

Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 22
2 February 2018
Hamburg, Germany**



Agenda Item: 6.2

Subject: Information concerning the WSWH Foundation (version 30-1-2018)

Document No. WSB 22/6.2

Date: 30 January 2018

Submitted by: Jochem Pleijsier

Proposal: The meeting is invited to consider the document.



INFORMATION CONCERNING A WADDEN SEA WORLD HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Submitted to WSB 22 by the Chair. Proposal: For your information

Recent developments

According to the draft minutes of WSB 21:

- The main suggestion of the WSB is: more consultations with NGO's and national stakeholders. There is a need for a common understanding that this trilateral UNESCO Foundation is filling a gap/niche and offers added value without competing existing entities. Delegations will suggest (new) names/organizations to talk to
- The Waddenvereniging wants a (new) two pager with the benefits of the foundation (this will be presented in the meeting with the NGO's on 2 February afternoon)
- In line with this, Germany stated that 'further work has to be done on objectives and bodies'. Germany: Are draft statutes not too early now.

Due to a long sick leave of Jochem Pleijsier (end December/January) not all suggestions could be worked out. The activities that have been done or being planned:

- Legal checks in the Netherlands on the draft statutes for a German based Foundation shows that 'The Allianz example' is sound enough, also for tax reduction and Dutch Board Members. (NB. Draft statutes were made to show the WSB what the Dutch chair have in mind after talks with private and public parties)
- Amendments on this draft statues were received from all Wadden Sea NGO's, BMUB and Lower Saxony, not essentially changing the original text. Most amendments makes the text 'smarter'
- Useful meeting with the Dutch Wadden Sea NGO's
- Meeting with Allianz Umweltstiftung (dr. Spandau and prof. Bachmann) was cancelled, a new one will be made by BMUB
- Meetings with regional and national stakeholders are being planned
- UNESCO (Paris) experts were positive about our trilateral Foundation, this would be world wide the first multilateral one and could be an example for other bi- or trilateral UNESCO nature sites
- A report with all examples of (private) Foundations of UNESCO nature reserves in 'Western' countries is being made, a draft copy is already available. The most successful ones are going to be studied.

What's next in 2018:

- **February-March:** Round table with, and extra visits to, regional and national stakeholders. Also specific (family) foundations/institutes. Searching possible and concrete themes/business propositions (like the self-reliant (CO2) programme Ameland)
- **March-April.** Political discussion about WHF-articles+Annex in draft Trilateral Wadden Government Declaration; exploring (and possibly consulting) potential members of the Board and synchronously investigating what is needed for supporting WHF Programme Office
- **May 2018.** Possible approval of the draft WHF at the trilateral government