

IUCN Regional Office for Europe

***Forest Biodiversity
Conservation Projects***

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IUCN Programme Office in Warsaw*



❑ IUCN

Forestry Projects:

❑ Nature Conservation
in Private Forests

❑ Afforestation and
Ecological
Connectivity

❑ The GREENBELT



IUCN - the World Conservation Union

Globally IUCN contains:

- ❑ +1000 members from over 140 countries;
- ❑ state, government agency and NGO members;
- ❑ six specialist commissions with over 10,000 scientists and experts;
- ❑ observer status to the United Nations.

In Europe IUCN contains:

- ❑ 350 members;
- ❑ +50% of IUCN's core funding;
- ❑ 6 programme offices;
- ❑ the largest programme area

IUCN Offices in Europe



Nature Conservation in Private Forests

Needs Statement

1. Ownership transformations in most of CEE countries have led to privatisation of forests (in some countries up to 50% of forest area). There are close to 3 million, mostly new, forest owners in the region.
2. The new forest owners have often insufficient experience and knowledge on sustainable forest management practices (SFM).
3. Newly privatised forests are at risk, both as an economic resource and a biodiversity reservoir.

Working in a PARTNERSHIP

- Capacity building
- Institutional Development
- Policy development
- Market chain awareness
- Partnerships, networking

- Biodiversity conservation
- Close to nature forestry (with ProSilva Europe)
- Subsidies schemes
- Compliance with EU policy and legislation

FAO



IUCN



CEPF

- Network of Forest Owners Associations,
- Sharing of experiences
- Technical assistance
- Compliance with EU policy and legislation

Nature Conservation in Private Forests

Beneficiaries and recipients

- The main beneficiaries of the project are the 3 million private forest owners and community users within selected CEE countries.
- The project will work with Forest Owners Associations and extension services, mostly operated by State Forest Services.

Nature Conservation in Private Forests

Immediate Objectives

1. To encourage and enable private and communal forest operators to include nature conservation objectives into forest management
2. To strengthen the role of the civil society in the political debate on SFM in the CEEC

Nature Conservation in Private Forests

Objective 1 Outputs

1. Forest owner associations are encouraged and enabled to integrate nature conservation aspects into their organisational agenda
2. Effective communication of nature conservation aspects is integrated into the communication strategy of the Forest Extension Services
3. Forest Extension Services are enabled to provide technical advice on specific nature conservation issues

Nature Conservation in Private Forests

Objective 2 Output

Private forest owners and community users are encouraged and enabled to participate in the democratic process of interest mediation on nature conservation from the national level to the EU level



Major Present Activities

- Need assessments for private forestry in Estonia, Hungary and Lithuania, FAO, 2003/04.
- Communicating conservation issues to private forest owners – IUCN project, supported by Norway, 2003/04.
- FAO/IUCN/CEPF/ProSilva Workshop on Support to Multifunctional Forestry in Central and Eastern Europe, a follow-up to the Zidlochovice workshop, Hungary, May 2004.

Nature Conservation in Private Forests

Communicating conservation issues to private forest owners

The project is co-ordinated by IUCN Office for Central Europe and supported by a grant from the government of Norway. Implementation: Autumn 2003-Summer 2004

Initial focus is on Baltic countries and Hungary. Later, the results of the project will be consulted and shared with other countries of the region.

Communicating conservation issues to private forest owners

Objectives:

- To identify major biodiversity conservation issues relevant to private forests in the region.
- To formulate guidelines for communicating conservation issues to private forest owners.

Activities:

- Seminar on biodiversity conservation in private forests and on communicating it to forest owners, Riga, December 2003.
- Expert Workshop on creating communication strategies for biodiversity conservation in private forests, Vilnius, March 2003.

Communicating conservation issues to private forest owners

Activities, under way or planned:

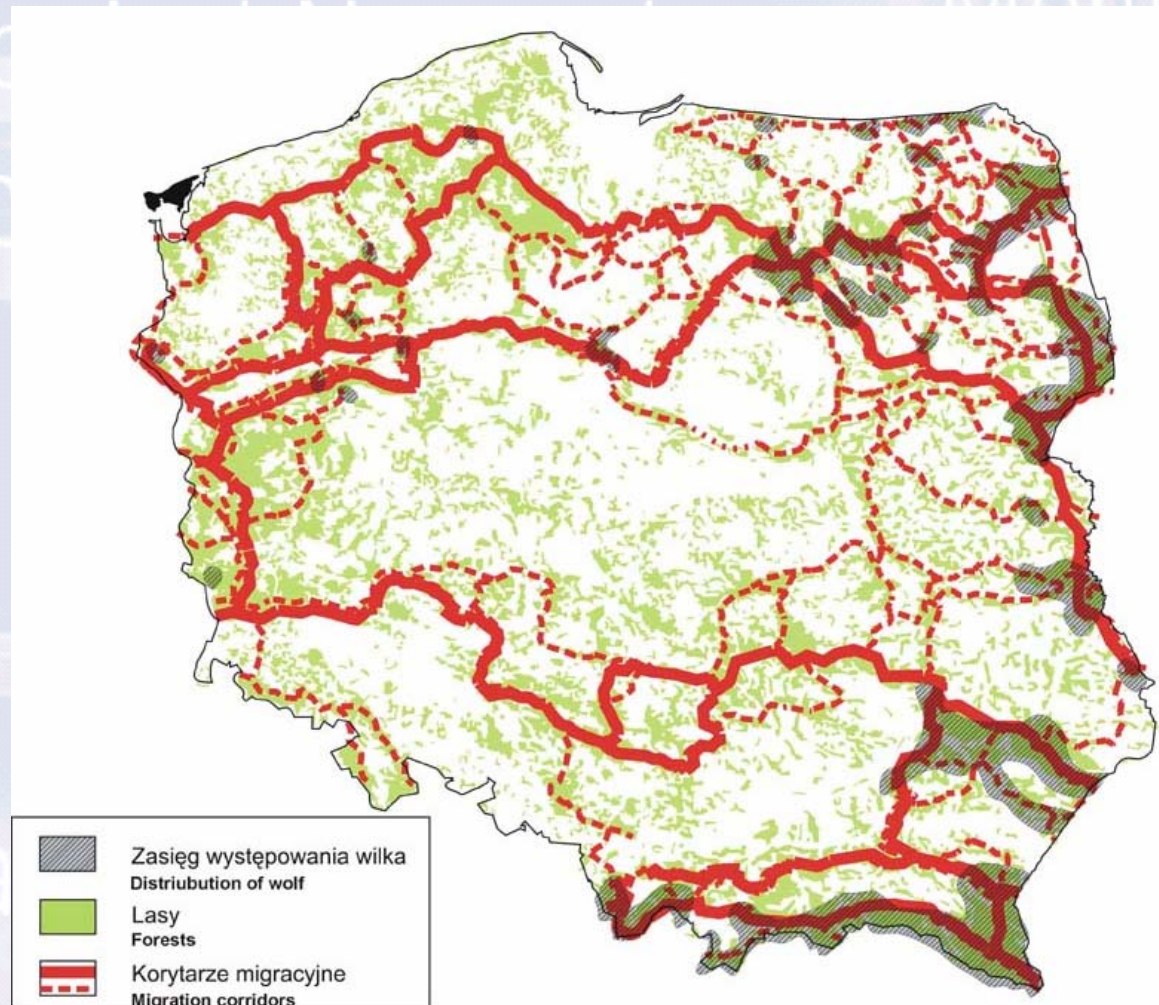
- Preparation of a guidebook to communicating biodiversity conservation to forest owners.
- Consultations of the materials with project focal points in various countries.
- Presentation of the findings at the FAO / IUCN / CEPF / ProSilva workshop in Hungary, May '04.
- Publication and distribution of the book – Summer-Autumn.

Communicating conservation issues to private forest owners

Main outputs as of March, 2004:

- Major biodiversity conservation issues in private forests identified.
- Up-to-date knowledge on social status, goals, and motivations of forest owners gained.
- Process of formulating model communication strategies started.

Afforestation and Ecological Connectivity



Afforestation and Ecological Connectivity

Strategic goal:

To improve ecological connectivity between lowland ecosystems of Eastern and Western Europe.

Major activities:

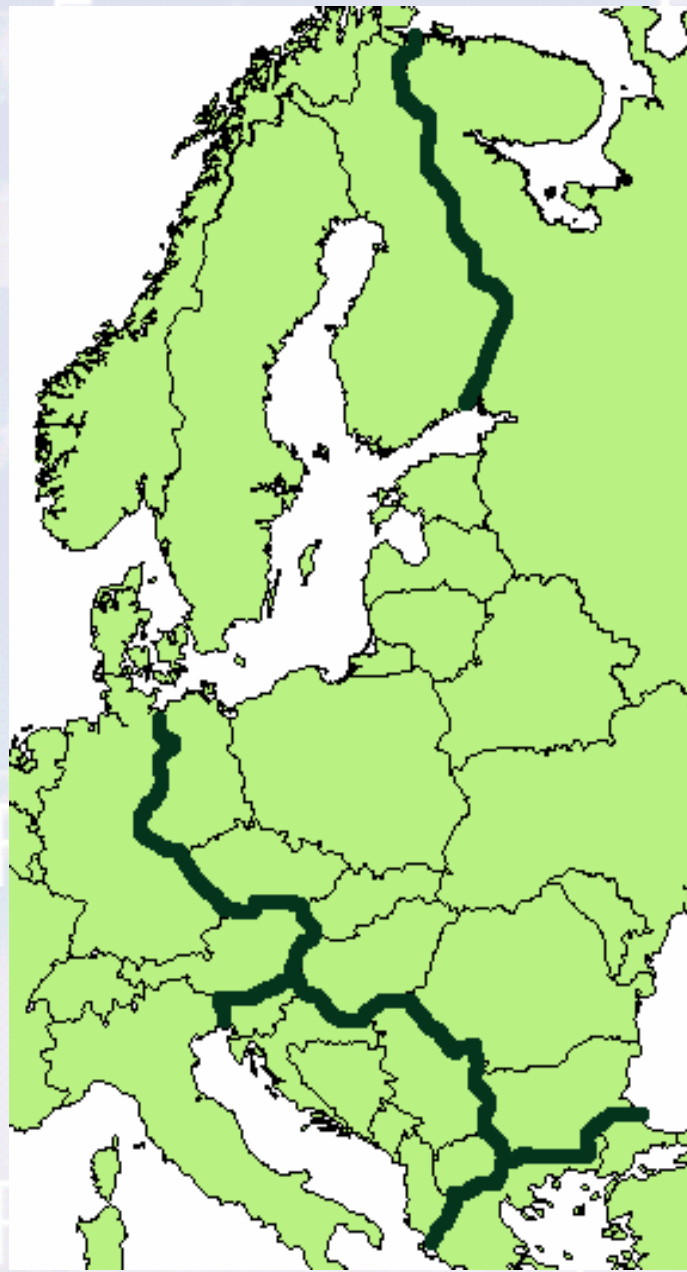
Targeted afforestation (using mainly EU funds)

Solving highway-corridor conflicts (passes)

Afforestation and Ecological Connectivity

Partners:

- Ministry of Environment – a patron
- Local and regional governments
- Highway construction authorities
- National Forest Service
- Public land management agency
- Euronatur – German NGO partner
- Local conservation NGOs
(e.g. North Podlasie Society for Bird Protection)



GREENBELT

Turning former forbidden zone of Iron Curtain into Europe's Greenbelt

Project partners:

German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

IUCN – The World Conservation Union

GREENBELT

A planning instrument to steer cross-border and interregional development.

Purpose:

- Increase the store of protected biodiversity
- Increase ecological connectivity
- Provide alternative, friendly to nature development opportunities for the concerned regions (agrotourism etc.)

*Carpathian Convention
(project development)*

Looking into ways to support
implementation of Carpathian Convention
in the field of forest conservation.

Partner:
National Environmental Center of Ukraine
Національний екологічний центр України

Forests

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see the Forest Conservation subpage

Thank you for your attention.