

ENREDO



VARJOISTA VALOON

ITÄMERI
2025

ENG

BALTIC SEA – FROM SHADOWS TO LIGHT

Introduction

Our parade is an urgent cry for help for the Baltic Sea. Due to human activity, the Baltic Sea is now one of the most polluted seas in the world. The waves have darkened due to eutrophication, oxygen depletion, and lack of light.

We need collective action to halt this destructive course and help the Baltic Sea emerge once more from the shadows into the light. Beyond societal decisions, we demand a shift in values and the support of the entire community—the responsibility belongs to all of us. The swan of Carioca cries out for action to save our precious sea!

The Baltic Sea has always connected the peoples living along its shores. In our parade, we therefore incorporate Finno-Baltic mythology and folklore: the Sampo, which grinds out riches; the sacred swan in its various forms; the lamenting women; Tuoni and Tuonela (the realm of the dead); and Ahti, the sea god.

In our parade, the fate of the Baltic Sea symbolized by the swan, appearing three times according to the folk tale structure at pivotal points in the procession: fighting for its existence, on the brink of destruction, and finally reborn as a symbol of hope. The swan is the emblem of our school, but it also holds a deep mythical meaning. In Finno-Baltic tradition, the swan was sacred, a human turned into a bird, kin to people. Harming a swan was forbidden, and killing one led to grave consequences. Our national bird, the whooper swan, is living proof that there is hope even amid darkness. The species was on the brink of extinction until a change in attitudes and conservation efforts allowed its population to recover.

The issues facing the seas are global and interconnected, touching the natural world as a whole. For this reason, Ahti calls upon Yemanjá, the mother of seas and humanity, to bring cleansing waves, and Iansā to summon the winds of change and the will to fight for a better tomorrow.

Yet alongside myths, saving the Baltic Sea requires science and concrete actions. Understanding, knowledge, and emotion together spark the will to change. Only then can we find sustainable, practical solutions and a harmonious life that respects other species.

In our parade, we present both the threats to the Baltic Sea and the conditions, key species, and solutions for hope, renewal, and recovery. If we have broken the Baltic Sea, it is also our duty to repair it!

Enredo

The Baltic Sea is a fragile treasure among the world's seas—shallow and vulnerable, yet vital in many ways. It serves as a transport route, a source of natural resources, and the foundation of many livelihoods. But the wealth the Baltic Sea provides cannot be measured in money alone. It offers us spiritual well-being, and its unique nature has an intrinsic value.

Human activity has cast the Baltic Sea from light into shadow over the past century. The greatest threat to the Baltic Sea is eutrophication, which casts a literal and figurative shadow over its waters. Most of this is caused by nutrients—especially nitrogen and phosphorus—flowing into the sea from agriculture. Forestry, fishing, wastewater, and shipping also contribute to the burden.

The Baltic Sea cannot bear this load. In Finno-Baltic mythology, the Sampo produced riches. But today, in the name of profit, humanity has created a destructive machine. Even now, factories are being built on the coast, with some of their waste ending up in the Baltic Sea, despite existing purification technologies. Oxygen-depleted seafloors are dead and silent, like the mythical land of the dead, Tuonela. We must look in the mirror and understand that these are the consequences of our actions.

Eutrophication leads to algal blooms, murky waters, and the decline of key species. These species are not just residents of the Baltic Sea—they sustain entire ecosystems. Bladderwrack provides shelter for countless Baltic species, and its health is directly linked to the sea's overall state. The ancient meadows of seagrass—some a thousand years old—are like the Baltic's coral reefs, teeming with life, absorbing carbon, and protecting shores from erosion. The tiny blue mussels, adapted to the Baltic's cold, brackish waters, feed birds and fish while filtering the entire volume of the Baltic Sea annually. These key species are essential for the Baltic Sea's survival, but they cannot succeed alone.

Ahti's realm is a delicate and essential balance. Ahti is a capricious god, generous or unforgiving, depending on how respectfully his waters are treated. Ahti may call upon Brazilian deities—Yemanjá, goddess of the seas, and Iansã, mistress of the winds—to aid the Baltic Sea. Iansã's powerful winds push ocean water into the Baltic Sea as Yemanjá's clean waves. These inflows, known as salt pulses, bring oxygen-rich water from the North Sea, cleansing the deep, oxygen-deprived areas. Saltwater pulses are vital for the ecosystem of Baltic Sea, because they help reducing oxygen depletion in the depths and prevent further eutrophication.

In Finno-Baltic mythology, the Sampo shattered in the sea, and the fragments washed ashore, bringing shared wealth. We must use these Sampo fragments—our existing knowledge and technology—to build a better future for the Baltic Sea and ourselves, instead of destruction. We need more research, innovation, and practical actions. Nature must be included in every decision—politics, economics, and business. Sustainable tourism and environmentally respectful livelihoods can coexist.

Lighthouses have long been wonders and subjects of myth, blending cutting-edge technology with literal and symbolic foresight. Bengtskär Lighthouse in the outer Baltic archipelago is now run through a collaboration between the University of Turku Foundation and business partners. It now serves as a guiding beacon for Baltic Sea protection, combining science and art, conservation and commerce. It's one of Finland's most popular tourist attractions, vital for Archipelago Sea research and especially for seabird conservation. The whooper swan's recovery is a conservation success story—its population rebounded from the brink of extinction, and nearly all whooper swans in Finland now winter on the Baltic Sea.

A clean sea with rich biodiversity is more resilient to climate change and better protects the shores and people living alongside it. Humanity and nature should walk hand in hand in mutual harmony. We must look in the mirror and recognize that the state of the Baltic Sea is the result of human action, and only by acknowledging this can we change course.

Concerns and anxiety over environmental issues are often dismissed as unrealistic dreams or mere emotion. But logic and emotion are not opposites, they complement each other. Our urgent cry seeks to foster not only knowledge but also wisdom, culture, and empathy, because a deeper understanding of nature's state and our dependence on it motivates concrete action. Environmental anxiety and activism based on solid scientific knowledge can lead to stricter emission limits and industrial regulations. Similar citizen initiatives have already borne fruit, creating hope for a brighter tomorrow for the Baltic Sea.

No one can save the Baltic Sea alone—we need the power of the entire community and heroic acts. On the winds of Iansā, the swan of Carioca now takes flight for the Baltic Sea, carrying us from shadows to light and toward a better future!

Parade order

1. Comissão de Frente – Destruction Threatens the Baltic Sea

The waves of the Baltic Sea have darkened due to eutrophication and oxygen depletion. Driven by greed and profit-seeking, humans threaten to suffocate the swan that symbolizes the Baltic Sea. The endangered swan fights for survival and emerges anew through the algae bloom to the crest of the wave. In the choreography, the swan lifts the hood from the face of Greed, revealing an ordinary person – you – and showing that our actions matter for the salvation of the Baltic Sea.

Endangered Swan – Baltic Sea: The swan is also the personification of the stormy Baltic Sea, fighting for their existence.

Greed: Human greed and indifference are behind the Baltic Sea's destruction. Under the hood, however, is an ordinary human – any of us.

Black Waves: Represent the dark waves of the Baltic and at the same time, human actions that continue unchallenged, despite leading to the sea's destruction.

2. Porta-Bandeira e Mestre-Sala

3. Abre Ala – 1. lavastevaunu: Likasampo

The Sampo, in Finno-Baltic mythology, is a magical mill grinding riches. But in our time, the pursuit of wealth has shown its dark side through industrial and agricultural development. Today's Sampo over-enriches the Baltic. The float depicts the current situation, where pollution flows into the sea. Pollution of the oceans is a global problem – all seas are connected, and the whole planet is shackled by human actions.

Yet mythical pieces of the starry vault (Kirjokansi) already surround the Sampo: from the knowledge we have, we could begin building a cleaner future, seen at the front of the float as a clearer sea – a journey from shadows to light. But the back of the float is still dominated by the dark shadow of human activity: a giant mirror, overgrown and algae-filled like the Baltic Sea itself. We must look into the mirror and understand our responsibility to build a better tomorrow!

Main Destaque: Shadow. Eutrophication and pollution cast a literal and symbolic shadow over the Baltic, blocking light and creating lifeless, oxygen-deprived depths. Inspired by Tuonela, the land of the dead in Finnish folklore.

Destaque pair: Agriculture. Agriculture and wastewater are major contributors to pollution. The figures are hybrids of livestock and farming.

Destaque pair: Algae Sludge. Representing algae blooms along the coasts from nutrient runoff.

4. Street Destaque Pair: Nitrogen and Phosphorus

Nitrogen and phosphorus are essential for life and for plant photosynthesis. But uncontrolled fertilizer runoff accelerates the self-reinforcing cycle of eutrophication and oxygen depletion. Nitrogen is an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas, while phosphorus is a translucent crystal.

5. Sambaschool Wing: Eutrophication – Blue-Green Algae Bloom

Blue-green algae blooms are a summer scourge in the Baltic, signaling the sea's poor state and worsening the eutrophication cycle by fixing atmospheric nitrogen into the water. Blue-green algae can be toxic to humans, causing liver or nerve poisoning.

6. Ala das Passistas: Cry for the Baltic – Lamenting Women

Among Baltic Finnic peoples, lament songs have been a way to express shared sorrow. Our passistas cry for the whole Baltic Sea. Money matters the most, and the marine environment pays the price for our greed.

7. Princesa da Bateria: Harmony between Nature and Humanity

Seeing nature only as a resource to exploit has led to the Baltic Sea's crisis. Reason, emotion, and culture must work together. Anxiety over the Baltic is wise – it nurtures empathy and drives us to seek knowledge and act for harmony.

8. Rainha da Bateria: Threatened Baltic – Swan of Tuonela

The Swan of Tuonela from Baltic Finnic mythology lives in the realm of the dead. It symbolizes the boundary between life and death. According to legend, killing the swan seals your own doom – destroying nature ultimately destroys ourselves.

9. Ala da Bateria: Voices of Society

Environmental activists are the megaphones of nature and society. By bringing problems to light, they wake up citizens and decision-makers. There is plenty of knowledge, but too little action. Without activism, the Baltic's situation would be worse – but there is still hope, so let the drums and marches sound!

10. Sound Car and Melody Section

11. Street Destaque: Innovations Lead the Way – Lighthouse

Lighthouses symbolize optimism and direction, built with the latest innovations of their times. Bengtskär Lighthouse, the tallest in the Nordics (built in 1906), now safeguards maritime traffic, research, and seabirds.

12. Ala dos Jovens: Winds of Change – Children of Iansā

Iansā is the deity of wind and storms, the protector of children, and a bringer of change. The youth of the samba school use science and innovation to fight for a better future.

13. Ala das crianças (Children): Baltic Revival – Eelgrass Meadows

Eelgrass is a key species in the Baltic, providing shelter and food. Volunteers plant eelgrass to restore its old habitats.

14. Alegoria (2nd Float): Thriving Baltic Sea – Ahti

In Baltic Finnic mythology, Ahti is the sea god, who can be generous or unforgiving depending on how his waters are treated. The sea is his realm, not ours. One must also give back to the sea. The float features cliffs and waves, and key species like eelgrass, blue mussels, and bladderwrack that support other life.

15. Ala: Sea's Cleaners – Blue Mussels

Small due to the cold, low-salinity waters, blue mussels tirelessly filter the Baltic's water, cleaning it continuously.

16. Street Destaque: The revival of Baltic Sea – Whooper Swan

The whooper swan, Finland's national bird, was almost driven extinct but has rebounded. It symbolizes hope and the sea's ability to recover with communal effort. Let's raise the Baltic Seas well-being above short-term gains!

The swan's costume is white again after fighting for survival, with regal wings and a small crown – a national symbol and beloved school emblem.

17. Ala das Baianas: Yemanjá's Waves – Salt Pulse

Storm winds push new, clean seawater into the Baltic – a “salt pulse” that carries oxygen to the deep basins, brightening murky depths and reducing eutrophication. The ocean's movement cleanses the seafloor.

18. Ala: Power of the Community – You Are the Baltic's Hero!

Each of us can influence the environment and the Baltic's health. We're the heroes of our own lives, able to share knowledge and make choices. Carioca's Velha Guarda highlights the power of the individual through positivity, not guilt.

SAMBA DE ENREDO

G.R.E.S. Samba Carioca 2025

BALTIC SEA - FROM LIGHT TO SHADOWS, FROM SHADOWS TO LIGHT

Composition: Riku Aho, Tuomas Vuorio

Lyrics: Riku Aho, Tuomas Vuorio

Arrangement: Olli Poutiainen, Riku Aho, Tuomas Vuorio, Simo Pussinen, Tuomo Noppari

From light to shadows, I dive into the waves
In the black surges, I get stuck
I try to break the chains of man
But I cannot tear my wings from them
From shadows to light, I want to return
The dead bottom cannot breathe
I hope for harmony
For a cleaner world
I carry my wish to the blue sky

: I want to live, I want to fly
Morning of brightness is now dawning for us
Carioca, win the battle
I see the beacon's glow in my eyes :

Yemanjá, Iansá
Save the sea and the land
Dancing on the crest of the wave
Shaking the seaweed from her feet
Sampo of the rich
Pours poisons into the sea
Mindless is the human
Who destroys it
Does money decide everything?

: The sea is ours, the sea is yours!
The future is my responsibility!
Hear the waves, hear the earth!
The swan cries - Answer! :

: It is time to save
The realm of Ahti
To sink the Sampo of greed
Into the sea
The white swan rises to fly
It is time for vanity to end :

