

# Wadden Sea Board

## WSB 29

19 May 2019

Vlieland, The Netherlands

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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>5.11 Status of discussion on WSWH Partnership Hub</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Progress Report of the OP Team Partnership Hub to WSB 29</b>
<b>Document No.:</b>	WSB 29/5.11/1
<b>Date:</b>	<b>draft 29</b> May 19
<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>OP Team PH</b>

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### **Cover note:**

Since the WSB 28 meeting, the Operational Team Partnership Hub held two team meetings, (OPteamPH 9 (04.04.2019; Hamburg) and OPteamPH 10 (14.05.2019; Tönning) and one dialogue meeting with the research sector (03.04.2019; Hamburg).

The group focussed among other ongoing tasks mainly on the task given by the Wadden Sea Board at its 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, to draft a Memorandum of Understanding in negotiation with the Green NGOs, the Wadden Sea Forum and the Dutch Wadden Academy for approval by WSB and to strive to hold the MOU signing ceremony on the occasion of the final 10 years anniversary event, June, 30 in Wilhelmshaven.

At present, the team, which is chaired by Hubertus Hebbelmann (LS), consists of ten members (1 CWSS; 1 NL; 2 DK; 1 SH/HH; 2 LS (chair+coordinator); 1 WSF; 1 NGO; 1 Research) plus 1-2 advisors pending on the agenda.

The next meeting, OPteamPH 11, will be held on 26/27.09.2019 in Hamburg.

### **Proposal:**

**The meeting is proposed to take note of progress made in fulfilling the tasks assigned by the WSB and especially**

**to adopt the draft Memorandum of Understanding on the “Trilateral Partnership in support of the UNESCO Wadden Sea World Heritage” to be publicly signed by TWSC’s and partner’s representatives on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary event on 30 June in Wilhelmshaven.**

## **1. Amendments of the Terms of Reference for the OP Team PH**

### **1.1 Range of tasks**

The team discussed the proposal from TG-M, that items like ‘Marine litter’, ‘Light Emissions’, ‘Energy’ and ‘Ports and shipping’, at present allocated under TG-MM, should be considered for discussion in the OPteamPH in the scope of the development of the future Partnership Hub.

The team agreed, that these issues could indeed possibly be taken up within the future trilateral Partnership and be supported by a Partnership Hub. As a Partnership Hub has not yet been installed and as the scoping and building phase of the partnership, has not been concluded so far, there is a need for interim solutions to avoid discouragement of any collaboration initiatives in these fields. For the time being, upcoming initiatives might be supported by the OPteamPH on a case-to-case basis within their means, by

- encouraging partners like the Wadden Sea Forum and green NGO’s to take further initiatives;
- taking up ideas within the Concept for the Partnership Hub;
- supporting development of ideas by the partners towards concrete projects within the framework of the future Memorandum of Understanding.

Nevertheless, it has to be stated, that the OPteamPH cannot be held responsible for the fulfillment of the respective articles from the Leeuwarden Declaration.

**The meeting is invited to take note.**

### **1.2 UN Sustainable Development Goals**

The team also discussed their contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals within the overall activities of the TWSC. As stated in the keypoints for the concept of the partnership Hub as well as in the draft Memorandum of Understanding for the partnership, the OPteamPH contributes to the implementation of the Goal 17 “Partnership for the goals”, at the regional, national and local level.

In detail, the targets on multi-stakeholder partnerships, which are, to

“**17.16** Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

**17.17** Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships”, are pursued by the team’s activities in a trilateral approach.

**The meeting is invited to take note.**

## 2. State of play dialogue process with envisaged strategic partner sectors/ networks

### 2.1 Research (Dutch Wadden Academy and scientific community)

A talk of OPteamPH members with members of the scientific community about potential synergies of Partnership Hub- development and TRA implementation was held on the third of April 2019 in Hamburg (see minutes attached as Annex 1)

## 3. Partnership arrangements: Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

To get formal commitment by the envisaged strategic partners, especially on common vision, purpose and objectives of the partnership, the conclusion of appropriate agreements is needed. Upon assignment by the WSB, the OPteamPH drafted a MoU titled **“Trilateral Partnership in support of the UNESCO Wadden Sea World Heritage”** in negotiation with the Green NGOs, the Wadden Sea Forum and the Dutch Wadden Academy, serving as a non-binding framework agreement to future Agreements of Cooperation. Several persons engaged within the Network Group Sustainable Tourism also signalled their intention recently to sign the MoU.

The drafting process follows the participation schedule below, containing two consultation loops and a legal and language check by CWSS:

Activity	Date/ Deadline 2019	Work -days	Ideal outcome
OPteamPH 9	04.04.		Discussion about shaping a MOU
First draft	10.04.	4	Mail sent out to partners via OPteamPH members
Comments/amendments	26.04.	10	Mails received from OPteamPH
Second draft	06.05.	4	Mail sent out to partners via OPteamPH members
WSF plenary meeting	09./10.05.	3	Statement/ approval by WSF
OPteamPH 10	14.05.	1	Discuss final draft for WSB
Third draft	16.05.	1	Mail sent out to CWSS
Language and legal check	27.05.	7	Final draft
Prepare report to WSB	29.05.	2	Upload for WSB 29
Discussion by WSB	18/19.06	11	Approval by WSB
Signing Ceremony	30.06.	7	MOU-partnership constituted

**The meeting is proposed to adopt the draft Memorandum of Understanding on the “Trilateral Partnership in support of the UNESCO Wadden Sea World Heritage” (Annex 2) to be publicly signed by TWSC’s and partner’s representatives on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary event on 30 June in Wilhelmshaven.**

## **Annex 1**

### **Operational Team Partnership Hub: First dialogue meeting with research sector on April 3rd, 2019 at the BUE, Hamburg**

*Final minutes (Version date: 06.05.2019)*

After a short round of introductions, the participants  
from

DK: Jesper Bartholdy, Henrik Pind Joergensen, Anne Husum Marboe;

NL: Jouke van Dijk, Katja Philippart, Bernard Baerends;

DE: Beate Ratter, Karin Lochte, Thomas Borchers, Hubertus Hebbelmann, Maren Bauer; and

WSF: Manfred Vollmer,

were invited to express their views and expectations regarding

- a) the integration into and the role of the research/science sector in the Partnership Hub as well as
- b) the way forward to implementing the Trilateral Research Agenda in the Wadden Sea World Heritage context.

### **Summary of results:**

#### **a) Partnership Hub**

In view of the representatives of the science/research sector, the function of the Partnership Hub should encompass the following:

- Facilitate interactions between different organisations, including the relevant research institutes as well as other sectors;
- serve as a meeting place for policy makers and science/research institutes;
- location for PhD student meetings and summer school events;
- educational offers / mutual learning to promote the Wadden Sea World Heritage.

The participants agreed on the Dutch Wadden Academy as a focal point representing the science/research sector in the Hub as a first step. For the Danish part, there is a focal point for the Danish Wadden Sea chaired by Jesper Bartholdy. For the German Part, Karin Lochte will contact the Konsortium Deutsche Meeresforschung/Strategiegruppe Küste, to get their view resp. appoint a contact person with regard to research/science in the Wadden Sea Region and install a subgroup Wadden Sea research. The Waddenacademie could function as a nucleus and serve as a contact point for two representatives from DK and DE.

#### **b) Trilateral Research Agenda**

The participants discussed a way forward to facilitate the implementation of the TRA by supporting researchers to develop concrete projects and to apply for funds that might be available in the three countries.

As a next step, a so-called „Road Map committee“ consisting of three persons representing the research/science sector (one from each state) and three persons representing the policy level (one from each state), and a representative from CWSS, being under the lead of Karin Lochte, shall develop a proposal that will be presented to the next Wadden Sea Board meeting. As a basis for this, this group should make an inventory of the projects in each state

that are on the table or foreseen in the near future and fit with the TRA while taking into account the Joint paper by TG-WH /TG-MM regarding the World Heritage focus. Moreover, a compilation of the existing funds/programs which are/ can be applied at the national level should be made.

The participants agreed that it is important to consider cross-sectoral and cross-border themes for projects, thus fostering the idea of the Wadden Sea as an entity. The road map Committee should prioritize the outcome of the compilation.

The committee should elaborate on possible tasks and structure of a future body which has to deal with research projects, while the Partnership Hub should function as a platform that enables the communication and fosters the exchange and cooperation between and with the different sectors acting in the Wadden Sea World Heritage, i. a. the scientific community. Furthermore, it was discussed that the next Wadden Sea Day 2020 organized by CWSS could focus on the cooperation with the scientific community, current results of Wadden Sea research and the Trilateral Research Agenda being brought to life. It could possibly also be an opportunity to launch the new “programming committee” proposed in the Leeuwarden Declaration.

**Annex 2**



**+ ....other logos**

**Trilateral Partnership  
in support of the UNESCO Wadden Sea World  
Heritage**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

## **Introduction**

The inscription of the Wadden Sea on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2009, extended in 2011 and 2014, has strengthened, reinforced and enhanced our generation long efforts to protect, conserve and manage the Wadden Sea as the World's largest unbroken tidal barrier island system, a unique natural intertidal ecosystem, and a property shared between three nations for the benefit of present and future generations. The inscription has enhanced pride and received widespread support. It has been embraced by virtually all stakeholders in the Wadden Sea region. It has already prompted a broad variety of additional activities which have reinforced the management of the property, raised the profile of the area, created synergies and new partnerships. It brought new benefits and opportunities to the region, all of this being in accordance with the aims of the World Heritage Convention.

The Wadden Sea World Heritage is a complex transboundary site in terms of its protection and management, its governance, the number of stakeholders involved, different languages and cultural background. The Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation has demonstrated for more than 40 years that it is possible to establish a harmonized protection and management scheme that is unparalleled in the world. The many organizations and people who have a stake in the Wadden Sea World Heritage bring together ideas, expertise, competence, initiatives and resources to form a strong and united society because there is much to be gained by working together.

The inscription of the Wadden Sea on the World Heritage List is a unique opportunity to pool and strengthen existing skills and experiences under one umbrella, to ensure protection and preservation of the Wadden Sea, whilst fostering sustainable regional development within the entire Wadden Sea Region. Only if these skills and experiences are jointly developed and mutually reinforced and linked together on a high-quality level throughout the Wadden Sea Region, will the full potential of the World Heritage designation be achieved for the benefit of nature, but also for society.

By engaging strategic partners, who are active at trilateral level, ranging from civil society to the public sector, such as different public bodies, nature NGOs, and stakeholders from the education sector, the science sector and business sectors, who are willing to share responsibility and ownership for the Wadden Sea World Heritage, a strong trilateral network shall be built: as a catalyst for strengthening protection and management of the area, fostering socio-cultural, ecological and economic sustainable development, profiling the Wadden Sea at the global level and promoting highest standards and credibility.

Bearing this in mind, the Ministers, responsible for the protection of the Dutch, German and Danish Wadden Sea, representing the Governments in the Trilateral Wadden Sea Governmental Council Meeting on the Protection of the Wadden Sea in Leeuwarden, 18 May 2018, in their Leeuwarden Ministerial Declaration

- reaffirmed “that the key obligation arising from the World Heritage status is to jointly maintain the Outstanding Universal Value, including the integrity of the Wadden Sea World Heritage” (Preamble);
- instructed the Wadden Sea board “to develop trilateral Wadden Sea World Heritage partnership schemes, to further activate the Wadden Sea World Heritage brand and to enhance local ownership, as a tool for creating synergies between nature conservation in the World Heritage Site and sustainable development in the Wadden Sea Region” (Article 1);
- and “to further develop the Partnership Hub as a part of the future Partnership Centre together with the envisaged partner organisations and in partner networks across the Wadden Sea Region, which involve partners at local and regional level” (Article 2).

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is intended to bring those decisions to life. It also describes the overarching framework for more concrete partnership agreements (Agreements of Cooperation) between two or more partners, to be concluded if deemed useful or necessary, e. g. on concrete projects, activities, funding or deliverables.

This MoU also serves as a contribution to the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goal 17 “Partnership for the goals”, at the regional, national and local level.

## **1. Partners**

This MoU is concluded by the parties contained in Annex 1, who will collectively form the „Trilateral Partnership to support the UNESCO Wadden Sea World Heritage“.

## **2. Purpose and Basic Principles**

The purpose of this MoU is to establish a collaboration arrangement on an integrative, strategic, multi-stakeholder partnership between the governmental Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation on the Protection of the Wadden Sea (TWSC), and partners, which can be organisations and/or –networks with a trilateral focus. By achieving such collaboration, the objectives of this MoU are to protect the Wadden Sea, to safeguard its Outstanding Universal Value and to contribute to a sustainable Wadden Sea Region with socio-economic developments and vibrant communities.

This MoU is based on the mutual acknowledgement of the parties of the Guiding Principle for the Trilateral Conservation Area, which “is to achieve, as far as possible, a natural and sustainable ecosystem in which natural processes proceed in an undisturbed way”.as well as the Vision: “The Wadden Sea is a unique, natural and dynamic ecosystem with characteristic biodiversity, vast open landscapes and rich cultural heritage, enjoyed by all, and delivering benefits in a sustainable way to present and future generations“ as laid down in the Joint Declaration of the TWSC 2010.

This MoU aims to enhance ownership and to build an extended and stable, multi-level and cross-border community for the benefit of the Wadden Sea World Heritage in a networking approach, complementing governmental and intergovernmental efforts.

This MoU supports the implementation of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy (2014-2020).

This MoU describes mutual understanding of the partnership and collaboration principles, but does not, and shall not be deemed to, constitute a legally binding agreement by the Partners. It does not affect the statutory role and function of the partners. It respects and builds on existing working relationships between the partners and aims to intensify collaboration and to perpetuate exchange on cross-sectoral and cross-boundary levels within the means available to the partners. A commitment about funding or financial support is not part of this MoU.

### **3. The Partners agree, to**

- cooperate and offer support to sustain the Wadden Sea World Heritage and its regional components, like National Parks and other protected areas, for future generations;
- support protection, and, if necessary, revitalisation, of the unique biodiversity and natural assets of the Wadden Sea World Heritage area by effective and coherent conservation efforts;
- collaborate, encourage and facilitate effective and trustful working relationships and networks among each other, while sharing knowledge and experiences;
- play a part in and contribute to the Partnership Hub, which (will) function(s) as networking unit for the partnership in particular through network co-ordination and –management, organisation of meetings, workshops and conferences, knowledge exchange and mutual learning, fundraising and initiation of projects;
- complement and support national and regional partnership initiatives and –programs for the Wadden Sea Region;

- pool and actively communicate World Heritage activities in the region and strengthen joint communication and consistent marketing;
- continue collaboration, exchange of information and experience on preservation measures and site management;
- enhance communication and awareness about the Wadden Sea World Heritage as well as support environmental education in the Wadden Sea Region;
- support research activities with a view to maintain, exchange and expand information levels and knowledge on ecological functions, cultural history and societal developments in an open spirit of cooperation;
- contribute to regional sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region;
- consider concluding individual agreements of cooperation on concrete projects, actions, deliverables or exchange of goods/services where necessary or appropriate.

#### **4. Branding opportunities and facilitation of the partnership**

The Wadden Sea World Heritage is of high value and outstanding for nature. However, the designation is also of great importance for the people living and working in or enjoying the region, strengthening civic pride and regional identity. The Wadden Sea World Heritage Brand is of high interest for non-governmental as well as public organisations and other private partners when promoting their sustainable activities as well as for strengthening their image.

The State Parties to the TWSC as holder of the brand will support initiatives within the framework of this MoU by making the brand available. Partners wishing to use the brand have to formally agree on concrete rules before using it.

Partners will be invited to use services of the Partnership Hub and facilities at the premises of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Centre in Wilhelmshaven for collaboration purposes. This might also require specific arrangements.

#### **5. Duration and Amendments**

This MoU will come into effect upon signature.

This MoU may be modified by mutual consent of entitled representatives from the partners.

This MoU will be evaluated with a view to its continuation after 3 years.

Signed in xx original copies,

## **Annex 1 – The Partners**

### **Partner 1:**

Name(s)

Signature(s)

Location, date(s)

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### **Partner 2:**

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### **Partner 3:**

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### **Partner 4:**

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Logos