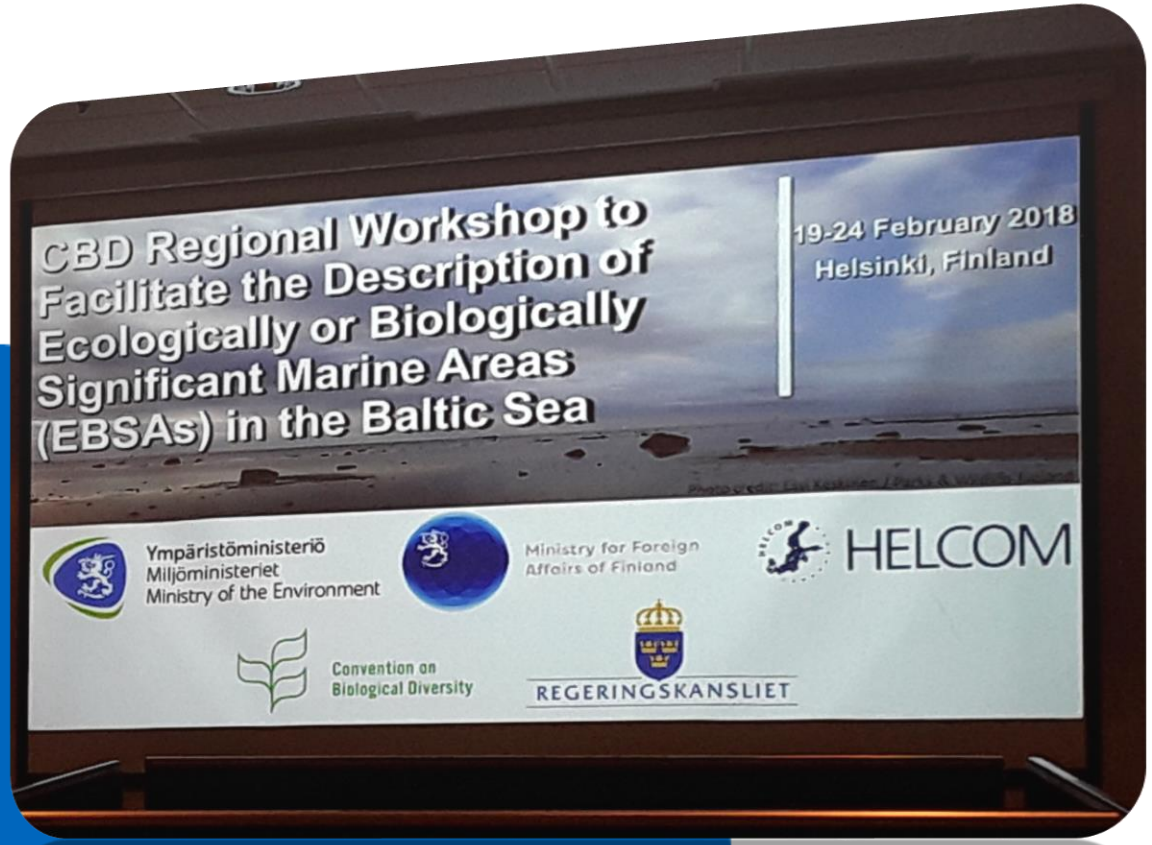
Baltic Sea CBD EBSA workshop in Helsinki 19-24.2.2018



14th Meeting of the Jastarnia Group

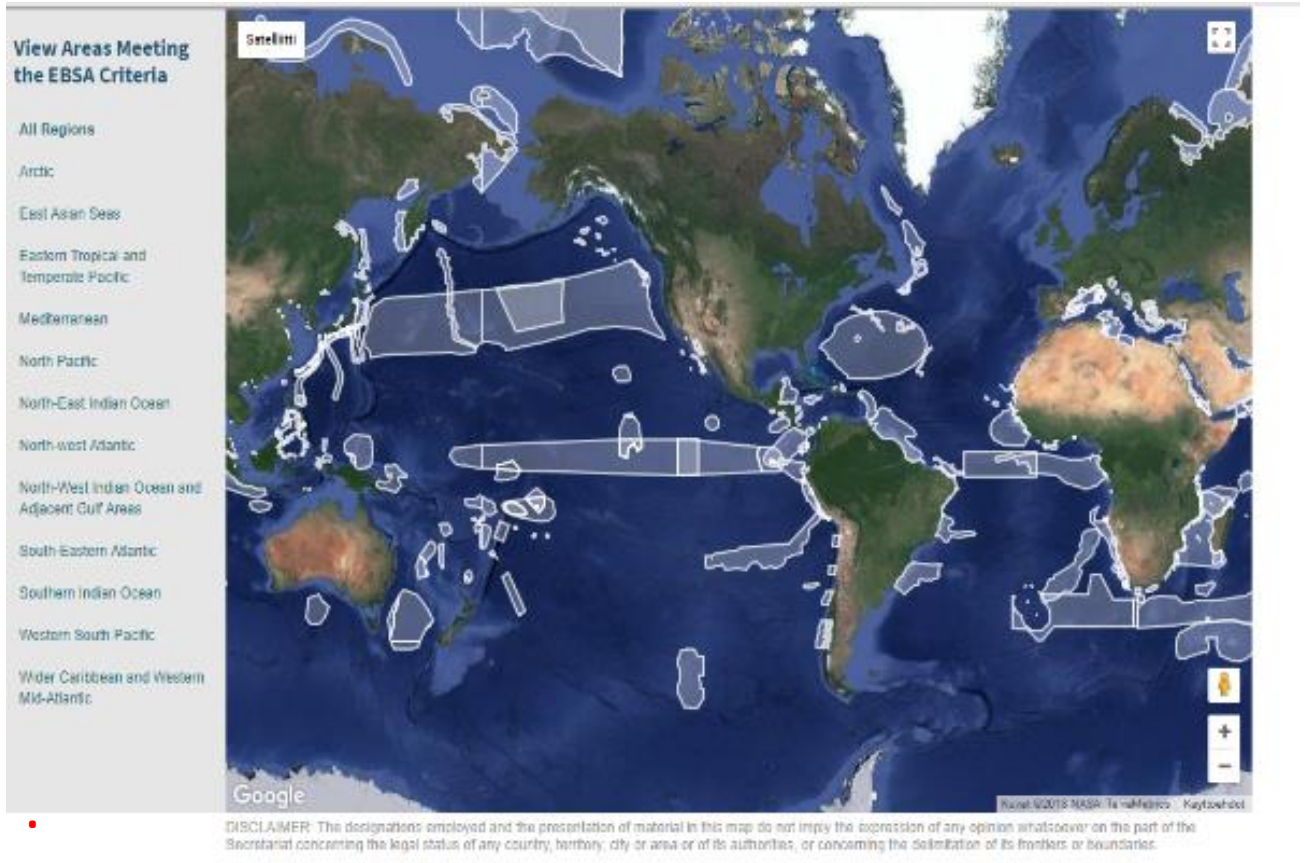
12-14.3.2018 Copenhagen, Denmark

Penina Blankett, Ministry of the Environment

What is EBSA?

There has been 13 regional EBSA workshops, covering more than 74 per (82%) cent of the world's ocean.

- The application of the EBSA criteria is a scientific and technical exercise, carried out in a workshop.
- EBSA process is iterative and ongoing, there may be additional areas described as meeting the EBSA criteria in future regional or sub-regional workshops.
- EBSAs are not Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and the CBD process of describing EBSAs does not require, legally or otherwise, that they should be designated as MPAs



DISCLAIMER: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

CBD EBSA criteria (annex I, decision IX/20)

1. Uniqueness or Rarity
2. Special importance for life history stages of species
3. Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitat
4. Vulnerability, Fragility, Sensitivity, or Slow recovery
5. Biological Productivity
6. Biological Diversity
7. Naturalness

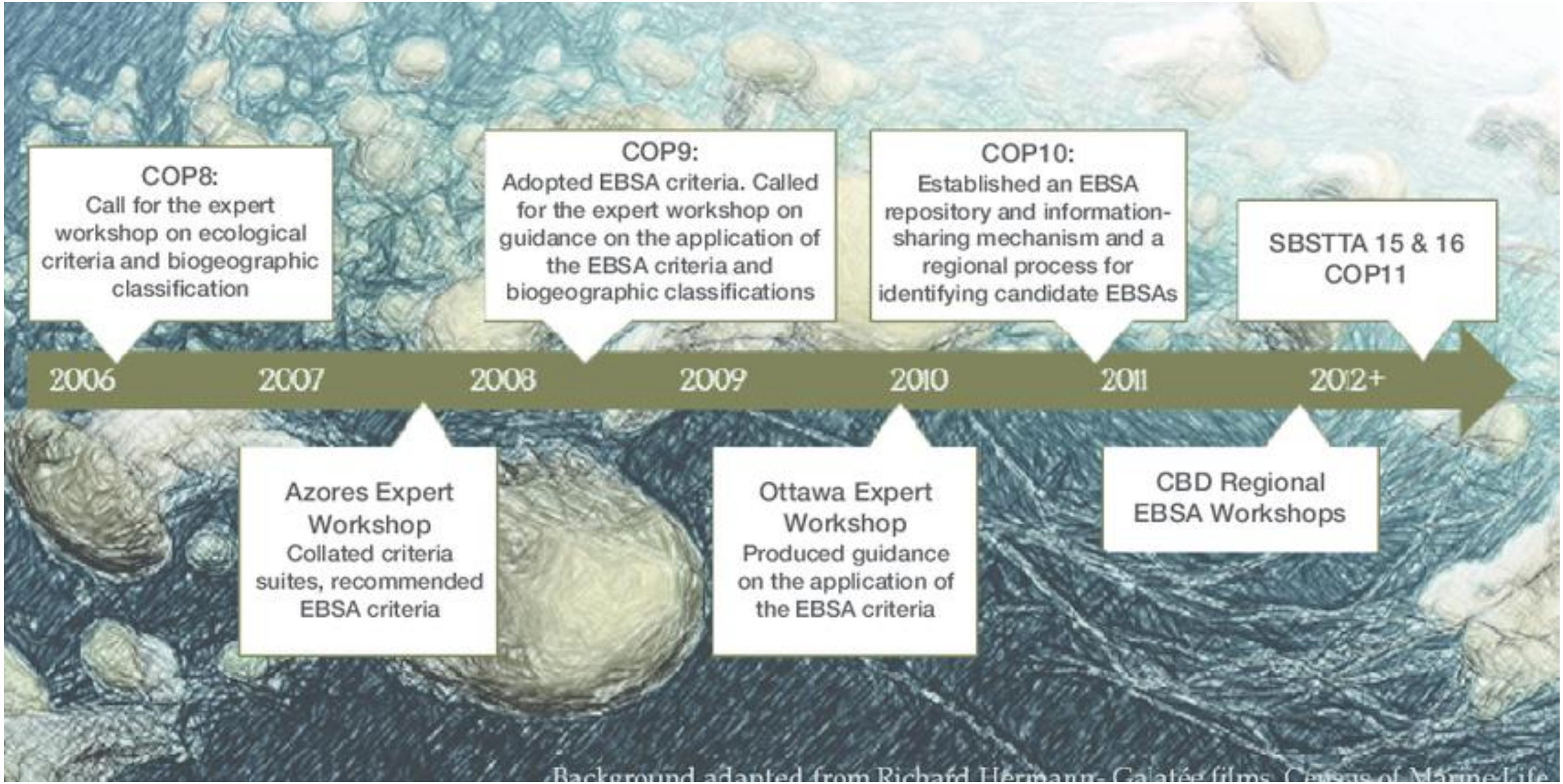
These criteria can be ranked:

- High,
- Medium,
- Low,
- Don't know






Photos: Metsähallitus Parks&Wildlife,


COP8:
Call for the expert workshop on ecological criteria and biogeographic classification
COP9:
Adopted EBSA criteria. Called for the expert workshop on guidance on the application of the EBSA criteria and biogeographic classifications
COP10:
Established an EBSA repository and information-sharing mechanism and a regional process for identifying candidate EBSAs
SBSTTA 15 & 16
COP11
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012+
Azores Expert Workshop
Collated criteria suites, recommended EBSA criteria
Ottawa Expert Workshop
Produced guidance on the application of the EBSA criteria
CBD Regional EBSA Workshops
Background adapted from Richard Hérmann- Galatée films, Census of Marine Life

Baltic Sea EBSA workshop

- Ca. 30 pariticipants from seven HELCOM countries and NGOs,**
- CBD and HELCOM Secretariat
- Duke University Marine Geospatial Ecology LabTeam with support from the Finnish Environment Institute.
- Training Day 19.2
- Workshop days 20-24.2.
- The workshop was co-chaired by Ms. Penina Blankett, Finland, and Mr. Dieter Boedeker, Germany.

**Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and Sweden

BirdLife International, Coalition Clean Baltic, Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative,ICCA (Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Areas and Territories) Consortium,
UNEP- World Conservation Monitoring Centre, WWF Finland

Workshop work:

- Participating experts were invited through a selection process, based on nominations by CBD National Focal Points of the Baltic Sea countries as well as by relevant organizations, using the CBD selection criteria focusing on scientific and technical expertise and experience as well as gender balance.
- The workshop focused on the geographic area covered by the Helsinki Convention.

Outcome of the Baltic Sea EBSA workshop (1/2):

- Each area has been described using the EBSA template,
- Annex highlighting unique and vulnerable ecological and biological features of the Baltic Sea.
- Information on the identified gaps and needs for further elaboration in describing areas meeting EBSA criteria, including the need for the development of scientific capacity and scientific collaboration.

Assessment of the area against CBD EBSA Criteria

(Discuss the are in relation to each of the CBD criteria and relate the best available science. Note that a candidate EBSA may qualify on the basis of one or more of the criteria, the boundaries of the EBSA need not be defined with exact precision. And modeling may be used to estimate the presence of EBSA attributes. Please note where there are significant information gaps.)

CBD EBSA Criteria (Annex I to decision IX/20)	Description (Annex I to decision IX/20)	Ranking of criterion relevance (please mark one column with an X)			
		Don't Know	Low	Some	High
Uniqueness or rarity	Area contains either (i) unique ("the only one of its kind"), rare (occurs only in few locations) or endemic species, populations or communities, and/or (ii) unique, rare or distinct, habitats or ecosystems; and/or (iii) unique or unusual geomorphological or oceanographic features				x
Explanation for ranking The Chain of Fernando de Noronha encompasses the Rocas Atoll, which is the only atoll in the South					

Example of the EBSA tempelate (not Baltic Sea template)

Outcome of the Baltic Sea EBSA workshop (2/2)

Describing nine areas meeting the EBSA criteria :

1. **Northern Bothnian Bay**
2. **Kvarken Archipelago**
3. **Åland Sea, Åland Islands and the Archipelago Sea of Finland**
4. **Eastern Gulf of Finland**
5. **Inner Sea of West Estonian Archipelago**
6. **Southeastern Baltic Sea Shallows**
7. **Southern Gotland Harbour Porpoise Area**
8. **Fehmarn Belt**
9. **Fladen and Stora and Lilla Middelgrund.**

Photo: Metsähallitus Parks&Wildlife

- **Five of these areas are transboundary areas, covering waters of two or more countries.**
- **The described EBSAs cover 23% of the Baltic Sea waters.**
- **The workshop could not consider the marine areas of the Baltic Sea countries not attending the workshop.**
- **The workshop also discussed the significant diversity of indigenous peoples and local communities in the Baltic Sea region.**

Southern Gotland Harbour Porpoise Area

- **29242 km^2**
- **The main area identified by the SAMBAH Life+ project**
- **Important also for wintering birds as well as for harbor seals and shallow banks.**

The use of EBSA outcome in HELCOM area -> MSP:

- **EBSAs are expected to contribute to fulfilling the regional goal of producing and applying maritime spatial plans that are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem approach**

- **could be utilized as green infrastructure features that ensure the protection of the state and biodiversity of the marine ecosystem as well as improve its functioning while promoting ecosystem services**

- **the topic of "green infrastructure" has been discussed and will be followed-up in the HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working**

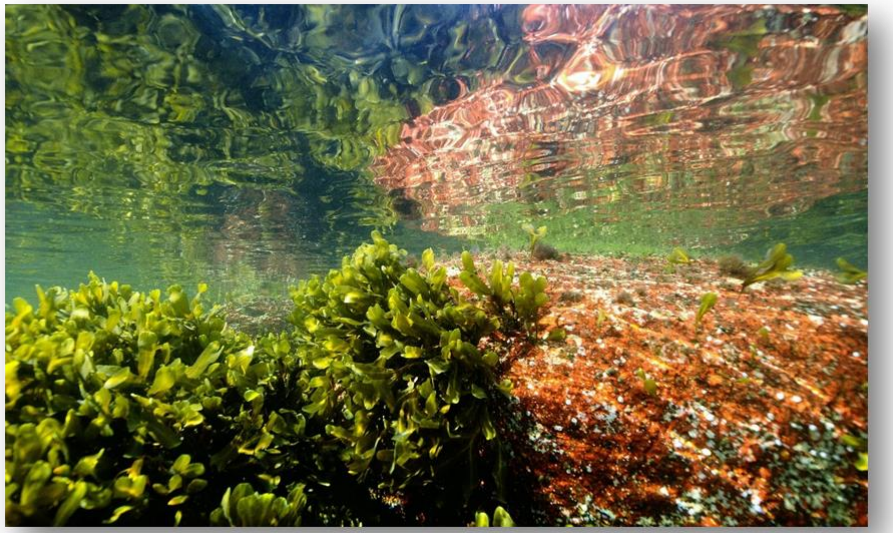
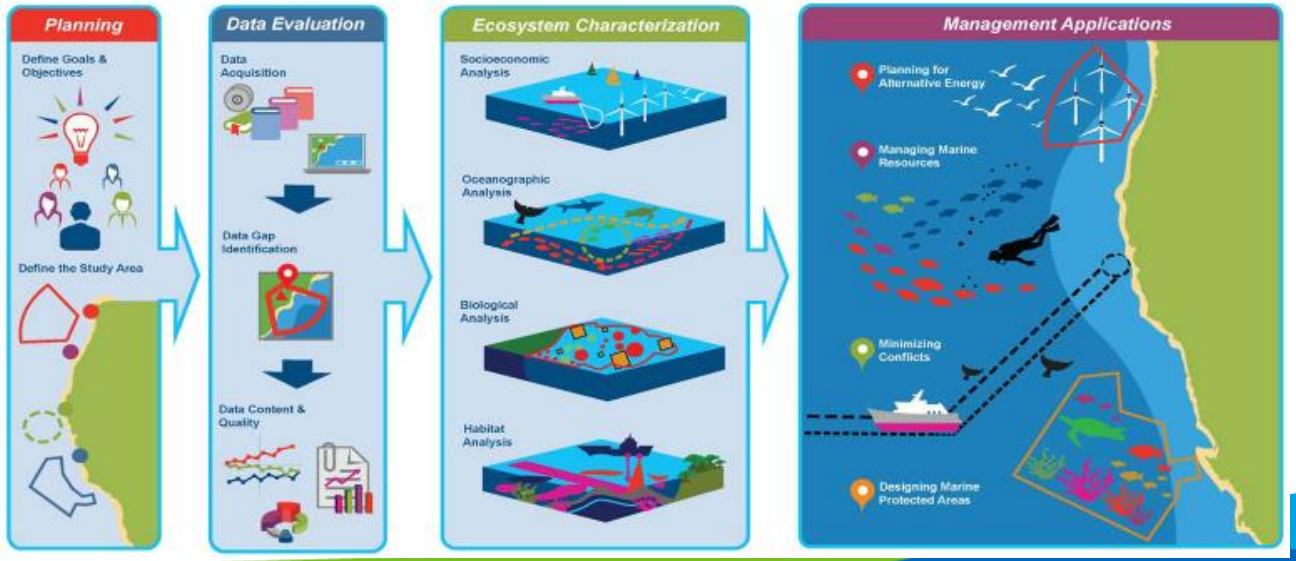


Photo: Metsähallitus Parks&Wildlife



Next steps:

- **Submitted for consideration to the 22nd meeting for SBSTTA* 2-7 July 2018, Monteral, Canada**
- **For approval to CBD COP 14,10-22 November 2018, in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.**

- **Once approved:**
  - **included in the CBD EBSA repository (www.cbd.int/ebsa)**
  - **Summary report transmitted to United Nations General Assembly as well as other relevant UN/International organisations.**

Side-events could be organized at CBD SBSTTA and COP to share the information about the regional workshop and described EBSAs as well as other relevant activities of the HELCOM countries.

The outcome is an opportunity to highlight the fact that despite the known marine environmental problems, the unique semi-enclosed Baltic Sea does have a great ecological or biological significance.

* CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice


Thank you for
your attention!
Photo: Metsähallitus Parks&Wildlife