

PROTECT BALTIC



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at HELCOM for PROTECT BALTIC



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Project stats

Timeline: mid-2023 (August)-mid 2028 (five years in total)

17 partners covering EE, FI, DE, DK, LT, LV and SE, as well as Coalition Clean Baltic

HELCOM Secretariat coordinating

Total budget: € 8 482 131.25

Primary target group: governing authorities, implementing and planning agencies, site managers, international organizations and agencies

Highly relevant also for: NGOs and economic actors (e.g. fisheries, tourism)

Project partners



PROTECT BALTIC and the bigger picture

Addresses two aspects of the triple planetary crisis: biodiversity loss and climate change.

Overall aim: sufficient spatial protection and restoration of the marine environment

EU level: Supports implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, MSFD, HBD, CFP, and the upcoming EU restoration law.

Regional sea level: Fully or partially directly implements 32 of 199 BSAP actions, and provides support to many more.

Global level: SDG 14 (as well as 5, 10 and 13) and the CBD global biodiversity targets for the Baltic Sea countries.



A response to the State of the Baltic 2023

The results of the State of the Baltic Report show the importance of looking at MPAs as part of a larger network of protected areas.

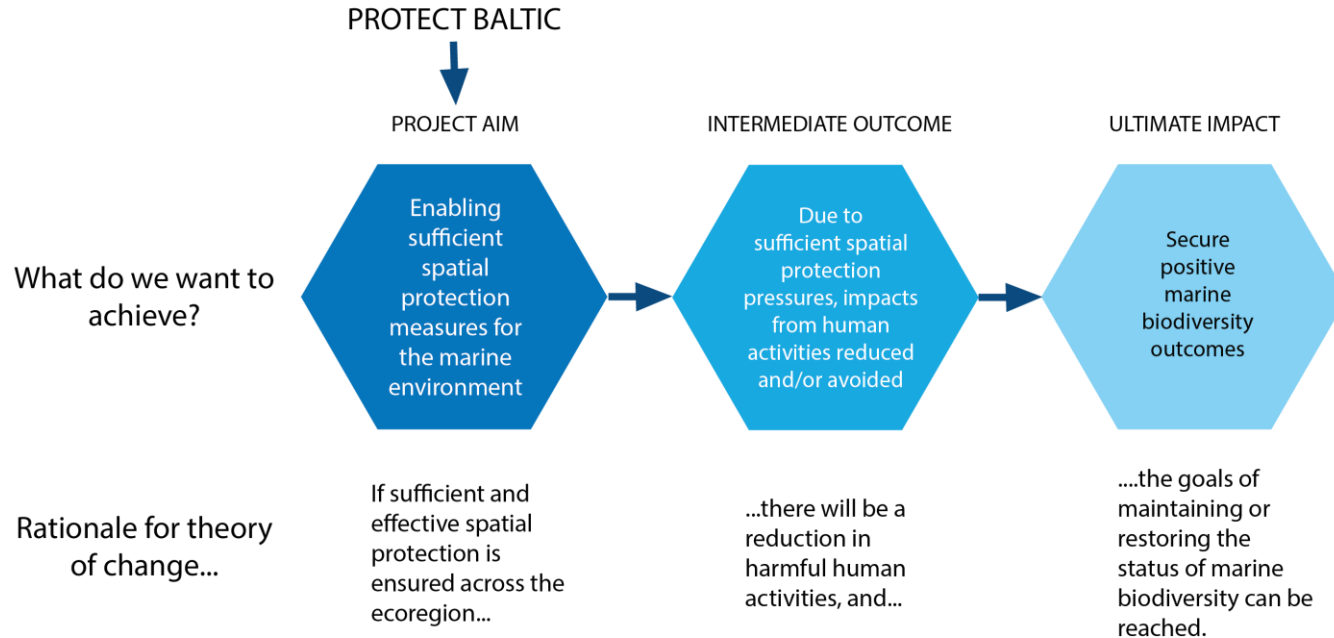
For the next five years, PROTECT BALTIC will be working to ensure that MPAs in the Baltic do not serve as isolated islands of protection in a larger sea of degradation.



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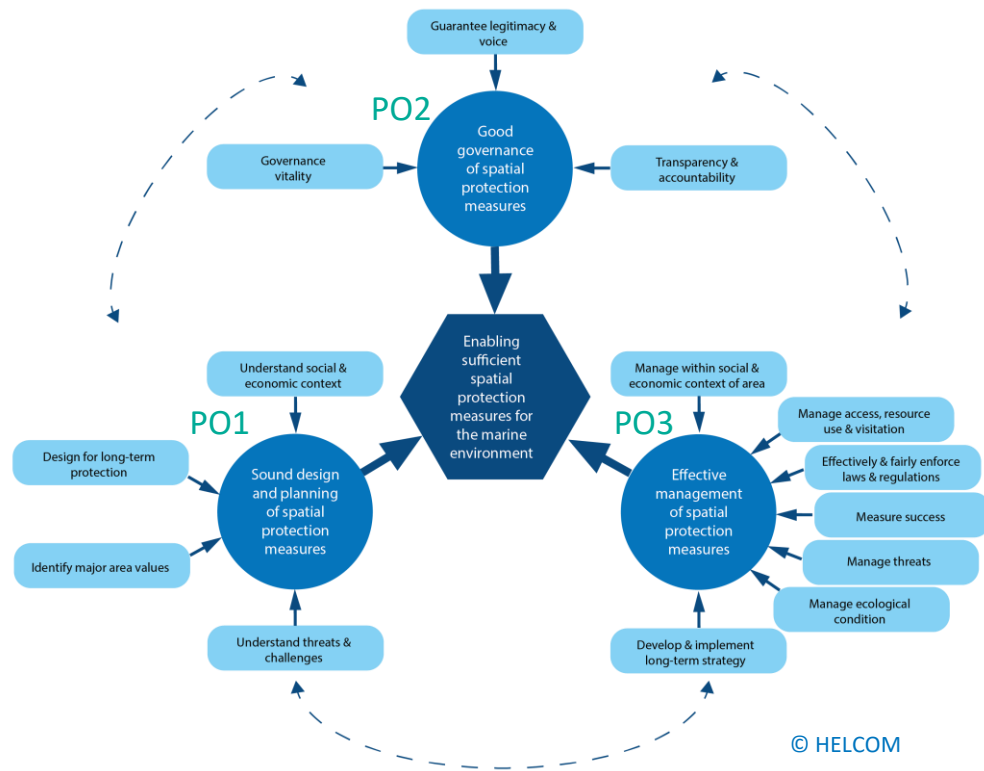
Read more at: <https://stateofthebalticsea.helcom.fi>

What are we trying to achieve?



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What do we need to address to get there?



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How we plan to do the work

Phase 1. Establishing a common framework and evidence base

Ensure infrastructure, framework and evidence base to improve practical implementation of conservation measures across the Baltic Sea region.

Phase 2. Establish baselines for marine protection

Establishing and improved understanding of the current baseline, enabling strategic, effective and efficient implementation of conservation efforts.

Phase 3. Gap analysis

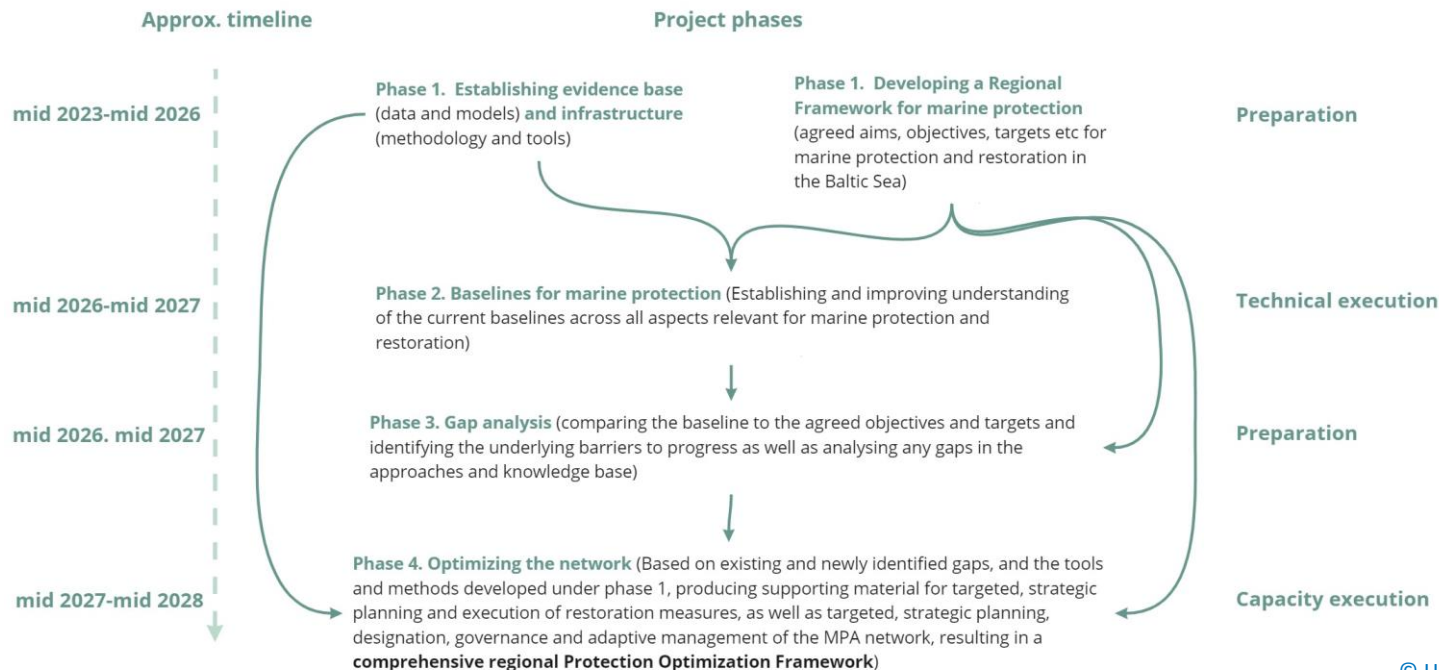
Improved understanding of the barriers to progress, enabling targeted strategic, effective and efficient solutions.

Phase 4. Optimizing spatial protection

Producing support for targeted, strategic planning, designation and management of spatial protection to realize the full potential of individual sites and the network as a whole.

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A timeline for the project phases

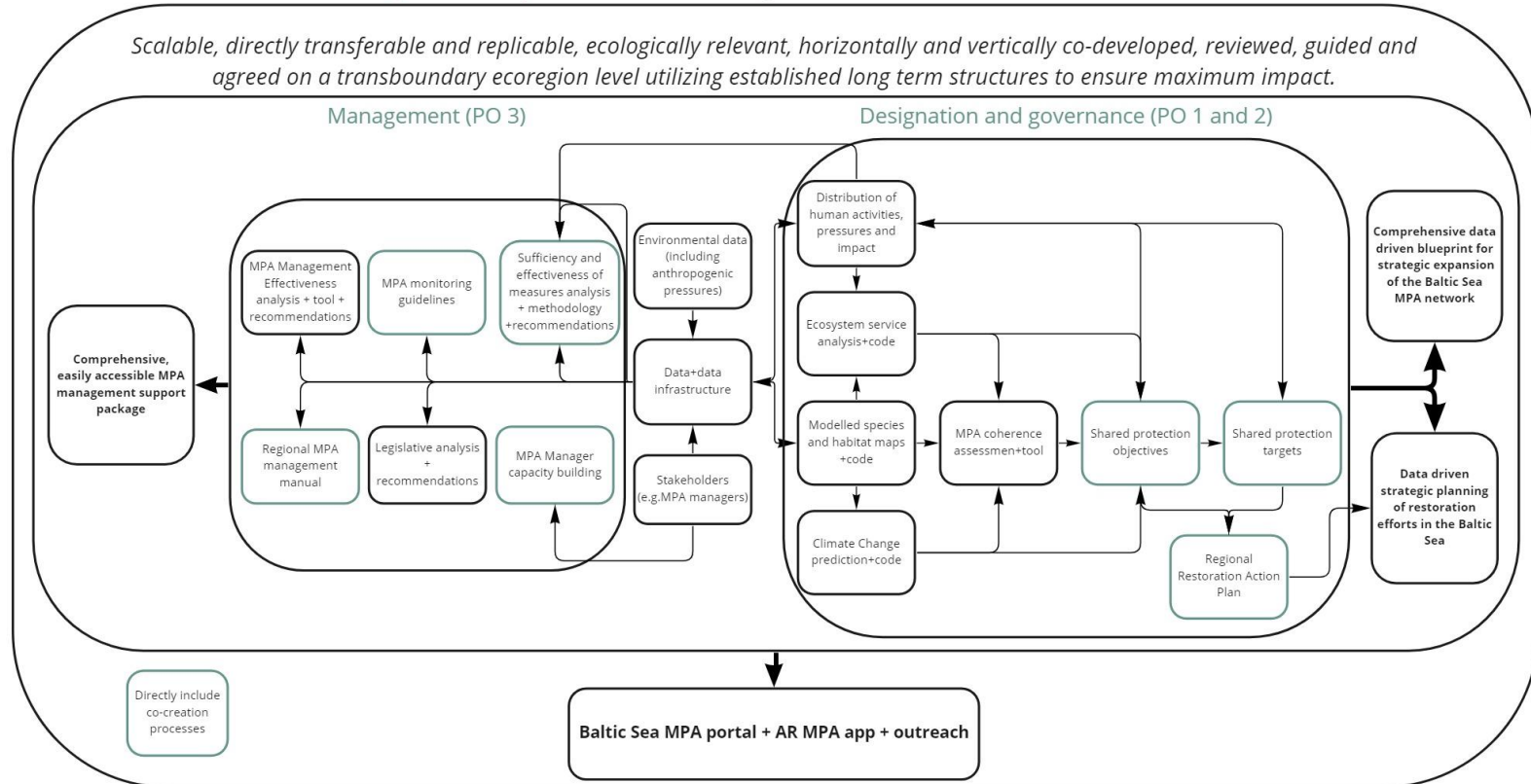


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From concept to delivery

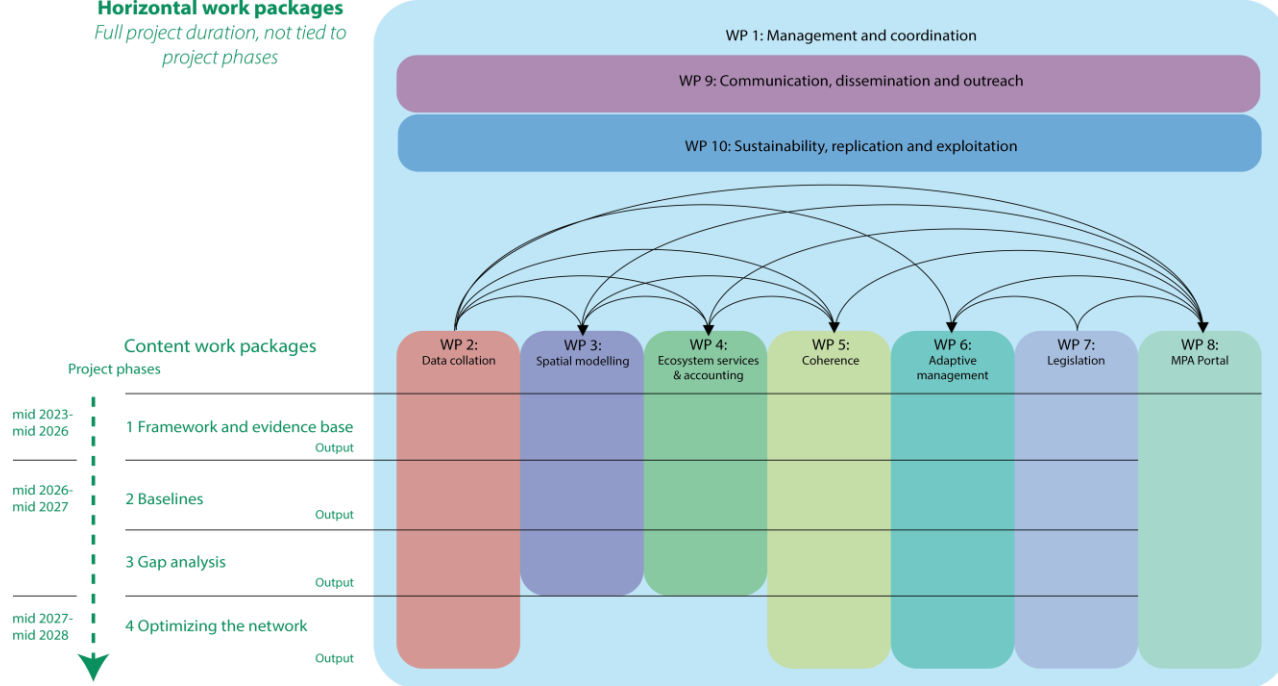
Regional protection optimisation framework

Scalable, directly transferable and replicable, ecologically relevant, horizontally and vertically co-developed, reviewed, guided and agreed on a transboundary ecoregion level utilizing established long term structures to ensure maximum impact.



Project structure (i.e. what will we be doing?)

Horizontal work packages
Full project duration, not tied to project phases



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Impact flow



When preparing deliverables and products

We want them to be:

Ecologically relevant

Cutting edge and state-of-the-art

Long lasting

Adaptable

Transparent

Replicable (process documentation and blueprints)

Scalable

Baltic Stakeholder Conference 2024

29 February 2024 in Helsinki (pre-register your interest [here](#))

Hybrid event: in-person and online

BSC 2024 is dedicated to PROTECT BALTIC.

- Introducing the project work.
- Functioning as a tool to map stakeholder wishes and their preferred types of engagement.
- Collating input to guide the development work for the first three years, i.e. dedicated sessions for all WPs that may benefit.
- Parallel youth event (aimed at pre-graduates) to engage them in the project at an early phase and empower them later for replicability post-project.

Project engagement and communication

Info on HELCOM's website: <https://helcom.fi/helcom-at-work/projects/protect-baltic>

New project website just launched: <https://protectbaltic.eu>

Follow the project on social media:

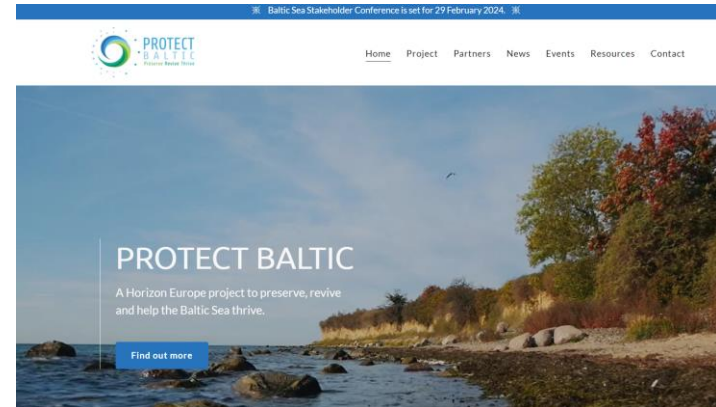
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Thank you for your attention

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