

Wadden Sea Board

WSB 16
9-10 March 2016
Leeuwarden



Agenda Item:	5.1 Wadden Sea World Heritage
Subject:	Progress Report Task Group World Heritage
Document No.	WSB 16/5.1/1
Date:	22 February 2016
Submitted by:	Chair TG-WH

Attached is a progress report of the Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH). The meeting is referred to the report.

Proposal: **The meeting is referred to the proposals in the progress report.**

PROGRESS REPORT TASK GROUP WORLD HERITAGE

Since the last Wadden Sea Board meeting in November 2015, the Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH) met face-to-face once on 11 December 2015, preparing the State of Conservation report to the World Heritage Committee, and held a phone conference on 11 February 2016.

1. State of Conservation Report to the World Heritage Committee

The World Heritage Committee during its 38th session (June 2014) adopted a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value followed by a number of requests to the States Parties, including a request “ *to submit, by 1 December 2016, a joint report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, including confirmation of progress on the development and adoption of the integrated management plan and the institutional and financial provisions that will be in place to ensure its effective implementation.*”

The WSB 15 **endorsed** the approach proposed by TG-WH including the draft outline of the SoC report, and the timeline for the preparation of the report: delivery of QSR results by May 2016, preparation of a consultation version of the SoC report in July 2016, final report in November 2016.

The TG-WH SoC drafting meeting (11 December 2015) discussed a first version of the report in order to prepare a complete first draft at the next TG-WH meeting on 12 April 2016 and to submit the final draft of a consultation version to the WSB 17 meeting on 22 June 2016 for approval.

Proposal: Take note of status

2. Preparation of Single Integrated Management Plan

The WSB 15 endorsed the approach proposed by the TG-WH on the development of a single integrated management plan (SIMP) pursuant to request #6 of the World Heritage Committee. The development will focus on priority issues which urgently need further harmonization, and which are already on the trilateral agenda. A workshop with participation of IUCN (Pedro Rosabal) and TG-WH will be organized in Bonn on 31 May (with support of BMUB) to prepare an overall framework for the SIMP.

Proposal: To note of status

3. Preparation PROWAD LINK Project

The “PROWAD Link Expression of Interest” (EoI) submitted in the first call of the Interreg V B North Sea Region Programme (NSRP) in June 2015 was rejected by the Steering Committee on 10 November 2015 because the EoI was rated insufficient in 3 out of 6 assessment criteria (letter of rejection 30 November 2015). The Steering

Committee also recommended submitting an improved Eol in Call 2 (deadline 14 March 2016).

The lead beneficiary (CWSS) is currently preparing a new Eol together with the project beneficiaries, i.e.: Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Province Fryslan, German Wadden Sea National Parks (Hamburg, Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein), Danish Wadden Sea National Park, South West Jutland Business Development, Danish Nature Agency, WWF, University of Trondheim/Norwegian Western Fjords, Jurassic Coast (tbc), Wash/Northern Norfolk (tbc). Meetings were held on 27 January and 19 February 2016 to prepare a new Eol by the deadline of 14 March 2016.

A decision on the Eol will be taken in September 2016. In case of a positive decision, a Full Application must then be submitted by end of January 2017. A decision on the Full Application will be taken by the NSRP Steering Committee in June 2017.

Proposal: Take note of status

4. Business Cooperation Programme

The WSB 15 asked the TG-WH and TG-STS to develop a framework for a World Heritage business cooperation programme, possibly in connection with the PROWAD LINK project.

Because the World Heritage business cooperation scheme is of strategic importance for the TWSC, the TG-WH suggested to develop a cooperation scheme in a bottom-up approach in the framework of the planned WH partnership centre and the PROWAD LINK project. The feasibility study for a business cooperation programme by PROWAD (2015) has already provided important guidance on how to proceed.

As a next step, the TG-WH intends prepare a joint workshop with the TG-STS to investigate opportunities as well as limitations and possible risks of a trilateral cooperation scheme, and to prepare terms of reference for the further elaboration of such a scheme (objectives, contents, guidance in developing standards, criteria, organization, timeline, budget) within the PROWAD LINK project.

Proposal: Take note of status

5. WH logo use

The TG-WH has appointed the following focal points which will assist the CWSS in the application procedure for the WH logo:

- NL: Sjon de Haan (Dutch WH facilitator),
- DK: Anne Husum Marboe (Nature Agency),
- D: National park administrations.

The CWSS will organize a joint meeting of the focal points in April 2016 to ensure quality and consistency of logo use across the entire property.

Proposal: Take note of status