

Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 23
23 March 2018
Wilhelmshaven, Germany**



Agenda Item: 6

Subject: Draft Progress Report to WSB 23 (23.03.2018; Wilhelmshaven)
Version 02.03.2018

Document No.: WSB 23/6.1/1

Date: 07 March 2018

Submitted by: OP Team

OP Team Cover note:

WSB21 advised the team to proceed in a more targeted/ guided, framed way; to look for accompanying advice by an expert and to start a dialogue process instead of carry out an interview series with already agreed potential partner organisations and networks. CWSS offered to draft a generic template of an Agreement of Cooperation.

Since the last report to WSB21, the Operational Team Partnership Hub held two meetings, one in December of last year (OPteamPH4; 14.12.2017) and one in February (OPteamPH5; 28.02.2017).

Proposal:

The meeting is proposed to note the progress and to endorse the approach.

**OPERATIONAL TEAM PARTNERSHIP HUB
(OPteamPH 5)
Draft Progress Report to WSB 23 (23.03.2018; Wilhelmshaven)
Version 02.03.2018**

Two new consultants have joined the team: **Prof. Dr. Beate Ratter** is Professor of Integrative Geography and Coastal Research at the University of Hamburg and also heads the Department of Human Dimensions in Coastal Areas within the Institute of Coastal Research at the Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht. By her eight year long active membership at the Wadden Sea Forum as scientific partner and a former, long term appointment with WWF for the NGO's Wadden Sea Team, she brings in broad background and experience, esp. on the potentials of the Wadden Sea Forum and the science community with regard to the envisaged PartnershipHub.

The lower saxon B.U.N.D. provides a coordinator for the green NGO-network's involvement in planning for the Partnership Hub with support from the Niedersächsische Wattenmeerstiftung. The two years project started at the beginning of 2018. **Dr. Bettina Taylor**, biologist, Bremen, has been appointed for this task.

The Partnership Centre and -Hub project as well as Partnership Schemes are placed within the draft **Ministerial Council Declaration** 2018, both within the preamble as well as the operational part.

The **PROWADLink** applikation for funding by the EU-Interreg VB North Sea Programme contains activities with relation to the Partnership Hub development in Workpackage 4. The funding-decision is expected for june 2018.

The OPteamPH so far

- exchanged information about the progress made within the different sectors (already defined partners agreed by WSB);
- drafted a schematic visualisation of their network structures as perceived by the group in order to discuss and analysed their degree of organisation at trilateral level and identify relevant actors (see Annex 1: Quick-scan networks);
- outlined a guidance document on dialogue content (see Annex 2: dialogue design);
- drafted a one-pager information sheet to underly the dialogue (see Annex 3) and
- planned the dialogue process sector-wise.

State of play dialogue with the sectors, next steps:

Green NGO's:

The Wadden Sea Team presented it's history and activities as factual partners of the Trilateral Wadden Wea Cooperation on the occasion of the Wadden Sea Day 31 august 2017, where they underlined the challenge to „finding the right balance between centre and network“. The NGO-network recently faces some changes because of retirement of central actors. The OPteamPH received positive signals towards partnership in general on several occasions. It is planned to schedule one or two kick-off-dialogue meetings with the Wadden Sea Team after the Governmental Conference, in summer 2018.

Tourism:

The Task Group Sustainable Tourism was informed about the partnership hub initiative at its last TG-meeting on 8/9 february 2018 and invited to exchange and compare their goals, assumptions and intentions concerning the Wadden Sea World Heritage and identify

common fields of interests from their perspective. The information level among the TG-STs members on the partnership hub idea seems quite heterogeneous. Representatives of the Tourist Marketing Organization are part of TG-STs but their attendance of the task group is irregular. If the PROWADLink application should be approved, the sector shall be approached within the project's activities. The chair of TG-STs suggested to use part of the next TG-STs meeting on 25 June while discussing the implementation of the STS and an update of the action plan, to inform further on PH ideas and to open the dialogue.

Research:

Jouke van Dijk, Dutch Wadden Academy and team leader for the Trilateral Research Agenda drafting process presented ideas about involvement of the scientific community in the partnership centre and -hub on the occasion of the TG-MM-meeting 21 December 2017. Bilateral talks with Jouke van Dijk have lately been carried out, a report to the OPteamPH will be given.

Education:

Recently, the education network has been very busy and occupied with elaborating and consulting the education strategy to be signed by education network organisations at the Governmental Conference. The long version of the strategy should be taken as a starting point for dialogue on future collaboration's contents and ways of partnering. Anja Szczesinski shall be invited to the next OPteamPH-meeting after the conference at the end of May.

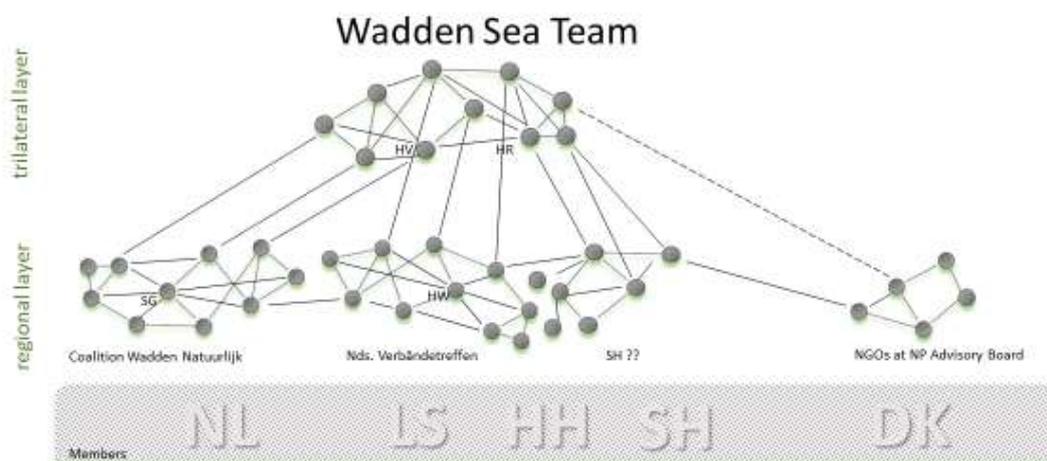
Wadden Sea Forum:

The Wadden Sea Forum proposed to play a substantial role within the networking partner hub by contributing and delivering input on sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region and in particular on most relevant issues like green harbor development, sustainable energy and transport, climate adaptation, goose management and risk management. In order to fulfill the vivid tasks as stakeholder forum and facilitator of the Partnership Hub, the WSF expresses the need for a sustainable financial contribution as a basic budget from the all national and state governments to sustain WSF's activities and contributions (see doc. WSB 21/5.8/1). The Wadden Sea Forum worked out a quick network scan about their most important and active sectoral networks (see also Annex 1). It is planned to inform and start the dialogue with the Wadden Sea Forum on ways of collaboration/integration at the WSF steering group meeting 24 April 2018.

Annex 1

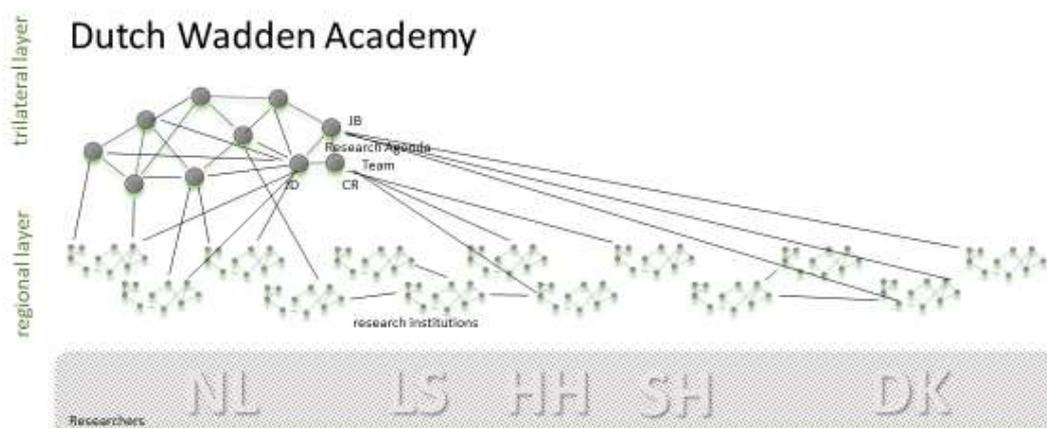
Quick scan trilateral network structures

Green NGOs



The Wadden Sea Team has a long history in representing green NGOs throughout the Wadden Sea Region. Two appointed members regularly attend the Wadden Sea Board as advisors. They meet at least once a year. The NGO-network recently faces some changes because of retirement of central actors.

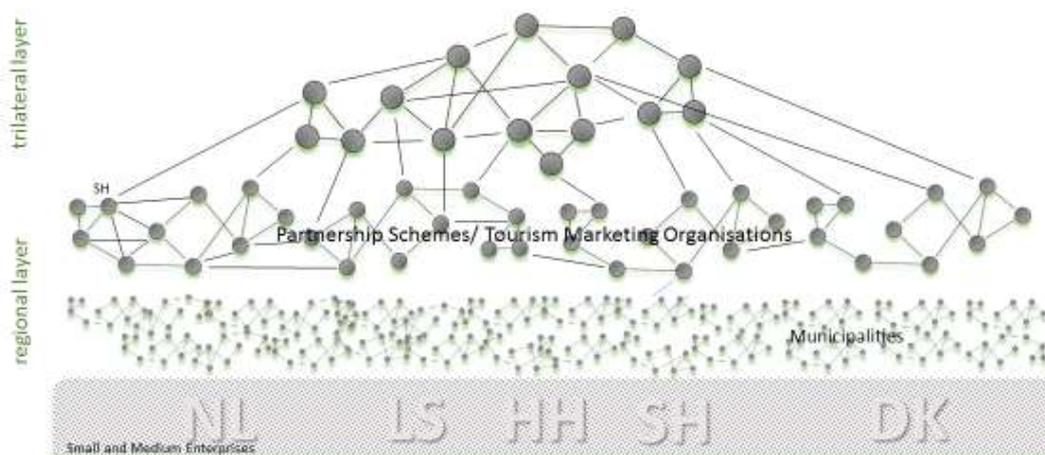
Research Community



The Dutch Wadden Academy maintains a trilateral network of scientists. The scientific community can be characterized by a certain competitiveness between institutions. The existing research community network does benefit from regularly held trilateral scientific symposia and would gain essentially from the establishment of an interdisciplinary trilateral research platform and funding mechanism. The

regular Quality Status Reporting project (QSR) has also a strong networking effect on linking the TWSC with members of the scientific community in all countries.

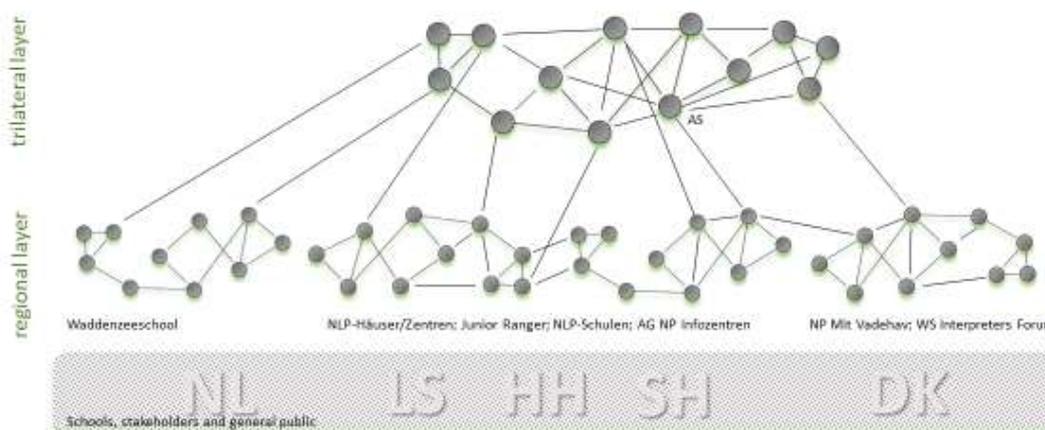
Sustainable Tourism Trilateral Task Group



Trilaterally, there is no other networking cluster known, than the trilateral task group sustainable tourism. The future Interreg VB Project PROWADLink is expected to further networking with the tourism sector as did the preceding PROWAD project and the bilateral Interreg VA projects Waddenagenda and NAKUWA. The landscape of tourism marketing institutions (TMO) is characterized by competition in destination marketing. TMOs underwent a lot of organisational changes recently.

Education

Network Group Education



The International Wadden Sea School (IWSS) Project maintains the Trilateral Network Group Education. The IWSS is an initiative of the Trilateral Cooperation on the protection of the Wadden Sea together with the WWF-foundation. The network

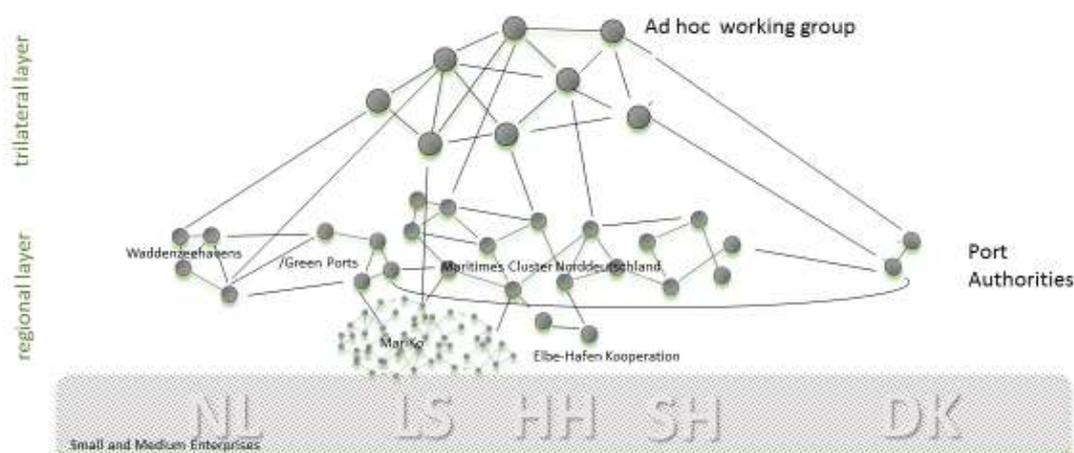
group consists of members representing Wadden Sea education and interpretation at national and regional levels, mainly education centres.

Wadden Sea Forum:

In the Wadden Sea Forum, representatives from agriculture, tourism, green NGOs, fishery, industry and harbor, local/regional government authorities/municipalities, a national park (DK), research, energy and shipping and sailing organisations take part in plenary sessions and in several permanent, ad hoc or project-related working groups. Certain areas of expertise are represented in notable sub-networks, such as e.g.:

- Industry and harbour
- Energy
- Agriculture
- Research
- Local/regional government authorities/municipalities,

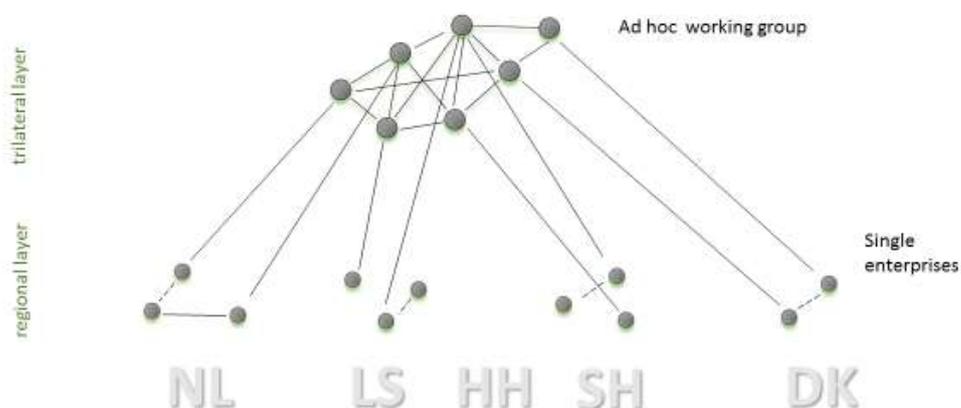
Wadden Sea Forum: Industry and harbour



Industry and harbour

Besides the WSF secretariat, an ad-hoc working group maintains the network and approaches new cooperation partners. The network encompasses harbour organizations, which have access to a large network consisting of single harbours along the Wadden Sea coast and harbour related industry. Contacts to harbour organization are mainly made with Mariko (maritime competence center) Maritime cluster North Germany and the trilateral green port initiative. There is also cooperation between the organizations and among the harbor organisations with regard to specific objectives and fields of interest.

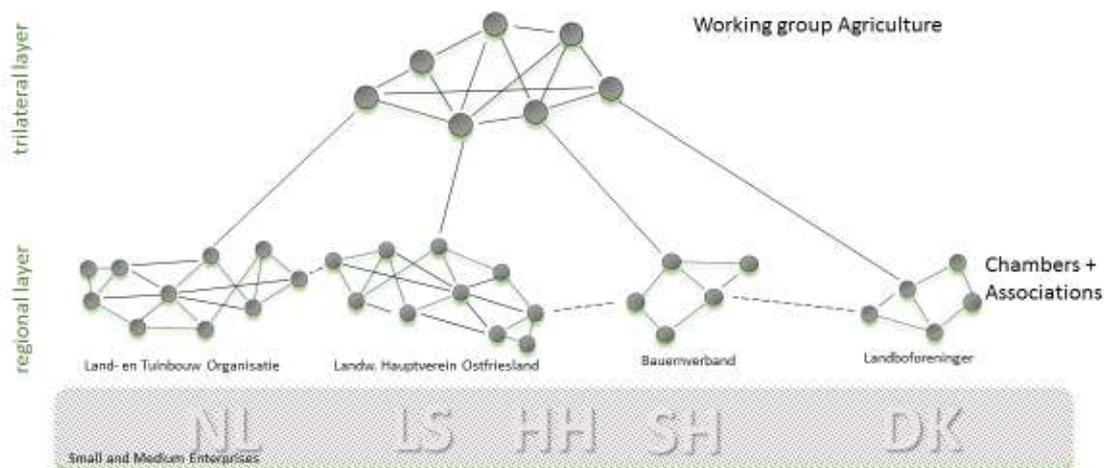
Wadden Sea Forum: Energy



Energy

The WSF secretariat and an ad-hoc working group have developed a network with some energy companies in all three Wadden Sea countries. The cooperation functions through representatives of the companies. Additionally, if it comes to energy topics, also representatives of counties and municipalities are part in this network (see also under governments/authorities)

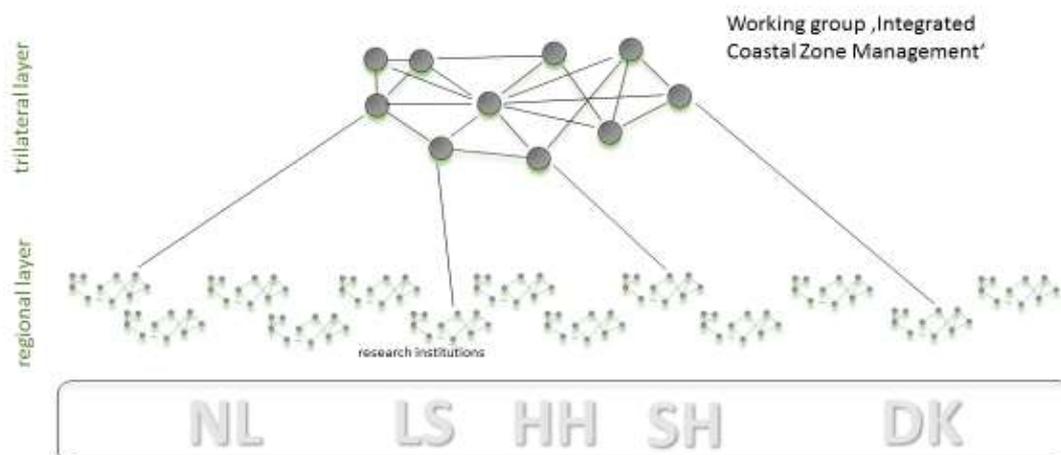
Wadden Sea Forum: Agriculture



Agriculture

The WSF secretariat and a working group have built a network with farmer organization in the entire Wadden Sea Region. In the past, this network mainly elaborated on level playing field and on goose management.

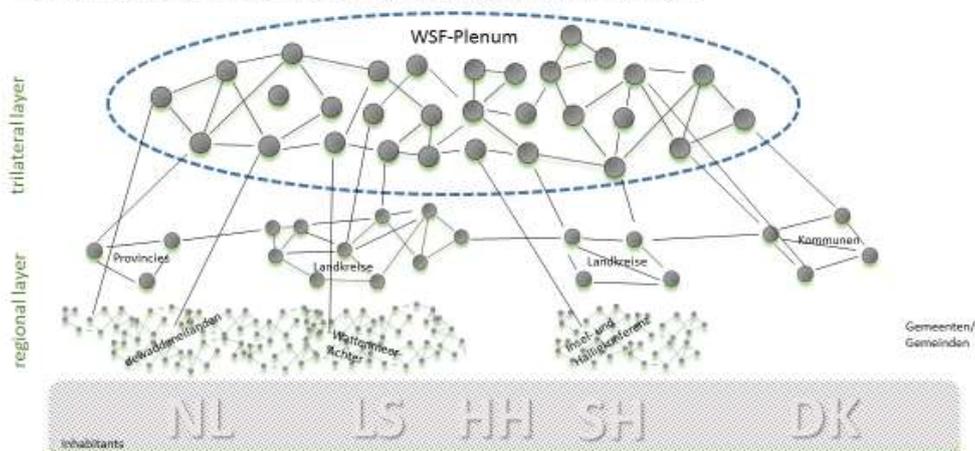
Wadden Sea Forum: Research; Research network for different projects



Research

The WSF secretariat and the working group on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) have intense contacts to research institutions to cooperate on certain topics. The research institutions are universities (South Jutland, Kiel, Heide, Hamburg, Oldenburg, Rostock, Groningen, Tilburg) and research institutes like FTZ, HZG, AWI, NIHK, Senckenberg, NIOZ, Dutch Wadden Academy and others. Contacts are on department and individual level. Depending on project's contents, relevant parts of the network are activated. Besides the cooperation among departments of universities and institutes there is also collaboration among the institutions, also on trilateral level.

Wadden Sea Forum: Local/regional government authorities, municipalities



Local and regional government authorities

The entire WSF organization with plenary, steering committee, working groups and secretariat maintains a network with local and regional government authorities. This network encompasses the three Wadden Sea provinces and some municipalities in NL, counties and municipalities in Germany (Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein) and the four Wadden Sea municipalities in Denmark. Additionally, representatives of associations of local authorities like "Insel und Hallig Konferenz" are part in this network too.

Annex 2

Dialogue Design

Final draft; date 12.01.2018

Purpose

Approach (pre-selected) potential partners: Wadden Sea Forum, Nature NGO's, research (via Dutch Wadden Academy), Education Network group (via International Wadden Sea School), Tourism Network, as a guidance to investigate common fields of interest and action, explore active participation and potential engagement in the Partnership Hub, pave ways to partnership arrangements and to learn from their networking experience (could be sent to the dialogue partners beforehand).

Items

These are elements for the dialogue with the potential partners, not instructions that have to be followed, but may lead the dialogues content. Please try to report on the level of items (paragraph title).

Introduction

(If necessary), inform about current state of ideas (present one page information on Partnership (currently under preparation)), see Report to WSB21

Give motivation statement from TWSC perspective like annexed: Vision/objectives from TOR OPteamPH. Our idea is to strengthen the cooperation between the TWSC and the potential partners by setting up a PartnershipHub which can facilitate the collaboration and network.

Common goals, common fields of interest

Exchange and compare

- Mutually describe goals concerning the Wadden Sea World Heritage from both sides
- Identify common fields of interests together

Concrete ideas/projects etc.

- Start with the identified goals and common fields of action and use them to undertake a brainstorming on specific ideas, projects or initiatives in mind where collaboration could focus

Expectations about the added value of a closer collaboration

Identify added values of a closer collaboration with the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) for the potential partner organization/stakeholders (attention, influence, increasing business success, material/immaterial rewards from the state...?) and describe current weaknesses and vice versa

- Ideas on improvement of the cooperation between the TWSC and the potential partner

Partnership Hub

- Elaborate together with the potential partner on expectations concerning the PartnershipHub
- Elaborate on the functions of a PartnershipHub for the potential partner (knowledge exchange, networking, meeting space etc.), identify what is most important
-
- Find out about hesitations/ obstacles held against participation in the Partnership Hub
- Discuss a need for persons (facilitators) in charge of enhancing collaborations, initiation of projects and foster cooperations

Willingness

- Encourage and discuss possibilities for a concept-agreement about the collaboration next year resp. to explore the idea of a PartnershipHub further with the TWSC
- Agree on next steps, f. e. arrange further talks.

Annex 3



Trilateral Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Hub

Working together – locally, regionally, transboundary

The Vision

Through the envisioned **Partnership Hub** the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation aims to engage and cooperate with partners from various sectors across the Wadden Sea region. The Hub acts as a **catalyst for innovative modes of cooperation**, taking into account the needs of the partners as well as the protection of the Wadden Sea World Heritage. It supports the development of capacities and competence, enables partners to share and pool resources and to address common challenges that do not stop at the traditional administrative borders.

Get involved!

Use the opportunity to shape the future of cooperation in the Wadden Sea. Our invitation goes out to partners in the Danish, Dutch, and German Wadden Sea region, representing Nature NGOs, Research, Education, Tourism, the Wadden Sea Forum, etc. Together we want to identify common grounds, strive for collaboration in specific cooperation projects and aim to achieve the common goals, protecting the shared Wadden Sea World Heritage.

Please join the dialogue and express your interest. Contact us at

info@waddensea-secretariat.org

One Wadden Sea. One Global Heritage.

Stretching along the coasts of Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands, the Wadden Sea is the largest tidal flat system in the world, where natural processes run undisturbed. In 2009, the Wadden Sea was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List for its globally unique geological and ecological values.

www.waddensea-worldheritage.org

Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation

To ensure the protection of the Wadden Sea, Denmark, Germany, and the Netherlands have been joining forces in the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation for over 40 years, taking responsibility for this irreplaceable ecosystem and preserving it for the benefit of present and future generations. The Guiding Principle of the Cooperation is to achieve, as far as possible, a natural and sustainable ecosystem in which natural processes proceed in an undisturbed way. The Common Wadden Sea Secretariat coordinates the work of the Cooperation.

The Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation

- protects and conserves the Wadden Sea as an ecological entity;
- monitors and assesses the quality of the Wadden Sea ecosystem;
- cooperates internationally with other marine sites;
- engages the public in the protection of the Wadden Sea;
- secures sustainable development of the Wadden Sea region with respect to its natural and cultural values.

www.waddensea-secretariat.org

