



Document title	Collated information on national priority habitats
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Background

According to the Terms of Reference for the HELCOM Expert Network on Benthic habitats, workplan item 1.2, the network should facilitate common approach for identifying habitats in relevant classification systems (HUB; EUNIS and N2000) that exist in several/most HELCOM countries in order to prioritize future work for mapping and assessment.

According to the workplan item 4.2, the network should recommend a list of biotopes or habitats of regional interest representing all relevant broad habitat types. The network is to collect a list of national priority habitats, organized according to sub basins/assessment units to be shared and discussed with the group, and agree on a list of habitats of regional interest to be presented to State and Conservation.

To initiate the task, the Contracting Parties were invited to collate a list of national priority habitats/habitats of national interest, using definitions under HUB/HELCOM Habitat and Biotope Complexes/Habitats Directive, organized according to assessment unit, by 31 May 2019, using a template provided by the Secretary.

Attachment 1 to this document contains the information on national priority habitats/ habitats of national interest as reported by the Contracting Parties to the Secretariat. The last sheet of the excel file contains the collated information from responses received from Estonia, Germany and Poland.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the collated information on national priority habitats.

Those Contracting Parties that have not yet sent the information on national priority habitats to the Secretariat are invited to fill the excel [template](#) and send the responses to the Secretariat (laura.hoikkala@helcom.fi).

The Meeting is invited to consider how to proceed in identifying a collection of habitats (HUB and N2000) that exist in several/most HELCOM countries and in agreeing on a list of habitats of regional interest.