

# MEETING DOCUMENT

## Wadden Sea Board (WSB 31)

18 June 2020  
Esbjerg, Denmark




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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>5.5 Science Cooperation</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Trilateral Research Agenda- Road Map Committee Progress Report</b>
<b>Document No.:</b>	WSB 31/5.5/1
<b>Date:</b>	11 May 2020
<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>Chair of the TRA-Road Map Committee</b>

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At the last WSB the TRA-Road Map Committee submitted a draft TOR for the Trilateral Programming Committee (TPC). The WSB agreed to give more time to the delegations for sending in written comments. The Danish delegation could already accept the draft TOR at the meeting. The comments received, predominantly from the German delegation, were processed and discussed and a final agreement was achieved. The RMC is contented to submit to the WSB this final draft of the TOR for the Trilateral Programming Committee on Wadden Sea Research (TPC – WSR). See document WSB 31/5.5/2.

At the WSB in November 2019 it was also agreed that the RMC should submit a list of nominations of members for the TPC on Wadden Sea Research. Based on the stipulations for members and the chair as given in the TOR, a balanced list of nominees of the 3 Wadden Sea countries to be appointed by the WSB is submitted. (WSB 31/5.5/3)

To foster the start of the TPC the RMC started with setting up a first inventory of TRA relevant research projects to gain insight which topics are already well covered and/or which gaps can be deduced. In addition, also the research demands identified by the QSR had to be included in the overall analysis and subsequent prioritization of topics, along a multidisciplinary approach. A combined meeting with the scientific members of the QSR Editorial Board 2016 was conducted in January 2020. The final aim of these preparatory exercises is to come forward with a first proposal for a joint programme on research issues relevant to the Wadden Sea World Heritage. In this approach, also the joint paper on the TRA by the TG-MM and TG-WH, and adopted by the WSB in March 2019, is taken into account. This first proposal for a joint programme will be a prominent base for the PC to foster its implementation by linking it to other national and international initiatives of relevance and to look for funding opportunities. The progress up to date on the list of prioritised research recommendations is given as a separate document. See WSB 31/5.5/4. The RMC has convened 4 times between the WSB 30 and WSB 31, the last 2 meetings were online.

**Proposal:** The WSB is requested to

- To note and comment as appropriate on the progress report. (WSB 31/5.5/1)
- To adopt the final draft of the TOR of the Trilateral Programming Committee – Wadden Sea Research. (WSB 31/5.5/2)
- To agree with the nominations for the chair and the members of the TPC – WSR and the envisaged timeline of installation of this TPC - WSR by the WSB, and to give their view on the installation process of the TPC - WSR. (WSB 31/5.5/3)
- To note and comment as appropriate on the document containing the inventory on prioritised research topics to be handed over to the TPC – WSR. (WSB 31/5.5/4)

## Progress report Road Map Committee Nov 2019 – June 2020

In December 2019 the RMC convened to discuss and process all the comments, predominantly received from Germany and the other suggestions taken up in the WSB meeting regarding the TOR of the TPC – WSR. The amended version of the TOR as adopted by the RMC in their next meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, was submitted to the German delegation and fruitfully discussed by the chair and the secretary with the full German delegation on February 6<sup>th</sup>. There was a general agreement on the draft. Compared to the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the TOR submitted to the WSB 30, no fundamental changes had to be administered. The changes asked for a better lay-out like a clear distinction between the TOR and the Rules of Procedure, some specifications with regard to the relation foreseen between the WSB and the TPC – WSR, as well as the explicit connection and opening to the UNESCO Single Integrated Management Plan process. To avoid any confusion about membership, it is more clearly depicted how the memberships of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation and the TPC are distinguished.

See document WSB 31/5.5/2.

In the December meeting the RMC continued their discussions regarding a possible prioritisation for joint pilot topics in research demands, based on a list of ongoing research projects submitted by the members of the RMC. Reference was also made to the (ongoing) trilateral inventory of Wadden Sea research commissioned by the Wadden Academy.

It was concluded that the research demands identified by the Quality Status Report (QSR) should be included in these considerations.

The RMC agreed on a set of criteria to assess the hundreds of research recommendations of the QSR for the purpose of their prioritisation and asked the CWSS to deliver a first assessment. The criteria used ranged from the relevance of the research demands towards OUV importance, the trilateral added value, policy relevance, the urgency/threat aspect to the existing level of research on the specific topic and how it fits with the priorities and challenges of the TRA .

In a combined meeting with the members of the former Editorial Board QSR 2016 on 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2020, this first assessment was extensively discussed and amended, leading to a set of recommendations for prioritisation in research topics. This list is annexed, including a few appendices in which some joint research topics are more elaborated. Due to the Corona crises, a few anticipated workshops to further and specify some of the research lines had to be postponed and/or were cancelled.

See document WSB 31/5.5/4

It was reported from the Netherlands that in spring 2020 the TRA was submitted in a first application call for funding as part of the Dutch National Research Agenda. If this turns out to be positive in autumn this year, this would offer a good start for positioning the TPC- WSR in a coordinating role.

After a 1<sup>st</sup> preliminary exchange on potential members for the TPC – WSR in their meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January, in two consecutive online meetings on 15 April and 4 May, the RMC managed to submit a full list of candidates for the TPC – WSR.

See document WSB 31/5.5/3.

It is envisaged and proposed by the RMC to start this TPC – WSR with a combined meeting together with the RMC – TRA in the afternoon September 15<sup>th</sup>. 13.00 hrs, in Hamburg.

List of TRA-RMC members.

Danmark: Jesper Bartholdy (science sector)  
Henrik P Jørgensen (policy level)

Germany: Christian Buschbaum (science sector)  
Peter Südbeck (policy sector)

Netherlands: Jouke van Dijk (science sector)  
Peter P. Mertens/ Rosanne Metaal (policy sector)

Chair: Karin Lochte  
CWSS Bernard Baerends