



## NORA Advisory Board Meeting, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Participants: Tristan Hugh-Jones, Henning von Nordheim, Pierre Boudry, Alison Debney, Hein Sas, Kruno Bonačić, William Sanderson, Boze Hancock, Philine zu Ermgassen.

Meeting chair: Tristan Hugh-Jones

### Apologies received from:

Cass Bromley, Bernadette Pogoda, Joanne Preston

### Agenda

1. Minutes from the previous meeting
2. Update from the EU LIFE subgroup
3. Status and proposed action on in person NORA 4 conference May 2021
4. Letter of support for "MIRACLE".
5. Any Other Business

### Minutes AB meeting 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019

- 1) Minutes from 25<sup>th</sup> November approved.
- 2) Update from EU LIFE subgroup
  - Pre-proposal due in April (TBC). Board members have little time before March to progress this effort. A formal lead organisation/institution needs to be identified. The Advisory Board identified the need to understand what are currently planned and funded projects by other groups, so that we can identify gaps which the new proposal can seek to address. This will also ensure that the NORA, as far as possible, does not "compete" with other bids from groups within or outside NORA. Note that there are co-financing requirements which still require investigation.
  - It is essential that the EU life application focusses very keenly on the aims of EU Life: fulfilling the objectives of NATURA 2000 and Habitat Directive should be the focus of the application. Fisheries recovery/climate can be mentioned, but habitat restoration in EU member states is the focus. Given the timescale it is appropriate for initial partners to be quickly sought from established projects working within Natura 2000 sites.
  - Pierre Boudry of Ifremer also identified that possible bridge funding for the Secretariat is being explored from the partnership between Ifremer/AWI/MARUM. No assurances can be made at this time, but funds being sought may be used to support the secretariat of NORA until larger /longer term funds are identified. This may also be able to fund some of the work towards drafting the larger (EU LIFE) proposal. Note that this option is being explored and cannot at this time be confirmed.
- 3) Status and proposed action on in person NORA 4 conference May 2021
  - The Covid-19 situation, even including vaccination, in Europe is still not under control. The possibility that the situation will allow for meeting in spring still seems to be not high. If the live conference is cancelled NORA would need to compensate the venue as of February 3rd. The Organising Committee feels there is not enough certainty to take on this risk. The two options are therefore an online conference in May, or an in person conference in early November.
  - The current secretariat is funded through to end June. There may be the option of a no-cost extension for the current deliverables, but not coverage for the added workload of keeping the Secretariat active over the ~6 month period. The Secretariat requires c. 30,000€ to allow for continued support of basic activities over this time period.
  - After detailed discussion the Advisory Board supports hosting an in person meeting with a postponement until autumn 2021 (date to be selected; overlap with other meetings in the field of work should be avoided). An online event should be considered only as a last resort in November, if the Covid still limits live meetings, or if funds cannot be identified for the time period July-December.
  - The Secretariat will support the conference whether it is in person or online. Management discussions will take place and an adapted workplan with new deadlines for deliverables will be



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developed and shared with the Advisory Board. The NORA community will be informed as soon as the new conference date is chosen.

- 4) Letter of support for "MIRACLE"
  - The Advisory Board find that the MIRACLE project furthers the aims of NORA and therefore deserves the full support of NORA. A letter of support will be drafted by the NORA Secretariat.
- 5) Any Other Business
  - The next AB meeting is proposed to take place in June 2021.