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**TASK GROUP**

**World Heritage**

**TG-WH 26**

**31 January – 1 February 2019**

**Bremen**

Agenda Item: 5

Subject: Development of the World Heritage Management Plan

Document No. TG-WH 26/5/1

Date: 10 January 2019

Submitted by: CWSS and Chairperson

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The Leeuwarden Declaration 2018 includes the task to develop a single integrated management plan for the Wadden Sea World Heritage as requested by the WH Committee in 2014. The context, objectives and timeline are defined in Annex 1 of the declaration (see Annex 1 attached). The Annex states “The starting point for the further development of the single integrated management plan will be a preliminary structure agreed by the Wadden Sea Board. The content will reflect the current priorities of the TWSC, but contents and priorities may be adapted during the process. A flexible approach is envisaged. “

As part of the process for developing the management plan, Soledad Luna has been meeting key stakeholders by end of January 2019 to learn about management systems already in place, collect relevant written information and to understand how each stakeholder envisage the single integrated management plan. The outcome of these meetings will be part of the input for the discussion of this agenda item in the TG-WH 26 meeting.

**Proposal**

In order to prepare the development of this plan and to best design the requested process, it is proposed that the TG-WH takes 2-3 hours in the TG-WH 26 meeting for an interactive discussion.

The objectives of the discussion are:

* To define the **process** for developing the single integrated management plan to assure that all necessary stakeholders are included and their inputs are available during the development of the plan. The process should as well assure that the stakeholders are aware of the plan, and that they and the WH authorities can implement and care for the plan for their benefit.
* To identify **main elements for a preliminary structure** of the single integrated management plan and a basic input to the further process.
* To work together on a detailed **timeline** to:
* aim to have a draft of the single integrated management plan ready for consideration by the WSB by the end 2020 (beginning 2021),
* set milestones associated to the WSB meetings and other relevant events,
* evidence opportunities for synergies with other processes or events,
* make sure the timeline is realistic.

In order to achieve the objectives listed above, we would like to answer the following questions during the TG-WH 26 meeting:

1. What do you think are the main factors for the success of the single integrated management plan? (“I think the single integrated management plan would be successful if…”)
2. From your point of view, which stakeholders need to be involved, for which topics and at which stage of the process? What is the best way to involve them and to communicate with them?
3. Do you need to conduct an official consultation of the draft single integrated management plan? What is the timeline (duration) for this and when can it take place?
4. Are you aware of other processes or events that represent opportunities for synergies during the single integrated management plan development, or during the consultation process?
5. What would you include as the three main headings in the structure of the single integrated management plan which are absolute essential? (prioritisation)

It is planned to discuss in an interactive way, so please DO NOT PREPARE WRITTEN INPUTS (but think about the questions…).

Based on this discussion and further input, it is envisaged to prepare the following products:

1. **Proposal for a comprehensive, inclusive and strategic process to present in the next WSB (March 2019)**

This includes defining the main stages of the process, the elements/issues to be addressed at each stage, the stakeholders related to these elements/issues, the technical input needed, who works on it, and identifying links to other parallel processes or events as opportunities for synergies.

1. **Timeline with milestones to present in the next WSB (March 2019)**
2. **Draft structure of the single integrated management plan for further development with appropriate/key stakeholders to be presented in the WSB in June 2019**

The structure will respond to the objectives of the single integrated management plan adopted in the Leeuwarden Declaration (see Annex 1 attached) and the OUV. It will use as input the factors and elements identified for developing a successful single integrated management plan together with the TG-WH and other stakeholders, as well as all relevant documents.

**Leeuwarden Declaration – Annex 1**

**ANNEX 1**

**Preparation of a single integrated management plan for the**

**Wadden Sea World Heritage Site**

**1. Introduction**

As reflected in the decisions of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) in 2009, 2011, and 2014, the Wadden Sea Plan 2010 is the overall framework and structure for integrated conservation and management of the property as a whole and coordination between all three States Parties. The WHC also concluded that comprehensive protection measures are in place within each State party.

The World Heritage Committee 2014, requested the States parties “to develop a single

integrated management plan for the entire transboundary property … and to consider the

options to strengthen the effectiveness of implementation of coordinated management within

the property”.

Since the inscription of the Wadden Sea World Heritage site in 2009 and the extension

in 2014, much has been achieved to intensify the cooperation to protect and maintain

the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. As a result of the World Heritage

site designation, the agenda of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) has been

broadened and there are now many new opportunities to strengthen nature conservation -

the fundamental purpose of the cooperation – and to increase civic pride, raise awareness,

increase support and practical involvement, and achieve socio-economic benefits.

In close cooperation with and support of many stakeholders, a wide variety of strategies

and plans have been developed including, amongst others, the Wadden Sea World Heritage

Strategy and the roadmap to involve strategic partners, the Wadden Sea World Heritage

Brand Paper, the Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan, the Wadden Sea World

Heritage Education Strategy , the Flyway Vision, the Framework for Sustainable Fisheries, the

Alien Species Management and Action Plan (in development), the Climate Change Adaptation

Strategy, the Particularly Sensitive Sea Area Wadden Sea Operational Plan, the Trilateral

Monitoring and Assessment Programme, the Seal Management Plan, and the Trilateral

Communication Strategy,

The development of a **single integrated management plan**, as requested by the World

Heritage Committee, will help to further strengthen the ongoing efforts in harmonizing

management of the Wadden Sea as one property in an integrated approach. The management

plan shall provide a clear overarching framework that can be easily read and understood

by stakeholders and the general public. This concerns especially the definition of roles and

responsibilities of the TWSC, site managers and key stakeholders in implementation of plans

and strategies.

Thus, the single integrated management plan strengthens the Trilateral Wadden Sea

Cooperation, enhances understanding of joint management, and creates ownership and

commitment among stakeholders to protect and maintain the OUV.

**2. Objectives**

The single integrated management plan for the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site provides

an umbrella to integrate existing trilateral strategies and plans without losing their commonly

agreed content, while taking into account existing regional and national management systems,

which can be easily read and understood by stakeholders. It also provides a clearer picture of

resources needs and transparency how the management system functions. In this respect, it is

of added value for the Trilateral Cooperation.

The overarching objective of the single integrated management plan is to demonstrate how

the effectiveness of coordinated management can be strengthened with the aim to maintain

and preserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and protect its natural values

and its integrity on the basis of the Guiding Principle.

The specific objectives are

1. Providing a coherent overview on how trilateral management is done jointly, also taking

into account the local level, to strengthen the protection of OUV and integrity as shared

responsibility;

2. Enhancing ownership and commitment of stakeholders on all levels in management of

the property as one entity and supporting the countries in implementation of trilateral

strategies and plans on the ground;

3. Striving towards a further harmonization of management on the ground and strengthen

the effectiveness of implementation of coordinated management while taking into account

the regional management systems and regional differences.

**3. Content**

The single integrated management plan for the Wadden Sea World Heritage property will

focus on overarching issues to be managed with priority and in a consistent way across the

property to maintain the OUV and protect the area’s natural values and integrity.

The single integrated management plan is a rolling plan and will be evaluated regularly by the

Wadden Sea Board. Therefore, the contents will be adapted to management requirements of

the TWSC with the support and participation of all key parties involved in implementing the

plan.

Criteria for the selection of the issues to be addressed:

1. Main and prior management issues at trilateral level (identified in particular from the

Wadden Sea Plan, recent Ministerial Conference Declarations, and existing strategies and

action plans);

2. Urgency to enhance management effectiveness trilaterally;

3. Management and protection requirements with regard to maintain and protect the OUV

(as reflected in the Statement of OUV, relevant Committee Decisions and in the Periodic

Reporting).

The starting point for the further development of the single integrated management plan

will be a preliminary structure agreed by the Wadden Sea Board. The content will reflect the

current priorities of the TWSC, but contents and priorities may be adapted during the process.

A flexible approach is envisaged.

The single integrated management plan will be a concise and short document (maximum of

40 pages) and contribute to make the complexity of World Heritage management operational.

It should be easy to read in order to better connect to the people on the ground. It should in

general follow WHC and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) advice on

World Heritage management plans.

**4. Timeline**

The development is a trilateral process with involvement of site managers and stakeholders

from all Wadden Sea regions and the IUCN. The function of the single integrated management

plan as a rolling plan reflecting the main priorities of the trilateral management has to be

considered in its preparation.

The aim is to develop the single integrated management plan in the period 2018-2020 with

a finalization and implementation in 2021 to deliver a proposal for final adoption at the 14th

Trilateral Governmental Council Meeting in 2022.