Spatial Reference Area of the European Green Belt

European Green Belt Association
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Vision for the European Green Belt Initiative

The European Green Belt, our shared natural heritage along the line of the former Iron Curtain, is to be conserved and restored to function as an ecological network connecting high-value natural and cultural landscapes, whilst respecting the economic, social and cultural needs of local communities.
Spatial reference area of the European Green Belt

Developed
• by EuroNatur in close cooperation with the Board of the European Green Belt Association

• in the frame of the project R+D „The European Green Belt as a part of the Green Infrastructure“ financially supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation with funds of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
The spatial reference area is a...

- **Geographical localization** of the European Green Belt

- Identified action space, in which activities of the Initiative are concentrated

- Tool to **secure support and identification** of local people/stakeholder

- **Instrument to support the work** along the European Green Belt, e.g. implement analyses and Green Infrastructure

→ The reference area may be narrowed down or widened
Challenges

• Reflect the uniqueness of the European Green Belt, i.e. clear connection to the Iron Curtain heritage

• NOT to create a new “border”

• Coherent approach for four different regions

• Simple to understand and implement
  – Understandable without map/GIS
  – Easy to communicate
  – Available data
  – Effort/resources
Process of developing
the spatial reference area of the European Green Belt
Process: Presentation and Discussion

- 9th Pan-European Green Belt Conference in October 2016 (Koli)
- Board meetings of the European Green Belt Association
- Coordination with Regional Coordinators
- Coordination with Board members from each region
- Balkan Green Belt Regional Conference in June 2018
- 10th Pan-European Green Belt Conference in October 2018
Process: Identification of criteria

• Selection of **distinction criteria with focus on connectivity**
  – Reasonable to include protected areas
  – Space between protected areas also of special important for an ecological network

• The criteria “protected areas” and “administrative units” were identified
Process: Identification of criteria

Protected Areas
- Reference to the natural environment
- Consider functional coherent units in the landscape (important starting points / core for the development of connectivity in the landscape)

Administrative units
- Identification of decision makers, etc.
- Spatial planning
- Adressing people in concrete terms
Process: Identification of criteria

Administrative units

- Analysis show that **Municipalities** (LAU 2) are most appropriate

- Size of units of LAU 2 (Municipalities) is quite different in the 24 countries → **necessary to select not only the unit directly adjacent to the former Iron Curtain but also subsequent units**
Process: Identification of criteria

Administrative units

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- Size of units of LAU 2 (Municipalities) is quite differing in the 24 countries → necessary to select not only the unit directly adjacent to the former Iron Curtain.
Process: Identification of criteria

Protected Areas

• In some countries the protected areas have a **great extent and reach far into the interior of the country** → it is necessary to define a certain limit.
Process: Identification of criteria

Protected Areas

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Process: Identification of criteria

• A third criterion „distance to the border“ is necessary, in order to select the protected areas and the municipalities spatially connected to EGB

• Assessment of former border situation made in order to identify distance for each region

→ 10 km distance to border for Baltic (land), 22,2 km (sea)
→ 5 km distance to border for Central Europe
→ 25 km distance to the border for Balkan
→ Fennoscandia not decided yet
Result of developing the spatial reference area of the European Green Belt
• the total area of municipalities located directly or with their midpoint within a corridor of 10 km (Baltic, terrestrial), 20 km (Central), 50 km (Balkan) km around the European Green Belt Line

• the total area of protected areas (all categories) located with their midpoint within a corridor of 10 km (Baltic, terrestrial), 20 km (Central), 50 km (Balkan) km around the European Green Belt Line

• Baltic Sea coastal waters seawards: 12 nautical miles (22.2 km) from the baseline (according to the definition of territorial waters of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea)

• Other coastal waters: until a distance of 5 km from the coast
Definition of draft indicative spatial reference area of the EGB

Map
The spatial reference area of the European Green Belt specifies its spatial location.

The spatial reference area of the European Green Belt defines the area where the activities of the initiative are concentrated.

The purpose of the spatial reference area is to support the work of the European Green Belt Association and the European Green Belt Initiative, e.g. as a base for analysis and implementation of connectivity and Green Infrastructure.

Naturally, this reference area may be narrowed down or widened according to specific questions.
Outlook

• Presentation and endorsement through participants Pan-European Green Belt Conference 2018
• Endorsement through General Assembly European Green Belt Association 2018
• Published as draft indicative map (e.g. website)
• Test draft indicative map of the spatial reference area of the European Green Belt in order to derive results from analysis and to gain experience on opportunities and challenges
• Review after specific time
Draft indicative spatial reference area of the EGB

Questions

Comments