

## Partnership for green energy and nature protection

Natural value of an environmental component reflects its importance for the stability and functioning of an ecosystem. It results from its rarity, sensitivity, or the ecological role it plays. The richness of species and habitats – biodiversity – ensures ecosystem stability and provides benefits to people, such as clean air and water and greater resilience of the environment to climate change. To protect the natural value of areas surrounding our investments, we plan

activities to minimize the impact on species, habitats and ecosystems, using modern technologies, environmental best practices, and continuous supervision by specialists. Work schedules have been aligned with natural cycles – including animal migration and breeding periods. Both on land and at sea, strict rules apply regarding waste management, risk management, vessel traffic, noise emissions and equipment performance.



New habitats for marine organisms may develop on turbine foundations, supporting local biodiversity.

## Our commitment

The construction of the offshore wind farms **Baltyk 2** and **Baltyk 3** is an important step towards the development of clean energy, improved energy stability and security in Poland, economic growth, job creation, and regional development. At the same time, the implementation of these projects represents a responsibility towards the natural environment – harnessing the power of nature while minimising impacts on biodiversity and the unique ecosystems that constitute the invaluable natural heritage of the coastal region.



## Together with the local community

Knowledge about the region's natural environment does not come only from scientific research. We encourage everyone to share their observations and report any remarks regarding the investment or the surrounding environment.



 [info@baltyk123.pl](mailto:info@baltyk123.pl)

MFW Baltyk II Sp. z o.o.      Krucza 24/26  
MFW Baltyk III Sp. z o.o.    00-526 Warsaw

Learn more:



[baltyk123.pl](http://baltyk123.pl)

**Baltyk**

equinor | Polenergia

# Clean energy with responsibility towards nature

The construction of offshore wind farms is one of the largest energy investments in Poland in recent years. Among them are the **Baltyk 2** and **Baltyk 3** projects, which are being developed in partnership by Equinor and Polenergia Group. **From the very beginning, the projects have been designed with a focus on environmental protection and the safety of nature at sea and on land. We proceeded the investment with detailed environmental studies, which enabled the introduction of solutions that limit the impact of the construction and operation of the wind farms on local ecosystems.**

### + Biodiversity of exceptional value

The Polish Baltic coast is an area of exceptional natural value. A characteristic feature of the landscape is white and grey dunes – valuable natural habitats that now occur only in a few locations. Near the dunes, there are coastal forests that host many valuable species of plants and animals. Environmental surveys have revealed the presence of more than a dozen species of vascular plants, eight of which are protected, including the black crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*) [1], common wintergreen (*Pyrola minor*), and native orchids, among them the strictly protected lesser butterfly orchid (*Platanthera bifolia*).

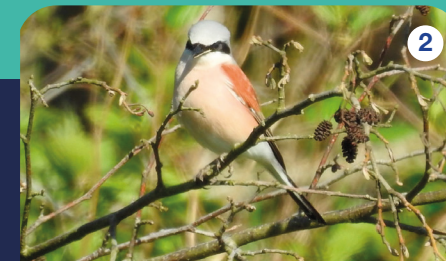


1

Numerous lichens are also abundant here and serve as important indicators of habitat quality, including two strictly protected species of the genus Ramalina. Protected amphibians, reptiles, and birds (including woodpeckers, woodlarks, red-backed shrikes [2], red-breasted flycatchers, and cranes), as well as bats (with breeding and hibernation sites) and the European beaver inhabit the terrestrial area. On land one can also encounter key pollinators – bumblebees. The beaches, in turn, are home to a rare invertebrate – the sandhooper (*Talitrus saltator*), considered a significant indicator of the natural state of beaches and their natural “cleaner”.

### + The unique ecosystem of the Baltic Sea

The main and largest part of both projects is located in the southern Baltic Sea is characterized by shallow waters, low salinity, and specific ecological processes that make it an environment particularly sensitive to changes. The Baltic Sea is also an important habitat for many animal species. Among them are flocks of long-tailed ducks and common scoters that spend the winter on the shallow banks. The waters of the Baltic Sea are also home to protected marine mammals, including seals and the Baltic harbour porpoise – a distant relative of dolphins.



2

## Offshore part of the investment – wind energy with care for the Baltic Sea

In the open sea, the wind is stronger and more stable, which enables efficient energy production. Turbines over **250 meters high** will be installed on foundations anchored to the seabed, and the energy will be transmitted through cables laid beneath the seabed surface. Already at the design stage, the cable routes and turbine locations were selected to avoid valuable seabed habitats, fish spawning grounds, and areas where wintering birds congregate.

### Protection of the marine ecosystem

**Marine mammals:** before starting the works, a dedicated mitigation plan was prepared. During foundation installation, a bubble curtain will be used to significantly reduce the propagation of underwater noise, protecting harbour porpoises and Baltic seals. Noise levels will be continuously monitored using hydrophones.

**Seabirds and migratory birds:** protection measures are implemented in cooperation with ornithologists. During migration periods, construction lighting will be reduced, and during the wintering period, noisy works will not be carried out. A radar and camera system will enable continuous monitoring of bird movements across the wind farm area and turbines to be temporarily shut down if necessary.

The offshore wind farms **Bałtyk 2** and **Bałtyk 3** are located outside protected areas but close to important **Natura 2000 sites**:

- ⦿ Ławica Słupska (PLC990001)
- ⦿ Ostoja Słowińska (PLH220023)
- ⦿ Przybrzeżne wody Bałtyku (PLB990002)



### Key solutions supporting biodiversity:



- + solutions implemented already at the design stage, e.g. trenchless cable landfall technology (HDD) without interference with the shoreline, reduction of light pollution, and designation of a bird migration corridor
- + temporary turbine shutdown system during bird migration
- + selection of cable protection methods that safeguard seabed habitats (including the Ławica Słupska area)
- + reduction of underwater noise during foundation installation
- + metaplantation of protected plant species
- + continuous specialist environmental supervision

### Onshore part of the investment – grid connection

We have planned the connection of the offshore wind farms to the national power grid in a way that minimizes interference with coastal ecosystems. The use of trenchless HDD (Horizontal Directional Drilling) technology allows us to bypass the shoreline as well as valuable dune and forest habitats. All works are carried out under continuous environmental supervision. Tree felling has been limited to the minimum necessary for infrastructure safety, and activities that may affect birds are conducted outside the breeding season.

### Nature protection on land

**Vegetation:** the trees and shrubs left within the investment area have been secured with protective mats or wooden boarding. In locations where protected lichens occur, we used protective nets to prevent damage to their thalli.

**Protected vascular plants:** broad-leaved buckthorn (*Epipactis helleborine*) and honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) have been relocated to nearby habitats with similar environmental conditions.

**Aquatic habitats:** we do not abstract water from the Struga Łędowska or watercourses flowing into Modła Lake, nor do we discharge water from drainage systems or drilling muds, in order to protect habitats such as natural water reservoirs with aquatic vegetation, including broad leaved pondweeds (*Potamogeton*).

**Small animals:** we regularly inspect and clear trenches to allow small animals to escape safely. During migration and breeding periods of amphibians and reptiles, protective **herpetological fencing** is used.

**Breeding birds and bats:** in cooperation with foresters, we install nesting boxes for birds and bats.