



PROTECT BALTIC: From threatened to thriving



PROTECT BALTIC is a five-year Horizon Europe project that runs from 2023 to 2028. The project aims to ensure sufficient protection and restoration in the marine environment of the Baltic Sea to secure biodiversity, maintain ecosystem function, produce ecosystem services, and enable sustainable use. This is achieved by strategically **monitoring and managing human activities**, with a focus on reducing their impact through **spatial protection measures for marine protected areas (MPAs)**, **other effective conservation measures (OECMs)**, as well as actions to **restore and rehabilitate damaged ecosystems**.

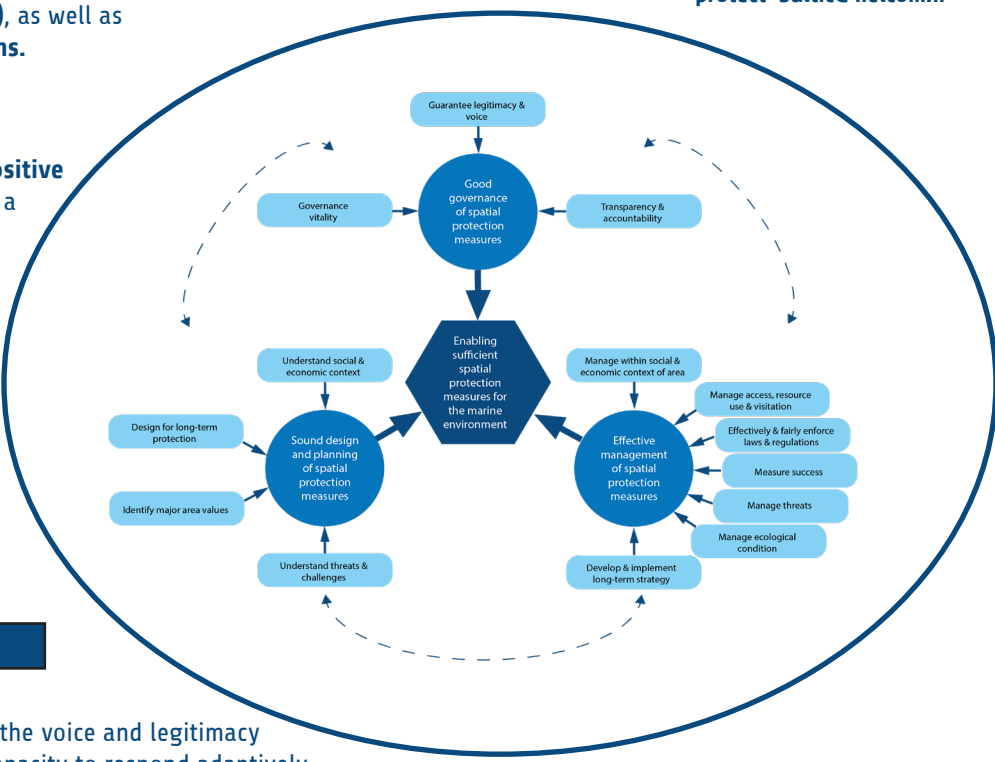
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What are the goals?

Spatial protection in the Baltic Sea results in **tangible positive biodiversity outcomes** and demonstrably contributes to a **healthy and resilient Baltic sea** with diverse biological components functioning in balance.

The Baltic Sea spatial protection network is strategically planned from an ecological perspective and is **resilient, coherent, ecologically representative and well connected**.

The Baltic Sea marine protected area (MPA) network is **effectively and equitably managed in an ecologically relevant way**, enabling the potential of the network to provide biodiversity benefits to be realized.



How we plan to achieve them

1 Good governance

Ensuring transparency and accountability, guaranteeing the voice and legitimacy of stakeholders, and enabling governance vitality and capacity to respond adaptively.

2 Sound design and planning

Identifying and understanding area values, threats and challenges, the socio-economic context, and long-term protection.

3 Effective management

Managing the ecological condition of areas, mitigating threats to biodiversity caused by human activities, regulating access, resource use and visitation, considering the socio-economic context for an area, enforcing laws and regulations, implementing a sustainable, long-term management strategy for management, and continually measuring success.

