

## Green Belt Europe – from a vision to the implementation

The Green Belt Germany is the origin of the fantastic vision of the Green Belt Europe. Similar to Germany there was a “forbidden zone” to people along the barrier where no activities were allowed. Elsewhere in Europe, habitats were being changed and modified through processes such as intensive agriculture.



Thus, since the fall of the “Iron Curtain” in 1989, not only in Germany but also through Europe is running a strip of habitats - about 8500 km long. It could become the first trans-boundary habitat network through Europe. The core areas will be big cross-border National Parks and conservation areas of international interest like the National Parks “Bavarian Forest/Sumava” (Germany/Czech Republic), “Thayatal-Podyjí” (Austria/Czech

Republic), “Neusiedler See-Seewinkel/Fertő Hanság” (Austria/Hungary) or the river-landscapes and floodplains of Danube, March, Thaya, Drau, and Mur. The Danube-March-floodplains (Austria/Slovakia) are the largest pristine floodplains in Central Europe and a conservation area according to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. This is only a choice of the variety of precious landscapes and areas along the European Green Belt. Moreover, there are many important areas for migrating birds and it is a retreat for numerous endangered species like lynx, wolf, bear and river otter. One of the visions is, that one day these great carnivores could use the Green Belt as a route for migration.