

Supporting national adaptation strategies to climate change in the Baltic States (BaltClim)



Coastal protection - an important issue for adaptation. Source: pixelio.de / bretagne_32

Background

National adaptation strategies to climate change offer an important frame to reduce the vulnerability to impacts of climate change, and to sustain or increase the capacity for adaptation of natural, social and economic systems.

There was a large need for advice in the Baltic States in order to catch up with the development of national adaptation strategies. Scientific projects about the risks of climate change have been carried out in Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia, but the results have not yet found their way into policy.

To structure the process of elaborating the national adaptation strategies better and to increase the knowledge base and exchange among the three Baltic States, a wide dialogue and participation process is necessary. Such a process was at the beginning of the project lacking for all levels and stakeholder groups.

Project

In the frame of the project, the Ministries of Environment of the Baltic States were supported to develop own adaptation strategies to climate change.

Guideline interviews with the Ministries of Environment helped to better prepare the dialogue process for the adaptation strategies. In a background paper the barriers on the way to national adaptation strategies in the target countries were analyzed and first options for action presented. For Estonia and Latvia, country-specific roadmaps were elaborated in cooperation with the Ministries of Environment, which show options to overcome obstacles in the development of the adaptation strategy and define first work steps. The adoption of the National Strategy for Climate Change Management Policy in Lithuania offered the opportunity to go beyond the project objectives and contribute to the action plan. Therefore, two stakeholder meetings were organized in Vilnius to discuss aspects of the action plan. During a study visit in Germany for representatives of the Baltic Ministries of Environment among others an experience exchange with representatives of the UBA and BMU took place.

- Target country/region: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania
- Duration: 11/2011 - 03/2013
- Implementing organisations: Baltic Environmental Forum Germany, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, as well as the Institute for Ecological Economy Research, Germany (IÖW)
- Beneficiary: Ministries of Environment of the target countries
- Project identification: FKZ 380 01 276