



Sister Site Arrangement between



VERDSARV
Vestnorsk fjordlandskap

Glacier Bay National Park
National Park Service of the Department of the Interior
of the United States of America

And the
West Norwegian Fjords World Heritage Site
Norway

The National Park Service of the Department of the Interior of the United States of America, hereinafter referred to as “NPS,” and the West Norwegian Fjords World Heritage Site, hereinafter referred to as the “Participants,”

RECOGNIZING the mutual interest between the Participants in the establishment and management of national parks, protected areas, and World Heritage Sites for the purpose of conserving ecosystems and promoting natural and cultural tourism,

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the advantages of facilitating, coordinating, and amplifying efforts in conservation, management and development of natural and cultural resources in protected areas of mutual interest;

NOTING the mutual interest in strengthening cooperation between the Participants in the exchange of information and informal education activities for the management and operation of parks;

HEREBY seek to further cooperation in protected area management and resource conservation and education through the establishment of a Sister Park Arrangement, regarding Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve and the West Norwegian Fjords World Heritage Site, hereinafter referred to as the “Sites.”

SECTION 1 - PURPOSE:

The purpose of the “Sister Site” relationship is to promote international cooperation and support for the mutual benefit of both sites and to enrich the experience and training of the personnel of both sites through projects of international cooperation. The relationship allows the Sites to benefit by sharing experiences and approaches to collaboration, including local efforts to work with gateway communities, regional and local economies, friends groups and partner organizations. This may be accomplished primarily through the exchange of managerial, technical and professional knowledge, information, data, technology, training, and experience.

SECTION 2 – AREAS OF COOPERATION:

1. Examples of cooperative activities under this Arrangement are the provision and exchange of information; participation in training courses, conferences, and symposia; professional

exchanges in areas of mutual interest; and other forms of cooperative activities as mutually decided.

2. The specific areas of interest for cooperative activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Exchange of experiences and knowledge related to cruise ship management including developing concessions prospectus, criteria by which ship companies must propose sustainable practices, and process by which ship companies are allocated limited access of the sites. Additional exchange of knowledge related to cruise ship operations and technology that promotes visitation and site access while minimizing impacts to air and water quality, underwater and above ground noise, and wilderness condition;
- Exchange of experiences regarding environmental education techniques, programs, and facilities including development of a fjord-based curriculum, shared information on development of ‘Green Stream’ programs for connecting sites with classrooms, and other experiences regarding environmental education techniques, programs, and facilities;
- Electronic communication and technical information exchanges focused on emerging science on the impacts of cruise tourism, emerging or implemented technology that increases sustainability of visitation, and development of programs that minimizes impacts to natural or cultural resources and values;
- Exchange of experiences related to development and implementation of monitoring programs and protocols focused on air quality, water quality, oceanography, and above and below-water sound.
- Exchange of personnel necessary to experience, in person, developed outreach and educational programs, resource management efforts, private and public partnerships, and integration of short- and long-term site planning among the sites and local gateway communities;
- Promotion of the Sister Site on park websites to include information on the parks and protected areas, with the possibility of shared educational and interpretation initiatives, shared monitoring programs and protocols, live weather information, landform characteristics, wildlife and future activities.

Cooperation will be guided by twice-annual conference calls or videoconferencing that results in a jointly developed annual Action Plan and progress on specific projects. The Annual Action Plan will be designed and accepted by the two Sites before submitting to the Participants for filing by the end of November each. Individual projects will focus on specific topics and issues of common concern of the Sites, and can be started at any time upon reporting for filing. The Annual Action Plan will also identify funding and in-kind commitments, such as housing, and logistical support, by each Site.

SECTION 3 - FUNDING

Any activity carried out under the terms of this Arrangement is subject to the availability of funds.

To fulfill the goals of this Arrangement, the Participants envision staff exchanges on a regular basis. Each Participant intends to work cooperatively with the other Site to identify available funding and in-kind support necessary for the fulfillment of the Sister Site purpose and objectives, which may include public or private associations, agreements, or other collaborative partnerships.

The details of any exchange are expected to be negotiated separately, as identified in the Annual Action Plan, and are dependent on the availability of funds. Any cost-sharing arrangement, where authorized by the laws of the United States and Norway, is expected to be documented by a separate instrument between the Participants.

This Arrangement defines in general terms the basis on which the Participants intend to cooperate, and as such, does not constitute a fiscal or funds obligation document.

SECTION 4 – IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The offices designated to coordinate and implement this Arrangement, and points of contact are:

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve:

Philip Hooe, Superintendent, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve; Philip_Hooe@nps.gov; 907-697-2616;

Scott Gende, Senior Science Advisor; Scott_Gende@nps.gov; 907-364-2622

West Norwegian Fjords World Heritage Site:

Katrin Blomvik; Direktør Stiftinga Geirangerfjorden Verdsarv; katrin@verdsarvfjord.no; + 47 70 26 38 10;

Erling Oppheim; Nærøyfjorden World Heritage Park; erling@naroyfjorden.no;

If there is a change to any point of contact, the Participant making the change is expected to notify the other Participant in writing of such change with 30 days notice.

SECTION 5 – OTHER PROVISIONS

The Participants may develop and share reports that describe the results of this Arrangement. Also, the experience deriving from the collaboration and cooperation, as well as the technical data exchanged, can be shared among the staff of the Sister Sites.

This Arrangement is expected to be implemented under the laws and regulations of each country. This Arrangement is not legally binding, and it is not intended to modify or interfere with the respective international obligations of either country.

If differences arise in interpretation of this Arrangement, the Participants may present their differences to each other in writing to discuss them. If the Participants fail to resolve their differences within thirty (30) days, they may refer the matter to higher level of authority within their respective organizations. Any differences derived from interpretation or implementation of this Arrangement are expected to be resolved first by means of consultations and negotiations directly between the Sites.

SECTION 6 – DURATION, MODIFICATIONS AND DISCONTINUATION

Activities under this Arrangement may commence upon signature and may continue for five years. This Arrangement may be extended or modified by written consent of the Participants.

Activities under this Arrangement may be discontinued at any time by either Participant. The Participant seeking to discontinue cooperation should endeavor to provide written notification ninety days in advance of such discontinuation.

Signed at _____, on this _____ day of _____ 20__ [, in English and _____ *if necessary to be done in 2 languages*].

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| For the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior of the United States of America: | West Norwegian Fjords World Heritage Site |
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