FINAL DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD

38th Meeting of the

**Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH 38)**

7 and 8 September 2022

Virtual Meeting

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

*Document: TG-WH 38/1-Draft Agenda*

The chairperson, Ms Barbara Engels, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants to the 38th 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 37**

*Document:* *Summary Record TG-WH 37*

The summary record of the TG-WH 37 meeting was adopted without changes.

1. **Announcements**

No written announcements have been received in advance.

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

*Documents:
TG-WH 38-4-1-SIMP document (06.09.2022)
TG-WH 38-4-2- SIMP implementation (01.09.2022)*

**4.1 Finalizing the SIMP**

The meeting reviewed the comments received on the SIMP and the pending aspects and agreed on a final text for the draft SIMP to be submitted to WSB 38.

The meeting proposed to select a title for the SIMP which should be short catchy title followed by a more technical subtitle that works in all four languages. Suggestions for a title will be collected by CWSS and submitted to WSB.

The meeting also agreed on a proposal of a foreword in which stakeholders are invited to provide one short sentence about the SIMP development process, its added value, or its future implementation. It was suggested to invite the following contributors: the current WSB chairwoman, the current TG-WH chairwoman, a youth representative, one site manager from each of the three countries and federal states and one representative from each of the national park authorities, a representative from the Danish Municipalities, a representative from the advisory boards, a representative from the Wadden Sea Forum, a representative from the Wadden Sea Team, the Ministers and CWSS.

The meeting also agreed after a thoughtful consideration and in line with the reflections of the Drafting Group for the Wilhelmshaven Declaration, to propose to WSB to follow the same procedure as for the Wadden Sea Plan 2010: to have a standalone document; its adoption will be part of the Wilhelmshaven Declaration.

**4.2 SIMP implementation 2021**

As suggested by WSB 37, the meeting discussed possible next steps to operationalize the SIMP activities within the existing structure of TWSC (working groups) and in cooperation with other partners. A first concept for an implementation matrix for each of the key topics was discussed. The meeting agreed to address the following items in the matrix:

* the activities in each of the SIMP key topics,
* what exactly do we want to achieve in the next 4 years (for each activity),
* link to the Wilhelmshaven Declaration (to be aligned and updated)
* preliminary success metrics,
* who needs to be involved and who could lead,
* what is needed,
* milestones and deliverables,
* link to TWSC groups and tools and
* Comments

The meeting also agreed on considerations for a SIMP implementation strategy:

* The implementation of SIMP activities require an important amount of resources and capacities.
* It might be necessary to prioritise. Although it could be difficult to agree trilaterally, we need an agreement.
* Co-funding by EU project(s) would be optimal to meet the resource needs for the implementation (next opportunity is Interreg North Sea Region, deadline 14 November small scale or regular project).
* Various partners are thinking of project proposals to implement some of the SIMP activities (i.a. shipping and ports, pipelines and cable laying), which is excellent, however it is important to have some coordination.
* Suggestion from WSB 37: strategy to be a living document, consider a step-by-step approach and a strategic prioritisation of the activities.
1. **Reporting to World Heritage Centre**

With date of 6 July 2022, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to Germany and the Netherlands concerning new gas developments (NL/D border 20 km off Borkum) and plans for a new oil production license (Mittelplate Germany). Germany has taken the lead to prepare a draft answer together with the Netherlands.

With regard to the Ternaard gas field, The Netherlands sent additional information (English translation of the EIA including assessment of potential impacts on the OUV) to the World Heritage Centre on 21 July 2022, as requested by the Centre in May 2022.

With letter of 6 July 2022, the World Heritage Centre also announced that this information will be taken into account in the State of Conservation Report to be brought to the attention of the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee under the standing Item “State of Conservation reports of properties inscribed on the WH List”. Such an item may also include other elements which are of interest to the WH Committee.

The Document for consideration by the WH Committee (including a draft decision on the State of Conservation) will only be published six weeks before the start of the 45th session World Heritage Committee meeting. So far, a meeting date for the next Committee session has not yet been scheduled because of the ongoing war in Ukraine.

The meeting discussed scenarios regarding a potential WHC draft decision paper and proposed some ways to strategically work with these. Options for draft decisions are (in the order of "strictness"):

1. Proposal to list the Wadden Sea on the WH List of danger (unlikely, but still on option)
2. Decision to list the Wadden Sea on the WH List of danger in case that specific requests of the Committee are not implemented
3. not a) and b) but the request to prohibit any mineral extraction
4. any other requests (as we have already received, such as alien species, flyways, tourism, the SIMP); might be combined with a-c.

The meeting agreed to deal with this as follows:

1. Analyse the draft decision after it has been published.
2. Check if the draft decision and the information in the document are factually correct.
3. Discuss in TG-WH if and how we might need to "lobby" for changes.
4. Organise the "lobby" work in a strategic way via the Permanent representations in Paris (and absolutely avoid the that one of the 3 countries acts individually)

**6. Next Meeting**

The next meeting planned for November (as online meeting).

**7. Any Other Business**

The meeting took note of the start of the UNESCO e-DNA project in the Wadden Sea-

<https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/news/wadden-sea-serves-pilot-region-unesco-environmental-dna-sampling>

**8. Closing**

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

**Annex 1**

**Participants TG-WH 38, 7 and 8 September 2022**

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**Annex 2**

**AGENDA**

**TASK GROUP WORLD HERITAGE**

**TG-WH 38**

**7 – 8 September 2022**

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

**2. Summary Record TG WH-37**

**3. Announcements**

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

**5. Reporting to World Heritage Centre**

**6. Next Meeting**

**7. Any Other Business**

**8. Closing**