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Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
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Background

In accordance with the decision by HOD 55-2018, the eleventh Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019) will be convened on 21-25 October 2019 in Riga, Latvia, at the premises of Ministry of Environmental Protection and regional Development of Latvia (Peldu iela 25, Riga).

The Meeting will start on **Monday 21 October 2019 at 10.00** and is expected to end on **Friday 25 October 2019 at 15.00**. In accordance with the decision of STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 (Outcome para 9J.2), the Meeting will focus on a Joint and Nature conservation Sessions, while STATE & CONSERVATION 12-2020 will focus on a Joint and a Monitoring and Assessment Sessions. Monday to Wednesday 10.30 will be dedicated to joint themes (Agenda Items 1J-11J), and Wednesday 11.00 to Friday 15.00 is planned for issues related to biodiversity and nature conservation (Agenda Item 1N-7N).

Focal items of the meeting are to:

- **Joint session:** update process of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, taking into account the measures and actions under the BSAP and relevant recommendations as well as international commitments and implementation of the current Baltic Sea Action Plan. Initiate planning for the HOLAS III project and considering future work on HELCOM indicators. Consider the work of and provide guidance to Expert Groups under the WG, including strategic discussions on establishing Expert Groups.
- **Nature conservation session:** discuss ongoing work related to recommendations under the Working Group, including revising Recommendation 17/2 and initiating implementation of Recommendation 40/1, discuss and plan future work related to marine protected areas, as well as the updated draft designation guidelines and, and share information on ongoing work in relation to the EU Habitats and Birds Directives.

Meeting documents will be submitted by the Secretariat to the [document library](#) of the [STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019 Meeting Site](#) via the [HELCOM Meeting Portal](#). The Secretariat has prepared a [document template](#) and recommends using the template when submitting documents to the Secretariat.

The Secretariat kindly requests the Contracting Parties and Observers to observe the deadlines for submission of documents to a HELCOM meeting. Basic documents and documents requiring action or a decision to the Meeting should be submitted in electronic format to Professional Secretary, Jannica Haldin

(jannica.haldin@helcom.fi) by **25 September 2019**, at the latest. Documents containing comments to the basic documents as well as information documents should be provided to the Secretariat by **9 October 2019**.

Participants are kindly requested to register for the Meeting by answering the [Participation Survey](#) at their earliest convenience, and **not later than 11 October 2019**. Instructions for the use of the Meeting Portal are available on the [HELCOM Website](#).

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Joint session

Agenda Item 1J Adoption of the Agenda: Joint themes

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda, as contained in document 1-1.

Agenda Item 2J Matters of relevance for the Meeting and information from the Secretariat

HELCOM

The Secretariat will inform the Meeting of the outcomes of relevant recent HELCOM meetings (document to be submitted later).

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 took note of proceedings on the draft Roadmap on collection of fisheries data in order to assess incidental by-catches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea. The Meeting noted that there is an upcoming online meeting on the 15 May to finalize the Roadmap in order to send it to FISH 10-2019 in June. The Meeting further noted that the intention is to provide the finalized Roadmap for STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019.

FISH 10-2019, having drafted and agreed on a new text for Chapter 5 of the draft Roadmap, and having made some additional minor amendments to the draft set out in document 6-1, agreed on the final version of the Roadmap as contained in Annex 3 to the outcome of that meeting. The meeting also agreed that there should be a strong link with the Roadmap and the update of the BSAP.

FISH 10-2019 agreed that the agreed Roadmap should be submitted for agreement also to STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019 (October 2019), as Chapter 1 of the Roadmap requests State & Conservation to ensure that the collected data serve the scientific purpose of the HELCOM indicators. The Meeting further proposed that the draft Roadmap should subsequently be submitted to HOD 57-2019 for approval and HELCOM 41-2020 for adoption.

The Meeting is invited to discuss and agree on the Roadmap (document to be submitted later), with the intention of submitting the roadmap to HOD 57-2019 for approval and HELCOM 41-2020 for adoption.

Agenda Item 8J Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and associated activities.

Existing HELCOM actions; follow-up of progress, continued work on tentative rephrasing (work plan activity 1.1)

State and Conservation 10-2019 initiated the task to identify existing HELCOM actions in need of rephrasing in case they are not implemented by 2021 and agreed on a categorization of actions in terms of degree of revision needs (para 8J.27, document 8J-4 rev.1).

The Meeting is invited to follow-up and make further plans for the implementation of existing HELCOM actions and work further on the rephrasing of actions that are not likely implemented by 2021 (document to be submitted at a later stage).

Continued work to concretize agreements from HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2018 (work plan activity 2.4)

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 took note of the initial evaluation of the paragraphs from the Ministerial Declaration 2018 relevant for the WG which might warrant more concrete formulation and targets for implementation, as well as the list of actions that have been evaluated as formulated too general to be followed-up (document 8J-3 to that meeting). The meeting agreed to finalize the task followingly: The Contracting Parties will send concrete proposals to the actions contained in document 8J-3 to the Secretariat by 31 May, the Secretariat will collate the comments and make a preliminary sorting of the proposals after which they will send them to State and Conservation by 14 June. Depending on the proposals received an online Meeting can be organized to agree on the further development of the actions in late August 2019. The proposals will be submitted to STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019 for approval.

An online meeting will be held on the 2 September to work further on the document and to assign lead countries to the further development of the actions (document to be submitted later).

Contracting Parties are invited to consider taking lead on concretizing the actions outlined in the document.

The Meeting is invited to consider and agree on the concretization of agreement from the Ministerial Declaration 2018, noting that the proposals will be submitted for consideration by HOD 57-2019.

Finalization of proposal on ecological and management objectives for the updated BSAP (work plan activity 2.2)

State and Conservation 10-2019 initiated the review of existing ecological objective and development of new ecological and management objectives for the updated BSAP. With regard to biodiversity objectives Contracting Parties were invited to provide further comments intersessionally.

The Meeting is invited to provide comments to ecological and management objectives that have been worked on by other Working Groups.

The Meeting is invited to further work on and agree on a proposed set of ecological and management objectives for biodiversity (document to be submitted later), noting that the proposals will be submitted for consideration by HOD 56-2019.

Guidance and validation of work under the SOM Platform (work plan activity 2.5)

The HELCOM SOM Platform, established by HOD 55-2018, organizes an analysis of existing measures to improve the Baltic Sea with the aim to identify potential gaps in the achievement of GES. The status of biological components is to be covered in the analyses. The work was initially planned to be based on a Lead country approach and the establishment of Topic Teams. State and Conservation 10-2019 recognized that no offers had been made to lead the work and supported an approach where existing HELCOM network and expert groups have been engaged in the work. Results from the meeting EG MAMA 13-2018 and OSPAR/HELCOM/ICES JWG Birds will be presented to the meeting.

The Meeting is invited to take note that similar evaluations will be made for benthic habitats at BENTHIC 3-2019 (14-15 November) and that there are plans for a workshop to support the analyses of sufficiency of measures for fish, tentatively in November 2019 in Warsaw (para 3.33, Outcome of Fish 10-2019).

The Meeting is invited to validate the outcome of EG MAMA and JWG Birds with regard to evaluating the effectiveness of measures to protect mammals and estimates of pressure-state response for mammals.

Review and guidance of activities under the HELCOM ACTION project

HELCOM ACTION project is running in 2019-2020 with the aim to evaluate the effect of measures for selected topic and thereby contribute to the SOM analyses work of the update of the BSAP. The State and Conservation Group is to review and guide the work for a sub-set of work-packages under the ACTION project.

The Meeting is invited to provide comments to the work carried out under:

1.1.1. WP 2 Restoration of benthic habitats

1.1.2. WP3 Effectiveness of marine protected areas

1.1.3. WP 5 Conditions that influence GES

(document to be submitted later)

HELCOM Science Agenda

HELCOM 40-2019 agreed to develop a HELCOM Science Agenda concomitantly with update of the BSAP. HELCOM Working Groups and expert groups, networks etc have been invited to provide input to the development of the science agenda through a survey on knowledge and research needs. The input received from State and Conservation contacts and associated networks will be consolidated (document to be submitted later). HOD 56-2019 agreed to establish a Task Group that will use the input from subsidiary bodies to further develop the HELCOM Science Agenda which is envisioned to take the form of a report (para 2.32, Outcome HOD 56-2019).

The Meeting is invited to consider the received input, consolidate the input as needed, and agree that it can be used as basis for the further development of a HELCOM Science Agenda.

Reporting on HELCOM Recommendations (work plan activity 2.3).

The Meeting is invited to consider the level of implementation for the Recommendations under State and Conservation and discuss possible reasons behind lower level of implementation for certain Recommendations (document to be submitted later).

Agenda Item 3J HELCOM indicators and assessments

HELCOM indicator review process

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcomes of the first indicator workshop, which considered four major topics: priority topics for future work, pertinent information to form an indicator management document, appropriate information to provide to HOD 56-2019 (i.e. an update on progress and a plan forward), and the content and approach for the second indicator workshop.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcomes of the second indicator workshop, which took place 16-18 October. The purpose of the second workshop was to establish proposals for the short- and long-term development/adjustment work on HELCOM indicators, define the plan toward the HOLAS III assessment – indicators and related overall holistic integrated assessment of the Baltic Sea, establish proposals for a clearly defined HELCOM indicator system capable of supporting the objectives of the updated BSAP and the outlined policy requirements, and to engage in a final discussion on priorities within topics and between topics at policy level.

The Meeting is invited to consider and endorse the proposed direction of further work on HELCOM indicators, noting that the plan for future work on HELCOM indicators will be reviewed and endorsed by GEAR 21-2019 with the intention to submit it to HOD 57-2019 for approval. Further input can be provided to the national GEAR contacts.

OSPAR-HELCOM Workshop on bycatch indicators

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcomes of the joint OSPAR-HELCOM workshop to examine possibilities for developing indicators for incidental by-catch of birds and marine mammals, which will take place on the 3-5 September in Copenhagen.

Continued development of HELCOM core indicators

The Meeting is invited to take note of the updated information on indicator lead and co-lead countries, the nominated experts appointed for their development and the development status of the indicators (document to be submitted later).

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 took note of information that Sweden will no longer be able to lead the work on the oxygen debt indicator.

The Contracting Parties are invited to consider taking over the lead for the indicator.

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 took note that the German lead for the phytoplankton indicator Diatom/Dinoflagellate index is planning to retire next year and the question of succession is currently open.

The Meeting is invited to take note of information by Germany on any proceedings on the matter.

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 considered resourcing of eutrophication test assessment development. The meeting invited IN EUTRO, together with relevant ICES representatives, to develop a project proposal which, should national funding to cover the project costs be secured, is to be presented to HELCOM Heads of Delegation for final approval. The meeting welcomed the offer by Sweden to provide national co-financing for the proposed work and the offer by Germany to explore the possibility to provide co-financing.

The Meeting is invited to take note that HOD 56-2019 welcomed the information that Germany can provide the additional funding needed to take the project work for further development of HELCOM eutrophication test assessment forward and agreed that a project proposal outlining the planned work will be provided to HOD

intersessionally for approval, with the intention to enable the work to commence in autumn 2019 (document to be submitted later).

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 took note that the EG MAMA health team will hold a physical meeting for the whole Health Team on the 14th to 15th of August 2019 in Büsum, Germany.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcomes of the meeting.

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 discussed the white-tailed sea eagle indicator and took note that Sweden is no longer able to act as sole lead country for the indicator. The meeting welcomed the information from Finland that they will explore the possibility to provide a co-lead role.

The Meeting is invited to take note of information by Finland regarding progress in the matter.

Agenda Item 4J Monitoring guidelines for biota

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 considered the updated guideline for coastal fish monitoring, and the minor technical edits to the guidelines from Denmark. The meeting further edited the guidelines, and agreed that all information pertaining to current national monitoring is to be moved into an annex to the guidelines, while the guidelines themselves should focus on presenting best practices guidelines for monitoring. The meeting in principle endorsed the guidelines, including the requested amendment, and their publication on the HELCOM webpages.

The Meeting is invited to take note that the guidelines have been published on the HELCOM webpages.

Leads and co-leads for monitoring guidelines

*The Meeting is invited to take note of and, if needed, update the information on lead and co-lead countries for HELCOM Monitoring Program topics (**document 4J-1**).*

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 took note that, due to current lack of personnel resources, Sweden invited other Contracting Parties consider to co-lead the work on the development of 'monitoring guidelines on marine bird health'

The Meeting is invited to share progress regarding the possibilities to co-lead the development of the guidelines.

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 took note of the information by Germany that, due to resource limitations, Germany invites other Contracting Parties to consider offering co-lead, assistance or take over the lead for some of the 17 Guidelines currently led by Germany. The Meeting agreed to include the list of these guidelines as annex (Annex 3) of the Outcome.

Contracting Parties are invited to consider if they have capacity to take some of the guidelines.

Agenda Item 5J Development and implementation of Recommendations

The Meeting is invited to take note of the overview of Recommendation reporting deadlines as prepared by the Secretariat (document to be provided later).

[RECOMMENDATION 21/3 SUSTAINABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TOURISM IN THE COASTAL ZONES OF THE BALTIC SEA AREA](#)

HOD 55-2018 meeting took note of the proposal of STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018 that HELCOM Recommendation 21/3 on sustainable and environmentally friendly tourism in the coastal zones of the Baltic Sea area will be deleted and the efforts will be focused on reviewing and updating the guidelines on sustainable tourism. HOD 55-2018 noted the study reservation by Poland on the deletion of the recommendation prior to the finalization of the guidelines and agreed to come back to the consideration regarding the deletion of the recommendation once the guidelines on sustainable tourism have been developed.

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 recalled that the Contracting Parties were invited to provide proposals on what should be included into the guidelines to Latvia by 28 February 2019. The Meeting noted that the relevant Latvian representative was not available to present the progress.

Latvia is invited to report on the responses and to present a proposed plan for the task at the Meeting.

The Meeting is invited to agree on the next steps in the development on guidelines.

Reporting on the Recommendation

Lead country for this Recommendation is Latvia.

Reporting format exists (List of 7 questions) for this Recommendation but reporting interval on the implementation on this Recommendation has not been specified. There has been no reporting on the implementation of this Recommendation since its adoption in 2000.

[RECOMMENDATION 24/10 IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED MARINE AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA](#)

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 took note of initial proposals for closer cooperation with HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG. The meeting welcomed the initiative for closer cooperation with HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and supported the idea of organizing a scoping workshop. The meeting took note that Finland has recently arranged a similar workshop providing a platform for closer cooperation with planners nationally and invited Finland to present the results of the work when it becomes available.

The Meeting is invited to take note of any update on the results of the Finnish workshop.

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 noted that as a next step, the Secretariat will approach the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG with the proposal for a joint scoping workshop.

The Meeting is invited to take note of progress regarding the workshop and the recently started HELCOM MSP Platform project for capacity building.

Agenda Item 6J Baltic Sea Environment Fact Sheets

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 noted that not many Contracting Parties are monitoring bacterial plankton growth and hence developing an “Bacterioplankton growth” indicator is not currently feasible. The meeting agreed to contact the experts responsible for the BSEFS on whether the fact sheet can continue to be updated. The Meeting noted that the BSEFS should be kept and updated if possible as supporting information.

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 agreed that PEG group will be contacted regarding the BSEFS that were identified by STATE & CONSERVATION and IN EUTROPHICATION to be related to expertise of the group, with the intention to get the groups input on what to include in the actions section for the BSEFS on cyanobacterial biomass and how to take the work forward.

The Leads of the BSEFS with agreed actions who have not yet reported to STATE & CONSERVATION on their progress are invited to do so.

The Meeting is invited to take note of updated document for agreed actions on BSEFS.

*The Contracting Parties are invited to provide information on any changes or updates to the Fact Sheets to the Secretariat (laura.hoikkala@helcom.fi) by **25 September 2019**.*

The Meeting is invited to take note of the updates to the existing HELCOM Baltic Sea Environment Fact Sheets since STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 meeting (document to be submitted later).

The Meeting is invited to consider and approve the publication of any new fact sheets.

Agenda Item 7J Progress of relevant HELCOM expert groups and projects

Expert Network on Hazardous Substances (EN HAZ)

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 considered the need for work related to munition and litter related releases of hazardous substances and the role of EN-HZ in that work. The meeting agreed that cooperation between EN HZ, EN LITTER and SUBMERGED, as well as any relevant projects, to explore these issues would be valuable, that any double work should be avoided, and invited EN-HZ to explore what data is available and propose a valid way forward to address the issue.

The Meeting is invited to take note of progress on the matter by EN HAZ.

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 considered proposals by EN HAZ to further develop aspects related to biological effects of hazardous substances. The meeting concluded that gaining a greater understanding of existing monitoring, available data, and national developments related to the topic would be the most appropriate initial step. The meeting agreed that a questionnaire should be developed and provided to State and Conservation WG to distribute to the relevant national experts. The resulting information would then be used to help prioritize the current candidate indicators. The meeting took note of the proposal that after a prioritization exercise a future workshop on the prioritized topics could be arranged.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the questionnaire prepared by Germany and Sweden, and provide input as needed.

Phytoplankton Expert Group (PEG)

The Meeting is invited to take note that HOD 56-2019 approved the revised project proposal for Quality assurance of phytoplankton monitoring in the Baltic Sea (HELCOM PEG QA) 2020-2022 and to take note of how the project plan outlines the work of the group regarding HELCOM indicators (document to be submitted later).

Expert Group on Sturgeon Remediation (EG STUR)

The Meeting is invited to take note that HOD 56-2019 considered the draft Terms of Reference for the HELCOM Expert Group on Sturgeon Remediation (EG STUR) and approved the establishment of the HELCOM Sturgeon EG.

HELCOM- Baltic Earth Expert Network on Climate Change (EN CLIME)

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of the first physical meeting of EN CLIME (EN CLIME 3-2019), which took place 19 August and note the progress towards a Climate Change Fact Sheet (document to be submitted later).

Intersessional network for eutrophication (IN EUTRO)

The Meeting is invited to take note that HOD 56-2019 took note of a project proposal for further development of HELCOM Eutrophication test assessment. The meeting welcomed the information that Germany can provide the additional funding needed to take the project work for further development of HELCOM eutrophication test assessment forward. The meeting agreed that a project proposal outlining the planned work will be provided to HOD intersessionally for approval, with the intention to enable the work to commence in autumn 2019.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the result of the intersessional approval process and the planned work (document to be submitted later).

Expert Network on Benthic Habitats (EN BENTHIC)

STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018 welcomed the information that lead country Finland will arrange a workshop on habitat and biotope mapping, mapping methods. HOD 55-2018 approved the arranging of the workshop to support the implementation of actions under Recommendation 35/1 on System of coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (HELCOM MPAs), by the lead country Finland.

The Meeting is invited to take note of progress regarding the workshop will take place 12-13 November 2019, in Helsinki, Finland and to nominate experts to take part in the event.

Network for Marine Protected Areas Management (EN MPA MANET)

The Meeting is invited to take note that HOD 56-2019 approved the amended Terms of Reference of the Network for Marine Protected Areas Management (EN MPA MANET) as contained in Annex 5 to that outcome and that the network held its first workshop since establishing the Terms of Reference in the form of a Management Workshop hosted by Finland in September 2019.

Projects

ZEN

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 took note of the information from the Secretariat that there has been communication with the Chair of the Zooplankton Expert Network on the possibility to develop a new zooplankton project related to indicators. The meeting took note of the information that there are initial plans to develop such a project proposal and agreed to return to this at State and Conservation 11-2019.

The Meeting is invited to review and endorse the project proposal (document to be submitted later).

HOLAS III

GEAR 20-2019 has started the planning process for HOLAS III. GEAR 20-2019 took note of the proposed preliminary timeline for HOLAS III, including the preparation and development phase leading up to the start of the actual project.

GEAR 20-2019 discussed components of HOLAS III, including aspects possibly missing, needing further development or benefitting from a different approach based on the work done under HOLAS II and started considering what might be needed for HOLAS III in terms of e.g. MSFD requirements. The Meeting agreed to further elaborate the initial proposal of the components of HOLAS III and invited countries to provide comments and suggestions to these components to the Secretariat (Jannica.Haldin@helcom.fi) by 12 August 2019. The Secretariat will collate and, if possible, cluster the received information and link it to the relevant work strand in the preliminary timeline, with the aim of submitting a further developed proposed plan to STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019 and GEAR 21-2019 meetings, respectively.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the preliminary timelines and consider the proposals for what components might need to be included, need further development or alternative approaches for HOLAS III, based on input received through GEAR.

GEAR 20-2019 in principle supported the suggestion that intersessional preparatory work for HOLAS III should take the form of three consecutive, interlinking work strands focusing on indicators, dataflows, and assessments and methodologies respectively. The meeting acknowledged that the work strand on indicators is already established and that work has commenced and invited the Secretariat to prepare a draft for a project proposal for the dataflow strand, to be presented to STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019 and GEAR 21-2019 for review.

The Meeting is invited to review the project proposal, provide input as needed and agree to send the proposal to GEAR 21-2019 for endorsement, with the aim of submitting it to HOD 57-2019 for approval.

Strategic discussion on EGs

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 took note of the wish by Sweden that a broader and more strategic discussion on how to plan setting up expert networks for biodiversity under State and Conservation WG be held at STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019.

HOD 56-2019 took note of the comment by Estonia and Finland that it would be useful to hold a strategic discussion on the number, coverage and requirement for the Expert Groups. The meeting welcomed the information that this was touched upon in STATE&CONSERVATION 10-2019.

The Meeting is invited to discuss a more strategic approach to the expert level work and associated expert groups and, if possible, provide guidance to support the planning of expert level work in the future.

Agenda Item 9J Future work

Work plan

The Meeting is invited to take note of and plan upcoming tasks as outlined in the working group work plan (document to be submitted later).

Agenda Item 10J Any other business

UN

The Meeting is invited to take note of the upcoming Our Oceans Conference taking place in Oslo 24-25 October, 2019.

ICES

The Meeting is invited to take note that HOD 56-2019 approved the arranging of one-day joint HELCOM-ICES online workshop focused on improving reporting and usability of data for the HELCOM COMBINE database in autumn 2019.

CBD

The Meeting is invited to take note of information on the upcoming thematic consultations on marine and coastal biodiversity for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, taking place 6-8 November 2019 in Montreal, Canada. This consultation is intended to elicit views on elements related to marine and coastal biodiversity for inclusion in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the contribution by HELCOM to the consolidated input by the regional seas to the thematic consultations as coordinated by UNEP.

The Meeting is invited to take note that a CBD EBSA workshop has take place for the OSPAR area.

UNEP

The Meeting is invited to take note of information on the 21st Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans which was co-hosted by HELCOM in Berlin on the 3-5 October.

State and Conservation

The Meeting is invited to take note of information on progress regarding the arranging of one-day extra session of State and Conservation Monitoring focusing on the reporting on and update of the monitoring programmes, possibly back-to-back with a joint BONUS FUMARI-SEAM workshop, as presented by the Secretariat.

The Meeting is invited to consider and update the list of contacts and observers of the Working Group (document to be submitted later).

Estonia is invited to confirm hosting STATE & CONSERVATION 12-2020, which will take place 11-15 May 2020.

The Contracting Parties are invited to consider their possibility to host future meetings of the Working Group.

The Meeting is invited to discuss any other business related to the mandate of the Working Group.

Agenda Item 11J Outcome of the Joint session

A draft Outcome with main decisions will be prepared by the Secretariat for consideration and approval by attendants of the joint session.

Nature conservation

Agenda Item 1N Adoption of the Agenda: Nature conservation

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda, as contained in document 1-1.

Agenda Item 2N Matters of relevance for the Meeting and information from the Secretariat

HELCOM

The Meeting is invited to take note that the HELCOM biodiversity database is now publicly available. The database currently contains 1.744.743 observations.

CBD

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 discussed further plans for implementing of the Workplan. The Meeting considered that in STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019, in addition to the already planned work, it would be beneficial to ensure dedicated time for the following topics:

- The possibility to come together regionally to specifically lift marine issues, including both MPAs and “the 90%”, under the Post-2020 process

The Meeting is invited to take note of information on the upcoming thematic consultations on marine and coastal biodiversity for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, taking place 6-8 November 2019 in Montreal, Canada. This consultation is intended to elicit views on elements related to marine and coastal biodiversity for inclusion in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the contribution by HELCOM to the consolidated input by the regional seas to the thematic consultations as coordinated by UNEP.

Agenda Item 3N Development and implementation of Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 15/1 PROTECTION OF THE COASTAL STRIP

The Contracting Parties are invited to inform the Meeting on any ongoing or planned national work relevant to the actions listed under this Recommendation.

Reporting on the Recommendation

Lead country for this recommendation is Finland.

The recommendation states that implementation should be reported to the Commission every 6 years and that the HELCOM working group in charge stays in contact with the Contracting Parties for information and cooperation in this matter. The latest national reporting has been undertaken in 2019 as part of the BSAP update process. The next scheduled reporting will take place in 2025.

RECOMMENDATION 16/3 PRESERVATION OF NATURAL COASTAL DYNAMICS

The Contracting Parties are invited to inform the Meeting on any ongoing or planned national work relevant to the actions listed under this Recommendation.

Reporting on the Recommendation

Lead country for this Recommendation is Denmark.

Reporting on the implementation on this Recommendation has not been specified.

STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018 agreed to set up an intersessional review process on the recommendation. The reporting on the recommendation was initiated by sending the finalized questionnaire to national State and Conservation representatives. Responses were to be made available to lead country Denmark.

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 noted that Denmark has now received the responses from most countries and will provide the information to be included in the overall reporting on the implementation of recommendations

for HOD 56-2019 and will present the results at STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019. Data has been included as a part of the update of the BSAP process.

Denmark is invited to present the results of the reporting for the Recommendation.

The Meeting is invited to consider and agree on an appropriate reporting frequency for the Recommendation.

[RECOMMENDATION 17/2 PROTECTION OF HARBOUR PORPOISE IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA](#)

The Contracting Parties are invited to inform the Meeting on any ongoing or planned national work, outside of what is specified, relevant to the actions listed under this Recommendation.

The Meeting is invited to take note on the following:

HOD 55-2018 agreed to initiate a process to revise the Recommendation whereby STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 provides initial revisions to the document, to be submitted to EG MAMA 13-2019 meeting for further revision and to STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019 for endorsement and submission to HOD 57-2019 for approval, aiming at adoption by HELCOM 41-2020.

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 formed a drafting group to further consider the revision to forward the process. The meeting took note of the edits proposed by the drafting group to the revision of the Recommendation and further edited the draft. The meeting agreed that the draft revised recommendation will be submitted to EG MAMA 13-2019 for review and further input.

The Meeting is invited to further revise and agree on the Recommendation, using the draft elaborated in EG MAMA 13-2019 as a basis, with the intention of submitting the recommendation to HOD 57-2019 for approval and HELCOM 41-2020 for adoption.

[Reporting on the Recommendation](#)

Lead country for this Recommendation is Poland.

The current Recommendation states that a report on the implementation of this recommendation should be made available to the Commission every three years. The latest national reporting has been undertaken in 2019 as part of the BSAP update process.

- a. [Follow-up of action 'avoiding by-catches of harbour porpoises, particularly following the recommendations of ASCOBANS and the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Plan'](#)

The Meeting is invited to take note of work related to this action currently ongoing under the ACTION project.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the Joint OSPAR-HELCOM Workshop on Bycatch indicator development.

- b. [Follow-up of action 'take action in close co-operation with ASCOBANS and ICES'](#)

The Meeting is invited to take note of the increased cooperation between HELCOM, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS and ICES in relation to work on the bycatch indicator.

[RECOMMENDATION 27-28/2 CONSERVATION OF SEALS IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA](#)

The Contracting Parties are invited to inform the Meeting on any ongoing or planned national work, outside of what is specified, relevant to the actions listed under this Recommendation.

[Reporting on the Recommendation](#)

Lead country for this Recommendation is Sweden

The Recommendation states that the effectiveness of the Recommendation is to be assessed in 5 years time with regard to the conservation of seals in the Baltic Sea Area, and whether amendments are necessary. The latest national reporting has been undertaken in 2019 as part of the BSAP update process.

6. Follow up of action: to develop and to apply where possible non-lethal mitigation measures for seals to reduce bycatch and damage to fishing gear, as well as to support and coordinate the development of efficient mitigation measures;

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of HELCOM workshop on seal – fisheries interactions, which took place 27 June, back to back with HELCOM FISH 10-2019 meeting.

[RECOMMENDATION 34E/1 SAFEGUARDING IMPORTANT BIRD HABITATS AND MIGRATION ROUTES IN THE BALTIC SEA FROM NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF WIND AND WAVE ENERGY PRODUCTION AT SEA](#)

The Contracting Parties are invited to inform the Meeting on any ongoing or planned national work, outside of what is specified, relevant to the actions listed under this Recommendation.

The Meeting is invited to consider and agree on whether the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG could be invited to jointly work on implementing and reporting on actions c)-h) of the Recommendation.

Reporting on the Recommendation

Co-lead countries for this recommendation are Sweden and Germany.

The Recommendation states that action taken by the Contracting Parties in accordance with this Recommendation should be reported to the Commission on request.

- a) Follow-up on action ‘Compile and exchange information on existing, on-going as well as planned developments for wind energy facilities and wave energy installations well as on migration routes and staging areas of birds’

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 took note of the outcome and recommendations of the Workshop on Seabird migratory routes took place 20-22 November 2018, and the initial maps and supplementing information on the migration routes produced by the Workshop. To forward the work towards more detailed maps, the meeting agreed to organize an intersessional online meeting to discuss the next steps to be done and the resources needed, and to identify a proposal to be considered by STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019.

The Meeting is invited to note that the online planning meeting will take place 23 September, and invitation to participate the meeting has been sent to contacts and observers of State and Conservation.

The Meeting is invited to consider the proposals of the online meeting and agree on a way to forward the task.

[RECOMMENDATION 35/1 SYSTEM OF COASTAL AND MARINE BALTIC SEA PROTECTED AREAS \(HELCOM MPAs\)](#)

The Contracting Parties are invited to inform the Meeting on any ongoing or planned national work, outside of what is specified, relevant to the actions listed under this Recommendation.

Germany is invited to present progress in the process to implement fisheries measures in German Baltic Sea MPAs.

Poland is invited to present progress in preparing management plan for marine N2000 site Slupsk Bank.

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 discussed and supported the possibility to produce a MPA related project proposal for LIFE 2020 call. The Meeting supported the idea and agreed that initial scoping for such a proposal should begin as early as possible, building on already existing or identified gaps in MPA work in the region.

The Meeting is invited to discuss and agree on topics to be include in a possible application, as well as consider what the objective of such a project should be. This is intended to be a dynamic discussion within the working group, to support the production of a project outline.

The Meeting is invited to take note that HOD 56-2019 approved the arranging HELCOM MPA Management Workshop.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcomes of the second MPA management workshop, which took place 9-12 September 2019, in Vaasa, Finland.

Reporting on the Recommendation

Lead country for this Recommendation is Finland.

Reporting frequency on the implementation on this Recommendation as a whole has not been specified. No reporting on the implementation of the Recommendation has yet taken place.

The Meeting is invited to consider and agree on the question of reporting frequency, as agreed by STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019.

- a) Follow-up of action 'reach goal of 10% of the marine area in all sub-basins of the Baltic Sea including the EEZ areas beyond territorial waters is covered by MPAs where scientifically justified'

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 noted that the share of marine area covered by HELCOM MPAs only was below 10 % in the Bothnian Bay, Bothnian Sea, the Northern Baltic Proper, the Eastern and Western Gotland Basins and the Sound. The meeting noted that for Eastern and Western Gotland Basin and Sound, nominating existing Natura 2000 areas as HELCOM MPAs would result in the sub basins reaching the 10% target. The meeting further noted that for Bothnian Bay, Bothnian Sea and the Northern Baltic Proper, nominating more Natura 2000 areas as HELCOM MPAs would not lift the coverage of HELCOM MPAs over 10 %.

The Meeting is invited to take note of and considered the information on current status of management plans for MPAs as contained in the HELCOM MPA database as well as current coverage of HELCOM Marine Protected Areas and Natura 2000 areas in the Baltic Sea region as presented by the Secretariat (document to be submitted later).

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 considered how to identify scientific justifications for HELCOM MPA coverage to be below 10%. The Meeting discussed that one way of identifying if coverage below 10% is sufficient could be to use the MPA coherence approach for the subbasins with < 10 % HELCOM MPA coverage, and if the conservation network is not coherent, more conservation areas should be designated.

The Meeting is invited to consider next steps to forward this issue.

Contracting Parties are invited to highlight and report any missing information and to inform the Meeting on any new or planned MPAs in territorial waters or EEZ areas beyond said waters.

- b) Follow-up of action 'review whether new coastal and marine areas justify being selected as HELCOM MPAs, and to designate new sites as HELCOM MPAs where ecologically meaningful, especially in offshore area beyond territorial waters'

The Contracting Parties are invited to share information on any newly designated national MPAs which could be included in the HELCOM MPA network with the Meeting.

- c) Follow-up of action 'ensure that HELCOM MPAs inter alia provide specific protection to those species, habitats, biotopes and biotope complexes included in the HELCOM Red Lists'

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 took note of the work being done under TG MPA regarding linking habitats to red-listed species and considered how to take the work forward, including the need to validate and make the information available. The Meeting took note of an overview of available information and preliminary linking of HELCOM Redlisted species to habitats as presented by the Secretariat (document 3N-8).

The meeting took note that the excluded MSFD broad habitat types should be checked to ensure that they really do not occur in the Baltic Sea. The meeting further noted that the identification of MSFD broad habitat types applicable in the Baltic Sea was done by the SPICE project. The meeting took note that specific comments or corrections to the document can be sent to the Secretariat.

The Meeting is invited to consider how to validate the linkages, as agreed by STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019.

- d) Follow-up of action 'ensure, when selecting new areas, that the network of HELCOM MPAs is ecologically coherent and takes into account connectivity between sites'

The Meeting is invited to take note of the upcoming workshop on habitat mapping and modelling, which will take place 12-13 November 2019 in Helsinki, Finland.

- i) Follow-up of action 'update the management plans when necessary and in accordance with other legal requirements with a maximum of 12 years intervals'

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 took note of the responses to questionnaire on National frequency of review and update of HELCOM MPA management plans, as presented by the Secretariat (document 3N-6 to that meeting). The meeting took note that Denmark will respond to the questionnaire.

The Meeting is invited to consider the updated summary of responses to the questionnaire, including responses from Denmark. (document will be submitted later).

- k) Follow-up of action 'assess the effectiveness of the management plans or measures of HELCOM MPAs by conducting monitoring, and where feasible scientific research programmes, which are directly connected to the conservation interests of HELCOM MPAs'

The Meeting is invited to take note of the progress on analyzing sufficiency of MPAs as a measure under the ACTION project.

- l) Follow-up of action 'include HELCOM MPAs as areas of particular ecological significance in coastal and maritime spatial planning processes and incorporate their management provisions'

The Contracting Parties are invited to inform the Meeting on how natural values and nature conservation interests have been taken into account in their national maritime spatial plans. This was suggested by STATE & CONSERVATION 7-2017 to be a continuous task for the future working group meetings.

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 took note of information on proceeding of the Pan Baltic Scope project. and reviewed the map layers produced in the Pan Baltic Scope workshop on essential fish habitats in the Baltic Sea. The meeting took note of the information that the project would like to see the results of the work published as a project publication under HELCOM. The meeting invited the project to, if possible, provide the draft report for review to STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the draft report (document to be submitted later).

- m) Follow-up of action 'update, when necessary, HELCOM MPA related guidelines and guiding documents in order to keep them in line with new knowledge and compatible with other international criteria'

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 took note of the information by Finland that the work on the Guidelines for MPA pressure evaluation is ongoing.

Finland is invited to present a draft version to the Meeting (document to be provided later).

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 took note of the progress on update of MPA management guidelines (document 3N-11 to that meeting). The meeting noted that at present only Finland and Germany had provided comments to the guidelines and that the guidelines would need a major update, requiring approximately 6 - 8 months of dedicated work. The meeting considered how to proceed with the update process. The meeting considered that a shorter, more concise guideline which focuses directly on MPA management (not e.g. management effectiveness) might be more fit for purpose.

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 supported that in the upcoming MPA managers workshop the MPA managers will be asked on which specific topics they consider most relevant to include to ensure that the updated guidelines will be useful for the managers. The meeting agreed that Finland will collate the information on identified topics from the Contracting Parties and the Workshop. The meeting agreed that contracting parties will provide Finland with information and views on which sections of the guidelines should

be included in a more focused, concise version of the document by 15 August 2019. The meeting welcomed the offer by Germany to support Finland in the work.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the compile information, as presented by Finland.

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 took note of the draft updated MPA designation guidelines as presented by Finland, and the comments from Germany to the document. The meeting agreed that review of the guidelines will be continued by an intersessional subgroup with participants from Denmark, Finland, Germany and the Secretariat.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the discussion of the intersessional subgroup and agree on a way forward.

- q) Follow-up of action 'continuously report the most recent numerical and descriptive data on HELCOM MPAs to HELCOMs data systems (HELCOM MPA database, GIS based map and data service)'

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 noted that the Secretariat has been invited to provide yearly information on the status of the MPA network and agreed that in the context of this, the Contracting Parties will be invited to provide information on if the information in the database has been reviewed in the given year.

The Contracting Parties are invited to share the information if the database has been reviewed within the past year.

[RECOMMENDATION 37/2 CONSERVATION OF BALTIC SEA SPECIES CATEGORIZED AS THREATENED ACCORDING TO THE 2013 HELCOM RED LIST](#)

The Contracting Parties are invited to inform the Meeting on any ongoing or planned national work, outside of what is specified, relevant to the actions listed under this Recommendation.

Reporting on the Recommendation

The lead country for this Recommendation is Germany.

STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018 agreed to initiate reporting on the Recommendation and welcomed Germany's offer to draft a template for reporting on the level of implementation of the actions under the Recommendation, with assistance from the Secretariat, and present it to State and Conservation 10-2019.

STATE & CONSERVATION took note of a draft template for reporting on the level of implementation of the actions under Recommendation 37/2, and made further suggestions for further edits to the template, as provided in document 3N-10 rev.1 to that meeting. The meeting agreed to, once the changes have been implemented, test the template by implementing the first round of reporting on the Recommendation using the template by STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019, as this allows CPs to use some of the information collated for the BSAP UP Recommendations reporting for the exercise.

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 took note of the reporting done under OSPAR recommendations on species protection and conservation as presented by Germany. The meeting considered that some of the reporting questions in the OSPAR reporting approach are also valid for HELCOM Recommendation 37/2. Germany informed the Meeting that therefore the respective questions were incorporated into the draft reporting template for Recommendation 37/2.

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 considered the schedule for reporting on the Recommendation. The Meeting considered the suggestion to use either a 3 or a 6 year reporting interval period and agreed and that the final frequency of reporting will be agreed at STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019 when there is a better understanding of the workload involved in using the template for reporting.

The Meeting is invited to agree on a frequency of reporting on the Recommendation.

- a) Follow-up of action 'Inventory of existing and planned national and regional conservation-, recovery- and/or action plans, and by 2018 review their effectiveness and, if necessary, define future protection needs'

STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016 agreed to follow-up on the agreed action 'Activities to support conservation of Baltic Sea species and biotopes/habitats categorized as threatened according to the HELCOM Red List' by testing the categorization of conservation measures proposed by the Meeting ([Outcome](#) STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016, Annex 3), and by updating the inventory of national conservation plans for species and biotopes threatened according to the HELCOM Red Lists.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the updates in information on national conservation plans for species and biotopes categorized as threatened according to HELCOM 2013 Red List, as presented by the Secretariat (document to be sent later).

Contracting Parties are invited to report missing and additional information on national conservation plans to the Secretariat (laura.hoikkala@helcom.fi) as it becomes available (template available upon request).

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 took note of the comment by Germany that it seems some threatened red listed fish species might be missing from the document. The meeting invited the Secretariat to cross-check the information and report back to STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019. Germany has sent a list of missing species to the Secretariat.

The Meeting is invited to take note of clarifications regarding this matter, as presented by the Secretariat.

- f) Follow-up of action 'Take measures to reduce transboundary pressures and/or impacts on HELCOM threatened migrating species'

The Contracting Parties are invited to share information with the Meeting on, or express their interest in, any transboundary efforts to reduce the pressures and/or impacts on threatened migrating species.

[HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 40/1 CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF MARINE AND COASTAL BIOTOPES, HABITATS AND BIOTOPE COMPLEXES CATEGORIZED AS THREATENED ACCORDING TO THE HELCOM RED LISTS](#)

The Meeting is invited to discuss how to begin implementing the Recommendation as well as how to follow up on the various actions.

Reporting on the Recommendation

Lead country for this Recommendation is Germany.

The Recommendation states that Contracting Parties will report on their first activities taken to implement this Recommendation in 2019, and thereafter according to the schedule to be agreed by the State and Conservation Working Group with the aim to harmonize reporting intervals and content with EU and other reporting obligations supported by this Recommendation, using an appropriate template to be developed.

The Meeting is invited to discuss and agree on how to initiate reporting on the Recommendation, as well as discuss an appropriate future reporting schedule.

- 1) Follow up of action: to protect and conserve threatened biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes which are relevant to their waters.
- 2) Follow up of action: to include in or update national legislation with provisions that provide protection for specific threatened biotopes, habitats or biotope complexes¹ or choose different kinds of existing legal and other instruments to provide similar protection such as incentives, administrative actions or negotiated agreements.
- 3) Follow up of action: that those activities that may significantly affect, destroy or damage threatened biotopes, habitats or biotope complexes should be prohibited or limited. Therefore, new plans and projects should be evaluated in an EIA or similar procedure, in accordance with national legislation, and the area be mapped by the applicant if such maps do not already exist for the planning area,
- 4) Follow up of action: that derogations from such prohibitions shall only be granted for activities of significant public interest or when the negative impacts can be remedied by appropriate mitigation or compensation measures for the benefit of nature conservation,
- 5) Follow up of action: that threatened biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes be identified and mapped preferably by using the HELCOM HUB classification system and appropriate classification systems for coastal biotopes in order to support general management of human activities and maritime spatial planning based on the ecosystem approach,
- 6) Follow up of action: to make an inventory of existing and planned national and regional conservation-, recovery- and/or action plans as well as other relevant programmes and measures for the protection of threatened underwater biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes,
- 7) Follow up of action: to review the effectiveness of conservation-, recovery- or action plans or related activities with main focus on the cause of changes and the effect of activities, and based on these:
 - 7.1. determine what additional activities are needed to mitigate the identified pressures and/or impacts and develop or amend conservation-, recovery- and/or action plans. Where appropriate, the development could be carried out in cooperation with neighboring countries and/or relevant organizations,
 - 7.2. aim to implement such plans or activities as soon as possible, and by 2021 at the latest,
- 8) Follow up of action: to consider whether any sites justify selection as new or expanded MPAs for the conservation of HELCOM threatened marine biotopes, habitats or biotope complexes,
- 9) Follow up of action: to encourage other international organizations or bodies to promote and strive for taking all appropriate measures in areas of their specific competence, such as in fisheries management or shipping, in order to reduce pressures and impacts on HELCOM threatened marine biotopes, habitats or biotope complexes,

The Meeting is invited to take note of the guidance provided by the Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) on Natura 2000 and fisheries management measures in the Baltic Sea (document to be submitted later).

¹ biotope complexes of the HELCOM Red List are similar to the Annex 1 natural habitat types of the Habitats Directive [NB that this footnote is part of the Recommendation]

10) Follow up of action: to monitor the range, spatial coverage as well as structure and function of HELCOM threatened marine biotopes, habitats or biotope complexes and the pressures and/or impacts that cause threats to them, and to improve the exchange of respective data with HELCOM and other international and national bodies in order to create synergies,

11) Follow up of action: to raise awareness about the HELCOM Red list of threatened marine biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes amongst stakeholders and the general public, and consider to establish a permanent dialogue and exchange of knowledge between HELCOM and relevant stakeholders, such as recreational and commercial fishermen.

12) Follow up of action: for those Contracting Parties being also EU Member States, to ensure that the implementation of this Recommendation is consistent with the implementation of relevant EU regulations, in particular Habitats Directive (HD, 92/43/EEC), Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD, 2008/56/EC), Water Framework Directive (WFD, 2000/60/EC), EU Directive establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning (2014/89/EU) and the Common Fisheries Policy.

Agenda Item 4N Links to and Ongoing Work under the Habitats and Birds Directives

STATE & CONSERVATION 9 -2018 supported the proposal to have a regional discussion on the common understanding and future regional coordination of the assessment of relevant marine species and habitats under EU directives and agreed that this should be a reoccurring agenda point of State and Conservation meetings, especially in preparation for the next reporting on the directives.

The Contracting parties are invited to present information on their respective national article 12 and 17 reporting.

The Contracting parties are invited to present progress, questions and challenges related to the work on the EU Habitats Directive.

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 agreed that, with respect to the strong focus on marine protection and conservation management of the Conservation Session of State and Conservation, it would be highly relevant and viewed as very beneficial by the CPs if a representative from the EU Commission/Biogeographical Process could attend State and Conservation Meeting. The Meeting invited the Secretariat to approach the EU with an invitation to the upcoming meeting of the Working Group.

The Meeting is invited to take note of progress on this matter, as presented by the Secretariat.

Agenda Item 5N Plans for implementation of the work plan and emerging issues

The Meeting is invited to discuss any further plans relating to implementing the work plan and/or identifying emerging issues.

Agenda Item 6N Any other business

The Meeting is invited to discuss any other business related to the themes of nature conservation and biodiversity.

Agenda Item 7N Outcome of the Nature conservation session

A draft Outcome with main decisions will be prepared by the Secretariat for consideration and approval by the attendants of the nature conservation session of the Meeting.