FINAL DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD

41st Meeting of the

**Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH 41)**

24 March 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 41st 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 40**

*Document:* *Summary Record TG-WH 40*

The summary record of the TG-WH 40 meeting was adopted without changes.

1. **Announcements**

*Document:* *TG-WH 41-3-Announcement DK*

The meeting noted the announcement by the Danish National Park.

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

*Document: TG-WH 41-4-1-Draft SIMPlementation Strategy (by CWSS)*

TG-WH 40 (2 February 2023) tasked CWSS with the development of a draft “SIMPlementation” strategy.

Soledad Luna introduced the draft SIMPlementation strategy including the proposed draft strategic priority activities in relation to the SIMPlementation (2023-2026) for TG-WH discussion with the aim of approval for submission of the strategy to WSB 41.

The meeting discussed the draft strategy and the proposed draft strategic priority activities. The following overarching remarks were made:

* The draft strategy, under expectation and risk management, needs to add that the decision-making process, reporting and direction must be defined and be clear for the different types of activities.
* For 2023, the priority activities to implement the SIMP are the ones already agreed upon also considering the supplementary budget 2023.
* During 2023, the working groups and relevant stakeholders will be involved in the definition of operational targets linked to the SIMP objectives and priority activities for 2024-2026.
* To task a group to coordinate and oversee the SIMPlementation involving the various trilateral working groups and other projects and to make decisions and to adapt the SIMP strategy if necessary.

On proposal by the chairperson, the meeting concluded to:

1. Based on the aspects discussed in TG-WH 41, update the draft strategy and the overview table including only the activities agreed upon for 2023.
2. Send comments on the draft updated strategy and overview table to CWSS until 14 April for submission to WSB 41.
3. Organize an in-depth discussion to define operational targets and priority activities for 2024-2026. CWSS to check date and format.
4. **World Heritage Reporting**

With letter of 19 December 2022, the World Heritage Center asked for further information in preparing a State of Conservation Report (SoC) concerning the Wadden Sea to be submitted to the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee.

The SoC report 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 which will take place in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) on 10 -25 September 2023. Therefore, a TG-WH meeting will be scheduled in beginning of August for a coordinated response (as already outlined in document WSB 38/5/1.1).

The chairperson also suggested to submit the SIMP to the World Heritage Centre in due time so it can be considered in preparing the State of Conservation Report for the upcoming World Heritage Committee meeting.

The meeting agreed to send the SIMP to the Centre as it is expected that the text would not change. However, the formal adaption of the SIMP is connected to the signing of the Wilhelmshaven Declaration which is still pending [Note: editorial changes in the SIMP to be done to align the SIMP with changes in the draft Wilhelmshaven Declaration].

**5.1 Periodic Reporting**

*Document: TG-WH 41-5-1-Draft Periodic Reporting*

The meeting approved the Periodic Reporting prepared by the sub-group as no open question were left and instructed CWSS to forward it to the German national focal point for submission and to inform WSB accordingly.

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

*Document: TG-WH 41-5-2-OG 172 Reporting to the World Heritage Centre (by Germany)*

The meeting welcomed the proposal to deal with reporting according to OG 172 (state party information) prepared by Germany, namely, how to select projects or project types which have a potential impact on the OUV and therefore need to be reported to the World Heritage Centre. The aim is to develop a trilateral guidance which supports the States Parties regarding OG 172 reporting but does not preclude any additional reporting if a State Party deems it necessary.

The meeting agreed to provide comments on the document for discussion at the next meeting, in specific, which alternative should be followed (plans and projects that are subject to a formal full Strategic Environmental Assessment, an Environmental Impact Assessment and/or a formal full Appropriate Assessment).

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

* Response by Germany on the request by the World Heritage Center on the LNG terminal in Wilhelmshaven.
* Response by Germany and the Netherlands on the gas drilling project located in the Dutch-German coastal waters.
* Update by the Netherlands on the Eemshaven Offshore Grid Connection Programme (PAWOZ).

The WSB will be informed on the status of reporting accordingly.

**6. Next Meeting**

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

The next TG-WH meeting is planned as in-person meeting in Hamburg/Bremen on 7-8 June 2023 (lunch to lunch).

An online meeting is planned in the beginning of August to coordinate the response on the SOC report and draft decisions.

**7. Any Other Business**

None

**8. Closing**

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

**Annex 1**

**Participants TG-WH 41, 24 March 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 41**

**24 March 2023**

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

**2. Summary Record TG WH-40**

**3. Announcements**

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

**5. Reporting to World Heritage Centre**

**6. Next Meeting**

**7. Any Other Business**

**8. Closing**