

Preserving the Lessons of the Iron Curtain
International Working Conference
24th May 2016, Nuremberg, Germany



European Green Belt Initiative

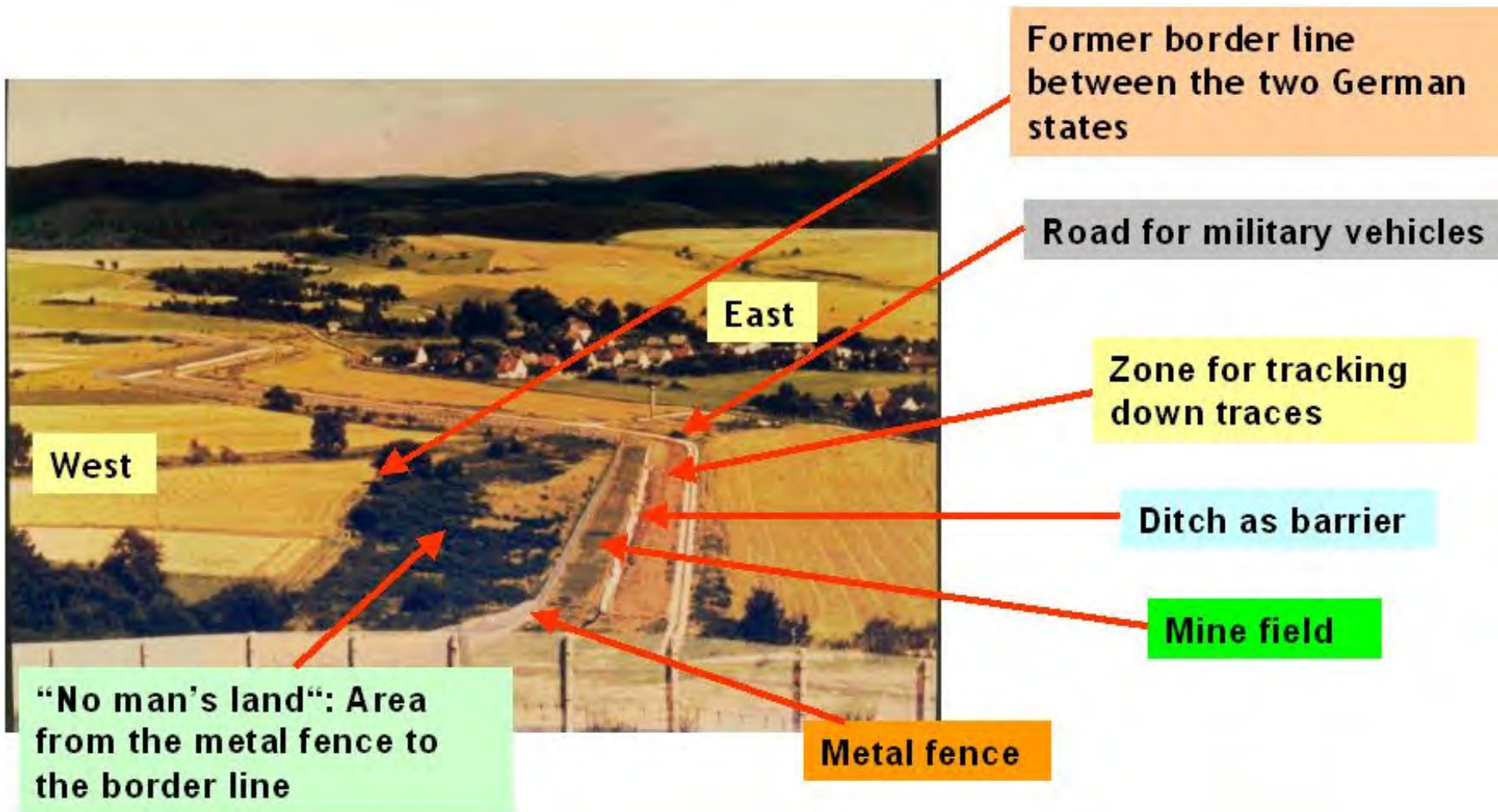
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Bund für
Umwelt und
Naturschutz
Deutschland





The former Iron Curtain





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“No mans’s land” / upstream territory of the GDR





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1989 “Little Berlin” - Mödlareuth



©Deutsch-Deutsches Museum Mödlareuth



Point of Depart: Regional Activities and Initiatives



1970s:

- Transboundary nature conservation cooperation between Finland and the Soviet Union on GO-level
- First surveys of endangered birds along the inner-German border by BUND (NGO)

1989:

- BUND initiates the Green Belt Germany

Early 1990ies:

- First activities in the Balkan region by EuroNatur (NGO)
- Inventory project on border forests along the Fennoscandian Green Belt



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First Idea of a Green Belt through Europe

July 2002:
Opening Ceremony of the WestEastern Gateway

- Idea of a Green Belt through Europe



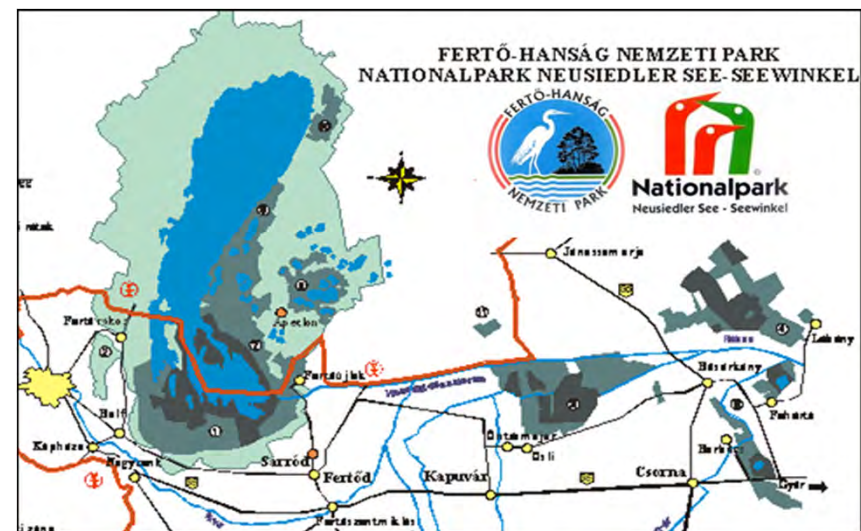
2003:

1st conference "Perspectives of the Green Belt" (Bonn, Germany)

2004:

2nd International Conference on the European Green Belt (Sarród, Hungary)

- First coordination structure





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European Green Belt Initiative



FENNOSCANDIAN GREEN BELT
coordinated by Association of Zapovedniks and National parks of North-West Russia

BALTIC GREEN BELT
coordinated by BUND-Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

CENTRAL EUROPEAN GREEN BELT
coordinated by BUND-Project Office Green Belt

BALKAN GREEN BELT
coordinated by EuroNatur



Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland



euRONATUR

*in accordance with UNSCR 1244 and opinion of ICJ.



Natural Diversity



- 12.500 km long
- **Traverses**
 - **8 European biogeographic regions**
- **Comprises**
 - Wilderness areas
 - Cultural landscapes
 - Water ecosystems and coasts
 - Large woodlands
 - Threatened species
- **Contributes to the diversity of European nature**
- **Contributes to the pan-European Ecological Network**
- **Outstanding European memorial landscape combining history and nature**





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Cultural Diversity



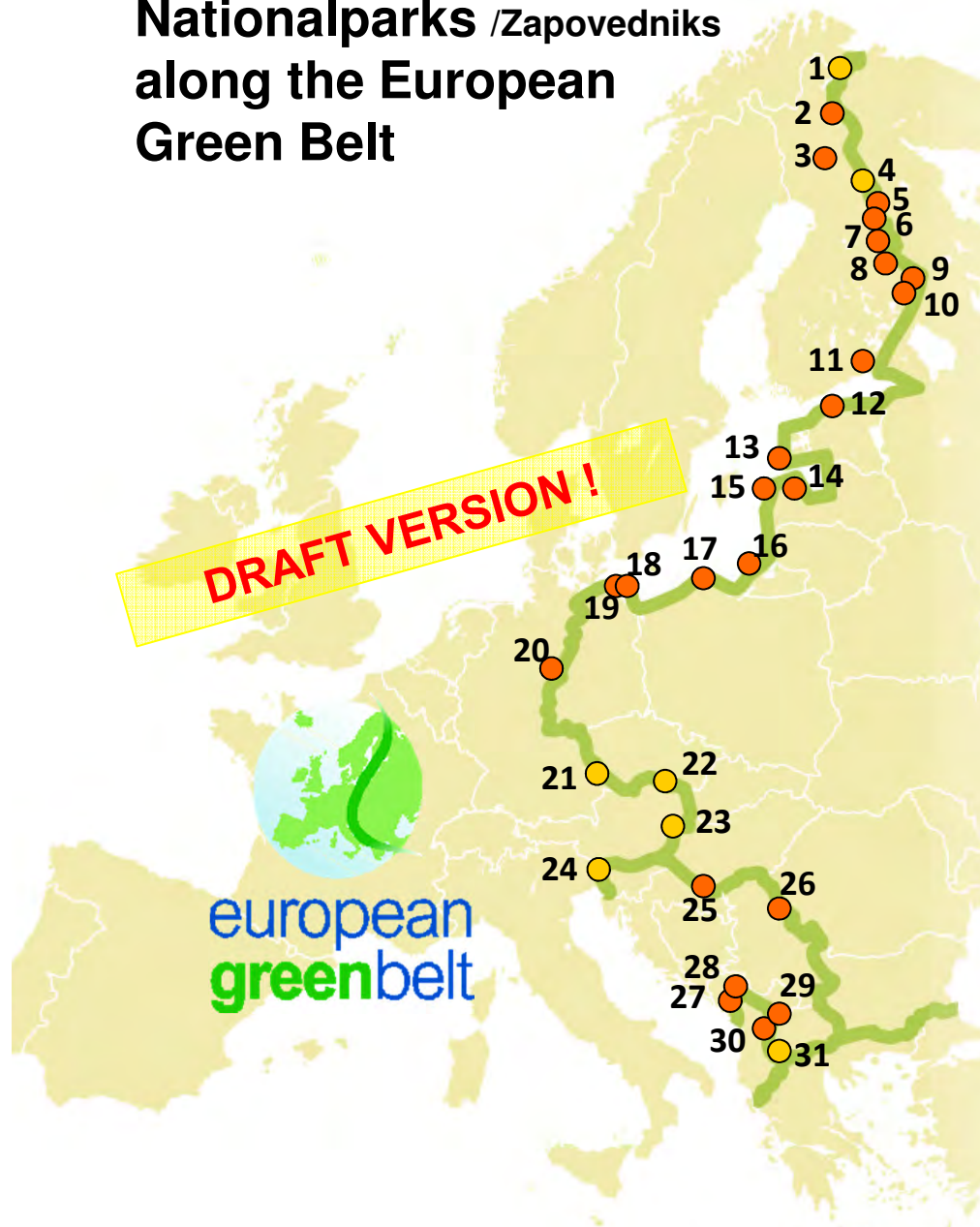
12.500 km

24 countries



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Nationalparks /Zapovedniks along the European Green Belt



- 1 **a/b/c** Pasvik Inari Trilateral Park: Øvre-Pasvik (NOR)/Zapovednik Pasvik (RUS)/Vätsäri (FIN)
- 2 Urho-Kekkonen (FIN)
- 3 Riisitunturi (FIN)
- 4 **a/b** Oulanka (FIN)/Paanajärvi (RUS)
- 5 Kalevala (RUS)
- 6 Zapovednik Kostomukshskiy (RUS)
- 7 Hiidenportti (FIN)
- 8 Koli (FIN)
- 9 Patvinsuo (FIN)
- 10 Petkeljärvi (FIN)
- 11 Valkmusa (FIN)
- 12 Laheema (EST)
- 13 Matsalu (EST)
- 14 Kemeru (LV)
- 15 Slitere (LV)
- 16 **a/b** Kuřiu Nerija (LT)/Kurschskaja Kossa (RUS)
- 17 Slowinski (PL)
- 18 Jasmund (D)
- 19 Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft (D)
- 20 Harz (D)
- 21**a/b** Šumava (CZ)/Bayerischer Wald (D)
- 22**a/b** Thayatal (A)/Podyjí (CZ)
- 23**a/b** Neusiedler See (A)/Fertő Hanság (H)
- 24 **a/b** Triglav (SLO)/Prealpi Giulie (IT)
- 25 Donau-Drau (H)
- 26 Golubac (SRB)
- 27 Skutari (MNE)
- 28 Prokletije (MNE)
- 29 Mavrovo (MK)
- 30 Shebenik-Jablanica (AL)
- 31 **a/b/c/d** Galicia (MK)/Prespa (AL)/Pelister (MK)/Prespa (GR)



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The Green Belt between the “Pearls”



© Klaus Leidorf

Multinational projects

INTERREG projects „Green Belt“ and “Greenet”

(www.greenet-project.eu) in Central European Green Belt

18 partners from 8 countries, 22 partners from 6 countries



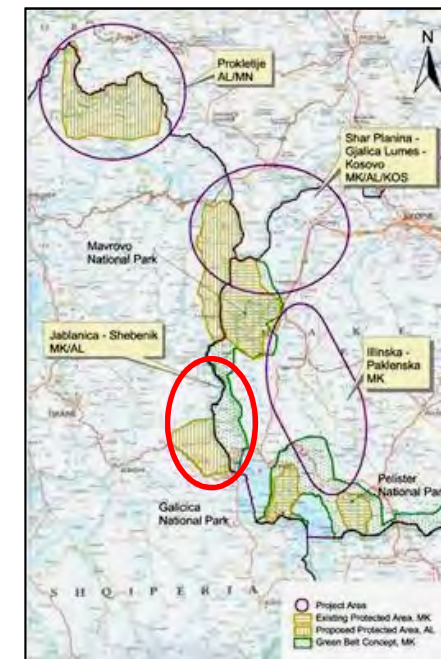
INTERREG project „baltic green belt“

(www.balticgreenbelt.net) in Baltic Green Belt

22 partners from 7 countries

Transboundary projects

- Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme
- Shebenik-Jablanica National Park





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Achievements / Positive Developments – e.g.



- Shebenik-Jablanica National Park was established in Albania in 2008, an adjacent national park in Macedonia is still in preparation



- Joint statement for the protection of the Prespa Park (signed in 2000) was confirmed by the prime ministers in the trilateral area of Albania, Greece and Macedonia in 2009



- Memorandum of Understanding for working jointly towards the conservation of the Fennoscandian Green Belt was signed by the Ministers for Environment of Finland, Norway and Russia in 2010



- Designation of a 631.000 ha large biosphere reserve along the Drava river in the transboundary area of Hungary and Croatia in 2012



- EU-Commission named European Green Belt Initiative as an example for an EU-level Green Infrastructure project in May 2013

Joint Declaration of Intent



- **May 2013, Berlin:**
Celebration act “10 years European Green Belt Initiative” at the German Ministry for Environment



Joint Declaration of Intent

- Currently 18 states (MoE) signed the Joint Declaration of Intent on working together on the European Green Belt
- 2 countries sent letters of support

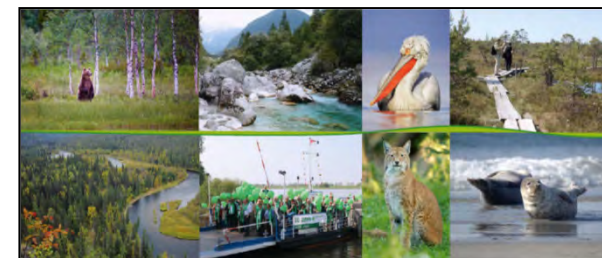
→ **Political support for the Initiative!**



8th Pan-European Green Belt Conference

23-26 September 2014
Slavonice (Czech Republic),
Centre for the Future

- 107 participants from 23 European Green Belt countries as well as Canada and the U.S. from GO and NGO
- Establishment of the European Green Belt Association e.V.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the European Green Belt Initiative and the European Cyclist Federation (ECF)
- New comprehensive brochure about the European Green Belt presented



The European Green Belt Initiative -
10 years of challenges, experiences and achievements



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European Green Belt Association e.V.

- Established by **23 governmental and non-governmental organizations** (founding members) **from 14 countries**
- **Elected board** consist of: EuroNatur (chair), BUND (deputy chair), Federal Agency for Nature Conservation Germany (BfN), Ministry of Environment Finland, Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation, Environmental Partnership Czech Republic and IUCN



Founding members of the European Green Belt Association e.V.



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www.europeangreenbelt.org

Pictures: Peltomäki (2), Schneider-Jacoby, Körner, Macedonian Ecological Society, Leidorf, Schlumprecht, Mohl, Limberger (2), BUND Project Office (2)

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