

## Periodic Report - Second Cycle

### 1. World Heritage Property Data

#### 1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Vegaøyen -- The Vega Archipelago

#### 1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

##### State(s) Party(ies)

- Norway

##### Type of Property

cultural

##### Identification Number

1143


##### Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2004

#### 1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates (longitude / latitude)	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
Vegaøyen -- The Vega Archipelago	65.617 / 11.75	103710	28040	131750	2004
<b>Total (ha)</b>		<b>103710</b>	<b>28040</b>	<b>131750</b>	

#### 1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Vegaøyen -- The Vega Archipelago - inscribed property	07/07/2004	

##### Comment

The date of inscription was 1st of July 2004. The boundaries of the Property is digitalized and technically harmonized with digitalized borders of the municipality and protected areas. This has no implications, nor effect, on OUV and is in line with all relevant aspects that made basis for the inscription. Technically exact digitalised borders has resulted in minor changes to the figures "area of property". State party will submit this information to WHC in a separate formal letter.

#### 1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

- Trond Taugbøl  
Directorate for Cultural Heritage – Riksantikvaren  
Senior Adviser

##### Comment

(in addition to the Directorate for Cultural Heritage also;) Norwegian Environment Agency Gaute Sønstebo Senior Adviser PO Box 5672 Sluppen N-7485 Trondheim Norway Telephone: +47 988 55 734 Email: gaute.sonstebo@miljodir.no

#### 1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

- Rita Johansen  
Vega World Heritage Foundation  
Managing Director

#### 1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

- [View photos from OUR PLACE the World Heritage collection](#)
- [The Vega Archipelago inscribed on World Heritage List](#)

## Section II-Vegaøyen -- The Vega Archipelago

##### Comment

The link to no 2: The Vega Archipelago inscribed on World Heritage List has an error: 404. I have uploaded photos from the site and hope these might be published. Add nr 3: <http://www.verdensarvvega.no/en>

#### 1.8 - Other designations / Conventions under which the property is protected (if applicable)

##### Comment

The property is not protected under other designations/Conventions.

### 2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

#### 2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

##### Comment

The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value/Statement of Significance has been submitted to UNESCO but not yet adopted by the World Heritage Committee

#### 2.2 - The criteria (2005 revised version) under which the property was inscribed

(v)

#### 2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

common eiders, fishing, farming and harvesting of eider down, cultural landscape, a characteristic landscape shaped in interplay between fishermen-farmers and a bountiful nature in an exposed area, tending of eider birds, shelters and nests for the wild eider birds, valuable eider down, a living tradition, eider down process, strandflat, 232 species of birds, the most important wintering area for seabirds in the Nordic region, biological diversity, grazing livestock, mosaic in the landscape

#### 2.4 - If needed, please provide details of why the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should be revised

Inscription before 2005. RSUOV is submitted.

#### 2.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

### 3. Factors Affecting the Property






































#### 3.14. Other factor(s)

##### 3.14.1 - Other factor(s)

3.15. Factors Summary Table

3.15.1 - Factors summary table

	Name	Impact					Origin
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Buildings and Development</b>						
3.1.5	Interpretative and visitation facilities						
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Transportation Infrastructure</b>						
3.2.3	Marine transport infrastructure						
3.2.4	Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure						
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Services Infrastructures</b>						
3.3.4	Localised utilities						
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Pollution</b>						
3.4.1	Pollution of marine waters						
<b>3.5</b>	<b>Biological resource use/modification</b>						
3.5.1	Fishing/collecting aquatic resources						
3.5.2	Aquaculture						
3.5.3	Land conversion						
3.5.4	Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals						
3.5.9	Subsistence hunting						
<b>3.6</b>	<b>Physical resource extraction</b>						
3.6.3	Oil and gas						
<b>3.7</b>	<b>Local conditions affecting physical fabric</b>						
3.7.1	Wind						
3.7.6	Water (rain/water table)						
<b>3.8</b>	<b>Social/cultural uses of heritage</b>						
3.8.2	Society's valuing of heritage						
3.8.4	Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system						
3.8.5	Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community						
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation						
<b>3.10</b>	<b>Climate change and severe weather events</b>						
3.10.1	Storms						
3.10.5	Changes to oceanic waters						

Name	Impact	Origin				
3.10.6 Temperature change	  					
<b>3.11 Sudden ecological or geological events</b>						
3.11.5 Erosion and siltation/ deposition	 	 				
3.11.6 Fire (wildfires)	 					
<b>3.12 Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species</b>						
3.12.1 Translocated species	 					
3.12.2 Invasive/alien terrestrial species	 	 				
3.12.5 Hyper-abundant species	 					
<b>3.13 Management and institutional factors</b>						
3.13.1 Low impact research / monitoring activities	 					
3.13.2 High impact research / monitoring activities	 					
3.13.3 Management activities	 	 				
<b>Legend</b>	 Current	 Potential	 Negative	 Positive	 Inside	 Outside

### 3.16. Assessment of current negative factors

#### 3.16.1 - Assessment of current negative factors

	Spatial scale	Temporal scale	Impact	Management response	Trend
<b>3.2 Transportation Infrastructure</b>					
3.2.3 Marine transport infrastructure	restricted	on-going	insignificant	low capacity	static
<b>3.3 Services Infrastructures</b>					
3.3.4 Localised utilities	restricted	on-going	insignificant	no capacity and / or resources	static
<b>3.4 Pollution</b>					
3.4.1 Pollution of marine waters	widespread	on-going	minor	low capacity	increasing
<b>3.7 Local conditions affecting physical fabric</b>					
3.7.1 Wind	localised	on-going	minor	medium capacity	decreasing
3.7.6 Water (rain/water table)	localised	on-going	minor	medium capacity	decreasing
<b>3.8 Social/cultural uses of heritage</b>					
3.8.5 Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community	widespread	on-going	significant	medium capacity	increasing
<b>3.10 Climate change and severe weather events</b>					
3.10.6 Temperature change	widespread	on-going	insignificant	no capacity and / or resources	increasing
<b>3.11 Sudden ecological or geological events</b>					
3.11.5 Erosion and siltation/ deposition	localised	on-going	minor	low capacity	decreasing
<b>3.12 Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species</b>					
3.12.1 Translocated species	localised	intermittent or sporadic	insignificant	high capacity	decreasing
3.12.2 Invasive/alien terrestrial species	localised	frequent	insignificant	high capacity	decreasing
3.12.5 Hyper-abundant species	localised	on-going	minor	medium capacity	decreasing

### 3.17. Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to factors affecting the property

#### 3.17.1 - Comments

It's a big problem with decreasing population and potentially in the future fewer birdtenders, farmers and fishermen. The property is polluted by plastic waste drifting in the ocean. When people moved and stopped to cultivate the farming land, it led to overgrowing. Combined with more stormy weather, heavy rain and gophers, erosion occurs on the overgrown islands. The use of land is increasing now. Sitka spruce from America was planted at some of the islands earlier. The sitka is removed

## 4. Protection, Management and Monitoring of the Property

### 4.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones

#### 4.1.1 - Buffer zone status

There is a buffer zone

#### 4.1.2 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

#### 4.1.3 - Are the buffer zone(s) of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

#### 4.1.4 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property known?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are known by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

#### 4.1.5 - Are the buffer zones of the World Heritage property known?

The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are **known** by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

#### 4.1.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to boundaries and buffer zones of the World Heritage property

### 4.2. Protective Measures

#### 4.2.1 - Protective designation (legal, regulatory, contractual, planning, institutional and / or traditional)

Note WHC (July 2012)

Please carefully review and update the information provided below:

All pre-Reformation (i.e. pre AD1537) archaeological and historical monuments and sites are protected by the Cultural Heritage Act of 1905. Vega has 238 known localities on the

Monuments and Sites Register. This is thought to be a small proportion of what is there. The Vega project in 1984-88 revealed the huge research potential of the archipelago. The Cultural Heritage Act of 1978 extends protection automatically to buildings between 1537 and 1650. Under the terms of the Act, later individual buildings may also gain protection from individual protection orders. A Royal Decree may protect cultural environments as a group. Under this Act, individual protection orders have been issued for 29 buildings in Skjaervaer and for the Bremstein Lighthouse. The Hysvaer/Sola area has also been designated as a protected landscape of 9317 ha.

The SEFRAC register of buildings covers buildings and remains of buildings from before 1900. Vega has 711 entries, 199 being ruins or remains. The SEFRAC register of other objects is incomplete. 21 objects from Vega are on this register.

The Nature Conservation Act of 1970 can protect landscape areas, nature reserves and bird sanctuaries. Under this Act, the Hysvaer/Sola areas has become a protected landscape, 5 nature reserves and 4 bird sanctuaries have been designated, in all amounting to 22% of the land surface.

Other relevant Acts include those protecting drinking water, regulating sea fishing in line with natural resources, the protection of wildlife, the use of land, (this expects agricultural land to be continued in use and is of particular relevance to Vega) and a Sustainable Development Plan for Vega which will 'hinder the Municipal Master Plan for Vega from being developed'.

The Mater Plan for Vega (2001-2005) includes a general ban on building in the World Heritage site but also promotes aquaculture around certain parts of Vega which are in the Buffer Zone.

A Declaration of Intent between landowners, authorised users, the Vega Borough Council, the County Council and Government authorities was signed in 2002, under which the signatories agreed to preserve 'the landscape of Vega with its cultural and biological values', and to establish a consultative group for the World Heritage site.

#### Comment

Vega has an updated Municipal Plan 2010/20, with a strategic part and a land-use part ensuring development in other parts of the property and the buffer zone, safeguarding the OUV of the site. The SEFRAC register was updated to 413 buildings in 2008 and an inventory for the eider houses is made. Management plans for the World Heritage Area have been drawn up based on documentation of bygone practices and mapping of the existing biological diversity. There are consultative groups for the site.

#### 4.2.2 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides **an adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

#### 4.2.3 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides **an adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

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### 4.2.4 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the area surrounding the World Heritage property and the buffer zone provides **an adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection of the property, contributing to the maintenance of its Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity

### 4.2.5 - Can the legislative framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) be enforced?

There is **acceptable** capacity / resources to enforce legislation and / or regulation in the World Heritage property but some deficiencies remain

### 4.2.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to protective measures

Vega has had an extensive work to develop or update strategic plans to secure the world heritage site and a local, sustainable development. This includes a management plan with an action plan providing guidance and direction to the follow up work by the main stakeholders. It will be finalized in 2013. Vega has conducted a risk assessment for the islands offering visitor's facilities and a strategic plan for tourism and destination development.

## 4.3. Management System / Management Plan

### 4.3.1 - Management System

#### Note WHC (July 2012)

**Please carefully review and update the information provided below:**

There is no specific management structure in place although a World Heritage site consultative group is provided for under the Declaration of Intent. Responsibility for the conservation of the cultural and natural heritage is at three levels:

**National:** The Directorate of Cultural Heritage has the overriding professional responsibility for the management of archaeological and historical monuments. Much of its work is carried out through County Council staff. For the natural heritage the Directorate for Nature Management is the professional advisory body. Likewise it issues instructions to County Council officers.

**Regional:** The County Governor's office has responsibility for ensuring local authorities fulfil their obligations in respect of, for instance, nature conservation and agriculture (but not cultural matters). At County level the Nordland County Council is responsible for planning and development. It has delegated powers under the Cultural Heritage Act.

**Local:** Vega Borough Council has responsibility for allocating land and resources with due consideration to archaeological, historical and natural resources.

#### Comment

Local WH Foundation including an advisory council, with representatives from 18 local associations and organisations, is established to coordinate the follow up work of the site. Management authority for protected areas is transferred from County Governors office to local Protected area management boards (a national reform). Vega Protected Area Manager (board secretariat), local staff Nature Inspectorate and WH site coordinator (secretariat WH foundation) is co-located on site.

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### 4.3.2 - Management Documents

#### Comment

A management plan for the property finalized in 2004. Only available in Norwegian.  
<http://www.verdensarvvega.no/images/stories/forvaltningsplanen.pdf?phpMyAdmin=250b6cb7847462343b7ba455760edeccd>. The management plan, that includes an action plan, has since the property was listed, successfully provided guidance and direction to the follow up work by the main stakeholders. A revised and updated management- and action plan is to be finalized and approved by the management authorities late 2013.

### 4.3.3 - How well do the various levels of administration (i.e. national / federal; regional / provincial / state; local / municipal etc.) coordinate in the management of the World Heritage Property ?

There is coordination between the range of administrative bodies / levels involved in the management of the property **but it could be improved**

### 4.3.4 - Is the management system / plan adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value ?

The management system / plan is **fully adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

### 4.3.5 - Is the management system being implemented?

The management system is being **fully** implemented and monitored

### 4.3.6 - Is there an annual work / action plan and is it being implemented?

An annual work / action plan exists and **most or all activities** are being implemented and monitored

### 4.3.7 - Please rate the cooperation / relationship with World Heritage property managers / coordinators / staff of the following

Local communities / residents	Good
Local / Municipal authorities	Good
Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Landowners	Good
Visitors	Good
Researchers	Good
Tourism industry	Good
Industry	Good

### 4.3.8 - If present, do local communities resident in or near the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

Local communities **directly contribute** to some decisions relating to management

### 4.3.9 - If present, do indigenous peoples resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

**No indigenous peoples** are resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone

### 4.3.10 - Is there cooperation with industry (i.e. forestry, mining, agriculture, etc.) regarding the management of

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### the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone?

There is **regular contact** with industry regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone and **substantial co-operation** on management

#### 4.3.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

No landowners are resident all year around in the World Heritage property, but the World Heritage staff cooperate with farmers and landowners in the bufferzone or nearby communities in managing the farm land and tending the Eider birds. The Vega World Heritage Foundation has a consulting and advisory council and so has the Management Board for the protected areas. A local reference group with stake holders participate in the management plan revision.

#### 4.3.12 - Please report any significant changes in the legal status and / or contractual / traditional protective measures and management arrangements for the World Heritage property since inscription or the last Periodic report

Before the inscription, the islands were abandoned and out of use. After the Archipelago was inscribed, management authorities cooperate with land owners who are out on the islands in the breeding season, tending the birds. There has been an increase in the down tradition after the inscription. Farmers in the buffer zone and nearby communities have since 2004 been managing farmland in the property and less areas are overgrown, are also removing Sitka spruce, an alien specie, from the site.

## 4.4. Financial and Human Resources

### 4.4.1 - Costs related to conservation, based on the average of last five years (relative percentage of the funding sources)

Multilateral funding (GEF, World Bank, etc)	0%
International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	0%
Governmental (National / Federal)	60%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	28%
Governmental (Local / Municipal)	10%
In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	2%
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.)	0%
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	0%
Other grants	0%

### 4.4.2 - International Assistance received from the World Heritage Fund (USD)

#### Comment

The Vega Archipelago has not received any international assistance from the World Heritage Fund.

### 4.4.3 - Is the current budget sufficient to manage the World Heritage property effectively?

The available budget is **acceptable** but could be further improved to fully meet the management needs

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### 4.4.4 - Are the existing sources of funding secure and likely to remain so?

The existing sources of funding **are secure** in the medium-term and planning is underway to secure funding in the long-term

### 4.4.5 - Does the World Heritage property provide economic benefits to local communities (e.g. income, employment)?

There is **some flow** of economic benefits to local communities

### 4.4.6 - Are available resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure sufficient to meet management needs?

There are **some** adequate equipment and facilities, but deficiencies in at least one key area **constrain** management at the World Heritage property

### 4.4.7 - Are resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure adequately maintained?

There is **basic** maintenance of equipment and facilities

### 4.4.8 - Comments, conclusion, and / or recommendations related to finance and infrastructure

The local management authorities apply for funding from the Norwegian Environment Agency, based on annual actions plans to secure the OUVs, to inform and communicate the values in the site and for local value creation. The funding is sufficient for basic needs, but there is deficiencies in resources for securing the OUVs in a longer term with recruitment of new bird tenders, local development and stabilisation of the population.

### 4.4.9 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Full-time	20%
Part-time	80%

### 4.4.10 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Permanent	20%
Seasonal	80%

### 4.4.11 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Paid	20%
Volunteer	80%

### 4.4.12 - Are available human resources adequate to manage the World Heritage property?

A range of human resources exist, but these are **below optimum** to manage the World Heritage Property.

### 4.4.13 - Considering the management needs of the World Heritage property, please rate the availability of professionals in the following disciplines

Research and monitoring	Fair
Promotion	Good
Community outreach	Fair
Interpretation	Good
Education	Good
Visitor management	Fair

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Conservation	Fair
Administration	Fair
Risk preparedness	Poor
Tourism	Fair
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Fair

### 4.4.14 - Please rate the availability of training opportunities for the management of the World Heritage property in the following disciplines

Research and monitoring	Medium
Promotion	Medium
Community outreach	Medium
Interpretation	Medium
Education	Medium
Visitor management	Medium
Conservation	Medium
Administration	Medium
Risk preparedness	Medium
Tourism	High
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Medium

### 4.4.15 - Do the management and conservation programmes at the World Heritage property help develop local expertise?

A capacity development plan or programme is **in place and fully implemented**; all technical skills are being transferred to those managing the property locally, who are assuming leadership in management

### 4.4.16 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

The management is based on cooperation with landowners and farmers. The cooperation is successful with an increase in the number of Eider birds and managed farming land. But Vega is a very small community and it is challenging to get sufficient capacity to manage the property. Therefore some restoration work is done by external craft's men and farmers in nearby communities have sheeps in the property. There are deficiencies in resources for recruiting younger stakeholders and local development.

## 4.5. Scientific Studies and Research Projects

### 4.5.1 - Is there adequate knowledge (scientific or traditional) about the values of the World Heritage property to support planning, management and decision-making to ensure that Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Knowledge about the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient**

### 4.5.2 - Is there a planned programme of research at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is **considerable** research but it is **not directed** towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

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### 4.5.3 - Are results from research programmes disseminated?

Research results are **shared widely** with the local, national and international audiences

### 4.5.4 - Please provide details (i.e. authors, title, and web link) of papers published about the World Heritage property since the last Periodic Report

Egenberg I.M. Skar B, Swensen G. 2006 Cultural Heritage: Monuments and Miliex. <http://niku.no/filestore/Publikasjoner/NIKUTema18.pdf>  
Kaltenborn, B.P, Thomassen, J, Wold, L.C., Linnell, J & Skar, B 2013. World Heritage Status as a foundation for building local futures? A case study from Vega in Central Norway. Subm. to Journal of Sustainable Tourism, April 2011, accepted, exp. published April -13

### 4.5.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to scientific studies and research projects

Vega World Heritage Foundation cooperates with Bioforsk, the Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research, on a research programme for the Common Eider in the Nordic countries:

[http://www.business.gl/fileadmin/user\\_upload/documents/K.Se\\_rmersooq\\_Ederdun\\_rapport\\_FINAL2012\\_DK\\_1\\_.pdf](http://www.business.gl/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/K.Se_rmersooq_Ederdun_rapport_FINAL2012_DK_1_.pdf) Three different students are taking their PhD on the Vega WH site and OUVs.

## 4.6. Education, Information and Awareness Building

### 4.6.1 - At how many locations is the World Heritage emblem displayed at the property?

In **many locations and easily visible** to visitors

### 4.6.2 - Please rate the awareness and understanding of the existence and justification for inscription of the World Heritage property amongst the following groups

Local communities / residents	Excellent
Local / Municipal authorities within or adjacent to the property	Excellent
Local Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Local landowners	Excellent
Visitors	Average
Tourism industry	Excellent
Local businesses and industries	Excellent

### 4.6.3 - Is there a planned education and awareness programme linked to the values and management of the World Heritage property?

There is a **planned and effective** education and awareness programme that contributes to the protection of the World Heritage property

### 4.6.4 - What role, if any, has designation as a World Heritage property played with respect to education, information and awareness building activities?

World Heritage status has been an **important influence** on education, information and awareness building activities

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### 4.6.5 - How well is the information on Outstanding Universal Value of the property presented and interpreted?

The Outstanding Universal Value of the property is adequately presented and interpreted **but improvements could be made**

### 4.6.6 - Please rate the adequacy for education, information and awareness building of the following visitor facilities and services at the World Heritage property

Visitor centre	Poor
Site museum	Adequate
Information booths	Excellent
Guided tours	Adequate
Trails / routes	Excellent
Information materials	Adequate
Transportation facilities	Poor
Other	Not needed

### 4.6.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to education, information and awareness building

The World Heritage staff has good educational programmes for the schools. There is need of a visitor centre to receive groups all year round. Such a centre is planned. There is a guided boat trip to some of the islands in the site six weeks in the Summer. No all year round public transportation. The WH-exhibition and museum are open 12 weeks in the summer and for groups in Spring and Autumn.

## 4.7. Visitor Management

### 4.7.1 - Please provide the trend in annual visitation for the last five years

Last year	Static
Two years ago	Static
Three years ago	Static
Four years ago	Major Increase (100%+)
Five years ago	Major Increase (100%+)

### 4.7.2 - What information sources are used to collect trend data on visitor statistics?

Entry tickets and registries
Accommodation establishments
Transportation services
Tourism industry
Visitor surveys

### 4.7.3 - Visitor management documents

#### Comment

Vegas was approved as the first sustainable destination in Norway in March 2013 as one of four pilot destinations, based on UNWTO criteries for sustainable development. Vega borough/VisitVega have had a local process and developed a tourism strategy in cooperation with regional authorities and the Vega WH Foundation. Strategy approved by Vega Borough Council in 2010. Vega WH Foundation has developed risk analysis for tourism at the main down islands. It is followed up by tourism industry.

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### 4.7.4 - Is there an appropriate visitor use management plan (e.g. specific plan) for the World Heritage property which ensures that its Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Visitor use of the World Heritage property is managed **but improvements could be made**

### 4.7.5 - Does the tourism industry contribute to improving visitor experiences and maintaining the values of the World Heritage property?

There is **excellent co-operation** between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry to present the Outstanding Universal Value and increase appreciation

### 4.7.6 - If fees (i.e. entry charges, permits) are collected, do they contribute to the management of the World Heritage property?

**No fees are collected**

### 4.7.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to visitor use of the World Heritage property

About 30.000 persons visit Vega during the year. Less than 1.000 of these visit the WH site. The infrastructure in connection with tourism is mainly in the buffer zone at Vega with trails, museum and world heritage exhibition. Vega borough, the Foundation with co-partners and the Museum are cooperating with national authorities and the local community establishing a visitor centre to raise awareness and inform about the OUVs. It's a goal to get better access to the property by public transport.

## 4.8. Monitoring

### 4.8.1 - Is there a monitoring programme at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme** of monitoring, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

### 4.8.2 - Are key indicators for measuring the state of conservation used to monitor how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is maintained?

Information on the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient** for defining and monitoring key indicators for measuring its state of conservation

### 4.8.3 - Please rate the level of involvement in monitoring of the following groups

World Heritage managers / coordinators and staff	Excellent
Local / Municipal authorities	Excellent
Local communities	Excellent
Researchers	Excellent
NGOs	Excellent
Industry	Excellent
Local indigenous peoples	Not applicable

### 4.8.4 - Has the State Party implemented relevant recommendations arising from the World Heritage Committee?

Implementation is **underway**



**4.8.5 - Please provide comments relevant to the implementation of recommendations from the World Heritage Committee**

The State Party has developed a holistic world heritage policy programme for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and recommendations from the WH Committee in Norway. It has been developed in cooperation with the WH sites. Approved by the Norwegian Parliament in 2013.

**4.8.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to monitoring**

There is a good cooperation between national, regional and local authorities related to monitoring.

**4.9. Identification of Priority Management Needs**

**4.9.1 - Please select the top 6 managements needs for the property (if more than 6 are listed below)**

Please refer to question 5.2

## 5. Summary and Conclusions

### 5.1. Summary - Factors affecting the Property

#### 5.1.1 - Summary - Factors affecting the Property

	World Heritage criteria and attributes affected	Actions	Monitoring	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment	
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Services Infrastructures</b>						
<b>3.3.4</b>	<b>Localised utilities</b>	The large radio mast on Vega Island is a visual intrusion (present by the time of evaluation and inscription. Not new.)	The mast has a vital function in the monitoring of the area and it is not possible by today to remove it.	There is a national monitoring of the mast.	It's uncertain at what time the function of the mast will be replaced.	Ministry of Petroleum and Industry, Norwegian Armed Forces, The Norwegian Coastal Administration, Telenor, Oil companies	The large radio mast on Vega Island is a visual intrusion, but is necessary for telephony and the monitoring of the oil industry in the Norwegian Sea.
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Pollution</b>						
<b>3.4.1</b>	<b>Pollution of marine waters</b>	Pollution of marine waters is a potential risk for the Eider birds, which the OUV of the area is based on. There is too little knowledge about the effects on the birds regarding dissolved plastic parts/heavy metals and brominated flame retardants.	The Vega World Heritage Foundation has asked the Ministry of Environment to secure monitoring of the site and equipment for removing of oil spill. The people of Vega and pupils are out on the islands picking rubbish from the shores every year.	There are national monitoring programmes and the oil companies are imposed to have adequate equipment and plans for the handling of oil spill in case of accidents.	It's an ongoing work	The Ministry of Environment, Norwegian Environment Agency, The Norwegian Coastal Administration, The Nature Inspectorate, Statoil, BP, Eni	Oil spill from ships or oil rigs are serious threats for the Eiders, other birds and the marine environment. Also heavy metals, plastic/brominated flame retardants are threats in a longer term.
<b>3.8</b>	<b>Social/cultural uses of heritage</b>						
<b>3.8.5</b>	<b>Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community</b>	The bird tenders grew up on the islands. Their descendants don't have the same, close connection to the tradition. It will be crucial to get recruiting systems to secure the OUV + prevent depopulation of Vega for securing of the cultural landscape	A recruiting and stimulation programme for the younger generation of bird tenders and existing bird tenders. A stimulating programme for farmers. A holistic WH-programme for value creation in small societies.	Monitoring of the Eider tradition during the breeding season and the construction Eider houses. Monitoring of biological diversity. Cooperation with the school on programmes to create pride and understanding. Incentives for value creation.	This work has to increase in intensity during the next years.	Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development	The WH status has led to pride and strengthening of local identity. But Vega has severe challenges with depopulation and needs a holistic programme on how to secure and develop the world heritage values.
<b>3.10</b>	<b>Climate change and severe weather events</b>						
<b>3.10.6</b>	<b>Temperature change</b>	The Eider birds and other birds might be affected by the temperature change. The cultural landscape and biodiversity might be changed. The fishing in the area might be affected. By now the growing season is prolonged, which seems positive.	There are no actions to be taken locally to prevent temperature change.	The bird tenders and the WH staff are documenting the work in the site.	There is need of global actions to prevent temperature change	The Government and Parliament, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Petroleum and Industry	It's no research by now showing that temperature change affects the OUVs, but it might be a challenge in the future

## 5.2. Summary - Management Needs

### 5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

Answers provided have not outlined any serious management need.

### 5.3. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of the Property

#### 5.3.1 - Current state of Authenticity

The authenticity of the World Heritage property has been **preserved**

#### 5.3.2 - Current state of Integrity

The integrity of the World Heritage property is **intact**

#### 5.3.3 - Current state of the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value

The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been **maintained**.

#### 5.3.4 - Current state of the property's other values

Other important cultural and / or natural values and the state of conservation of the World Heritage property are **predominantly intact**

### 5.4. Additional comments on the State of Conservation of the Property

#### 5.4.1 - Comments

The protection, legislation and cooperation between the authorities and local community are securing the values by now. In the next years it might be a severe challenge to recruit new bird tenders of the younger generation. The depopulation of Vega might also be a big challenge. There has to be farmers to maintain the cultural landscape and local industry for value creation and development.

### 6. World Heritage Status and Conclusions on Periodic Reporting Exercise

#### 6.1 - Please rate the impacts of World Heritage status of the property in relation to the following areas

Conservation	Very positive
Research and monitoring	Positive
Management effectiveness	Positive
Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples	Positive
Recognition	Positive
Education	Very positive
Infrastructure development	No impact
Funding for the property	Very positive
International cooperation	Positive
Political support for conservation	Very positive
Legal / Policy framework	Very positive
Lobbying	Very positive
Institutional coordination	Very positive
Security	No impact
Other (please specify)	Not applicable

#### 6.2 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to World Heritage status

There has been a very positive development in the property after the inscription. The biggest challenges are related to oil spills from ships or oil rigs and securing the site for the future. There is by no now special security for the property regarding

### Section II-Vegaøyen -- The Vega Archipelago

the threats from pollution/oil, compared to other parts of the coast. This needs to be focused. There is also a need of support for the new generations following up the Eider tradition and for development of Vega to prevent further depopulation

#### 6.3 - Entities involved in the preparation of this Section of the Periodic Report

Governmental institution responsible for the property
Site Manager/Coordinator/World Heritage property staff
Staff from other World Heritage properties
Non Governmental Organization
Local community
External experts

#### 6.4 - Was the Periodic Reporting questionnaire easy to use and clearly understandable?

yes

#### 6.5 - Please provide suggestions for improvement of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

The questionnaire is giving a good overview of the protection, legislation and cooperation to secure and develop the site. But it is difficult in give a complete explanation of the local challenges in some of the areas, because a few of the answer alternatives do not cover the situation, e.g. 4.4.15.3 og 4.4.15.4.

#### 6.6 - Please rate the level of support for completing the Periodic Report questionnaire from the following entities

UNESCO	Very good
State Party Representative	Very good
Advisory Body	Very poor

#### 6.7 - How accessible was the information required to complete the Periodic Report?

All required information was accessible

#### 6.8 - The Periodic Reporting process has improved the understanding of the following

The World Heritage Convention
The concept of Outstanding Universal Value
The property's Outstanding Universal Value
The concept of Integrity and / or Authenticity
The property's Integrity and / or Authenticity
Managing the property to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value
Monitoring and reporting
Management effectiveness

#### 6.9 - Please rate the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from previous Periodic Reporting exercise by the following entities

UNESCO	Not Applicable
State Party	Not Applicable
Site Managers	Not Applicable
Advisory Bodies	Not Applicable

#### 6.10 - Summary of actions that will require formal consideration by the World Heritage Committee

- **Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance**

Reason for update: The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value/Statement of Significance has been submitted to UNESCO but not yet adopted by the World Heritage Committee

- **Map(s)**

Reason for update: The date of inscription was 1st of July 2004. The boundaries of the Property is digitalized and technically harmonized with digitalized borders of the municipality and protected areas. This has no implications, nor effect, on OUV and is in line with all relevant aspects that made basis for the inscription. Technically exact digitalised borders has resulted in minor changes to the figures "area of property". State party will submit this information to WHC in a separate formal letter.

**6.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to the Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise**