

Programme of the 3rd Natura 2000 biogeographical seminar for the Baltic marine region

8-10 November 2023

Wellton Riverside SPA Hotel, Riga, Latvia





Programme

Introduction

The Natura 2000 biogeographical seminar for Baltic marine region will be held between 8th – 10th November 2023. It is hosted jointly by the European Commission's DG Environment and Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Republic of Latvia.

The venue is the [Wellton Riverside SPA Hotel](#) (33, 11. Novembra krastmala, LV-1050) in Riga, Latvia.

The latest version of the programme, the background document as well as other useful documents for the seminar can be found online, at the website: <https://biogeoprocess.net/balticregion/>

Or just scan this QR code:





Day 1: Wednesday 8th November

Time	Activity	Location
8.30 – 9.00	Registration	Panoramic hall, top floor
9.00 – 09.30	<p>Official welcome & introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Rudite Vesere, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia • Video message from Andrea Vettori, Head of Unit, Nature Conservation Unit, DG Environment, European Commission • Opening and Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: policy context for the biogeographical process – Vedran Nikolić, European Commission, DG Environment, Nature Conservation Unit • Overview of the seminar programme, housekeeping rules – Luna Milatović (Biogeographical Process) 	Panoramic hall
09.30 – 09.50	<i>Break</i>	
09.50 – 11.00	<p>Protected area targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are we – overview and distance to target – Anna Cheilari, European Commission, DG Environment, Nature Conservation Unit • Methodology and initial analysis of received pledges – Richard White, (Biogeographical Process) • Scientific basis for identification of MPAs – Anna Maria Adamo, Horizon Europe Project - MPA EUROPE • PROTECT BALTIC Project – Paul Trouth, Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - HELCOM • Pledges and approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denmark - Caroline Vestergaard Mikkelsen, Ministry of Environment • Sweden - Lena Tingström, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management • Contribution from other Member States • Q&A 	Panoramic hall
11.00 – 11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.30 – 13.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on way forward in groups • Reporting back to plenary 	Panoramic hall, Discussion hall, Marstalu hall
13.00 – 14.30	<i>Lunch break – self paid, see information email for suggestions</i>	
14.30 – 15.30	<p>Conservation status targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are we – overview and distance to target – Vedran Nikolić, European Commission, DG Environment, Nature Conservation Unit • Methodology and initial analysis of received pledges – Richard White, (Biogeographical Process) • Research of marine protected habitats in EEZ and determination of the necessary conservation status in Latvia – LIFE REEF - Solvita Strake, Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology • Pledges and approaches • Q&A 	Panoramic hall
15.30 – 16.00	<i>Coffee break</i>	



16.00 – 17.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on way forward in groups • Reporting back to plenary 	Panoramic hall, Discussion hall, Marstalu hall
18.30 – 21.30	Gala dinner	Restaurant Kalku vārti

Day 2: Thursday 9th November

Time	Activity	Location
8.30 – 9.00	Registration	Panoramic hall
9.00 – 9.15	Opening plenary	Panoramic hall, Discussion hall, Marstalu hall
9.15 – 11.15	Session 1 - Role of Natura 2000 sites and other MPAs in marine restoration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Nature Restoration Law and MPAs – Vedran Nikolić, European Commission, DG Environment, Nature Conservation Unit • Better BirdLIFE and COASTal LIFE – Bent Jepsen, ELMEN EEIG • Q&A • Moderated discussion • Reporting back to the plenary 	
11.15 – 11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.30 – 13.30	Session 2 – Renewable energy and marine conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving renewable energy targets while protecting and restoring biodiversity – Vedran Nikolić, European Commission, DG Environment, Nature Conservation Unit • Upscaling and demonstration of NoviOcean, a breakthrough wave energy converter: The Hydro Power Plant at Sea - Anders Tengelin, NOVIGE AB • Q&A • Moderated discussion • Reporting back to the plenary 	Panoramic hall, Discussion hall, Marstalu hall
13.30 – 15.00	<i>Lunch break – self paid, see information email for suggestions</i>	
15.00 – 17.00	Session 3 - Strict protection in the Baltic marine region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict protection in the context of Biodiversity strategy targets – Anna Cheilari, European Commission, DG Environment, Nature Conservation Unit • Biodiversea LIFE IP for Marine Nature - Charlotta Björklund, Government of Åland, Finland • Q & A • Moderated discussion • Reporting back to the plenary 	Panoramic hall, Discussion hall, Marstalu hall
17.00 – 17.30	Next steps for the pledge process and summary of discussions	
18.00 – 20.00	Knowledge market and buffet dinner	Panoramic hall

Day 3: Friday 10th November

Time	Activity	Location
8.00 – 15.00	Veczemju rocks (optional, organised by the host)	Limbaži district