



## Workplan of the HELCOM-Baltic Earth Expert Network on Climate Change (EN Clime), 2025-2026

Approved by the HELCOM Working Group on the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach via correspondence in June 2025.

No	Task	Lead, responsible bodies and interlinked activities	Next steps and comments	Output
<b>Theme: Climate change</b>				
1	(BSAP 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 <b>periodic updates of the HELCOM Climate Change Fact Sheet</b> , and <b>incorporate</b> the possible <b>effect of climate change into the holistic assessment of status as well as effectiveness of measures</b> by 2030 at latest. (Joint)	<b>Lead: EN Clime</b>  Responsible: WG GEAR  Contributing: WG BioDiv, WG Landbased, WG Sea-based pressures, WG Fish, EG MaMa, EG Benthic, EG Phyto, EG Zoo, JWG Bird, [EG Coastal Fish]	2025: support the preparation of possible additional parameters, using the established CCFS procedure.  2025: initiative planning the next full update of the CCFS	<b>By 2030</b> full update of the HELCOM Climate Change Fact Sheet has been finalized.  <b>By [2028]</b> Possible effects of climate change have been incorporated in the holistic assessment of status and effectiveness of measures
2	(BSAP 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 <b>develop and carry out a climate change policy review process</b> as part of the work of HELCOM, starting e.g. with indicators and open recommendations. (Joint)	Lead: Recommendation leads, lead for different policies needed.  Responsible: WG GEAR  <b>Contributing: EN Clime</b>		<b>By 2030</b> a process for adapting HELCOM's policies and recommendations to account for effects and impacts on the environment under the changing climate is developed and agreed.  <b>By 2030</b> climate change review process is included as an integral part of all HELCOM policy review processes.

3	<p>(BSAP HT4) Promote research that increases understanding of the <b>role of the Baltic Sea land-sea system in the carbon cycle</b> and identifies how mitigation by natural blue carbon processes can be maximized and implement suitable measures. Increased understanding should be utilized to enable consideration of additional management measures.</p> <p>(national/joint)</p>	<p>Lead: No lead necessary</p> <p>Responsible: WG GEAR</p> <p><b>Contributing: EN Clime</b></p>	<p>For WG GEAR: Analyze the action components and identify possible individual steps for implementation and identify the most appropriate groups to take the work forward. Discuss how to promote research nationally/regionally.</p> <p>List financing initiatives that have been put in place under each country.</p>	<p><b>By 2030</b> Understanding has been improved e.g. through the financing of relevant research projects. (National)</p> <p>The improved knowledge base has been utilized to review and, if relevant, identify additional management measures. (Joint)</p>
4	<p>(BSAP HT5) Develop a <b>strategic approach to ocean acidification</b> for the Baltic Sea with first steps addressing the knowledge gaps by 2025.</p> <p>(Joint)</p>	<p>Lead: Finland?</p> <p>Responsible: WG GEAR</p> <p><b>Contributing: WG BioDiv, EN Clime</b></p>	<p>Utilize existing approaches from other areas when developing the strategic approach.</p>	<p><b>By 2026</b> knowledge gaps in relation to ocean acidification in the Baltic Sea have been identified.</p> <p><b>By 202X</b><sup>i</sup> identified knowledge gaps in relation to ocean acidification in the Baltic Sea have been addressed.</p> <p><b>By end of 202X</b><sup>i</sup> a strategic approach to ocean acidification for the Baltic Sea has been developed and adopted.</p>

---

<sup>i</sup> timing will be determined based on the approval of the strategic approach