

Wilhelmshaven Declaration

“Together for ONE Wadden Sea World Heritage”

We, the ministers, recall the **vision** of our cooperation, a Wadden Sea which is a unique, natural and dynamic ecosystem with characteristic biodiversity, vast open landscapes and rich cultural heritage, enjoyed by all, and delivering benefits in a sustainable way to present and future generations, as well as the Guiding Principle which is “to achieve, as far as possible, a natural and sustainable ecosystem in which natural processes proceed in an undisturbed way”.

We underline the great responsibility we have for this One Wadden Sea World Heritage and we are determined to take up a high level of ambition needed to achieve our goals and to be internationally respected, bearing in mind the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Acknowledging the different approaches in the Wadden Sea states and regions in management as a chance and being aware of the benefit of joining forces facing the challenges ahead, our **mission** is to engage as many as possible and to learn from each other in performing to the highest standards, to gain added value a.o. for the mandatory implementation of i.e. EU legislation by the Wadden Sea States by combining our nature protective competences and by striving for the highest ecological denominator.

This declaration sets the course for operationalising a framework of activities we will take up the next 4 years:

- We welcome the Trilateral Partnership Hub, [the Trilateral Wadden Sea World Heritage Foundation]¹ and the Trilateral Programming Committee – Wadden Sea Research, which will contribute to the improvement of our collaborative approach to sustain the protection of our common World Heritage and we will further expand this partnership approach;
- Aware of the international cooperation due to the crucial position of the Wadden Sea for migrating birds along the East-Atlantic Flyway, we will invest in this international responsibility beyond our borders;
- We will foster the implementation of the single integrated management plan to progress on reducing existing as well as upcoming human pressures;
- To safeguard the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site for the next generations, we welcome and support the involvement of the youth to further future protection.

PREAMBLE

We, the Ministers responsible for the protection of the Danish, Dutch, German Wadden Sea, inscribed as one World Heritage on the UNESCO World Heritage List being
the largest unbroken intertidal back-barrier sand and mudflat ecosystem in the world, a depositional coastline of unparalleled scale and diversity with natural processes undisturbed throughout most of the area and considered to be one of the most important areas for migratory birds in the world
representing our respective Governments in the Trilateral Wadden Sea Governmental Council on the Protection of the Wadden Sea,

Appraise our trilateral cooperation of more than forty years and **reaffirm** the objective of the 2010 Joint Declaration and the Wadden Sea Plan 2010 to protect and manage the Wadden Sea as a single ecological entity

¹ Reservation Denmark

1 shared by the three countries in accordance with the Guiding Principle, and pursue to apply the ecosystem
2 approach;

3 **Aware** of the manifold challenges arising from climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, we must address
4 them together in order to strengthen the resilience of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site including the natural,
5 social and cultural aspects while ensuring the safety of inhabitants and visitors. This means minimising the
6 negative impacts of human activities and restoring ecosystems where necessary and possible, as such
7 contributing to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, the OSPAR North East
8 Atlantic Environmental Strategy 2030 and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030;

9 **Determined** to meet the global twin crises of Biodiversity loss and the effects of Climate Change resulting in
10 loss of habitats, species decline, change of relation between habitat types and their distribution, impacts on food
11 web, temperature and sea level rise and storm surges;

12 **Determined** to take on a position that strongly supports the implementation of the goals of the EU Biodiversity
13 Strategy 2030 to demonstrate and improve our transboundary network as effectively managed and protected,
14 including restoration where adequate and practicable, contributing to the UN Decade on Ecosystem
15 Restoration;

16 **Committed** to the World Heritage Convention in supporting the international cooperation with partners
17 beyond the Wadden Sea Region by contributing e.g. to the UNESCO World Heritage Marine and Sustainable
18 Tourism Strategy Programmes, to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), and in the context of our
19 Memoranda of Understanding with Mauretania, the Republic of Korea, and via the Memorandum of Intent with
20 The Wash (GB);

21 **Continue** the cooperation along the East-Atlantic Flyway, acknowledging and furthering the Wadden Sea
22 Flyway Initiative by enhancing the partnership while recognizing the importance of the Arctic component,
23 recalling the Wadden Sea's importance for global biodiversity, in particular as a staging area for migratory bird
24 populations [and **welcome** the new partners of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative]²;

25 **Express** our great gratitude to all those who have contributed at international, regional or local level in the
26 outgoing period through their commitment and work to an improved Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation;

27 **Appreciating** all the participating organisations and networks that jointly founded the multi-stakeholder
28 Partnership in support of the Wadden Sea World Heritage together with the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation:
29 the Wadden Sea Team of green Non-Governmental Organisations, the Wadden Sea Forum, the research
30 community and the networks for sustainable tourism and for environmental education;

31 **[Welcome** with appreciation the establishment of the Trilateral Wadden Sea World Heritage Foundation to
32 leverage further resources in addition to governmental action, to support the engagement and collaboration of
33 different bodies, organisations, stakeholders or companies by funding joint initiatives, measures and projects for
34 the advancement of the protection of the Wadden Sea World Heritage;]³

35 **Acknowledge** the progress made by the Trilateral Programming Committee on Wadden Sea Research (TPC-
36 WSR) in establishing a Joint Programme on Wadden Sea Research and dedicated to further this work for a
37 better protection and management of the Wadden Sea and **support** increased scientific collaboration along the
38 Wadden Sea;

39 **Welcome** the further integration of social, cultural, scientific and demographic components in the
40 understanding of the changes that the Wadden Sea Area undergoes;

41 **Support** national initiatives implementing the UN Decade of Ocean Science and to connect this with the TPC-
42 WSR to achieve added value;

43 **Express** our continual commitment to the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme as the basis for
44 our management and to adapt it to recognised challenges;

² Pending progress

³ Reservation Denmark

1 **Acknowledge** and foster the involvement of the next generation as the future guardians for the protection and
2 the outlook of our Wadden Sea World Heritage;

3 *By taking all this into account,*

4 **Welcome** with great appreciation the participatory and integrative process of the development of an
5 overarching and single integrated management plan for the Wadden Sea World Heritage site, which will, as
6 coherent plan complementing to the existing Wadden Sea Plan 2010 and strategies, strengthen the effectiveness
7 of coordinated national management within the property to tackle the existing challenges for safeguarding the
8 Outstanding Universal Value and our ONE Wadden Sea World Heritage Site;

9 **Responding** to the pressure on the Wadden Sea system by human activities like the growth in marine traffic,
10 the effects of energy transition the North Sea being in the focus of advancing renewable energy, the long process
11 towards sustainable fisheries, tourism and the need for coastal defense and protection measures, by addressing
12 these prominently in the implementation of the single integrated management plan.

DECISIONS

PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN THE OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

The Ministers

Instruct the Wadden Sea Board to explore if the concept of “Rights of Nature” could be adapted to our common Wadden Sea World Heritage in support of the Guiding Principle and thereby advancing our approach to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and adding value to the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation;

Instruct the Wadden Sea Board to prepare an application to UNESCO for a minor boundary change to round out the property seawards, adjust to morphological changes and close existing exclaves within as far as possible;

Reaffirm that the Wadden Sea ecosystem is closely interconnected and dependent in its ecological functions and integrity with the offshore zone, the adjacent coastal area and the coastal mainland;

Instruct the Wadden Sea Board to promote these interactions, especially in the field of migratory species protection such as marine mammals, fish and birds, e.g. by supporting the creation of ecological corridors or safe passages;

Instruct the Wadden Sea Board to contribute to an operationalization of the EU objectives in this regard as well as of the international marine conventions such as the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention) and the Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn Convention);

Considering that coordinated measures for a coherent transboundary Nature Network in the Wadden Sea region should help to create added value on the ground that is also in line with the overarching agreements, **request** the Wadden Sea Board to analyse and identify efficient ways to create this added value, f. e. by amending the Wadden Sea Plan 2010;

Instruct the Wadden Sea Board to implement the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 objectives on a coherent and effectively managed European network of protected areas, [resulting in an improvement of strict protection]⁴ within the trilateral Wadden Sea Conservation Area by 2030, thus contributing to the designation of wilderness areas applying the prevailing EU and International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) definitions;

Recognise that the long-term hydro-morphological development of the Wadden Sea plays a key role for the Wadden Sea ecosystem against the background of climate change, sea level rise as well as adaptation measures and therefore **instruct** the Wadden Sea Board to engage in monitoring and research efforts for a deeper system understanding, long-term forecasting and increased conservation efforts, which are needed to maintain natural functioning and resilience;

Recognise that the Wadden Sea will be subject to changes in the long term due to climate change, which will have a particular impact on intertidal and sublittoral habitats;

Request the Wadden Sea Board to identify and prioritize those habitat types with a significant percentage of unfavorable conservation status or showing negative trends in different regions like seagrass beds, salt marshes, sublittoral habitats and dunes, and develop planning tools, good restoration and recovery methods and practice through the exchange of knowledge and experience taking account of cumulative aspects, also to enhance their ability to deliver beneficial regulating ecosystem services like carbon sequestration and coastal protection;

In awareness that not all species can be sufficiently protected by habitat protection only, continue and strengthen joint efforts to protect those endangered species populations, for whose survival the Trilateral

⁴ Reservation Denmark

1 Wadden Sea Cooperation has a special responsibility because they occupy key habitats on their migrations or
2 occur almost exclusively here;

3 **Promote** and **support** exchange on animal species conservation issues related to spatial and temporal use,
4 habitat quality and food availability, especially for birds, but also for fish, seals and harbor porpoises, also in the
5 context of climate change impacts;

6 **Adopt** the updated Seal Management Plan 2023-2027 for harbour and grey seal and **support** its
7 implementation as a means for contributing to the protection of the species under the Convention on Migratory
8 Species (Bonn Convention);

9 **Instruct** the Wadden Sea Board to contribute to further implementing the Trilateral SWIMWAY Vision Action
10 Programme (2018 –2024) as an integrated approach concerning the ecology of fish of the Wadden Sea Area by
11 supporting knowledge exchange, monitoring, and identifying fields for collaboration while supporting
12 conservation action which are also beneficial with regard to the implementation of EU directives;

13 **Instruct** the Wadden Sea Board to further the practical implementation of the Trilateral Management and
14 Action Plan Alien Species (MAPAS) with focus on the installation of the information and the exchange platform;

15 **Further** the exchange of knowledge on trilateral level which helps to implement EU or regional-wide (OSPAR)
16 obligations, while considering intensifying exchange between the relevant groups within the Trilateral Wadden
17 Sea Cooperation, i. a. to develop knowledge on the relationship between climate change and alien species.

18 ENHANCE SUSTAINABILITY OF HUMAN USES AND FOSTER 19 TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

20 The Ministers

21 **Urge** the Wadden Sea Board to enter a dialogue process with competent authorities for fisheries and sector
22 representatives at trilateral level to advance the implementation of the trilaterally agreed Framework for
23 Sustainable Fisheries (2014) for the Wadden Sea World Heritage in a collaborative approach, well-coordinated
24 with other existing bodies and committees treating fisheries and aquaculture at international, national and
25 regional level;

26 **Based** on this, intend to work towards a shared future vision for the fisheries sector, which consists of
27 considering management measures such as closed areas, improving sustainable fishing techniques and
28 supporting a sustainable perspective for the sector while keeping up or enhancing the conservation status
29 already achieved;

30 **[Request** the Wadden Sea Board to advance and oversee the further implementation of the Sustainable
31 Tourism Strategy (2014) [and the agreed action plan (2022 pending)]⁵ ⁶ that consciously respect the sensitivity
32 and limited carrying capacity of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. This should take place in collaboration
33 with the tourism sector in a way that strengthens the sector's ownership and enhances their responsibility;

34 **Recognise** the efforts of Wadden Sea port operators to make port operations more sustainable and to create
35 further incentives like publicly visible awards based on a credible, commonly agreed external certification
36 system;

37 **[Take note** of the agreement between the port operators of the Wadden Sea ports and the Wadden Sea Forum
38 and nature conservation associations, which was signed on]⁷, encouraging their further collaborations;

⁵ Reservation Germany

⁶ Reservation Denmark

⁷ Pending progress

1 **Appeal** to port operators, water and shipping authorities in their long-term planning for the further
2 development of ports and fairways to take into account the natural limits, esp. the conditions induced by
3 existing site-specific hydro-morphological situations and their natural dynamics in the Wadden Sea;

4 **Urge** the Wadden Sea Board to involve the competent national authorities and where applicable to ensure the
5 further implementation of the Operational Plans for the Wadden Sea Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA,
6 2014);

7 **[Urge** for an evaluation and review of existing safety measures and possible further Associated Protective
8 Measures to the PSSA Wadden Sea with the responsible shipping authorities and relevant stakeholders. Lessons
9 learned from previous maritime emergencies have been and should be consistently drawn and implemented;]⁸

10 **Request** the Wadden Sea Board to facilitate exchange and collaboration with the energy sector, competent
11 authorities, including also relevant stakeholders, regarding high voltage power grid connections from offshore
12 wind farms with the intention to avoid, mitigate and compensate for negative impacts on the Wadden Sea World
13 Heritage, with the intention to develop a coordinated spatial strategy beyond 2030, striving to support the long-
14 term expansion targets for offshore wind energy, making it more nature friendly in line with conservation
15 objectives;

16 **Instruct** the Wadden Sea Board to evaluate possible effects of emerging forms of energy production while
17 applying the precautionary principle;

18 **[Extend** the existing trilateral agreement that prohibits the construction of wind turbines, oil and gas
19 exploration and exploitation and the construction of new installations for oil and gas in the Wadden Sea World
20 Heritage Site to include other emerging forms of large-scale energy production, such as solar panels installations
21 and tidal power installations [as well as any other mining activities including Carbon Capture Storage (CCS) and
22 reconfirm the application of the precautionary principle;]⁹

23 **Agree** to end all forms of exploitation of oil and gas fields [as early as possible and not to grant any new permits
24 and authorizations for mining in the Wadden Sea World Heritage, this includes explicitly any directional drilling
25 from outside the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site]¹⁰;

26 **Request** the Wadden Sea Board to strive for a common position on future plans of transportation
27 infrastructures for carbon capture storage, hydrogen and of Power to X plants potentially affecting the Wadden
28 Sea World Heritage and to support the Wadden Sea States in planning processes at the earliest possible stage in
29 order to reduce future potential risks that these technologies might pose to the Wadden Sea World Heritage;

30 **Request** the Wadden Sea Board to enhance and facilitate regular professional exchange with the responsible
31 coastal protection authorities, agencies and research institutions in this field, i. a. to promote the integration of
32 environmentally friendly and Nature-based Solutions, according to the IUCN definition, in coastal flood defense
33 and protection in line with the further implementation of the trilateral Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
34 (2014);

35 **Consider** the coordinated cross-border implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (River Basin
36 Management), the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the OSPAR North-East Atlantic Environment
37 Strategy 2030 (NEAES) as essential contributions to a good environmental status and effective protection of the
38 Wadden Sea marine ecosystem and biodiversity against adverse effects, esp. by marine litter and persistent
39 pollutants, microplastics and underwater noise and **mandate** the Wadden Sea Board to encourage and support
40 targeted flanking trilateral initiatives with added value;

41 **[Take note** of the “Trilateral Vision on Dark Sky over the Wadden Sea’, highly appreciating the broad
42 stakeholder commitment and encourage and **support** trilaterally coordinated project initiatives and measures
43 to reduce light emissions with negative impacts on plant and animal life, especially on birds and insects]¹¹;

⁸ Reservation Netherlands

⁹ Reservation Denmark, Netherlands

¹⁰ Reservation Germany

¹¹ Pending progress

- 1 **Welcome** the designation of dark sky parks as an instrument to raise public awareness on the issue of natural
2 darkness and enabling the natural experience of a pristine night sky over the Wadden Sea World Heritage;
- 3 **Instruct** the Wadden Sea Board to take into account the connectivity and interdependence between the
4 Wadden Sea, the coastal mainland and the offshore zone when developing trilateral strategies or common
5 approaches to monitoring and management issues, also taking into account the cumulative effects due to
6 increasing pressures from more intensive use of adjacent areas;
- 7 **Encourage** the Wadden Sea Board to give due consideration to the concerns of the World Heritage site in the
8 respective planning procedures at national and North Sea level.

9 MITIGATE AND ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

10 The Ministers

- 11 **Recognise** and support decisions and initiatives aimed at reducing the Wadden Sea Region's CO₂ emissions in
12 order to contribute to the overall EU CO₂ reduction targets, in particular in the decarbonization of the energy
13 sector, the traffic sector and the tourism sector and also strive to take on a pioneering role in this respect as part
14 of their own responsibility as site management operators;
- 15 **Mandate** the Wadden Sea Board to promote research on the ecosystem services of CO₂ sequestration by typical
16 Wadden Sea habitats like seagrass beds and salt marshes and the extent to which these can contribute to CO₂
17 reduction targets whilst preserving the Outstanding Universal Value;
- 18 **Instruct** the Wadden Sea Board to commonly continue implementing the trilateral Climate Change Adaptation
19 Strategy (2014), updating the priorities contained therein where needed, contributing to the implementation of
20 the EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy also in relation to the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 to tackle
21 jointly the climate and biodiversity crisis. Further **promote** investigations how Nature-Based Solutions for
22 climate change adaptation can integrate coastal flood and erosion risk and water management with nature
23 conservation goals, simultaneously providing “no regret” benefits, while considering a broader geographical and
24 socio-economic context and stimulate appropriate initiatives;
- 25 **Instruct** the Wadden Sea Board to investigate which anthropogenic pressures on the Wadden Sea ecosystem
26 should be reduced in order to boost adaptive capacity, improve resilience, reduce vulnerability to climate change
27 and thus safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value while taking into account potentially unavoidable
28 ecosystem changes;
- 29 **Instruct** the Wadden Sea Board to investigate options to enhance the level of science based, adequate adaptive
30 management to systematically safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value of the Wadden Sea throughout all
31 topics as a cross-cutting issue, actively mainstream climate resilience while considering proven principles of
32 environmental management such as the precautionary principle, ecosystem approach, diversity, integration and
33 spatial coherence.

34 MANAGE AND COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY

35 The Ministers

- 36 **Request** the Wadden Sea Board to support research-related issues in joint trilateral research calls based on the
37 Trilateral Research Priorities as outlined by the Trilateral Programming Committee on Wadden Sea Research
38 (TPC-WSR) with a focus on impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value and the key values as well as their
39 adaptive capacity in view of challenges such as climate change and increasing uses that cause cumulative effects,
40 taking into account the recommendations of the 15th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium;

1 **Instruct** the Wadden Sea Board to continue to promote and support the work of the TPC-WSR and related
2 scientific cooperation, emphasizing an interdisciplinary approach and fostering exchange and the application of
3 new methods and research techniques;

4 **Recognise** that only through adequate monitoring, addressing the critical research questions and sharing
5 knowledge the necessary foundations can be laid to meet the challenges, to identify the consequences, especially
6 with regard to the specific values of the Outstanding Universal Value, and to take the necessary management
7 measures;

8 **Request** the Wadden Sea Board to ensure adequate monitoring and assessment within the framework of the
9 Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP, strategy (2014) for all relevant ecosystem parameters
10 and ecosystem stressors, integrating geographical information systems, new techniques and recording methods;

11 **Instruct** the Wadden Sea Board to investigate relevant socio-economic parameters to include and adjust the
12 Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme to recognised environmental challenges, esp. relating to the
13 key topics as identified in the single integrated management plan process, thereby strengthening
14 interdisciplinary approaches and enabling comprehensive analysis;

15 **Instruct** the Wadden Sea Board to produce updates of the online Wadden Sea Quality Status Report that reflect
16 important ecological and socio-economic topics also in the light of climate change and to deliver a
17 comprehensive synthesis report in time for the next Trilateral Governmental Conference as well as products for
18 the public;

19 **Agree** to increase the value and the visibility of the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme to
20 scientific and other users and to a wider range of stakeholders and the public, including the availability of data
21 and presentation of information resulting from those data;

22 **Adopt** the single integrated management plan for the Wadden Sea World Heritage as developed in accordance
23 with the request from the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (WHC-14/38. Com/16) in conformity with the
24 requirements of § 111 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention;

25 **Instruct** the Wadden Sea Board to ensure and oversee the effective, coordinated implementation of the single
26 integrated management plan for the Wadden Sea World Heritage and to report on the implementation status in
27 time as part of the policy assessment reporting for the next Trilateral Governmental Conference;

28 **Instruct** the Wadden Sea Board to review and update the Wadden Sea Plan 2010 where necessary in time for
29 the next Trilateral Governmental Conference, to strengthen its coordinating function as overarching trilateral
30 framework for nature conservation with a particular focus on the implementation of the EU Directives on
31 Habitats and Birds and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030;

32 **Instruct** the Wadden Sea Board to review the existing trilateral sectoral visions, strategies and action plans in
33 general 10 years after their adoption, decide on the updates and amend where necessary, sharpening the
34 objectives and application orientation of the measures contained therein, e. g. according to the SMART principle
35 (Specific Measurable Achievable Relevant Time-bound). Sectoral visions, strategies and action plans shall fit
36 within the umbrella of the single integrated management plan for the Wadden Sea World Heritage and detail the
37 Wadden Sea Plan 2010 while being in line with the Guiding Principle and the statement of Outstanding
38 Universal Value. The Wadden Sea Board shall oversee the implementation;

39 **Reconfirm** the 2010 Governance Arrangements and instruct the Wadden Sea Board to review and, if
40 necessary, change the composition, membership and terms of reference of thematic committees and working
41 groups of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation with the aim of strengthening and making the collaboration
42 more effective, also with the strategic partners, competent authorities and agencies;

43 **Instruct** the Wadden Sea Board to revise the Trilateral Communication Strategy (2012) and to update it with
44 the aim to adequately manage the Wadden Sea World Heritage brand for nature conservation and to further
45 enhance the use of modern media.

1 INTENSIFY COLLABORATION AND STRENGTHEN ENGAGEMENT 2 BY WORKING WITH PARTNERS

3 The Ministers

4 **Confirm** the role of the Wadden Sea Forum and the Wadden Sea Team of green Non-Governmental
5 Organisations as key stakeholders for the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation and advisors to the Wadden Sea
6 Board;

7 **Continue** to support the Work of the Wadden Sea Forum as an independent trilateral stakeholder forum, as a
8 dialogue platform for the involvement and engagement of stakeholders from the Wadden Sea Region to work on
9 a sustainable and climate friendly development;

10 **Continue** to support the work of the Wadden Sea Team of green Non-Governmental Organisations on nature
11 conservation and the integrity of the Wadden Sea World Heritage based on their specific engagement;
12

13 **Continue** and expand the trilateral strategic multi-stakeholder Partnership in support of the Wadden Sea
14 World Heritage with the Partnership Hub (the management and organizational unit an of the Trilateral Wadden
15 Sea World Heritage Partnership), to facilitate and strengthen the sense of ownership and responsibility across
16 societal and economic sectors and networks for the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value and the
17 enhancement of sustainability in the Wadden Sea Region;

18 **Welcome** and further encourage all strategic partners to engage and collaborate in transnational, cross-sectoral
19 and knowledge-based initiatives, measures and projects within the Partnership Hub;

20 **Welcome** and support the establishment of the Trilateral Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Centre in
21 Wilhelmshaven to house the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, the trilateral Partnership Hub, the Wadden Sea
22 Forum [and the Trilateral Wadden Sea World Heritage Foundation]¹²;

23 **[Appreciate** the installment of the Trilateral Wadden Sea World Heritage Foundation and call for a broad
24 support for their initialization phase;]¹³

25 **Continue** and enhance the education and outreach activities of the trilaterally agreed Strategy on Education for
26 Sustainable Development and World Heritage Interpretation (2018) as a shared responsibility of the signatories
27 by jointly implementing the Trilateral Education Work Program and further supporting the International
28 Wadden Sea School (IWSS);

29 **Continue** and strengthen the involvement of the younger generation through cross-border exchanges for
30 pupils, students and young professionals by i.a. developing the East Atlantic Flyway Youth Forum[and initiating
31 a pilot project for the establishment of a Trilateral Wadden Sea Volunteer Service]¹⁴ [and holding a second
32 Youth Conference in time for the next Trilateral Governmental Conference]¹⁵.

33

¹² Reservation Denmark

¹³ Reservation Denmark

¹⁴ Reservation Denmark, Netherlands

¹⁵ Pending progress

1 CONTRIBUTE TO AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY ON A GLOBAL 2 SCALE

3 The Ministers

4 **Acknowledge** the interdependence of breeding, resting, stop-over and wintering sites of the migratory birds
5 along the East-Atlantic Flyway that make up a key feature of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Wadden
6 Sea, aiming to safeguard a climate resilient flyway;

7 **Commit** to further strengthen the ties between the various initiatives working along the East Atlantic Flyway by
8 expanding cooperation within the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative to further intensify the engagement of partners,
9 with the aim of further enhancing monitoring and focused capacity building, both in the West African and the
10 Arctic region;

11 **Continue** to act jointly in the network of marine World Heritage sites worldwide in the framework of the
12 UNESCO World Heritage Marine Programme and feel honored to host the 5th World Heritage Marine Managers
13 Conference in 2023 in the Wadden Sea World Heritage;

14 **Aim** to contribute to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development in showcasing the work of
15 the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation and use the opportunity for exchange with other World Heritage sites;

16 **Intend** to continue the work within the frame of the Memoranda of Understanding with our existing
17 international partners while considering further collaboration and support of other marine World Heritage sites
18 with similar features such as the Yellow Sea and along the East-Atlantic Flyway as contribution to global
19 partnerships.

20 TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA COOPERATION 2022-2026

21 The Ministers

22 **Thank** Germany for having assumed the presidency of the Cooperation in the period from 2018-2022 and for
23 hosting the 14th Trilateral Governmental Conference and the Trilateral Wadden Sea Governmental Council;

24 **Welcome** the presidency of the Kingdom of Denmark for the period from 2022-2026;

25 **Instruct** the Wadden Sea Board to review, in time for the next Trilateral Governmental Conference, the
26 progress made on the items described above;

27 **Intend** to hold the 16th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium prior to the 15th Trilateral Wadden Sea
28 Governmental Council at the invitation of the Netherlands;

29 **Intend** to hold the next Trilateral Governmental Conference on the Protection of the Wadden Sea and the 15th
30 Trilateral Wadden Sea Governmental Council meeting in 2026, at the invitation of the government of Denmark.