DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD

37th Meeting of the

**Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH 37)**

12 – 13 July 2022

Virtual Meeting

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

*Document: TG-WH 37/1-Draft Agenda*

The chairperson, Ms Barbara Engels, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants to the 37th meeting of the Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH) which was conducted as a video conference. A list of participants is in Annex 1. Because illness, no Danish representative could join the meeting. The proposed draft agenda of the meeting was adopted as in Annex 2.

1. **Summary Record TG-WH 36**

*Document:* *Summary Record TG-WH 36*

The summary record of the TG-WH 36 meeting was adopted without changes.

1. **Announcements**

*Documents:*
*TG-WH 37-2/1-CWSS announcements
TG-WH 37-2/2-National Park Lower Saxon Wadden Sea announcement*

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

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

*Documents:
TG-WH 37-4-1-Draft SIMP v0.9\_Consultation input (07.07.2022)
TG-WH 37-4-2- SIMP Consultation input (07.07.2022)*

**4.1 Finalizing the SIMP**

Responses from the SIMP consultation phase have been incorporated into draft SIMP version 0.9, along with suggestions on how to address the comments in the final SIMP version and references to comments that require further discussion in the TG-WH.

The following main topics were addressed in the consultations:

1. Oil and gas exploitation and phasing out of mining in the Wadden Sea,
2. Impact of climate change (stressors and impacts on nature, economic and society),
3. Possibilities of buy-in of sectors,
4. Positioning of the SIMP in the national and international context,
5. Desire for concrete measures in the SIMP and at the same time to facing the dilemma of many layers and interests in the three countries.

he meeting reviewed and discussed all critical issues with the goal of adopting a final draft of the SIMP to be submitted to the WSB no later than August 5, 2022.

Together with the Chair, CWSS will prepare a new draft as a result of the discussion, including documentation of decisions made and changes made by July 22 for final approval by the TG-WH. In addition, TG-WH members were tasked to develop text proposals for issues that have not yet been resolved by the group. With respect to the key topic of fisheries, further discussion may be needed in the WSB to agree on a framework for the proposed activities in the SIMP.

**4.2. Side event TGC**

TG-WH 36 suggested that the SIMP could be presented by a pre-recorded animated presentation using the graphs and quotes from the SIMP as well statements from different people representing the TWSC. Due to time constraints, this was not further discussed at the meeting. CWSS will send a proposal to TG-WH with ideas of SIMP statements and stakeholders that could be involved.

**4.3. SIMP implementation 2021**

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.

At the suggestion of the Chair, the meeting tasked CWSS to prepare an overview of the resources needed to implement the proposed SIMP activities by mid-November and to identify who should take the lead for the various activities. Co-funding of activities by the EU (e.g. Interreg North Sea) should also be explored.

1. **Reporting to World Heritage Centre**

*Documents:
TG-WH/37/1 – Response letter by The Netherlands to the World Heritage Centre.
TG-WH/37/2a – WHC Reporting §172
TG-WH/37/2b – Handreichung der KMK zu UENSCO Welterbe (Guidance for World Heritage sites)*

1. **Meeting with the Wadden Sea Team (WST) advisors to WSB**

The TG-WH invited the Wadden Sea Team (WST) advisors to the meeting because they expressed concern that the issue of gas mining in the Wadden Sea would be on the agenda of the World Heritage Committee this year, and that the Wadden Sea may also be placed on the Danger List. A summary of the meeting is provided in Appendix 3.

Following the meeting with WST, TG-WH discussed how to respond when the Center/IUCN presents a report on the status of conservation at the next meeting of the Committee.

At the suggestion of Karst Jaarsma, the meeting agreed to inform the WSB accordingly and to suggest that all three states should jointly take up this issue towards he Committee.

1. **Strategy for § 172 reporting to the World Heritage Centre**

Document TG-WH/37/2a provides an overview how the Wadden Sea States Parties submit state party information to the World Heritage Centre (according to OG § 172). The aim is to develop an internal strategy to ensure a common approach among the parties which projects should be reported to the Centre.

Due to time constraints, the meeting agreed to react on the document in a written procedure and to discuss this topic again at the next TG-WH meeting.

**6. Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy**

*Document:* *TG-WH/37/6 – New UNESCO World Heritage logo*

In 2021, UNESCO has changed its logo and the World Heritage Centre has adapted the World Heritage logo (UNESCO logo and WH emblem) accordingly. This new World Heritage logo no longer includes property-specific information (site name and date of inscription), but this can be added to the logo as properties wish.

In principle, the meeting agreed to use the logo combination as proposed in the document for trilateral World Heritage communication (website, reports, documents)

The CWSS was instructed to get a final confirmation from Denmark and Lower Saxony for the logo combination in a written procedure and to communicate the new logo combination to the trilateral partners.

**7. Next Meeting**

The next meeting should be planned for end of September (as online meeting) to discuss the outcome of WSB

**8. Any Other Business**

None

1. **Closing**

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

**Annex 1**

**Participants TG-WH 37, 12 – 13 July 2022**

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**Annex 2**

**AGENDA**

**TASK GROUP WORLD HERITAGE**

**TG-WH 37**

**12 -13 July 2022**

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

**2. Summary Record TG WH-35**

**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**