

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 32)

4 March 2021
Online Meeting



Agenda Item:	5.1 World Heritage
Subject:	Progress Report World Heritage
Document No.:	WSB 32/5.1/1
Date:	11 February 2021
Submitted by:	Chair TG-WH, CWSS

Attached is an overview of the progress of the Task Group World Heritage since last WSB and other World Heritage activities and projects carried out in the framework of the TWSC work plan.

The main focus of TG-WH was the preparation of the SIMP (see separate document WSB 32/5.1/2).

TG-WH had one online meeting on 29 January 2021. The next regular meeting is scheduled in Hamburg on 8 – 9 June 2021 (if a face-to-face meeting will be possible).

Proposal: The meeting is invited to note the document.

Progress Report Wadden Sea World Heritage

1. State of Conservation reporting to UNESCO World Heritage Centre

TG-WH has the task to coordinate the reporting to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre by the State Parties to also underline towards the Centre that the Wadden Sea is managed as one property. Since 2018, 11 reports have been submitted to the Centre (see Annex 1).

According to the Operational Guidelines (OG) of the World Heritage Convention, these reports can be distinguished as state party information (OG § 172) and reports on request by the World Heritage Centre which has received third party information on specific issues and where the State Parties are asked for information/clarification (OG § 174).

TG-WH 32 reviewed the trilateral procedure in preparing answers and reports to the World Heritage Centre and reconfirmed the trilateral agreed procedure to involve TG-WH when preparing a reply to these requests on the State of Conservation of the property regarding OG § 174 to underline towards the UNESCO that all three states take a joint responsibility for the site.

With regard to reporting under OG § 172 (state party information), the meeting noted that different approaches are currently applied in the countries with regard to which projects inside and outside the property are reported to the World Heritage Centre and which not. To find a balanced approach, the meeting decided to discuss a proposal for a joint approach at the next meeting and instructed CWSS to prepare a first draft.

PROPOSAL: WSB to note.

2. TG World Heritage work plan

According to the TWSC work plan 2019 -2022, the main focus of TG-WH in 2020/21 was the preparation of the SIMP (LD §3), the implementation of the World Heritage strategy / roadmap (LD §9) international cooperation (and cooperation with the UNESCO WH marine programme (LD §10)). All activities are proceeding according to the work plan.

TG-WH has been actively involved in the development of the Climate Change Vulnerability Index (CVI) and supported the preparation of the CVI workshop on 16 -17 February 2021 and will also be involved in the preparation of the workshop report, to ensure that the results will be integrated into the SIMP (see separate meeting document by EG-CC, agenda item 5.3).

PROPOSAL: WSB to note.

2.1 International Cooperation

On 16 December 2020, CWSS participated at the 2020 Yellow & Bohai Sea Coastal Wetlands Symposium, organised by the City of Yancheng, and took part in international panel with speakers from BirdLife International, the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP, Wetland International and IUCN. The Wadden Sea was again presented as a showcase how to collaborate transnationally with focus on the experiences with the Wadden Sea WH Sustainable Tourism Strategy.

A study visit of Korean representatives from the Republic of Korea (RO Korea) and the Korean Democratic Peoples Republic (DPR Korea) to the Wadden Sea planned for early 2020 was postponed, and the preparation for another date has not yet started.

The cooperation in the framework of the MoU Korea-Wadden Sea has been set on hold in 2020 also because of the pandemic.

The decision on the World Heritage nomination of the Getbol (Korean tidal flat) has been postponed for one year because the WH Committee Meeting 2020 was postponed to 2021. In case of a positive decision on the Korean nomination, the current MoU may require a re-focus of the collaboration including specific World Heritage aspects (such as flyway, management, communication).

PROPOSAL: WSB to note.

2.2 World Heritage Centre

With support of experts and focal points from the Wadden Sea region, CWSS provided information to the Centre on following topics

- Support of the project on World Heritage and renewables by Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony.
- Survey on Covid-19 impacts on WH properties (April 2020 and February 2021).
- Connecting Practice (phase III): E-meeting organized as part of the joint IUCN/ ICOMOS project. Survey on how culture and nature are linked in cultural and mixed properties, but also in natural ones.
- Provide information for the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2020 update ([IUCN outlook website](#)).

PROPOSAL: WSB to note.

World Heritage Marine Programme

The Marine Programme covers all 50 marine World Heritage sites and supports site managers in sharing experience, expertise and solutions toward achieving sustainable marine protected areas in the framework of the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

CWSS participated in a three e-meeting of site manager which were organized in 2020 (blue carbon, Covid-19 impacts, Climate vulnerability index) attended by about 40-60 people. The e-meetings have conducted every two-three months addressing specific topics.

On 3 December 2020, CWSS supported the Marine Programme to conduct an e-meeting on the CVI, where the chairpersons of TG-WH, Barbara Engels, and EG-CCA, Robert Zijlstra, and the CVI developers from the James Cook University, Scott Herron and Jon Day, presented the results of the CVI process in the Waddensea.

For 2021, it is planned to continue the collaboration with the programme on other topics with relevance for the Wadden Sea.

PROPOSAL: WSB to note.

ANNEX 1**Table 1: Reports to the WH Centre on projects (OG § 172, state party information)**

No	Report to WHC	Topic	Status	TG-WH involvement
1	26.05.2020	New Pier at port of Rømø, DK	Response by WHC with IUCN evaluation, 8.10.2020	Informed
2	18.06.2020	New World Heritage visitor centre, Lauwersoog, NL	Request by WHC for additional information 14.06.2020, Letter to WHC on 22.07.2020	Informed
3	13.10.2020	District Heating Plants, Esbjerg, DK	Response by WHC on 19.10.2020, IUCN evaluation pending	Informed
4	10.11.2020	Tjæreborg Wind Farm Project, DJ	Response by WHC on 16.12.2020 with evaluation by IUCN	Informed

Table 2: Request from the WH Centre requests concerning State of Conservation (OG § 174, third party information) 2018 - 2020

No-	Date WHC request	Topic	Status	TG-WH involvement
1	03.04.2018	Esbjerg Harbour extension plans, DK (third party information and state party reporting)	Additional information provided 8.5.2019, 18.11.2019 (revised plans), IUCN evaluation done 8.10.2020	Informed
2	30.05.2018	Houting population decline, DK.	Reply on 23.10.2018	Informed
3	11.01.2019	MSC Zoe container spill, NL	Final draft on 28.03.2019, submitted by NL, including information from Germany (container spill and Glory Amsterdam incident)..	Provided input in drafting
4	05.06.2019	Elbe deepening, D	Reply in preparation by Germany	Informed
5	20.6.2019	Fossil Fuel Mining, NL	Final draft on 16.08.2019 submitted by NL to TG-WH for comments	Provided input in drafting
6	25.02.2020	Salt Mining, NL	Reply on 2.12.2020, IUCN evaluation ongoing. Request for information on Agenda 2015 (7.12.2020(Informed
7	25.06.2020	Wind farm project, Schleswig Holstein	Reply in preparation by Schleswig-Holsten	Informed

According to the trilaterally agreed procedure, TG-WH was informed respectively involved in preparing a reply to a WHC request on the State of Conservation of the property.

