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# Vegaøyan (Norway) No 1143 Bis

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## 1 Basic data

### State Party

Norway

### Name of property

Vegaøyan – The Vega Archipelago

### Location

Nordland, Vega  
Norway

### Inscription

2004

### Brief description

A cluster of dozens of islands centred on Vega, just south the Arctic Circle, forms a cultural landscape that bears testimony to a distinctive frugal way of life based on fishing and the harvesting of the down of eider ducks in an inhospitable environment. There are fishing villages, quays, warehouses, eider houses (built for eider ducks to nest in), farming landscapes, lighthouses and beacons. The Vega Archipelago reflects the way fishermen/farmers have over the past 1,500 years, maintained a sustainable living and the contribution of women to eiderdown harvesting.

### Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

10 March 2017

## 2 Issues raised

### Background

The property was inscribed in 2004 on the basis of criterion (v) with boundaries that followed the municipal boundary on the island of Vega. The boundary was intended to include only traditional farms and nature areas in the property. Farms run with modern practices would be in the buffer zone. At the time of inscription, the area of the property was 103,710 hectares and the area of the buffer zone was 28,040 hectares.

At its 38th session (Doha, 2014), the World Heritage Committee adopted in decision 38 COM 8E a Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property.

In 2009, the municipal boundary was digitalized and the digital versions were found to vary in small ways from the earlier mapping. One error was also found: because of the

quality of mapping available, the boundary included a modern farm in Moen was originally intended to be in the buffer zone.

The State Party in the 2014 Periodic Report of the property has identified this change. This modification is the subject of this report.

### Modification

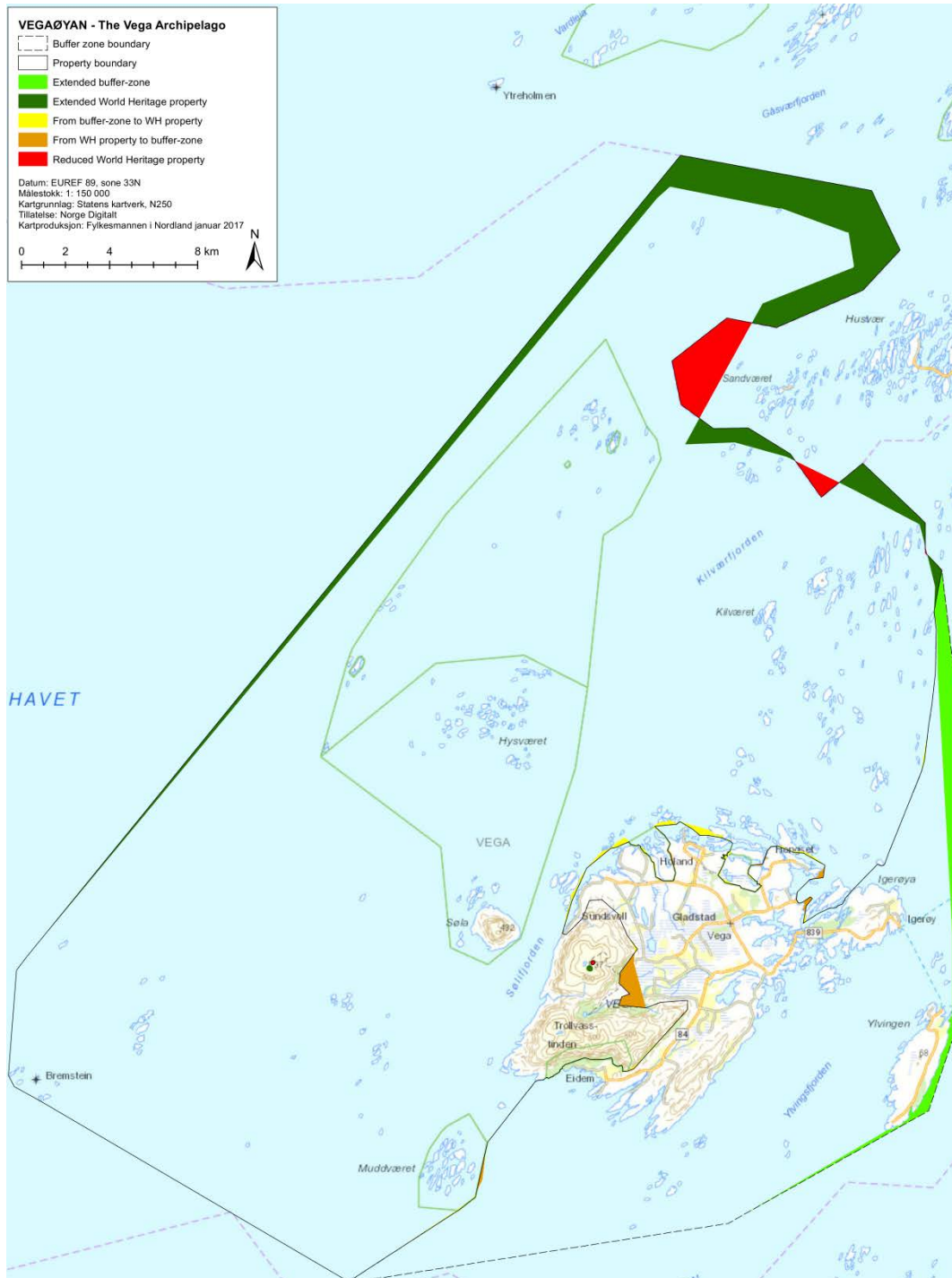
The modification request submitted by the State Party as a minor boundary modification proposes to expand the protected area by 3,584 hectares and to expand the buffer zone by 912 hectares. The new protected area would total 107,294 hectares and the buffer zone would be 28,952 hectares. These modifications to the boundaries of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone aim to the harmonisation of the boundaries of the property with the official boundaries of the Municipality of Vega, which have been digitalised in 2009 and integrated within the revised Management plan for Vegaøyan.

New digital mapping resolves as well the problem with the modern farm in Moen, which was included by mistake. Moen is a modern run agricultural area that should have been put in the buffer zone at the time of the inscription, such as the other active farms, which are already part of the buffer zone of the property. This modification aims also to put the property boundaries in line with the precise digitalised boundaries of the municipality, and therefore to avoid any confusion in the management system of the property, as well as for its conservation and protection. No changes are made to the attributes of the property; all attributes that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property remain inside the new boundary. The conditions of integrity and authenticity are not affected. The statutes and plans that relate to the property have all been updated with the new digital version of the boundaries.

## 3 ICOMOS Recommendations

### Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary and to the buffer zone of Vegaøyan – The Vega Archipelago, Norway, **be approved.**



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property and of the buffer zone