

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**Between the Kingdom of Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on cooperation on polar research and cultural heritage**

*With reference* to the High Level Agreement on the Strengthening of United Kingdom-Norway cooperation on polar research and cultural heritage, signed in London on 30 November 2011;

*Noting* the significant successes of the existing Memorandum of Understanding (2011-16) created to implement that High Level Agreement;

*Recognising* the close and enduring links between the United Kingdom and Norway on polar matters; and the significant value of continuing that close cooperation.

Norway and the United Kingdom intend to continue to enhance their bilateral cooperation on polar research and the management of shared cultural heritage in Antarctica and South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands, as follows:

## **1. Scope of the Memorandum**

This Memorandum sets out the practical and political intent of Norway and the United Kingdom to build on the success of the Memorandum (2011-16) covering polar research and management of shared heritage as set out in the High Level Agreement signed in 2011.

The specific activities undertaken under this Memorandum will be funded by Norway and the United Kingdom according to the agreed formula.

This Memorandum covers the period March 2017 to December 2019. It specifically covers the activities of Norway and the United Kingdom. Both parties recognise the importance of working closely with non-governmental organisations, private and other commercial stakeholders in delivering these activities, to add additional impetus.

## **2. Key Activities**

### **i) Understanding the krill-based ecosystem**

The British Antarctic Survey, the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research, the Norwegian Polar Research Institute and other relevant organisations in Norway and the United Kingdom will continue to work together to enhance the significant cooperation that has taken place during the period of the previous Memorandum.

In particular to provide further scientific understanding to contribute to the development of feed-back management procedures for the krill fishery appropriate to the regions around the South Orkney Islands, South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula.

We recognise that future environmental challenges, including climate change, will be important to the sustainable management of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands, Bouvetøya and other areas of common interest. Drawing on our respective long-term environmental monitoring programmes, the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands,





British Antarctic Survey, the Norwegian Polar Research Institute and the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research will work together and with other relevant organisations to further their scientific understanding of Antarctic and sub-Antarctic environmental change and the development of appropriate management measures.

ii) Scientific priorities, including within the scope of the Arctic Council

Norway and the United Kingdom have a strong mutual interest in ensuring that collective decisions about the future of the Arctic and its surrounding region are taken in the light of the best available science. Making sure that the Arctic Council Working Groups have access to this information is important and in both countries' interests. Cooperation under this area may include:

- Joint projects to support Arctic Council activities, where joint UK/Norwegian bilateral endeavours would be appropriate and of mutual benefit, particularly in relation to the work of relevant working groups.
- Encouraging the attendance of British Arctic specialists at the annual Arctic Frontiers conference in Tromsø and at other opportunities.
- Encouraging joint Arctic seminars and outreach in the UK and Norway on Arctic issues.

iii) Cultural heritage projects in South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands and Antarctica

Norway and the United Kingdom recognise the importance of their shared history and the opportunities that there are to document and conserve cultural heritage and to improve education and outreach. They recognise the considerable successes delivered through the previous Memorandum and are keen to replicate this success in new areas.

*South Georgia*

Whaling Stations

- To identify appropriate external expertise in dealing with oil clean-up in extreme climates and develop practical plans to deal with the possibility of contamination from the Heavy Fuel Oil remaining in the whaling stations and sunken vessels, and its removal.
- To implement the long-term management plan for Grytviken whaling station which the Heritage Advisory Panel is developing.
- To continue work in developing opportunities for education and outreach to facilitate greater access to, and interpretation of, whaling history and bring the heritage of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands to a wider audience.

*Antarctica*

Deception Island

- To conduct a basic clean-up operation, under conservation supervision, to remove and/or reposition small-scale debris from the beach and surrounding vicinity of the historic huts at Whalers Bay.



Further projects, including the completion of Antarctic Treaty Inspections, will be developed collaboratively by Norway and the United Kingdom, subject to the availability of funds.

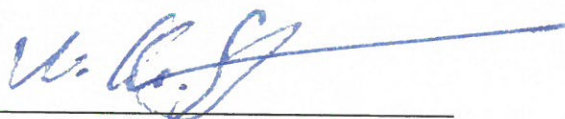
### 3. Annual Review Mechanism

Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Norway and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the United Kingdom, with others as necessary, will meet annually to review the progress under the Memorandum of Understanding, to plan future work and identify priorities. The meetings will alternate between Norway and the United Kingdom, with the first meeting under this Memorandum in summer 2017.

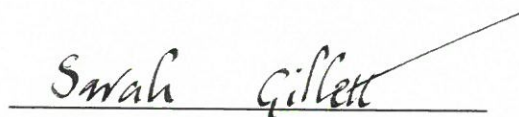
### 4. Legal status

This Memorandum does not create any legal obligations under international law.

Signed at Oslo on this 23rd day of February 2017 in two originals in the English language.



For the Kingdom of Norway



For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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