

Wadden Sea Board

WSB 13
28 - 29 January 2015
Wilhelmshaven



Agenda Item:	5
Subject:	Feasibility WH Study Competence Centre / network
Document No.	WSB 13/5/1
Date:	18 December 2014
Submitted by:	Secretariat

Attached is a report on the project "Feasibility Study Competence Centre or network" implementing § 7 Tønder Declaration.

Proposal: **The meeting is proposed to comment as appropriate, and to contribute to the project and the planned workshop as outlined in the document.**

Feasibility Study World Heritage Competence Centre or network

Background

In accordance to § 7 TD, the States Parties agreed to carry out the feasibility study together with a proposal for a structural framework connecting the Centre or network, the envisaged World Heritage Foundation, and the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat. The Terms of Reference of the study are in **Annex 1**.

Status

The State Parties accepted a proposal for a study by Andy Brown and decided to contract him. After the budget has been provided the contract between the CWSS and Andy Brown was signed on 15 December. The work plan is in Annex 2.

Follow up

As a first step, Andy Brown will approach the key persons for an initial discussion and to confirm the approach. In January 2015, research will be carried out to gather and access background information (including contacts to the WH centre and IUCN) and to prepare structured interviews with those who work with the TWSC and other relevant stakeholders, authorities or international bodies. By end of February 2015, a workshop with the WSB and other relevant persons will be held to present the findings, including a scoping of the functions of the Centre/network and pros and cons of different governance options. As a result, the study will be refined including governance options and finalising both the reports by end of April 2015.

Proposal: **The meeting is proposed to comment as appropriate, and to contribute to the project and the planned workshop as outlined above.**

ANNEX 1**FEASIBILITY STUDY
for a
WADDEN SEA WORLD HERITAGE
COMPETENCE CENTRE****Terms of Reference
(30.10.2014)****Introduction**

The inscription of the Dutch-German Wadden Sea on the World Heritage List in 2009, and the extension with the Danish part of the Wadden Sea in 2014, has now strengthened the responsibility of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) for the entire property. It has also resulted in new tasks for the Cooperation concerning conservation, communication, cooperation with stakeholders, building up of capacities and strengthening the credibility of the site.

In order to enable the TWSC to take up this new tasks and to make use of the potential of the World Heritage inscription as laid down in the "World Heritage Strategy 2010", the Trilateral Governmental Conference Tønder 2014 agreed "to investigate the feasibility of a Wadden Sea World Heritage Competence Centre or network, including work contents, cooperation partners, organization, structure and budget" (§7 Tønder Declaration).

Objectives

1. Investigating the feasibility in accordance with §7 of the Tønder Declaration taking into the account the concept for a 'Wadden Sea World Heritage Centre of Excellence' of June 2013 as presented by Germany to the Wadden Sea Board.
2. Elaborating alternative models for a structural framework connecting the Centre of Excellence, the envisaged World Heritage Foundation and the Common Wadden Sea secretariat, including its governance.

Implementation

- (1) The study must be implemented by an internationally recognized consultancy with documented relevant expertise.
- (2) The study is a desk study, supplemented by queries of relevant partners and the World Heritage Centre, Paris
- (3) The results of the study must be presented in two separate reports addressing the two above objectives to be delivered to the Wadden Sea Board at its spring meeting 2015.

Financing

The feasibility study will be financed by, a.o., the Niedersachsen Ministry for the Environment and the Dutch Wadden Academy. The CWSS will be the formal contractor for the assignment.

ANNEX 2

Feasibility Study World Heritage Competence Centre and Governance Study

Dr Andy Brown CBE

APPROACH TO THE WORK

The work requires two distinctive tasks to be undertaken - the feasibility study of the centre/network and a governance study. Whilst these two studies will result in two reports the studies will be undertaken in parallel, not sequentially, as they are interrelated. There are a number of linkages between the two and it allows for a more cost effective approach to the work.

The work will largely be undertaken as a desk exercise. However, it is considered desirable that some of the initial analysis, in particular the risks and analysis for the centre/network and the initial ideas for the governance arrangements are explored and discussed by the senior staff involved in the TWSC in order to gradually develop a common understanding and agreement over to the way forward. This would best be achieved through a workshop to feedback information and present ideas which would stimulate the necessary face to face discussion. It is also appropriate to include the opportunity for the draft reports to be presented in person in order for any questions to be answered directly and any outstanding issues to be identified and considered prior to finalisation of the report.

The feasibility study will be adjusted in the light of the information gathered and the exploration of the issues raised. However, in broad terms it will scope the opportunity; undertake an analysis of the current situation; set out the requirements and options for a centre/network; recommend a way forward; evaluate the cost effectiveness and set out a process to review the feasibility study and make a decision.

The governance study will draw upon experience from around the world with trans-boundary cooperation and protected area networks to set out a range of options. Each will be explored in turn to assess their strengths and weaknesses in the context of the TWSC. Through discussion the options will be narrowed down and two options identified to elaborate in more detail. A recommendation will be made for the preferred option.

1. Initial discussion

Convene an early Skype discussion with the staff responsible for the contract, the Waddenacademie and Lower Saxony, and if appropriate any representatives from the Wadden Sea Board, to confirm the approach set out in this proposal and in particular to identify any issues that require particular attention; to agree a provisional list of key individuals to interview as part of the study and to confirm an approach to testing and refining the ideas during the investigation and the presentation arrangements for the final reports.

2. Background Research

This will essentially be a desk exercise to gather and assess background information in relation to the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site and developments in the TWSC over the last few years. Work will also be undertaken to gather information on centres of excellence/competence centres/networks and governance arrangements for trans-boundary

World Heritage Sites, and other Protected Area networks. This will include collecting information from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and IUCN. This work can be done electronically. However, if a visit to the World Heritage Centre in Paris is thought to be necessary then it will be accommodated within the overall fee for the contract.

3. Prepare structured interviews

In the light of the desk research the list of key individuals and groups to be consulted during the study will be refined and a set of structured interview questions prepared. The list of those to speak to should include those working directly or indirectly for the TWSC but also other stakeholder groups, local and regional authorities and other relevant international bodies.

4. Information gathering and analysis

Interviews and discussions will all be held electronically and if necessary can be supplemented by written submissions. The precise programme for these discussions will be formulated in close cooperation with the CWSS, the Waddenacademie and Lower Saxony.

5. Scoping and testing options

It is proposed that the initial findings and analysis are tested and quality assured by one or more people who are familiar with the TWSC and/or the operation of World Heritage Sites. There are a number of people that might be able to help at this stage but none have been formally approached. This can be discussed further and a decision made at a later stage. In addition, it is proposed that the most effective approach to this stage, if it can be accommodated, would be a face to face workshop involving the Wadden Sea Board and the Waddenacademie. This would allow the results from stages 1 to 4 to be presented, including the scoping of the functions of the Centre/network and pros and cons of different governance options. Collective discussion would help to clarify areas of agreement and disagreement, explore risks and would help focus the next stage of work on the most critical issues. Hopefully it would also lead to a convergence of thinking towards an agreed way forward.

6. Refining the feasibility study and focussing governance options

Following the workshop discussion further analysis will be undertaken to address or clarify any outstanding issues. The feasibility study will be refined and the preferred options for governance developed in more detail. Draft reports on the feasibility study and governance study will be prepared for presentation to the Wadden Sea Board or their representatives. Following discussion with the Board any outstanding issues addressed.

7. Finalising the reports

The reports will be finalised and forwarded to the CWSS for submission to the Wadden Sea Board and the Waddenacademie.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

The work will be undertaken within the required schedule so that a final report can be produced by the end of March 2015. However, this timescale is tight as a result of Christmas holidays and is dependent on scheduling of interviews and workshops. The proposed schedule of activities is described in the table below:

Activity	Days	Dec	Jan				Feb				Mar				April			
Initial discussions	1	x																
Background research	5		x	x	x													
Prepare structured interviews	2			x														
Information gathering & analysis	10			x	X		x	x	x	x	x							
Scoping and testing options	12						x	X	x	x	x		x					
Refining feasibility study and focussing governance options	9											x	x	x	x			
Finalising the reports	4																x	x
Total days	43																	

Highlighted boxes indicate possible times for the workshop and presentation of the draft reports