

Rewilding
Oder Delta



The Baltic Coast Dialog

Supported by:



based on a decision of
the German Bundestag

Measures for the restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems in the project regions

Presentations in workshop 1: *Blue Restoration - Opportunities for restoring marine and coastal ecosystems in the Baltic Sea*

- HELCOM's role in restoring marine and coastal ecosystems
- EU Nature Restoration Law – Implementation in the German Baltic Sea
- Examples of active blue restoration: salt marshes (PL), seagrass (PL, DE)

Group work on these topics

- 1) *What are the biggest challenges and possible approaches that blue restoration measures face in the Baltic Sea region?*
- 2) *Ensuring participation: How to integrate local stakeholders and build acceptance for blue restoration?*
- 3) *Finding space: How to choose priority areas to scale up blue restoration?*



Challenges and possible approaches that blue restoration measures face in the Baltic Sea region?

Challenges

- **Conflict of interest:** Betw. geographical, economic and political factors
- **Bureaucracy:** in the project countries (esp. GER, PL, LT) leading to the wearing down of initiatives and participation
- **Data missing:** Affecting transfer of info and decision-making
- **No holistic approach:** A top-down approach lacking consideration for cultural, local, ecological, artisanal and professional knowledge
- **Communication:** lack of visibility for stakeholders
- **Disappearing and increasing human activities:** fishing for existence as a declining traditional practice, increase in tourism

Approaches

- More exchange formats, possibility for communication and understanding
- Simplification of legislation: Simplify the approval and planning process, e.g., by exempting restoration measures from the prohibitions of protected area regulations as “permissible actions”
- Communication with and between all relevant stakeholders
- Inclusion of cultural, local ecological, artisanal and professional knowledge

Ensuring participation: How to integrate local stakeholders and build acceptance for blue restoration?

- **Holistic approach:** more integrated and comprehensive inclusion of stakeholders
- **Ecosystem approach:** Advocating for considering the interconnectedness of ecosystems
- **Emotional approach:** Consideration of emotional aspects of the issues and engaging with stakeholders on an emotional level
- **Contribution & collaboration:** Emphasizing the importance of working together and valuing diverse contributions
- Recognize **local ecological knowledge:** Valuing and incorporating local knowledge
- **Political actions:** Recognizing the role of political actions in addressing the challenges

Finding space: How to choose priority areas to scale up blue restoration?

1) Protected vs. unprotected areas

- **Protected areas:** Have stronger regulations, but offer restoration opportunities
Examples: Natura 2000 sites
- **Unprotected areas:** Might be more degraded and require study for restoration feasibility; restoration needs consensus in the region, but should be suitable for bigger landscapes as it has been proven to be successful in rewilding areas

2) Restoration strategies

- Some areas need active restoration to shift back ecological regimes
- Consideration of ecosystem-based management
- Targeting restoration in different geographical or regulatory regions
- Going beyond NRL-obligations: not only N2000-sites
- Start with areas that are already identified for restoration (to get going)



Cont. Finding space: How to choose priority areas to scale up blue restoration?

3) Knowledge gaps

- Research needed on migratory species
- Understanding the effectiveness of passive and active restoration
- Identifying coastal areas suitable for restoration → participation “easier” → opportunities for seagrass or reef restoration

4) Holistic perspectives

- Joint initiatives involving multiple stakeholders
- Offshore wind energy impact should be considered
- Need to add elements of blue restoration to marine spatial planning

