Program Officer, Wadden Sea World Heritage Conservation

The Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) in Wilhelmshaven, Germany, is the Secretariat of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (the Danish, Dutch, German cooperation at government level for the protection of the Wadden Sea, TWSC) and the coordinating hub for the Wadden Sea World Heritage. The Secretariat is located in Wilhelmshaven, Germany. The working language is English.

CWSS is seeking to recruit, beginning from the 1st of January 2021, a

Program Officer (m/f/d), Wadden Sea World Heritage Conservation

The focus on the incumbent’s task within the small Conservation Unit of the CWSS will be on all aspects the TWSC is involved in, but predominantly related to the bird topics at large. For decades the CWSS has played an important role in realising a consistent monitoring scheme for breeding and migratory birds in the Wadden Sea. More recently, with the adoption of the Wadden Sea Flyway Vision by many partners (2014) and the launching of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative as a result of the UNESCO recommendation at the time of inscription of the Wadden Sea on the World Heritage list (2009), the CWSS is becoming more and more active on the international Flyway level.

As the CWSS is supporting and servicing the TWSC on all aspects of the ecosystem conservation, he/she will also act as secretary to some expert groups dealing with e.g. salt marshes and dunes or alien species. The final allocation of these working fields will be made in close collaboration with the other colleagues to guarantee the full coverage of all working and expert groups.

This full-time post offers an appealing and increasing broad range of partnership-related communication and interaction with a huge number of very diverse stakeholder organisations and networks across the Wadden Sea region as well as in West Africa and the Arctic Region.

Given the recognised and central position of the CWSS with respect to the general overall data-handling at trilateral level, to support the overall CWSS performance in this respect, at least a basic general knowledge level in this respect is expected.

The CWSS itself offers a diverse and dynamic working environment, covering many work fields in a trilateral political-management setting, with a dedicated international staff. The office itself is located at the border of the seaside in the charming city of Wilhelmshaven.
Key responsibilities

The Program Officer’s general objectives are to implement and support the execution of tasks assigned by the Wadden Sea Board to the CWSS. Within this general framework the following tasks are to be fulfilled, in close cooperation with the TWSC and other partners:

- Act as the focal point for all activities related to the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative.
- Support all respective trilateral task groups/working group(s) e.g. actually salt marshes and dunes and alien species
- Prepare, coordinate, and organise the planning, implementation and evaluation processes of all bird activities the CWSS is participating and/or leading in, e.g. the further development within the WSFI and the Breeding Bird Action Plan
- Contribute to the strategic development and implementation of relevant MOU’s the CWSS is participating
- Organise and/or assist in the organisation of workshops, meetings, webinars etc to further trilateral coordination and the trilateral joined approach.
- Communicate, inform and promote about intentions, ideas and activities of the TWSC and the CWSS whenever appropriate to various target audiences, on diverse occasions and via media.
- Support the CWSS in project applications for funding whenever appropriate.
- Take financial accountability for the assigned projects.
- Provide general GIS and data-handling support for a.o. World Heritage and QSR topics and for specific working groups
- Carry out other tasks as assigned.

Qualifications required

- Masters-level university degree in biology, marine science, environmental science or a related discipline. A degree in another field with relevant work experience may be accepted in lieu of the above requirements.
- Experience in environmental policy and nature protection, preferably at the international level.
- Experience of or proven interest in international cooperation, knowledge of and experience with the UNESCO World Heritage Convention is an asset.
- Proven track record in project management, including international/multinational projects.
- Experience in report writing.
- Excellent English drafting skills,
- Basic knowledge in GIS and data-handling,
- Experience in handling international projects,
- Proficiency in spoken and written English. Knowledge of another Wadden Sea language (German, Danish, Dutch) is an asset, as well as specifically the French language,
- The incumbent should be able to work autonomously and should be a team player,
- Interpersonal skills will include the ability to cooperate with a broad range of partners across the Trilateral Cooperation on the protection of the Wadden Sea and beyond, having intercultural experience.
- The incumbent will possess confidence in representing the TWSC vis-à-vis external partners and stakeholders, including public speaking as necessary.
- Candidates must be prepared to travel.

Salary and allowances:
Based on the German Collective agreement for Civil Service Employees (Tarifvertrag für den öffentlichen Dienst, TVöD), depending on qualification and experience comparable up to level 13.
Duration of appointment: A long-term contract can be offered, after a probation period of 6 months.

This selection and recruitment process will be conducted in accordance with relevant German and European law. For further information on the job description you may contact Bettina Oleksik via email oleksik@waddensea-secretariat.org or by tel +49 (0)4421-910817.

Please submit your email application in English to the head of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Bernard Baerends (application@waddensea-secretariat.org). Interviews are foreseen to take place beginning of December 2020.

Deadline for applications: Dec 1st, 2020

Wilhelmshaven, 13.11.2020