

Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 22
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Hamburg, Germany**



Agenda Item:	5.1 World Heritage
Subject:	UNESCO World Heritage Marine Programme - Wadden Sea Workshop 2018
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Submitted by:	CWSS

The UNESCO World Heritage Marine Programme (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/marine-programme>) is currently preparing the next triannual conference of the Marine Site Managers in spring 2019. In this context, it is suggested organizing a specialized World Heritage managers workshop in the Wadden Sea in autumn 2018.

The workshop also aims to strengthen the trilateral cooperation and to enhance the global profile of the Wadden Sea.

An outline of the proposed joint workshop prepared by the UNESCO World Heritage Marine Programme is attached.

The workshop will be financed via the Supplementary Budget 2018 (budget line 3: Information exchange and events, participation in the UNESCO WH Marine Programme). The UNESCO World Heritage Centre will provide in-kind support (content delivery, assistance to organisation, etc.).

The workshop contributes to the Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy Road Map (Work theme 1.3) and to implementation of the Tønder Declaration 2014.

Proposal: The meeting is invited

- 1) To comment respectively endorse the outline,**
- 2) To instruct CWSS with the preparation of the joint workshop**

Wadden Sea workshop to strengthen the marine World Heritage managers' network

Fanny Douvere, Programme Manager, UNESCO World Heritage Marine Programme

1. Context: Building a managers network across 49 UNESCO marine World Heritage sites

The Wadden Sea is part of a prestigious collection of 49 World Heritage marine sites, stretching from the tropics to the Arctic. In addition to the Wadden Sea, this global network of sites encompasses some of the world's most famous natural treasures including the Komodo Dragon in Indonesia, the world's most ancient fish in South Africa, the inimitable marine iguanas of the Galapagos Islands, or the royal Bengal Tigers in the Sundarbans shared between India and Bangladesh.

The world is changing faster than ever before, with temperatures and sea levels rising, marine litter spreading to the most remote corners of the planet, and extreme storms devastating sensitive coastal areas. Our World Heritage marine sites are facing threats that are unprecedented in human history.

Despite the unprecedented challenges, there are solutions. Through UNESCO's robust monitoring, we have begun to tap the vast expertise contained within our global collection of World Heritage marine site managers. These local guardians have confronted every imaginable problem facing our temperate and tropical oceans, and many have created leading edge solutions. They have hundreds of thousands of hours of on-the-ground experience to tackle conservation problems. Since 2010, the the UNESCO World Heritage Centre Marine Programme unites managers in global, regional and site specific exchanges where managers share best practices and conservation solutions to the challenges their sites encounter.

Information and photos of the third global managers conference are available at:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/future-marine-world-heritage-2016>

What managers say about the conference:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1052&v=BmlD3ppSQbE

2. A specialized World Heritage managers workshop in the Wadden Sea

Objectives:

- Bring managers together to exchange and document best practices around one of the following themes:
 - o Marine litter: A preliminary analysis of the World Heritage Marine Programme showed that 25% of the World Heritage marine sites suffer from marine pollution, in particular waste that washes on the beach. For example, almost 1,000 tons of debris have been removed from the beaches of Papahānaumokuākea (USA) since the start of annual clean-ups in 1996. Lord Howe in Australia, Rock Islands Southern Lagoons of Palau and Aldabra Atoll in Seychelles, among other sites, all struggle with marine litter. The issue of microplastics in World Heritage marine sites remains largely unexplored. This workshop could, for the first time, focus on the problem of marine litter in World Heritage marine sites and exchange solutions;
 - o Leveraging the World Heritage brand to attract partners and resources: While the UNESCO World Heritage brand is one of the world's best-known brands, very few World Heritage sites use the prestigious recognition for conservation gains. Yet some sites derive an annual return to their countries GDP of over 5 billion dollars. Others have used the brand to create jobs, elevate local communities from poverty or unite a diverse group of stakeholders behind a common vision for the future of a site.

Bringing the best practices together and share the best solutions could have lasting benefits to both the Wadden Sea and the broader World Heritage community.

- Extrapolate the results from the specialized workshop to the broader marine World Heritage network during the 4th marine World Heritage managers network, scheduled for spring 2019 (location TBD);
- Prepare the basis for a larger project that could export these best practices to bring solutions to protect Earth's ocean treasures;
- Substantially speed up the delivery of SDG14 by facilitating more effective conservation of some of the world's most beloved ocean areas.

Suggested participants (approximately 20-25):

- 5-10 World Heritage marine managers
- VIP
- UNESCO World Heritage Marine Programme
- Local actors / stakeholders from the Wadden Sea World Heritage
- Relevant experts (2-3)
- Representatives Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation / CWSS
- Photographer / film producer

Suggested agenda:

A two-day workshop, starting with a welcome, an overview of the issue presented by an expert and an overview of the best practices and solutions within the World Heritage marine managers network, followed by in-depth discussions. A third day could involve a field visit to the Wadden Sea illustrating the Outstanding Universal Value of the site to the international participants, and further discuss the topic by looking at examples on the ground. The workshop would close with some key recommendations and next steps that can be presented at the 4th global managers conference organized by UNESCO's World Heritage Marine Programme in 2019.

3. Timing and budget

The Wadden Sea workshop would be held in September/October 2018

All funds would be raised from third parties for the initiative. The UNESCO World Heritage Marine Programme does not have funding available for the activity at this stage but will provide in-kind support to the initiative (content delivery, assistance to organisation, etc.).