



Document title	HELCOM work on climate change
Code	5 - 6
Category	INF
Agenda Item	5 - Ecosystem-based approach in MSP
Submission date	15.3.2019
Submitted by	HELCOM Secretariat
Reference	

Background

HELCOM 2018 Brussels Ministerial Meeting highlighted the importance of linking HELCOM's work more strongly to climate change and especially the need to account for climate change in the process of updating the BSAP. HOD 55-2018 considered and approved the draft structure and process of HELCOM climate change work, the draft Terms of Reference for EN CLIME ([outcome HOD 55-2018, Annex 8](#)) and the proposed work plan (**Annex 1**).

EN CLIME 2-2019 agreed on the structure of climate change fact sheets, their content and scope as given in **attachments 1 and 2 to this document**. Experts also discussed uncertainty of the parameters and temporal range of their assessment. The Meeting suggested that 20 - 30 year ranges should be used, instead of certain years, which is the common practice in climate modelling. The Meeting further noted that the further into the future the ranges go the more uncertainty can be associated with the predictions, e.g. 2070-2100 is very uncertain and very far for policy relevant texts and planning purposes, and thus a closer and a mid-time range should also be included.

HELCOM VASAB MSP 17-2018 took note of the information on the dedicated HELCOM work on climate change. The Meeting welcomed the initiative to bring climate change related issues to the HELCOM- VASAB MSP group's agenda and highlighted the value of regionally coherent approach to the climate change scenarios. The Meeting agreed to return to the discussion on how the issue is considered in national MSPs at the next HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG meeting.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to exchange national experiences of accounting of climate change parameters in MSP and agree on the next steps to identify climate change parameters of regional significance for MSP.

Annex 1: Work Plan of EN CLIME

This work plan is valid for a three year period (beginning January 2019) and is to be reviewed and revised by the network and approved by the HELCOM State and Conservation Working Group and Baltic Earth Science Steering Group. The proposed process has been elaborated in close cooperation with the Baltic Earth Science Steering Group Chair.

Note that the first meeting of the network is preliminarily planned for 29 January 2019 and will be an online meeting.

Action	2018	2019			2020				2021				
	Q 4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q 4
Map identified parameters to expertise under the different organisations. (Baltic Earth/HELCOM Secretariat/HELCOM WGs)													
Engage the experts (Baltic Earth experts and additional experts based on identified needs and gaps) to take part in EN CLIMEs work to provide up-to-date supporting material and key messages addressing the identified parameters													
Nominated experts for the network by 22 January 2019.													
First meeting of EN CLIME (29 January 2019, online)													
Agree on the content and scope of the fact sheet (EN CLIME with HELCOM Secretariat-> S&C).													
Summarize and simplify draft key messages from already existing material and provide confidence assessments of draft key messages (EN CLIME).													
Simultaneously produce supporting material for the key messages, e.g. in the form of publications or thematic assessments. (EN CLIME)													
Peer review the collated key messages (using existing peer review structure within Baltic Earth, expanded to cover additional parameters as needed)													

Revise the key messages in light of peer review comments. (EN CLIME and HELCOM Secretariat)													
Where needed, revise the draft key messages based on the updated information in the supporting material. (EN CLIME)													
Peer review the draft key messages (using existing peer review structure within Baltic Earth, expanded to cover additional parameters as needed)													
Present draft key messages to State and Conservation for endorsement. (State and Conservation WG)													
Present product to Heads of Delegation for approval													
Publish fact sheet and supporting materials. (HELCOM Secretariat)													
Joint launch event(s). BalticEye Baltic Sea Breakfast													
Contribution by EN CLIME to BSAP update													