africa and Europe to the Arctic. This flyway has therefore been identified as the primary focal region of the WSFI, bringing maximum conservation impact for Wadden Sea waterbirds from coordinated action. Close contacts with other flyways for information and experience exchange will be encouraged and maintained.
- An efficient network of World Heritage sites working actively together including the Wadden Sea, Doñana National Park, Banc d'Arguin and Arquipelago dos Bijagòs will strengthen the World Heritage approach and stimulate these sites to maintain their value as essential elements within the entire flyway.
- In close cooperation with the African Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement, the Wetlands Convention (Ramsar), the Convention on Migratory Species and other relevant instruments the vision will encourage implementation of internationally agreed migratory bird conservation objectives and activities.
- Close and practical cooperation and communication between governments, science, civil society and NGOs is crucial for flyway conservation. Communication, joint conservation and research and, awareness-raising, especially of the economic values of flyways, stand to promote effective flyway conservation.
- The Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative will integrate all trilateral flyway projects and activities under the coordination of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat. The Initiative will play an important role within global flyway conservation frameworks.
- The Wadden Sea countries share migratory birds with countries along the East Atlantic Flyway. Although the Trilateral Cooperation will focus on the conservation of Wadden Sea birds outside the Cooperation Area, it will have wider benefits by also improving the management and conservation of other bird species and critical sites.

- Long-term rolling capacity building will produce capable managers and strengthen relevant partners and organisations at the national and local level. The Trilateral Cooperation has capacity and commitment to promote sustainable management knowledge including aspects of economic benefits along the East Atlantic Flyway.
- Joint monitoring, conservation and research activities along the East Atlantic Flyway are essential for yielding information for effective species and site management and for regular assessment of the migratory bird targets of the Wadden Sea Plan.

Attachment 3

**Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy 2014-20**

(separate file)