



# Norway – Candidate to **The World Heritage Committee 2017**

Culture-nature, integrated approach, generations, future, community, cooperation, pride, sustainability, credibility



Ministry of Climate and Environment



**Norway is a long country with a long coastline, deep fjords and numerous archipelagos. Large parts of Norway lie north of the Arctic Circle and are subject to challenging climatic conditions. For generations, Norwegians have depended upon the rich natural resources of the coast, including extensive cod stocks and large seabird colonies.**

PHOTO: KJERSTI ISDAL

## Cultural and natural heritage

The basis for Norway's management of the environment is the relationship between culture and nature. Nature cannot be managed without also considering traces of earlier human activity. Norway believes cultural and natural resources are best understood and safeguarded through an integrated approach.

Norway wishes to strengthen the World Heritage Committee's efforts to promote a more integrated management of World Heritage properties. This

is consistent with the intentions of the World Heritage Convention, and reinforces its unique characteristics.

Norway aims to participate in the multilateral community in areas in which it has special expertise.

**AS A MEMBER OF THE WORLD  
HERITAGE COMMITTEE, NORWAY  
WILL GIVE PRIORITY TO**

- strengthening the protection and conservation of World Heritage properties
  - building capacity
- promoting a representative World Heritage List

**IF ELECTED**

- Norway will be represented by professionals in both cultural and natural heritage
  - Norway will limit its term of office to four years
- Norway will not have national nominations evaluated during its term of office



**Eider duck keeper from the Vega  
Archipelago World Heritage property.**

PHOTO: MARIT BENDZ

# Important priorities for Norway

## **PROTECTION OF WORLD HERITAGE VALUES**

The outstanding universal values of World Heritage properties must be protected. The aim of all World Heritage efforts should be best practice, in other words best conservation and best management. Norway believes that committee decisions should be based on expert knowledge in line with convention principles.

## **THREATS TO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES**

The most challenging issues in the context of World Heritage are presented by ever-increasing threats, both man-made and natural.

This should be the most important item on the World Heritage Committee's agenda. All countries encounter such issues in the management of World Heritage properties, albeit to different degrees. Norway aims to ensure that the Committee reacts promptly and proactively to avert cumulative effects with irreversible consequences.

Norway is particularly supportive of the Committee's efforts to protect World Heritage properties against damages due to disasters and conflicts.

**Nepalese sherpas lay stone slabs on a mountainside path in the Nærøyfjord – the West Norwegian Fjords World Heritage property.**

PHOTO: MARIT BENDZ



## **CAPACITY BUILDING**

Implementation of the World Heritage Committee's capacity building strategy is crucial for success in the area of best practice. All State Parties should have the opportunity to build capacity by strengthening both institutions and specialist expertise, to develop skilled and active local communities and to discuss experiences and challenges in effective collaboration networks. Capacity building should be given priority in countries with weak institutions. Furthermore, capacity building can help State Parties with few or no World Heritage properties handle the professional and technical aspects of new nominations, and in this way, increase the representativeness of the World Heritage List.


Norway has recently established, and is financing, a six-year cooperation programme between the advisory convention bodies IUCN and ICCROM to support the implementation of the capacity building strategy. The programme will be closely coordinated with ICOMOS and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

## **CONSTRUCTIVE PROCESSES**

The World Heritage Committee's 21 members are elected from among 193 State Parties. A few countries thus make important decisions on behalf of many others. Accordingly, the World Heritage Committee should adopt a consultative approach and facilitate inclusive decision-making. In recent years, the committee has made very positive progress in this regard, with World Heritage Committee discussions now including observers and non-governmental organisations. Important upstream processes have been established. Norway wishes to contribute to further progress in this area.







**“In the same boat – Young Guardians of Heritage” is a bilateral project that supports preservation of traditional boatbuilding and knowledge transfer from older to younger generations.**

PHOTO: LJOBA JENČE, HERITAGE HOUSE.

# Norway offers broad specialist expertise and experience

In Norway, responsibility for the management of cultural and natural heritage is located in one single ministry, creating an integrated perspective beneficial to World Heritage. Two central government directorates, the Directorate for Cultural Heritage and the Norwegian Environment Agency, together provide the broad specialist expertise Norway will draw upon if elected to the Committee.

The responsibilities of the Directorate for Cultural Heritage range from conservation and protection of individual cultural monuments to proactive use of cultural heritage to overcome societal challenges. The Norwegian Environment Agency is an advisory and enforcement body that concentrates on climate and environment-related issues including pollution, nature conservation and management of biodiversity.

Through their roles in spatial planning, the directorates actively promote the integration of cultural and natural heritage into social development processes. Their combined expertise and close, constructive cooperation are integral to the management of Norway's eight World Heritage properties.

The management of Norwegian cultural and natural heritage focuses especially on visitor management and sustainable value creation. The objective is to strengthen the protection of conservation values. This is done by ensuring strong local support and involvement. Local skill- and capacity building is a national priority. The practical management of conservation values is both a key factor in local initiatives and an important topic in Norway's bilateral cooperation projects.

Norway's candidature is supported by all the Nordic State Parties. The Nordic countries engage in close regional cooperation, both on the management of cultural and natural heritage in general, and on World Heritage matters in particular.

Norway has a broad network of international contacts through many years' cooperation on the management of cultural and natural heritage with partners in Europe, Asia and Africa.

**Camping under the Northern Lights.**

PHOTO: MARIUS N. PETTERSEN



## NORWAY'S REPRESENTATIVES

Norway's team will be headed by

**Mr Jørn Holme** – an active, engaged participant in social discourse, and a strong proponent of cultural heritage as an important instrument of social development. He is Director General of the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage, and is responsible for the implementation of the cultural heritage policy in Norway, including the national implementation of the World Heritage Convention. He has successfully helped focus cultural heritage management on protection through use, value creation and local involvement. Jørn Holme has held a number of central legal and political posts in Norway. He has been a pioneer in efforts to combat environmental crime, and is a specialist on legislation governing the conservation and management of cultural heritage. In his political capacity, Jørn Holme has represented Norway in many different parts of the world. His juridical background and political experience are of direct relevance to global cultural heritage issues arising in regions affected by terrorism, war and conflict. Jørn Holme heads a directorate that engages in extensive bilateral cooperation with countries in different parts of the world.

**Ms Berit Lein** – has more than 30 years' experience in national and international nature conservation and management. As Director of the Norwegian Environment Agency's Nature Management Department, she has overseen Norway's efforts in habitat protection and management during a transformative era. During this period, emphasis has shifted from strict nature preservation, to conservation through local participation and sustainable use. Throughout her career, she has always had a strong engagement in the Arctic region, including a period as chair of the Arctic Council's Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group (CAFF). Berit Lein has actively promoted capacity building through environmental cooperation with other countries in which the Norwegian Environment Agency has been involved. Her responsibilities at the agency include implementation of the World Heritage Convention. Under her leadership, the Norwegian Environment Agency has contributed to tentative lists and made two Norwegian nominations for inclusion in the World Heritage List. Berit Lein represented Norway during Norway's membership of the World Heritage Committee in the period 2003–2007.



**Jørn Holme and Berit Lein with children  
playing in the snow at the Røros Mining  
Town World Heritage property.**

PHOTO: THORLEIF THORSEN



**Norway hosts  
the International Course  
on Wood Conservation Technology,  
which has been held every two years  
since 1984 in close cooperation with  
ICCROM and under  
the auspices of UNESCO.**

PHOTO: ANNE NYHAMAR



PHOTO: MARIT SELBOSKAR LIER

**To Norway,  
international colla-  
boration is important in order  
for management models to  
adapt to climate changes in  
the northern areas  
and the Arctic.**

PHOTO: SUSAN BARR

**Protection of  
cultural and natural heritage  
conservation is fully integrated into  
the management of Svalbard (the Arctic)  
and regulated by common legislation and  
a shared administrative system.**

PHOTO: MARIT SELBOSKAR LIER





**Effective visitor management and value creation are key in efforts to safeguard World Heritage and nature conservation areas.**

PHOTO: JO SKOREM/  
DIEPHOTODESIGN.NO



**Cooperation with schools is an important part of the Norwegian World Heritage management. Every year, school children help cut grass in the Vega Archipelago World Heritage property.**

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
STIFTELSEN VEGAØYAN VERDENSARV



## NORWAY

- is located in the northernmost part of Europe; a considerable part of the country is located north of the Arctic Circle,
- has one of the world's longest coastlines,
- has a climate shaped by the Gulf Stream, considerable variations in altitude and the country's long north-south axis,
- has an population of 5.3 million spread across a large area,
- has supported peace processes in many countries,
- ratified the World Heritage Convention in 1977 and has a long record of consistent engagement in international cooperation on the convention,
- is home to eight World Heritage properties.



LENE BUSKOVEN

PHOTO: PER BERNTSEN



PHOTO: ARVE KJERSHEIM

PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN



PHOTO: LISEN ROLL

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