

The Road to a Trilateral Research Agenda progress report

Prof.dr. Jouke van Dijk, Director Waddenacademie

Presentation for TASK GROUP MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING,
Wasserstraßen- und Schifffahrtsamt, Bremen, Germany, September 28, 2016




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Waddenacademie founded in 2008

Tasks:


- to identify gaps in cross-domain knowledge in order to assist in the sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Region;
- to promote a coherent research programme at regional, national and international level and;
- to promote information supply and knowledge exchange within and between research institutes, government, industry and social organisations.



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Reason for and establishment of the Waddenacademie:

- Final report by the Wadden Sea Policy Advisory Group (Meijer Committee, 2004), 'Ruimte voor de Wadden' [Room for the Wadden Sea Region]:
- Observation that in 2004, policymaking and governance of the Wadden Sea had reached an impasse.
- Recommendations included: enlarge and reinforce the natural features of the Wadden Sea; overhaul policy and governance; keep shellfishing and gas extraction within natural boundaries; improve knowledge management of the Wadden Sea Region.
- Dutch government decided: to cease mechanical cockle fishing, controlled gas extraction, set up the Wadden Fund (800 million euros over 20 years) to support nature and the economy, and establish the Waddenacademie to support 'knowledge management' related to the Wadden Sea Region.



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Waddenacademie Network organization (NOT a research institute!)

Board



Boardmembers:

- Dr. Katja Philippart
Ecology
- Dr. Hessel Speelman
Geology
- Dr. Meindert Schroor
Cultural History
- Prof.dr.ir. Pier Vellinga
Climate and Water
- Prof.dr. Jouke van Dijk
(chair) *Economics*


Executive Secretary:
Klaas Deen



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Background Trilateral Research Agenda

- The necessity for a Trilateral Research Agenda (TRA) for the Wadden Sea Region originates from the declarations from the Trilateral Government meetings 2010 and 2014, stating that:
- Sylt-declaration 2010, pkt. 41: "Support the establishment of a trilateral research platform directly connected with existing national networks. The platform will elaborate a trilateral agenda for policy-relevant research in consultation with the Board..."
- Tønder-declaration 2014 pkt. 63: "Encourage discussions by the scientific community and policy makers on the major policy issues and related knowledge as a basis for further developing a trilateral research agenda and a trilateral research platform."



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Priorities of the Dutch presidency of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation June 2015:

7. Scientific agenda for the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site:

The Wadden Sea has long been a site of much and diverse scientific research. For good management of the World Heritage Site there are plenty of questions that will require common and better coordinated research.

Objective: A coherent scientific agenda, relevant to the World Heritage Site which supports decision-making on current and future issues, captures the interest of young scientists and promotes scientific cooperation between institutions.



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Spring 2015: Start

Trilateral supertrio installed by the Wadden Sea Board:

Mette Guldberg (Denmark);
 Karsten Reise (Germany)
 Jouke van Dijk (Netherlands, chair)

Support and coordination by CWSS
 (Folkert the Jong)

Summer 2015: Installation five subgroups

1. Geosciences

DK Jesper Bartholdy Chair
 DE Alexander Bartholomä
 NL Hessel Speelman

2. Ecology

DK Karsten Laursen
 DE Christian Buschbaum
 NL Katja Philippart Chair

4. Cultural Heritage

DK Mette Guldberg
 DE Beate Ratter Chair
 NL Meindert Schroor

3. Economy and Society

DK Torben Dall-Schmidt Chair
 DE Ingo Mose
 NL Jouke van Dijk

5. Climate and Water

DK Aart Kroon
 DE Horst Sterr
 NL Pier Vellinga Chair

Summer 2015 – summer 2016: Working process subgroups

The subgroups write an overall outline of 3-4 pages of themes and issues within their field. The outline serves as a starting point for a broad discussion among scholars in the same field at a workshop. The subgroups finish their report concluding with suggestions for 5-10 important research questions within its field.

The report contains an outline of

- Major achievements and persisting gaps of knowledge (5-10 most important research questions)
- Main questions relevant for policy
- Suggestions for transdisciplinary themes

The final report per subgroup is 3-4 pages.

Activities until now:

Cuxhafen, October 2015: workshop of 16 scientists from Cultural History and Economics

Delmenhorst, April 2016: workshop 10 scientists from Geology

Texel, June 2016: Workshops for Ecologist and Water and Climate in combination with the Waddenacademie Symposium on Cumulative effects and the Ecopotential meeting

Informal discussions

Results → five draft reports + Introduction

How to proceed? → Autumn 2016 – May 2017: draft version trilateral research agenda

On the basis of the outlines from the subgroups and the introduction a draft version of the trilateral research agenda needs to be produced. This can be done by a professional from e.g. the Dutch National Science Foundation in cooperation with the super trio and with consulting representatives of the five thematic groups. The format should be with the needs for the formal trajectory to the Trilateral Scientific in Tonder, Denmark in May 2017 and the Government' conference in 2018 and should be linked to priorities of the science-policy matrix and contain ideas for trilateral funding schemes.

Relation with the plans for the establishment of a Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Center (PC)? The PC should be linked to the tri-lateral science community in a model like the Waddenacademie or an other model that guarantees the independent position of scientific research.

Relation with Quality Status Report

Science – policy matrix

Size of the box: Degree of concern to management: which policy problems have the highest priority?	High	Management has a high level of concern for the value due to its current degraded condition and/or the high level of single or cumulative pressures affecting it.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Moderate	Management has a moderate level of concern for the value due to its current current condition and/or the moderate level of single or cumulative pressures affecting it.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Low	Management has a low level of concern for the value due to its current good condition and/or the low level of single or cumulative pressures affecting it.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colour of the box: Adequacy of information: do we have the knowledge to solve the problem?	Good	The good level of information available directly supports management decisions and is currently sufficient to allow progress on the particular issue/interaction. However, further information to support ongoing adaptive management may still be required.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Moderate	The moderate level of information gives a reasonable basis for management decisions, but decisions regarding some aspects of the issue/interaction may be hampered by current knowledge gaps.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Low	The low amount or adequacy of information is a hindrance to management. Decisions are pending the availability of improved scientific understanding of the issue/interaction.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Science-Policy Matrix

Impact indicators	Drivers										Pressures										RESPONSE	
	Tourism	Coastal Protection Activities	Fishing and Aquaculture	Agriculture	Mining	Energy Generation	Ports and Shipping	Over migration	Climate Change	Sea level rise	Population	Nature Loss	Climate Change	Governance	OVERALL STATUS							
ECOSYSTEMS																						
Subsurface use and geohazards																						
Longer term geomorphology																						
Shorter term morphodynamics																						
BIOLOGICAL																						
Biodiversity - Reefbuilding Zoobenthos																						
Biodiversity - Elasmobranch Fish																						
Biodiversity - Breeding Birds																						
Habitats - Subtidal Sandbanks																						
Habitats - Salt Marshes																						
Habitats - Beaches & Dunes																						
Functions - Primary Productivity																						
Functions - Nursery North Sea Fish																						
Functions - Foraging Station Migratory Birds																						
CULTURAL HERITAGE																						
Accessories/valuation																						
Maintenance																						
Use/loss																						
Public access																						
SOCIO-ECONOMY																						
Employment																						
Income																						
Population																						
Viability																						
CLIMATE/ENVIRONMENT																						
Longer term sea level rise																						
Fresh water availability																						
Weather extremes																						

NEXT:


The draft version of the TRA should be circulated and discussed again with the scientific community e.g. in Husum, December 2016: Waddenacademie symposium on Cultural History and serve as input for the Trilateral Scientific Symposium in Tonder, Denmark in May 2017.

May 2017 – April (??) 2018 : Trilateral Scientific Symposium and follow-up

At the symposium a broad range of scholars gets the opportunity to comment on the work and give input to further content or enhancements. The super trio will subsequently finish the proposal, so it will be ready to be presented to the ministers' conference in 2018.



.... 2018: Government' conference

The trilateral research agenda is presented to the government' conference in the Netherlands 2018.



**THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!
DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?**

For more information and PDFs of all publications, please visit:
<http://www.waddenacademie.nl>

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