

Workshop Results

„Spatial dimension of the European Green Belt – Session 4“

Central European Green Belt

Austria

NUTS 3: Distance from the border is too large, historical relation is not given! Distance is in general too big (Green Belt includes Vienna totally).

LAU 2: More realistic!

Protected areas (PA): All PAs directly adjacent to the border are seen as part of the Green Belt (with their entire surface).

Additional information: There was no “No-mans-land” in Austria (western side of the Iron Curtain), therefore the PA directly at the border play an important role for the definition of the Green Belt.

Concerning the municipalities and PAs there are additional information and surveys available from Umweltbundesamt.

► **Scope: LAU 2 and PAs directly adjacent to the border**

Hungary

NUTS 3: Too broad!

LAU-levels: Better, but not clear which level (1 or 2) is suitable.

Protected areas: PA directly at the border should be included with their entire surface.

► **Scope: LAU-level and PAs directly adjacent to the border**

Slovenia

NUTS 3: Too broad!

LAU-levels: Much more suitable, but not clear if level 1 or 2.

Protected areas: Natura 2000 is of high importance! But also other PAs are important, like nature park Goričko (IUCN category 5), which is not included with its entire surface in the survey (“only” the Natura 2000 areas are identified in the map). The entire surface of nature park Goričko and PA of Mura river should also be included (biosphere reserve with Drava and Danube).

► **Scope: LAU-level and PAs (Natura 2000 and entire nature park Goričko and PAs along river Mura)**

Croatia

NUTS 3: This level is similar with the county-level. Counties are responsible for the administration of areas – there are only 4 counties along the Croatian Green Belt. Therefore this level could be suitable.

LAU-level: LAU 1 is not existing, LAU 2 is too small and not responsible for administration of areas.

Protected areas: Natura 2000 areas, regional park Mura and biosphere reserve Mura-Drava-Danube belong to the Green Belt.

► **Scope: NUTS 3 (counties) and PAs**

Slovakia

NUTS 3: Too broad!

LAU 1: Could be suitable – because it also connects the PAs adjacent to the border with other large ecological networks like the Alpine-Carpathian corridor.

Protected areas: Mainly landscape protected area and Natura 2000-site “Záhorie” (river March and adjacent areas)

► **Scope: LAU 1 with PAs directly adjacent to the border (PA Záhorie) and connections (PA Malé Karpaty) to other large ecological networks (Alpine Carpathian corridor)**

Italy

NUTS 3: Due to a territorial reform there will be no NUTS 3-levels in the future. Administration on this level will be done by Autonomous Region Friuli Venetia Giulia.

LAU-level: Due to the political process of the territorial reform only LAU 1-level will be exist in future.

Special historical aspect: There was no Iron Curtain on the Italian side, but there were several military zones and “fronts” with many military buildings and features.

► **Scope (*idea for a feasible solution*): Identify a core area (LAU 1 level with PAs adjacent to the border) and buffer areas (also including the military/historical heritage).**

Czech Republic

NUTS 3: Too broad!

LAU 2: Would be suitable (LAU 1 does not exist).

Protected areas: Beside national park Šumava and Natura 2000-sites, landscape protected areas (Ceský Les and possibly Slavkovský Les) must be included, they are important PAs.

► **Scope: LAU 2 and PAs adjacent to the Green Belt (national park, Natura 2000-sites and landscape protected areas)**

Germany

Scope of the inner-German Green Belt is already defined: The central Green Belt Germany (inner-German Green Belt) is defined as area between the former border of West (FRG) and East Germany (GDR) and the way for military vehicles ("Kolonnenweg"). All PAs directly adjacent to this central inner-German Green Belt are identified as part of the Green Belt Germany in the sense of nature and connectivity conservation.

Scope German part of Green Belt Germany (Bavaria)-Czech Republic: There were no border fortifications on the Western part, but a high level of remoteness. All PAs directly adjacent to the border on the Western side belong to the Green Belt in the sense of nature and connectivity conservation.

NUTS 3: This level (rural districts in Germany) is taken into account for many activities concerning the inner-German Green Belt and the German part of the Green Belt Germany-Czech Republic (administration of nature conservation, awareness raising, public relation etc.). In most cases the rural district administration are responsible for the implementation of nature conservation (Lower Nature Conservation Agencies). Additionally they have also a strong historical relation to the former Iron Curtain. But not all PAs situated in the rural district are part of the Green Belt (only the directly adjacent to the central inner-German Green Belt or the border to Czech Republic).



Fig. 1: Country specific results of the first half of the work shop-session 4; information about suitable scope features (© BUND Project Office Green Belt).

Who is responsible for PAs?

- **Slovakia:** Protected landscape area Záhorie.
- **Croatia:** Public Institutions of counties; only PAs on high national level like national parks are managed by ministry for environment.
- **Italy:** At the moment consortium of municipalities.
- **Hungary:** Local/regional level: national park administrations; national level: ministry for environment.
- **Czech Republic, Slovenia, Germany and Austria:** different institutions on many levels.

Conclusions

- The Scope for the Green Belt in the Central European countries should be defined for each country (due to different administrative units and different classification of PAs) but with a common/joint basis.
- As a whole the LAU-levels as administrative units and the directly adjacent to the border situated PAs seem to be the most suitable scope. Except of Croatia, the NUTS 3-level is not suitable. In Germany the NUTS 3-level is only used for public relation and to address the responsible nature conservation administrations.
- To define a “Green Belt core area” and “buffer zones” was not stated as useful for all countries. A **Green Belt Region** consisting of LAU-units and PAs directly adjacent to the border (as a basis), was identified as suitable for the most activities.



Fig. 2: Identification of responsibilities concerning PAs and conclusions of the workshop (© BUND Project Office Green Belt).