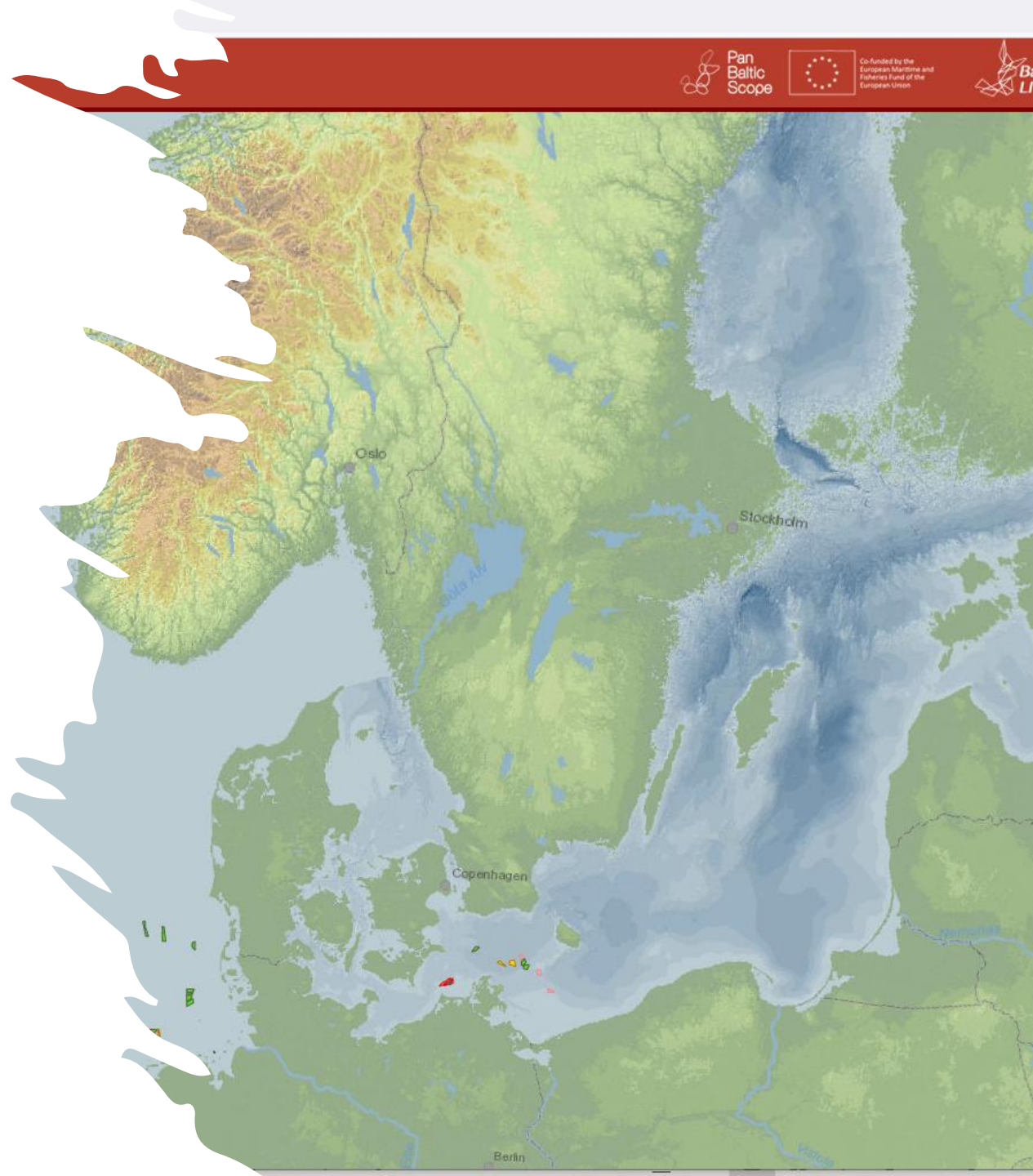




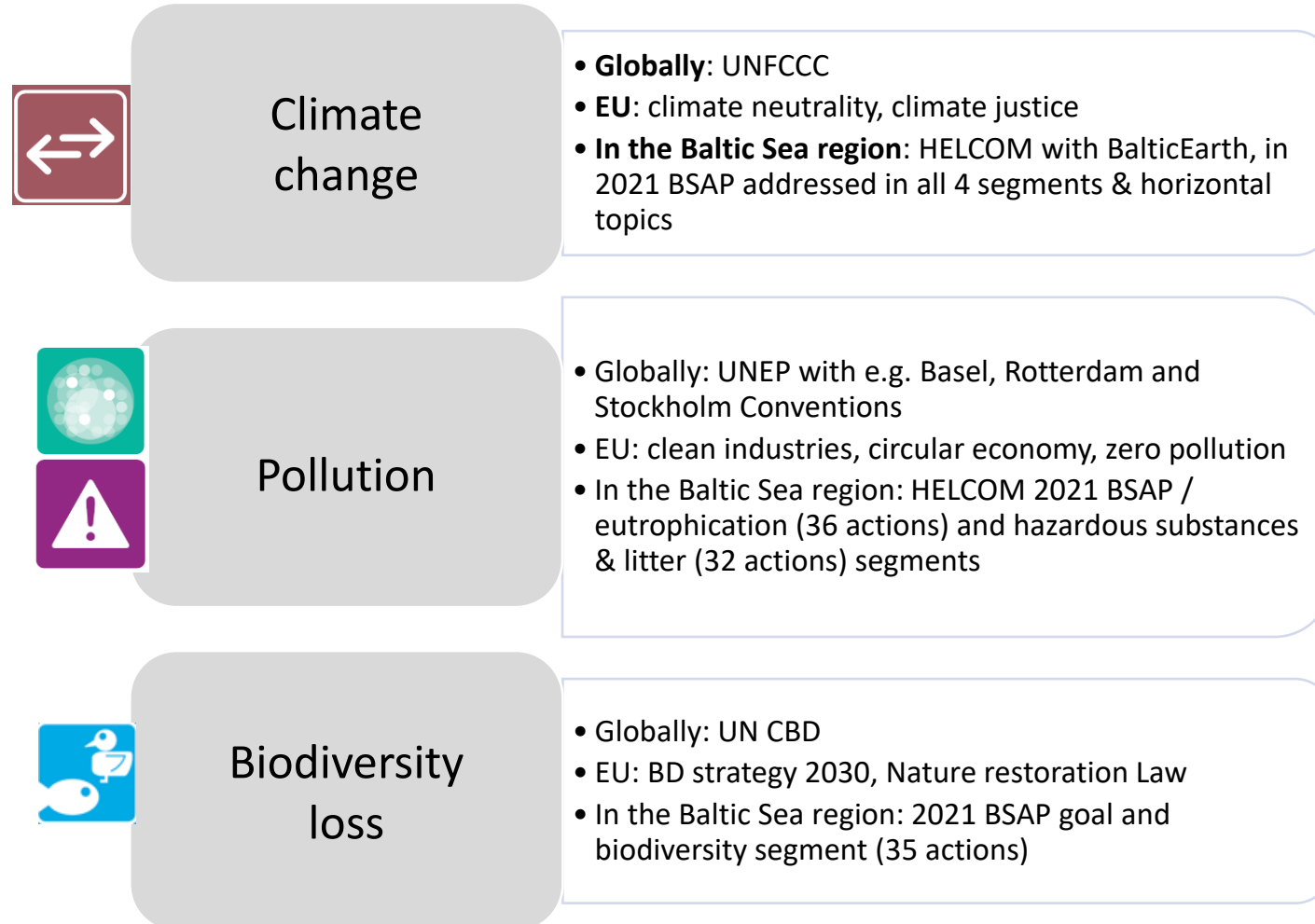
HELCOM (&VASAB) maritime spatial planning and climate change

Lotta Ruokanen

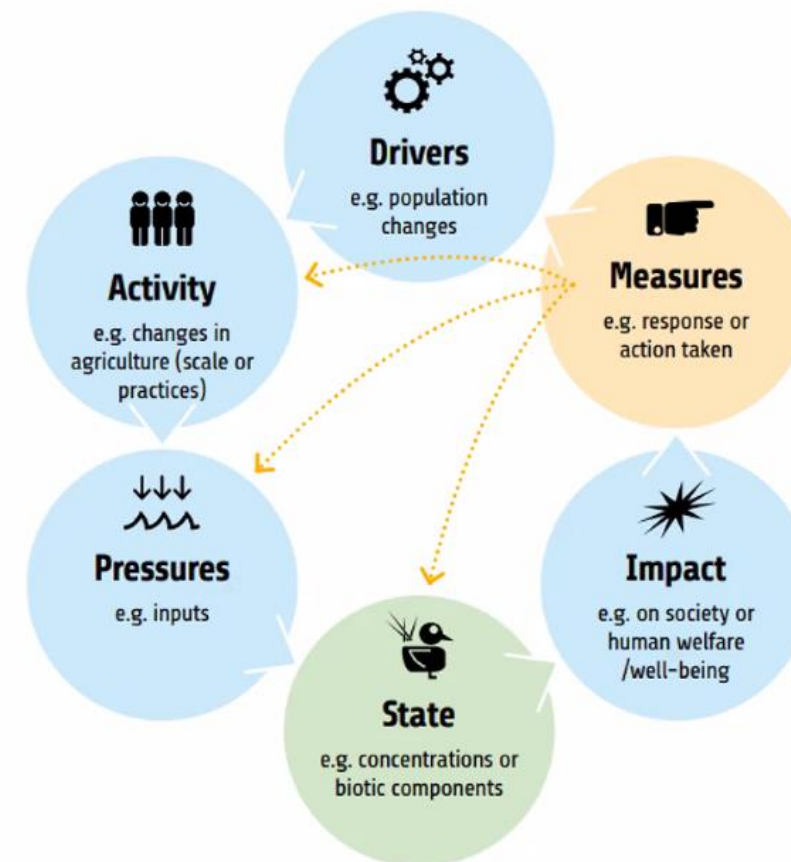
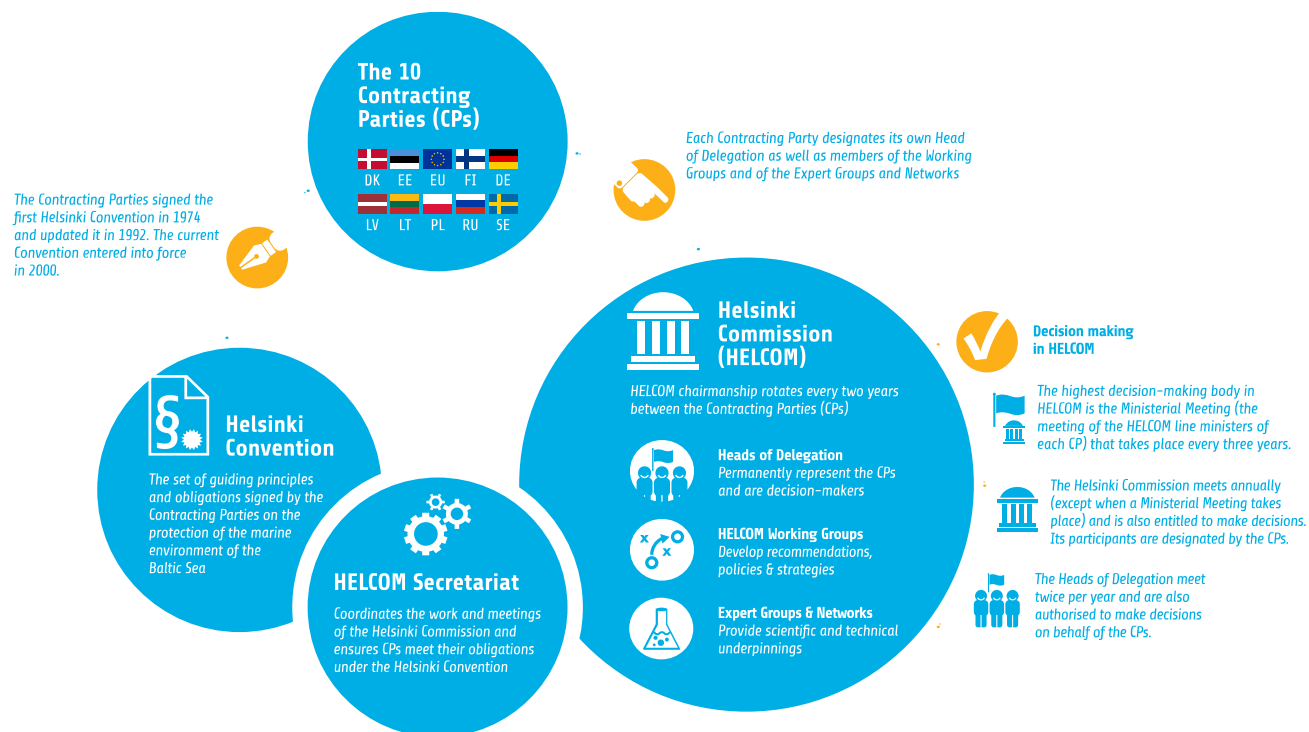
Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission -
HELCOM



Triple planetary crisis and the Baltic Sea region



HELCOM, DAPSIM/R Framework and measures



HELCOM tools: how we get things done



The Helsinki Convention

Instrument of international law with objectives & obligations in **38 Articles** and **Annexes I-VII**: technical guidelines and regulations.



Recommendations

on measures to address areas of concern, implementable through national legislation. In total, about **260** recommendations have been adopted so far.



Action plans & strategies

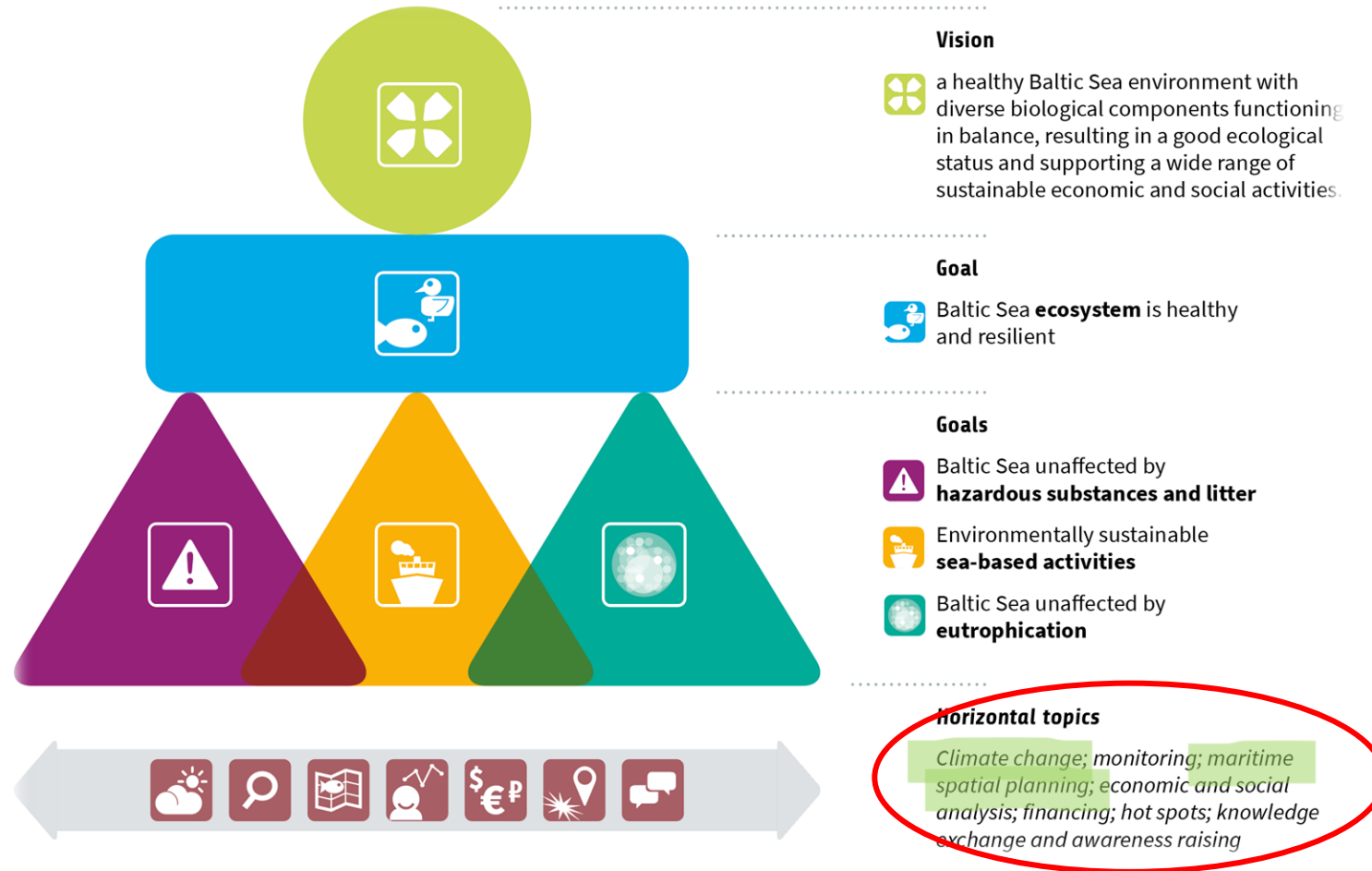
Contain actions and measures with such as [Baltic Sea Action Plan](#), [Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy](#), [Regional MSP Roadmap](#) and most HELCOM projects.



Monitoring & assessments

- Indicators (pressures on and state of the environment)
- Thematic assessments
- Holistic assessments, **HOLAS3 on 2016-2021**

2021 Baltic Sea Action Plan: structure & goals



Logic in the structure:

Chain of consequence, whereby human **activities** result in **pressures** on the environment, which in turn affect the **state** of biodiversity, which has been used as a basis when elaborating the updated BSAP



Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group

- The co-chaired joint Group was launched in 2010 to ensure cooperation among the Baltic Sea Region countries for **coherent regional Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) processes** in the Baltic Sea
 - Forum for regional, trans-boundary and cross-sectoral dialogue – enabling a common approach and facilitating coherence across the borders
 - [BASEMAPS](#) map service to access Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) relevant data from the original source where it is stored
- The Group's mandate is valid until 2030 with the **Regional MSP Roadmap 2021-2030** adopted by both HELCOM and VASAB
 - The revised MSP Roadmap focuses on the shift from drawing up of the maritime spatial plans to **implementation, monitoring, evaluation and follow-up** with subsequent eventual reviewing of the plans, with the focus on implementing **ecosystem-based approach**
- Joint coordination of the EUSBSR Policy Area Spatial Planning (PA SP) – Steering Group

What HELCOM-VASAB ?



- Territorial development of the region
- Forum for exchange of know-how on spatial planning and development

Baltic Sea
Region countries

VASAB Ministerial
Conference

VASAB CSPD/BSR

VASAB CSPD/BSR
(steering committee for
land-based spatial
planning)

VASAB Secretariat

MEMBERSHIP

POLITICAL LEVEL

STEERING LEVEL

The Joint HELCOM-VASAB
MSP Working Group
(steering committee for MSP)

BSR MSP Data Expert
Sub-Group

COORDINATION



Contracting Parties

HELCOM Ministerial
Meeting

HELCOM Heads of
Delegation

HELCOM Secretariat

- Helsinki Convention, environmental policy maker
- Coordinates actions to protect the marine environment, promotes sustainable development and ecosystem-based approach in MSP



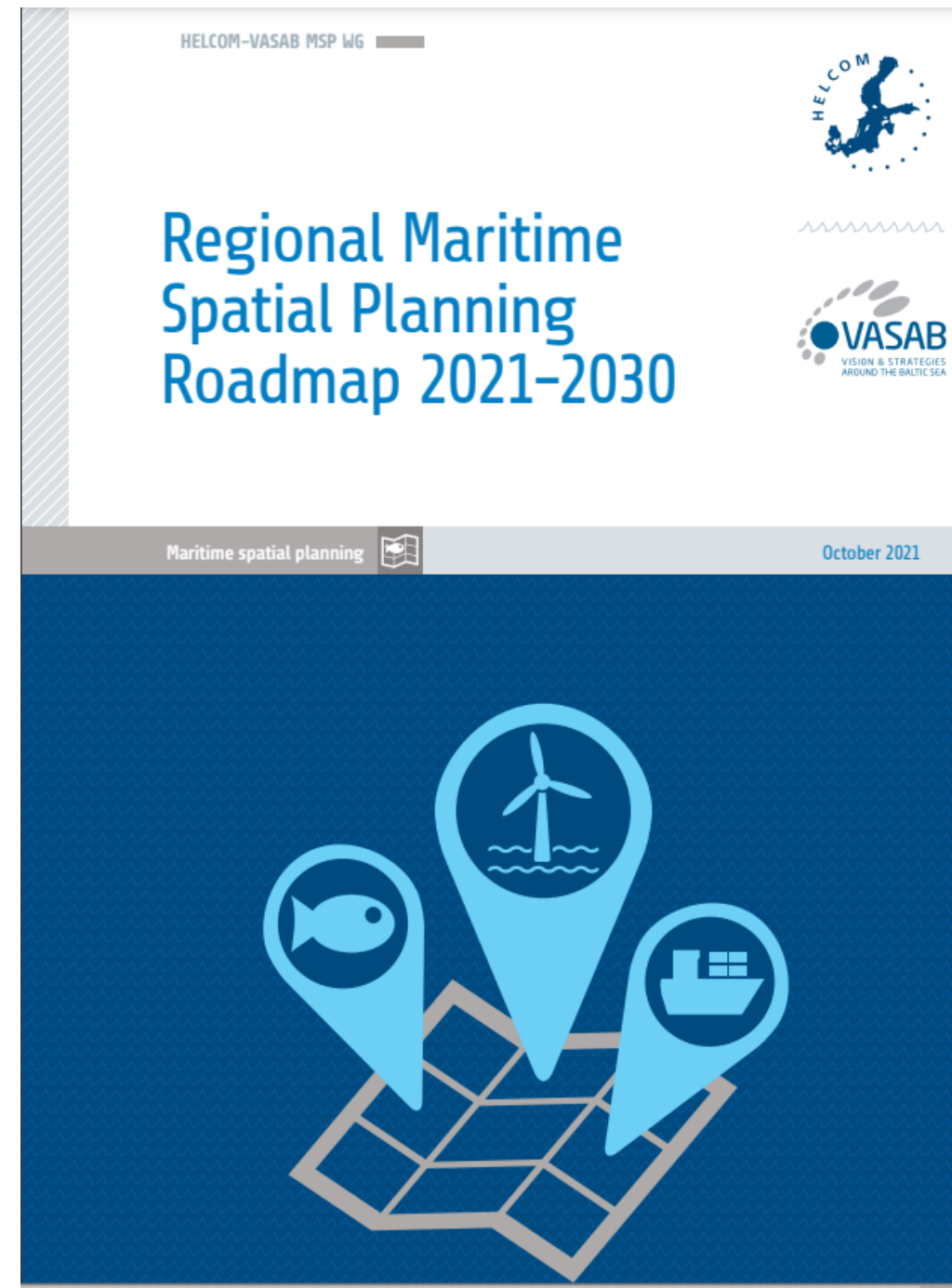
Regional MSP Roadmap steering the state of the art MSP

Objectives

1. Preparing the next MSP cycle
2. Improving regional coherence
3. Contributing to progress towards good environmental status
4. Sustainable blue economy
5. Mitigation, adaptation and resilience towards climate change

The revised MSP Roadmap focuses on the shift from drawing up of the maritime spatial plans to **implementation, monitoring, evaluation** and follow-up with subsequent eventual **reviewing** of the plans, with the focus on implementing **ecosystem-based approach** – with 27 actions to achieve the objectives.

<https://helcom.fi/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Regional-Maritime-Spatial-Planning-Roadmap-2021-2030.pdf>



[illegible]

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG work and climate change

- **Sustainable management** and **ecosystem based approach** (EBA) are two first of the ten principles jointly agreed for the Baltic Sea region, guiding coherent MSP processes across borders
 - EBA guidelines under revision with a new climate related chapter
- Work towards establishing collaboration with the **Baltic energy market interconnection plan** (BEMIP) on development of the offshore energy in the Baltic Sea Region
- In September 2024 session the WG initiated discussion on how the article “Key components of sustainable climate smart ocean planning” can be utilized in the Baltic Sea region and considered the 10 steps for climate-smart MSP
- The next session of the WG on 7-9 April 2025 to continue discussions and planning
- collaboration with **Joint HELCOM/Baltic Earth Expert Network on Climate Change** ([EN Clime](#))
 - coordinating framework and a platform to leverage the expertise of leading scientists in understanding both the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on the Baltic Sea environment, and to make this expertise available to policy makers and promote closer dialogue with them
 - Production and updates of the [Baltic Sea Climate Change Fact Sheet](#)
 - **Joint MSP WG – EN Clime workshop will be organized on 30 April 2025**
 - Main objectives: To review the recent EU projects' contribution to climate-change and MSP integration, how climate refugia are currently considered in national MSP processes, to assess and discuss how climate change considerations can be better aligned with MSP processes, building on recent research and the use of future and long-term scenario planning and to develop recommendations for next steps.



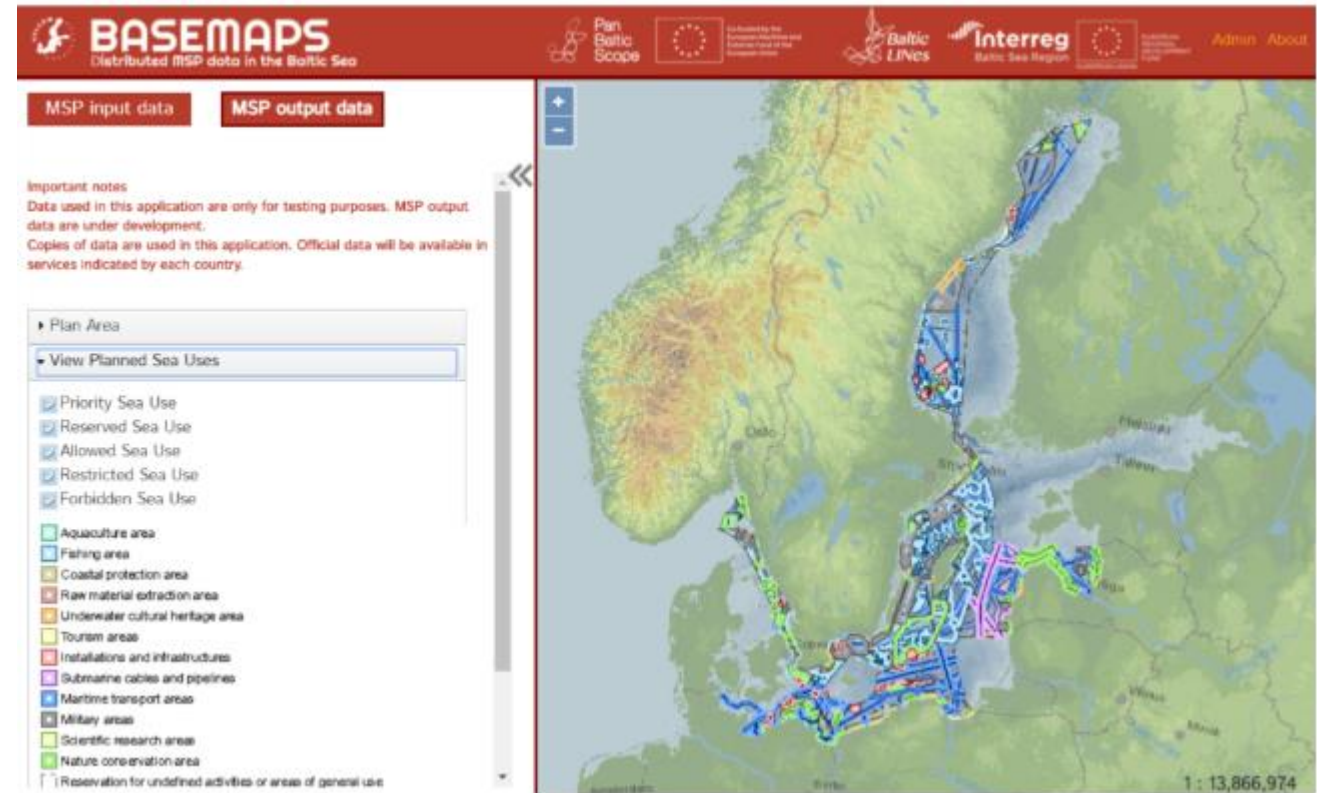
From the workplan: Regional MSP Roamap Objective 5. Spatial planning contributes to climate change mitigation, adaptation and increased resilience of the Baltic Sea Region

No.	Roadmap 2030 Action	Timing	Lead	Contributing	Concrete output (Roadmap)
For this workplan period					
5.1	Explore how MSP related sectors will be affected by climate change including how climate change might impact human activities under different future scenarios, aiming at developing MSP-strategies for increasing capacity of different sectors to adapt to expected climate change impacts	2025	DE	EE, FI, LV, SE, EN CLIME, MSP-GREEN project	(continues from 2022-24) A discussion paper as guidance for strategic ways for integrating climate change adaptation into MSP for the next planning cycle, coordinate timing with mid-term evaluations of national adaptation strategies
5.2	Explore how MSP can contribute to climate change mitigation and nationally determined contribution in terms of Paris Agreement, including NECPs and relevant national strategies.	2025	DE, FI, LV	EE, LV, SE, EU MSP Asst. mech., MSP-GREEN project	(continues from 2022-24) Stocktaking national experiences - an overview published
5.3	Identify how MSP can support adaptive conservation strategies to cater for spatial changes in ecosystems (e.g. migration), potential for including climate refugia in MSP for the entire Baltic Sea	2026	tbd.	DE, EE, FI, SE, EU MSP Asst. mech., projects eMSP, MSP4BIO, MPA Europe, EN CLIME	(continues from 2022-24) Information document on MSP's role in adaptive conservation strategies, including best practices
		2026	tbd.	Projects MSP4BIO, MPA Europe, EN CLIME.	(continues from 2022-24) Modelled maps of climate change impact on marine ecosystem (depending on availability of spatial data on climate change impacts)

December 2024 / January 2025: HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG workplan 2025-2027 approved by **VASAB Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region (CSPD/BSR)** and **HELCOM Heads of Delegation** – to made available soon on the [HELCOM website](https://www.helcom.fi/)

BASEMAPS

- BASEMAPS map service to access Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) relevant data from the original source where it is stored
- Links to OGC standard services available from national Maritime Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) in HELCOM Contracting Parties
- Data in Basemaps is categorized to “Input data” which is data that is relevant in MSP process and “Output data”, which is spatial data resulting from the MSP plan
- <http://basemaps.helcom.fi/>



Supporting the regional policy work

There are several ongoing large projects working on MSP with HELCOM as partner:

- [NESBp](#) - Northern European Sea Basins project
- [MSP4BIO](#) - Improved science-based maritime spatial planning to safeguard and restore biodiversity in a coherent European MPA network (HORIZON)
- [ReMAP](#) - Reviewing and Evaluating the Monitoring and Assessment of Maritime Spatial Planning (Interreg)
- [Baltic Sea2Land](#) - Fostering integrated governance for the joint sustainable use of human and natural capital in the near shore zone



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