Draft

**SUMMARY RECORD**

**TASK GROUP WORLD HERITAGE**

**TG-WH 25**

**Bremen**

**5 September 2018**

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

Document: TG-WH 25/1-Draft Agenda.

The chairperson, Ms Barbara Engels, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants to the 25th meeting of the Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH).

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

**2. Summary Record TG-WH 24**

Document: Summary Record TG-WH 24

The meeting **adopted** the Summary Record of TG-WH 24 without comments.

**3. Announcements**

Documents: TG-WH 25/3/1 Announcements Lower Saxony, TG-WH/3/2 Announcements The Netherlands

The meeting noted the announcement of, Lower Saxony and The Netherlands. In addition, the following announcements were made:

**Denmark**

* The annual Conference of Nordic World Heritage sites will take place in Jellinge, Denmark on 3 – 6 September 2018

**Germany**

Schleswig-Holstein

* The migratory bird event “Westküsten-Vogelkiek 2018”, will be organized by the Nationalpark Schleswig-Holsteinisches Wattenmeer from 29 September to 7 October 2018.
* The new minister for Energy, Agriculture, The Environment, Nature and Digitalization, Jan Philipp Albrecht, took office as of August 31st.

**Trilateral**

* Sergio Rejado Albaina started his job at CWSS as Regional Flyway Coordinator for Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) to promote the conservation of migratory birds of the African-Eurasian Flyway in the context of the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI).
* Soledad Luna will start her job at CWSS as project officer for the WSWH management plan (SIMP)/support to the German Presidency in middle of October (until end of 2022). The post is financed by BMUB.

**4. TWSC Review Process**

Document: TG-WH 25/4/1 TWSC Review Process – Draft Summary TG-WH

The meeting **endorsed** the draft summary of the questionnaire with few changes as in **Annex 3** and discussed the proposed draft ToR as in **Annex 4** for submission to the TWSC workshop which will take place on 17 October 2018.

**5. State of conservation requests WHC**

Document: TG-WH 25/5/1 WHC request Esbjerg harbour, TG-WH 25/5/2 WHC request houting population

The World Heritage Centre (WHC) submitted two requests on the State of conservation of the Wadden Sea regarding 1) Esbjerg harbour development plans and 2) population status of the houting.

Regarding the planning for the extension of Esbjerg harbour, Denmark informed the meeting that the scoping was concluded, an EIA is in preparation and that IUCN will be involved accordingly.

The draft answer by Denmark on the WHC request will forwarded to TG-WH for information.

The meeting **noted** the information.

The request regarding the decline of the houting population has been forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and Food. It would be welcome by Denmark to integrate any other relevant information about the houting from The Netherlands and Germany. The draft answer by Denmark on the WHC request will forwarded to TG-WH for information.

The meeting **noted** the information and **agreed** to provide Denmark with further information about houting in other Wadden Sea regions on demand as appropriate.

On request by Ms Bauer about a letter on the amendment of the Danish Executive Order for the Wadden Sea and possible impacts on the protection status of the World Heritage property, the meeting **agreed** that Denmark should provide additional information about the amendment and its relation to World Heritage.

The meeting also **decided** to inform WSB accordingly about the requests (OG § 174) and, in case any planned developments that might impact OUV or any change of the protection status, to discuss the potential need to signal it to the WHC (according to OG § 172).

**6. International Cooperation**

Document: TG-WH 25/6/1 Cooperation with other WH sites

The meeting discussed analysis of future potential added value of cooperation with other WH sites, specifically the proposed MoU with the Dolomites World Heritage site.

The meeting reviewed the analysis and n**oted** that it is adequate, **endorsed** proposal 1-3 and **decided** to propose to the WSB to continue the exchange with the Dolomites at the current level (ITB, 10th anniversary, study visits, joint events or workshops) as it is now as part of the international cooperation, and to postpone the decision to establish a MoU to a later stage in the light of the ongoing review of the TWSC, with reference to the analysis of existing workloads and resource limits.

The draft report to WSB is attached in **Annex 5**.

**7. WH Strategy and road map**

WH Road Map

Document: TG-WH 25/7/1 WH Strategy - Road Map updated

Due to time constraints, the meeting did not discuss the updated road map but **agreed** that TG-WH provide written comments by 17 September. The road map will be submitted to the TWSC review process as TG-WH work plan for the period 2019 – 2022.

PROWAD LINK

Document: TG-WH 25/7/2 PROWAD LINK application

The meeting **agreed** that the project needs to be closely connected the TWSC aims and objectives, and that project deliverables which will be forwarded to WSB for decision, need to be discussed by the relevant TG. The meeting did not see the necessity to establish a trilateral advisory group specifically for PROWAD Link by WSB but **suggested** that CWSS as the project leader should involve TG-WH accordingly in case of WH relevant topics. Schleswig-Holstein suggested that it could be discussed within the review process / WSB-workshop in October to install a new group that should deal with topics concerning WH partnerships and partners in general and which might work as an interface for PROWAD.LINK.

Workshop WH and marine litter

Document: TG-WH 25/7/3 World Heritage and Marine Litter workshop

The meeting noted the success of the online survey and discussed the proposed agenda of the Workshop. The meeting noted that the agenda is fine and suggested to invite WH sites to the workshop which are potential cooperation partners for the Wadden Sea.

Lower Saxony asked the CWSS to also invite the relevant person at the Lower Saxon state ministry who is in charge of the topic marine litter.

Logo application

Document: TG-WH 25/7/4 Logo application Windmill company

The meeting **noted** the comments by Germany and **decided** to inform the company that the German national park authorities are open for a meeting, to talk about their concerns and how this could be addressed in the further preparation of the film project. It was also **noted** that this does not in any case pre-empt the decision on the logo application. The meeting also noted that it wishes to decide on the issue in consensus. The secretariat was asked to prepare a draft answer to the company.

WH 10th anniversary celebration

Document: TG-WH 25/7/5 Anniversary Celebration

The Chair suggested inviting Prof Böhmer, DUK president, to the final anniversary event in Wilhelmshaven on 30 June 2019.

Due to the later delivery of the document, the meeting **agreed** to provide written comments by 17 September 2018.

**8. Development Wadden Sea World Heritage Management Plan**

The meeting discussed expectations and first ideas towards the development and the process regarding a single integrated management plan (SIMP) for the Wadden Sea World Heritage property. The role of working groups in the SIMP process should be clearly defined, as well as the specific tasks of the new SIMP officer. The criteria for selecting priority management themes for the SIMP, as well as participation of stakeholders need to be further developed.

**9. Next Meeting**

The next TG-WH meeting is scheduled in the last week of January 2019 as a lunch-to-lunch meeting. Ms Sanns offered to host the meeting in Tönning.

**10. AOB**

The secretary informed the meeting that Mr Jon Day, former Great Barrier Reef Marine Authority now Queensland University, will visit the Wadden Sea on 17 – 19 September 2018 and is interested to discuss with Wadden Sea expert about assessment of climate change impacts on natural and cultural WH sites, and impacts of dumping of maintenance dredged material.

**11. Closing**

The chairperson closed the meeting thanking the participants for their contributions.

**Annex 1**

**Participants TG-WH 25**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Ms Barbara Engels (Chair)**  Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)  Konstantinstr. 110  D-53179 Bonn  Phone.: + 49-(0)228-8491-1746  Fax: + 49-(0)228-8491-1719  [barbara.engels@bfn.de](mailto:barbara.engels@bfn.de) | **Mr Michael Feiler**  Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, Germany  Robert-Schuman-Platz 3  D - 53175 Bonn  Phone: +49 228 99 305 2689  Mobile: +49 173 2843906  [Michael.Feiler@bmub.bund.de](mailto:Michael.Feiler@bmub.bund.de) |
| **Mr Michael Lauenborg**  Slots- og Kulturstyrelsen  Agency for Culture and Palaces  Fejøgade 1  DK-4800 Nykøbing F.  Phone  [mil@slks.dk](mailto:mil@slks.dk) | **Ms Bolette Lehn Petersen**  Slots- og Kulturstyrelsen  Agency for Culture and Palaces  Fejøgade 1  DK-4800 Nykøbing F.  T +45 33 95 42 00  M +45 33 74 52 44  [blp@slks.dk](mailto:blp@slks.dk) |
| **Mr Hubertus Hebbelmann**  Niedersächsisches. Ministerium für Umwelt, Energie, und Klimaschutz  Postfach 4107  D - 30041 Hannover  phone: +49 (0) 511120-3382  fax: +49 (0) 511120-993382  [hubertus.hebbelmann@mu.niedersachsen.de](mailto:hubertus.hebbelmann@mu.niedersachsen.de) | **Ms Margrita Sobottka**  Nationalparkverwaltung Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer  Virchowstr. 1  D - 26382 Wilhelmshaven  Tel.: +49 (0)4421-911277  Fax: +49 (0)441/7996-1052  [Margrita.Sobottka@nlpv-wattenmeer.niedersachsen.de](mailto:Margrita.Sobottka@nlpv-wattenmeer.niedersachsen.de) |
| **Ms Maren Bauer**  Ministerium für Energie, Landwirtschaft, Umwelt, Natur und Digitalisierung des Landes Schleswig-Holstein  Referat Meeresschutz, Nationalpark  Mercatorstrasse 3  D - 24106 Kiel  phone: +49 (0) 431-988 7196  fax: +49 (0) 431-988-615 7196  [maren.bauer@melund.landsh.de](mailto:maren.bauer@melund.landsh.de) | **Ms Marina Sanns**  Landesbetrieb für Küstenschutz, Nationalpark und Meeresschutz Schleswig-Holstein (LKN)  Nationalparkverwaltung  Schloßgarten 1  D - 25832 Tönning  phone: +49 (0)4861 616 45  fax: +49 (0)4861 616 51 Hauptnr.-69  e-mail: [Marina.Sanns@lkn.landsh.de](mailto:Marina.Sanns@lkn.landsh.de) |
|  | **Mr Harald Marencic (secretary)**  Common Wadden Sea Secretariat  Virchowstr. 1  D - 26382 Wilhelmshaven  phone: +49 (0)4421 9108-15  fax: +49 (0)4421 9108-30  [marencic@waddensea-secretariat.org](mailto:marencic@waddensea-secretariat.org) |

**Annex 2**

**AGENDA**

**TASK GROUP WORLD HERITAGE**

**TG-WH 25**

**Bremen, 9 September 2018**

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

**2. Summary Record TG WH-24**

**3. Announcements**

**4. TWSC Review Process**

**5. State of conservation requests WHC**

**6. International Cooperation**

**7. WH Strategy and road map**

**8. Development Wadden Sea World Heritage Management Plan**

**5. Next Meeting**

**6. Any Other Business**

**7. Closing**

**ANNEX 3**

**TWSC Review Process 2018**

**Questionnaire for the self-assessment**

**Summary of responses submitted by TG World Heritage**

*[Note: changes made by TG-WH 25 are marked in red]*

1. Which of the tasks/deliverables contained in the Group’s TOR under the past presidency (2014-2018) did the Group devote most of its time to? Do you feel this was appropriate? If not, please explain.

Response: The TG prepared a road map for the implementation of the WSWH strategy (deliverable 1) and prepared regular progress reports to WSB. The road map was updated annually and published on the website (deliverable 2). Amendments to the WSWH strategy (deliverable 2) was not regarded as necessary and not requested by WSB.

All members mentioned the WHC requests such as the State of Conservation Report (SoC), status of Danish National Park, and SIMP outline as the most important tasks which took most time of the group. The implementation of the WSWH strategy and roadmap was also time consuming, however, one member noted that the invested time did not correspond to its use and status/positioning in the TWSC.

Furthermore, all members regarded the work on WH communication (trilateral communication activities and events, website, info material, merchandising, branding) as important, as well as WH education strategy, sustainable development/tourism, business cooperation programme, and research (all part of the WSWH strategy) as important topics for which regular reports were submitted to WSB meetings.

In general, the invested time spent in tasks and deliverables were regarded as appropriate by the TG. One member regarded the time spent on the SoC as too much, and that more priority should have been given to the SIMP.

2. Are there any tasks/deliverables contained in the Group’s TOR under the past presidency (2014-2018) that have not yet been addressed at all or have only been partially addressed? If so, please specify, also on potential causes.

Response: None. All tasks were addressed in the framework of the WSWH Strategy and road map. Reports were submitted regularly to every WSB meetings (at least twice per year) and replaced the annual progress report (deliverable 3).

3. What additional tasks not contained in the TOR did the Group handle and why?

Response: All other tasks are contained under task 5 ‘Implement any other activities and projects assigned by the Board.’

At the time the TOR were written the request from the WHC session in 2014 were not yet there thus the requests on SIMP, SoC Report and other WHC requests are not mentioned in TOR but can formally be assigned to the existing ToR.

5. Do you feel that the tasks/deliverables from the former period are still relevant and should still be addressed or have they been superseded by any upcoming developments? Please explain.

Response: As WSWH Strategy is relevant until 2020 (amendment of the strategy may be necessary, also with the view to extend it to 2022). All work fields of the strategy are relevant. It was also pointed out that there is sometimes an overlap with other groups or TG-STS, for example when dealing with communication and marketing issues, including logo use. The relationship to TG-STS should therefore be made clearer.

6. In your view, what additional/new tasks resulting from the Leeuwarden Declaration and its annexes are covered by the current TOR, and will therefore need to be addressed by your Group? Please explain. Do you see any other new/additional task for the period to come?

Response: The Leeuwarden Declaration mentions specifically two issues: WH Management Plan SIMP and WSWH strategy implementation; so it might make sense to have these explicitly mentioned in the TOR of TG-WH, and how to cooperate with TG-MM.

In addition there are provisions related to: the WH programs Marine/Tourism and WH education network. As both need to be integrated in the overall WH strategy and activities, it would be useful to have the oversight on these integrated in the work of the TG-WH (as the WSB anyway designates these tasks to the TG-WH).

It should be discussed further what issues related to WH Education would be relevant for the TG in future, as well as the relationship to the programming committee of the TRA.

It was also proposed by members, that TG-WH should function as steering group for PROWAD LINK (as interface to TWSC) and the implementation of the WSWH Foundation.

7. Are the tasks referred to under 2 covered exclusively by the TOR of your Group or is there overlap with other Groups. Please specify and explain.

Response: No overlap of tasks, but some work was delegated to or supported by other groups (logo use, TG-STS, communication group, network group education/IWSS, TRA, SIMP group).

However, some members did identify overlaps because important World Heritage aspects were also dealt with in other groups (TG-MM, TG-STS, Partnership Drafting Group, OP-Team). In future, for certain issues the distinction to TG-STS could be improved, and as well as the linkage between TG-WH, TG-MM and TG-STS in the SIMP process (see also No. 10).

8. Do you feel that the TOR/mandate of your Group are still appropriate and suitable and should therefore be retained as they are? If so, please explain. If not, what changes would you consider appropriate and necessary?

Response: In general, the TOR were regarded as appropriate but should be updated according the Leeuwarden Declaration and the task division between the involved groups (mainly TG-MM and TG-STS). See also under 7.

Two members pointed out that WSWH brand management (such as loge use, licensing, merchandising) should take less time and that lean and effective procedures should be developed

9. Do you feel that the composition of your Group is suitable and appropriate? If not, please explain what changes you would suggest.

Response: It is mandatory to have representatives of the competent authorities in the TG-WH who are accountable for the protection of the OUV which is the case in the current composition (e.g. to handle WHC requests and submit report was also suggested be some members to include the Danish National Park and the IWSS in the TG-WH.

10. Do you feel that the current composition, structure, status and mandate of the Task Groups, Expert Groups, Working or Network Groups established by the TWSC is appropriate and suitable or would you suggest changes? If so, what changes would you propose. Please explain.

Response: In principle yes. In addition following issues were mentioned by TG members:

* Streamline communication and marketing issues to avoid double work;
* For the development of the SIMP, the oversight on the SIMP should be clearly in the responsibility of TG-WH in close working relationship with TG-MM (as for not to lose time/resources in discussing the relationship/responsibilities of the two groups);
* Too many different work items on the agenda of TG-WH, preventing in depth discussion of important/strategic items;
* Many issues dealt with in the WSWH Strategy seem to fit to a large extent in the anticipated Partnership Hub network to be developed.

11. What improvements, if any, do you feel would be helpful with regard to communication and cooperation within your Group, between your Group and other TWSC Groups, between your Group and CWSS and in relation to the Wadden Sea Board?

Response:

* TG-WH should be developed into a permanent WH Group to oversee all WH related activities (e.g. SIMP, PROWAD LINK, communication, partnership centre/hub);
* More attention to long-term scheduling of meetings in timely relation to WSB meetings;
* Workflow between groups to be organized and managed more strictly;
* Clearly formulated assignments by WSB in case two or more TGs/groups are involved such as for SIMP, WH brand use or WH communication (expectations, tasks, deliverables, timeframe);
* A better structured communication of results/tasks from the WSB to Chairs of TGs is needed (especially on timed actions which need quick reactions/actions) as well as in side the secretariat to the staff responsible for the individual groups. This should not only depend on the minutes alone (as finalisation of minutes takes time);
* Better coordination inside CWSS between secretaries of TGs and towards the other groups.
* It should be made visible who has submitted documents to the WSB, and in case of CWSS by whom.
* TG-WH internal communication could be enhanced e.g. by organizing site visits to the regions.

12. Are there any additional points you would like to raise?

Response:

* Timely involvement of representative from the member states in projects/planning processes going on the WH property (not only pure information).
* Identify and concentrate on most important, targeted issues.
* Improve CWSS internal coordination.
* Consequently apply existing Rules of Procedures and Finance.
* CWSS and TG should remember that the WSB stands for the ongoing management and directions of the TWSC.

**ANNEX 4**

**TASK GROUP WADDEN SEA WORLD HERITAGE (TG-WH)**

**Proposed Draft Terms of Reference**

2019 – 2022

(version 7.9.2018)

The Wadden Sea World Heritage is a central work theme for the Cooperation in the coming period. The strategy for the property according to §5 of the Tønder Declaration will be the central instrument for implementing objectives and activities of the Cooperation and will involve also non-governmental strategic partners.

**Objective**

Coordinate and oversee the implementation of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy to warrant the realization its vision and objectives.

**Tasks**

1. Oversee all statutory processes related to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.
2. Preparation of the World Heritage Management Plan (SIMP).
3. Update of the Road Map for the implementation of the Strategy together with the strategic partners for approval by the WSB.
4. Coordinate and oversee the implementation of the Road Map both in terms of its contents and financially together with the strategic partners.
5. Elaborate regular reports on the implementation of the strategy for discussion and approval by the Board and the further development of the Road Map including, as appropriate, signalling of issues to be solved by the Board.
6. Observe and appropriately respond to any other development nationally and internationally relevant for the Wadden Sea World Heritage (Strategy).
7. Implement any other activities and projects assigned by the Board, including overseeing multilateral projects with regard to World Heritage, e.g. an. interface function to PROWAD LINK.

**Deliverables**

1. WH Management Plan (SIMP)
2. Road Map 2019 - 2022 for the implementation of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy.
3. Regular Progress Reports on the implementation of the Business Plan.
4. Overall implementation report of the Strategy including, as appropriate, amendments of the Strategy for the 2022 Conference.

**Composition/Membership**

* Chairperson, 2 per region (+ one Hamburg, + one National Park Denmark ), one from policy level, one from management/operational level
* One representing advisors
* Two representing strategic partners

**Time schedule**

2019 - 2022

ANNEX 5

**Future potential and added value of cooperation with other WH sites**

1. **Background**

At the request by WSB 22, TG-WH discussed the future potential and added value of cooperation with other WH sites, specifically the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Dolomites World Heritage site (proposed by the Secretariat to [WSB 21](http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/sites/default/files/Meeting_Documents/WSB/WSB21/wsb_21-5.9-3_cooperation_dolomites.pdf) and [WSB 22)](http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/sites/default/files/Meeting_Documents/WSB/WSB22/wsb_22-5-9-2-dolomites_inventory_workplan.pdf)

TG-WH 24 acknowledged cooperation with other World Heritage sites as a chance for mutual learning, to also raise the profile of the Wadden Sea internationally and within the WH Convention, and to jointly support the protection of the OUV. With regard to the protection of intertidal ecosystems, successful cooperation has been established with West- African countries (WSFI) including Mauritania (WHS Banc d’Arguin, MoU since 2014). The TWSC also cooperates with Korea (MoU since 2009) which shares one of the most important tidal flat ecosystems of the Pacific coast with China which is of similar global importance for flyways as the Wadden Sea.

TG-WH 24 also acknowledged the already existing cooperation and exchange in daily work with the Dolomites World Heritage site, specifically the exchange regarding a WH foundation, communication and marketing, and sustainable tourism, which should be continued.

In order to formulate a recommendation to the WSB on the future potential and added value of cooperation with other WH sites, TG-WH carried out an analysis of which sites could potentially be approached as MoU partner(s) based on an in-depth analysis prepared by the Secretariat.

1. **Methodology**

The analysis was carried out as follows.

1. **Entire List** (see separate Excel file): Overview of all 241 natural (206) and mixed (35) WH properties (included sites until July 2018, excludes the newly inscribed properties).

Detailed analysis of marine sites and European sites as well as selected sites outside of Europe, according to the following criteria: inscription criteria, marine site, marine components, transboundary site, cross-border character of the property, efforts/costs (e.g. travel effort, language barrier, practical constraints), mutual interests. Please note that due to lacking information not all of the 241 sites have been analysed in more detail.

1. **Short List** (see separate Excel file): As a result of the analysis above, 21 sites were identified with a potential for cooperation because of mutual interests, low or medium effort/costs, or because of existing exchange or ecological importance (though they may require high efforts/costs).
2. From these 21 sites, six sites were selected as potential cooperation partners because of their expected potential benefits of the cooperation for the Wadden Sea (**see Table 1**)
3. **Conclusion**

Thus far, international cooperation has focused on sites with similar ecosystem and management challenges, in particular to support the protection of tidal flat ecosystems of worldwide importance and conservation of migratory Wadden Sea birds depending on the East Atlantic Flyway, such as the cooperation with Guinea-Bissau in the 1990s, with West African countries (WSFI) since 2012, and the MoU with Banc d’Arguin (Mauretania) in 2014. A cooperation with the WH sites Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal) and Donana National Park (Spain) is (or will be) carried out in the framework of WSFI. With the Danube Delta (Romania), an exchange is planned in the framework of a proposed CHIPS Interreg Europe project.

With the inscription as a World Heritage site in 2009 (and extension 2014), additional topics and tasks such as sustainable tourism and regional development, engagement of local communities, education and awareness raising, and capacity building (see World Heritage Strategy) have resulted in the need to extend the cooperation to other sites also addressing these topics by sharing experiences and best practice solution.

The WH sites listed in Table 1 are six of over 240 natural sites which have similar interests and considerable experience in these topics:

1. High Coast/Kvarken (viii),
2. Dorset and East Devon Coast (Jurassic Coast) (viii),
3. West Norwegian Fjords (vii, viii),
4. Ancient and Primeval Beach Forests (ix),
5. The Dolomites (vii, viii),
6. Great Barrier Reef (vii, viii, ix, x).

An exchange with these sites currently takes place on an ad-hoc basis. In case of the marine sites (no. 1-3, and 6) this is done in the framework of the WH Marine Programme and in the upcoming PROWAD LINK project (no. 1-3 as network partners). The cooperation with the WHs Beech Forests so far consists only of exchange with the German partners (annual Jour fixe, joint workshops). An exchange with all sites provide additional benefits for the Wadden Sea Cooperation (details see table 1).

With exception of Great Barrier Reef (GBR) (inscribed under all four nature criteria), the other marine sites are inscribed under criteria vii (beauty) and/or viii (geology). The Great Barrier Reef WHS has a great expertise in nature conservation management which would be very beneficial for the Wadden Sea Cooperation (e.g. strategic assessments and outlook reports). However, an effective exchange would require substantial additional resources in terms of staff hours and travel costs. Because of the high efforts needed, previous exchanges (expert meetings, site visits) with GBR were merely done on an ad-hoc basis.

Given the Dolomites’ seven years of experience, in particular their network approach to science and education and their successful establishment of a foundation, this cooperation would be mutually beneficial and, in fact of great value to the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation in particular regarding sustainable tourism, stakeholder engagement, communication and awareness, and establishing a World Heritage foundation. A MoU would put this cooperation on a more formal footing and foster enhanced cooperation because planning of resources (staff hours, travel costs) would give a reliable framework for cooperation for a longer timer period on both sides.

1. **Proposal**
2. To continue and strengthen the cooperation with European WH marine and coastal sites (High coast/Kvarken, Dorset and East Devon Coast - Jurassic Coast) and the West Norwegian Fjords in the framework of the WH marine programme and within the PROWAD Link project.
3. To continue the cooperation with the WHS Beach Forests via regular exchange with the German site managers concern WH communication and management of protected sites including visitor management and sustainable tourism.
4. To continue the exchange with the WHS Great Barrier Reef on the current level. In case, a more intensive cooperation in a framework of a MoU is desired, substantial additional resources are necessary.
5. To continue the cooperation with the Dolomites WHS on concrete activities at the current level, such as ITB, 10th anniversary, study visits, joint events) ,
6. To postpone the decision on a MoU to a later stage taking into account the results of the TWSC review process, with reference to the analysis of existing workloads and resource limits..

**Table 1: Potential WH sites for conclusion of a MoU**

\* Inscription criteria: vii: natural phenomena and exceptional beauty, viii: geology/geological processes, ix: ecological processes, x: biodiversity

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Country** | **WH Site** | **Benefits** | **Ongoing Cooperation** |
| **1** | **Finland / Sweden** | [High Coast / Kvarken Archipelago (transboundary site)](http://www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org/search-sites/-/wdpaid/en/478642?p_p_auth=rVuYfC0y) (criteria viii)\* | Enhancing of international profile.  Mutual learning: Site has long-standing experience in nature conservation, management, visitor guidance system, cooperation with local stakeholders which can be adapted to the Wadden Sea (STS action plan, business cooperation, economic valuation of WH brand). Support of WSWH to deal with challenges in transboundary cooperation and management (the only other transboundary marine site in Europe) | WH Marine Programme.  Participates in PROWAD LINK as network partner. |
| **2** | **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** | [Dorset and East Devon Coast](http://www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org/search-sites/-/wdpaid/en/900632?p_p_auth=rdY6In5K) (criteria viii)\* (“Jurassic Coast”) | Enhancing of international profile.  Mutual learning: Site has long experience in OUV management, branding and communication, and working with business sector. Recently transformed into a charity trust which can support WSWH in establishing a foundation and partnership centre. | Participates in PROWAD LINK as network partner. |
| **3** | **Norway** | [West Norwegian Fjords – Geirangerfjord and Nærøyfjord](http://www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org/search-sites/-/wdpaid/en/902489?p_p_auth=Y8UWw7ES) (criteria vii, viii)\* | Enhancing international profile.  Exchange on sustainable tourism and business cooperation. | WH Marine Programme.  Participates in PROWAD LINK as network partner. |
| **4** | **Albania/14 other Euroepan countries** | [Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe (transboundary site)](https://www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org/explore-sites/wdpaid/903141) (criteria ix)\* | Enhancing of international profile.  Mutual learning: Serial WH site across 15 countries with experience in communication and management of protected sites including visitor guidance and sustainable tourism. | Cooperation with German WHS partners. |
| **5** | **Italy** | [The Dolomites](http://www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org/search-sites/-/wdpaid/en/478641?p_p_auth=rVuYfC0y) (criteria vii, viii) \* | Enhancing of international profile.  Mutual learning: Support of WSWF to enhance sustainable tourism and stakeholder involvement, and in establishing a cross border foundation in Wadden Sea. High interest and willingness by the site to put resources into MoU cooperation. | Joint art exhibition at 5th anniversary in 2014,  ITB participation.  Planning joint 10th anniversary in 2019. |
| **6** | **Australia** | [Great Barrier Reef](http://www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org/search-sites/-/wdpaid/en/2571?p_p_auth=UoU0lsag)  (criteria vii, viii, ix, x) \* | Enhancing of international profile and  Mutual learning: Site has long and extraordinary experience in nature conservation policy, management, monitoring and research involving federal, state and local level. Support of WSWH projects for strategic assessment and management (SIMP) monitoring (OUV assessment in TMAP), joint development of tools for climate change adaptations or alien species management in marine sites. Site provides ideas for education (IWSS), stakeholder and business involvement (support in establishing WSWH Partnership Hub). | Marine Programme.  Exchange on OUV assessment and reporting. |