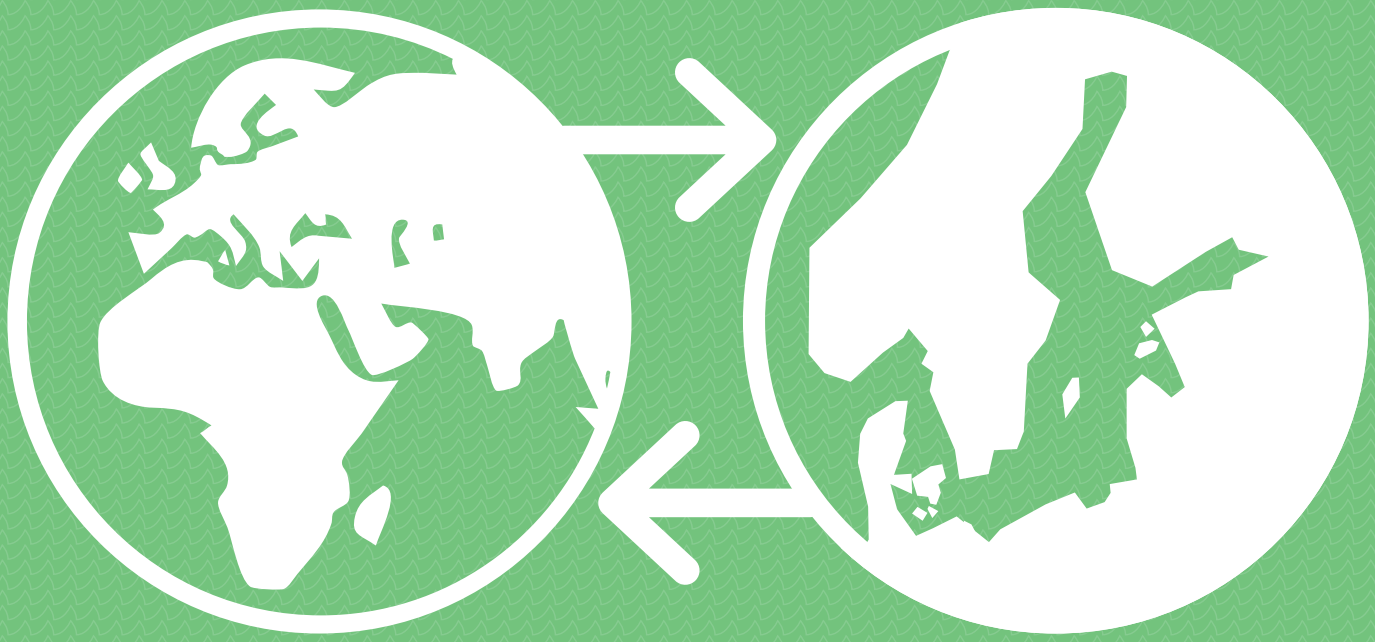
From global targets to regional actions

Global Biodiversity Framework and Baltic Sea Action Plan

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN
For Life on Earth

2024



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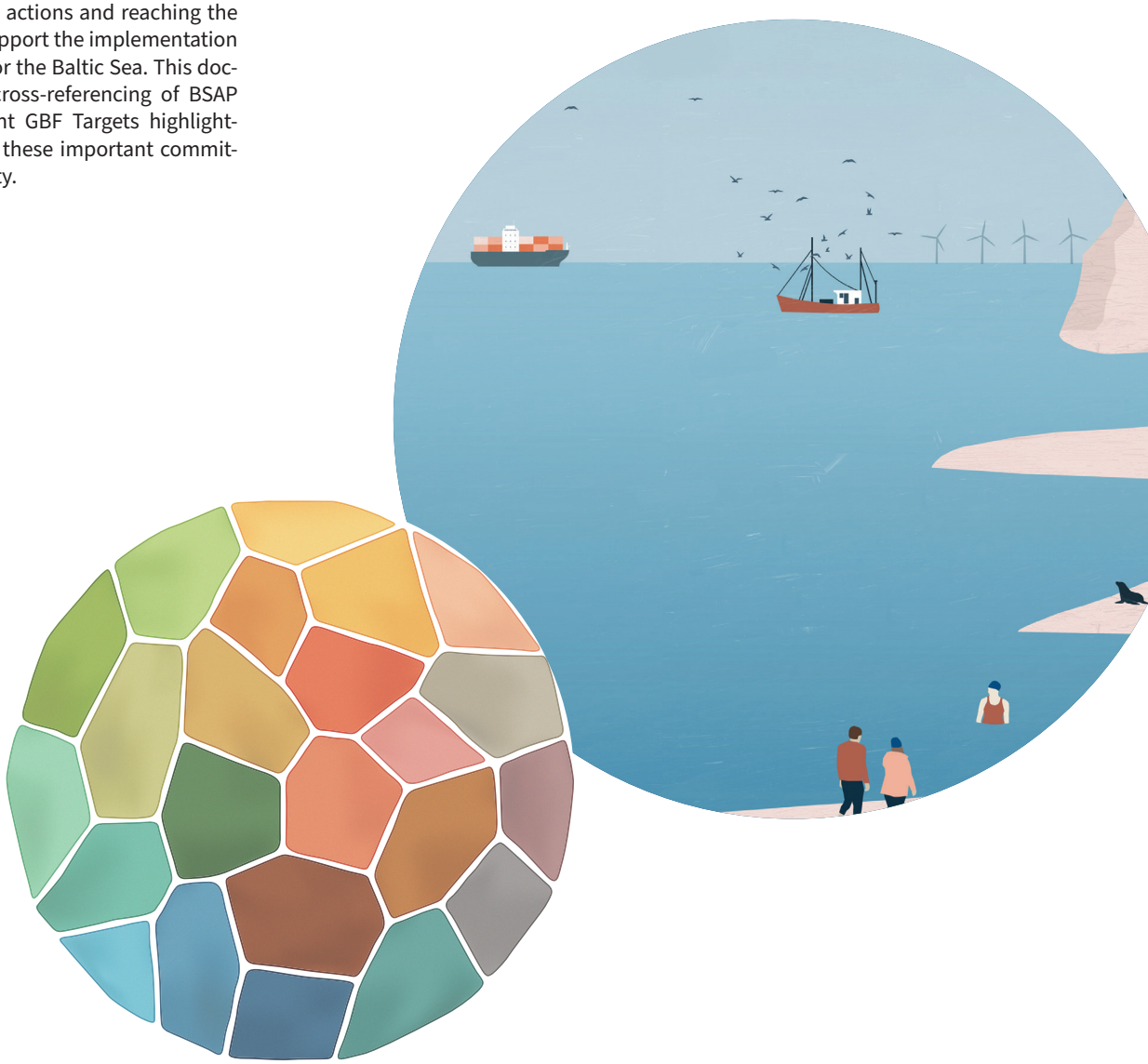
Introduction

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) adopted at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2022 sets out an ambitious pathway to reach the global vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050. Among the Framework's key elements are four long-term goals to be achieved by 2050 and 23 targets for achievement by 2030.

The Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP), adopted by the HELCOM Contracting Parties in 2007 and updated in 2021, is HELCOM's strategic programme of actions for achieving good environmental status of the sea, ultimately leading to a Baltic Sea in a healthy state. The 2021 BSAP includes 199 actions to be implemented by HELCOM and its Contracting Parties by 2030.

Implementing the actions and reaching the goals of the BSAP support the implementation of the GBF Targets for the Baltic Sea. This document provides a cross-referencing of BSAP actions with relevant GBF Targets highlighting the synergies of these important commitments for biodiversity.



Target 1

Plan and Manage all Areas To Reduce Biodiversity Loss

Ensure that all areas are under participatory integrated biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land and sea use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Code	BSAP action
HT12	Utilize maritime spatial planning (MSP) applying an ecosystem-based approach to support BSAP objectives and targets and contributing to sustainable sea-based activities.
HT13	Use maritime spatial planning (MSP) as a tool to signal areas of high nature value as identified by responsible environmental authorities.
HT14	Implement maritime spatial plans with the aim of steering sea-based activities away from areas where they can cause serious damage or disturbance.

Target 2

Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems

Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.

Code	BSAP action
B26	Protect key ecosystem components including habitat forming species by 2030, by: — assessing the state of, and threats to these key ecosystem components by 2023 — implement effective and relevant threat mitigation measures based on the threat and state assessments, including restricting human activities associated with causing physical loss or disturbance, by 2030 — identifying suitable measures and types of habitats, biotopes and key ecosystem components for passive or active restoration by 2025 and implementing programmes for restoration as outlined in the HELCOM Restoration Action plan by 2030.
B27	By 2025 develop and by 2026 start implementing a HELCOM Action Plan for habitat and biotope restoration, including qualitative and quantitative regional targets, a prioritized list of actions, and an associated implementation toolbox outlining best practices and methods for restoration in the Baltic Sea region.

Target 3

Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas

Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.

Code	BSAP action
B1	By 2030 at the latest, establish a resilient, regionally coherent, effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected system of HELCOM marine protected areas (MPAs), supported by those other spatial conservation measures, under alternative regimes for marine protection, which can contribute to the coherence of the network. Where scientifically justified, special attention should be given to offshore areas beyond territorial waters. The network of marine protected areas will: — cover at least 30% of the marine area of the Baltic Sea, of which at least 1/3 will be strictly protected. Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) could be counted towards the 30% targets only if they, as a minimum, comply with the OECM criteria agreed by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). — where scientifically justified, consider including no-use zones within marine protected areas, which can also serve as scientific reference areas. — expand conservation efforts to actively include areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, including important ecosystem elements such as species or areas recognized to be ecologically significant based on function for the ecosystem/provisioning of ecosystem services and broad habitat types, but which may not necessarily be rare or threatened.
B2	By 2022 come to a common understanding of the Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) criteria and their use in HELCOM, based on definitions agreed in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the EU, and define how OECMs can support the coherence of the Baltic Sea marine protected area (MPA) network. By 2025 identification of OECMs in the Baltic Sea region.
B3	By 2030 strengthen the management of the Baltic Sea marine protected area (MPA) network by introducing key elements into management efforts, including but not limited to those highlighted here, to increase effectiveness of protection, including by providing support to Baltic Sea MPA managers through capacity building e.g., through annual workshops. By 2023 update, and by 2025, apply HELCOM MPA management guidelines with focus on: a. Assessments and evaluation methodology and structures for management effectiveness; b. Setting quantitative conservation objectives; c. Effective conservation measures that reduce pressures; d. Establishment of indicators to monitor management performance and status of conservation features; e. Establishment of a common monitoring strategy and evaluation of conservation features and pressures; f. Adaptive management.

B4	By 2026 nationally ensure that marine protected area (MPA) management plans and/or measures are legally binding and ensure appropriate structures are in place to enforce compliance in order to achieve their conservation objectives.
B5	Develop, implement and share information on effective management measures, including measures to ensure compliance/control measures, to reduce the impact of fisheries inside marine protected areas (MPAs) in order to contribute to achieving their conservation objectives.
B6	The coherence of the marine protected area (MPA) network will be periodically assessed at least every ten years, with the next such assessment to be carried out by 2025. By 2027 the results from the coherence assessment are to be used to take appropriate actions to ensure conservation and resilience of biodiversity, and to identify possible spatial conservation expansion needs to improve coherence.
B7	Ensure that by 2030 the HELCOM marine protected area (MPA) network amongst other things provides specific protection to species and biotopes listed as regionally threatened or near threatened in the HELCOM Red Lists.

Target 4

Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts

Ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.

Code	BSAP action
B8	By 2022 at the latest, specify knowledge gaps on all threats to the Baltic Proper harbour porpoise population, and by 2023 for the western Baltic population, including by-catch and areas of high by-catch risk, underwater noise, contaminants and prey depletion. Knowledge gaps related to areas of high by-catch risk are to be addressed and by 2028 at the latest additional areas of high by-catch risk for both Baltic Sea populations are to be determined. To strengthen the Baltic harbour porpoise population, by 2025 identify possible mitigation measures for threats other than by-catch and implement such measures as they become available.
B9	By 2024 assess the status of the Haploops species and the biotopes, as well as key threats and, if relevant based on the assessment, by 2026 develop a joint conservation plan for Haploops species including jointly agreed measures to improve the status of the species and biotopes, to be implemented by 2028.
B10	Include information on functional and life history traits for the species in the HELCOM Biodiversity Database, by 2024.
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.
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.
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.
B14	By 2027 assess the effectiveness of conservation efforts to protect waterbirds against threats and pressures.

B15	Develop and coordinate monitoring and assessment methods, where ecologically relevant, for specified representative coastal fish species, populations and communities, by 2023. Based on these assessment methods, to regularly assess the state of the coastal fish community through selected coastal fish species and groups, including threatened species, by at latest 2023. Based on the results of the assessment, develop and implement management measures with the ambition to maintain or improve the status of coastal fish species, including migratory species by 2027.
B16	To strengthen native strains and to reinstate migratory fish species: — By 2023 identify rivers where management measures for migratory fish species, including eel, would have the greatest positive impact. — Starting from 2023, in line with relevant international commitments, iteratively review and prioritize effective mitigation measures in the identified rivers and/or dams, including removal of dams and migration barriers where relevant and possible, especially in small waterways. — Develop and implement habitat restoration plans of spawning sites for anadromous species in relevant rivers by 2025.
B17	With the aim to protect and restore eel populations, determine which measures set out in the Convention on the Conservation Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), EU Eel Regulation and other relevant instruments would benefit from regional cooperation on a Baltic-wide level. Finalize by 2024 and implement by 2025 a Baltic coordinated programme of such measures.
B18	Restore functional populations of Baltic sturgeon by 2029 implementing the HELCOM Baltic Sea Sturgeon Action Plan.
B19	By 2023 finalise and implement national or local conservation and/or management plans for grey seals.
B20	By 2023 finalise and implement national conservation and/or management plans for ringed seals.
B21	By 2025 protect the ringed seal in the Gulf of Finland, including to significantly reduce by-catch and to improve the understanding of the other direct threats on the seals, and urge transboundary co-operation between Estonia, Finland and Russia to support achieving a viable population of ringed seals in the Gulf.
B22	Update the HELCOM Red List Assessments by 2024, including identifying the main individual and cumulative pressures and underlying human activities affecting the red listed species.
B23	By 2025 develop, and by 2027 implement, and enforce compliance with ecologically relevant conservation plans or other relevant programmes or measures, limiting direct and indirect pressures stemming from human activities for threatened and declining species. These will include joint or regionally agreed conservation measures for migrating species.
B24	Develop tools for and regularly assess the effectiveness of other conservation measures for species besides marine protected areas (MPAs), with the first assessment to be done by 2025, as well as assess the effect on species through risk and status assessments by 2029.

Target 5

Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species

Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spill-over, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

Code	BSAP action
S39	Develop guidance by 2026 in cooperation with the Regional Coordination Groups within the EU Data Collection Framework and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) on how to improve data collected on recreational fisheries in a cost-effective way, with a view to evaluating the impacts of recreational fisheries on the marine environment, where there is a need.
S40	Identify by 2024 fish species for which there is a need for better data for identified purposes, such as setting threshold levels. Utilise dedicated programmes and projects to facilitate recording and reporting of data for these species by 2025 to support the identification and implementation of measures to achieve good environmental status.
S41	Further elaborate cooperation between the Baltic Sea Fisheries Forum (BALTFISH) and relevant HELCOM working groups by 2023 to facilitate a wide range of actions to achieve good environmental status.
S42	Update and harmonize by 2024 the 2016 BALTFIMPA decision support tool approach with ongoing initiatives e.g. in the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) on a seafloor assessment framework for the Baltic Sea. This tool should also provide options on how to reduce the possible negative impact of fisheries on conservation values in the most cost-effective way, including in marine protected areas (MPAs).
S43	Reduce the negative impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem and to this end, support the development of fisheries management including technical measures to minimize unwanted by-catch of fish, birds and marine mammals and achieve the close to zero target for by-catch rates of relevant species by 2024, especially the Baltic proper population of harbour porpoise by 2022.
S44	Invite the competent authorities to immediately, but no later than 2022, implement mitigation measures in the Baltic proper, in order for by-catch of harbour porpoise to be significantly reduced, with the aim of reaching by-catch rates close to zero.
S45	Invite the competent authorities to implement operational conservation measures for the Belt Sea population of harbour porpoise by 2024 such as permanent and/or spatial-temporal closures for relevant fishing métiers in risk areas where technical mitigation measures are insufficient to reach conservation goals.
S46	Promote effective mitigation measures to minimize by-catch of harbour porpoise in the Baltic Sea area inter alia via cooperation with the Baltic Sea Fisheries Forum (BALTFISH), and evaluate and promote adjusted measures as needed by 2025.
S47	Continually test, promote and introduce new technical and operational by-catch mitigation measures such as alternative and seal safe gears in cooperation with competent authorities with the aim to, as appropriate, replace fishing gear proven to be problematic with respect to by-catch, with evaluation of measures every five years starting in 2023, and regularly update the HELCOM questionnaire on trials of alternative fishing gears and fishing techniques.

S48	Develop and implement effective data collection for more reliable data on incidentally by-caught birds and mammals and fishing effort consistent and fully in line with the data needs identified by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). Relevant sources of data are e.g. the EU Control Regulation and additional national or regional coordinated data collection programmes or projects for filling data-gaps outlined in the HELCOM Roadmap on fisheries data.
S49	Maintain, develop and extend regulatory or voluntary schemes to protect key seabird areas and seasons by establishing appropriate fisheries measures in line with conservation objectives and to monitor incidental catches of seabirds by 2025. Extend and develop outreach programmes for the fisheries sector concerning their possible impacts on seabird populations.
S50	Competent authorities to jointly further develop protective measures for Baltic Sea salmon to support the development of a new regional salmon management plan, and nationally establish salmon management plans by 2023, where appropriate. These management plans should be implemented by 2025 to achieve the set targets, including but not limited to smolt production, genetic diversity and distribution throughout the river habitat. In addition, nationally ensure that granting permits for activities in and near rivers does not compromise the ability to reach set river-specific fish population targets.
S51	Competent authorities to improve data related to sea trout stocks and to improve populations of sea trout stocks by implementing national measures at the latest by 2025 with a view to achieving good ecological condition in sea trout streams.
S52	Define necessary complementary measures by 2024 in relevant policy (fisheries, environment etc.) areas to improve the size/age structure for fish stocks, including cod.
S53	Implement measures to restore coastal fish communities, including establishment of no-take areas, seasonal closures and catch regulations, as appropriate by 2026 for the specific coastal area.
S54	Share information among Contracting Parties, the Baltic Sea Fisheries Forum (BALTFISH) and Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) on non-lethal mitigation measures or other ways to manage seals-fisheries interactions and implement those measures by 2025, as appropriate.

Target 6

Reduce the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species by 50% and Minimize Their Impact

Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent, by 2030, eradicating or controlling invasive alien species especially in priority sites, such as islands.

Code	BSAP action
S7	Establish by 2024 and subsequently implement the early warning system in case of the introduction of invasive species in ports.
S8	Work for the harmonized implementation of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Biofouling Guidelines and Guidance, taking into account e.g. the proposed Biofouling Management Roadmap, and further contribute to the work carried out in the IMO.
S9	Promote the development and use of effective, environmentally sustainable biofouling management techniques and antifouling systems on ships and recreational craft, including biocide-free alternatives to prevent biofouling by supporting related research and development activities in the Baltic Sea region.
S10	Strengthen cooperation with stakeholders in the development and implementation of sustainable biofouling management options by 2026 to minimize the introduction of invasive aquatic species, the release of hazardous substances and microplastics from anti-fouling systems, as well as enhancing energy efficiency.
S11	Implement the Joint Harmonised Procedure for the Contracting Parties of OSPAR and HELCOM on the granting of exemptions under the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention, Regulation A-4, and keep the Ballast Water Risk Assessment Tool up to date with data from conducted port surveys.
S12	Continue close cooperation with OSPAR on the implementation of the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention and the issue of biofouling management at the regional and inter-regional level.

Target 7

Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity

Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources, by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including: reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use; reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and also preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.

Code	BSAP action
E1	Submit an account listing, as detailed as possible, the planned and implemented measures in different sectors and catchments alongside an estimation of their effectiveness to HELCOM by 2023 in order to demonstrate whether national net nutrient input ceilings can be achieved with these measures.
E2	Assess progress towards maximum allowable inputs annually and national input ceilings every second year, to follow up implementation of regional and national targets for inputs of nutrients.
E3	Provide timely, sufficient and consistent data on nutrient loads to the Baltic Sea, ensuring reliability of the follow-up system, by maintaining and enhancing monitoring programmes and networks striving for harmonized methods to estimate nutrient inputs, including from unmonitored areas.
E4	Strengthen cooperation with river basin management authorities of non-HELCOM countries through official agreements addressing transboundary waterborne nutrient inputs from non-Contracting Parties.
E5	Implement and enforce the provisions of part 2 of Annex III “Prevention of pollution from agriculture” of the 1992 Helsinki Convention.
E6	Establish site specific buffer zones to reduce nutrient losses from agricultural land, for example on parts of fields where surface run-off and erosion occurs, along ditches or at surface water inlets.
E7	Balance fertilization rates site-specifically and promote precision fertilization practices to improve nutrient use efficiency and reduce nutrient losses.
E8	Develop by 2025 and apply by 2027 the best practices to improve soil structure and aggregate stability on clay soils to reduce phosphorus losses from agricultural lands, for example by using soil structure lime or gypsum.
E9	Promote organic farming to increase its proportion to at least 25% of agricultural land by 2030.
E10	Discourage application of manure and other organic fertilizers in the autumn in fields without green plant cover in winter.
E11	Improve knowledge exchange by establishing dialogue between farmers, authorities and decision makers.

E12	Enhance mutual learning among farmers on best practices and innovative technologies.
E13	Develop by 2025 recommendations for Best Available Technology (BAT)/Best Environmental Practice (BEP) to reduce ammonia and greenhouse gas emissions from livestock housing, manure storage and spreading.
E14	Develop by 2025 recommendations for manure management specifically for horses, sheep, goats, and fur farming.
E15	Apply as a minimum the EU's updated Best Available Techniques (BAT) Reference Document and Conclusions on BAT for intensive rearing of poultry and pigs, especially for the facilities located within areas critical to nutrient losses.
E16	Review national regulations and voluntary measures and – if relevant – implement further or revised measures, as compiled in the revised palette of measures for reducing phosphorus and nitrogen losses from agriculture.
E17	Agree on the national level by 2023 on measures to reduce nutrient surplus in fertilization practices to reduce nutrient losses.
E18	Investigate opportunities for taxation of mineral fertiliser and/or taxation of nitrogen surplus and/or payments for agri-environment measures by 2024 and implement them building on the experiences available in various countries.
E19	Apply innovative water management measures where appropriate, for example, lime filter ditches, sediment traps and controlled drainage, and nature-based solutions, such as two-level ditches and constructed wetlands, when upgrading and renovating agricultural drainage systems.
E20	Revise by 2023 the HELCOM Recommendation 24/3 on "Measures aimed at the reduction of emissions and discharges from agriculture" ensuring reduction of agricultural ammonia emissions and considering relevant Best Available Technology (BAT) and Best Environmental Practice (BEP).
E21	Continue to reduce the deposition of atmospheric nitrogen on the Baltic Sea through the implementation of the national nitrogen reduction commitments of the Gothenburg Protocol and the EU NEC-Directive 2016/2284 for those HELCOM Contracting Parties that are also EU Member States. HELCOM Contracting Parties will ensure that measures taken in transportation, combustion and agriculture are tailored to contribute to the reduction of the nitrogen deposition on the Baltic Sea.
E22	Enhance HELCOM cooperation with the UNECE Convention for Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution in order to promote the inclusion of the protection of the Baltic Sea ecosystem as an additional criterion in the process of the revision of the emission targets for nitrogen in the Gothenburg Protocol.
E23	Strengthen the HELCOM Recommendation 28E/5 on municipal wastewater treatment by 2027.
E24	Facilitate exchange of information on best available treatment techniques for wastewater treatment plants through cooperation with existing regional digital platform(s) acting as a hub for the best knowledge in the wastewater management sector.
E25	Encourage educational cooperation with involvement of relevant non-governmental organizations utilizing such regional digital platform(s) to solve problems of municipal sewage in smaller municipalities and scattered settlements.
E26	Cooperate with relevant Policy Areas of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) regarding e.g. wastewater treatment plants (under "save the sea" objective of the EUSBSR) as well as other regional policies to engage a wider network of stakeholders into cooperation to achieve the BSAP targets.
E27	Target the elimination of phosphorus in laundry detergents for consumer use as soon as possible, but not later than by 2024.

E28	Build a knowledge base to target the reduction of phosphorus in detergents for industrial & institutional use. By 2025, develop and publish a HELCOM progress report about best available techniques, alternative builders, especially on their use, environmental effects and effectiveness.
E29	Undertake efforts to reduce and where possible eliminate phosphorus in detergents for industrial & institutional use, in particular for institutional use of laundry and dishwater detergents no later than by 2030 based on the knowledge on best available techniques compiled during the first step.
E30	Implement adequate measures, especially in agriculture and wastewater management, to achieve the objectives of the Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy by 2027.
E31	Create legal and institutional tools to advance towards introducing annual field-level fertilization planning and farm-gate nutrient balancing for nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) as a requirement for all farms in the Baltic Sea Region to reduce nutrient surplus on farmlands to the highest possible degree in a cost-effective way.
E32	Enhance the use of recycled nutrients in agriculture making use of best available technologies and fertilize according to crop needs.
E33	Develop by 2027 safety requirements for recycled fertilizer products and minimise the occurrence of harmful compounds in these products to comply with the requirements.
E34	Increase the knowledge and promote education and advisory services on nutrient recycling.
E35	Improve the conditions for the development of a market for recycled fertilizer products by setting incentives with the aim of making the use of such products equally attractive to farmers as the use of mineral fertilizers.
E36	Enhance cooperation and share experiences between sectors and actors to create a holistic view on sustainable food systems including nutrient recycling across sectors.
HL1	Develop a regional strategic approach and, on the basis of that approach, an action plan for HELCOM work on hazardous substances by 2024.
HL2	Develop national programmes with a particular focus on hazardous substances which are not adequately regulated by other policies.
HL3	Submit to HELCOM by 2023 an account listing, as detailed as possible, the planned and implemented measures to reduce releases of hazardous substances in the environment, including available knowledge on their effects.
HL4	Strengthen and update HELCOM recommendations for industrial releases of hazardous substances by applying information produced under the EU Industrial Emissions Directive and other sources in order to sufficiently protect the Baltic Sea environment.
HL5	Decrease the emissions of hazardous substances from small scale emitters in urban areas (municipal entities, businesses and private households) by chemical-smart purchasing strategies, substitution and awareness raising campaigns.
HL6	Establish a chemical product register to be built upon, e.g. the EU REACH (EC1907/2006) framework, by 2025.
HL7	Launch educational and information campaigns by 2025 to raise public awareness regarding responsible handling of hazardous substances in household chemicals and articles to prevent their release into the environment.
HL8	Introduce requirements regarding content of chemicals of high regional environmental concern in public procurement procedures by 2025 and provide support for follow-up.

HL9	Establish procedures by 2025 to utilize information obtained under various policies and policy frameworks addressing the use of chemicals (e.g. Stockholm Convention, SAICM successor, REACH Regulation, Water Framework Directive, Industrial Emissions Directive etc) to prioritize measures targeting regional contaminants and to identify emerging pollutants of high concern.
HL10	Establish a mechanism for managing the HELCOM list of priority substances starting from 2025 and respond to screening and assessment results pointing out regional challenges for the Baltic Sea environment and contaminants of emerging concern.
HL11	Organize continuous follow-up of the work on hazardous substances under various global and EU policies as well as in Regional Sea Conventions (RSCs) starting from 2024, and actively influence these processes by promoting international actions identified as necessary to improve the environmental status with respect to hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea.
HL12	HELCOM participation starting from 2023 as a member in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management High Ambition Alliance (SAICM HAA) to support international cooperation on global chemical challenges that influence the state of the Baltic Sea. Identification of global challenges that are of importance for the Baltic Sea that HELCOM will put on the SAICM HAA agenda.
HL13	By 2028 develop further relevant monitoring for the biological effects of hazardous substances in order to facilitate a reliable ecosystem health assessment.
HL14	Encourage the use of alternative less toxic metals and other materials to replace lead in fishing gear and shooting bullets with the aim to minimize harmful use of metallic lead.
HL15	In order to decrease dioxin emissions, establish information campaigns and other instruments which focus on the quality and species of firewood, and what is burned in small-scale combustion appliances, by 2025.
HL16	Enhance implementation of the UNEP 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury by those Contracting Parties that are parties to this Convention and encourage its ratification by HELCOM countries that are not yet parties to the Convention.
HL17	Undertake all possible measures to reduce mercury emissions from the energy sector by 2028.
HL18	Control concentration of mercury in dredged material and undertake possible measures to prevent its release during dredging operations and handling of dredged material.
HL19	Introduce the ban of the use of mercury-based amalgam in dentistry by 2030, except when deemed strictly necessary.
HL20	Establish by 2023 and maintain procedures (rules) to handle mercury-containing wastes to prevent entering of the contaminant to the environment, including public information on the procedures (rules).
HL21	Introduce by 2027 measures based on the best available scientific knowledge and technologies to restrict the use and prevent releases of perfluorinated alkyl substances, phenolic compounds with endocrine disrupting effects and chlorinated paraffins.
HL22	Improve the knowledge base on occurrence of pharmaceutical substances in the environment, their persistence and harmful effects and ensure availability of this information for a broad expert community by 2025.
HL23	Identify priority pharmaceuticals by 2024 utilising the best available knowledge on their releases into the aquatic environment, environmental effects and available data on their use in the region, for efficient risk reduction and for subsequent integration of these substances to HELCOM assessments, as indicators of the state of the Baltic Sea and environmental pressure.

HL24	Develop guidance for the environmental monitoring and analysis of pharmaceuticals identified as indicators of the state of the Baltic Sea by 2025.
HL25	Organize an information campaign on what not to flush by 2025 (addressing chemicals, pharmaceuticals and litter).
HL26	Strengthen the collection of unused pharmaceuticals from the public in the Baltic Sea region by 2026.
HL27	In cooperation with health care institutions, increase awareness and knowledge of consumers about pharmaceuticals containing substances that are persistent and harmful for the environment, when scientifically justified information is available.
HL28	Address substances of emerging concern by commencing recurrent screening campaigns starting from 2021 including broad analytical techniques such as suspect screening and non-target screening methods.
HL29	Limit the use of firefighting foam containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at sea and in the catchment area and promote sustainable alternatives by 2027.
HL30	Minimize the release of biocides from antifouling products to the marine environment, and preferably by 2027 replace the use of biocidal antifouling products with biocide-free alternatives on structures, equipment and recreational craft in cases not already subject to the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships when available and environmentally and technically feasible.
HL31	Improve the evidence base on the impact of marine litter on the Baltic Sea region in order to develop and agree on new measures by 2025.
HL32	Agree on core indicators and harmonized monitoring methods to evaluate quantities, composition, distribution and sources (including riverine input), of marine litter, including microlitter, by 2022, where applicable and for the rest no later than 2026. Work should be done in close coordination with work undertaken by Contracting Parties in other relevant fora, such as the Technical Group on marine litter under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
S14	Carry out a study and impact assessment by 2025, assessing the possible ways for cargo ships to deliver sewage to port reception facilities (PRF) or take treatment measures, using onboard treatment plants, before discharging it into the sea. Based on the results, take relevant action in making a decision by 2027 on whether to widen the scope of the Baltic Sea Special Area regulations under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Annex IV to cover also sewage discharges from cargo ships.
S15	Carry out a study and impact assessment by 2027, assessing the volume and potential harmful effects of grey water and the possibilities for ships to deliver it to port reception facilities or take treatment measures using onboard treatment plants, before discharging it into the sea. Based on the results, take relevant action in making a decision by 2029 on whether and how to manage grey water discharges from ships.
S16	Carry out a study and impact assessment by 2026 to estimate and evaluate the volumes and impact of discharges of residues of noxious liquid substances contained in cargo tank washing waters under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Convention Annex II into the Baltic Sea. Based on the results, take relevant action by 2028 on whether and how to further limit discharges of residues of noxious liquid substances contained in cargo tank washing waters under MARPOL Annex II into the Baltic Sea.
S17	Study the adequacy and use of port reception facilities (PRF) for the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Convention Annex V cargo residues by 2024 and, based on this information, ensure adequate PRFs in Baltic Sea ports for cargo residues classified as non-HME substances under MARPOL Annex V and further ensure incentives for ships to use them by 2027.
S18	Develop a Roadmap to minimize the discharges of food waste into the Baltic Sea and subsequently develop by 2025 a HELCOM Recommendation to encourage voluntary agreements on delivering all food waste from ships to port reception facilities.

S19	Enforce the requirements of the Baltic Sea Special Area under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Convention Annex IV and continuously ensure the availability of adequate port reception facilities in passenger ports in the Baltic Sea Area taking into account the "Technical Guidance for the handling of wastewater in Ports of the Baltic Sea Special Area under MARPOL Annex IV".
S20	Ensure the no-special-fee system for marine litter applies to all passively fished waste by 2024.
S21	Develop and introduce best technologies, techniques and practices (BAT/BEP) to minimize nutrient losses from dry bulk fertilizer storage and handling in ports in the Baltic Sea region by 2024.
S22	Develop a Roadmap by 2025 to reduce the input of pollutants from Exhaust Gas Cleaning System discharge waters, as a minimum in line with existing legislation, taking into consideration the precautionary principle and the outcome of the work of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
S23	Develop a Roadmap to strengthen the implementation and enforcement of the Baltic Sea NOx Emission Control Area (NECA) by 2023 based on experience and lessons learned.
S24	Enhance the use of alternative fuels and sources of energy in shipping as well as recreational boating, as well as enhance the use of digitalization and other innovations in technology by 2027 to optimize energy efficiency in the Baltic Sea area with a view to reducing emissions of both greenhouse gases and air pollutants.
S25	Actively follow and contribute to the discussions at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction and ensure that ice navigation and its special requirements are duly taken into account. Ensure, through the work of the HELCOM Green Team, that shipping in the Baltic Sea area meets targets of the IMO GHG strategy by 2030 while at the same not impairing efforts on reducing air pollution or other environmental effects.
S26	Work towards securing ship financing and innovation funding to support more sustainable shipping and to ensure maritime transport components in applicable funding mechanisms.
S27	Enable onshore power in the Baltic Sea region by promoting onshore power supply availability and ensuring initial economic incentives for the use and supply of onshore power by 2027.
S28	Develop and facilitate implementation of feasible and effective economic incentives to reduce pollution from ships, taking into account HELCOM Recommendation 28E/13 as amended on 19 June 2019.
S29	Continue the dialogue established by the Baltic Sea Platform for Green Technology and Alternative fuels in shipping (HELCOM GREEN TEAM) and work jointly in co-operation with other regional governmental and non-governmental organizations, the industry and research community, to further promote development and use of green technologies and alternative fuels, in order to reduce harmful exhaust gas emissions and to strive for clean and low-carbon shipping.
S30	Further develop regional preparedness and response-related services by e.g. investigating options for upgrading SeaTrack Web to include live data feed in order to improve oil spill trajectory prognoses no later than by 2027. Investigate options to prepare SeaTrack Web for integration with the Clean Sea Net satellite detection service.
S31	Conduct a feasibility study by 2022 for, and as appropriate, undertake a risk analysis for oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) pollution of the marine environment in the Baltic Sea area by 2025.
S32	Develop a framework for holistic/integrated management of marine pollution incidents to enable coordinated response operations at sea and on shore by 2025.
S33	Strengthen mutual assistance for oiled wildlife response in the Baltic Region by 2025.
S34	Develop Best Environmental Practice (BEP) for comprehensive risk assessment of munitions, wrecks and hazardous submerged objects by 2025 and implement the Best Available Techniques (BAT) for environmentally sound and safe management by 2028.

S35	Maintain the HELCOM thematic assessment on hazardous submerged objects as a living document, including munitions and wrecks and regularly update the information in the HELCOM Map and Data Service by 2024.
S36	Implement the Multi-Regional Marine HNS Response Manual in operational response to spills involving hazardous and noxious substances as well as exercises by 2025.
S37	Commit to testing the procedures of the Multi-Regional Marine HNS Response Manual at BALEX 2022.
S38	Undertake monitoring and pollution risk assessment regarding species and habitats in the Baltic Region by 2026.
S57	Start working as soon as possible towards regionally coordinated actions on underwater noise, aiming in the long term towards addressing adverse effects of underwater noise on marine species identified as sensitive to noise, whilst safeguarding the potential of the Baltic Sea for sustainable human activities by: a. Supporting a swift implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Underwater Noise. b. Initiating and supporting pilot projects to study efficacy of vessel slowdown, rerouting and other operational measures, on noise emissions and responses of target species by the end of 2026. Results are to be communicated to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for follow-up and further action. c. By 2027 Mapping the contribution of recreational craft to the noise in the marine environment; supporting studies on efficiency of mitigation measures, such as speed limitations and time-area restrictions; and studies on impact from echo sounders and fish-finders. Based on available evidence and new results, developing guidelines for implementing regulations to reduce impact on sensitive species. Simultaneously, establishing a discussion with the industry and relevant international standardization bodies and aiming at developing industry or/and application standards for underwater noise emissions of engines with respect to recreational craft, echo-sounders and fish finders, which can be utilized in national regulation of activities in marine protected areas (MPAs) and other noise sensitive areas in the Baltic Sea.
S59	Reduce the impact of impulsive underwater noise on marine biodiversity.

Target 8

Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience

Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solution and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.

Code	BSAP action
HT1	Using the HELCOM/Baltic Earth Joint Expert Network on Climate Change as a platform and through committed implementation of the HELCOM Science Agenda, improve the access of policy-makers to scientific information on the impacts of climate change together with multiple other pressures on the Baltic Sea marine environment through periodic updates of the HELCOM Climate Change Fact Sheet, and incorporate the possible effect of climate change into the holistic assessment of status as well as effectiveness of measures by 2030 at latest.
HT2	Identify the needs and possibilities to further adapt HELCOM's policies and recommendations to account for effects and impacts on the environment under the changing climate and to develop and carry out a climate change policy review process as part of the work of HELCOM, starting e.g. with indicators and open recommendations.
HT3	HELCOM and its parties will continue to strive to develop the work at the HELCOM Secretariat and the organisation of HELCOM meetings so as to further minimize emissions of greenhouse gases.
HT4	Promote research that increases understanding of the role of the Baltic Sea land-sea system in the carbon cycle and identifies how mitigation by natural blue carbon processes can be maximised and implement suitable measures. Increased understanding should be utilised to enable consideration of additional management measures.
HT5	Develop a strategic approach to ocean acidification for the Baltic Sea with first steps addressing the knowledge gaps by 2025.
S24	Enhance the use of alternative fuels and sources of energy in shipping as well as recreational boating, as well as enhance the use of digitalization and other innovations in technology by 2027 to optimize energy efficiency in the Baltic Sea area with a view to reducing emissions of both greenhouse gases and air pollutants.
S25	Actively follow and contribute to the discussions at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction and ensure that ice navigation and its special requirements are duly taken into account. Ensure, through the work of the HELCOM Green Team, that shipping in the Baltic Sea area meets targets of the IMO GHG strategy by 2030 while at the same not impairing efforts on reducing air pollution or other environmental effects.
S26	Work towards securing ship financing and innovation funding to support more sustainable shipping and to ensure maritime transport components in applicable funding mechanisms.
S27	Enable onshore power in the Baltic Sea region by promoting onshore power supply availability and ensuring initial economic incentives for the use and supply of onshore power by 2027.

S28	Develop and facilitate implementation of feasible and effective economic incentives to reduce pollution from ships, taking into account HELCOM Recommendation 28E/13 as amended on 19 June 2019.
S29	Continue the dialogue established by the Baltic Sea Platform for Green Technology and Alternative fuels in shipping (HELCOM GREEN TEAM) and work jointly in co-operation with other regional governmental and non-governmental organizations, the industry and research community, to further promote development and use of green technologies and alternative fuels, in order to reduce harmful exhaust gas emissions and to strive for clean and low-carbon shipping.
E13	Develop by 2025 recommendations for Best Available Technology (BAT)/Best Environmental Practice (BEP) to reduce ammonia and greenhouse gas emissions from livestock housing, manure storage and spreading.

Target 10

Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry

Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services .

Code	BSAP action
E9	Promote organic farming to increase its proportion to at least 25% of agricultural land by 2030.
E19	Apply innovative water management measures where appropriate, for example, lime filter ditches, sediment traps and controlled drainage, and nature-based solutions, such as two-level ditches and constructed wetlands, when upgrading and renovating agricultural drainage systems.

Target 11

Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People

Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as regulation of air, water, and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature.

Code	BSAP action
B1	By 2030 at the latest, establish a resilient, regionally coherent, effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected system of HELCOM marine protected areas (MPAs), supported by those other spatial conservation measures, under alternative regimes for marine protection, which can contribute to the coherence of the network. Where scientifically justified, special attention should be given to offshore areas beyond territorial waters. The network of marine protected areas will: — cover at least 30% of the marine area of the Baltic Sea, of which at least 1/3 will be strictly protected. Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) could be counted towards the 30% targets only if they, as a minimum, comply with the OECM criteria agreed by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). — where scientifically justified, consider including no-use zones within marine protected areas, which can also serve as scientific reference areas. — expand conservation efforts to actively include areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, including important ecosystem elements such as species or areas recognized to be ecologically significant based on function for the ecosystem/provisioning of ecosystem services and broad habitat types, but which may not necessarily be rare or threatened.
B2	By 2022 come to a common understanding of the Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) criteria and their use in HELCOM, based on definitions agreed in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the EU, and define how OECMs can support the coherence of the Baltic Sea marine protected area (MPA) network. By 2025 identification of OECMs in the Baltic Sea region.
B3	By 2030 strengthen the management of the Baltic Sea marine protected area (MPA) network by introducing key elements into management efforts, including but not limited to those highlighted here, to increase effectiveness of protection, including by providing support to Baltic Sea MPA managers through capacity building e.g., through annual workshops. By 2023 update, and by 2025, apply HELCOM MPA management guidelines with focus on: a. Assessments and evaluation methodology and structures for management effectiveness; b. Setting quantitative conservation objectives; c. Effective conservation measures that reduce pressures; d. Establishment of indicators to monitor management performance and status of conservation features; e. Establishment of a common monitoring strategy and evaluation of conservation features and pressures; f. Adaptive management.
B4	By 2026 nationally ensure that marine protected area (MPA) management plans and/or measures are legally binding and ensure appropriate structures are in place to enforce compliance in order to achieve their conservation objectives.

B5	Develop, implement and share information on effective management measures, including measures to ensure compliance/control measures, to reduce the impact of fisheries inside marine protected areas (MPAs) in order to contribute to achieving their conservation objectives.
B6	The coherence of the marine protected area (MPA) network will be periodically assessed at least every ten years, with the next such assessment to be carried out by 2025. By 2027 the results from the coherence assessment are to be used to take appropriate actions to ensure conservation and resilience of biodiversity, and to identify possible spatial conservation expansion needs to improve coherence.
B7	Ensure that by 2030 the HELCOM marine protected area (MPA) network amongst other things provides specific protection to species and biotopes listed as regionally threatened or near threatened in the HELCOM Red Lists.
B8	By 2022 at the latest, specify knowledge gaps on all threats to the Baltic Proper harbour porpoise population, and by 2023 for the western Baltic population, including by-catch and areas of high by-catch risk, underwater noise, contaminants and prey depletion. Knowledge gaps related to areas of high by-catch risk are to be addressed and by 2028 at the latest additional areas of high by-catch risk for both Baltic Sea populations are to be determined. To strengthen the Baltic harbour porpoise population, by 2025 identify possible mitigation measures for threats other than by-catch and implement such measures as they become available.
B9	By 2024 assess the status of the Haploops species and the biotopes, as well as key threats and, if relevant based on the assessment, by 2026 develop a joint conservation plan for Haploops species including jointly agreed measures to improve the status of the species and biotopes, to be implemented by 2028.
B10	Include information on functional and life history traits for the species in the HELCOM Biodiversity Database, by 2024.
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.
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.
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.
B14	By 2027 assess the effectiveness of conservation efforts to protect waterbirds against threats and pressures.
B15	Develop and coordinate monitoring and assessment methods, where ecologically relevant, for specified representative coastal fish species, populations and communities, by 2023. Based on these assessment methods, to regularly assess the state of the coastal fish community through selected coastal fish species and groups, including threatened species, by at latest 2023. Based on the results of the assessment, develop and implement management measures with the ambition to maintain or improve the status of coastal fish species, including migratory species by 2027.
B16	To strengthen native strains and to reinstate migratory fish species: — By 2023 identify rivers where management measures for migratory fish species, including eel, would have the greatest positive impact. — Starting from 2023, in line with relevant international commitments, iteratively review and prioritize effective mitigation measures in the identified rivers and/or dams, including removal of dams and migration barriers where relevant and possible, especially in small waterways. — Develop and implement habitat restoration plans of spawning sites for anadromous species in relevant rivers by 2025.

B17	With the aim to protect and restore eel populations, determine which measures set out in the Convention on the Conservation Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), EU Eel Regulation and other relevant instruments would benefit from regional cooperation on a Baltic-wide level. Finalize by 2024 and implement by 2025 a Baltic coordinated programme of such measures.
B18	Restore functional populations of Baltic sturgeon by 2029 implementing the HELCOM Baltic Sea Sturgeon Action Plan.
B19	By 2023 finalise and implement national or local conservation and/or management plans for grey seals.
B20	By 2023 finalise and implement national conservation and/or management plans for ringed seals.
B21	By 2025 protect the ringed seal in the Gulf of Finland, including to significantly reduce by-catch and to improve the understanding of the other direct threats on the seals, and urge transboundary co-operation between Estonia, Finland and Russia to support achieving a viable population of ringed seals in the Gulf.
B22	Update the HELCOM Red List Assessments by 2024, including identifying the main individual and cumulative pressures and underlying human activities affecting the red listed species.
B23	By 2025 develop, and by 2027 implement, and enforce compliance with ecologically relevant conservation plans or other relevant programmes or measures, limiting direct and indirect pressures stemming from human activities for threatened and declining species. These will include joint or regionally agreed conservation measures for migrating species.
B24	Develop tools for and regularly assess the effectiveness of other conservation measures for species besides marine protected areas (MPAs), with the first assessment to be done by 2025, as well as assess the effect on species through risk and status assessments by 2029.
B25	Map ecosystem services and the present and potential spatial distribution of key ecosystem components, including habitat forming species such as bladder wrack, eelgrass, blue mussel and stoneworts Baltic-wide, by 2025.
HT18	By 2023, identify potential uses of ecosystem services assessment and valuation, further develop and apply regionally coordinated methods in support of analyses of ecosystem services and provide an initial demonstration of how they can be used in policy development.

Target 14

Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-Making at Every Level

Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework.

Code	BSAP action
HT19	By 2028, apply the framework of ecosystem accounting to assess the contributions of marine ecosystems to economic activity (e.g. Gross domestic product (GDP)) using values that are compatible with the system of national accounts and comparable with other economic sectors.

Target 16

Enable Sustainable Consumption Choices To Reduce Waste and Overconsumption

Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make sustainable consumption choices including by establishing supportive policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks, improving education and access to relevant and accurate information and alternatives, and by 2030, reduce the global footprint of consumption in an equitable manner, including through halving global food waste, significantly reducing overconsumption and substantially reducing waste generation, in order for all people to live well in harmony with Mother Earth.

Code	BSAP action
HL5	Decrease the emissions of hazardous substances from small scale emitters in urban areas (municipal entities, businesses and private households) by chemical-smart purchasing strategies, substitution and awareness raising campaigns.
HL7	Launch educational and information campaigns by 2025 to raise public awareness regarding responsible handling of hazardous substances in household chemicals and articles to prevent their release into the environment.
HL25	Organize an information campaign on what not to flush by 2025 (addressing chemicals, pharmaceuticals and litter).
HL26	Strengthen the collection of unused pharmaceuticals from the public in the Baltic Sea region by 2026.
HL27	In cooperation with health care institutions, increase awareness and knowledge of consumers about pharmaceuticals containing substances that are persistent and harmful for the environment, when scientifically justified information is available.

Target 18

Reduce Harmful Incentives by at Least $500 Billion per Year, and Scale Up Positive Incentives for Biodiversity

Identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, while substantially and progressively reducing them by at least 500 billion United States dollars per year by 2030, starting with the most harmful incentives, and scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Code	BSAP action
HT21	By 2025 identify incentives to reduce pressures on the marine environment, including public and private economic and regulatory incentives, and by 2030 increase the use of incentives and fill possible gaps.
HT22	By 2025 HELCOM should identify subsidies or incentives which are harmful for the marine environment and, by 2030 work, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, on phasing out such subsidies or incentives.

Target 21

Ensure That Knowledge Is Available and Accessible To Guide Biodiversity Action

Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge, are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent[1], in accordance with national legislation.

[1] Free, prior and informed consent refers to the tripartite terminology of "prior and informed consent" or "free, prior and informed consent" or "approval and involvement.

Code	BSAP action
HT27	Increase knowledge exchange and awareness raising to promote public and stakeholder support and interest in understanding the state of the Baltic Sea and threats to its environment as well as promote opportunities for the general public to participate in citizen science.
HT6	Regularly review, and as necessary revise HELCOM monitoring programmes (once per six years), including the level of regional coordination, in line with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) reporting cycle, to adjust them to the latest technical and scientific developments for a cost-effective joint monitoring, which fully supports the indicator-based assessment approach and monitoring of the implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, and is in line with other international monitoring and reporting requirements.
HT7	The validity of HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy and Data and Information Strategy should be reviewed within two years after updating the BSAP and revised as needed.
HT8	Ensure all HELCOM monitoring programs are regionally coordinated by 2026.

Summary

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