



2024 Ministerial Meeting on the Baltic Sea Marine Environment



Riga, Latvia • 25 April 2024

Baltic Sea Action Plan funding gaps

This supporting document provides information for the Ministerial Debate and for consideration of the draft Ministerial Declaration and is proposed to be taken note of by the Baltic Sea MM 2024.

Overview of the status of financing the implementation of joint Baltic Sea Action Plan actions

Introduction

In the financing section of the 2021 Baltic Sea Action Plan, Contracting Parties and HELCOM Observers pledge to investigate how to make funding, i.e. financial and non-financial contributions, available for the implementation of the BSAP. This should, in particular, take into account the need to connect priorities within the different sectors in which projects are being chosen for financing, in order to establish synergies and make best use of limited financial resources. It is also underlined that increased public and private investment is necessary for implementing the actions and achieving the objectives of the updated BSAP, and thereby reaching the goal of a healthy Baltic Sea.

This document and its Excel attachment give an overview of the status of securing funding for the implementation of the joint BSAP actions or actions which include joint elements, grouped by status/target year of the actions.

Overview

HELCOM working groups considered in 2023 the status of financing the implementation of joint BSAP actions or actions which include a joint element. An overview of the financing status of joint actions by segment is included in Figure 1. Overall, two years after the adoption of the BSAP in 2021, resources have been secured for the implementation of approximately 40 % of all the joint actions.

Please note that the category “Resources secured” presented in the figures in this document includes both the actions for which it is deemed that there is no need to seek additional funding since the action can be implemented within the normal work of the working group or expert group, and actions for which financing has been secured by external project financing or additional contributions by Contracting Parties.

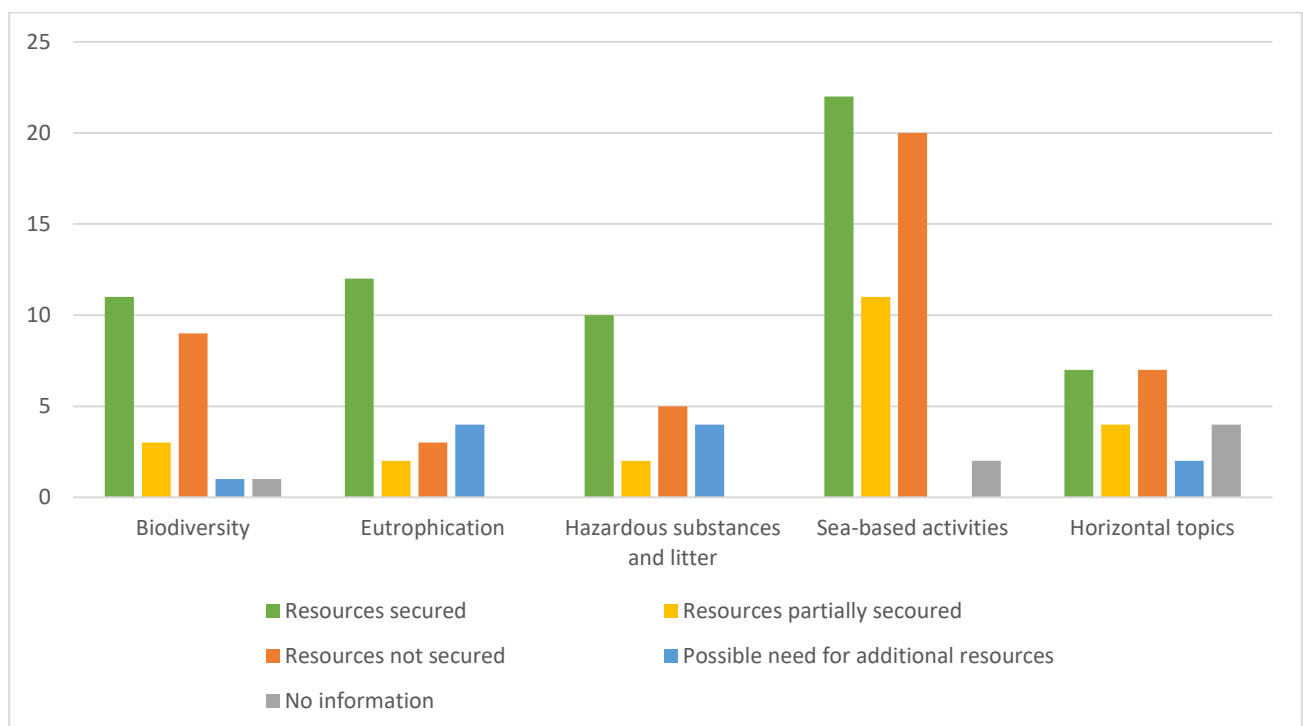


Figure 1. Overview of the status of financing of BSAP actions by segment. “Resources secured” in this figure means either that financing has been sought and secured or that additional funding is deemed not necessary for implementing the action.

Figure 2 gives an overview of the situation across actions per working group. The three groups that have reported most actions with secured financing are WG BioDiv, WG Maritime and WG Source to sea. For WG BioDiv a substantial part of the financing comes from the HORIZON funded PROTECT BALTIC project. WG Maritime reported that many of the actions will be implemented without the need of additional financing or will be supported by funding from national projects. For WG Source to sea, especially for actions related to hazardous substances, a substantial amount of the financing has been secured from external project financing as well as national contributions.

In all cases, the working groups could not determine for sure if additional financing would be needed and those actions were indicated as possible in need of additional financing. In the Excel attachment the actions have been included in separate sheets “Resources secured”, “Resources not secured”, “Resources partially secured”, “Possible need of resources” and “No information”.

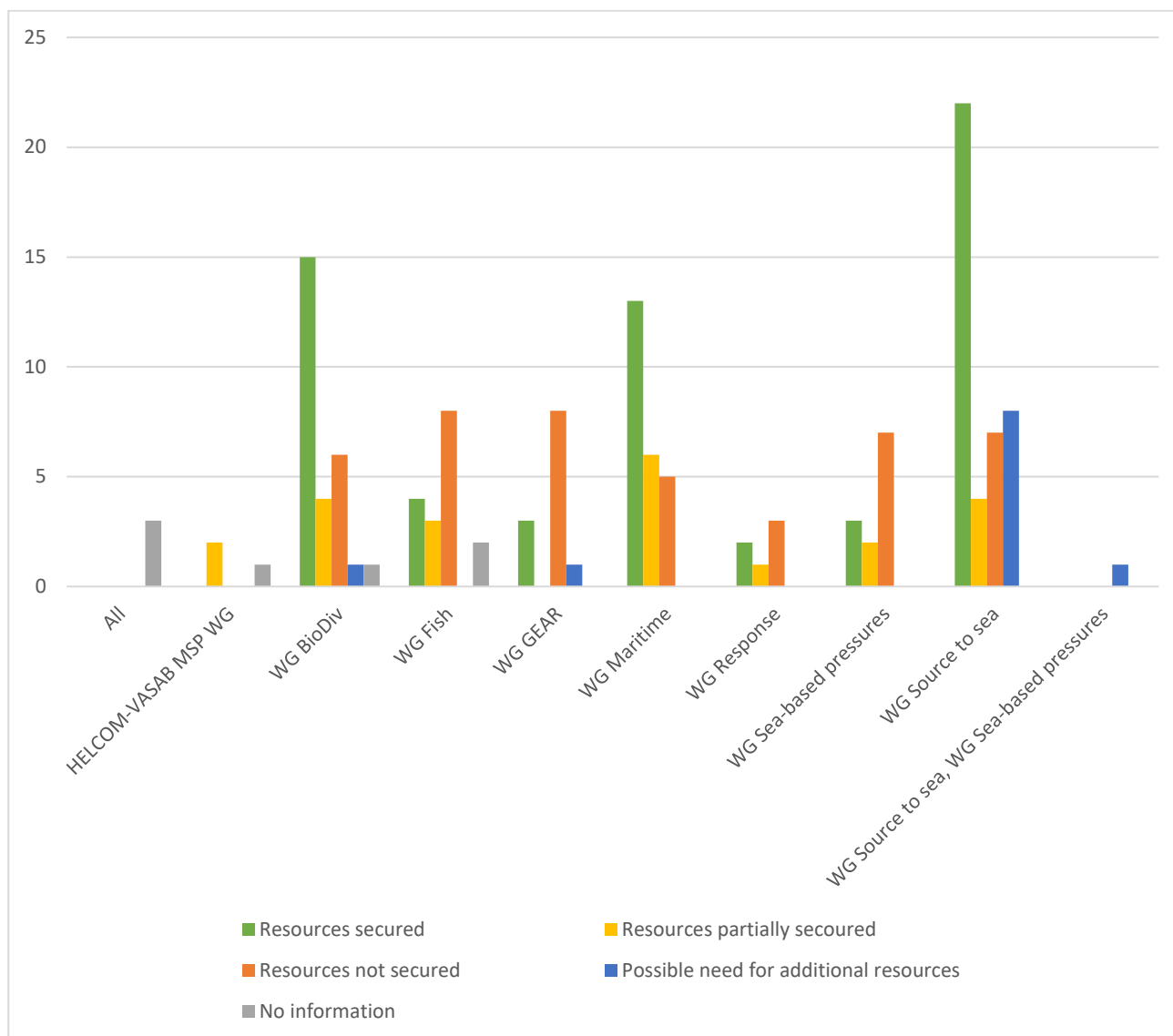


Figure 2. Overview of the status of financing of BSAP actions by working group. “Resources secured” in this figure means either that financing has been sought and secured or that additional funding is deemed not necessary for implementing the action.

Urgency of implementation and other possible criteria for prioritization

Figure 3 gives an overview of joint BSAP actions that have, or at least a part of the actions has, a target year of 2025 or earlier and it has been indicated that the resources for implementation for these actions, or the part of these actions to be implemented by 2025 or earlier, have NOT been secured or fully secured or there is potentially a need for additional resources. The urgency for financing was proposed by the joint session of WG GEAR and the Chairs of working groups as a possible criterion for the prioritization of the actions. The

actions featured in figure 3 are included in the Excel attachment in a separate sheet titled “By 2025”. Target year 2025 was chosen for this example due to the first BSAP action reporting deadline which is 2025. It is however good to note that there are actions that could be of high priority that have a later target year and need a longer time for implementation, thus finding additional financing for the implementation of these actions could be as urgent as for actions with earlier target years.

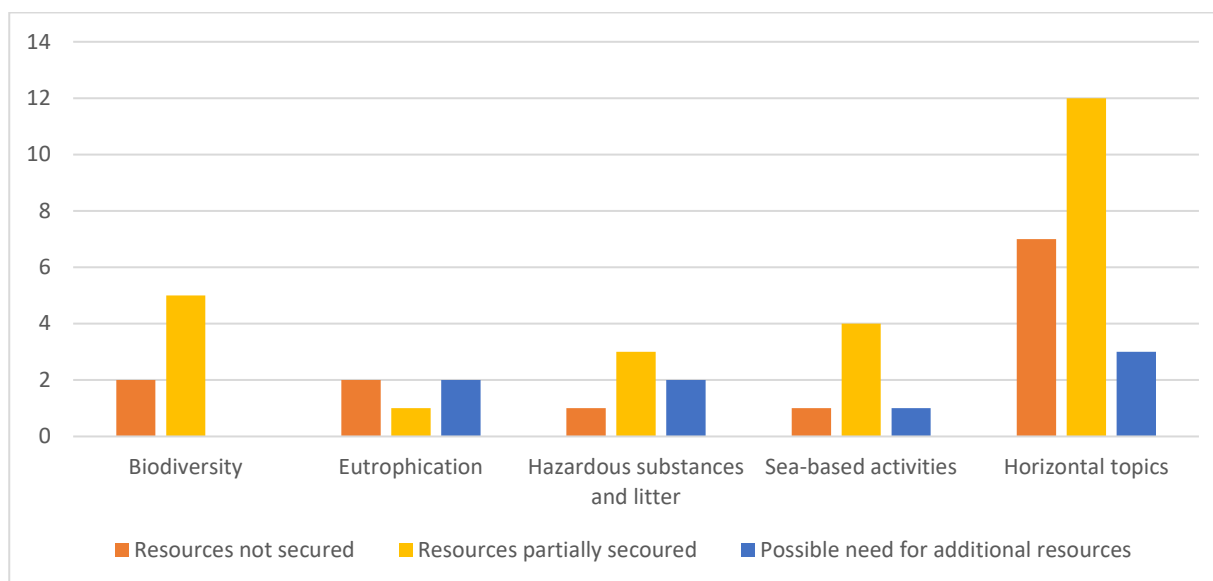


Figure 3. BSAP actions that have a target year 2025 or earlier for which financing has NOT been at least fully secured or there is potentially a need for additional resources by segment.

Another proposed criterion for prioritizing was actions with “knock on effects”. An example of such an action that is lacking financing is action B11 “Maintain an updated map of the sensitivity of birds to threats such as wind energy facilities, wave energy installations, shipping and fisheries. Complete, as a first step, the mapping of migration routes, staging, moulting and breeding areas based on existing data by 2022. By 2025 further develop these maps by incorporating new data, post-production investigation information and addressing the subject of cumulative effects from these activities in space and time.” This action needs to be implemented to support the implementation of national actions B12 “By 2023 and onwards with new findings use the maps on sensitivity of migratory birds to threats in environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedures with the aim to protect migratory birds against potential threats arising from new offshore wind farms and other installations with barrier effect” and B13 “By the next update cycle of the maritime spatial plans seek to incorporate the maps on sensitivity of migratory birds to threats in the work concerning maritime spatial planning to avoid that maritime activities impair birds and their habitats”. In this example it is impossible to implement the subsequent actions without first implementing the action with “knock on effect” (i.e. Action B11). Hence actions with knock on effect could be considered for prioritization, thus enabling the implementation of other actions.