3 GOALS

1. Baltic Sea spatial protection enhances biodiversity and ecosystem health
2. Spatial protection network is ecologically planned
3. Marine protected area network is effectively and equitably managed

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What is PROTECT BALTIC about?

PROTECT BALTIC is a transboundary Horizon Europe project that aims to enable comprehensive, effective and efficient protection and restoration measures for the Baltic Sea's ecosystems.

The project is coordinated by HELCOM and brings together 17 partner organizations all dedicated to optimizing spatial protection in this vital region.
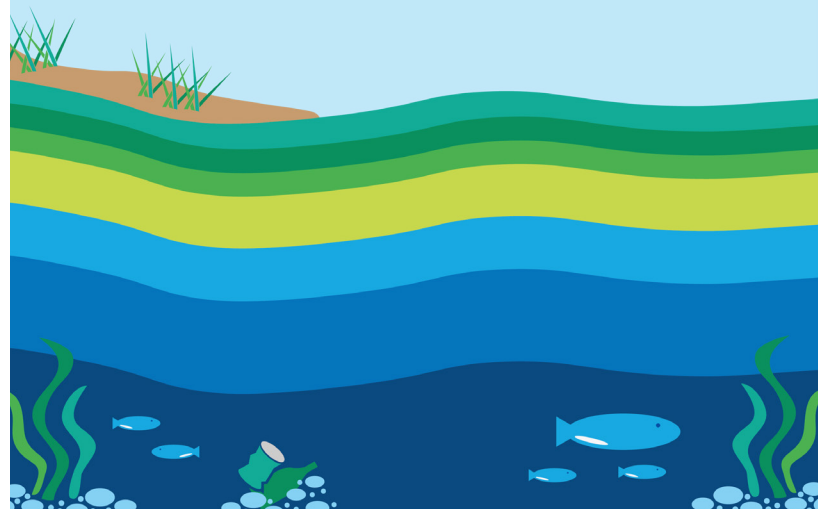
In a nutshell, the project aims to:

1. **Establish a cornerstone database** for strategic planning and management of marine protected areas.

2. Create a collaborative **protection optimization framework** that sets shared regional objectives for restoration and protection.

3. Assess current Baltic protection efforts to **establish a baseline and identify gaps** where more protection and restoration efforts are needed.
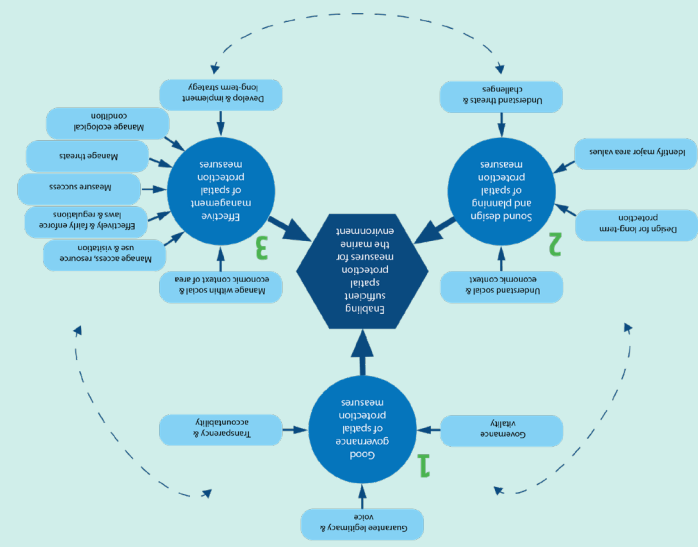
4. Offer **concrete and replicable support** to Baltic states so they can fill those data gaps and achieve the full potential of protection and restoration efforts.

EXPANDING SPATIAL PROTECTION IN THE BALTIC SEA

FROM 17% → 30%

WITH 10% STRICTLY PROTECTED

10 WORK PACKAGES

Project management and coordination; Data collation; Spatial modelling; Ecosystem services and valuation; Coherence; Adaptive management; Legislation; MPA Portal; Communication, outreach and dissemination; and Sustainability

17 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

AARHUS UNIVERSITY · AKTiiVS · Bundesamt für Naturschutz (BfN) · Coalition Clean Baltic · Ministry of Environment of Denmark · Ympäristöministeriö Miljöministeriet Ministry of the Environment · JADE UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES Wilhelmshaven Oldenburg Elsfleth · Klaipeda University · REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA Ministry of Climate · METSÄHALLITUS · SLU · Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management · Syke · UNIVERSITY of TARTU Estonian Marine Institute · Åbo Akademi University

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Quick guide to

PROTECT BALTIC

Humans rely on the Baltic's ecosystem services for survival

PROTECT BALTIC enables effective protection and restoration measures that support the Baltic Sea ecosystem, its functions and services.

PROTECT BALTIC works to improve our understanding of how and what human activities are impacting the sea, and where they take place.

Human activities exert environmental pressures

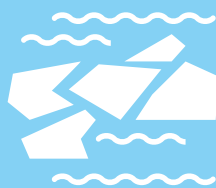## Human activities are also at the core of the solution

PROTECT BALTIC gathers and shares data on protection measures, assesses governance and management efforts, and recommends improvements.

PROTECT BALTIC develops an action plan for spatial protection that promotes coordinated measures that benefit biodiversity and ecosystems.

Spatial protection is a proven way to manage human activities

No MPA should be an island

PROTECT BALTIC plays a central role in promoting a network-level perspective for planning, designating, and managing spatial protection.

PROTECT BALTIC empowers marine protection in the Baltic Sea by using and disseminating the most extensive and up-to-date knowledge and information.

Knowledge is crucial for unlocking protection potential

Tools work only if used, and used correctly

PROTECT BALTIC pioneers an ecosystem-driven holistic approach to optimizing spatial protection efforts across the whole Baltic Sea.