MEETING DOCUMENT

**Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH 32)**

29 January 2021

Virtual meeting

**Agenda Item: 4. Single integrated management plan**

**Subject: 4-1** Development of the SIMP

**Document No.:** TG-WH 32/4-1

**Date:** 11 January 2021

**Submitted by: CWSS**

The Leeuwarden Declaration 2018 includes the task to develop a single integrated management plan for the Wadden Sea World Heritage (SIMP) as requested by the WH Committee in 2014. WSB 28 (March 2019) adopted the preliminary structure as the starting point for the further development of the SIMP (WSB 28/5.1/2 Status Report SIMP) and the development phases proposed by TG-WH. The WSB 29 (June 2019) endorsed the approach on the process for selecting key topics for the SIMP (WSB 29/5.1/1 Status Report SIMP) and WSB 30 (WSB30 5.1-2 SIMP status report.pdf) endorsed the selected key topics based on the managers recommendations and the prioritization by TG-WH 29. 2020 was dedicated to developing the content of the SIMP. WSB 31 (June 2020) noted the progress report on the SIMP content development, endorsed the SIMP status statement and the proposal to publish relevant background information gathered in the process of developing the SIMP in an online microsite under the CWSS website in addition to publishing the concise stand-alone SIMP-document.

TG-WH and CWSS have drafted a concise SIMP document according to the conditions described in Annex 1 of the Leeuwarden Declaration (2018) and the approved preliminary structure which complies with para. 111 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Strategy. Previous versions of the SIMP document, as well as the key topics’ documents have been reviewed and commented by TG-WH as well as by TG-M, TG-MA, EG-C, NG-ST and NG-E and expert colleagues from the member organisations.

This document lists the pending issues to discuss in TG-WH32 and proposals on how to proceed. The updated SIMP document (Version 0.3) including all received comments is attached for your review.

**Proposal:** The meeting is invited to:

1. Review the SIMP document version 0.3 and provide **written minor comments by 05.02**. (major important suggestions need to be discussed in TG-WH 32).
2. Solve the following pending issues:
3. alternative formulation for the term “key topics”
4. alternative formulation for the term “recommendations”
5. mission and vision of the SIMP (will be sent separately)
6. Reflect on what kind of guidance or requests do we have to the WSB 32.
TG-WH previously agreed to ask the WSB 32 to give advice on the periodicity of the SIMP review cycle. TG-WH proposes a 10-year review cycle to WSB, with the option to update operational parts earlier if necessary. It is suggested to keep this request.

**Pending issues to discuss in TG-WH 32 and proposals on how to proceed**

1. Alternative formulation for the term “key topics”

The term “key topics” can give the wrong message that THESE are the key topics and all other topics in the WS are not key. Also, it can give the impression that this “generation” of the SIMP addresses those five key topics, and there will be a “next generation” addressing other key topics.

Alternative formulation:

* prioritized direct use activities
* direct use activities requiring ongoing attention
* human use key topics (could imply that in the future we address other key topics related to nature
* Your ideas? (**Please send alternative formulations by 20.01**. We will collect your contributions and send you a link to vote on your preferred option by 27.01)
1. Alternative formulation for the term “recommendations”

There is not yet a unanimous agreement in TG-WH that “recommendations” is the appropriate term to use in the SIMP in relation to the key topics.

Alternative formulation:

* “Parties agree on”
* Your ideas? (**Please send alternative formulations by 20.01**. We will collect your contributions and send you a link to vote on your preferred option by 27.01. Also have in mind that this formulation may also depend on what kind of “recommendations“ come out of the further process)