

*Objectives and expectations for
CCB Seminar, October 2008
Coastal Protection and Development Policy
in the Baltic Sea Region*

- Summary on CCB activities on Coastal conservation & development
- Reports-presentation on national situation on Coastal conservation & development trends
- Identify main threats and negative trends to Baltic coastal areas
- Develop common proposals for a Position paper on Baltic coastal protection & development
(including special focus on the Latvian coast situation)
- Future CCB work, e.g. producing an updated "Hot Spot" map

“CCB activities and policies on Baltic coastal development issues”

presented at
CCB Seminar on Coastal Protection and Development
Policy in the Baltic Sea Region – 17 October 2008,
Jurmala, Latvia



Mr Gunnar Norén
Executive Secretary to
Coalition Clean Baltic

- **CCB project "Baltic Region Sustainable Coastal Development – Requirements, Conflicts and Solutions"**
- conducted jointly by VAK (Friends of the Earth Latvia), CCB Latvia, Transparency International Latvia – Delna, and BUND (Friends of the Earth Germany) in 2003-2004

Checking coastal conservation

International requirements to
safeguard nature
on the Baltic Sea's coast

Good and bad examples
seen from the NGO-perspective

International Conventions

- **In the frame of the European Union (EU)**-becoming more important in BSR
- **The Helsinki Convention**
- **Do they make a difference?**
- **Are they words followed by actions?**

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With this project CCB want to:

- **Inform** about international requirements in the field of coastal nature conservation and management;
- Take our role as "**watchdog**": we as an international NGO-network, and observer to HELCOM since more than 10 years, want to raise our voice and point out gaps and deficits in the requirement's implementation:
- Illustrate these gaps with **bad examples** from the Baltic Sea countries, but also
- Give **good examples** to draw a brighter picture of reality and to encourage our NGO colleagues;
- Outline how international requirements **can be used in NGO work**
- Put our **demands** forward to national and international bodies such as HELCOM and EU.

HELCOM recommendations and good and bad examples of their implementation

HELCOM recommendation 15/1: "Protection of the coastal strip"

A coastal strip of at least 100 to 300 m width (from the mean water line) shall be generally protected.

Activities which would permanently change the nature and landscape such as:

- Extraction of soils and minerals
- Construction of buildings (except for buildings necessary for existing farming or fishing and saunas in connection with existing buildings)
- Marinas
- Roads
- Camping grounds etc.

should not be allowed

Exceptions from both can be made by a **land use plan** approved and sanctioned by an appropriate authority

CCB-perspectives on the implementation

Implementation into national legislation varies between countries and is partly insufficient:

- Width of the coastal strip
- Exceptions from the general protection status
- The protection seawards is lacking in many countries

Our findings

- Exceptions are given too generously
- Control of exceptions by the national level is inefficient
- The boundaries of the zones inside the existing settlements and outside are drawn to generously
- In most cases illegal construction are legalised afterwards.
- Alternatives are not seriously taken into account.
- Legislative procedures are not transparent.
- Any good legislation is worthless if political will from the highest level goes against its purpose to safeguard coastal nature
- Nature conservation colliding with the principle of re-privatisation. A special case is the situation in Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia.

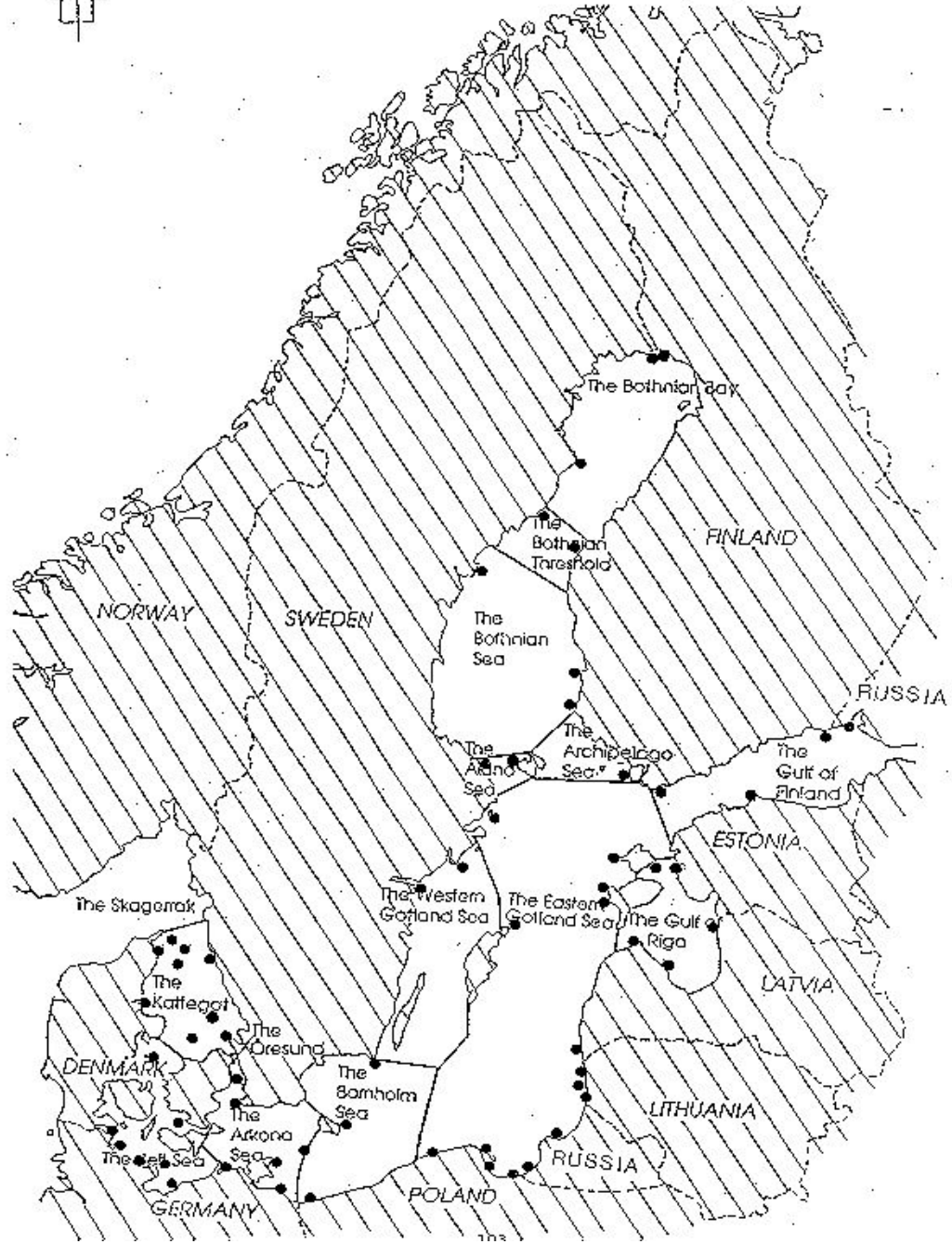
- **Estonia:** Monitoring of Spatial Planning processes in vulnerable areas. A project of the Estonian Green Movement
- Planning of new settlements in the coastal zone in Keila and Joelähme municipalities
- **Finland:** Coastal protection almost nonexistent

HELCOM recommendation 15/5: Baltic Sea Protected Areas

**1994 with the aim to establish a
“system of Coastal and Marine Baltic
Sea Protected areas (BSPA)”.**

62 areas listed

added 24 mainly offshore areas (in 1998)



HELCOM recommendation 16/3: Preservation of coastal dynamics

The *dynamic character and permanent change* of the coast should be recognised and *accepted as a natural process*. New coastal defence measures outside settlements shall normally not be executed.

Deviations on both rules are allowed when integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) plans provide otherwise

If coastal defence measures are necessary, natural materials such as stones, sand, soil or wood shall be preferred to artificial materials (concrete, asphalt or plastic.)

Poland: Hel Peninsula Concrete and stone coast



**Germany: Restoration of
saltmarch grassland on the
meadows of Karrendorf
(Good contribution HELCOM Rec.
16/3 on “preservation of coastal
dynamics)**

HELCOM recommendation 21/3 : Sustainable and environmentally friendly tourism in coastal zones

All *development*, marketing and management of *tourism* should be based on the *criteria of sustainability*.

Large scaled tourist projects shall be preceded by a *spatial planning process* on national or regional level and be incorporated into e.g. integrated coastal zone management plans.

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) or similar procedures according to national law shall be carried out, before realising tourism infrastructure and tourism operations (...).

Integrated management of activities in the coastal zone

- *EU recommendation "Implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe"* (2002)
- Member States take(...) a **strategic approach** to the management of their coastal zones.
- Member States conduct or update an **overall stocktaking** to analyse which major actors, laws and institutions influence the management of their coastal zone.
- Based on the result of the stocktaking, each **Member State**, in partnership with the regional authorities and inter-regional organisations, as appropriate, should **develop a national strategy** (...) to implement the principles for ICZM.
- Member States **report to the Commission** on the experience in implementation of this Recommendation in February 2006.

European Union: Natura 2000 network

- Habitats Directive
- Birds Directive

- Regulations valid for both Directives:
Assessment of projects and plans
(Directives not designed for economic development)
- Avoid significant disturbance of species
- Assess all plans having significant effect (also combined plans)
- Derogation procedure

Some good and bad examples from the Baltic Sea Region

- Finland: Toxics threaten the Baltic Sea at the Vuosaari harbour in Helsinki
- Estonia: Plans for a harbour in Küdema Bay, Saaremaa
- Germany: Water sports in the SpecialProtectedArea Greifswalder Bodden
- Estonia: Restoration and Management of the coastal Häädemeeste wetland complex

CCB Conclusions

- **To fully implement international regulations** to strengthen implementation of international conventions (e.g. Helsinki, Bonn and Bern Convention) and EU Directives and recommendations related to coastal zone management

To ensure and improve possibilities for NGOs to participate in planning processes

- to ensure openness and transparency in the spatial planning development process and a broad public participation at an early stage;
- To fully implement the requirements of the Espoo and the Aarhus Convention
- Opment in a national court of law
- To give NGOs, in important cases of failure to implement EU legislation, access to the EU court

To preserve coastal nature – for nature´s and for human´s sake

- To prevent future urbanisation and building in coastal areas with natural or recreational values
- To maintain existing coastal forests and other coastal (marine and terrestrial) biotopes

To ensure that nature is taken into account in planning processes on the coast

- To ensure that the national legislation of coastal zone protection does not give the right to allow exceptions to municipal councils
- To carry out Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for coastal investment projects and Strategic Environmental Impact Assessments (SEA) for plans and programmes related to the coastal zone, according to EU Directives and the Espoo Convention

To inform and train responsible persons

- To supply training and education to all persons responsible for coastal zone management, and supply information on international regulations.

Possibilities and coming activities related to Coastal conservation & development

- EU Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) for the European Union

In the Action Plan

-Maritime Spatial Planning and integrated coastal zone management

*propose a road map in 2008 to facilitate and encourage further development of Maritime spatial planning in Member States

* In 2009 the EC will set up of a system for the exchange of best practice among authorities in maritime spatial planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management

-HELCOM focus has changed from ICZM to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)