

Nordic World Heritage Foundation

Report for the 38th Session of the World Heritage Committee

Doha (Qatar), 15-25/06/2014

Oslo, 14/02/2014

1. Background and mandate of the Centre

The Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF) was established as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO and the World Heritage Convention (1972) in 2003.

NWHF's mission is to promote the implementation of the World Heritage Convention (1972) and Global Strategy (1994) within the context of sustainable development, the UN Millennium Development Goals (UNMDGs) and the UN framework on climate change.

NWHF's mandate is to support the Secretariat of UNESCO and act as a focal point for the Nordic countries by facilitating technical expertise, disseminating information and contributing to innovative projects in support of the World Heritage Convention.

NWHF's Strategy 2010 - 2014 outlines the three Strategic Objectives of the Foundation: SO1: Promote Sustainable Development through Tourism; SO2: Strengthen the Periodic Reporting tool; and SO3: Support the implementation of the UNESCO Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres (35C/22).

NWHF has a Nordic-Baltic as well as international mandate through the commitment to support UNESCO's strategic priorities in relation to promote North-South, South-South and triangular collaboration. The Foundation specifically serves the States Parties and Committee Members within the Nordic-Baltic Region, and seeks to benefit the broader World Heritage Community. International focus is on Africa, Asia/Pacific and the Arctic.

2. Institutional and operational structure of the Centre (Governing Board, Staffing, Operational funding and premises)

The Board of Directors is the supreme body of the Foundation and consists of representatives from the Nordic Governments and the Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (WHC). The Norwegian Ministry of the Environment (MoE) is a permanent observer to the Board.

The secretariat is based in Oslo, Norway, with three permanent full-time staff members. There are also currently two part-time staff members.

While the Norwegian MoE provides an annual basic funding, all activities and initiatives are fundraised for separately. In 2014 the basic funding amounts to NOK 5 312 million.

3. Programs and activities implemented since June 2013 and planned for the current year

N.	Title of the activity	Reference to WHCBS ¹
Strategic Objective 1: Promote Sustainable Development through tourism	<p>As a contribution to the new WH+ST Programme Action Plan 2013-2015, NWHF has developed the Project <i>Towards a Nordic-Baltic pilot region for World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism</i>. The goal of the Project is to contribute to tools for assessing and developing sustainable tourism at World Heritage Properties. The Project, which is endorsed by the World Heritage Centre, will run from March 2013 to November 2014.</p> <p>The project consists of two phases: it will first work on an Analytical Framework and subsequently on a Strategy Framework. An essential part of the project is the input of the pilot sites as they will test the outcomes of the project at the various stages and provide invaluable input into the process. The pilot sites are identified in cooperation with the supporting Nordic and Baltic States Parties.</p> <p>The Analytical Framework has now been established. The input from the pilot sites and participants to two international meetings (Suomenlinna, Finland (16-17 September 2013) and Karlskrona, Sweden (4-5 November 2013) was of great importance for the development of this framework.</p> <p>In 2014 the Strategy Framework will be completed. The 'How To' Guides from the World Heritage Centre play an important part in this process. There will be a meeting of the project's Advisory Group in Stockholm (March 2014) and a feedback meeting in May 2014 to discuss the progress of the project. And there will be a meeting of the Nordic-Baltic network in Roskilde (Denmark) in September 2014 where the project will also be part of the programme.</p> <p>Furthermore, in October 2014 a joint workshop will be held with WHITRAP on the topic of World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism, as part of the MoU between the two parties (May 2013).</p>	1-10
Strategic Objective 2: Strengthen the Periodic Reporting Tool	<p>The 2nd Cycle of PR for Europe was launched in 2012 (cf. Decision 36 COM 10B). NWHF is mandated to act as a Focal Point, facilitator and coordinator of the 2nd Cycle of PR in the Nordic-Baltic sub-region (State Party meeting in Stockholm, 09/12/09). NWHF has facilitated, organised and supported several capacity-building initiatives in the sub-region; contributed towards</p>	1, 3-5, 8, 10

¹ WHCBS stands for the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (see: <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2011/whc11-35com-9Be.pdf>)

	<p>integration of PR in national planning and capacity building programmes; clarified technical matters and supported the submission of Statements of Outstanding Universal Value and PR questionnaires. NWHF is actively promoting the Nordic-Baltic network model for implementation of the PR exercise in Europe, where a “train the trainers” approach to capacity building is utilised.</p> <p>NWHF has been asked to convene a meeting in 2014 for the Nordic and Baltic Focal Points to present preliminary findings from the 2nd Cycle PR and map capacity building needs in the region, with the aim to develop a capacity building programme. As part of this engagement, an application for network support towards a potential three-year capacity building programme will be submitted to KK Nord (Nordic Council of Ministers’ Culture Programme) and other potential donors. Such an initiative will allow substantial capacity building targeted towards Nordic and Baltic World Heritage practitioners and experts, meeting the needs and challenges identified through PR at national and site levels. Potentially, the Nordic-Baltic sub-region may act as a pilot for implementation of PR Action Plans and sharing of good practice working models. NWHF is looking into potential themes for collaboration as a follow-up to Periodic Reporting. One such theme could be risk preparedness/risk management.</p> <p>Upon request from UNESCO World Heritage Centre (WHC), NWHF provides technical assistance to the Europe and North America Unit of the WHC towards regarding the Periodic Reporting exercise for this region. This consists, amongst others, of participating in capacity building meetings, data analysis and input to the Periodic Report and Action Plan.</p>	
Implementation of 35C/22	<p>The NWHF, in the context of its three Strategic Objectives and within its human- and financial capacity, follows up the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy, in particular through regional capacity building, communication and information. Cooperation and partnerships with the Nordic and Baltic States Parties as well as regional and international networks and relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, are crucial in all NWHF’s efforts. Additionally NWHF has contributed to the World Heritage Capacity Building Newsletter with articles. NWHF has also promoted capacity building through the development of the WH+ST Programme, as well as through its collaborative efforts with the other C2 Centres and Institutes.</p> <p>NWHF was asked by the Norwegian Ministry of Environment (MoE) in 2012 to support the process towards potential WH nomination of Inle Lake in Myanmar. The project is developed in partnership with the States Party Myanmar, UNESCO office in</p>	1-5, 7-8, 10

	<p>Bangkok, MoE, the Norwegian Environment Agency and NWHF. The first field visit took place in January 2013; NWHF visited the UNESCO regional office in Bangkok in October 2013 to develop a three years programme; and the first national meeting on development of a Tentative List for Myanmar commenced 20-22 November 2013. A integrated capacity building programme has been developed with UNESCO Bangkok and WHC, and a funding proposal for its implementation is submitted. The Tentative List of Myanmar has been revised as a part of our cooperation and seven natural heritage properties have been added to the Tentative List. This has also been sent by the State Party of Myanmar to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.</p> <p>NWHF has been an active observer and advisor in the process of developing the nomination dossier for the proposed transnational serial World Heritage “Viking Sites around the North Atlantic and the Baltic Sea”. The nomination dossier has been submitted in January 2014.</p> <p>NWHF has been an active participant and contributor to the Nordic and national networks of Site Managers providing relevant input and capacity building on Sustainable Tourism and Periodic Reporting. The draft analytical framework of the Project ‘Towards a Nordic-Baltic pilot region for World Heritage and sustainable tourism’ served as the main input for the Nordic World Heritage Network Workshop in Karlskrona, Sweden 4-5 November 2013, and the second result of the project, the strategy framework, will serve as input for the upcoming meeting of the network in Roskilde, Denmark 17-19 September 2014.</p>	
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4. Website of the Centre (if available):

www.nwhf.no

5. Designated Focal Point:

Carol Westrik (until May 2014) / Cecilie Smith-Christensen (from May 2014)

Nordic World Heritage Foundation
Meltzers gate 4
0257 Oslo, Norway

Tel: +47 97 69 94 68
Fax: +47 24 14 01 09

E-mail Carol Westrik: cw@nwhf.no / Cecilie Smith-Christensen: csc@nwhf.no