MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 31)

18 June 2020
Denmark

Agenda Item:	**5.5 Science Cooperation**
Subject:	**ToR of the Trilateral Programming Committee – Wadden Sea Research**
Document No.:	WSB 31/5.5/2
Date:	**20 May 2020**
Submitted by:	**Chair of the TRA-Road Map Committee**

Taking account of the suggestions delivered at the last WSB meeting and the amendments sent by mail after the last WSB, the RMC is contented to submit this final draft of the ToR of the Trilateral Programming Committee – Wadden Sea Research.

In a separate document (WSB 31/5.5/3) the WSB receives the list of nominations for the members and the chair of this TPC – WSR.

Proposal: The WSB is requested to adopt the TOR of the Trilateral Programming Committee on Wadden Sea Research .

Trilateral Programming Committee on Wadden Sea Research (TPC-WSR)

Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure

Authors

The first draft of this document was prepared by Josef F. Stuefer (NWO – Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research) who has acted as executive secretary of the Trilateral Research Agenda.

Content

1. Background

The more than 40 years lasting Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) is based on science and research. The Trilateral Wadden Sea Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP) as one of the pillars of our cooperation and criteria for the nomination as World Heritage provides a scientific assessment of the status of the ecosystem; and assess the status of implementation of the Targets of the Wadden Sea Plan, based on reliable scientific evidence. Science whether fundamental or applied has played a central role in Wadden Sea protection and management and is essential for the future protection and management of the property.

The initiative to develop a Trilateral Research Agenda (TRA) for the Wadden Sea Region originates from the governmental conferences following the Trilateral Ministers meetings in 2010 and 2014

The Trilateral Research Agenda was developed by the joint scientific community from Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands in a joint effort for identifying common future challenges and for developing and implementing comprehensive approaches to trilateral research, improving the knowledge needed for a sustainable future of the Wadden Sea Region. The Trilateral Research Agenda (TRA) applies for the whole Wadden Sea Region, with the aim to maintain natural and cultural values and to find a sustainable course for natural, societal and economic developments.

The Ministers welcomed the TRA at the Trilateral Governmental Conference in Leeuwarden (May 2018) and instructed the Wadden Sea Board "to continue to strengthen its cooperation with the scientific community by installing a trilateral programming committee in order to establish a joint programme on research issues relevant to the Wadden Sea World Heritage, taking into account the Trilateral Research Agenda and instruct the Wadden Sea Board to encourage the scientific community to develop a trilateral research platform and to promote pilot studies on nature restoration."

The signing of the Memorandum Of Understanding of the Trilateral Partnership in support of the UNESCO World Heritage between the representatives of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation and several representatives of the research community at 30th of June 2019, demonstrates and contributes to the envisaged development of the Partnership Hub and the cooperation with the scientific sector, the Trilateral Programming Committee will contribute to.

2. Objective

The Trilateral Programming Committee will serve as a focal point to foster science cooperation and applied research on the Wadden Sea World Heritage, and for discussions on how to implement, further develop and link a joint research programme to other national and international initiatives of relevance, taking into account the TRA.

3. Tasks

- To establish a joint trilateral programme on research issues relevant to the Wadden Sea World Heritage taking into account the TRA;
- Work towards the implementation on research issues relevant to the Wadden Sea World Heritage, including to stimulate and search for funding possibilities;
- Discuss and agree on the prioritisation of joint research lines, taking into account the Trilateral Research Agenda, the research issues identified by the Quality Status Report, the joint recommendations of TG-WH and TG-M (WSB 28/5.7/1) and the suggestions submitted by the Road Map Committee;
- Provide scientific and strategic advice to the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) with respect to the joint research programmes and provide regular progress reports (2 years);
- Provide scientific and strategic advice to organisations implementing the joint research programme.
- Provide strategic advice on design of relevant national and international research funds and funding mechanisms;
- Monitor the progress of the implementation of the joint trilateral programme on research, by providing regularly reports, assessments and workshops to foster the interface between science and policy;
- Provide advice to the development of a research platform within the Partnership Hub;
- Support the International Wadden Sea Scientific Symposia (ISWSS).

4. Composition/ Membership

- The TPC-WSR consists of 13 members, 12 regular members and an independent chair with the CWSS as the acting secretary;
- The Chair of the TPC-WSR is independent and does hence not represent one country, field of policy or institution. A rotating chair, linked to the chair of the Trilateral Governmental Conferences is preferred;
- The TPC-WSR consists of three national delegations (Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands) of 4 members each;
- Each national group, consisting of 4 members, should include
  - one research representative from the social sciences and humanities,
  - one research scientist(s) from the ecological sciences,
  - one policy representative from national authorities,
  - one policy representative from the sub-national governments or regional organizations.

5. Responsibilities of the members

Individual Committee members have the following responsibilities:

- Engage proactively with relevant national and international communities and stakeholders (e.g. scientific community, politics, NGOs, business as well as to include relevant issues of the UNESCO Single Integrated Management Plan process for the Wadden Sea) to develop informed contribution to the discussions in the Committee;
- Be visible and approachable for relevant national and international communities and stakeholders; form national contact points for the joint programme on research incl. the TRA;
- Actively participate in Committee meetings through attendance, discussion, and review of minutes, papers and other Committee documents.

6. Responsibilities of the Chair

The Chair of the Committee is supported by a secretary of the CWSS. In addition and to ensure the exchange of information to the WSB and its supporting groups the CWSS might be present with more supporting staff if needed to take care of the connections. The responsibilities of the Committee Chair are as follows:

- Setting the agenda for each meeting;
- Ensuring that agendas and supporting materials are delivered to members in advance of meetings.
- Acting as independent chair during meetings, leading discussions, summarizing decisions and confirming the outcome of voting procedures;
- Appealing to members who discontinue participation;
- Safeguarding a well-balanced national and gender participation.

7. Rules of procedures

a. MEMBERSHIP

- The national representatives in the Trilateral Programming Committee -WSR suggest members, after due consultation with their respective national science and policy communities, to be finally installed by the WSB;
- Proposals for the first members for the TCP will be made by the Roadmap Committee in due time before WSB 31 in 2020;
- Members and advisors of the WSB as well as the members of the directly linked groups of Task Groups and Expert Groups should in principle not be members of the TCP-WSR at the same time.
- In case of absence, each member of the TCP-WSR may transfer his/her vote to one of their national representatives;
- To ensure continuity, the maximum membership duration in the TCP-WSR is 6 years (2 terms of 3 years), whereas an alteration of half of the members should be envisaged;
- The WSB nominates the chair of the TCP-WSR;
- In case of unavailability of the Chair, the TCP-WSR decides ad-hoc on a temporary replacement;
- The WSB dismisses members of the TCP-WSR, incl. its chair.

b. QUORUM

A minimum number of six members (excl. the Chair) are required for decision-making purposes. The quorum must include at least two members of each of the specific national delegations. The chair does not count to the quorum.

c. DECISION-MAKING

The Trilateral Programming Committee - WSR has an advisory function. Nevertheless, it may be necessary to take decisions on specific issues, according to the rules specified below:

•   The Trilateral Programming Committee -WSR strives to take decisions in unanimity;
•   If unanimity cannot be achieved, decisions are taken by a 2/3 majority, excl. the chair;
•   The chair has no vote, except for cases where the Committee cannot reach a decision: in the event of ties, the chair's view is decisive.

d. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS
•   The Trilateral Programming Committee decides on the frequency of their meetings, with at least 2/year.

e. INVITATION, AGENDA, MINUTES, AND DECISION PAPERS

Meeting documents will be sent to members 1 week in advance of a Committee meeting. This will include the following:

•   Agenda for upcoming meeting;
•   Draft Minutes of previous meeting;
•   Any other documents/information to be considered at the meeting.

Additionally, The TPC – WSR can invite guests to its meetings.