DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD

35th Meeting of the

**Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH 35)**

27 – 28 January 2022

Virtual Meeting

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

*Document: TG-WH 35/1-Draft Agenda*

The chairperson, Ms Barbara Engels, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants to the 35th 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 34**

*Document:* *Summary Record TG-WH 34*

The summary record of the TG-WH 34 meeting was adopted without changes.

1. **Announcements**

*Document:* *TG-WH 35-2-CWSS announcements*

The meeting noted the information provided by the CWSS. No further written announcements have been received in advance.

Margrita Sobottka announced that, by end of 2021, the Lower Saxon Wadden Sea National Park Authority published a concept for detailed conservation measures in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. The modular structure contains measure sheets for general measures, sheets for each habitat type as well as each Annex II species, accompanied by maps and further annexes. Bird species are treated in the context of the respective habitat. The measure sheets for general measures address: ensuring natural processes, visitor information and guidance, neobiota and blue mussel. The trilateral Wadden Sea Plan 2010 is referred to and annexed. For further information see: <https://www.nationalpark-wattenmeer.de/wissensbeitrag/ffh-massnahmenplanung-fuer-das-ffh-gebiet-001-nationalpark-niedersaechsisches-wattenmeer/>

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

*Documents: TG-WH 35/4* *Draft SIMP meeting document (version 0.7)*

4.1 Overall SIMP

The meeting reviewed the draft SIMP version 0.7 (17 January 2022) and agreed on last changes and additions in the overall text and figures of the SIMP for submission to WSB on 17 February 2022 at the latest. CWSS will prepare the updated draft SIMP version 0.8 and a meeting document for WSB 35 including the following points:

* The Draft SIMP version 0.8. is a complete version.
* All open questions have been addressed and discussed by the TG-WH in cooperation with many members of the TWSC family.
* The draft has reached a very advanced stage now and is ready for the agreed consultation phase.
* TG-WH feels that the SIMP has already achieved a great detail in content – but also feels that there might be room for some more ambition.
* The consultation phase should and could be used to achieve both more ambition but also to reach “buy-in” by the stakeholders, etc.

The meeting agreed to send editorial comments on SIMP version 0.7 by 2 February 2022 in order to prepare a new draft SIMP version 0.8 by 4 February for editorial comments by 14 February.

4.2 Consultation Phase

The meeting agreed on the steps before (incl. translation to the three languages), during and after the Consultation Phase including who to involve and what to request from them. An updated timeline is in Annex 3. Important deadlines are:

* Results of consultation to be submitted by mid-June 2021.
* Discussion and preparation of final version of the SIMP in TG-WH meetings in June and, if necessary beginning of July (to be scheduled)
* Submission of final version to WSB 37 by 5 August 2022 at the latest.

4.3 Ministerial Declaration

The meeting discussed items to be proposed for inclusion into the Draft Wilhelmshaven Declaration as outlined in the meeting document. The Chair and CWSS would submit a draft text to include at least one item per key topic in the Ministerial Declaration [done on 31 January]

4.4 Wadden Sea Board 35

The meeting is invited to reflect and discuss what and how to present the draft SIMP version 0.7, the planned steps for the Consultation Phase and any requests for advice or support needed from the WSB 35.

CWSS was instructed to prepare a cover note for WSB 35 sent together with the draft SIMP version 0.8 for TG-WH review **by 14 February 2022**.

4.5 Presentation and conversation with IUCN

TG-WH invited the IUCN World Heritage Conservation Officer Katherine Zischka to an informative presentation and conversation regarding the SIMP on Friday 28 January 2022. The TG-WH offered an overview of the content of the SIMP and emphasized the importance of the iterative and participative nature of the process of development.

IUCN welcomed the invitation, the presentation and the questions from TG-WH. Ms Zischka provided a very positive feed-back on the work so far on the SIMP, especially acknowledged the integrative and comprehensive process of development and its aim to strengthening a coordinated management of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site.

Regarding the content she recognized that the SIMP focuses on the Outstanding Universal Value and covers all relevant aspects including the existing and potential threats directly affecting the property and their cumulative and combined effects (i.e. from climate change and the five key topics).

IUCN, through Ms Zischka, offered their support with requests in the World Heritage context and will provide suggestions to the SIMP version 0.8 during the time frame of the SIMP Consultation Phase.

1. **Reporting to World Heritage Centre**

*Documents: Letter by the WHC on state of conservation (30 November 2021), answer on the letter by NL (20 January 2023) distributed to TG-WH by email on 21 January 2022.*

TG-WH members are invited to inform the meeting about the reports which are in preparation by the States Parties for submission to the World Heritage Centre according OG 172 and 174.

Karst Jaarsma informed the meeting that an answer on the World Heritage Centre (WHC)request was submitted on 20 January 2022 to address the questions regarding a new permit for gas drilling in the gas field Ternaard outside the property (see documents). In addition, the Dutch ambassador to UNESCO would contact the WHC Centre asking for advice on the planned permit. TG-WH would be kept informed.

The meeting also discussed the preparation of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting which will be carried out in the period 2022 – 2023 (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/prcycle3/>)

The Third Cycle in the Europe and North American region will commence in autumn 2022. Prior to this, the concerned State Parties will be requested in the months of 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.

The World Heritage Site Manager is responsible for completing Section II of the Questionnaire for her/his respective World Heritage site, while the National Focal Point is responsible for the completion of Section I and for validating Section II of the questionnaire after it is completed by the respective Site Manager(s).

For the Wadden Sea, as a serial transboundary property, the meeting reconfirmed CWSS as “World Heritage site manager” to coordinate the completion of the questionnaire. The States Parties are invited to designate a “National Focal Point” who submits both sections to the WHC on behalf of the other two states.

Section I (State Party/national focal point level): <http://whc.unesco.org/en/prcycle3/?page=draft&did=5154>

Section II (World Heritage property/site manager level): <http://whc.unesco.org/en/prcycle3/?page=draft&did=5155>

**6. Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy**

Document: TG-WH/35/6 – WH Strategy and Roadmap

The Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy was adopted in 2014 to mainstream the TWSC work subtitled “challenging the global dimension” and “working with partners” carried out on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and the WHC requests. A roadmap provided an overview of the status of planned or ongoing activities. The last update of the roadmap dates from 2017 before TGC 2018.

Since 2014, large parts of the proposed activities have been implemented under the five work themes and in the trilateral partnership initiative, the Partnership Hub, and other, new aspects have developed. The meeting therefore proposed that the strategy and roadmap still has additional value and should be reviewed and updated as necessary.

The meeting recommended that strategy should be kept as a stand-alone strategy for mainstreaming World Heritage for all activities in the Wadden Sea. It should be an overall strategy that refers to and links existing plans and strategies including the SIMP.

An update should include clear linkages to the SIMP and be aligned with the Wilhelmshaven Declaration. Therefore, the meeting agreed to propose to WSB to prepare a revised WH Strategy for adoption by WSB after the TGC 2022.

**7. Next Meeting**

The meeting agreed to schedule the next TG-WH meeting in week 12 as one half-day meeting on 23, 24 or 25 March 2022 (Note: Now scheduled on 24 March).

**8. Any Other Business**

None.

1. **Closing**

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

**Annex 1**

**Participants TG-WH 35, 27 – 28 January 2022**

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**Annex 2**

**AGENDA**

**TASK GROUP WORLD HERITAGE**

**TG-WH 35**

**27 – 28 January 2022**

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

**2. Summary Record TG WH-34**

**3. Announcements**

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

**5. Reporting to World Heritage Centre**

**6. Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy**

**7. Next Meeting**

**8. Any Other Business**

**9. Closing**

**ANNEX 3**

**SIMP Updated timeline**

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| **Date** | **Milestone** |
| 27 and 28 January 2022 | **TG-WH 35** Final comments and agreements on the draft SIMP document version 0.7, discussion on the SIMP suggestions for MD and planning Consultation Phase. |
| 02 February 2022 | Final deadline for TG-WH members to send minor written comments on the draft SIMP document version 0.7 (allowing sufficient time for the finalisation of the Draft SIMP 0.7) |
| 17 February 2022 | Deadline to upload documents for WSB 35. Updated draft SIMP version 0.7 and inform them about the planned steps for the Consultation Phase |
| February - March 2022 | Translation of the SIMP document to the three languages and language check by TG-WH members in the three countries. |
| 10 March 2022 | **WSB 35** Release of the draft by the Wadden Sea Board for stakeholder participation in the Consultation phase. |
| March-June 2022 | **Consultation phase:** Substantive involvement of the Advisory Boards, Policy Board, WST and WSF, and site managers. |
| 24-26 March 2022(to be defined) | **TG-WH 36**Discuss Input from TG-WH to MD. |
| 07 April 2022 | Deadline to upload documents for WSB 36. |
| 28 April 2022 | **WSB 36** meeting: main topic MD 2022 including TG-WH suggestions for MD. |
| June-July 2022 | Update the content of the draft SIMP, considering the comments received during the Consultation Phase. Language checks, edit and layout of the SIMP document. |
| 26. August 2022 | **WSB 37** endorses the SIMP for adoption in the Ministerial Conference. |
| November 2022 | Adoption by the Governmental Council at the 14th Trilateral Governmental Conference in Wilhelmshaven. |