



**BLUE
MISSION
BANOS**

1st MISSION ARENA
14-16 November 2023 | Gothenburg, SE

Strengthening Marine Protected Area Networks, policy coherence and community involvement

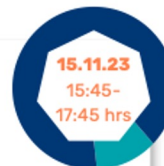
THEME: Marine Pollution/MPAs/Ocean Regeneration

in  #MissionArenaBANOS1



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Agenda



Workshop

Safeguarding Biodiversity: Strengthening Marine Protected Area Networks, policy coherence and community involvement.

Opening words: Jannica Haldin, HELCOM

Session 1- From protected to strictly protected areas

What is the status and what is needed to achieve the 10% of effective strict protection goal and the 30by30 target in the region?

- Johanna Fox, WWF Baltic
- Steven Degraer, RBINS
- Lena Tingström, SwAM

Session 2- Networks of MPAs and Blue Corridors

Are networks adequately planned and effectively implemented? Have relevant processes such as ecological connectivity been adequately considered in decision-making processes?

- Lena Tingström, SwAM
- Jannica Haldin, HELCOM
- Francisco Rafael Barboza Gonzalez, UTARTU

Session 3- Marine Protected Areas & Marine Spatial Planning integration

How much these processes go along and what is needed for an increased alignment? Can better policy coherence contribute to that?

- Kemal Pinarbasi, HELCOM
- Jan Schmidtbauer Crona, SwAM
- Froukje Maria Platjouw, NIVA

Session 4- Opportunities for MPA co-management: Community involvement and stewardship

Is co-management a solution for better and more effective management of MPAs? Is it contributing to effective conservation?

- Haidi Cecilie Petersen, SDU
- Johanna Fox, WWF Baltic
- Frederick Bruce, SUBMARINER





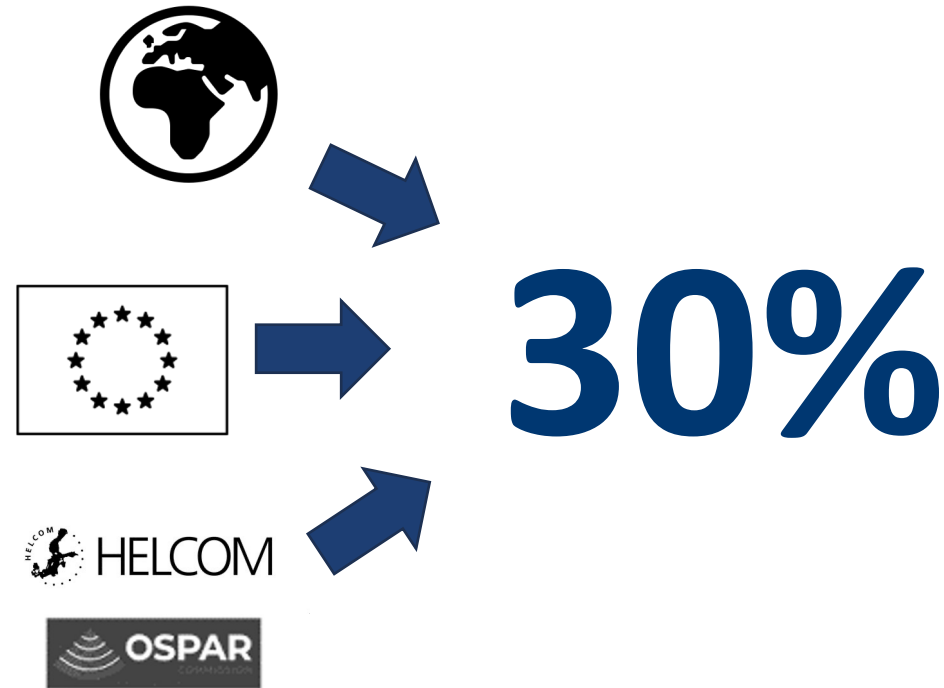
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Workshop: Safeguarding Biodiversity: Strengthening Marine Protected Area Networks, policy coherence and community

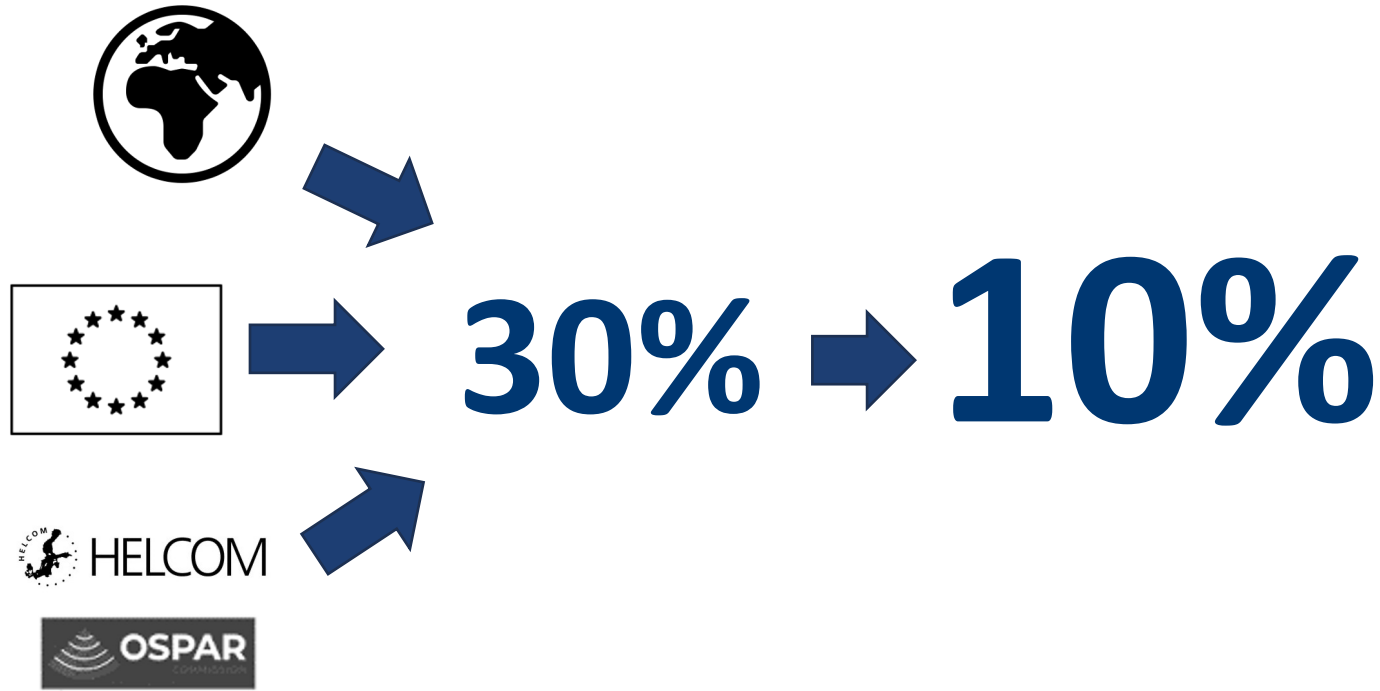
Jannica Haldin, HELCOM

THEME: Marine Pollution/MPAs/Ocean Regeneration

What are we trying to achieve?



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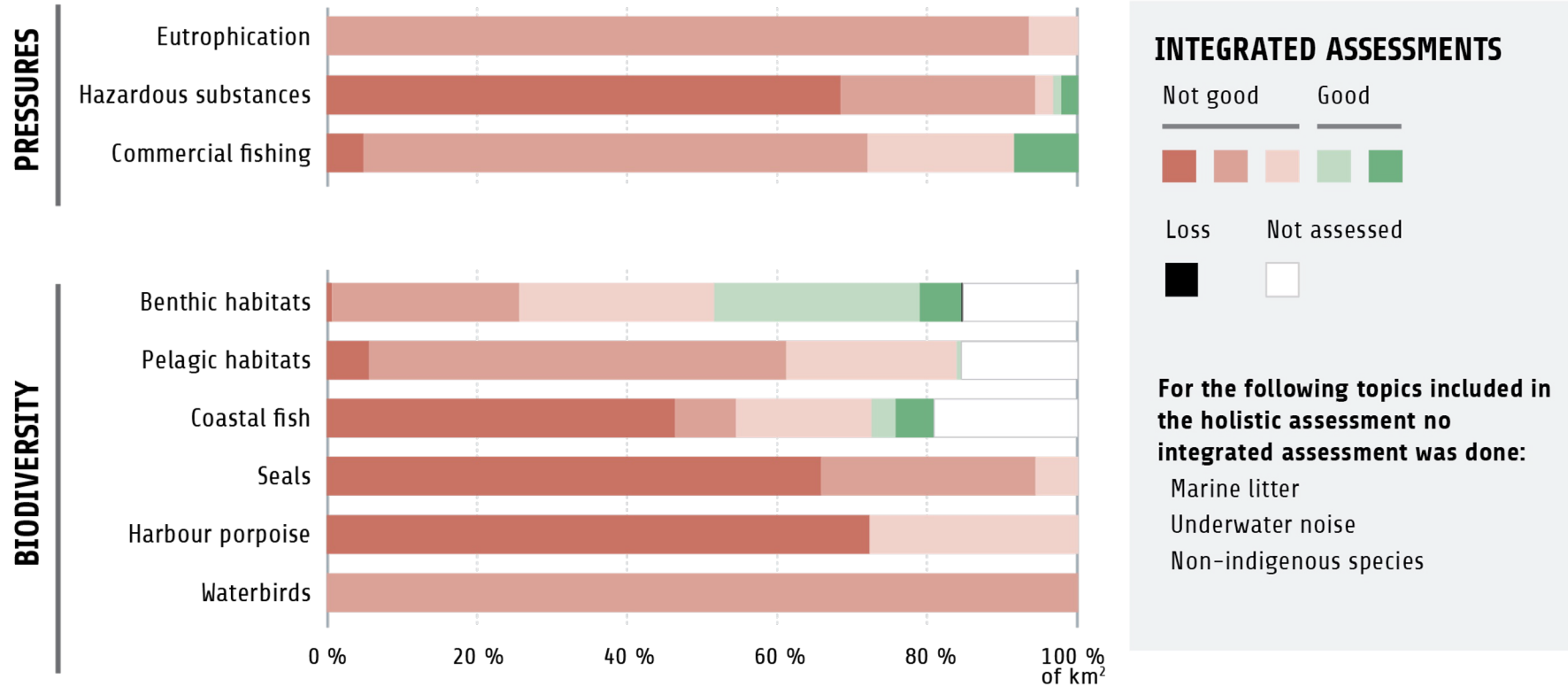
**30% → 10% → by
2030**

EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters"

- aims to protect and restore the health of our ocean and waters through research and innovation, citizen engagement and blue investments.

Where are we starting from?

State of Baltic Sea pressures and biodiversity 2016–2021



Where are we starting from?

Key messages from the Baltic Sea status assessment

- importance of measures to strengthen Baltic Sea biodiversity
- we are the problem...
- but we are also the solution.

However, we are in a race against time!

How to win the race?

- through intense focus on addressing gaps
- through cooperation
- through strategic and transformative action
- through understanding our relationship with the ecosystem

How to win the race?

- through intense focus on addressing gaps
- through cooperation
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and EU Mission Ocean, and its associated projects, allow us to do that!

Today, we will be looking at:

- What is the status of protection and what is needed to achieve the 10% of effective strict protection goal and the 30by30 target in the region?
- Are networks adequately planned?
- Are networks effectively implemented?
- Have relevant processes such as ecological connectivity been adequately considered in decision-making processes?
- How synergistic are these processes and what is needed for an increased alignment? Can improved policy coherence contribute to that?
- Is co-management a solution for better and more effective management of MPAs? Is it contributing to effective conservation?

Action points in b2match

Please think about, and highlight, good practices and examples that can be taken up to implement the Mission Ocean in the region.

Strengthening Marine Protected Area Networks, policy coherence and community involvement

Session 1: From protected to strictly protected areas

THEME: Marine Pollution/MPAs/Ocean Regeneration



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From protected to strictly protected areas

What is the status and what is needed to achieve the 10% of effective strict protection goal and the 30by30 target in the region?

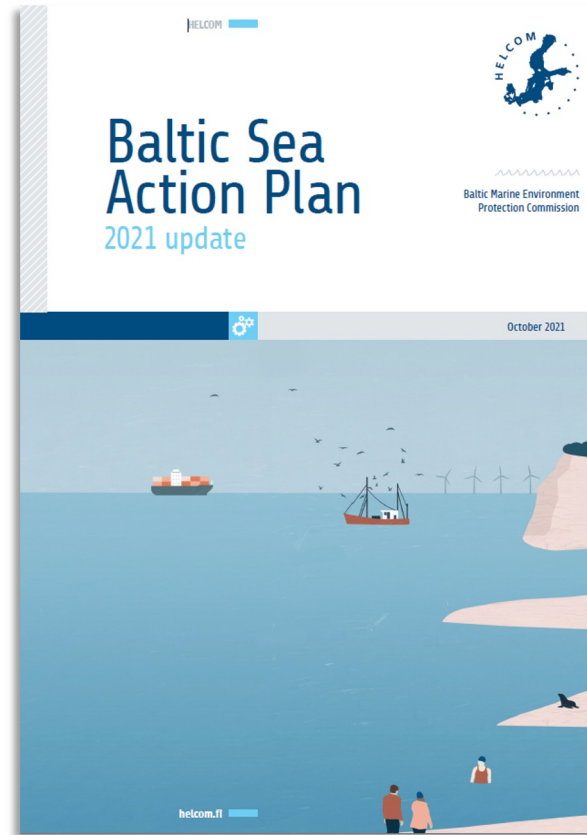
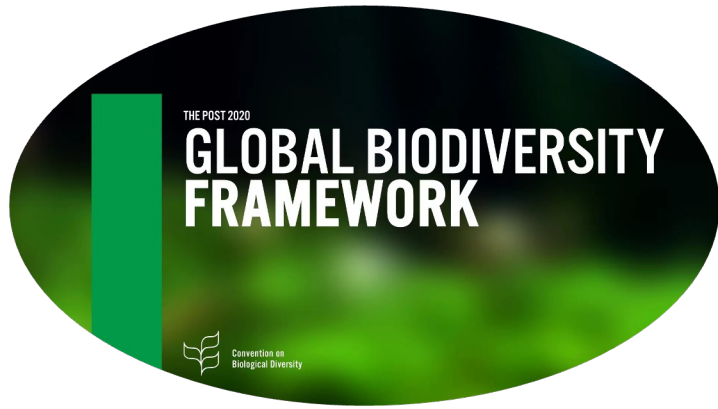
THEME: Safeguarding biodiversity

EU MPAs - quantity over quality?

- In 2019
 - 12,4% designated
 - Only 1,8 % with management plans
 - Less with effective management and monitoring
 - 59% of northern EU MPAs commercially trawled (Dureuil et al. 2018)



More quality with updated targets?



**30 percent
protection by 2030,
including 10%
strictly protected
areas**

What are strictly protected areas

*“Strictly protected areas are **fully and legally protected areas** designated to conserve and/or **restore the integrity of biodiversity-rich natural areas** with their underlying ecological structure and supporting natural environmental processes. **Natural processes are therefore left essentially undisturbed** from human pressures and threats to the area’s overall ecological structure and functioning, independently of whether those pressures and threats are located inside or outside the strictly protected area”.*

EU definition of strictly protected areas

Positive attitude among key stakeholders



© Justyna Zajchowska / WWF-PL

- WWF Poland MPA project
- Awareness raising among key stakeholders
- Recommendations
 - Transparent processes
 - Voices of local communities must be heard
 - Effectively managed MPAs bring benefits to local communities

Differing views on strict protection

- Placed in areas of least conflict?
- Which habitats, what species?
- Reference areas?
- Ban on fishing or allow some fishing?
- Need for a legal definition?
- Means for passive restoration?
- What about other pressures, e.g. eutrophication?
- Impacts on local communities?

Strengthening Marine Protected Area Networks, policy coherence and community involvement

Session II: Networks of MPAs and Blue Corridors

THEME: Marine Pollution/MPAs/Ocean Regeneration



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Networks of MPAs and Blue Corridors

Are networks adequately planned and effectively implemented? Have relevant processes such as ecological connectivity been adequately considered in decision-making processes?

THEME: Safeguarding Biodiversity: Strengthening Marine Protected Area Networks, policy coherence and community involvement

EU Biodiversity Strategy

Biodiversity fares better in protected areas. However, the current network of legally protected areas, including those under strict protection, is not sufficiently large to safeguard biodiversity. Evidence shows that the targets defined under the Convention on Biological Diversity are insufficient to adequately protect and restore nature . Global efforts are needed and the EU itself needs to do more and better for nature and build a truly coherent Trans-European Nature Network.

EU Biodiversity Strategy


- The strategy has set the objective of establishing a truly coherent Trans-European Nature Network, to legally protect at least 30% of the land, including inland waters, and **30% of the sea in the EU, of which at least one third (10% of land and 10% of sea) to be under strict protection.**
- In addition, in order to have a **truly coherent and resilient** Trans-European Nature Network, it will be important to **set up ecological corridors** to prevent genetic isolation, allow for species migration, and maintain and enhance healthy ecosystems.

Ecological coherence

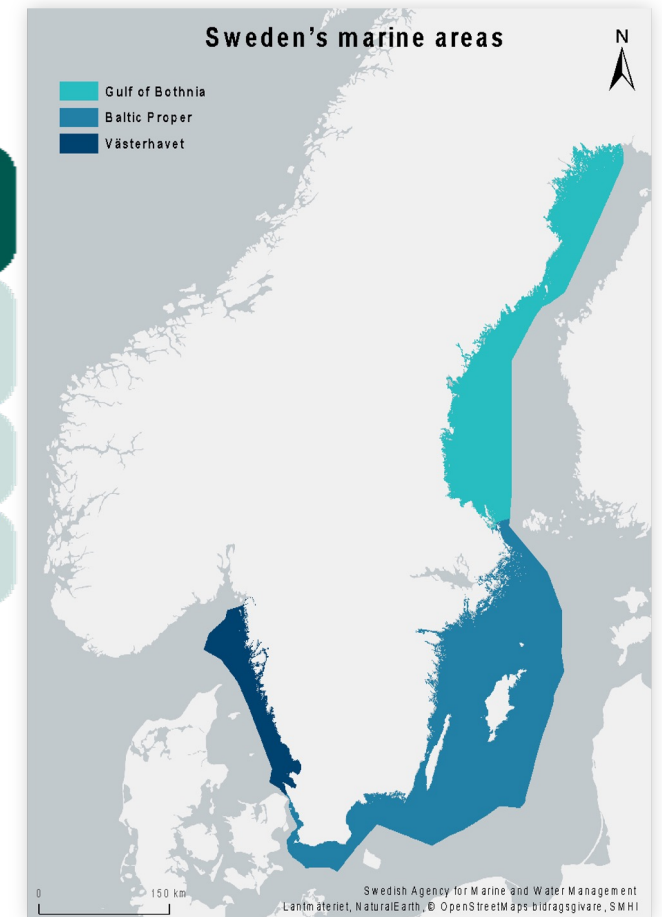
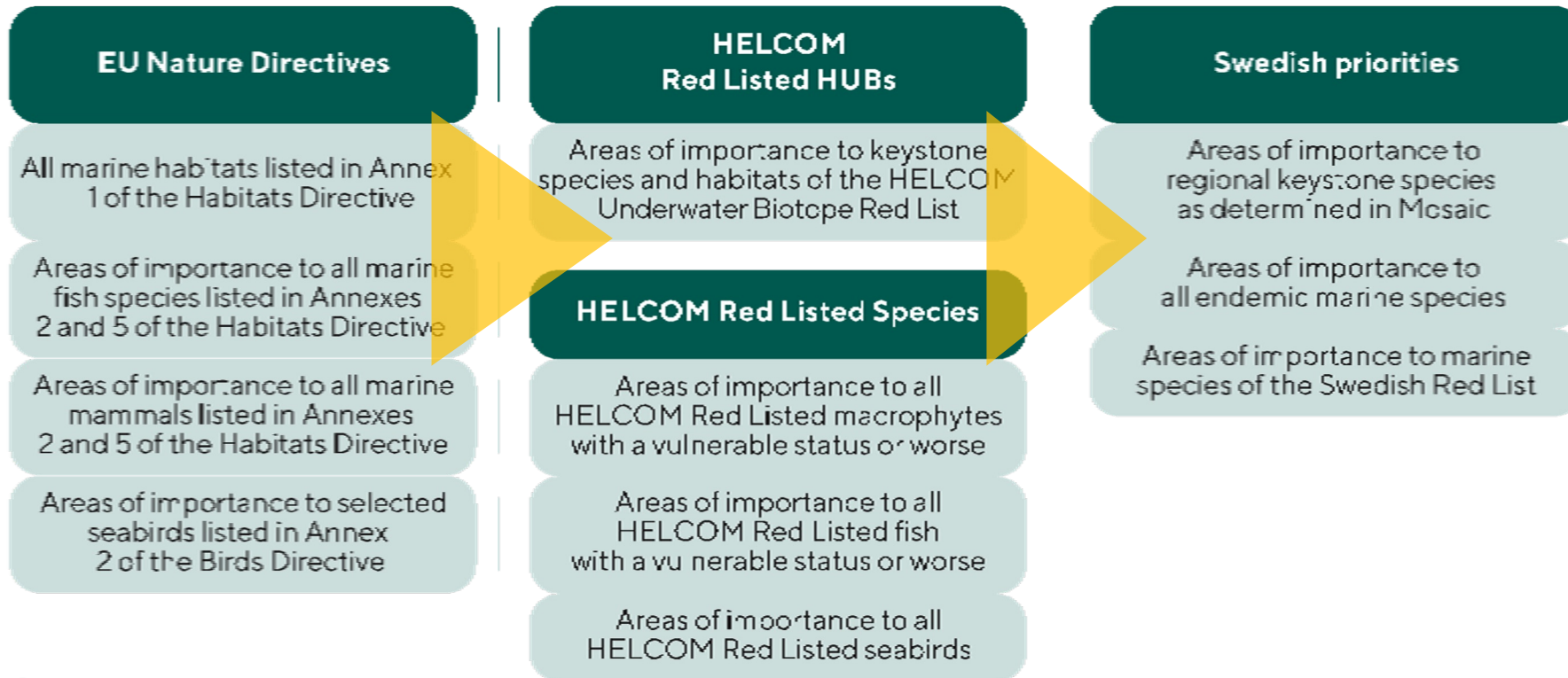
- Adequacy
- Viability
- Representativity
- Replication
- Connectivity

Swedish framework for MPA network design and management



 Framework for marine protected areas

Representativity, connectivity and functionality

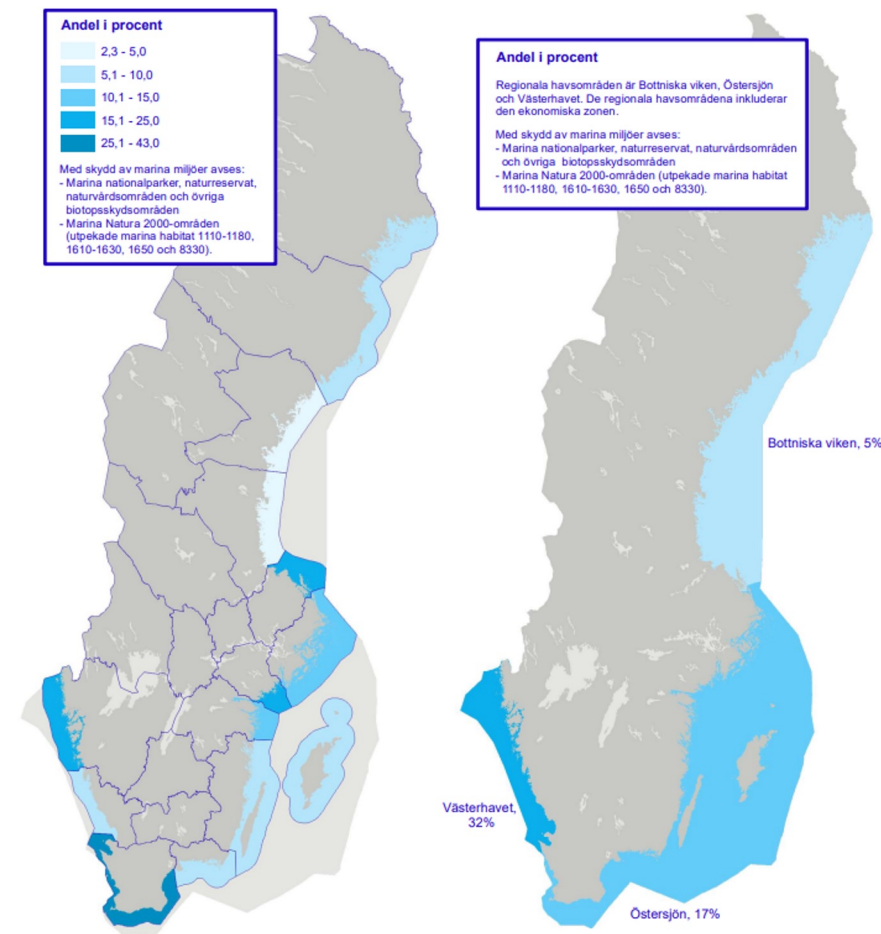


Preliminary pledges marin protected areas – per biogeographic region

Marine Atlantic Region	2023	2030
Protected areas (ha)	457 914 (32%)	502 914 (36,5%)
Strict protection (ha)	0	110 000 (8%)

Marine Baltic Region	2023	2030
Protected areas (ha)	1 860 434 (12,5%)	2 540 434 (18%)
Strict protection (ha)	0	73 600 (0,8%)

Karta 7 och 8. Skyddad natur i marin miljö, efter län och regionalt havsområde, 2021-12-31



Källa: Havs- och vattenmyndigheten, Naturvårdsregistret och NMD 1.1

Strengthening Marine Protected Area Networks, policy coherence and community involvement

Session III: Marine Protected Areas and Marine Spatial
Planning integration

THEME: Marine Pollution/MPAs/Ocean Regeneration

Safeguarding Biodiversity: Strengthening Marine Protected Area Networks, policy coherence and community involvement

Session III: Marine Protected Areas and Marine Spatial Planning integration

Kemal Pinarbasi, HELCOM Secretariat

THEME!INFO WORKSHOP

How to integrate MPAs and MSP?

” by including natural elements in the planning process.”



How to integrate MPAs and MSP?

- **Integration Approach:**
Integrate MSFD & MSP for streamlined **coordination** and include MPAs within MSP. Develop **stronger political will** for integration.
- **Clear regulations**
Clarify regulation for integration. Regulations can be a barrier for collaboration.
- **Awareness:**
Increase **awareness** about MSP and biodiversity among authorities. Co-design MPAs with all interested departments in a given area from the start.
- **Identify conflicts:**
Highlight the **conflicts** that arise (particularly over resources) from a lack of coordination of uses.



eMSP – MSP4BIO workshop on EBA in MSP, Helsinki, May 2023

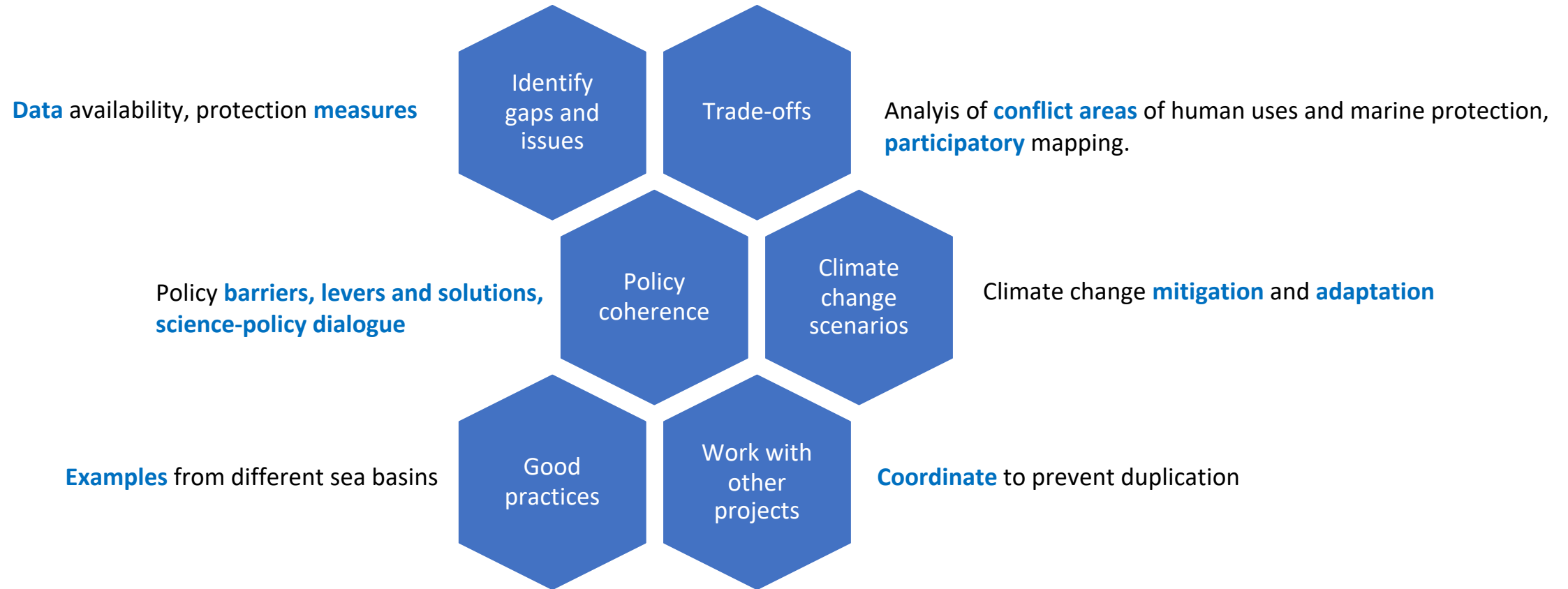
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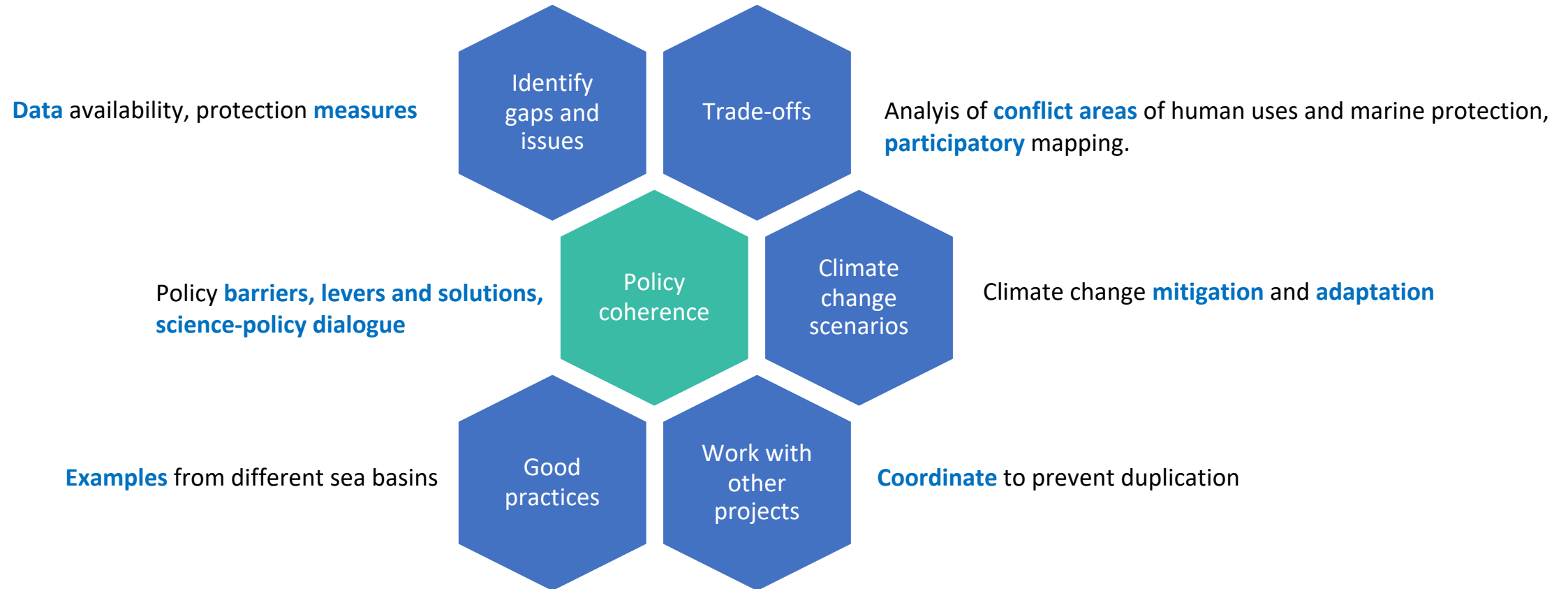
Mainstream biodiversity!

eMSP – MSP4BIO workshop on EBA in MSP, Helsinki, May 2023

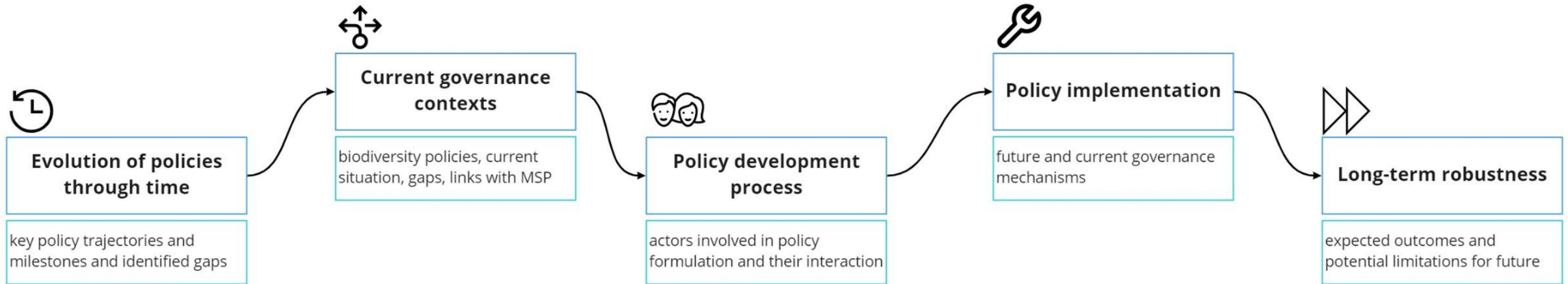
How to mainstream biodiversity in MSP?

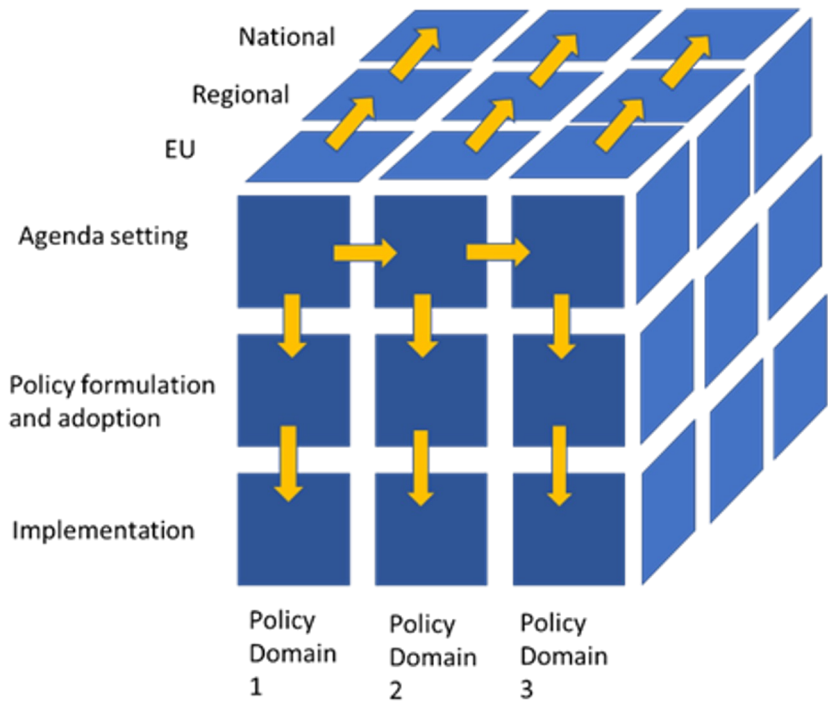
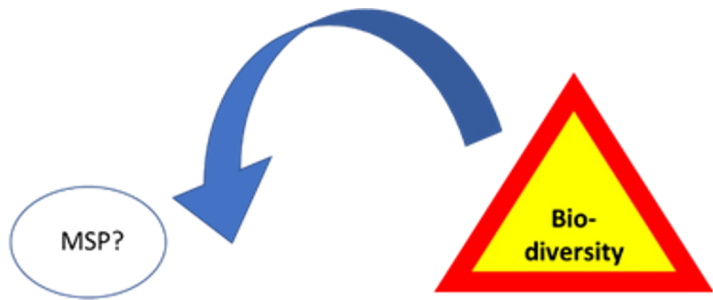


How to mainstream biodiversity in MSP?



Policy Coherence: Barriers and Levers





Science – Policy Dialogue, Think Tanks

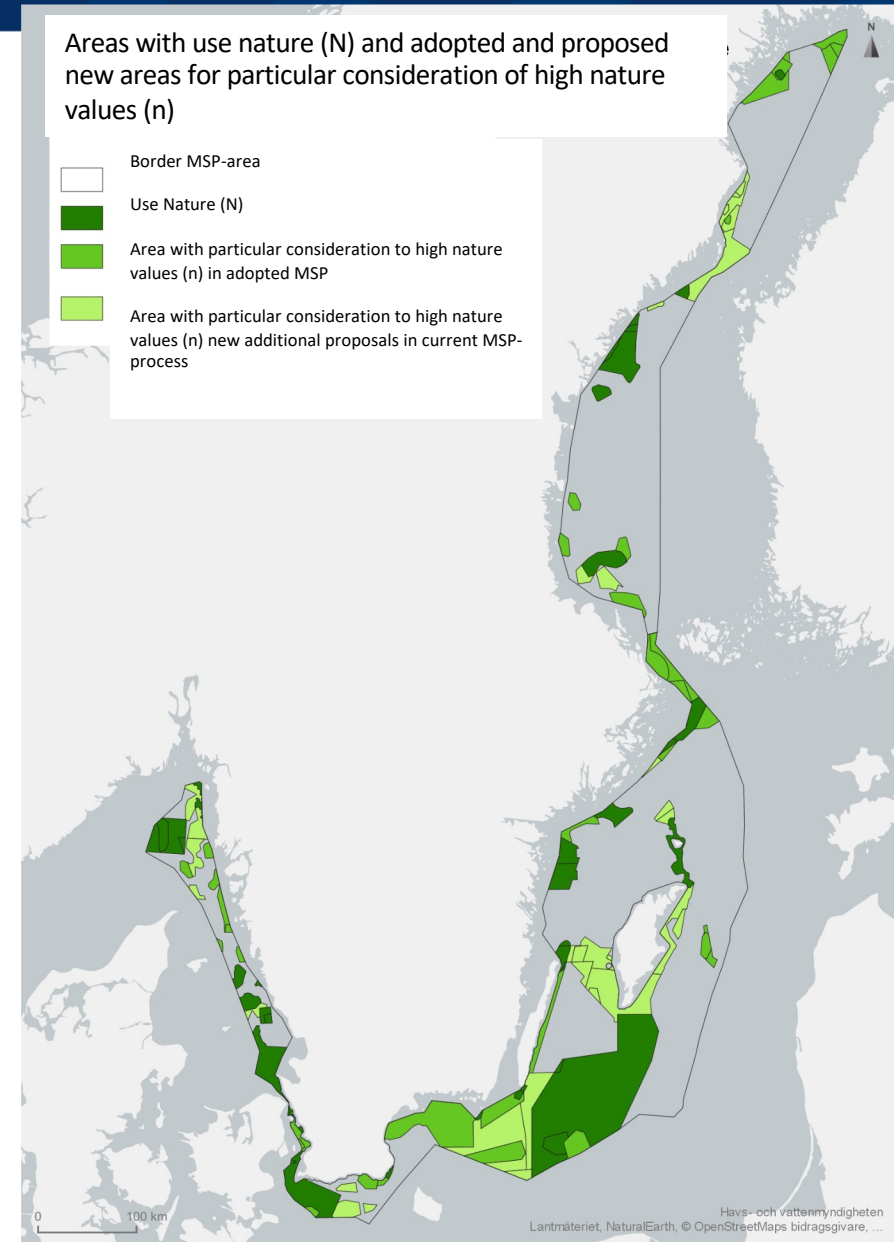
Thank you

Kemal Pinarbasi, HELCOM Secretariat
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Example from Swedish MSP: Current use nature N-areas, adopted n-areas and proposed additional n-areas for particular consideration to high nature values

□ **MSP-contribution
strengthening green
infrastructure/blue corridors**



Strengthening Marine Protected Area Networks, policy coherence and community involvement

Session IV: Opportunities for MPA co-management:
Community involvement and stewardship

THEME: Marine Pollution/MPAs/Ocean Regeneration



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Opportunities for MPA co-management: Community involvement and stewardship

Session IV: Opportunities for MPA co-management: Community involvement and stewardship

THEME: Marine Pollution/MPAs/Ocean Regeneration

The Crucial Role of Stakeholder Involvement

- Effective Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) is essential in conservation of marine ecosystems.
- MPAs can face challenges of resistance and lack of enforcement.
- Engagement with stakeholders and local communities can overcome some of the challenges.



Co-creation as foundation for effective MPAs

- **Early engagement:** Include stakeholders as early as possible, i.e. in the idea and design phase.
- **Inclusivity:** Co-creation involves actively engaging all relevant stakeholders, including local communities, government agencies, scientists, NGOs, and businesses, in the decision-making process for MPA designation and management.
- **Collaborative Decision-Making:** It encourages collaborative and participatory decision-making, where stakeholders work together to define MPA goals, boundaries, and regulations.
- **Shared Responsibility:** Co-creation promotes a sense of shared responsibility and ownership among stakeholders, leading to a higher likelihood of compliance and successful MPA management.
- **Adaptive Management:** It recognizes the need for flexibility and adaptive management, allowing for adjustments based on ongoing feedback and changing environmental conditions.



The Benefits of Community engagement

- Increased effectiveness of MPAs.
- Long-term benefits of healthy marine ecosystems for future generations, impact local economies and social structures:
 - ripple effects on local communities, via tourism, leisure, fishing stocks, and cultural heritage etc.
- Incorporate co-creation principles in guidelines for MPA processes.



Strengthening Marine Protected Area Networks, policy coherence and community involvement

DISCUSSION

THEME: Marine Pollution/MPAs/Ocean Regeneration

Strengthening Marine Protected Area Networks, policy coherence and community involvement

ACTION POINTS

THEME: Marine Pollution/MPAs/Ocean Regeneration

Steps towards effective Mission Deployment in the ARENA region

Action Points for the ARENA region until 2030

3.1 TARGETS

- **Ensure that 30% of the Baltic and North Sea are effectively protected with clearly defined conservation objectives and measures.**
- **Achieve 10% of strict marine protection of the Baltic and North Sea by 2030.**

3.2 ACTION POINTS

- **Further develop and implement existing tools and solutions for efficient establishment and management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and their networks.**
- **Enhance implementation of national measures such as marine (strict) protection for restoration and conservation of Baltic and North Sea.**
- **Establish better connected and functional transnational/regional MPA networks.**
- **Implement and upscale tools and technologies, developed through ongoing projects (such as Protect Baltic, BLUE4ALL, MSP4BIO), to ensure effectiveness of the strictly protected areas in the Baltic and North Sea as part of marine protection and restoration initiatives.**

3.2 ACTION POINTS

- **Continue mainstreaming biodiversity protection into national / regional MSPs and other sectoral policies in line with findings of ongoing projects (such as MSP4BIO, CrossGov) and initiatives in cooperation with all stakeholders ensuring policy coherence.**
- **Devolve establishment, management, monitoring, and conservation of MPAs to local communities, empower local stakeholders for joint ownership of effective, conserved and protected marine ecosystems and restoration efforts.**
- **Transfer and upscale good practices and technologies beyond the Arena region, such as those supporting the establishment of MPA networks and implementation of ecosystem based maritime spatial planning from Sweden and biodiversity inclusiveness in MSP from Denmark.**



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THANK YOU!

THEME: Marine Pollution/MPAs/Ocean Regeneration

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