



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.