

# Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 20  
16 June 2017  
Harlingen, Netherlands**



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**Agenda Item:** 5.7  
**Subject:** ISWSS-14 note  
**Document No.** WSB 20/ WSB 19/5.7/2  
**Date:** 14 June 2017  
**Submitted by:** Organising committee ISWSS-14

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**Proposal:** The meeting is invited to note the information.

### **Note on the ISWSS-14**

Arranged by Denmark, the 14th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium, entitled ‘A Trilateral Research Agenda and Platform’, was held at The ECCO-Centre in Tønder, Denmark from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of May with more than 130 participants.

Traditionally the symposiums encompass results from the Quality Status Reporting (QSR) as well as new scientific findings in fields connecting science and policy making/management, *but* overarched by a theme.

At the ISWSS-14, the overarching theme/the principal aim of the Symposium were to discuss a Trilateral Research Agenda and Platform (TRA), which is to be presented at the Trilateral Government Conference 2018 and to be acknowledged in the declaration.

The TRA have been drafted by a working group (WG) on the basis of specific chapters prepared by five subgroups (Geosciences, Ecology, Economy and Society, Cultural Heritage, and Climate and Water). The five chapters as well as the draft TRA was available to the Symposium participants prior to the event, and can be seen on the homepage.

In the TRA-writing process as well as in other related contexts, the phrase “need for trans disciplinarity in the Wadden Sea research” has been heard frequently, and the arrangers of the symposium have endeavored in the composition and organization of the program, to create a “space” supporting discussion of overarching challenges, which in turn will need trans disciplinary approaches to be more specifically formulated, thus no parallel sessions took place during the event.

Many useful comments and suggestions were presented during the discussion slots at the Symposium contributing to the strengthening of the TRA such as: Including a strategic approach to research priorities, improve the inter science communication, facilitate a trans-disciplinary research framework (integration of natural and social sciences) among others aiming at raising the level of relevance to end-users. Some of these items points in the direction of the “Trilateral Research Platform”, possibly in the shape of an information portal for scientists and end users.

The process of commenting and elaborating on the proposed TRA was successful at the Symposium, but was not finished due to the limited time available, and therefore the TRA-WG and the ISWSS14-organizing Committee has allowed for a period until June 1<sup>st</sup> for all participants to submit short suggestions for omissions/addendums to the text of the draft TRA as well as the research questions. Logistically this will be handled by the TWSS.

The Symposium furthermore specifically dealt with the problem of common access to authoritative Wadden Sea data for scientists in a session early in the program, but the subject/problem turned up across multiple sessions. This being a field where interests coincide between the world of sciences and policy/management makes it one of the most apparent fields of tri-lateral engagement. EU-funded projects founded in this theme could be established early within the context/framework of the coming TRA.

*Link to the ISWSS-14 homepage:*

<http://svana.dk/natur/international-naturbeskyttelse/det-trilaterale-vadehavssamarbejde/iswss14/>

*Here you will find program, presentations, updated abstract volume, TRA-material, photos from the event, and (coming soon) all talks presented at the symposium.*