



Dear friend of the Baltic Green Belt,

stakeholders of the European Green Belt (EuGB) initiative are gathering on October 6th, 2010, in Kuchmo, Finland, for the 4th Pan-European Green Belt Meeting. I am happy to note that our network of stakeholders has substantially expanded, and that the last gap along the Baltic Sea coast has been closed as a result of the Baltic Green Belt project. During the pan-european meeting, we will share information of achievements and best practice along the EuGB while also encouraging debate about the future direction of the initiative. For the northern-most section of the EuGB, we have recently accomplished a major step forward: In February 2010, the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of Finland and the Russian Federation have signed a "Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation at the Fennoscandian Green Belt". We hope to have thus set a good example for other stakeholders along the Green Belt of how to take the initiative into policies and push forward our common vision.

Rustam Sagitov,

Regional Coordinator of the Fennoscandian Green Belt



News from the Baltic Green Belt

Conference: Agriculture & Baltic Sea Eutrophication

On June 22nd-23rd, 2010 the international conference "Sustainable agriculture and industrial livestock production in the context of prevention of the Baltic Sea eutrophication" was held in Kołobrzeg, Poland, by Green Federation GAJA. The main objective of the conference was to integrate practitioners from agricultural production, nature conservation and environmental protection to discuss measures against eutrophication. Almost 100 participants came, and the results can be found in the conference publication.

Jakub Skorubski: jakub@gajonet.pl
Infos: www.balticgreenbelt.org.pl

Russian Green Belt: Moving Ecological Conference

Environmentalists got on their bikes from July 26th until August 1st, 2010, for environmental monitoring, development of cooperations with locals and awareness raising.



Environmentalists near a monitoring stop close to the Russian-Estonian border (photo: S. Maack, 2010)

The annual event was organised by the NGO Green World Russia. The coastline between St. Petersburg and the Estonian border is threatened by harbour and nuclear power expansion, by illegal resource extraction and fishing. Several political letters and dozens of postcards were sent to responsible politicians. A documentation is available online.

Oleg Bodrov: bodrov@greenworld.org.ru
www.greenworld.org.ru

Introducing young people to the Baltic Green Belt

In a transnational excursion in August 2010, Kiel University with support of many project partners introduced 30 geography students to the region of the Baltic Green Belt.



Students learning about renaturation of former military zones in Rostocker Heide (photo: S. Maack, 2010)

The group visited coastal practitioners between Lübeck and St. Petersburg, and explored natural and cultural heritage to understand why and how the European Green Belt vision is implemented. One of the participants stayed in Slitere National Park for a six week internship. Online blogs document the students' impressions.

s.maack@geographie.uni-kiel.de
www.balticgreenbelt.net

Bicycle path in Slitere National Park takes shape

In Slitere National Park, a new nature path, a bikeway along the track of a former narrow-gauge railway, has been prepared throughout this summer. Next to 7 km of a cover suitable for biking, two wooden bridges and several information boards were set up. A test ride is planned for autumn.



A new bridge for bicyclists and pedestrians in Slitere National Park (photo: A. Ratkevica, 2010)

andra.ratkevica@daba.gov.lv
http://slitere.lv

Mark the date for Nature Tourism Conference 2011

The Latvian Country Tourism Association, Lauku Celotajs, is preparing an international conference to bring together stakeholders from nature conservation and tourism across Europe in order to discuss current issues and future perspectives of nature tourism against the background of the Green Belt and other initiatives. "Nature Tourism Conference: Policies – Products – Practices" will take place from March 21st-23rd 2011 in Riga. Mark the date!

Asnate Ziemele: asnate@celotajs.lv
conferences.countryholidays.lv

New Baltic Green Belt Website in German online!

Information about the project and the nature values along the Baltic Green Belt in German language are online now. Visit us!

joerg.schmiedel@bund.net
www.balticgreenbelt.de

Photo exhibition to save the Lithuanian Green Belt

In their attempt to raise awareness for the values of the Lithuanian Seaside Regional Park, Zvejone prepared an exhibition and presented it to thousands of residents during events such as the Green Holiday of Europeans and the Kleipeda Seaside Festival 2010.

jurate@zvejone.lt
www.zvejone.lt

Nord Stream Gas Pipeline: Agreed to improvements

The Nord Stream gas pipeline on the sea floor from Russia to Germany will, after completion, be the largest built structure in the Baltic. No wonder that the environmental impact of the construction works is immense. One of the particularly affected areas are the shallow water stretches around Greifswald Lagoon in the Baltic Green Belt.



Garfish, *Belone belone*, spawning in the seaweed meadows near the pipeline (photo: J. Schmiedel)

BUND MV voiced clear demands to counteract the most negative effects, expressing that the building permit in its existing form was legally problematic for several environmental reasons. Eventually conceding to the

pressure, Nord Stream agreed to realise major improvements in the construction plans. Large dumping activities are now omitted and compensation activities have been drastically expanded and improved. Amongst them new wetland sites will be created and measures to fight seasonal oxygen deficiencies will be taken. Apart from the favourable on-site improvements, the agreement is an important political signal for future pipeline projects in the Baltic, once again crossing through the Green Belt.

joerg.schmiedel@bund.net
www.balticgreenbelt.de

News from the European Green Belt

EuGB Newsletter 1/2010

The IUCN south-eastern Europe team has published issue 1/2010 of the European Green Belt (EuGB) newsletter, which is available online at the EuGB website. It was edited by Lee Dudley, who was the coordinator for the European Green Belt until August 2010.



aleksandra.nesic@iucn.org
www.europeangreenbelt.org

News from the Baltic Sea Region

First Atlas and online map service for the Baltic Sea

This summer HELCOM released the first comprehensive "Atlas of the Baltic Sea". It gives insight into the environmental issues affecting the Baltic Sea and serves as a useful tool for a study of the Baltic marine environment. Likewise a new online map and data service was launched in

September. It provides environmental information for interested users and the general public. Both the book and map are available through the HELCOM website.

elke.koerner@bund-sh.de
Infos: <http://www.helcom.fi>

Eutrophication still main threat to Baltic Sea environment

Warm Water, calm wind and still too many nutrients: Last summer an algae bloom covered a water surface area of the Baltic Sea as big as Germany. It was the largest bloom since 2005.



Blue green algae bloom in the Central Baltic, satellite picture

Many marine species were in danger and also for humans the plague can be harmful. This bloom indicates that eutrophication caused by nutrient input is still the main threat to the Baltic Sea environment. The reductions in phosphorus and nitrogen inputs during recent years were largely caused by natural conditions such as dry years rather than active reduction measures. The impact of nutrients from agriculture around the are the main cause for algae blooms which lead to anoxic situations and death zones near the sea bottom. Therefore further improvements and efficient measures predominantly to reduce nutrient inputs from agriculture are of prime importance in the Baltic Sea treatment area!

elke.koerner@bund-sh.de



Editors

Elke Körner
BUND LV Schleswig-Holstein
e.koerner@bund-sh.de

Stefanie Maack
Kiel University, Dep. of Geography
s.maack@geographie.uni-kiel.de

This newsletter was compiled within the Baltic Green Belt project, part-financed by the European Union (ERDF). The newsletter contains third party articles. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of all Baltic Green Belt partners. The editors do not accept liability for any errors or misprints herein and do not take responsibility for content of third party internetpages pointed to.

