Session 4

Research- and Development- (R+D-) Project
“The European Green Belt as part of Green Infrastructure”

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This project is financially supported by
Runtime: November 2015 – January 2018

Project Partners:
EuroNatur (Regional Coordinator Balkan),
BUND Project Office Green Belt (Regional Coordinator Central Europe),
BUND Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Regional Coordinator Baltic)

Three key aspects:
1. Strengthening the governance structure
2. Initiation of a common strategical process
3. Elaboration of a concept for the representation and development of the Green Belt as part of Green Infrastructure
Elaboration of a concept for the European Green Belt as part of Green Infrastructure

- Update of the database on protected areas: Natura 2000-sites, national parks, biosphere reserves, IUCN categories I-IV

- Definition of the spatial dimension/scope of the European Green Belt

- Connectivity analysis for pilot regions in the Central European part and the Balkans

- Development of a concept for the contribution of the European Green Belt to Green Infrastructure
First Results

Protected Areas in the European Green Belt

- **Protected areas:** Natura 2000, national parks, biosphere reserves, areas with IUCN categories I-IV

- At least protected percentage in a 1 km-corridor: 44% protected parts along EGB

- At least protected percentage in a 50 km-corridor: 25% protected parts along EGB
Protected areas in 150 km corridor
IUCN Categories I-IV, Natura 2000 • Examples

Czech Republic/Germany/Austria
Minimum percentage under protection (area) per corridor

Width of corridor:
- 1 km: 38%
- 2 km: 35%
- 10 km: 29%
- 20 km: 26%
- 50 km: 21%
- 100 km: 18%
- 150 km: 18%
Connectivity Analysis
Central European Green Belt

Average distance to the next neighbour (protected area) in meters per corridor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Width of corridor</th>
<th>1km</th>
<th>10km</th>
<th>20km</th>
<th>50km</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meter</td>
<td>1160</td>
<td>1307</td>
<td>1396</td>
<td>1480</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
With decreasing distance to the border (former Iron Curtain)

- the percentage of protected areas is increasing and
- the average distance between protected areas is declining
Next Steps – Analysis Central European Green Belt

Definition and Identification of Gaps between Protected Areas

Data on protected areas

Gap types according to CORINE landcover classification

+ Data of the occurrence of threatened species

Prioritisation procedure

Different quality of gaps between protected areas

Strategies for management and measures

Available worldwide data of the occurrence of threatened species (IUCN and BirdLife International)

- Amphibians
- Reptiles
- Birds
- Mammals

Methodology modified according to the project
What is Connectivity?

Two primary components of connectivity:

(I) Structural (or physical) component: spatial arrangement of different types of habitat or other elements in the landscape.

(II) Functional (or behavioral) component: behavioral response of individuals, species, or ecological processes to the physical structure of the landscape.

Implementation of connectivity/corridor projects:
Integration of biological and socio-economic issues for achieving effective connectivity in human-dominated landscapes

European Green Belt Initiative as model for Connectivity Conservation

**Fig. 1.4.** The key to the future of connectivity conservation (CC) is to enlarge the area of overlap, the synergy between domains, of our theoretical, empirical, and applied efforts in connectivity research **and** implementation.

Case Study 2013

- **Developed by**
  - EuroNatur
  - BUND Project Office Green Belt

- **During**
  - Research- and Development- (R+D-) Project “Advancing the European Green Belt Initiative” (2011-2014)
Case Study 2013

- **Spatial Scope necessary:**
  - Geographical localization
  - To define action space
  - Identification
Results: Criteria

- **Natural aspects**
  - Protected areas
    (e.g. NATURA2000, National Parks, ...)

- **Administrative aspects**
  - Identification of decision makers, etc.
  - NUTS- Systematic
    - NUTS 3 - Minor regions/cities
    - LAU 1 - Association of Municipalities
    - LAU 2 - Municipalities
Results: Criteria

- Delimitation has to be possible with reasonable expenditure

- Spatial analysis to test practical realization
Next step: Spatial Scope Analysis

Spatial Scope Analysis

- in the frame of the R+D project: „The European Green Belt as part of the Green Infrastructure“

- Based on the criteria “protected areas” + “administrative units”: “All Administrative Unites (e.g. Municipalities) that are situated directly along to the European Green Belt as well as all Protected Areas which are located at least partly in the selected Administrative Units along the European Green Belt”

- 3 Step Analysis
  - Illustrated through the example of Austria
Spatial Scope Analysis

Step 1: Identification of Administrative Units (AU)

- AU directly along the Green Belt Line (country border)

- Two different scenarios per country, based on:
  - NUTS 3 - Minor regions
  - LAU 1 - Association of municipalities
    (if not excising LAU 2 or none)
Spatial Scope Analysis
Step 1
Spatial Scope Analysis

Step 2: Identification of Protected Areas (PAs)

- Based on analysis step 1 - for each identified Administrative Unit (AU)

- All PAs in full size, which are located at least partly in the identified AU
Spatial Scope Analysis

Step 3: Potential Green Belt Area (PGBArea)

- According to:
  - Analysis step 1: Identified AUs
  - Analysis step 2: Identified PAs

- Two different scenarios for Potential Green Belt Area (PGBArea) per country
  (some countries have only one scenario)
Spatial Scope Analysis
Step 3
Spatial Scope Analysis

Next steps

- Pan-European Conference: Your input during the working group session

- Development of a proposal for the spatial scope for an example area along the Balkan Green Belt
  - Considering Green Infrastructure
  - Considering Connectivity
Spatial Scope Analysis

Questions regarding the procedure of the analysis?

Details of the scenarios for each country will be presented and discussed in the working groups!
Working groups „Further development of the spatial dimension of the European Green Belt“

Working group division:

- Parallel working groups for each European Green Belt region
- Moderator: Regional Coordinator/s

Content
- Results of the analysis in detail for each country
- Discussion, Decisions, Collection of open questions as well as ideas and suggestion
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This project is financially supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation with means of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety.