

Joint declaration for the management of the World Heritage property

Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes

The World Heritage property *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* is a serial transnational World Heritage property.

The German federal states of North Rhine-Westphalia and Rhineland-Palatinate and the Dutch provinces of Zuid-Holland, Utrecht and Gelderland (collaborating as the Limes Association of the Netherlands) hereby declare their aim to conserve the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of this exceptional archaeological structure with all its component parts. They agree to collaborate in order to preserve the World Heritage property, to develop knowledge about it and to transmit this to future generations.

Therefore, the parties hereby declare their commitment to coordinate their management of the World Heritage property. They

- look forward to continue their cooperation for the benefit and success of the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes*;
- will be guided by the Operational Guidelines and decisions of the World Heritage Committee relating to the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes*;
- recognize the importance of – and need for – coordinated management and monitoring as the foundation for practical actions between and in the participating parties;
- agree to continue collaboration in order to identify, protect, conserve, present and transmit to future generations this common heritage of Outstanding Universal Value;
- will work with counterparts of the existing and future inscribed segments of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Cluster;
- will be inspired by UNESCO's contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in the management of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes.

Each party is responsible for taking care of conservation and management of the property within its territory, in accordance with the provisions of the World Heritage Convention, the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention ("Operational Guidelines") and the decisions of the World Heritage Committee. This responsibility is managed by each party in its own right, in accordance with its legislative and management systems. Funding for the management of the LGL is also not a subject of these agreements.

In line with section 135 of the Operational Guidelines, the Nomination file for inscription on the World Heritage list proclaims that Germany and the Netherlands have discrete national organisations for the management of their respective component parts of the property, but that management and development will also be coordinated by a joint Dutch-German International Management Group for the Lower German Limes (IMG-LGL), which is overseen by a joint

Intergovernmental Committee (IGC-LGL). The principles of the international cooperation should be set out after nomination in a Joint declaration.

By joining the IGC-LGL, the governments declare their commitment to the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the site within their jurisdiction in accordance with the highest archaeological and heritage standards.

The terms of reference of the IGC-LGL are set out below.

***Terms of Reference of the Intergovernmental Committee for the
Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes (IGC-LGL)***

1 Intergovernmental Committee for the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* World Heritage property (IGC-LGL)

The Intergovernmental Committee (IGC-LGL) is established in order to coordinate overall management of the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* World Heritage property at an international level. Its Terms of Reference are approved unanimously by the parties involved in the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes*.

The parties involved are the Dutch provinces of Zuid-Holland, Utrecht and Gelderland (collaborating as the Limes Association of the Netherlands) and the German Federal States North Rhine-Westphalia and Rhineland-Palatinate.

2 Membership

Membership of the IGC-LGL consists of the delegations of the parties which care for a section of the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* World Heritage property.

As stated in the Management Plan for the Lower German Limes, the IGC-LGL will consist of:

- *two representatives from the Netherlands;*
- *one representative from North Rhine-Westphalia;*
- *one representative from Rhineland-Palatinate.*

3 Objectives

The objectives of the IGC-LGL are:

- to coordinate at an international level the management, monitoring and development of the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* World Heritage property;
- to advise and support its members in their efforts to conserve and manage those parts of the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* World Heritage property which are under their respective responsibility, in accordance with the World Heritage Convention;
- to promote best practice and common approaches to ensure the continuing World Heritage status of the component parts of the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* World Heritage property;

- to develop further the management systems of the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* World Heritage property as an evolving instrument, based on the management principles contained in the nomination dossier;
- to participate at an international level in the partnership of the properties of the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Cluster*.

4 Procedures

4.1 Chair of the IGC-LGL

The IGC-LGL is chaired by one of the members of the IGC-LGL. The Chair will provide secretarial support for organizing meetings, disseminating information to IGC-LGL members, preparing documents for meetings, recording the IGC-LGL's discussions and coordinating common actions. The Chairmanship changes every six years and starts with the Netherlands.

4.2 Meetings

The IGC-LGL meets at least once in three years. After consulting other members, the Chair of the IGC-LGL convenes the meetings and decides on the agenda. The tasks as described under 5 will be on the agenda at every meeting.

An extraordinary meeting may be requested by any member of the IGC-LGL or the International Management Group of the Lower German Limes at any time, in writing to the Chair. The Chair will then decide where and when to convene an extraordinary meeting, after consultation with other members of the IGC-LGL.

4.3 Decisions

Each member of the IGC-LGL has one vote. Decisions of the IGC-LGL are taken by a majority of members of the IGC present, except where otherwise stated below. The quorum for a decision is at least three quarters of all members.

4.4 Observers

The Chair may invite observers to attend IGC-LGL meetings, after consultation with other members of the IGC-LGL.

4.5 Publications

Members of the IGC-LGL are consulted before publication of any document or statement in the name of the IGC-LGL. All publications in the name of the IGC-LGL are agreed unanimously by all members.

4.6 Languages

The working language of the IGC-LGL is English.

4.7 Expenses

The costs incurred as a result of attending meetings of the IGC-LGL must be borne by the participants themselves. The costs of organising meetings will be borne by the party hosting the meeting, unless agreed otherwise in advance.

4.8 Advisory groups

The IGC-LGL may seek advice from advisory bodies such as the Bratislava Group and comparable bodies for the existing World Heritage properties of the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire Cluster*.

The Bratislava Group is an international scientific advisory body with expert members from states containing inscribed or potential parts of *Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Cluster*.

The Bratislava Group aims to share knowledge and experience of Roman frontiers and their identification, protection, conservation, management and presentation, leading to the distillation of a common viewpoint. Through technical and professional advice the Bratislava Group provides a scientific framework for the whole of the Roman frontiers.

5 Tasks IGC-LGL

5.1 Coordination of management

The first Management Plan for the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* was part of the Nomination file for inscription on the UNESCO World heritage List and will run until 2027. The Management Plan will be reviewed and adopted every six years, for the first time in 2027 for the period 2028 - 2033. Due to unforeseen events, earlier revisions are possible. The Management Plan shall be established by the IGC-LGL and shall be implemented by the International Management Group (see under 6).

The IGC-LGL coordinates responses to the World Heritage Centre for all questions which relate to the whole of the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* World Heritage property. Individual States Parties will continue to make notifications to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

The IGC-LGL is guided by common management principles set out in the nomination dossier *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes*. It will deal with those aspects of the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* World Heritage property management which concern more than a single national part.

5.2 Monitoring / Evaluation

The IGC-LGL supports the States Parties in the UNESCO Periodic Reporting. Through its members it coordinates all matters of evaluation of the serial property relating to issues of the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* World Heritage property.

5.3 State of conservation

It is noted that, according to the Operational Guidelines, if part of the property is at risk the whole property can be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Members commit themselves to inform the IGC-LGL of proposed changes of the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* World Heritage property with significant impact on the proposed OUV.

The IGC-LGL may consider the state of conservation of any component part of the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* World Heritage property as well as planned developments or operations that could potentially damage parts of the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* World Heritage property or its surroundings. The IGC-LGL may

discuss with the States Parties issues relating to the conservation of parts of the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* World Heritage property and its surroundings.

5.4 Presentation, participation and research

The IGC-LGL promotes the presentation of the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* World Heritage property. It encourages initiatives intended to contribute to the international recognition of the archaeological and historical value of the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* World Heritage property. It encourages scientific research in the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* World Heritage property.

6 International Management Group for the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* World Heritage property (IMG-LGL)

The management tasks shall be carried out at operational level by the International Management Group for the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* World Heritage property (IMG-LGL).

The IMG-LGL is made up of those directly responsible for the site management of the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* World Heritage property.

The IMG-LGL provides the primary mechanism for sharing best practice in relation to *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* World Heritage property.

The IMG-LGL will meet at least two times a year. The Chairmanship changes every year.

The tasks of the IGC-LGL as described under 5 will be on the agenda of the IMG-LGL at least once a year.

The IMG-LGL will send the minutes of its meetings to the members of the IGC-LGL.

If it seems reason to do so, the IMG-LGL will ask the Chair of the IGC-LGL to convene a meeting of the IGC-LGL.

The IMG-LGL will prepare the agenda and meeting documents of the IGC-LGL.

7 Commencement, amendments and termination

The IGC-LGL and these Terms of Reference come into effect on the date of the signing of this Joint declaration.

The Terms of Reference may be amended at any time, subject to unanimous agreement of the States Parties members.

This Joint declaration is valid as long as the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Lower German Limes* is inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Names, dates and signatures:

On behalf of the Netherlands,

The three provinces, collaborating as the Limes Association of the Netherlands:

Deputy Meindert Stolk, Province of Zuid-Holland

Deputy Rob van Muilekom, Province of Utrecht

Deputy Peter Drenth, Province of Gelderland

On behalf of the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia:

Minister Ina Scharrenbach, Ministry of Regional Identity, Local Government, Building and Digitalization of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

On behalf of the federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate:

Minister Michael Ebling, Ministry of the Interior and Sport of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate