Content

1 The Baltic Sea Region sub-section in Climate-ADAPT

The Baltadapt project, funded by the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013 is a flagship project under the Horizontal Action "Sustainable development" in the EU Strategy of the Baltic Sea Region. It works out sustainable solutions for climate change adaptation in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) and develops a proposal for a BSR-wide Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the Baltic Sea Region. In addition Baltadapt improves existing knowledge and has been commissioned to create a web based knowledge platform about climate change adaptation in the BSR, the Baltic Window. This platform is the contact point for civil servants and decision makers from the region for information on climate change and adaptation in the BSR. It helps them to tackle the consequences of climate change, an issue of macro-regional concern where interregional cooperation is of added value.

The Baltic Window is integrated into the European Adaptation-Platform "Climate-ADAPT". This is of benefit for the Baltadapt Project and Climate-ADAPT because Climate-ADAPT will be strengthened as an up-to-date EU adaptation portal; its section on transnational regions will be strengthened with sound science information and implementation options. Being incorporated into a European web platform the Baltic Window, which is named Baltic Sea Region sub-section in the following, can reach many users and can refer to other Climate-ADAPT contents for more detailed information.

The main goals of the Baltic Sea Region sub-section (accessible at http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/web/guest/transnational-regions/baltic-sea) are to give a complete and detailed picture of adaptation in the BSR, and to complement Climate-ADAPT as the EU's adaptation platform. That way the sub-section supports European decision makers in adapting to climate change and helps users to access and share information.

2 Structure and layout

The content of the BSR sub-section is structured as follows:

- General
- Policy Framework
- Impacts & Vulnerabilities
- Adaptation Actions

All pages have a text menu below the heading, which indicates the user's current page.

Baltic Sea Region

General | Policy Framework | Impacts &Vulnerabilities | Adaptation Actions

The picture in the upper left corner on the first page ("General") is a small map showing the Baltic Sea Region. Below the map, a pull-down menu can be used to select other transnational regions. On subsequent BSR sub-section pages, pictures illustrate each topic.

All pages have a short teaser in the running text. It can be expanded by clicking on the gradient bar "read more". To complement the texts 'Impacts & Vulnerabilities' and 'Adaptation Actions', a tripartite menu can be found below the text. In addition, all pages include a 'search results' box. Both, the tripartite menus and the 'search results' boxes contain data base items on adaptation in the BSR from the Climate-ADAPT data base.

The links within the tripartite menus are selected items matching the specific topic. In few cases, a direct link to the database item might not provide all necessary information, for instance when database items fail to underline the project's relevance for the BSR. In these cases, the menu's entries do not link directly to a database resource. Instead, they refer the user to a subordinate page within the BSR sub-section. This subordinate page contains a description of the entry and a link to the database item.

The green 'search results' box lists all projects and products of the Climate-ADAPT database that are tagged as "Baltic Sea Region". Its purpose is clearly delineated from the function of the tripartite menu:

- The projects box draws its contents from the database and provides an up-to-date view on the BSR resources, even after the BSR sub-section implementation phase has ended.
- The tripartite menu contains more prominent projects and products via a permanent html link (leading either directly to the database or to a subpage).

3   Content overview

The BSR sub-section offers a well-structured overview with short and concise texts. By linking to various other Climate-ADAPT pages, the BSR sub-section exploits the wealth of information of Climate-ADAPT and avoids duplication of information.

As described above, the contents of the BSR sub-section are structured into four pages:

General

The first page gives an overview on the Baltic Sea Region and the threats its environment has to face. A short introduction is given, about the challenges of climate change and how a proposal for a BSR-wide Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan was developed.

Policy Framework

On the 'Policy Framework' page the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) (http://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/) is described which strengthens the cooperation in the BSR. Additional information is given about the process which led to the proposal for a BSR-wide Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan developed within the Baltadapt project. Moreover, the goals of the proposed strategy and the importance of organisations which are crucial for climate change adaptation in the BSR are mentioned.
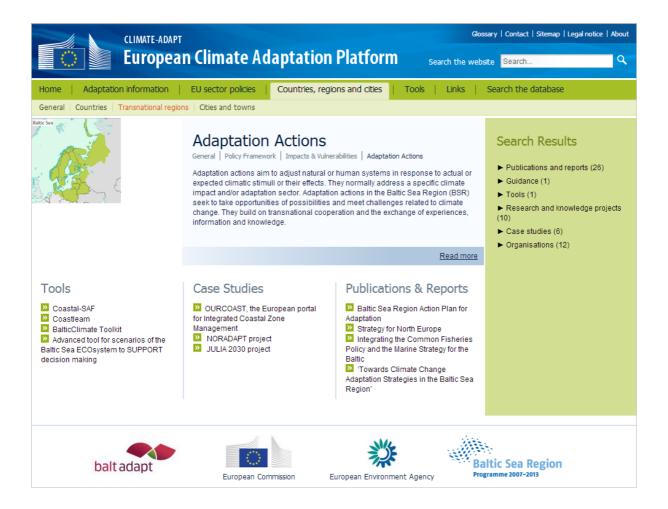
Impacts & Vulnerabilities

This page describes climate change in the BSR in more detail, including changes in temperature and salinity, precipitation, sea-ice conditions, and seal level rise. To stress sectoral vulnerabilities the influence of climate change on tourism, biodiversity, food production, and infrastructure is explained by pointing out effects, risks and opportunities. Additionally, the measurement uncertainty of climate simulations within the BSR is highlighted; including the fact that gathering information is an on-going scientific process, meaning new models will deliver updated results. Finally, selected indicators, publications and reports as well as information portals, which each have a more prominent role, are outlined in a tripartite menu.

Adaptation Actions

The 'Adaptation Actions' text gives detailed information about the proposal for a BSR-wide Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan and recommendations it includes. It highlights the importance of cooperation and knowledge transfer within the BSR for climate change adaptation and links to case studies. Furthermore, funding programmes which support adaptation are named. Finally, tools, case studies as well as publications and reports, which each have a more prominent role, are outlined in a tripartite menu.

4   Climate-ADAPT database

To complement the texts on the BSR sub-section, the Climate-ADAPT database is integrated into the sub-section pages in two ways: the 'search results' boxes and the tripartite menus. Developing the BSR sub-section the database is expended by several new items about projects, publications etc. on climate change adaptation in the Baltic Sea Region.

Additionally, the term 'Baltic Sea Region' is integrated in the Climate-ADAPT database as a fixed search term to improve the search functionality. Before, when searching for BSR-related database items, different geographical categorisations could be found, which all included the BSR (e.g. Baltic Sea; Baltic; regional). It was neither possible to use 'Baltic Sea Region' as an extended search function nor to tag it in a standardised fashion (homogeneously to other items) when entering new projects or products.

Existing and new database items which refer to the Baltic Sea Region are tagged with this new search term to ensure a complete overview searching the database or the 'search results' boxes on the BSR sub-section.