

Wadden Sea Board

WSB 21
17 November 2017
Vester Vested, Denmark



Agenda Item: 5.8 Wadden Sea Forum

Subject: Cooperation TWSC and WSF and involvement in WH-PC

Document No. WSB 21/5.8/1

Date: 2 November 2017

Submitted by: Wadden Sea Forum Plenary

Attached is a letter of the WSF, jointly agreed at the WSF 2017-2 plenary meeting on 1-2 November in Wilhelmshaven

Proposal: The meeting is invited to discuss the document and to decide on the demand and to agree on further steps of action.



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Chairman Wadden Sea Board
Co Verdaas
CWSS
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WSF subject to be discussed at the WSB 21 meeting on 17 November 2017

Dear Mr. Verdaas and WSB members,

on 27 September 2017 the WSF Steering Committee discussed in its 2017-2 meeting issues of cooperation between the WSF and the Wadden Sea Board. The Steering Committee emphasizes the intention, preparedness and need of close collaboration, commitment and support with regard to future cooperation under the umbrella of the World Heritage Partnership Center.

At the 20th meeting of the WSB on 16 June 2017, the WSB decided to install an Operational Team Partnership Hub, tasked with exploring possible options for enhanced stakeholder engagement of possible sectors/partner networks in the projected Partnership Hub as part of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Center. According to the Terms of Reference, potential partners like the WSF should be approached to encourage active participation and engagement in the Partnership Hub.

The WSF Steering Committee agreed at its meeting on 27 September on the Terms of Reference for the newly established operational team of the projected Partnership Hub and underlined the role and potential contribution of the WSF in the Partnership Hub in detail. It was acknowledged that the Partnership Center and the embedded Partnership Hub will be important institutions for future cooperative activities in and management of the Wadden Sea Region (WSR). Governments, NGOs, the scientific community as well as stakeholders can build an important partnership to enlarge ownership for the World Heritage Site and to increase commitment to develop a sustainable society and Wadden Sea Region.

The WSF discussed in its meeting of 1-2 November 2017 the engagement of the WSF in the Partnership Hub. It was consensus that a fruitful collaboration among the partners and the governments demands mutual commitment from both sides in order to gain added value for all involved parties as well as for the protection of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. As the WSF represents comprehensively a broad variety of private sectors, non-governmental organizations and representatives of local and regional governments of the WSR, it can play

a substantial role within the networking partner hub. Based on its activities, the Forum can contribute and deliver input on sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region and particular on most relevant issues like green harbor development, sustainable energy and transport, climate adaptation, goose management and risk management. Furthermore, instruments of the WSF like climate atlas, planning portal and the locally based sustainability indicator tool will support the development of a sustainable society in the Region.

The WSF is best qualified to function as a facilitator for information and knowledge exchange between sectors and governments. Yet the envisaged role of the WSF in the future collaboration with the TWSC contains expectations.

Mutual commitment and active involvement of stakeholders in the partnership has to be based on sound financial support from the governments. In order to fulfill the vivid tasks as stakeholder forum and facilitator of the Partnership Hub, the WSF expects a sustainable financial contribution as a basic budget from the all national and state governments. Additional support by the regions as well as by stakeholders and third party projects will support the activities, e.g. implementation of studies and projects with regard to relevant topics of sustainability and the enlargement of ownership for the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. Without the financial commitment and support of the political level, the WSF will not be able to fulfil its tasks and obligations in a sustainable manner.

Therewith, the Wadden Sea Forum appeals to the WSB to clear the way with the national and state governments for financial support to the WSF as facilitator of the Partnership Hub and to strive for agreements made at the forthcoming Trilateral Governmental Conference in May 2018 in Leeuwarden. It is the WSF's conviction that only the genuine involvement of the Wadden Sea society, its stakeholders and representatives in the implementation of the ambitious tasks of the Partnership Center will be successful and sustainable.

I am therefore looking forward to the outcome of the discussion about the demand of the WSF on the WSB 21 meeting on 17 November 2017.

Yours sincerely,



Cees Loggen
Chairman Wadden Sea Forum