2025

18 - 23 AUGUST 2025

Co organised by

Latvijas Zaļā kustība
Latvian Green Movement

OUR COMMON BALTIC COURSE

RESTORATION GUIDELINES FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

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Co funded by

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Nordic Council of Ministers

Credit Camille Fraizy

Coalition Clean Baltic

Nature Restoration Regulation

EU law that applies directly to EU Member States. In the Baltic Sea Catchment Area these are: Czeck Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden

Objective: “continuous, long-term and sustained recovery of biodiverse and resilient nature” (NRL, preamble (43), p. 8)

18th Aug. 2024

Law came into effect

2026

National Restoration Plans

2030

- Restoration measures for 20% of EU land & sea habitats
- 25 000 km free-flowing rivers
- 3 billion trees planted

2050

Restoration measures for all EU habitats

Latvian Habitats

Explore latvian habitats in protected areas with *e.g.* Natura 2000 viewer

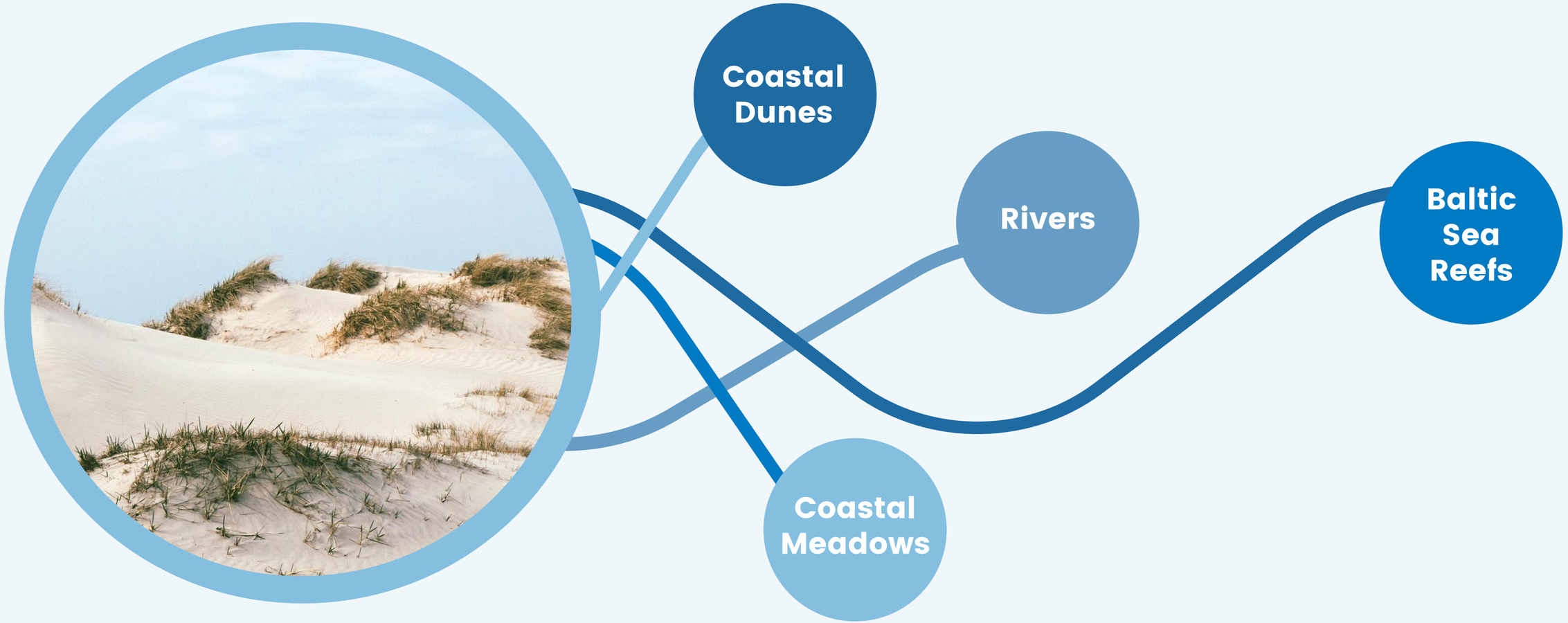

Photo by Elvira Blumfelde on Unsplash

Latvian Marine Habitats

Environmental Pressures: *e.g.* Offshore Wind Energy

- Rapidly expanding
- Areas of interest overlap with biodiversity hotspots

Legislative Changes – Creating Management Plans

- No valid management plans for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
- Plans being developed, TBC end of 2025

Legislative Changes – Changes to MPAs

- Changing MPA borders, expanding into Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

Work ongoing in the LIFE REEF project
CCB is involved with MPAs in the Baltic Sea through the HELCOM PROTECT project

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Climate Change

Synergies with Restoration

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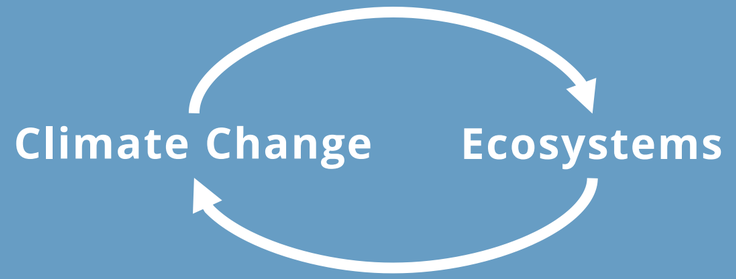
Driving Change

e.g. habitat & biodiversity loss



Mitigation & Adaptation

e.g. carbon sinks (seagrasses and soft sediments)
& coastal protection (dunes)

Nature restoration contributes to:

➔ Climate obligations
(*e.g.* European Climate Law)

➔ Nature-based solutions

➔ Climate resilient Europe

See NRR Pre-amble (1, p.1; 16-19, pp. 3-4)

Points of Worry

In the Nature Restoration Regulation

Exceptions to the Obligations

- *e.g.* Climate Change and Overriding Public Interest

(See NRR Art. 4 (15 - 17), p. 22, & Art. 5 (11, 12, 15), pp. 24, 25)

Effort-based restoration obligations

- *e.g.* “put in place measures which aim to ensure”

(See NRR Art. 4 & 5)

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Restoration Guidelines

Real and Effective Restoration of Marine, Coastal, and Riverine Habitats in the Baltic Sea Region

4 Highlights:

1. Restoration as a climate-related policy
2. Cross-border approach
3. Source-to-Sea approach
4. Active and passive restoration

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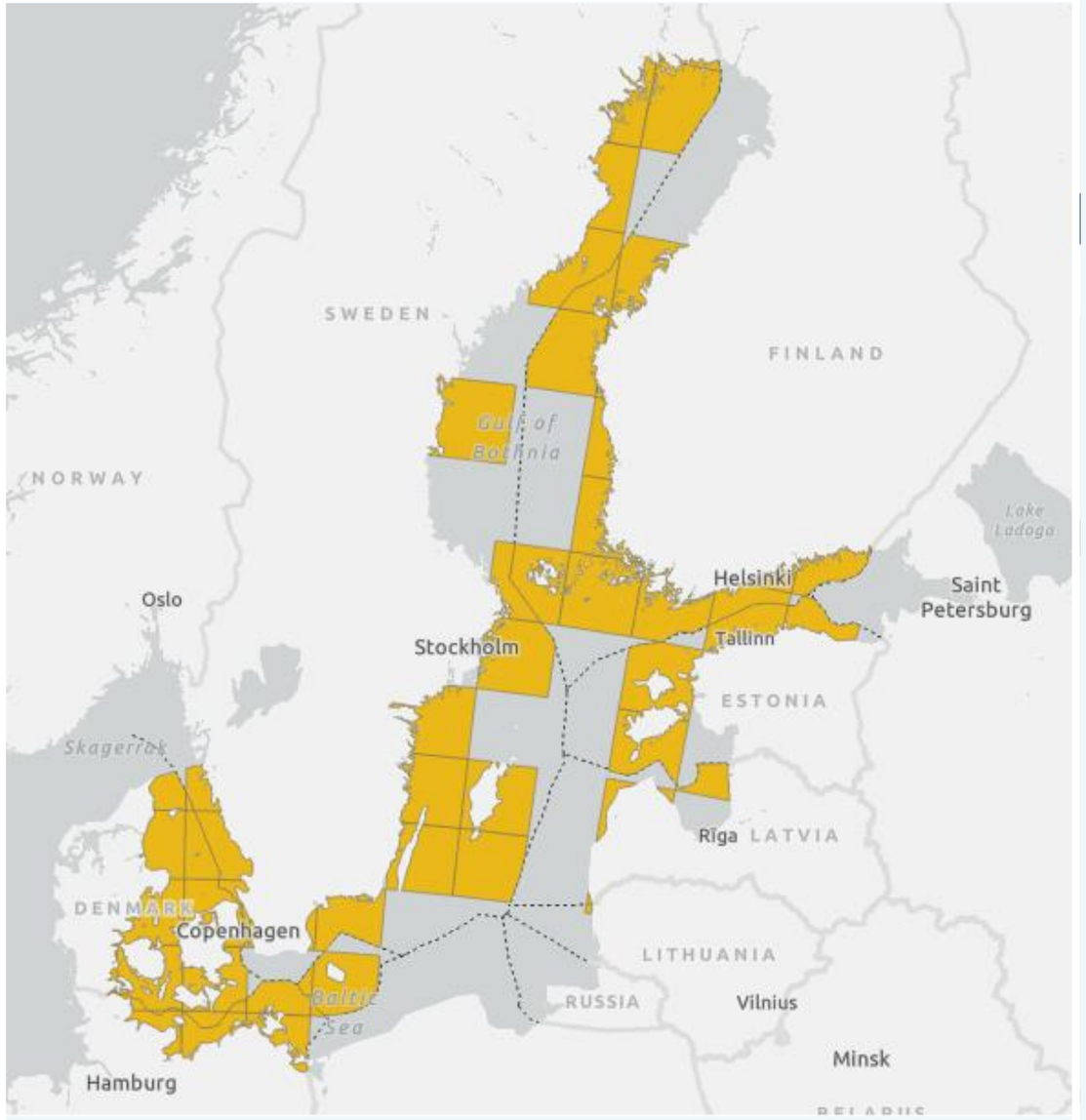
Cross-Border Approach

Map shows:

- Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) boundaries
  Source: HELCOM EEZ dataset

- Reef habitats (1170) (yellow areas)
  Source: HELCOM HOLAS II Dataset: Natura 2000 habitats: Reefs (1170) (2017)



Map from HELCOM Map and Data Service

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Source-to-Sea Approach

Map shows:

- Baltic Sea catchment area (in green)

  Source: HELCOM Baltic Sea catchment area dataset, updated in 2017

Map from HELCOM Map and Data Service

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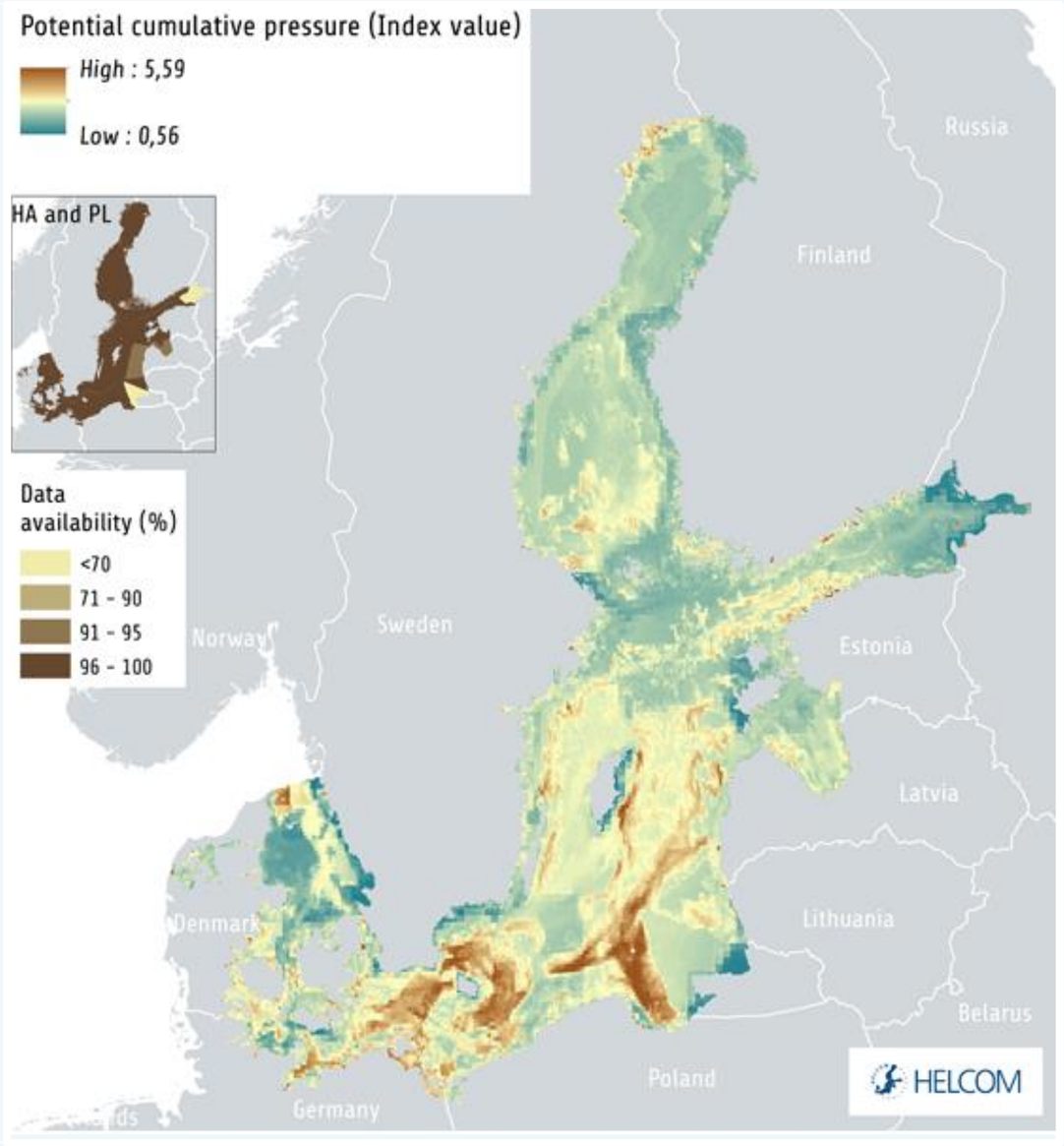
Active & Passive Restoration

Active restoration:
active human intervention to accelerate ecosystem recovery

Passive restoration:
protecting ecosystems from pressures limiting recovery

Ref.: IPBES, 2018. The IPBES assessment report on land degradation and restoration



Map shows: Cumulative pressures in the Baltic Sea (*e.g.* Noise pollution or eutrophication)

Source: HELCOM, 2023. *HELCOM Thematic assessment of spatial distribution of pressures and impacts 2016 2021*. Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings No. 189.

Questions

To think about

1. Do the exceptions in the Nature Restoration Regulation (*e.g.* for climate change) help or harm restoration efforts?
2. Which should come first: active or passive restoration?
3. How could you – as youth across the Baltic sea region – help foster a united approach to restoration?
4. The Nature Restoration Regulation sets targets until 2050. What length of time do you think needs to be considered to achieve sustained restoration success – 10, 50, 100 years *etc.*?
5. What else would you recommend to achieve real and effective restoration in the Balic Sea Region?
6. What kind of activities need to be done after restoration?

THANK YOU

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