

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 37)

26 August 2022
Wilhelmshaven



Agenda Item:	5.1 World Heritage
Subject:	IUCN recommendation on the draft SIMP
Document No.:	WSB 37/5.1/4
Date:	16 August 2022
Submitted by:	CWSS

IUCN/UNESCO World Heritage Centre submitted a formal comment on the SIMP on August 11, 2022, which was forwarded to CWSS on August 15, 2022 (see attached letter on page 3-4):

“IUCN recommends that the SIMP be finalised and implemented as a strategic decision-making tool that facilitates a strategic, proactive and collaborative transboundary management approach to maintaining the OUV and addressing to the various pressures identified. This approach seems particularly important in light of the multiple pressures, including potential cumulative impacts such as from infrastructure developments or extractive activities, and the plan to develop the Wadden Sea region as a CO₂-neutral area by 2030 and a transition to renewable energy.”

Since time constraints do not allow for a full discussion within the TG-WH, it is proposed that the WSB task the TG-WH to develop a proposal on how to deal with these comments prior to the WSB 38 meeting on October 6.

Proposal: The meeting is requested

1. To comment on the IUCN recommendations,
2. To task TG-WH to review the IUCN recommendations and prepare a proposal how to deal with them to WSB 38.

H.E. Mr Hans Carel Wesseling
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Delegate of the Kingdom of
the Netherlands to UNESCO
7, rue Eblé
75007 Paris

11 August 2022

**Culture Sector
World Heritage Centre**

Ref: CLT/WHC/EUR/22/13997

Dear Ambassador,

I gratefully acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 21 July last, in which you kindly responded to my request of last July and transmitted to me the English translation of a set of documents regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Ternaard gas drilling and extraction projects which concern the transnational World Heritage property 'Wadden Sea', as well as of reports on the outcome of the monitoring of existing gas production in the Wadden Sea area.

I wish to thank the relevant Dutch authorities for preparing and providing these documents, which have been shared with IUCN for their review. Their comments will be sent to you as soon as they are available.

I am also enclosing the IUCN review of the Single integrated management plan (SIMP) Wadden Sea World Heritage (Draft version 0.8), dated 11 March 2022, which was transmitted directly to IUCN by the Executive Secretary of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat. As you will see from the attached information, IUCN recommends that the SIMP be finalised and implemented as a strategic decision-making tool that facilitates a strategic, proactive and collaborative transboundary management approach to maintaining the OUV and addressing to the various pressures identified. This approach seems particularly important in light of the multiple pressures, including potential cumulative impacts such as from infrastructure developments or extractive activities, and the plan to develop the Wadden Sea region as a CO₂-neutral area by 2030 and a transition to renewable energy. In this regard, I also look forward to receiving, in due course, updated information regarding the concerns raised by third parties that I shared with you on 6 July 2022 (Ref.: CLT/WHC/EUR/22/13887).

.../...

I thank you for your continuous collaboration and support in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and remain,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lazare Eloundou Assomo', written in a cursive style.

a.i.
Lazare Eloundou Assomo
Director

Enc.: IUCN high-level review of the Single integrated management plan (SIMP) Wadden Sea World Heritage (Draft version 0.8), dated 11 March 2022

cc: Permanent Delegation of Germany to UNESCO
Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of Denmark to UNESCO
Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO
German Commission for UNESCO
Danish National Commission for UNESCO
National Focal Points for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention
IUCN

Screening process: IUCN high-level review of the *Single integrated management plan (SIMP) Wadden Sea World Heritage (Draft version 0.8)*, dated 11 March 2022

In response to the letter received from the Executive Secretary of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat in March 2022 inviting IUCN to provide comments on the draft Single integrated management plan (SIMP) for the Wadden Sea World Heritage property, IUCN would like to thank the States Parties of Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands for consulting IUCN on this process, and is pleased to transmit the following high-level response through the World Heritage Centre.

Key points outlined in the SIMP and cover letter:

- The purpose of the SIMP is to further facilitate the continuous improvement of transboundary management coordination for the protection and maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).
- The SIMP is a political agreement of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) for transnational management (a legally non-binding document of common political interest) and does not change the content or function of existing policy documents and legally binding instruments at the trilateral, regional, national, or local level. It is complementary to the trilateral Wadden Sea Plan (2010). It is targeted at decision and policy makers, and site managers.
- Through the SIMP, the ambition is to agree a clear way to address threats to maintain the OUV, provide a better overview of transnational management to strengthen the effectiveness of coordinated management.
- Five key topics have been identified as priority areas that represent present and potential impacts on the OUV and require ongoing management based on the SOUV adopted in 2014, and identified through a participatory process: 1) Fisheries, 2) Tourism, 3) Shipping and Ports, 4) Renewable Energy and Energy from Oil and Gas, and 5) Coastal Flood Defence and Protection.
- Climate change is identified as a cross-cutting issue. Adaptation actions are guided by the Trilateral Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (CCAS) and mitigation measures aim to develop the region into a CO₂-neutral area by 2030, and national and regional level actions include the transition to renewable energy.
- It is stated that implementation of activities shall in no way lead to lowering the existing environmental standards.
- The SIMP will be revised regularly (every 10-12 years) by the Wadden Sea Board (WSB).
- The draft SIMP has undergone a public consultation process, the Trilateral Task Group World Heritage will produce an updated SIMP for endorsement by the Wadden Sea Board in August and adoption by the 14th Trilateral Governmental Council in November 2022.

IUCN high-level response:

- The development of a SIMP to further improve the coordinated transboundary management for the property based on existing legal instruments is positive, recalling that the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014 (Decision **38 COM 8B.13**) requested the States Parties to “*develop a single integrated management plan for the entire transboundary property in conformity with the requirements of Paragraph 111 of the Operational Guidelines, and to consider the options to strengthen the effectiveness of implementation of coordinated management within the property*”.

- The SIMP outlines the OUV of the property including the inscription criteria, integrity, and protection and management. Its specific focus on the threats to the property that were highlighted in the IUCN Evaluation report at the time of inscription in 2014 (and captured in the SOUV), through the five priority focus areas for transboundary management, is important to ensure that these issues are monitored and effectively managed through a strategic transboundary approach.
- In addition to the five priority areas, the identification of climate change as a clear cross-cutting issue for the property is an important area of collaboration to ensure a proactive approach to climate change impacts through adaptation and mitigation measures, including in the longer term.
- Further complementary activities such as science and research, monitoring and assessment, knowledge management, communications, etc. are also important, including harnessing international partnerships and collaborations such as the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative or marine site managers network.
- It is recommended that the SIMP is finalised and implemented as a strategic decision-making tool that facilitates a strategic, proactive and collaborative transboundary management approach to maintaining the OUV and addressing the various identified pressures. A strategic approach is especially important in light of the multiple pressures, including potential cumulative impacts such as from infrastructure developments or extractive activities, and the plan to develop the Wadden Sea region as a CO₂-neutral area by 2030 and a transition to renewable energy.

IUCN remains available for technical support on the Wadden Sea property.