

Green Belt goes Baltic

Project overview “baltic green belt”

Horst Sterr

Coastal Geography & Natural Hazards Research

Department of Geography

University of Kiel, Germany

sterr@geographie.uni-kiel.de

www.balticgreenbelt.net

This project is carried out in
cooperation with



Baltic Green Belt is partly financed
by the European Union (ERDF)
within the Interreg IVB Programme

Our joint INTERREG Project

=

the buckle



of the “baltic green belt”



baltic
greenbelt

Project overview “baltic green belt”

How it all started

Journey along the baltic green belt

Problems to be addressed

Main objectives

Project structure

Examples of activities

Expected results

Outlook



Strengthen the Baltic Sea Region within the successful pan-European Green Belt network

Multiply & harmonize the activities between Germany and the Finnish-Russian border with a transnational project



BUND AG Ostsee (Working group on Baltic issues)

BUND regional branches Schleswig-Holstein und
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

BUND Project Office Green Belt (Regional
Coordinator Green Belt Central Europe)

IUCN European Green Belt Coordinator

Coastal Geography & Natural Hazards Research
Department of Geography, University of Kiel

... together with all other project partners



Project in brief

Lead Partner: Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel

Partnership:

- ❖ 15 Partners & 7 Associated Organisations from Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and the Russian Federation,
- ❖ 3 Universities,
- ❖ 10 national and 2 international environmental NGOs,
- ❖ 7 public authorities (regions, national parks, municipalities).



Duration: February 2009 bis February 2012

Total Budget: 2,45 Mio Euro

Follow me
along a coastline of
beautiful and
valuable nature
with an remarkable history









© Maack



© Ecodefen



© LGM



© Thamm





© Kaljuste

© Grunewald

© Wanner

© Lotmann

© Thamm

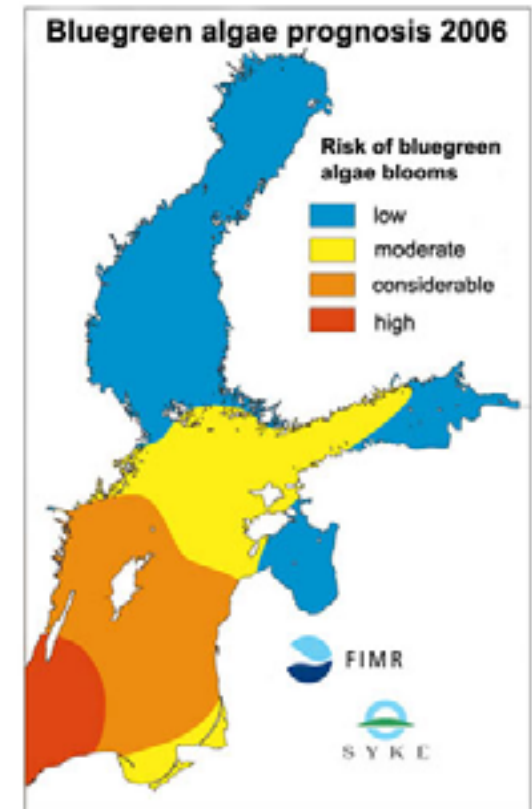


But this unique
coastline is under
increasing pressure



Problems to be addressed

1. Eutrophication of the Baltic Sea
2. Waste water discharges originating from sources outside urban waste water treatment systems
3. Intensive agriculture as important sources of nutrient inputs in the Baltic Sea

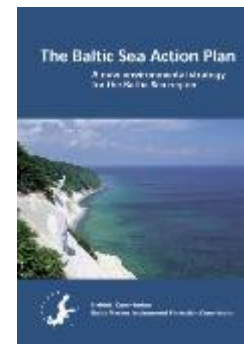


Problems to be addressed

4. Decreasing biodiversity of marine and coastal ecosystems; degeneration of coastal landscapes
5. Conflicts in the management and use of coastal areas due to booming coastal tourism, extending settlements, private houses and intensified agriculture
6. High vulnerability of coastal zones to possible risks and impacts from climate change.



7. Lack of insight concerning the transboundary challenges and opportunities for a sustainable economic development without harming the coastal ecosystems
8. Urgent need to implement the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan.
9. Lack of understanding and insufficient implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management /ICZM across all Member States.



Main objectives

- Establish the Baltic Green Belt as a functional durable ecological network
- Use the initiative as a respected mechanism for the sharing of knowledge, experiences and best practices on transboundary cooperation for nature conservation and sustainable coastal development.
- Making the Baltic Green Belt a viable tool to assist sustainable development and cooperation of local communities across political and administrative borders



Main objectives

- Strengthen the competence of coastal stakeholders in Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- Improve the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- Contribute to a favorable conservation status of the Baltic Sea biodiversity and to a reduction of eutrophication
- Communicate the consequences of global climate change on coastal areas
- Integrate human activities with the natural environment in the protected as well as the non-protected areas



Project structure

WP 1+2

Manage project
Support networking
Make the baltic green belt visible

WP 4

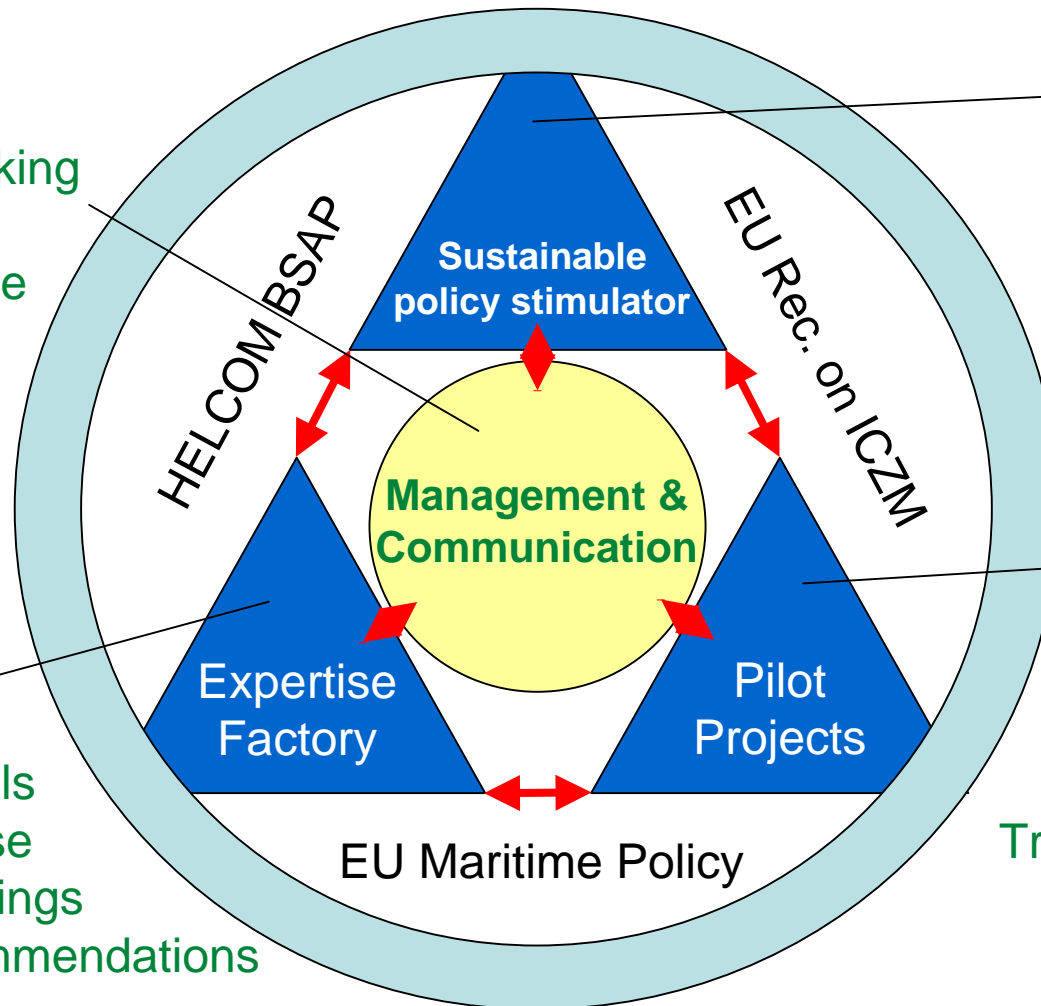
Identify potentials
Provide expertise
Summarise findings
Conclude recommendations

WP 3

Raise awareness
Offer proposals
Influence policies

WP 5

Develop & implement concepts
Explore & conduct pilot activities
Transfer lessons learnt
Develop sustainable solutions for conflicts



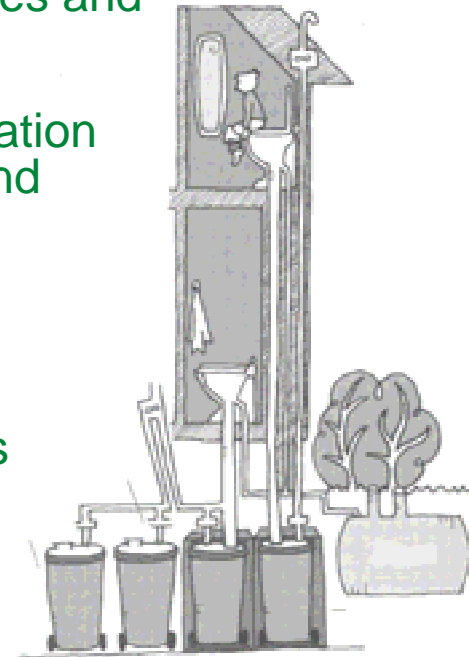
Examples of activities (I)

- Provide an interface between Baltic marine protection policies and the Baltic Green Belt partnership
- Install a coordinating office and consultancy for conservation and development of Baltic Green Belt sites in Germany
- Internet database on Polish industrial farms & Internet Advisory Desk for farmers
- Develop a coastal protection programme for Lithuania.
- Analysis and recommendations on former military sites and objects with high ecological value in the Baltic Green Belt in Latvia as a tourism resource



Examples of activities (II)

- Tourism information initiative in Slitere National Park (on *Courland Express Nature Trail*) to raise the awareness for natural values and tourism reuse of former military infrastructure
- Implement good practice of coastal protection and conservation in spatial planning based on results of recommendations and inventory
- Introduction of regional forums for coastal conservation involving all relevant stakeholders on the site
- Pilot demonstration project on ecosanitation in dacha areas
- Evaluate the present and future performance and the implementation of international conventions, agreements and recommendations relevant for the protection of the Baltic Green Belt
- Summarise the findings of the pilot projects in a synthesis report and conclude recommendations for fostering the implementation of transboundary ICZM



© CCB

Expected results

- Decreased nutrients load to the Baltic Sea from industrial farming and datcha areas
- Involved politicians and decision makers in roundtables, seminars and Baltic Green Belt Fora.
- Raised competence in running sustainable development policies among coastal stakeholders and institutions
- Evaluated and improved coastal zone planning and management tools as means for resolution of conflicts of interests
- Baltic Green Belt Action plan for the improvement of coastal protection and conservation
- Living, well-known Baltic Green Belt network of motivated people working for the common Green Belt vision





Working together for a living and sustainable Baltic Sea coast

Contributing to the creation of the backbone of an ecological network, running from the Barents to the Black Sea that is a global symbol for transboundary cooperation in nature conservation and sustainable development.

Borders separate, nature unites

... and this project is only the beginning

It shall serve as a starting point for more activities, initiatives and projects



Thank you!

