

# Wadden Sea Board

WSB 21  
17 November 2017  
Vester Vested, Denmark



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**Agenda Item:** 6.1

**Subject:** Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Centre:  
Terms of Reference for the Operational Team Partnership Hub  
(OPteamPH)

**Document No.** WSB 21/6.1/2

**Date:** 30.10.2017

**Submitted by:** OPteam PH

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**Proposal:**

The Wadden Sea Board is kindly proposed to take note of the final version of the Draft Terms of Reference of the Operational Team Partnership Hub.

## **Covernote to Wadden Sea Board WSB 21**

At its 20th meeting, held in Harlingen, Netherlands, on June 16, 2017, the Wadden Sea Board decided to install an operational team, tasked with exploring possible options for enhanced stakeholder engagement of possible sectors/partner networks in the projected Partnership Hub (PH) as Part of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Center (PC). The team should constitute itself as soon as possible and conduct its work complementary to that of the Partnership Center Drafting Group (PCDG). It should comprise representatives designated by the State Parties as well one from the CWSS and one from the Wadden Sea Forum (WSF). Hubertus Hebbelmann (DE) was asked by the WSB to organize the team on short notice.

The Wadden Sea Board delegations (D: per Email 04.09.2017, NL: per Email 04.09.2017; DK: per Email 07.09.2017) gave their approval to the draft Terms of Reference for the Operational Team Partnership Hub (OPteamPH) with amendments. The OPteamPH2-meeting amended the draft TOR accordingly.

Additionally, the Danish delegation added some questions/requests:

1. Please specify this in relation (*to facilitate the start of the Partnership Hub*) to the work on the organisational framework undertaken by the PCDG. What comes first and second?
2. Please specify this (*regarding partnership-agreements*) again in relation to the work of the PCDG on the organisational setup
3. Please specify what partnership-agreement

The OPteamPH answers the questions for clarification as follows:

The work of PCDG and OPteamPH can be seen as one coordinated, stepwise approach, where results complement each other. The OPteamPH aims to investigate in an open attitude the wishes and aims, future strategic partners may have regarding their involvement. These results will have potential implications for the organizational and institutional framework of a future PartnershipHub. The term 'partnership-agreement' in this relation means 'agreements with strategic partners of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation'. They should be tailor-made, may differ in content and form and are theoretically possible without an organizational setting for the PH in place.

**OPERATIONAL TEAM PARTNERSHIP HUB  
(OPteamPH)**

**Terms of Reference (22.09.2017)**

**Background**

The extension of the Wadden Sea World Heritage site with the Danish part in 2014 has completed the inscription of the Wadden Sea on the World Heritage List as the World's largest 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 already released an incredible amount of additional activity which has reinforced the management of the property, raised the profile of the area, created synergies and new partnerships, and brought new benefits and opportunities to the region in accordance with the aims of the World Heritage Convention.

To jointly meet the full range of present and future challenges of enhancing sustainability, regional development and nature protection in the entire Wadden Sea World Heritage Site while safeguarding its OUV and integrity and its surrounding region, the trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) will need to further develop and supplement the current structures. It is also necessary to improve and strengthen the cooperation between the TWSC and stakeholders on the ground. This requires an innovative, partially network-based model to promote greater diversity and increased engagement beyond the governmental sector. Ultimately, the TWSC can promote the continued and enhanced sustainable development of the Wadden Sea World Heritage and its surrounding region most effectively only with the support of local and regional stakeholders such as green NGOs, local authorities, other civil society actors, the scientific community and the private sector.

Therefore, the States Parties to the TWSC have decided to establish a Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Center (PC). The aforementioned actors are invited to play a key role in the PC so that their full potential as strategic partners can be leveraged for the benefit of the Wadden Sea World Heritage as well as for the strategic partners. The process aims to enhance ownership and build a tight, multi-level, cross-border community to complement the governmental and intergovernmental efforts.

The Partnership Centre Drafting Group (PCDG), installed by WSB 16, March 9-10, 2016, explores and outlines organizational options, mandate and governance structures for the future Partnership Hub (PH) in connection with the Wadden Sea Cooperation and a future Wadden Sea Foundation.

With regard to the PH WSB 20 decided on June 16, 2017, to complementary to the PCDG install an Operational Team Partnership Hub (OPteamPH), tasked with exploring possible options on an operational level together with the stakeholders for enhanced stakeholder engagement of possible sectors/partner networks in the projected Partnership Hub as part of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Center. The OPteamPH should conduct its work in collaboration with the PCDG, whilst avoiding double work and keeping up good information exchange.

## **Vision/ Objectives for the Partnership Hub**

By engaging with partners from the different sectors, like green NGOs, local authorities, science, research and education, as well as the private sector, it is intended as an overall goal, to realize the high potential of the strong Wadden Sea World Heritage brand as effectively as possible: as a catalyst for strengthening the protection and management of the area, fostering sustainable social and economic development, profiling the Wadden Sea World Heritage at a global and the regional level, as well as at the local level, and promoting the highest standards and credibility.

The overarching purpose of the TWSC is to establish an extended, dense and vibrant network of strategic partners at trilateral level. The networking aims to enhance ownership and build an extended and tight, multi-level, cross-border community to complement the governmental and intergovernmental efforts. This network shall also complement and support partnership initiatives and -programs at national or regional level.

Partners should be *committed* to the aims of the Wadden Sea World Heritage and protection of OUV, and *communicate* about the World Heritage and OUV of the Wadden Sea, *cooperate* with the World Heritage network in the countries and trilaterally as well as *contribute* to protect and maintain the OUV.

Relations and modes of cooperation between the partners will be content-related and fruitful for both sides. The PH is operating as a catalyst for innovative modes of cooperation, taking into account the needs of the partners and the TWSC. Networking could be initiated and facilitated in practice by liaison persons within or otherwise attached to the PH. Information exchange, knowledge partnerships, co-creation, educational offers, meeting places and the initiation and realization of common projects are important means to sustain vibrant network ties.

Partners and the TWSC will mutually benefit from enhanced visibility, political attention and raised profile and connectivity. Bigger chances to attract funding and staffing resources from third parties may result from this.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of the Operational Team Partnership Hub is to facilitate the start of the Partnership Hub by a pragmatic operational network approach together with selected actors/ representatives from sectors/ partner networks.

## **Tasks**

- to approach potential strategic partners, WSB defined earlier, for instance: Wadden Sea Forum, Wadden Sea Team (green NGO's), Research (Waddenacademie), Education (Wadden Sea School), Sustainable Tourism Network; to learn from their networking experience; to encourage and to

negotiate concrete, active participation and engagement in the PH;

- to undertake a targeted quick scan of further sectors/partner networks;
- to explore new potential strategic partners from sectors/networks like, for example, Flyway Initiative, Swimway Initiative, Nationalpark Partners, shipping and harbours, energy, CO2-neutrality, culture and landscape; to analyse fields of common interest/ project ideas including existing projects and to approach (concrete) contacts and evaluate added value of engagement in the PH (project ideas, deliverables, incentives);
- to initiate and prepare tailor-made agreements with the future partners in the Partnership Hub

### **Deliverables**

1. Outline working programme OPteamPH inclusive proposals for necessary budget/ staffing implications for a future PH
2. Report to WSB22: Targeted overview on sectors/partner networks structure: preliminary findings on structure, functioning, modes and procedures and fields of common interest including mutual added value.
3. Proposals for partnership-agreements; desirably to be signed at the Trilateral Governmental Conference May 2018
4. Report to WSB: Final Report as contribution to the Operational Concept for Partnership Centre delivered by the PCDG

### **Composition/Membership**

Chairperson

1-2 representatives per State Party, 1 from the Wadden Sea Forum, 1 from CWSS

### **Time schedule**

August 2017 to May 2018