



# BALTEX successor programme launched at the 7<sup>th</sup> Study Conference on BALTEX, Borgholm, Öland, Sweden, 10-14 June 2013

## Vision of the new programme

*To achieve an improved Earth System  
understanding of the Baltic Sea region*



- **Interdisciplinary** and **international** collaboration (study conferences, workshops, etc.)
- **Holistic view** on the Earth system of the Baltic Sea region, encompassing processes in the **atmosphere**, on **land** and in the **sea** and also in the **anthroposphere**
- “**Service to society**” in the respect that **thematic assessments** provide an overview over knowledge gaps which need to be filled (e.g. by funded projects)
- **Education** (summer schools)
- Inherits the BALTEX network of scientists and infrastructure

# Baltic Earth

Earth System Science for the Baltic Sea Region

## Baltic Earth Infrastructure

- International BALTEX Secretariat continued as **International Baltic Earth Secretariat** for the time being
- **Interim Science Steering Group (ISSG)** installed, with mandate until June 2014, then presentation of **Baltic Earth Science Plan** and permanent Science Steering Group
- **ISSG members:** Excellent, active “young” scientists; country balance, gender balance, discipline balance, institutional balance
- **Working Groups** installed for each GC plus
  - WG on Outreach and Communication
  - WG on Education
  - WG on the Utility of Regional Climate Models (BALTEX inherited)
  - WG on the Assessment of Scenario Simulations for the Baltic Sea 1960-2100 (BALTEX inherited)
- **Senior Advisory Board**

## ISSG chairs:

**Markus Meier**, Head of Oceanographic Research Dept. of SMHI and Professor at Stockholm University, Sweden.

<http://www.smhi.se/en/Research/Research-departments/Oceanography>



**Anna Rutgersson**, Professor of Meteorology, Uppsala University, Sweden.

<http://katalog.uu.se/empInfo/?languageId=1&id=N96-3829>



Both have been active in BALTEX for many years

# Baltic Earth Science Plan and Grand Challenges



## Suggested Grand Challenges

- Flexible science plan with a continuously on-going definition of core research questions which are identified to be key scientific issues, so-called “**Grand Challenges**” (GCs)
- New Grand Challenges will be identified at conferences and by using **assessments** of existing research by dedicated working groups. Grand Challenges are envisaged to be research foci for periods of about 3-4 years (then terminated or updated)
- The new programme will **communicate** with stakeholders and research funding agencies to promote funding relevant for the Grand Challenges
- International embedment (GEWEX?, Future Earth?, to be decided by ISSG by June 2014)
- GC1: Salinity dynamics in the Baltic Sea
- GC2: Land-Sea biogeochemical feedbacks in the Baltic Sea region
- GC3: Natural hazards and extreme events in the Baltic Sea region
- GC4: Understanding sea level dynamics using new technologies (remote sensing)
- GC5: Understanding regional variability of water and energy exchanges
- The human impact will be assessed at all levels, wherever possible and senseful
- Website in preparation: [www.baltic-earth.eu](http://www.baltic-earth.eu)

An aerial photograph of a tropical coastline. The land is covered in dense green vegetation, with a narrow strip of beach and a small body of water visible. A small white boat is on the water in the upper right. The text "Thank you for your attention" is overlaid in white at the bottom.

Thank you for your attention