



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

### BETWEEN THE WORLD HERITAGE SITES OF

### BANC D'ARGUIN AND THE WADDEN SEA

The Banc d'Arguin World Heritage site, represented by the National Park Banc d'Arguin of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and the Wadden Sea World Heritage site, represented by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, hereinafter referred to as the Sides (Participants),

- bear in mind that the Banc d'Arguin and the Wadden Sea have been inscribed on the World Heritage List for their Outstanding Universal Value including their importance for global populations of migratory birds;
- recall the decision of the World Heritage Committee at its 33<sup>rd</sup> Session, on the inscription of the Wadden Sea on the World Heritage List, to request "the States Parties of Germany and the Netherlands to strengthen cooperation on management and research activities with States Parties on the African Eurasian Flyways, which play a significant role in conserving migratory species along these flyways";
- recognise that the protection of World Heritage is the duty of the international community as a whole which requires international co-operation;
- bear in mind further that the two properties are intimately linked through the migratory birds on the African Eurasian Flyway, being the most important wintering and stop over areas on the East Atlantic Flyway;
- are convinced that a close cooperation between these two properties would strongly contribute to and reinforce measures to protect global populations of migratory birds and support the work of the World Heritage Convention including the World Heritage Marine Programme and other international and regional conventions and networks.

and therefore have reached the following understanding:

## 1. PURPOSE

Both Sides intend to:

- 1.1 cooperate on monitoring and management on their shared migratory bird species constituting a biodiversity resource on a world-wide scale with the aim to contribute to the conservation of such species on the East Atlantic Flyway;
- 1.2 promote and support cooperation among State Parties along the flyway as well as relevant organizations working in the field of migratory bird conservation, within the framework of their respective competences;
- 1.3 share knowledge and experience on conservation, management and sustainable use of the properties with the aim to maintain and, where necessary, reinforce and enhance the integrity of the sites;
- 1.4 cooperate to support the World Heritage Convention in particular the World Heritage Marine Programme in the spirit of the Convention and to contribute to other relevant international and regional conventions and partnerships;
- 1.5 support research activities of institutes and organisations with a view to maintain and expand knowledge of tidal areas and their ecological functions including migratory birds in order to reinforce and promote the sharing of such knowledge;
- 1.6 enhance communication and awareness of the two properties with the aim to achieve an understanding of the necessity of conserving and managing migratory bird populations on a global scale.

## 2. WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

In order to achieve the purpose named in section 1, both Sides strive to:

- 2.1 periodically exchange and assess the monitoring of migratory birds and disseminate the information both nationally and internationally also in the context of the World Heritage Convention;
- 2.2 organize exchange visits and the transfer of know-how of experts and site managers to promote and reinforce on-site management and use of state of the art management approaches;



- 2.3 support common scientific and management projects and other initiatives that will promote the conservation and management of the natural resources of the properties;
- 2.4 seek partnership with regional, national and international organizations to promote and enhance the best possible conservation and management measures;
- 2.5 ensure mutual participation of representatives of Banc d'Arguin and the Wadden Sea properties in important meetings and arrangements in the framework of this Memorandum;
- 2.6 explore the possibilities toward the establishment of a sustainable financing mechanism in support of the activities undertaken to implement the purpose of this Memorandum in the form of an international foundation, or other.

### 3. COORDINATION

- 3.1 The Director of the Banc d'Arguin National Park and the Secretary of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat are the designated focal points to assure the coordination of this Memorandum;
- 3.2 As necessary, the Sides will jointly decide on periodic work programmes in order to better structure purpose and working arrangements in the context of this Memorandum.

### 4. PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 Nothing in this Memorandum will override the statutory duties and responsibilities of the Sides;
- 4.2 The Memorandum will be open for signing by other authorities, managing properties along the East Atlantic Flyway, which subscribe to its purpose and working arrangements;
- 4.3 This Memorandum is signed by the Director of the Banc d'Arguin National Park and the Secretary of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat under the high patronage of the Ministries concerned.



5. COMING INTO EFFECT AND REVIEW

5.1 This Memorandum will come into effect upon signature;

5.2 This Memorandum will apply initially for three years. Its application can be renewed thereafter.


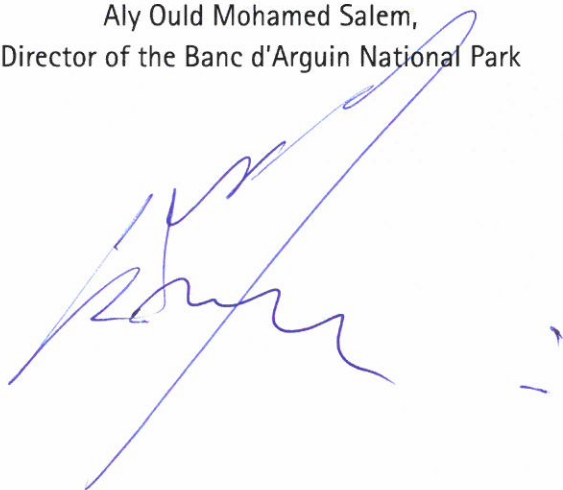
Signed in duplicate in the English and French languages.

Tønder, 4 February 2014

For the Banc d'Arguin National Park

For the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat

Aly Ould Mohamed Salem,  
Director of the Banc d'Arguin National Park



Jens Enemark,  
Secretary General