

SDGs, BSAP and Agriculture – Synergies and Perspectives

SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals (United Nations)

BSAP: Baltic Sea Action Plan (HELCOM)

Dr. Dietrich Schulz, Germany. GRASS conference Minsk 13/12/2018.

17 SDGs for 2030 („The future we want“)

- Were developed after the Rio+20 summit (2012) to replace the Millennium Development Goals
- Represent a set of globally agreed priorities. Unlike the MDGs they address all countries (i. e. implementation also in the Baltic Sea States)
- Were agreed upon and passed in 2015 for all UN-members (global sustainability agenda), to be implemented on national level (Agenda 2030 process)

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The nature of the SDGs:

- Not legally binding, but common platform for economic growth, standard of living, equal chances and sustainable management of resources
- Success depends on national implementation (Germany e. g. has passed a national German Sustainability Strategy)
- Are measured and evaluated by indicators (based on existing statistics)



HELCOM Ministerial Declaration, Brussels, March 2018 (point 17):

.We Reiterate our determination to implement....the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular its water- and ocean-related goals and targets...

.We Recall the role of HELCOM in leading the regional efforts in this regard...

.We Commit to using those goals and targets as a framework in updating the BSAP.

Finnish HELCOM Chairmanship

(Chairwomanship? Chairpersonship?)

Priorities 2018 – 2020 (point 4):

„We aim to create and help maintain strong synergistic links between the

Agenda 2030 process and HELCOM work.“

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- Each SDG has been underpinned by a number of targets (for specifying and handling)
- Altogether 169 targets have been agreed upon.

SDG 14: Life below water

Targets (abbreviated):

- .14.1 Prevent and reduce pollution (including nutrients, by 2025!)
- .14.2 Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems
- .14.3 Minimize ocean acidification
- .14.4 Regulate harvesting and overfishing
- .14.5 Conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas
- .14.6 Prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies
- .14.7 Implement international law

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Sustainable agriculture no own SDG, but covered by several targets:

- .SDG 2: Zero hunger.** Target 2.4: Sustainable food production systems, resilient agricultural practices
- .SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation.** Target 6.3: Improve water quality by reducing pollution
- .SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth.** Target 8.4: Improve global resource efficiency, decouple economic growth from environmental degradation

- **SDG 12:** Responsible consumption and production. Target 12.2: Sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
- **SDG 13:** Climate action. Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
- **SDG 14:** Life below water. Target 14.1: prevent and reduce marine pollution (including nutrient pollution)

- Indicators can be a valuable tool to follow progress towards reaching the targets (quantitative information)

- The globally proposed indicators related to agriculture seem sometimes rather weak, e.g.:

- - target 2.4 sustainable food production systems: Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture

- ***How is „productive and sustainable agriculture“ defined?***

- (see A/RES/71/313 E/CN.3/2018/2)

- Other indicators seem quite ambitious, e.g.
- - target 6.3: Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality
- ***In line with the EU Water Framework Directive (until 2027 all Waters in the EU should show good status or good potential!)***

- The BSAP is now a sub-level of a worldwide agreement. Higher political priority, more moral pressure for actions
- The Baltic Sea Region is not only pilot region on European level (EUSBSR - EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region), but also on a world scale (Agenda 2030 – SDG implementation).
- Increased awareness, increased chances for actions and cooperations on different levels ? New, additional momentum for the BSAP ?***

- Considerable progress has been achieved (e. g. with agricultural hot spots), but
- Anoxic/hypoxic zones still exist
- Eutrophication still the main environmental problem of the Baltic Sea
- Nutrient inputs (N and P) in most basins above MAI (maximum allowable inputs)
- Country allocated reduction targets (CARTs) not yet generally achieved
- Agriculture still the main source of nutrient loads

•It's still a long way to go !!

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The best way to achieve SDG 14 (protect life below water) is

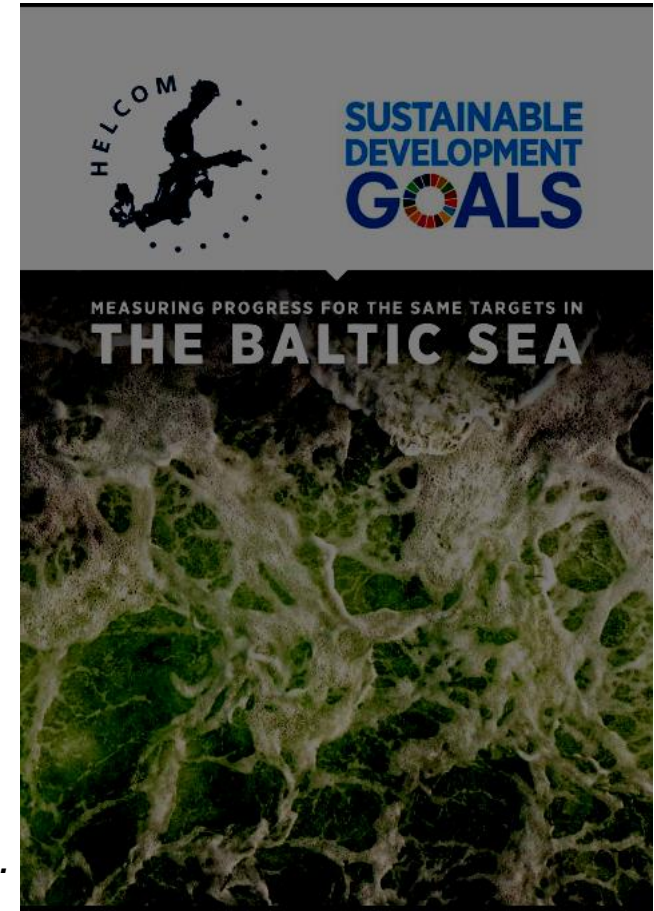
Make the Baltic Sea clean again!!

For more detailed reading see:

HELCOM (ed.):

„Measuring Progress for the same targets
in the Baltic Sea – Aligning UN sustainable
development goals with HELCOM regional
targets and achievements.“

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Thank you for your kind attention!

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