

Funding and Project Development in Fennoscandian Green Belt

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GB Goals



- The initiative's vision involves the inter-twining of biodiversity conservation with sustainable development.
- It implicitly recognises that in Europe, protecting nature requires an emphasis on
 - Core sites
 - Increased cooperation (internal and transboundary) between stakeholder groups
 - a better understanding with local communities, and
 - the integration of protected areas into their wider landscapes.
- These objectives match those of donors in Europe.



Seeking funds within the GB



- GB is a network of:
 - Secretariat - Regional Coordinators - National Focal Points - Stakeholder organisations

- Developing successful funding proposals requires communication between all members of the network.



Seeking funds within the GB



- For project funding, the Secretariat can assist partners:
 - Develop multi-partner multi region projects
 - promote projects to major donors
 - Communicate project results to European and global audience.
 - Identify synergies between actors from different sectors or regions.
 - Ensure strategic consistency.
- These activities require forms of core financial support.



European
Green Belt

Main donor opportunities



- **Main activity areas:**
 - Direct Conservation Support
 - Transboundary Cooperation
 - Rural Development
- **Main Sources:**
 - National donors
 - Bilateral development agencies
 - International Donors
 - Internal and External EU Funds
 - Foundations
 - Alternative sources



National Funding



- Most funding for Nature Cons. occurs at national level (either through national budget or implementation of EU funds)
- Most structural EU support requires national co-financing (important barrier for many projects)
- Therefore its very important to strengthen the role of GB activities at the national level
- Organisations in each country, national focal points and regional coordinators should lead on project development.
- Secretariat ensures that projects are within strategic priorities of the initiative.



Bilateral Cooperation



- Norwegian and Swiss Cohesion Funds
 - Programmes agreed at national level
- Development assistance
 - E.g. project and programme support under the BBI Programme of Dutch Foreign Ministry
 - IUCN will develop a Programme proposal
- EU bilateral agreement with Russia
 - Possible future activities



Accessing EU funds



- EU enters new financial period from 2007
- Funding programmes have been streamlined and further decentralised.
 - Fewer separate programmes
 - More control at national level of funds
- Aimed towards strategic goals of greater *sustainable* economic development and increased jobs
- Environment & Nature Cons. integrated into broader funding programmes.
- Greater pressure on environmental NGOs to ensure adequate funding for conservation work.



EU Budget for 2007



- Consolidating budget lines
- Five main budget areas:
 - EU as a global partner
 - Cohesion for growth and employment
 - Preservation and management of natural resources
 - Citizens, freedom, security & justice
 - Competitiveness for growth & employment.



EU changes from 2007



Objectives	Structural Funds and instruments		
Convergence	ERDF	ESF	Cohesion Fund
Regional Competitiveness and Employment	ERDF	ESF	
European territorial Cooperation	ERDF		
	infrastructure, innovation, investments etc.	vocational training, employment aids etc.	environmental and transport infrastructure, renewable energy
	all Member States and regions		Member States with a GNI/head below 90%



european greenbelt

LIFE+



- LIFE+ is the only dedicated Environmental fund
- Main strands:
 - Nature & biodiversity – Natura 2000
 - Implementing EU environmental policy (eg. 6th EAP)
 - Awareness raising
- Budget is small – 2.2m EUR
- Most of the budget will be allocated through national programmes (project selection is at national level).
- Should be complimentary to structural funding schemes (e.g. INTERREG, LEADER+, FP6)



INTERREG IV



- Main EU mechanism for transboundary cooperation with local authorities;
- Interreg III was very positive for nature and environment projects
- Provides territorial cooperation of Structural Funds – budget 7.6bn EUR
- IVA Cross-border: 5.9bn, IVB trans-national: 1.4bn and IVC Inter-regional: 0.3bn EUR
- More will go to new MS



INTERREG IIIB



- Neighbourhood Programme - Baltic Sea Region and Lithuania-Poland-Kaliningrad Region
- TACIS CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION SMALL PROJECTS AND MICRO-PROJECTS
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- INTERREG III A
- Areas : Local development, Economy - Finances, SME Policy, Tourism
- Summary : 2 calls launched under the Neighbourhood Programme in the Baltic Sea Region and in the Lithuania-Poland-Kaliningrad Region to promote cooperation in these regions with the assistance of TACIS funds.
- Deadlines for submission : **16/10/2006**



INTERREG IV Programme



INTERREG IV	Amount (BN EUR)		
A Cross border	5.9	Aim to solve local level problems, especially along marine borders. EC will extend scheme to areas separated by maritime borders	Tourism and culture, protection and management of environment, culture and education, information systems
B Trans national	1.4	Will re-enforce focus of concrete projects Allows for bilateral cooperation between countries with maritime border	Innovation, environment, water management, sustainable urban environment.
C Inter regional	0.3 Some funds also from Convergence objective	One programme for whole region. Exchange of experience and best practice New "Fast Track Initiative" – exchange between strong and weak regions	Strong focus on SME, innovation, environment, risk prevention.



LEADER+



- Supports sustainable development of rural regions
- Focuses on partnerships and networks of exchange between local stakeholders and authorities.
- Several successful LEADER projects have been implemented around or with nature conservation, e.g.
 - Päijänne-LEADER+ in Southern Finland
 - Supports sustainable rural development
- Used in UK to develop local cooperation for a quality brand associated with a National Park.



Culture 2007



- EU fund to support cultural exchange
- Budget for 2007-2013: 408m EUR
- Culture 2000 supported cultural and natural heritage projects
- Main focus from 2007:
 - Transboundary mobility of people (e.g. tours)
 - Transboundary exhibitions.
 - Inter-cultural dialogue
- Would be an interesting target for GB projects aiming to communicate cultural heritage.



Private Sector



- Only starting to be explored
- Offers large potential but also large risks
- Most likely approach through brand use and/or joint activities for ecotourism
- Requires careful consideration among stakeholders and secretariat
- Constantly monitored.
- Important area for future development.
- First establish GB position through project activities.



Conclusions



- GB framework allows combination of project approaches for Nature Cons. and regional development.
- Focus identified locally but should be in line with GB Programme of Work
- Successful large project development requires close communication between secretariat, regional coordinators and implementing partners.
- Even with national funding, Secretariat can add international disseminations and/or support dialogue with national stakeholders.
- With regional and international funding, secretariat can support donor relations and project development and implementation.



Thank you
for your attention



Conclusions



- Global and EU funding priorities offer opportunities for the GB.
- EU funds are integrating conservation and development objectives.
- More control over funds is at the national level.
- Traditionally development has a stronger voice than environment. GB could provide one mechanism for change.

