

Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 19
24 March 2017
Wilhelmshaven**



Agenda Item: 6.1

Subject: Key Points for the World Heritage Wadden Sea-Foundation

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Submitted by: Wadden Sea Team Advisors

Proposal: The meeting is requested to consider the document.

Key Points for the World Heritage Wadden Sea-Foundation

Hans-Ulrich Rösner & Herman Verheij, 17 March 2017

The following are the key points we are suggesting to the Wadden Sea Board as the basis for the World Heritage Wadden Sea (WSWH)-Foundation:

1. The main **purpose** of the WSWH-Foundation should be to fund those activities for the WSWH which are necessary or desirable, but fall outside the conservation-based core funding of the Trilateral Cooperation. E.g., typical cases might be related to marketing, education, research, stakeholder-service or the coverage of the co-financing of e.g. EU-projects. However, any funding by the foundation should strictly have a focus on the World Heritage, preferably on the trilateral level. Also, it is very important that the WSWH-Foundation refrains from funding activities which basically are governmental responsibilities, i.e. it should not replace governmental funding but rather be used for additional and otherwise underfunded activities.
2. The **core-capital** for the WSWH-Foundation must be provided by the three governments (the Trilateral Cooperation). They are the „owners“ of the WSWH. This should preferably be done by a substantial contribution by the governments at the occasion of the Wadden Sea Conference 2018 in Leeuwarden.
3. **Concessions, license- or other fees** for the use of the Wadden Sea nature or the WSWH-brand on the local level should be introduced where possible and appropriate (see e.g. report „[Travel and Protect: Contributing to Nature Conservation through Tourism in the Wadden Sea](#)“). While most of this money should be used for local conservation purposes at the place where the money comes from, a certain (to be defined) share should be contributed to the WSWH-Foundation as it is also a use of „ONE Wadden Sea“. As far as this share is concerned this may need to be voluntary. However, contributions of that sort should be mandatory if the label of the WSWH would be linked to the activity.
4. The funding by **(large) companies** should not be a prerequisite to establish the WSWH-Foundation. The assumption that it would be possible to base the WSWH-Foundation almost completely on such funding appears to be not realistic. However, over the years important contributions of that sort may be realistic. While in principle these would be very welcome, it is of great importance that the company itself and its relation to the foundation would be of such nature that a contribution may not fulfill a green-washing purpose and thus damage the credibility of the foundation and of Wadden Sea protection. It would also be undesirable if the WSWH-Foundation would focus on the same funding sources which the non-governmental nature organisations require for their work to protect the Wadden Sea.
5. Concerning its **structure and organisation**, the foundation should be handled mainly as a financial tool and not as an organisation in its own right. This would mean, the foundation should have a rather limited public life and should normally not do operational work on its own. This also means that it would not need much resources to cover the cost for its own existence. Therefore, the WSWH-Foundation should not have a full-time staff basis of its own. Instead, it should preferably be administered by the CWSS as adapted to the actual workload of the foundation, and guided by the TG-WH or a „TG“ specifically established for this purpose which is then acting as a board.