

## Minutes of the Periodic Reporting Follow-up Meeting for Nordic-Baltic sub-region: “Nordic-Baltic region Focal Point Meeting on Periodic Reporting 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle”



**9 December, 2009**  
**Stockholm, Sweden**

The meeting was organized by the Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF) and generously hosted by the Swedish National Heritage Board. Representatives of all the Nordic-Baltic countries except Iceland and Latvia attended the event to discuss the following issues:

- The follow-up process to the European Periodic Report and Action Plan 2005-2006/Nordic-Baltic Conclusions and Recommendations
- Nordic-Baltic cooperation
- Tentative Lists in the Nordic-Baltic sub-region (cooperation and harmonization)
- The Next cycle of World Heritage Periodic Reporting
- Plan of action for the future P.R. process aiming for enhanced cooperation in the sub-region
- The NWHF's potential role as coordinator and facilitator in the sub-regional P.R. Process
- Training and capacity building
- Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

Mrs. Kris Endresen of NWHF presented on behalf of UNESCO-WHC a broad overview of the results and follow-up to the European World Heritage Periodic Report and Action Plan 2005-2006. The States Parties agreed that the Periodic Reporting process is an important tool for ongoing cooperation, exchange and joint action to enhance World Heritage conservation.

Mr. Ole Søre Eriksen of NWHF gave a brief introduction to the NWHF and explained the mandate given by UNESCO-WHC towards assisting the sub-region in the P.R. exercise. Further, it was pointed to how the NWHF can assist the States Parties of the region. The Foundation's engagement with the Africa Unit of UNESCO-WHC and African World Heritage Fund towards P.R. was explained. The objectives of the P.R. exercise and the roles and responsibilities of States Parties and UNESCO-WHC were explained. The strengths and weaknesses of the sub-region as defined after the first cycle of P.R. were presented. The expected results for the sub-region, emphasizing preparation of Statements of OUV, clarification and (re)definition of property boundaries, management plans and harmonization of tentative lists were presented in detail. Finally, a provisional action plan and proposals for future cooperation in the sub-region were presented.

The States Parties gave presentations on the current status in the respective countries. Substantial efforts have been undertaken following the first cycle of Periodic Reporting, but several challenges were reported. In particular, Statements of OUVs were mentioned. A second issue was

management plans. Further, the States Parties reported challenges with maps/GIS, clarification and changes of boundaries and development of and changes to buffer zones. All States Parties were well aware of their respective challenges and informed that substantial work is in progress both at national and Site levels to overcome these. Finally, the States Parties reported on strengthened legal procedures and protection of the WH sites.

Mr. Ole Søre Eriksen gave a presentation with open discussions regarding the concept of Statements of OUV. The discussions during the presentation clarified the concept, how to draft the Statements and the efforts that need to be undertaken. The States Parties agreed on the importance of preparing and submitting the Statements within the timeframe presented. Further, the States Parties expressed their concerns regarding the workload verifying and approving the Statements, both for the Advisory Bodies and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

The issue of Tentative Lists and possible harmonization of these were discussed. Also, the NWHF brought forward and emphasized the challenging financial situation in the Baltic States, calling for measures to be taken towards securing our Baltic colleagues' participation and future regional cooperation in the P.R. exercise.

During the discussions the following decisions were made, both towards complying with requirements and obligations towards Periodic Reporting as stated in the Operational Guidelines (2008) and World Heritage Committee decisions; towards complying more generally with the World Heritage Convention (1972), but also towards strengthening the sub-regional cooperation and collaboration and finally towards training and capacity building:

- The States Parties expressed their support for the Nordic World Heritage Foundation's (NWHF) engagement towards the Nordic-Baltic sub-region and for offering to coordinate and assist in the upcoming Periodic Reporting (PR) exercise. The States Parties decided that the NWHF shall continue its efforts and coordinate and assist the sub-region with the future PR exercise, and prepare the sub-regional synthesis reports.
- In order to comply with the requirements made by the World Heritage Committee (Decision 32 COM 11E), the States Parties decided that the NWHF shall coordinate and chair a workshop in October 2010 in Tallinn, Estonia, for drafting of Statements of OUV, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies.
- The States Parties recognized the need for a coordination meeting towards the development of strategies for involvement and cohesion of the Site Managers/local level, and a technical workshop providing training and guidance towards the filling of the questionnaires Section I and II. The States Parties agreed that the NWHF shall coordinate and chair a capacity-building event in December 2011.
- The States Parties decided that the Focal Points shall arrange national meetings with their Site Managers/local level resource persons. The NWHF shall backstop and assist the States Parties in the national meetings, and provide information on objectives and values of the P.R. exercise, and provide training and guidance in filling of the questionnaire Section II.

Based on the conclusions and decisions made, the NWHF proposes the following (provisional) action plan (second draft, to be revised).

1	9 December 2009	Nordic-Baltic Periodic Reporting follow-up and Information Meeting. Coordinated and chaired by NWHF.
2	Early October 2010	St. of OUV workshop for Focal Points in Tallinn, Estonia, with Advisory Bodies. Coordinated and chaired by NWHF.
3	1 February 2011	Deadline St. of OUV and other information material.
4	Early December 2011	Focal Points Meeting for development of strategies for involvement and cohesion of Site Managers/local level. Technical workshop towards filling of questionnaires Section I and II, training and guidance. Coordinated and chaired by NWHF.
5	January 2012	Official launch of second cycle PR in Europe.
6	First quarter 2012	NWHF backstopping national follow-up meetings with Focal Points and Site Managers/local level. Provide information on objectives and values of P.R. exercise. Provide training and guidance in filling of questionnaire Section II.
7	During 2012	Filling of Section I of questionnaire by national Focal Points
8	During 2012	Filling of Section II of questionnaire by Site Managers
9	End of 2012	National meetings with Focal Points and Site Managers for reviewing the drafts of the questionnaire. Progress Report for the WH Committee?
10	May-June 2013	Submission of country reports to NWHF for preparation of sub-regional synthesis reports.
11	August-November 2013	Compilation and analysis of data. 1 <sup>st</sup> draft of the synthesis reports developed by NWHF, with revision by UNESCO-WHC.
12	December 2013	Formal meeting with final drafts revision of synthesis reports with States Parties. Coordinated and chaired by NWHF.
13	January 2014	Drafting of final synthesis/analysis and conclusions by NWHF in agreement with UNESCO-WHC.
14	February-April 2014	Drafting and Preparation of the Europe Regional Report for submission to UNESCO-WHC.
15	June-July 2014	Presentation to and examination by Committee at its 38 <sup>th</sup> Session.