



ENVIRONMENT FOR PEOPLE in the Dinaric Arc

A Western Balkans
Environment & Development
Cooperation Programme

International Conference

Transboundary
Cooperation
in the Dinaric Arc

29 June - 1 July, 2010 Capljina, BiH



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND



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IUCN

PROTECTED AREAS AS A VEHICLE
FOR STRENGTHENED REGIONAL
COOPERATION IN THE DINARIC
ARC AND THE WIDER EUROPEAN
GREEN BELT

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HUNGARIAN TROOPS TODAY BEGAN TO DISMANTLE A 350 km LONG "IRON CURTAIN"
PHOTO : KATALIN ARKELL



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To protect the habitats which had been preserved within the former borderline...

...to foster transboundary cooperation and sustainable regional development...

...the European Green Belt initiative was launched...

...to co-operate

*Borders separate.
Nature unites!*



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Vision

To create the backbone of an ecological network, running from the Barents to the Black Sea that is a global symbol for transboundary cooperation in nature conservation and sustainable development.

Programme of Work: Objectives

1. The establishment of a functional ecological network;
2. The implementation of a knowledge sharing mechanism on transboundary cooperation;
3. Development of a tool for sustainable development;
4. Establishment of an ecological laboratory;
5. Establishment of the Green Belt as a brand for products and activities.

www.europeangreenbelt.org



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- Spans 23 countries;
- Divided into 3 sections:
 - ▶ Fennoscandia and the Baltic States
 - ▶ Central Europe
 - ▶ South Eastern Europe
- Programme of Work;
- Secretariat run by IUCN;
- Regional Coordinators and National Focal Points.



BUND Bund Naturschutz in Bayern e.V.
FREUNDE DER ERDE
Regional Coordinator
Green Belt Central Europe

eurONATUR FOUNDATION



Exemplar Projects 1

- **Walk on the Wild Side**

- Initiated as All Along the Watchtowers
- BfN supported
- Tool to stimulate nature conservation at borders and for the Green Belt
- Promoted CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)
- Raised awareness of Red List Species and general conservation in the border areas
- Cross border cooperation for FYR Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo (UNSCR1244).
- European Green Belt as a connecting theme (Vehicle)

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Exemplar Projects 2

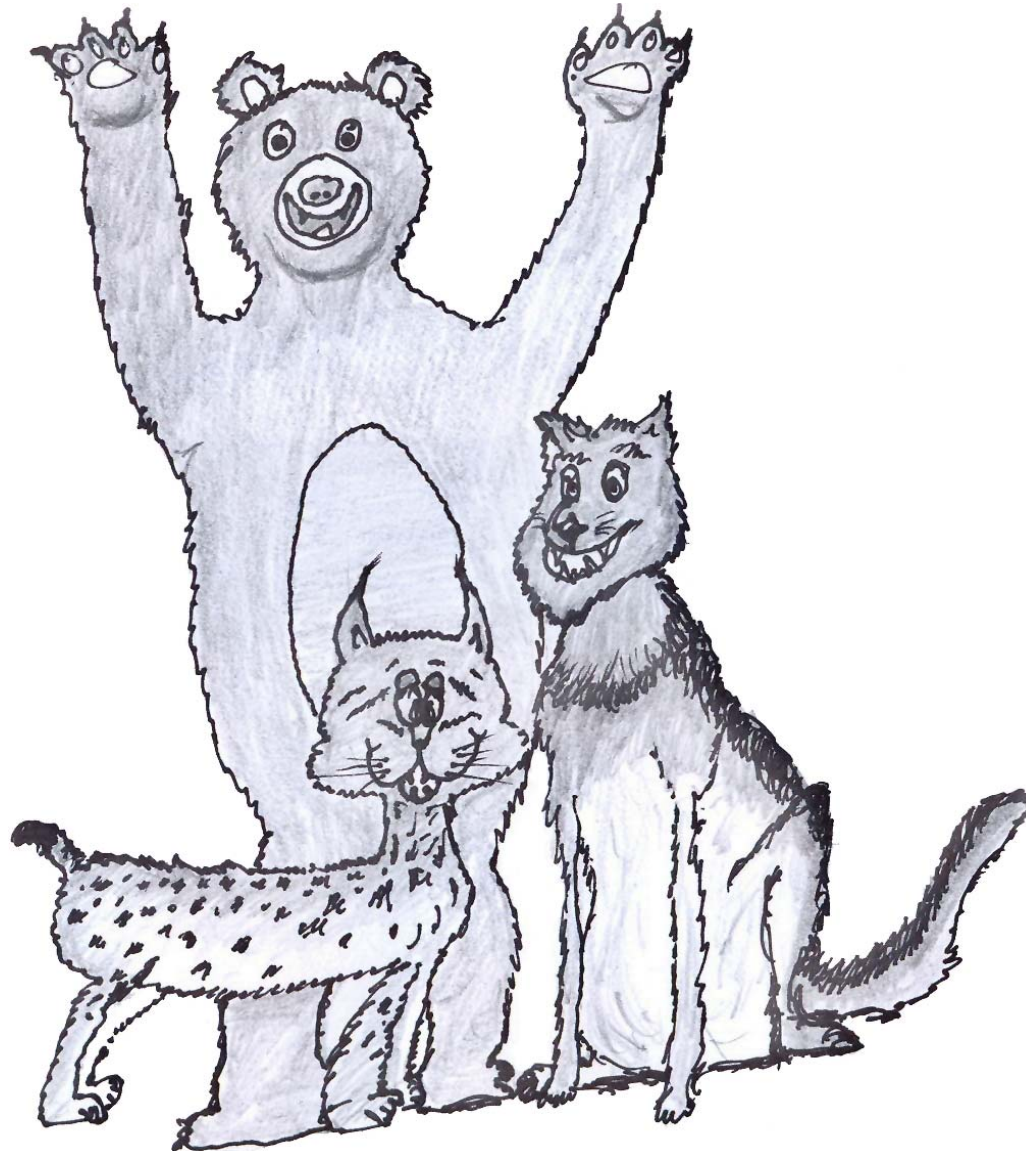
- Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme 2006-2008
(FYR Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo)
 - Euronatur
 - Swiss expert organisation for large carnivores KORA
 - NGOs MES (Macedonian Ecological Society) and PPNEA (Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania)
 - Implementing a project for the recovery of the Balkan Lynx.

A successful project resulting in:

- Extending existing or potential Lynx habitat in *Bjeshkët e Nemuna*.

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Exemplar Projects 3 – Outside SEE Region

- Baltic Green Belt – working together for a sustainable Baltic Sea coast
- Baltic Coast between Lübeck (Germany) and the Finno-Russia border, the project bridges the last gap in the European Green belt
- To build the network of all organisations as well as habitats
- To identify key areas for protection and extend protected areas
- To develop effective management across borders.

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Partnering in the European Green Belt – how it can assist as a vehicle for Regional Cooperation

Use the European Green Belt Secretariat as a platform to:

Share experience

Develop projects

Identify funding sources

Identify partners for transboundary and trans-sectoral cooperation

Use website, newsletter and meetings to spread information on planned or on running activities

Use information present on the **website**

Contact **National Focal Points and Regional Coordinators** for information exchange and planning of joint activities



CLOSING COMMENTS

Continue to the EuGB is a vehicle for strengthening regional cooperation in the Dinaric arc by:

- Sharing experience
 - Developing projects
 - Identifying funding sources
 - Identifying partners for transboundary and trans-sectoral cooperation
 - Using website and developing it to appeal to wider audiences, building an accessible resource base.
 - Building Partnerships – formally
 - Developing a new Programme of Works
-
- I have introduced you to the Green Belt
 - I have shown you examples of how it works
 - I have set-out how we continue to develop the Green Belt

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