

# IMPACT REPORT FOR SUPPORTERS 2/2025



Saving the sea requires concrete action: protecting marine nature, reducing emissions of nutrients and harmful substances, and strengthening people's relationship with the sea. With your support, we can carry out measures to save the Baltic Sea that are effective and have real impact.

With these measures, we saved the Baltic Sea in 2025:

## REDUCING NUTRIENT LOAD FROM FOOD PRODUCTION AND FORESTRY



### OUR GOAL BY 2030:

Major cuts have been made in nutrient emissions from Finnish food production and forestry. Eutrophication has been significantly reduced.



#### REDUCING NUTRIENT LOAD FROM AGRICULTURE

✓ We reduced nutrient runoff from agriculture into the Archipelago Sea using the most effective water conservation methods available. Through art and culture, we increased awareness of the relationship between people and the sea. **48 farms** committed to implementing water conservation measures on their land.

**We do this because** agriculture is the largest source of eutrophying emissions in Finland. The Archipelago Sea is the most degraded marine area in Finland and the last from the country to be included on the HELCOM hot spot list.



#### GYPSUM TREATMENT OF FIELDS

✓ Our goal is to increase the use of gypsum treatment in fields both in Finland, as well as other countries around the Baltic Sea where this method of water conservation has not yet been adopted. We tested the feasibility of gypsum treatment in **4 other Baltic Sea countries** through an EU-funded project. Gypsum was spread across **108 hectares** of fields in the Åland Islands.

**We do this because** spreading gypsum on fields effectively and quickly reduces phosphorous runoff from the land into bodies of water. Gypsum treatment is the most effective water conservation measures in agriculture.



#### RESTORATION OF FORMER PEATLAND

✓ We restored two former peatland areas, a total of **200 hectares**, to bog and wetland. We also diverted runoff water from forest drainage areas to the restored peatland for purification, and transplanted peat moss to speed up nature restoration. This restoration will be permanent, as the Finnish Natural Heritage Foundation will protect these sites once their nature values have been restored.

**We do this because** due to reduced peat production, Finland has plenty of disused peatlands that produce carbon dioxide and nutrient emissions. Restoring former bogs will prevent greenhouse gas emissions, nutrient runoff to bodies of water, and biodiversity loss.



#### IMPROVING WATER CONSERVATION IN FORESTRY

✓ We purified water from forest drainage areas via water restoration, and supported biodiversity across an area of **226 hectares** in a total of **5 sites**, the final of which was completed in summer 2025. We launched project in which we are working with Tapio Palvelut Oy in the Bothnian Sea catchment basin. We identified the most important water protection locations in the area and organised a training for forestry professionals.

**We do this because** drained peatlands are the largest source of emissions in the forestry sector. By directing water from forest drainage areas back to bogs, bogland vegetation and surface peat filter nutrients and solids from the water. This is the most effective means of water conservation in forestry.

## HEALTHY AND VIBRANT MARINE ECOSYSTEM



### OUR GOAL BY 2030:

Biodiversity loss has been significantly reduced. The condition of key habitat types in the Baltic Sea has improved.



#### HABITAT RESTORATION

✓ In our SeaToo project, we are restoring important habitats in the Baltic Sea and empowering people to take concrete action to protect the sea. We transplanted about **40,000 common eelgrass cuttings** to a total area of about half a hectare on the Swedish and Finnish coasts.

**We do this because** by restoring common eelgrass meadows, we fight biodiversity loss in the Baltic Sea. Common eelgrass meadows provide a habitat for dozens of other species, reduce erosion and turbidity and improve water quality by binding nutrients.



#### NUTRIENT REMOVAL

✓ We removed nutrients from eutrophicated beaches and improved coastal habitats through our BalticReed projects. We promoted the use of reeds and the creation of reed-based value chains. We harvested about **30 hectares** of reedbed, and delivered it to **5 different uses**.

**We do this because** recycling reedbeds from eutrophicated coastal waters for profitable use prevents nutrients runoff from the vegetation into the sea. Mowing reedbeds also improves the biodiversity of coastal nature.

## EMISSIONS FROM SHIPPING



### OUR GOAL BY 2030:

The main sources of emissions from shipping have been identified and addressed.



#### REDUCING CHEMICAL EMISSIONS

✓ We continued to work with local authorities and chemical sector businesses to ensure that tank washwater used on chemical tankers is recovered onshore and not discharged into the sea. As a result of this cooperation, **7 of the 8 companies** that receive shipments of identified high-risk chemicals at Finnish ports have committed to recovering any washwater containing high-risk chemicals. All emissions of tall oil and benzene, as well as half of all styrene emissions, have ceased in Finland.

**We do this because** tankers carrying chemicals can dump hundreds of litres of harmful and dangerous chemicals into the sea at a time if tanks are washed at sea after unloading. Washing tanks in ports and recovering washwater will reduce chemical load in the Baltic Sea.



#### REDUCING THE VOLUME OF CARGO RESIDUES ENTERING THE SEA AT PORTS AND FROM SHIPS

✓ We launched a new international cooperation project to identify the largest environmental risks from cargo handling and to share best practices for reducing emissions from ships and at ports in Finland, Sweden, Estonia and Latvia.

**We do this because** because loading and unloading of bulk cargo in ports and washing of ship hulls at sea cause significant nutrient discharges into the Baltic Sea. Thanks to our cooperation with Finnish ports, we are also disseminating best practices for reducing emissions to ports in other coastal countries.

## HUMANS AND THE SEA



### OUR GOAL BY 2030:

The relationship between people and the sea has been strengthened. People are prepared to make concrete changes in their daily lives.



#### REACHING PEOPLE THROUGH THROUGH EVENTS, BOOKS, EXHIBITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

✓ We enable meetings and encounters, and produced events about the ecology and culture of the Baltic Sea. We published 3 non-fiction books, participated in the Helsinki Book Fair, and organised exhibitions all across Finland – on land, at sea and virtually. We carried out a campaign about eutrophication. We celebrated Baltic Sea Day with other Baltic Sea coastal states.

**We do this because** citizenship of the Baltic Sea is a uniting factor for the nations of the Baltic Sea region. Protecting the Baltic Sea requires nature conservation policies that ensure the well-being of the environment and close cooperation across national borders.



#### INFLUENCING DECISION-MAKING

✓ We influenced decision-making through the municipal election campaign, by organizing an environmental mayoral panel and a Baltic Sea event in Parliament. We took a stand on the water-related impacts of the green transition. and by participating in the UN Ocean Conference. We worked through HELCOM, at EU level, and in the UN Ocean Conference to call for reduce emissions entering the Baltic Sea.

Our projects support the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:

