

**Draft Concept Paper:**  
**World Heritage Site Manager Workshop, Denmark 21 – 24 April 2009**  
**Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit**

The Heritage Agency of Denmark has generously decided to host a workshop on the *Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit (EoH)*. Representatives from all the Nordic sites are invited to attend. Nordic World Heritage Foundation will in cooperation with the Danish authorities organize this workshop in April 2009. The workshop is a result of the recommendations from the Periodic Reporting process.

**1. Background and objectives**

The European Periodic Report was submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its 30th meeting in Vilnius 2006. The Nordic – Baltic sub-regional report, annexed to the regional report, identifies a number of challenges for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the sub-region. Periodic Reporting is widely recognised as an important tool to strengthen and maintain the integrity and credibility of the World Heritage concept. The Periodic Reporting process has so far been successful in developing international cooperation and in providing an account of the status of World Heritage sites. This workshop follows the recommendations from the meeting between the Nordic and Baltic States Parties in 2007 (see Annex I *Recommendations from the meeting on Periodic Reporting, Helsinki 3-4 May 2007* no: 6, 7 & 12). The World Heritage Committee will examine the Periodic Reporting follow-up activities for the European region at its 34<sup>th</sup> session in 2010.

The ‘Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit’ contains twelve practical tools. Although it has been developed with a focus on natural properties, the initiative also has potential value as a tool to assist site managers of cultural properties. Experts on cultural heritage and site managers from both categories will provide valuable input in developing the tool further at this workshop.

A common tool for enhancing the management of World Heritage sites has not been applied in any of the Nordic countries previously. This workshop offers an opportunity to strengthen the EoH toolkit as a universal tool for all types of World Heritage sites.

**2. Workshop**

The workshop is planned to take place over four days with participatory sessions where the participants may address relevant issues at their sites. Experts on the toolkit and World Heritage management in general will function as mentors. There are also opportunities to organise a second follow-up event to ensure continuity for the site managers. A detailed programme for the workshop will be developed in cooperation with the appointed expert mentors, participants and national authorities in the Nordic countries. Assuming that in average one from each of the Nordic World Heritage sites (annex 2) are represented there will be 34 participants at the workshop (without any participants from the Baltic countries).

Potential mentors that are currently being contracted or that have been recommended by UNESCO are:

- Ms Sue Stolton (UNESCO World Heritage Centre, World Heritage Series n°23 - Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit, Assessing management effectiveness of natural World Heritage sites, 2008.)
- Ms Birgitta Ringbeck (Management Plans for World Heritage Sites. A practical guide. Bonn: German Commission for UNESCO, 2008.)
- Mr Christopher Young (English Heritage)
- Experts from the Vilm Workshop 2008

### **3. Budget and financing**

The workshop is financed by The Heritage Agency of Denmark. NWHF is contracted by the Heritage Agency to organise the event. All participants are expected to cover their own expenses, however, opportunities for funding from other sources could be investigated.

### **4. Evaluation**

Within the framework of the Convention and its reporting processes there are baseline studies and future evaluations (i.e. next cycle of Periodic Reporting) of the activities undertaken in the region. In addition NWHF will facilitate participant feedback and an assessment by the participants at the workshop.

### **5. Actions required as of 16 January:**

- NWHF: Identify mentors additional to Ms Sue Stolton
- NWHF: Develop programme in collaboration with Kulturarvsstyrelsen, experts/mentors and UNESCO.
- Kulturarvsstyrelsen: invitations to participants and forward any feedback to NWHF
- Kulturarvsstyrelsen: Inform and invite States Parties and forward any feedback to NWHF
- Kulturarvsstyrelsen: Identify premises for meeting, technical service etc.

## 2 Conclusions and recommendations

One of the key conclusions of the meeting was that there is a common need for the preparation of the statements of significance/outstanding universal value in close cooperation with the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre, as well as for the preparation, up dating or revision of management plans for the World Heritage properties. A critical point noted was also the lack of a reliable database of relevant documents and best-practice examples for site managers.

1) All States Parties should ensure that **changes to names, boundaries, criteria or Statements of Significance/Outstanding Universal Value** are submitted to the World Heritage Centre. Please see the attached Circular Letter dated 23 January 2006 (see also section 3 in this report). The status for the Nordic – Baltic countries on the basis of the Periodic Reports is:

- Two sites need a revision of Statement of Significance / New Statement of Outstanding Universal Value
- Eight sites needs clarifications / changes of boundaries
- Seven sites need creation / changes of buffer zones
- Two sites need changes of names

2) All States Parties should ensure that the letters from the World Heritage Centre concerning the **clarification of boundaries**, as a part of the **Retrospective Inventory**, are responded to and considered complete by the Centre.

**Table on answers from the Nordic – Baltic States Parties on Retrospective Inventory**

State Party	WHC letter	Information requested	Answer
Denmark	27.01.05	2 sites	0/2
Estonia	25.01.05	1 site	0/1
Finland	25.01.05	4 sites	2+2/4
Latvia	13.04.07	1 site	0/1
Lithuania	29.04.05	1 site	1/1
Norway	24.06.05	4 sites	4/4
Sweden	20.07.05	9 sites	9/9
Total answer		22 sites	16/22

3)3.

**Institutional memory.** Documents relating to the World Heritage status of the sites should be made available at the site level. These documents include The Convention, *Operational Guidelines*, Nomination file, State of Conservation reports, Periodic Reports and Retrospective Inventory, among others. The States Parties are encouraged to make the *Operational Guidelines* available in the national language, preferably on a web page with link to World Heritage Centre's web site.

4) **Site manager.** The role of a "site manager" is to be a focal point (a person or a management unit) at the site level to coordinate and facilitate communication between the site and State Party and UNESCO. It is highly recommended that all States Parties establish such a function.

5) **Focal Points.** All States Parties are encouraged to identify a Periodic Reporting focal point for culture and one for nature. The focal point should be situated in a national institution at State Party level. The States Parties should inform the World Heritage Centre of any change or appointments of new focal points.

6) **PR follow-up.** It was agreed that sites that did not participate in the first cycle of reporting should nevertheless take part in the follow-up process. Sites inscribed in 1998 and after wards should

have the opportunity to learn and prepare for the next cycle through engaging in this work. As no natural sites reported in the first cycle, these sites should be given particular attention.

- 7) **Best practice.** To strengthen the application of the World Heritage Convention and the *Operational Guidelines* at the site level, it is strongly recommended that best practice management plans for World Heritage sites are made available.
  
- 8) **Planning.** States Parties are encouraged to include World Heritage issues in overall planning and policies, and integrate Periodic Reporting as a part of routine monitoring and reporting.
  
- 9) **Application of legislation concerning World Heritage.** The States Parties, particularly in the Baltic region, are encouraged to reinforce the implementation of current legislations and to strengthen the monitoring of the application of legislation concerning World Heritage protection.
  
- 10) **National World Heritage Networks.** The States Parties are encouraged to facilitate the establishment of national networks between the World Heritage sites. These networks may function as a way for sites to promote common interests, and mobilise and pool resources for World Heritage.
  
- 11) **Harmonization of Tentative Lists.** The Nordic countries have a long tradition in harmonising their Tentative Lists. It is strongly recommended that the Baltic countries also cooperate to harmonise their Tentative Lists following the 2003 meeting (Riga). Tentative Lists should also be harmonised in relation to the wider European region.
  
- 12) **Workshop.** It was recommended that the Nordic – Baltic cooperation continues in the Periodic Reporting follow-up process and that the possibilities for organising a Nordic Baltic workshop on World Heritage Management Plans be reviewed.

Annex 2  
Overview of Nordic World Heritage sites

<b>Norway:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Delegates:</b>
<b>WH Site Managers:</b>		7
Bryggen i Bergen (1979)	C	
Rock Art of Alta (1985)	C	
Røros Mining Town (1980)	C	
Struve Geodetic Arc (2005)	C	
Urnes Stave Church (1979)	C	
Vegaøyan - The Vega Archipelago (2004)	C	
West Norwegian Fjords - Geirangerfjord & Nærøyfjord (2005)	N	
<b>Iceland:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Delegates:</b>
WH Site Managers:		2
Surtsey (2008)	N	
Pingvellir National Park (2004)	C	
<b>Finland:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Delegates:</b>
WH Site Managers:		7
Bronze Age Burial Site of Sammallahdenmäki (1999)	C	
Fortress of Suomenlinna (1991)	C	
High Coast / Kvarken Archipelago (2000, 2006)	N	
Old Rauma (1991)	C	
Petäjävesi Old Church (1994)	C	
Struve Geodetic Arc (2005)	C	
Verla Groundwood and Board Mill (1996)	C	
<b>Denmark:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Delegates:</b>
WH Site Managers:		5
Ilulissat Icefjord (2004)	N	
Jelling Mounds, Runic Stones and Church (1994)	C	
Kronborg Castle (2000)	C	
Roskilde Cathedral (1995)	C	
<b>Sweden:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Delegates:</b>
WH Site Managers:		13
Birka and Hovgården (1993)	C	
Church Village of Gammelstad, Luleå (1996)	C	
Engelsberg Ironworks (1993)	C	
Hanseatic Town of Visby (1995)	C	
High Coast / Kvarken Archipelago (2000, 2006)	N	
Laponian Area (1996)	N/C	
Mining Area of the Great Copper Mountain in Falun (2001)	C	
Naval Port of Karlskrona (1998)	C	
Rock Carvings in Tanum (1994)	C	
Royal Domain of Drottningholm (1991)	C	
Skogskyrkogården (1994)	C	
Struve Geodetic Arc (2005)	C	
Varberg Radio Station (2004)	C	