



**Baltic Sea
Conservation Foundation
Annual report 2017 (Summary)**

Baltic Sea Conservation Foundation – Annual Report 2017 (English Summary)

The Baltic Sea Conservation Foundation looks back at the third complete financial year. Funding and the support of projects increasingly determine the work of the office in Greifswald.

The raising demand for project funding and support made the foundation establish two yearly deadlines since summer 2017. It helps the boards as well as the applicant to improve the procedures and enables a reliable calculation of the processing times.

In 2017 ten projects had been funded or approved with a total funding amount of 1.3 million Euro.

By the end of the year the portfolio of the foundation already contained of 16 projects with a total amount of 4.4 million Euro and covers a growing number of regions around the Baltic Sea.

1. Organization

The Baltic Sea Conservation Foundation is registered as the International Baltic Sea Foundation for Nature Conservation and is a non-profit, private civil law foundation for the promotion of nature and environmental protection in the entire Baltic Sea Region. Founded in 2014 it is registered as foundation by the supervisory authority Ministry of Justice Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (M-V). The foundation is a member of the Federal Association of German Foundations. All activities carried out by baltcf, follow the rules of transparency as laid down by Transparency International Deutschland e.V. in their initiative for transparent civil societies. Baltcf's office is located in Greifswald, Germany.

Board of Directors

The Baltic Sea Conservation Foundation is legally represented by a voluntarily active Board of Directors, consisting of a chairwoman and two members:

Heike Vesper, Chairwoman, Head of Marine Conservation, WWF Germany

Jörg Schmiedel, member of the Board, landscape planner

Frank Häuser, member of the Board, lawyer

The Board takes all relevant decisions within the framework of its Board meetings. In 2017 four Board meetings took place.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees supervises and advises the Board of Directors and decides on projects above 100.000 Euro. The members of the voluntary Board of Trustees are:

Dr. Dirk von Ameln, President (Senior Advisor to the CEO, Nord Stream 2 AG)

Prof. Dr. Mathias Grünwald, Vice-President (Regional Chairman, BUND M-V e.V.)

Christian Pegel, Member (Minister, Ministry Energy, Infrastructure and Digitalization of the State of Mecklenburg Vorpommern)

Stefan Schwill, Member (Regional Chairman, NABU M-V e.V.)

Sylvia Becker, Member (Head of Finance, WWF Germany)

In 2017 the Board of Trustees held two meetings.

On June 28th in 2018, the Board of Trustees accepted the auditor's report on the annual financial statements and unanimously approved the discharge of the Board of Directors and the Executive Board for 2017.

Head Office

The foundation's head office is located in Greifswald, Germany on the premises of the Michael Succow Foundation in the Ellernholzstr. 1/3. Baltcf shares its office with the German OSTSEESTIFTUNG. Peter Torkler was employed as managing director in January 2015 and is assisted by one colleague.

The office is responsible for handling project applications, supervising on-going projects, managing the foundation's assets, organizing the work of the voluntary bodies and publishing project results on the Internet.

All project related documents are available to our partners for download on the foundation's website, www.baltcf.org.

Project Advisory Committee (PAC)

Given the variety of ecological topics and regional characteristics as well as the complexity of environmental problems in the Baltic Sea Region, the involvement of external experts is essential in making competent project decisions. On recommendation of the Board of Directors, the Board of Trustees and the management, a group of experts was set up in 2016 in order to represent the nature conservation aspects of the Baltic Sea, both geographically and scientifically. The PAC participates in decision-making for projects that apply for more than 100.000 Euro baltcf support. The Board of Directors and management are inclined to involve the PAC before issuing a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. After initial contact with PAC through baltcf, the panel has at least four weeks to respond to the request and give its personal opinion. The PAC also offers advice to the office in terms of knowledge on similar projects already underway, contacts with relevant local multipliers and knowledge of the project region and potential partners. The PAC works independently and ensures that the Foundation's funding is relevant internationally or for the entire Baltic Sea Region.



2. Finances

Operating statement 31st of December 2017

	2017 in €	2016 in €
Revenues		
Revenues asset management	444,827.48	434,030.00
Revenues project funds	348,767.17	97,084.00
Total revenues	793,594.65	531,114.00
Expenses		
Project funding	393,706.98	96,466.00
Management and administration	153,252.51	138,438.00
Expenditures asset management	121,910.59	139,629.00
Total Expenses	668,870.08	374,533.00
Current year operating revenues over expenses	124,724.57	156,581.00
Accumulation of reserves	- 170,045.47	- 156,581.00
Liquidation of reserves	45,320.90	
Accumulated profits	0	0

Altogether the revenues from the foundations assets evolved as planned and accomplished more than 320.000 Euro net income by the end of the year.

Investment guideline

In 2017 the board of trustees, the board of directors and the managing director discussed the sustainability of investments and the criteria of banks for the management of the foundation assets. As a result some adjustments of the investment guideline were made in order to adjust criteria for rated and non rated products.

Despite the bigger flexibility in the investment strategy the foundation is committed to high ecological and ethical standards. This increasingly requires an individual case consideration by the management, board of directors and our external advisor.

3. Project funding

The Baltic Sea Conservation Foundation supports projects that aim to protect and preserve species and habitats in the Baltic Sea, reduce nutrient input and improve the catchment area of the Baltic Sea, expand, secure or improve protected areas as well as develop compensatory measures and ensure ecological stability of the Baltic Sea region.

The following projects have been approved in 2017:

Title	Applicant	Duration	Total project	Baltcf Funding
Protect the Baltic Harbour Popoise	Coalition Clean Baltic	01.01.2017-31.12.2018	274.330 €	210.230 €
Peat Restore	Klub Przyrodnikow	01.01.2017-30.06.2021	1.407.565 €	318.227 €
Pollution prevention in small water bodies in Kaliningrad Region	ECAT	01.03.2017-30.06.2018	58.797 €	44.466 €
Untangling the Net: Tackling Bird Bycatch Gillnet Fisheries	BirdLife International	01.07.2017-31.10.2020	328.343 €	256.778 €
Small-scale local solutions to reduce nutrient load to the Baltic Sea	Ecocentrum	01.07.2017-30.06.2019	77.770 €	62.270 €
The reduction of the pollution of the Baltic Sea and the protection of migrating salmon	In Actio	01.07.2017-31.07.2018	90.620 €	80.126 €
Total amount of started projects			2.237.425 €	972.097 €
Improving Nature protection in the Finnish Gulf	FANC	01.01.2018-31.12.2019	111.500 €	97.500 €
Private landowner initiative – Phase 2	BEF	01.01.2018-30.04.2018	20.009 €	20.009 €
Ecological corridors in Parseta river basin	ZMIGDP	01.01.2018-31.12.2020	1.395.508 €	97.685 €
Campaign Save Latvian Dunes	Latvian Green Movement	02.01.2018-30.12.2020	220.000 €	165.000 €
Total amount for approved projects			1.747.017 €	380.194 €
TOTAL			3.984.484 €	1.352.291 €

4. Public relations

4.1 Meetings and Events

Personal contacts on site, participation at events and addressing potential applicants are the most effective measures to acquire project applications that match the foundation guide lines. In 2017 there have been dialogues with project partners in Russia, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland and Sweden.

The Managing Director of the foundation took part in a workshop regarding the Tullstorp attempt in Sweden and joined the international conference in Jūrmala (Latvia).

Due to the start of two projects in Lithuania the managing director took the chance for an exchange with environmental organizations agencies and on site.

4.2 Website

By the end of 2017 the revision of the baltcf – website had been started. Assisted by Anisha Kewani, who absolved an internship at the foundation the relaunch had been completed by summer 2018.

