

WE ARE IN A NATURE AND CLIMATE CRISIS.

It is imperative that we rapidly cut global emissions and take ambitious action to protect and restore marine ecosystems. Healthy seas are our ally in the fight against climate change, capturing and locking away carbon, as well as supporting human livelihoods and wellbeing.

Offshore wind is a low cost, proven technology that has a vital role in the energy transition. However, it is being developed in already busy seas and will increase the overall pressure on marine ecosystems, which are in a degraded state due to a legacy of impacts from past and present human activities.

To avoid further degradation and losses of nature we need a Nature Positive energy transition at sea, which BirdLife defines as:

Industry and government-led action that goes above and beyond halting nature loss and is delivered at scale to restore thriving and resilient seas in tandem with the expansion of renewable energy at sea, ensuring a just transition of other marine sectors.

The protection and restoration of marine ecosystems must be pursued hand in hand with, and with equal ambition to, the expansion of offshore renewables.

WE MUST PROTECT, RESTORE AND ENHANCE NATURE.

We call on governments, working together with industry, civil society, and other relevant parties, to take all possible measures to minimise impacts on nature and incorporate large-scale nature restoration and enhancement as integral components of the planning and development of offshore renewable energy.



SCAN HERE TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information see the position paper of BirdLife Europe & Central Asia: Winds of Change: Powering Healthy Seas through a Nature Positive Energy Transition by scanning the QR code.

Stichting BirdLife Europe
c/o Hive5
Cours Saint-Michel 30 B
1040 Brussels
Belgium



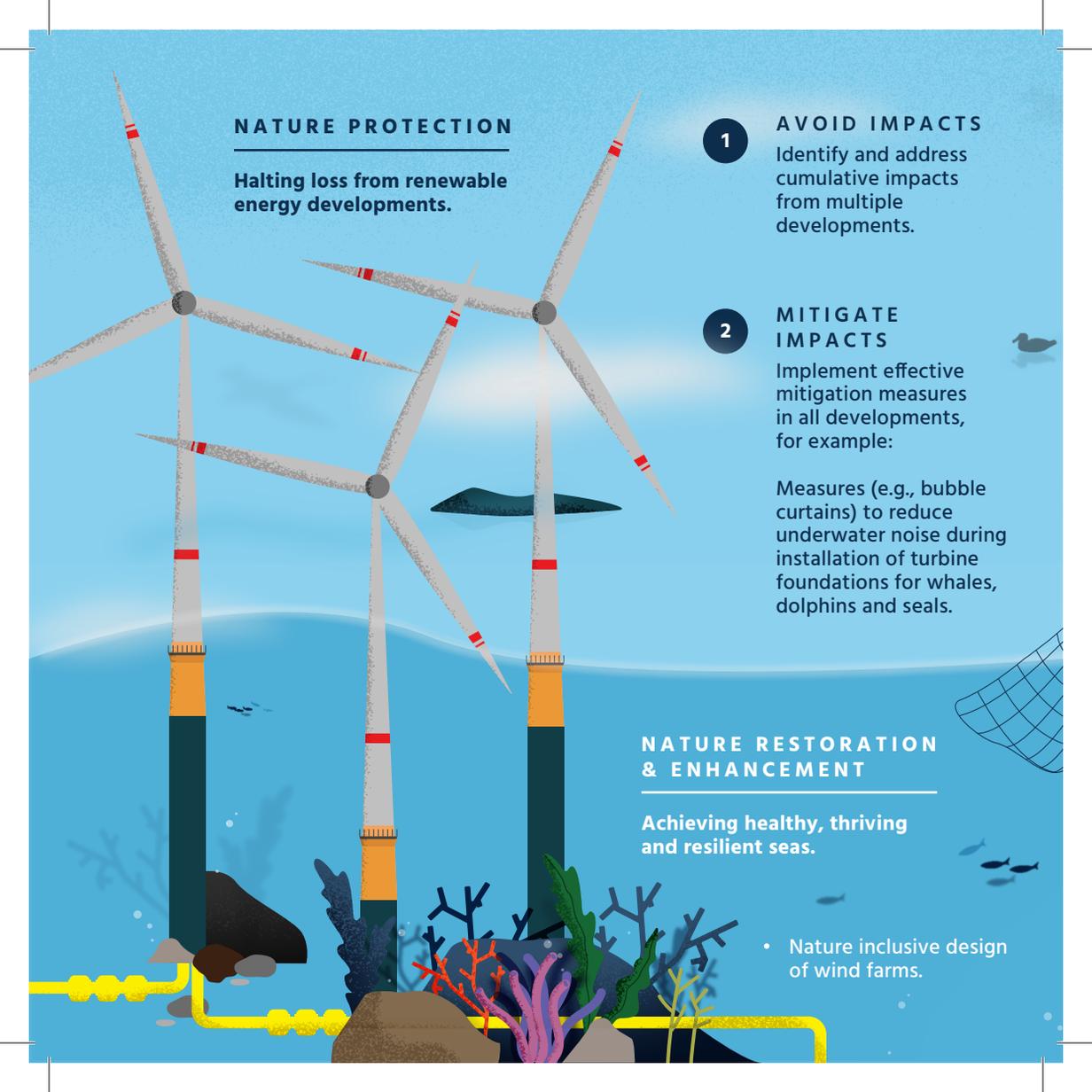
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A NATURE POSITIVE RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION AT SEA

TO PROTECT, RESTORE AND ENHANCE NATURE



BirdLife
INTERNATIONAL
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA



NATURE PROTECTION

Halting loss from renewable energy developments.

1

AVOID IMPACTS

Identify and address cumulative impacts from multiple developments.

2

MITIGATE IMPACTS

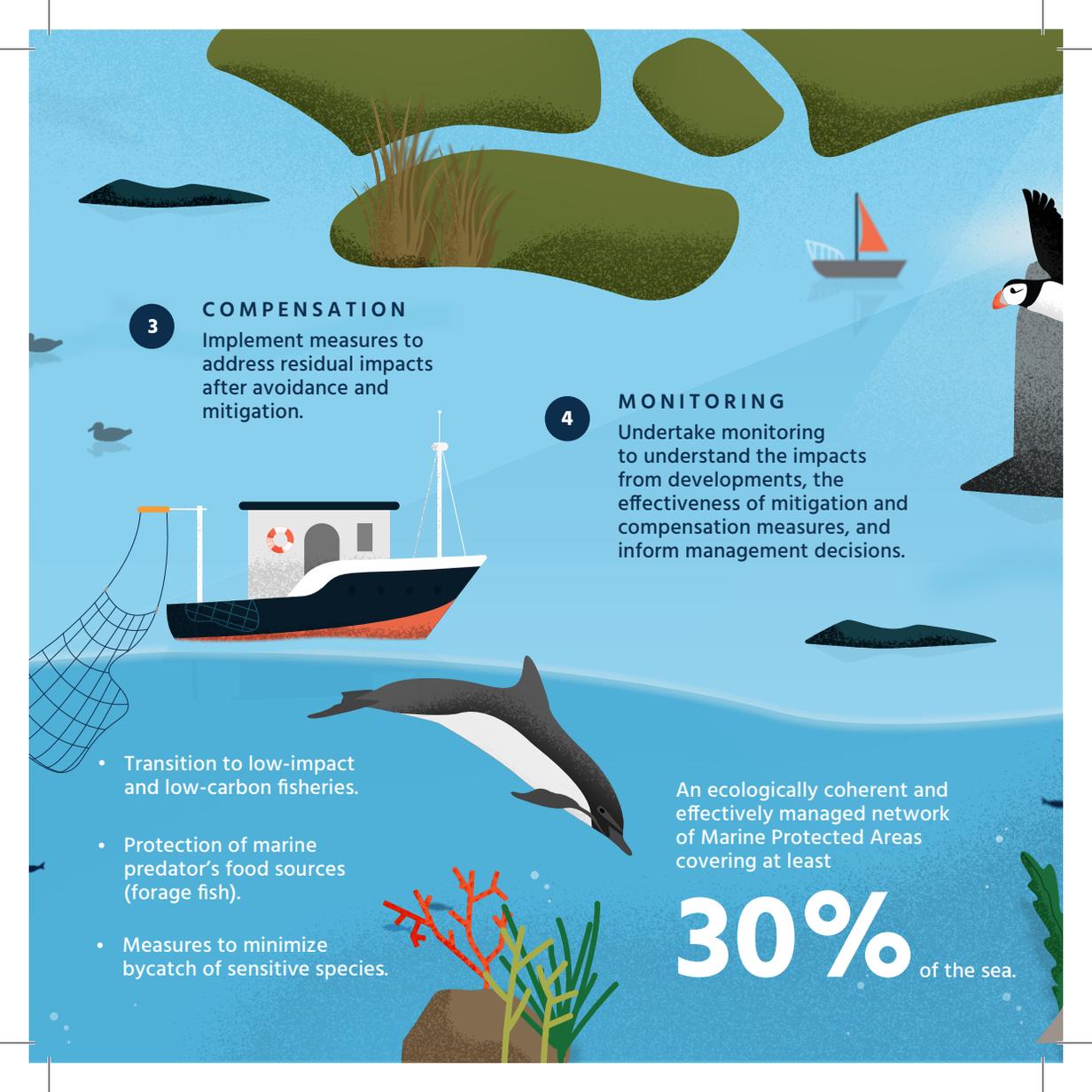
Implement effective mitigation measures in all developments, for example:

Measures (e.g., bubble curtains) to reduce underwater noise during installation of turbine foundations for whales, dolphins and seals.

NATURE RESTORATION & ENHANCEMENT

Achieving healthy, thriving and resilient seas.

- Nature inclusive design of wind farms.

An illustration of a marine ecosystem. In the upper part, there are green, grassy islands or reefs. A small boat with a red sail is on the water. A penguin is perched on a rock on the right. In the center, a fishing boat with a net is shown. A dolphin is leaping from the water in the lower center. The background is a gradient of blue representing the ocean. There are also some smaller sea creatures like ducks and fish scattered throughout.

3

COMPENSATION

Implement measures to address residual impacts after avoidance and mitigation.

4

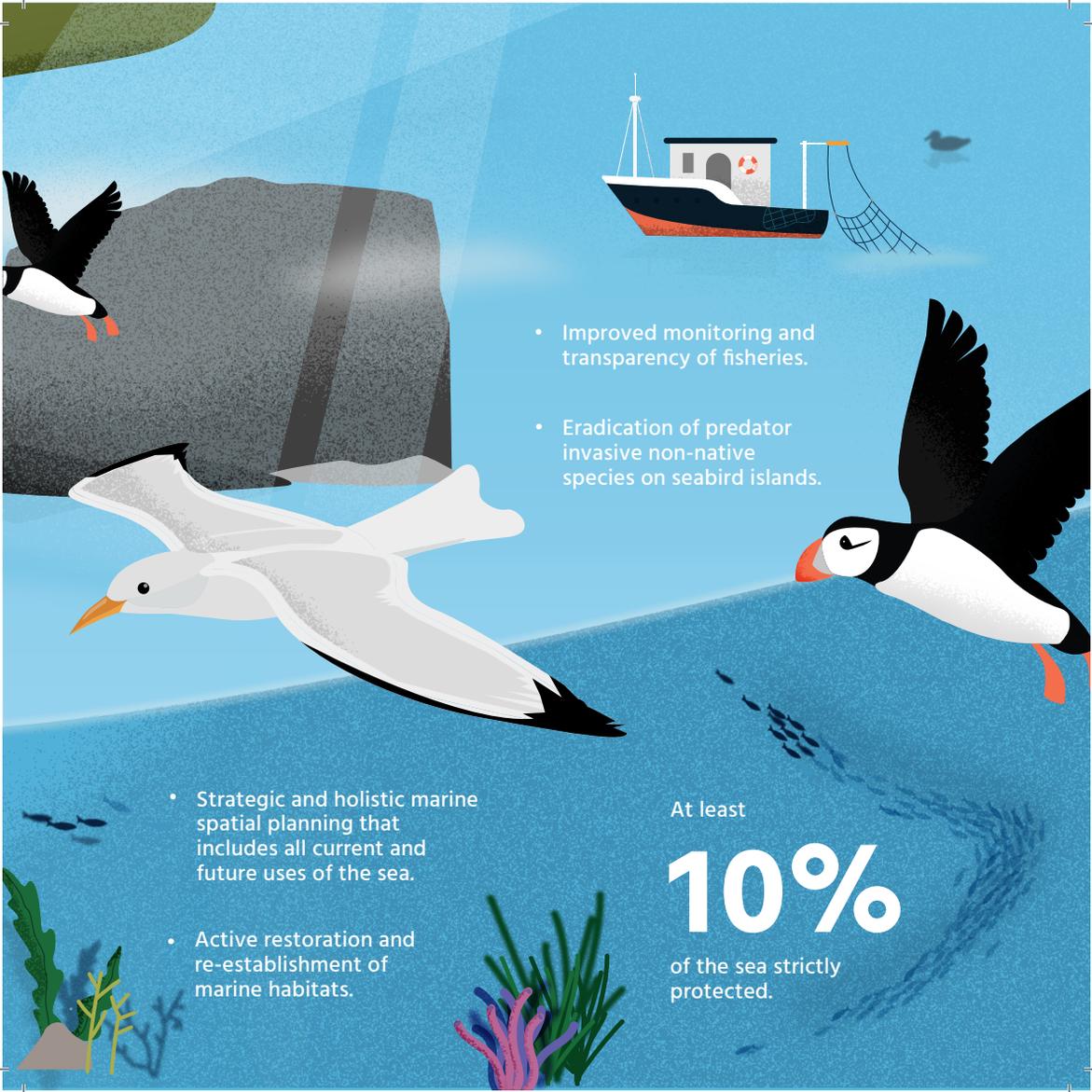
MONITORING

Undertake monitoring to understand the impacts from developments, the effectiveness of mitigation and compensation measures, and inform management decisions.

- Transition to low-impact and low-carbon fisheries.
- Protection of marine predator's food sources (forage fish).
- Measures to minimize bycatch of sensitive species.

An ecologically coherent and effectively managed network of Marine Protected Areas covering at least

30% of the sea.



- Improved monitoring and transparency of fisheries.
- Eradication of predator invasive non-native species on seabird islands.

- Strategic and holistic marine spatial planning that includes all current and future uses of the sea.
- Active restoration and re-establishment of marine habitats.

At least

10%

of the sea strictly protected.