



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION
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This revision document contains edits made by STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016 on Targets 5, 11, 12 and 14.

Background

The 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Declaration agreed to ‘develop by 2015 regional targets for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity’, an objective that is included in the work plan for the State and Conservation Working Group (Work plan, task 3.3). STATE & CONSERVATION 3-2015 supported the approach to achieve this agreement as presented by the Secretariat, being based on the alignment of existing HELCOM agreements and indicators with the CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (paragraph 5N.2 of the outcome).

This document contains a further developed proposal on the comparison of the CBD’s Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and HELCOM agreements and indicators related to these targets.

The proposed indicators/documentation to assess achievement of the targets have been established as part of developing a system for follow-up of HELCOM agreements from the Baltic Sea Action Plan (2007) and the HELCOM Ministerial Declarations from 2010 and 2013. Reporting on the progress of the agreed actions is ongoing and will be finalized by 31 March 2016 and will form the basis for assessing the accomplishment of the actions based on agreed criteria. Thus, an assessment of accomplishment will be available in spring 2016, except for those actions that have target years in the future. In addition, when overarching goals and objectives of the BSAP are referred to in this document, as relevant, the HELCOM core indicators on environmental status are suggested. These indicators will be updated in early 2017 to feed into the HOLAS II project.




Action required



The Meeting is invited to


- identify potential gaps in the existing regional targets,
- agree on how to complete the task.


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Comparison of the CBD's Aichi Biodiversity targets and HELCOM agreements and indicators

Aichi Biodiversity Targets	Comparable HELCOM agreements	HELCOM indicator/documentation according to BSAP follow-up system or other relevant information of progress
Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society		
<p>Target 1 By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.</p> 	<p>MD 2013 2(B): WE AGREE to mainstream the conservation of biodiversity, specifically marine biodiversity, across government and society through more effective policy integration, planning processes, incorporation into national accounting, as appropriate, reporting systems and via awareness raising; [target year not specified]</p>	<p>Due to the general character of the agreement there is no specific indicator to follow-up its progress. Examples of HELCOM activity contributing to awareness is the HELCOM Data and Map service, providing e.g. information on the status of Baltic Sea biodiversity and Red listed species and online provision of other information related to biodiversity.</p>
<p>Target 2 By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p> 	<p>Not applicable (national/local)</p>	
<p>Target 3 By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts,</p> 	<p>MD 2013 4(B): Increase positive incentives to enhance reduction of pressures on biodiversity and to work towards elimination by 2020 of incentives and subsidies which could be harmful to biodiversity in order to improve the buffering capacity of the marine and coastal ecosystems for a better resilience [by 2020]</p>	<p>Due to the general character of the agreement there is no specific indicator to follow-up its progress. The issue is however indicated to be addressed on the HELCOM State and Conservation Working Group work plan for the years 2017-2018.</p>




<p>and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.</p>		
<p>Target 4 By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.</p> 	<p>MD 2013 (4B): Take decisive action to work towards a favourable conservation status of the harbor porpoise based on implementation of the CMS ASCOBANS Jastarnia Plan for the harbor porpoise in the Baltic Sea, in particular by addressing the pressing problem of by-catch; <i>[target year not specified]</i></p> <p>See also actions for Targets 6 and 7.</p>	<p>HELCOM candidate indicator 'Harbour porpoise distribution and abundance' in Good Environmental Status (GES)</p>
<p>Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use</p>		
<p>Target 5 By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.</p> 	<p>MD 2013 4(B): Take measures so that by 2020, regionally, a) the loss of all red listed marine habitats and biotopes in the Baltic Sea will be halted b) red listed marine habitats and biotopes have largely recovered, and that degradation and fragmentation have been significantly reduced, the progress of which will be measured with a core indicator to be produced;</p>	<p>The evaluation will be based on the outcome of the next HELCOM Red list assessments planned to be carried out by 2019</p>
	<p>Recommendation 35-1: 'System of coastal and marine Baltic Sea marine protected areas (HELCOM MPAs)'</p> <p>Recommendation 15-1: Protection of the coastal strip</p> <p>Plan to develop a HELCOM Recommendation on conservation plans for habitats and biotopes which are at risk of extinction</p>	<p>HELCOM Recommendations are regularly followed-up e.g. Recommendation 35-1 in 2016 HELCOM ecological coherence assessment of the marine protected areas network in the Baltic Sea and Recommendation 15-1 in 2014</p>



<p>Target 6 By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.</p> 	<p>MD 2013 19(B):</p> <p>Further development and implementation of recommendations for riverine and estuarine management and conservation measures, such as fish ways for up and down migration, restoration and protection of spawning grounds, concerning fisheries within rivers and estuaries;</p> <p>Further development and implementation of comparable methodology for data collection (salmon and sea trout) through surveys, especially on recreational fisheries;</p> <p>Further development and implementation of common practices for breeding, rearing and releasing salmon and sea trout as reintroductions in potential salmonid rivers; <i>[by 2015]</i></p>	<p>These actions are considered as accomplished when:</p> <p>Recommendations are developed for riverine and estuarine management and conservation measures</p> <p>Methodology is developed for data collection through surveys, especially on recreational fisheries</p> <p>Common practices are developed for breeding, rearing and releasing salmon and sea trout</p>
	<p>MD 2013 (12B): Populations of all commercially exploited fish and shellfish should be within safe biological limits, exhibiting a population age and size distribution indicative of a healthy stock and that Maximum Sustainable Yield shall be achieved by 2015 where possible and on a progressive, incremental basis at the latest by 2020 for all stocks;</p>	<p>The evaluation will be based on indicators developed by ICES for assessment of descriptor 3 under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.</p>
	<p>MD 2013 15(B): Reduce the negative impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem and to this end, SUPPORT the development of fisheries management and technical measures to minimize unwanted by-catch of fish, birds and mammals in order to achieve the close to zero target for by-catch rates of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and minimize damage to sea bed habitats; <i>[target year not specified]</i></p>	<p>The HELCOM core indicator 'Number of drowned mammals and waterbirds in fishing gear' is evaluated as close to 0.</p>
	<p>HELCOM Recommendation 37/2: 'Conservation of Baltic Sea species categorized as threatened according to the 2013 HELCOM Red List'</p> <p>Recommendation 32-33/1 on conservation of salmon and sea trout</p>	<p>followed up next in 2018</p> <p>follow-up through the HELCOM Fish Group</p>



<p>Target 7 By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.</p> 	<p>Goal of the Baltic Sea Action Plan: A Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication</p>	<p>HELCOM core indicators on eutrophication: Chlorophyll-a Inputs of nitrogen and phosphorus to the basins Nitrogen/DIN Phosphorus/DIP Oxygen Water clarity</p>
	<p>HELCOM Recommendation 37/3: ‘Sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region’</p>	<p>Followed up next in 2018</p>
	<p>MD 2013: Reduction in nutrient inputs from non-Contracting Parties</p>	<p>Nr of non-CPs that have reached HELCOM Country Allocated Reduction Targets (CART) for nutrients Follow-up system being developed will show how far non-Contracting Parties are from the input target that they are expected to fulfill</p>
	<p>MD 2013 2(N): Make use of appropriate policy and economic instruments as well as economic levies and incentives, in order to minimize nutrient losses in agriculture <i>[target year not specified]</i></p>	<p>Nr of CPs that have enacted relevant legal acts</p>
	<p>MD 2013 7(N): Agreement on national level on measures to reduce nutrient surplus in fertilization practices to reach nutrient balanced fertilization <i>[by 2018]</i></p>	<p>Nr of CPs which enacted legislation regarding reduction of nutrient surplus</p>
	<p>MD 2013 8(N): Promote and advance annual nutrient accounting at farm level, in areas critical to nutrient losses as a first step <i>[by 2018]</i></p>	<p>Nr of CPs which have implemented measures to promote and advance nutrient accounting at farm level</p>
	<p>MD 2013 10(N): Establish national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure <i>[by 2016]</i> Develop guidelines/recommendation on the use of standards for nutrient content in manure</p>	<p>Nr of CPs that have established proper national standards for nutrient content in manure The action is considered as accomplished when there is a</p>




	[by 2018]	HELCOM guideline or Recommendation for nutrient content in manure
	MD 2013 12(N): Apply as a minimum the updated EU's BREF document (best available techniques reference document) and Conclusions on BAT for intensive rearing of poultry and pigs, especially for the facilities located within areas critical to nutrient losses <i>[target year not specified]</i>	Nr CPs which enacted legislation ensuring application of BREF correspondingly
	MD 2013 13(N): Enhance the recycling of phosphorus (especially in agriculture and wastewater treatment) and to promote development of appropriate methodology <i>[target year not specified]</i>	Nr of CPs which have launched a national project/programme of promotion technologies for P recycling is launched
	MD 2013 18(N): Aim for elimination of remaining agricultural Hot Spots under the HELCOM JCP <i>[by 2018]</i> Elimination of remaining hot spots from the JCP List, with a view that municipal and industrial hot spots should be removed from the List by 2016 Possible remaining JCP Hot Spots should be included in the BSAP NIPs and removed by 2018	Nr of agricultural hotspots on the JCP list Nr. of municipal and industrial hot spots Nr. hot spots and inclusion of remaining hotspots in NIPs
<p>Target 8 By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.</p>	 <p>See also agreements and indicators for Target 7 (excess nutrients)</p> <p>Goal of the Baltic Sea action plan: A Baltic Sea undisturbed by hazardous substances</p> <p>MD 2013 3(H): Ratification of the UNEP 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury <i>[target year not specified]</i> Implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury <i>[target year not specified]</i></p>	<p>HELCOM core indicators on hazardous substances: HBCDD Metals (Lead, cadmium and mercury) PFOS PBDE Cesium-137 in fish and surface waters White-tailed eagle productivity</p> <p>Nr of CPs that have ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury Nr of CPs which have started implementation of the Minamata Convention</p>



	BSAP H-3, Rec 24/4: Update of HELCOM requirements for iron/steel industry (Recommendation 24/4)	Updated Recommendation on requirements for iron/steel industry
	BSAP H-13: Introduction of ban on the use, production and marketing of endosulfan, pentabromodiphenylether (pentaBDE) and octabromodiphenylether (octaBDE) <i>[by 2010]</i>	Nr of CPs where use, production and marketing of endosulfan, pentaBDE and octaBDE is banned
	BSAP H-17: Application of same requirements concerning hazardous substances for products marketed globally as in the internal European market <i>[target year not specified]</i>	All CPs apply the same requirements concerning hazardous substances for products marketed internally in Europe and to the global market
	Need to strictly control the dredging and disposal of sediments when revising the HELCOM Guidelines for disposal of dredged spoils, to avoid that substantial amounts of hazardous substances are re-suspended from bottom sediments (containing organotin, mercury and cadmium compounds, as well as other heavy metals and poly-aromatic compounds)	Stricter, revised HELCOM guidelines for disposal of dredged spoils adopted
	Relevant Recommendations adopted after 2008: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 28E-8, Environmentally friendly practices for the reduction and prevention of emissions of dioxins and other hazardous substances from small-scale combustion – 29-1, Reduction of emissions from crematoria – 31E-1, Implementing HELCOM’s objective for hazardous substances – 31E-2, Batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators containing mercury, cadmium or lead – 31E-3, Cadmium in fertilizers – 31E-4, Proper handling of waste/landfilling – 36-2, Management of dredged material – 18-2, Offshore activities 	
	Objective of Baltic Sea Action Plan: No introductions of alien species from ships	HELCOM core indicator: Trends in arrival of non-indigenous species
	BSAP, MD 2013 M-37, 2(M): Ratification the Ballast Water Management Convention	Nr of CPs that have ratified the BWM convention

<p>Target 9 By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p>		<p><i>[by 2013]</i> BSAP M-37/p.97 Implementation of HELCOM Ballast Water Road Map - conducting of baseline surveys of prevailing environmental conditions in major ports <i>[by 2008]</i></p> <p>MD 2013 3(M): Develop, based on an overview of the situation, a comprehensive regional Baltic Sea implementation plan for the IMO Ballast Water Management Convention bearing in mind the possible need to accept a transitional period for exemptions in case of lacking data <i>[by 2014]</i></p> <p>BSAP M-37/p.98 Implementation of HELCOM Ballast Water Road Map – adjust HELCOM monitoring programme to obtain reliable data on non-indigenous species/ to link the port surveys and monitoring to shore-ship communication systems (2010) <i>[by 2010]</i></p>	<p>Nr of CPs that have carried out baseline surveys of prevailing environmental conditions conducted in all major ports</p> <p>A comprehensive regional Baltic Sea implementation plan for the IMO Ballast Water Management Convention developed and adopted:</p> <p>HELCOM monitoring programme includes guidelines for obtaining data on non-indigenous species</p>
<p>Target 10 By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.</p>		<p>The whole Baltic Sea is a vulnerable ecosystem affected by climate change and all anthropogenic pressures should be minimized. There are several HELCOM of agreements related to anthropogenic pressures.</p>	
<p>Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity</p>			
<p>Target 11 By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically</p>		<p>MD 2013 5(B): To revise by 2014 HELCOM Recommendation 15/5 'System of coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (BSPAs)'</p> <p>MD 2013 7(B): Modernize by 2014 the HELCOM BSPA database to make it publicly available</p> <p>MD 2013 7(B):</p>	<p>These actions are considered as accomplished when:</p> <p>the Rec 15/5 is revised</p> <p>the database is modernized</p> <p>the assessment is updated</p>

<p>representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p>	<p>Update by 2015 the assessment of ecological coherence of the network of protected areas in the Baltic Sea, with an evaluation of marine areas in need of further protection</p> <p>HELCOM Recommendation 35/1 'System of coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (HELCOM MPAs)'</p> <p>HELCOM Recommendation 28E/9 'Baltic Sea Broad-scale Maritime spatial planning (MSP) principle'</p>	
<p>Target 12 By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p> 	<p>MD 2013 4(B): Take measures so that by 2020, regionally, the loss of all red listed marine habitats and biotopes in the Baltic Sea will be halted.</p> <p>Protect the ringed seal in the Gulf of Finland, whose population is severely depleted and faces extinction in this area, STRESSING that immediate action is needed 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.</p> <p>Take decisive action to work towards a favourable conservation status of the harbor porpoise based on implementation of the CMS ASCOBANS Jastarnia Plan for the harbor porpoise in the Baltic Sea, in particular by addressing the pressing problem of by-catch</p> <p>HELCOM Recommendation 37/2: 'Conservation of Baltic Sea species categorized as threatened according to the 2013 HELCOM Red List'</p> <p>HELCOM Recommendation 17/2 'Protection of harbour porpoise in the Baltic Sea'</p>	<p>To be based on outcome of the next HELCOM Red list assessment 2019 and comparison with HELCOM Red List 2013</p> <p>Joint (EE, FI, RU) Conservation plan for ringed seals</p> <p>HELCOM candidate core indicator 'Harbour porpoise distribution and abundance' in GES</p> <p>followed up next in 2018</p>
<p>Target 13 By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including</p> 	<p>HELCOM Recommendation 37/3: 'Sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region'</p>	<p>followed up next in 2018</p>

<p>other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>		
<p>Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services</p>		
<p>Target 14 By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.</p> 	<p>HELCOM Recommendation 35/1: ‘System of coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (HELCOM MPAs)’</p> <p>plan to develop a HELCOM Recommendation on conservation plans for habitats and biotopes which are at risk of extinction</p> <p>HELCOM Recommendation 32/33-1: ‘Conservation of Baltic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) and Sea Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) populations by the restoration of their river habitats and management of river fisheries’ includes the requirement of restoration of river waters and habitats that hold naturally reproducing salmon and sea trout populations towards a salmonid habitat in good state.</p>	<p>follow-up through the 2016 HELCOM ecological coherence assessment of the marine protected areas network in the Baltic Sea</p> <p>follow-up through the HELCOM Fish Group</p>
<p>Target 15 By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.</p> 	<p>No specific HELCOM agreement/target available (related to Targets 5, 6 and 14)</p>	

<p>Target 16 By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>		<p>not relevant (national)</p>	
<p>Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building</p>			
<p>Target 17 By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.</p>		<p>Not relevant (national target). At the regional level the Baltic Sea Action Plan and its biodiversity segments serves as a policy instrument for marine biodiversity.</p>	
<p>Target 18 By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>		<p>No specific HELCOM agreement/target available</p>	

<p>Target 19 By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.</p>		<p>Applies to the overall HELCOM work on the Baltic Sea marine environment, for example the Baltic Sea Action Plan, HELCOM data and map service, HELCOM core indicators, Baltic Sea Environment Fact Sheets, open groups and meetings, etc.</p>	
<p>Target 20 By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.</p>		<p><i>[could it be indicated that the implementation of the BSAP contributes to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity?]</i></p>	