

Dear friend of the Baltic Green Belt,

the coast of the southern and eastern Baltic Sea is a fragile environment providing many goods and services for mankind, which now is increasingly under pressure. Meanwhile, it has become the object of numerous studies and initiatives to minimise human impact on the environment. The Coastal Research and Planning Institute (CORPI) based in Klaipeda, Lithuania, as one of the main scientific players in the region, is proud to be part of the European Green Belt initiative, which has already gained much public attention in Central Europe during the last years but still needs promotion in the Baltic Sea Region. As the host of the 2nd Baltic Green Belt Forum in April 2010 Palanga, funded by the European Union under the Baltic Sea Region programme, we are happy to provide the forum for fruitful discussions and transnational knowledge exchange between researchers and stakeholders.



**Arturas Razinkovas,**

Vice-Director of the Coastal Research and Planning Institute

## News from the Baltic Green Belt

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Baltic Green Belt Forum is approaching

On April 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 the 2<sup>nd</sup> international Baltic Green Belt Forum will take place in Palanga, Lithuania, under the motto "Towards sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Coast". The conference proceedings, programme and further details about the conference are available at the website below.



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### Wetlands in Baltic Green Belt (Germany) secure

In February 2010, after one year of discussions between authorities, the Rostock harbour association and environmental NGOs, a compromise was achieved with respect to the planned extension of the Rostock harbour. The extension will affect valuable coastal marsh habitats, which is unacceptable from the environmental point of view. BUND MV and the NABU (BirdLife) pointed out that parts of the wetlands further north of the harbour should be declared compensation areas. In the

end, an area of 4,4 ha in the estuary of Peetzer stream was declared. Even though, this area is not large in total, this is a meaningful achievement, as this area is located right next to other areas suitable for renaturation.



Area bordering the Rostock harbour (Foto: J. Barkowski, 2009)

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### GAJA pushes for reducing animal fertiliser input ...

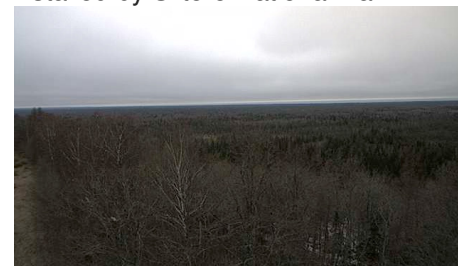
... to Polish coastal waters during high level political meetings in Helsinki. Participating in the 5<sup>th</sup> HELCOM BSAP Stakeholder Conference and the 31<sup>st</sup> Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission Meeting, held in Helsinki, on 3-5<sup>th</sup> March 2010, the Polish Green Federation GAJA put forward substantial problems related to the improper storage and use of animal fertilisers, as well as the recognition of factory farms as a point source of nutrients to the Baltic coastal waters. Eutrophication is still the main threat to the Baltic Sea environment. In Poland, regulations concerning animal fertilisers management haven't been accommodated to the requirements in the revised Annex III to the Helsinki

Convention. This discrepancy represents a significant obstacle to the recognition by Poland of the criteria proposed by HELCOM on including and deleting of point source agricultural Hot Spots (industrial animal farms). By signing the Baltic Sea Action Plan, in November 2007, both the Polish Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment were aware of the binding legal status. *Information about the status of eutrophication in the Baltic Sea: BSEP No. 115B, Helsinki Commission*

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### See for yourself! Webcam at Slitere National Park

The Lighthouse of Slitere is located 100 meters above sea level of the Baltic Sea. Sliteres National Park forests and the sea can be seen. To watch this breadth, there is no need to go to the Northern Kurzeme. Since January 2010, every Internet user can see it any time. "See for yourself!" by clicking the new webcam broadcast installed by Slitere National Park.



Webcam View of Slitere National Park in March 2010

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## DVD "Green Belt along the Lithuanian Coast"

The environmental NGO Zvejone presents the first film about a natural pearl at the Baltic: The Seaside Regional Park of Lithuania. The film, a cooperation of Zvejone and the



Seaside Regional Park Administration, describes the important role of the ecosystems of the Seaside Regional Park - both the terrestrial and the marine ones. It furthermore explains how current developments along the coast - amongst them oil industry and strong building pressure - threaten the functioning of this pearl of nature. If you would like to get a copy, please contact Zvejone.

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## Exhibition "European Green Belt" can be booked

Bring this successful exhibition to your town! The exhibition "The European Green Belt: Borders. Wilderness. Future" was shown to great public and media acclaim (approx. 90,000 visitors) for six months at Schlossmuseum Linz. After the end of the exhibition in January 2010, the developers of University of Vienna offer the modular exhibits for display in other parts of Europe. If you are interested in more details, please contact Katharina Zmelik to receive the exhibition folder.



Parts of the European Green Belt exhibition, Linz, Austria (Foto: E. Körner, 2009)

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## News from the Baltic Sea Region

### Baltic Sea Action Summit 2010

To carry out the actions necessary to protect the Baltic Sea, heads of state and government, corporations, business leaders and NGO's must work together. For this purpose, the President of the Republic of Finland, Tarja Halonen, together with her Prime Minister and the Chairman of the Baltic Sea Action Group (BSAG), have launched a joint initiative: The Baltic Sea Action Summit. The Baltic Sea Action Summit 2010, that was held in Helsinki on February 10<sup>th</sup>, was a success in the opinion of the arrangers. The summit attracted a large and high-level group of 500 participants to Finlandia Hall to tell about their commitments to protect the Baltic Sea.



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## News from the European Green Belt

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Resolution of Hof to protect German Green Belt

During the 20<sup>th</sup> Green Belt anniversary meeting, 150 participants from NGOs, GOs and other organisations involved in the initiative signed a new resolution. It demands (among others):

- to declare the German Green Belt a National Natural Monument
- to transfer remaining federally owned areas to the federal states for the exclusive use for nature protection
- that the German government takes a leading role in the development of the European Green Belt

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### EuGB Regional Coordinators' Meeting at Vilm

From March 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the Regional Coordinators of the European Green Belt met on the isle of Vilm in the International Academy for Nature Conservation, hosted by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). The conclusion of the meeting was that the numerous successful activities during the past years must be continued and will need a strengthening of the existing structures in order to gear up to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Iron Curtain, which will be celebrated in 2014/2015. Lee Dudley of IUCN announced the next Pan-European Green Belt Meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 2010 in Kuhmo, Finland.

[www.bfn.de/06\\_akademie\\_natursch.html](http://www.bfn.de/06_akademie_natursch.html)

### HELCOM Ministerial Conference and Meeting

On May 18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the HELCOM Ministerial Conference is to be held in Moscow. The National Implementation Programmes to achieve the objective of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan to radically reduce pollution to the marine environment and restore its good ecological status by 2021 will be presented at the Meeting and should include concrete measures to reach the provisional county-wise nutrient pollution reduction targets as set in the Baltic Sea Action Plan. New and revised recommendations will be adopted in Moscow, including measures to combat hazardous substances, ensure safe shipping and response to maritime oil pollution.

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