

24th BESSG BESAB Meeting (online)

Date: 18 November 2025

Minutes written by: Sonja Ehlers (IBES)

Online Participants:

IBES: Sonja Ehlers, Katarzyna Kozirowska, Agnieszka Jedruch

BESSG members: Markus Meier, Taavi Liblik, Kevin Parnell, Karol Kulinski, Matthias Gröger, Tamara Zalewska, Leonie Barghorn, Marc Silberberger, Georgia Destouni, Gregor Rehder, Urmas Lips, Inga Dailidiene, Tarmo Soomere

BESAB members: Jan Harff, Oliver Zielinski, Anders Omstedt, Andris Andrusaitis, Jüri Elken, Slawomir Sagan

Members with excused absence: Piia Post, Franz Berger, Kai Myrberg, Martin Stendel, Juris Aigars

Action Items:

- Application for a special issue in Earth System Dynamics about BEAR II submitted (Markus Meier)
- Baltic Earth Science Plan finalized (Markus Meier)
- Preparation of the Baltic Earth Conference in Heringsdorf (Conference organising committee)

1) Baltic Earth Project Applications were presented and then discussed by the BESSG and BESAB members:

As an application for collaboration with Baltic Earth, the BalticAims Project was presented by Sampsa Koponen (Syke, Finland). Furthermore, Markus Meier (BESSG) presented the project 'Improving Modelling Methods to produce climate services for resilient European Seas and Coasts in a decadal to multi-decadal horizon' (2026-2029) as a potential Baltic Earth Project. It corresponds to the Baltic Earth Science Plan 2.0 Research Topic (RT 8, Future Projections of the Baltic Sea region).

After a discussion by BESSG and BESAB, both projects were approved as Baltic Earth Projects and will be featured on the Baltic Earth Website. Furthermore, it was discussed how to attract more projects in the future.

2) Organizational Programme Points of the Meeting:

- 1) The minutes of the 23rd BESSG BESAB Meeting were approved.
- 2) The finalization of the Baltic Earth Science Plan will be discussed.
- 3) Suggestions for BEAR II articles will be discussed.
- 4) The structure of the Publication Database will be discussed.

3) BESSG Memberships:

Heta Rousi (Early Career Scientist, Turku University, Finland) was approved as a new BESSG member. Her expertise in biodiversity will complement the BESSG.

4) Markus Meier informed about past Baltic Earth activities:

- 1) The Summer School on Askö from 18 to 25 August 2025 was successful. This time, Sonja Ehlers (IBES), Agnieszka Jedruch (IBES), Kseniia Safonova and Leonie Barghorn (BESSG) joined as lecturers.
- 2) The International Master Course on Climate of the Earth System at Rostock University which is held by Markus Meier was a hybrid course this year. However, in the future this master course will probably not be hybrid and only an in-person lecture. Markus Meier encourages the BESSG and BESAB members to contribute to the education in Baltic Earth.
- 3) Agnieszka Jedruch informed about the past Baltic Earth Science online Colloquia. In June 2025, Sonja Ehlers gave a presentation about plastic pollution. In October 2025, Michal Czub (IOPAN) gave a presentation about sea-dumped munitions. The next colloquium in December will be given by Leonie Barghorn (IOW).
- 4) In the following, the latest news from the working groups were presented:

RT1 (presented by Markus Meier): A review article led by Florian Börgel and Itzel Ruvalcaba Baroni has been submitted to Earth System Dynamics.

RT2 (presented by Urmaz Lips): A manuscript is ready for submission.

RT4 (presented by Kevin Parnell): Right now, the authors are in the paper writing phase. An application for an international project is ongoing.

RT5 (presented by Karol Kulinski and Gregor Rehder): Karol is active in JPI Oceans, which includes topics like Ocean Oxygen Loss, the process is ongoing.

RT6: The activity on wild card events is ongoing.

RT7 (presented by Jan Harff): Jan Harff gave a presentation of the latest activities in the Marginal Seas working group, such as the 3rd Working Group meeting during the Baltic Sea Science Congress in Sopot on 28 May 2025. Furthermore, the International Conference 'Marine Geology: Marginal Seas – Past and Future' was organized between October 14 and 18, 2025 in Guangzhou, China. At the moment, a feasibility study is ongoing to compare selected marginal seas spanning the diversity in climate, geo-, eco- and socio-economic systems to be described by multivariate variables and compared by numerical classification methods.

RT8: please see the proposed project above (Markus Meier, Leonie Barghorn, 'Improving Modelling Methods to produce climate services for resilient European Seas and Coasts in a decadal to multi-decadal horizon')

RT9: Members are in the first phase of a two year project which is connecting science with art. Furthermore, due to the variety of topics presented at Baltic Earth Conferences, it is suggested to not publish the next Baltic Earth Conference special issue in a Frontiers journal. Markus Meier confirms that the next special issue for the Baltic Earth Conference (Heringsdorf, Usedom, Germany) will be published in the journal Oceanologia.

5) Presentation of planned future Baltic Earth activities in 2026:

- 1) The Winter School in March 2026 will be organized in Tallinn, Estonia, by Urmas Lips and his colleagues. Funding is provided by the Estonian doctoral school. TalTech and the University of Tartu (Piia Post) are involved. It is planned to have more lectures about climate change. 50 participants can attend the Winter School.
- 2) The registration is open for the 6th BE Conference and abstracts can be submitted. The Marginal Seas session will be hybrid. Submitted abstracts will go through a review process.
- 3) Markus Meier suggests that the next winter school will take place in Finland in 2027. However, this still needs to be discussed in the next meeting.
- 4) EN CLIME: A complete revision of the fact sheet will be published in the end of 2029/beginning of 2030. Markus Meier resigned from the co-chair of EN CLIME. In the future, Jamie Jenkins (BESSG) will be co-chairing EN CLIME from the Baltic Earth side, with support by Marc Silberberger (BESSG).

6) Baltic Earth 2.0 Science Plan and the next BEARs:

Agnieszka Jedruch (IBES) will harmonize the different research topics, and any requests for changes should be addressed to Agnieszka.

The deadline for the next BEAR II (Baltic Earth Assessment Reports II) is 29 February 2028.

Urmas Lips presents marine heat waves as an example for Baltic Sea internal variability.

Further topics could be Offshore windfarms, monitoring, marine protected areas and the land-ocean continuum.

Topics for the BEARs will be collected until Christmas by Markus Meier. On 9 February 2026, there will be an additional meeting for discussing the BEAR II structure. An overlap between the different assessment papers should be avoided.

7) Book Project on Philosophical Views of Baltic Earth and Science (suggested by Anders Omstedt and Jüri Elken):

It is agreed on that there should be no overlap between the book and the BEARs. The book will be an 'idea book' and the BESSG will be involved. According to Anders, it will be a textbook for students and early career scientists. Further details will be discussed during the next BESSG/BESAB meeting in Heringsdorf in April 2026. The book project is approved by the BESSG and Markus Meier will be a contact between BESSG and the author group.

8) Baltic Earth Publication Database:

It will continue as a metadatabase. IBES will distribute papers via social media. For that purpose, a sentence should be added to the papers in the Acknowledgements (e.g. 'This research is part of the Baltic Earth programme...'). This sentence will be posted on the BE website. There will be no searchable own library. This approach is approved.

The next BESSG/BESAB Meeting will be held on 12 April 2026 in Heringsdorf from 15-19:00 h.