DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD

40th Meeting of the

**Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH 40)**

2 February 2023

Virtual Meeting

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

*Document: TG-WH 40/1-Draft Agenda*

The chairperson, Ms Barbara Engels, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants to the 40th 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 39**

*Document:* *Summary Record TG-WH 39*

The summary record of the TG-WH 39 meeting was adopted without changes.

1. **Announcements**

No written announcements have been received in advance.

Barbara Engels informed the 45th meeting the World Heritage Committee was postponed to 10 – 25 September 2023 (Riad, Saudi Arabia).

**4. World Heritage Reporting**

**4.1 Periodic Reporting**

*Document: TG-WH 40-4-1-Draft Periodic Reporting*

Barbara Engels informed the meeting about the purpose of the periodic reporting which is a self-assessment by the States Parties on the implementation of the convention with the aim of providing overall assessment for all sites. Periodic reporting is a statutory of the convention independent from the State of Conservation Report (reactive monitoring). Therefore, there is no procedure for site specific individual following-up the answers provided in the periodic report. The WH Centre will provide an overall analysis for the whole Region (Europe/North-America).

She contacted the German National Focal Point regarding the timeline of submission of the questionnaires, and it was agreed to finalize the Wadden Sea periodic reporting by 31 May in order to meet the final deadline of submission of 1 July 2023.

Harald Marencic presented the online questionnaire which was completed on the basis of the available information and considering the 2nd cycle periodic reporting as week as the nomination dossiers submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

The meeting noted the first draft and agreed to install a small sub-group to prepare a consolidated draft by 28 February 2023 to be discussed at the next TG-WH meeting. The meeting will concentrate on those questions identified by the sub-group as controversial/difficult. The Wadden Sea Board will be informed accordingly. Members of the sub-group are Karst Jaarsma, Margrita Sobottka and Maren Bauer. The Danish member will be appointed later.

**4.2 Reporting according to OG 172 and 174**

Thomas Borchers informed the meeting the draft answer on the request by the World Heritage Center from June 2022 was shared with the TG-WH for comments. The final version will be signed and submitted by the German ambassador on behalf of The Netherlands and German.

Maren Bauer informed that further information would be provided to the Center later as the decision on the oil drilling permit was still pending.

The meeting underlined that a delays in responses to the World Heritage Center’s request should be avoided especially when an impact on the OUV can be excluded.

On request by Margrita Sobottka, the meeting again discussed how to deal with the reporting according to OG 172 (state party information) and how to better align this reporting within the property.

The meeting agreed to develop a kind of “decision tree” how to select projects or project types which have a potential impact on the OUV and need to be reported. Margrita Sobottka and Maren Bauer volunteered to prepare a proposal until the next meeting.

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

Soledad Luna reminded the meeting that the WSB 37 (Aug. 2022) requested TG-WH to develop SIMP implementation strategy considering a step-by-step approach and a strategic prioritisation of the activities. The implementation strategy should be considered as a living document. WSB 38 (Oct. 2022) endorsed TG-WH’s proposals consisting of practical considerations for the SIMPlementation strategy, the use of the SIMPlementation matrix and a preliminary roadmap ([WSB 38/5.1/3 Draft implementation strategy of the SIMP](https://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/system/files/WSB-38-5-1-3%20SIMP%20draft%20implementation%20strategy_0.pdf)).

The meeting agreed that any communication and workshops within and beyond TWSC need to wait until the Wilhelmshaven Declaration is signed and the SIMP is formally adopted by the three countries. However, it is possible to make progress in the planning of the implementation strategy and the identification of priorities and opportunities. The meeting agreed that CWSS will prepare a first draft of the SIMPlementation strategy that should be sent three weeks before the next TG-WH meeting to allow for proper review and discussion.

**6. Next Meeting**

The next WSB meeting is scheduled in Esbjerg on 15-16 May 2023.

The next TG-WH meeting is therefore scheduled on 22 and 24 March (online meeting, two half days).

**7. Any Other Business**

Barbara Engels informed the meeting that all chairpersons of the trilateral working groups were asked to give feedback on their groups (ToR, composition) to help to further enhance the performance of the trilateral groups. She underlined that there is a need to cover all statutory processes related to the UNESCO designation (state party issues) and that therefore all ministries in charge of World Heritage management must be represented such a group. Secondly, the SIMP implementation needs a group to accompany and oversee the process and activities. These two tasks could be combined in one group (similar to the current TG-WH) but other solutions are also possible.

**8. Closing**

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

**Annex 1**

**Participants TG-WH 40, 2 February 2023**

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|  | **Mr Harald Marencic (Secretary)**  **Ms Soledad Luna (SIMP officer)**  Common Wadden Sea Secretariat  Virchowstr. 1.  D – 26382 Wilhelmshaven  [marencic@waddensea-secretariat.org](mailto:marencic@waddensea-secretariat.org)  [luna@waddensea-secretariat.org](mailto:luna@waddensea-secretariat.org) |

**Annex 2**

**AGENDA**

**TASK GROUP WORLD HERITAGE**

**TG-WH 40**

**2 February 2023**

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

**2. Summary Record TG WH-39**

**3. Announcements**

**4. Reporting to World Heritage Centre**

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

**6. Next Meeting**

**7. Any Other Business**

**8. Closing**