DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD

34th Meeting of the

**Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH 34)**

13 – 14 December 2021

Virtual Meeting

1. **Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the agenda**

*Document: TG-WH 34/1-Draft Agenda*

The chairperson, Ms Barbara Engels, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants to the 34th meeting of the Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH) which was conducted as a video conference.

A list of participants is in Annex 1. The proposed draft agenda of the meeting was adopted as in Annex 2.

1. **Summary Record TG-WH 33**

*Document:* *Summary Record TG-WH 33*

The summary record of the TG-WH 33 meeting was adopted without changes.

1. **Announcements**

*Document:* *TG-WH 34-3-ISWSS announcement by Schleswig-Holstein*

The meeting noted the information about the 15th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium which was conducted as an online event on 30.11 -2.2.2021. Marina Sanns informed that on overview of the recommendations as presented by the chairperson of the session will be distributed by email. Documentation and final recommendation of the Symposium will be published in January 2022.

No further written announcements have been received in advance.

1. **World Heritage Management Plan (SIMP)**

*Documents: TG-WH 34/4-1* *SIMP meeting document (version 2021-12-6)*

**4.1 Update text, tables and graph**

1. Integration EU Directives (section 3)

The meeting agreed to update the overview so that a statutory overview is provided rather than a description of the process, e.g. for the Danish situation. In case of differences between the countries, an explanation should be provided (editorial team Heidi, Marina, Karst).

With regard to the overview on relevant regulations (in addition to EU law) in Table 1, the meeting stated that instead of an overview of all relevant regulation which would be too detailed for a trilateral overview, the table should provide a more general overview. The title should be adapted to “Main relevant regulations in the Wadden Sea countries”.

1. 4.2 Description “site managers”

The meeting discussed to add further information about site managers in the different regions, e.g. also including land owners, and how to make a reference to Figures A3-5 showing the nature conservation management structures in the three countries e.g. by explaining the different tasks of the site manages in the countries.

1. TWSC structure graph

Upon proposal from Margrita Sobottka, the meeting adopted a revised TWSC structure graph which integrated the Partnership Hub (in progress), and other networks as associated bodies to the cooperation.

**4.2 Review proposed activities in key topics**

1. Fisheries

Anne Husum Marboe proposed to include in the text that “existing standards must not be lowered”, otherwise there would be a risk that discussion would start on fisheries in the Danish Wadden Sea.

The meeting adopted the activities 1 and 2 with a few editorial comments specifying the work to be carried out, e.g. what type of fisheries information should be collected. In general, the proposed activities should be consistent with the trilateral Framework Sustainable Fisheries (2014) and the EU Biodiversity Strategy. The meeting was not consented to propose a “future coordinating body” in activity 3 but proposed to leave it to WSB how to steer and coordinate the activities, e.g in the MCD. Draft text to be edited by Maren and Paul. Activity 4 should be reformulated to underline that TWSC would support to enhance awareness, and that different approaches would be needed to address the public and the audience in fishing schools.

The meeting agreed to add new activities on research on sustainable fishing techniques and basic research of fish.

1. Tourism

Heidi Nielsen announced a general reservation about all activities related to sustainable tourism including the Network Group Sustainable Tourism (NG-ST) because the future focus for Denmark in the TWSC would be on nature protection and not tourism promotion.

The meeting agreed on activities 1-3 with some reformulation e.g. on who to involve when it comes to management of tourism (a.o. monitoring, visitor management, surveillance and enforcement). It was suggested to merge Activity 2 and 3, as well as 4 and 5 (NG-ST collaboration aspects).

The meeting agreed to add a new research activity on interdisciplinary dialogue as proposed by the ISWSS.

1. Energy

The meeting adopted the draft text with few editorial comments. Activity 3 to extend the existing trilateral agreement should be dealt with in the MCD. Research on effects was added as a new activity 4.

1. Coastal Flood Defense and Protection

The meeting adopted the draft text with few editorial changes, e.g. on frequency of exchange amongst site managers, and on roles of the competent authorities in financing of measures.

1. Shipping and ports

With regard to the objective, the meeting agreed to be more ambitious and not only to maintain but to increase safety. The meeting adopted the draft text on the activities with few editorial changes, e.g. to refer to a trilateral group on shipping safety in general, and not to mention the MARAD group in specific, and to rephrase 2.e concerning dredging.

The meeting agreed to integrate a draft text on research in the bullet points of activity 2.

**4.3 Timeline**

The meeting adopted the timeline as proposed in the document.

**ACTION**

**Comments on the updated TG-WH SIMP document (submitted on 14 December 2021) should be sent to CWSS before 10 January 2022.**

The complete SIMP (version 0.7) will be submitted to TG-WH on 17 January 2022 for review and discussion at the next TG-WH meeting on 27-28 January 2022.

1. **Reporting to World Heritage Centre**

*Documents: Letter by the WHC on state of conservation (30 November 2021), Draft answer on the letter by NL (7 December 2021).*

The meeting took note about the reports which are in preparation by the States Parties for submission to the WH Centre according OH 172 and 174.

Maren Bauer informed the meeting that an answer on the deepening of the Elbe was still in preparation.

Karst Jaarsma informed the meeting that an answer to the letter from May 2021 was delayed because of different reasons. With letter of November 2021, the Centre sent another request for information with deadline of 15 January 2022. A draft response is in preparation and will be submitted within the deadline.

With regard to the next cycle of periodic reporting (2022-2023), the States Parties will be approached by the Centre in May-June 2022 to submit to the World Heritage Centre the contact details of the designated National Focal Point and the World Heritage site manager who will be responsible to fill out the Third Cycle questionnaire. In case of the Wadden Sea, the reporting will again be coordinated by the CWSS and submitted by one of the three States Parties on behalf of the entire property.

1. **Preparation Trilateral Government Conference**

The meeting suggested to address World Heritage in all relevant paragraphs in the Ministerial Council Declaration (MCD). The MCD should also entail agreements and a concrete schedule for the SIMP implementation in the upcoming four years:

1. a progress report on the SIMP implementation linked to the management cycle by 2026,
2. agreement on the ambition level with regard to the five key topics and the contribution to the EU Biodiversity Strategy,
3. for each key topic, at least one aspect should be directly addressed in the MCD,
4. how to implement the SIMP in the three countries,
5. linking World Heritage Convention, EU Biodiversity Strategy and International Cooperation.
6. **Next Meeting**

The next TG-WH meeting will be organized as an online meeting on 27 – 28 January 2022 (two morning session from 9:00 – 12:30).

IUCN will be invited to join for a one-hour information session about the SIMP.

1. **Any Other Business**

None.

1. **Closing**

The Chairperson closed the meeting by thanking all participants for their input.

**Annex 1**

**Participants TG-WH 34, 13-14 December 2021**

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**Annex 2**

**AGENDA**

**TASK GROUP WORLD HERITAGE**

**TG-WH 34**

**13 – 14 December 2021**

**1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda**

**2. Summary Record TG WH-33**

**3. Announcements**

**4. World Heritage Single Integrated Management Plan**

**5. Reporting to World Heritage Centre**

**6. Preparation Trilateral Governmental Conference 2022**

**7. Next Meeting**

**8. Any Other Business**

**9. Closing**