Central European Green Belt  

Borders separate – Nature unites

1. The Baltic Sea coast - Sandbanks, rock platforms, dunes, cliffs and salt meadows, wide floodplains and shallow water habitats house rare species like Harbour Porpoise, White-tailed Eagle and Sea Lamprey.

2. Elbe River and southern Altmark form a vast natural segmental area of rare habitats, where BUND volunteers show visitors from all over the world the traces of history and nature.

3. Steinach Valley and Linder Lowlands are the birthplace of the Lower Germanic Nature Park (SHG) - Friends of the Earth Germany, and the largest protected area in Bavaria, showing the first regional project to preserve the Green Belt.

Regional Coordinator
BUND Project Office Green Belt

Photos:
1. Werder Islands (J. Schmiedel)
2. Cycling-tour Altmark (J. Starck)
3. Tree Frog (F. Henkel)
4. Peat bog (P. Ourednik)
5. Fertö/Lake Neusiedl (Castanea)
7. Daffodil meadows (Krainer/Arge Naturschutz)
8. Drava river (D. Reeder)
9. Rhodope Mountains (IUCN)

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The European Green Belt

Ecological network and living monument

The Green Belt, described as the Green Band in Western Europe for almost 40 years, is a network of sites in Eastern Europe that were designated as nature reserves. The concept of the Green Belt was first introduced in the 1990s, aiming to preserve and reconnect these areas. The Green Belt is characterized by its biodiversity, historical significance, and cultural heritage. It serves as a living monument of the reunification of Europe, connecting East and West, North and South, and promoting sustainable development.

European history—the Iron Curtain

The history of the 20th century was characterized by two world wars, the oppression of minorities, the frequent change of borders, and the migration of people throughout Europe. One result of the World War II was the establishment of two ideologically opposed systems: communism and capitalism, separated by the so-called Iron Curtain. The Green Belt, as a cultural and natural heritage, is a symbol of this period.

Ways to preserve the Green Belt

To preserve the Green Belt as the backbone of an ecological network, running from the North Sea to the Black Sea, as a living monument, and as a global symbol for transboundary cooperation in nature conservation and sustainable development:

- Green Belt Gardning (A. Lisiez), University of Liege
- Restoration of the inner German border
- International project “Experience Green Belt”
- Friendship between countries and regions
- Between townsmen and rural population
- Between townsmen and rural population
- Combining sustainable tourism with nature protection

The Green Belt story

After the opening of the borders the situation along the Green Belt has changed: the intensification of land use leads to gaps in the habitat system and reduces biodiversity. New roads and industrial sites dissect the Green Belt and disturb the preservation of nature conservation. Therefore, land conservationists purchased land for pilot projects, revitalised adjacent habitats, and explained the Green Belt project to the public. Sustainable land use and conservation efforts in these newly developed border areas are crucial for the preservation of the ecological network Green Belt.

Protection of the Green Belt

The legal protection is the most effective way to preserve the Green Belt. Unfortunately only parts of the Green Belt are legally protected. Hence nature conservationists purchase land along the Green Belt and establish nature reserves. This project helps to maintain and explain the Green Belt project to the public. Sustainable land use and conservation efforts in these newly developed border areas are crucial for the preservation of the ecological network Green Belt.

Experience Green Belt

The Green Belt symbolises Europe’s contemporaneous history and natural heritage. Walking along the Green Belt, you can find traces of history and nature and see how human land use and recreation have formed the landscape. You can cross Europe’s most beautiful landscapes and meet European culture. You can cross Europe’s most beautiful landscapes and meet European culture. You can cross Europe’s most beautiful landscapes and meet European culture.

International cooperation: Nature united!

The Iron Curtain divided Eastern and Western Europe for almost 40 years. The Green Belt is a symbol of this period. The Green Belt visualises Europe’s contemporaneous history and natural heritage. It is a living monument of European history. The Green Belt is a symbol of European unity. The Green Belt is a symbol of European unity. The Green Belt is a symbol of European unity. The Green Belt is a symbol of European unity.