

# Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 20  
16 June 2017  
Harlingen**



---

**Agenda Item:** 5.8  
**Subject:** WSF offer regarding World Heritage Partnership Centre  
**Document No.** WSB 20/5.8/1  
**Date:** 23 May 2017  
**Submitted by:** WSF plenary

---

**Proposal:** The meeting is invited to discuss the offer of the WSF and to take a decision on this issue.

## **Offer of the WSF being strongly involved in the preparation process of the World Heritage Partnership Centre**

On 19 May 2017 the WSF plenary discussed in its 2017-1 meeting the involvement, even more so the integration of the WSF in the Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Centre (PC).

The WSF very much acknowledges the efforts to preserve the outstanding values of the Wadden Sea as World Heritage Site. In the past, the Forum has supported the nomination process i.a. by contributing to the field study tour with stakeholders. The main task of the Forum, to support the sustainable development of the entire Wadden Sea Region, is seen also as contribution to taking responsibility for the WHS.

A sustainable development of the hinterland of the WHS will have positive effects to protect the OUVs and keep the area in a favourable conservation status. The WSF stands for this sustainable, climate friendly development of the WSR. This is underlined by the work on green shipping and green harbour concept, CO<sub>2</sub> reduction, regional products and a healthy agriculture. The objectives of the WSF as well as the commitment of the stakeholders contribute strongly to the enhancement of the WHS.

The PC with the integration of various partners (authorities, NGOs, science and business sectors) fosters solidarity to develop and preserve the WHS. If partners are taken equal and serious, more responsibility is gained. The WSF is a real partner with commitment and responsibility for the WHS. The WSF can contribute to a close collaboration between the state parties/authorities and stakeholders, necessary for a broad acceptance.

Taking the described challenges into account and reflecting the process of implementing the PC so far, the WSF plenary is ready to enter a better involvement in developing the concept of the PC. An involvement in the governance process of the PC from the beginning is important to get full support and to strengthen the future collaboration between the partners besides the authorities. The WSF is willing to take this responsibility and act as a multi stakeholder partnership for the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site and constructively support the sustainable, climate friendly development of the entire Wadden Sea Region.

Therefore, the WSF offers a strong involvement in all preparation steps with regard to the implementation of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Centre.