

Concept for the development of an ecological network in Germany

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Topics

- ❖ **German Federal Conservation Act**
- ❖ **Guidelines for the ecological network**
- ❖ **National ecological network – in progress**

German Federal Conservation Act



**National ecological networks
have become part of German law in the
Nature Conservation Act 2002.**



Federal Nature Conservation Act

The states (Länder) have to establish a ecological network.

They have to cooperate.

The network has to cover more than 10 % of the territory.

§ 3 (1)

Die Länder schaffen in gemeinsamer Abstimmung ein länderübergreifendes Netz verbundener Biotope (Biotopverbund) auf mindestens 10% der Landesfläche.

Federal Nature Conservation Act

Two objectives

- **conservation of native species and their populations, including their habitats and biotic communities**
- **preservation, regeneration and development of sound functional ecological relationships**

§ 3 (2)

Der Biotopverbund dient der nachhaltigen Sicherung der heimischen Tier- und Pflanzenarten, ihrer Lebensräume und Lebensgemeinschaften sowie der Bewahrung, Wiederherstellung und Entwicklung funktionsfähiger ökologischer Wechselbeziehungen

The ecological network consists of

- core areas
- connecting areas
- connecting elements

§3 (3)

Der Biotopverbund besteht aus Kern- und Verbindungsflächen sowie Verbindungselementen. Bestandteile sind NP, NSG, § 30-Biotop sowie weitere Flächen, wenn sie hinsichtlich der Zielerfüllung geeignet sind.

Federal Nature Conservation Act

Components of the network are

- national parks**
- biosphere reserves**
- Natura 2000 sites**
- nature reserves**
- protected habitat types**
- additional areas**

if they are qualified to achieve the objectives

Federal Nature Conservation Act

All parts of the network shall be protected

- **as nature reserves**
- **by spatial planning**
- **by long-term agreements (with private users).**

There is no time limit to establish the network.

§ 3 (4)

Die Biotopverbundflächen sind in einer zur dauerhaften Zielerfüllung geeigneten Weise rechtlich zu sichern.

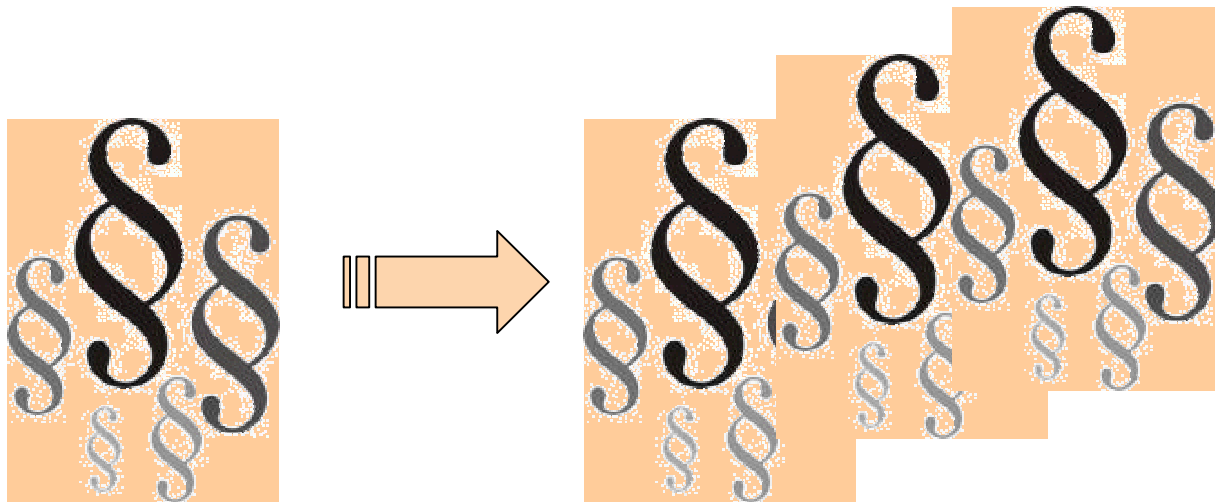
Federal Nature Conservation Act

Art. 3 is a framework for legislation of the states (Länder).

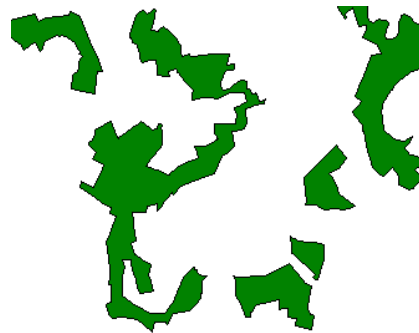
Therefore the implementation in laws of the 16 states is necessary.

Until now this has been accomplished by 4 states.

The others will do this work in the next months.



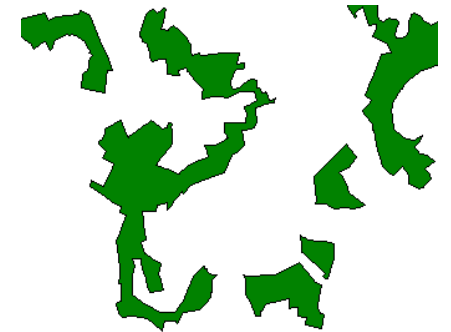
Guidelines for the ecological network



Working group “Ecological network”

Members:

nature conservation agencies of the states
Federal Agency for Nature Conservation



Background:

order to coordinate, coherence of the national
ecological network

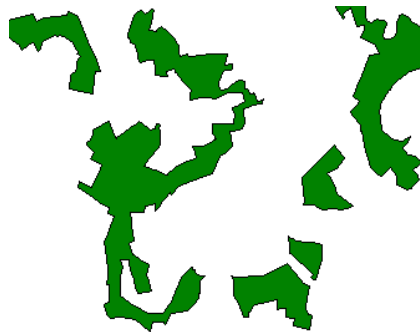
Task:

guidelines and criteria for implementation of the
ecological network

Assessment of existing sites (Criteria 1)

Quality of sites

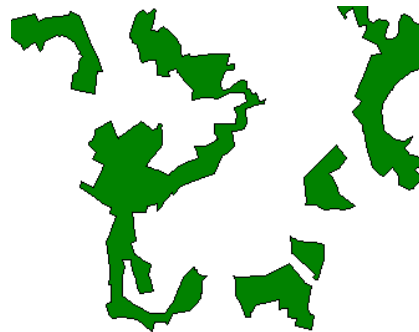
- **area**
- **ecological conditions (abiotic, biotic)**
- **completeness of habitat complexes**
- **degree of fragmentation (by roads, railways)**



Assessment of existing sites (Criteria 2)

Spatial context

- **part of ecological corridors**
- **part of a group of similar habitats**
- **function as connecting element**

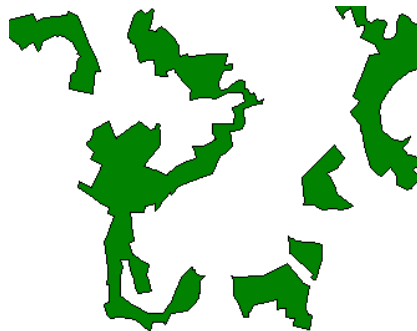


Assessment of existing sites (Criteria 3)

Habitat for target species

e. g. target mammals for the national network

- Wolf
- Lynx
- Wildcat
- Otter
- Moose
- Red Deer
- Several bat species
- Harbour Porpoise
- Grey Seal
- Common Seal



Guidelines for ecological networks

Regional level



Area of sites: <100 ha

Target species: e.g. Whinchat

Guidelines for ecological networks

Level of state

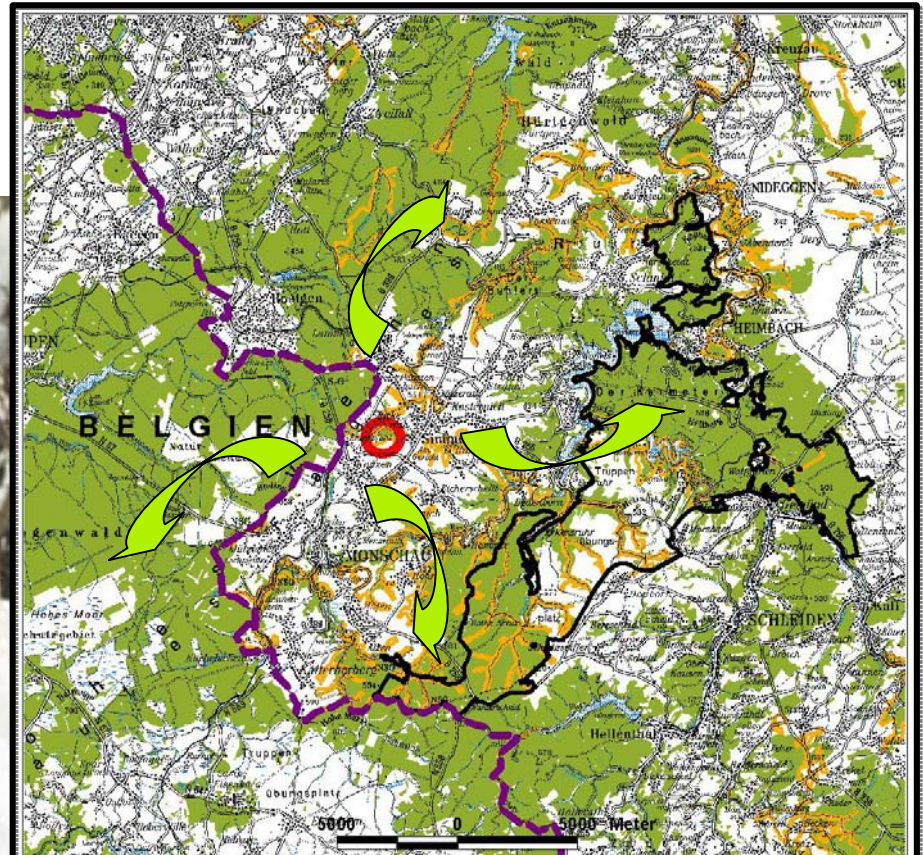


Area of sites: $> 100 - 1000$ ha

Target species: e.g. Middle Spotted Woodpecker

Guidelines for ecological networks

National level



Area of sites: > 1000 - 5000 ha

Target species: e.g. Lynx, Wolf, Wildcat, Otter

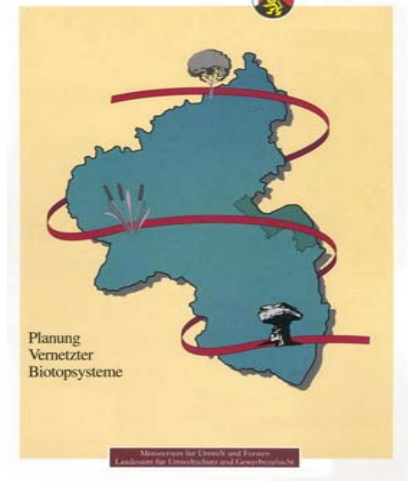
Guidelines for ecological networks

Demand for additional sites

Questions

- under-represented habitat types?
- major gaps in corridors?
- interruptions in corridors?
- isolated core-areas?
- core-areas too small?

Rheinland-Pfalz



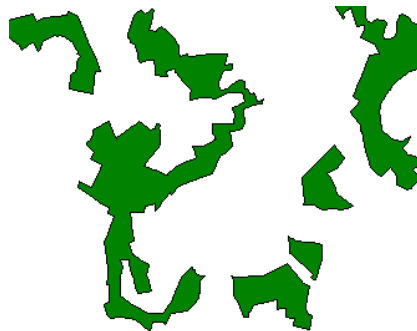
Solutions in concepts for ecological networks



Search for suitable development sites

Criteria

- **potential for development**
- **spatial context**
- **low intensity of fragmentation**
- **area**



Guidelines for "Ecological networks"

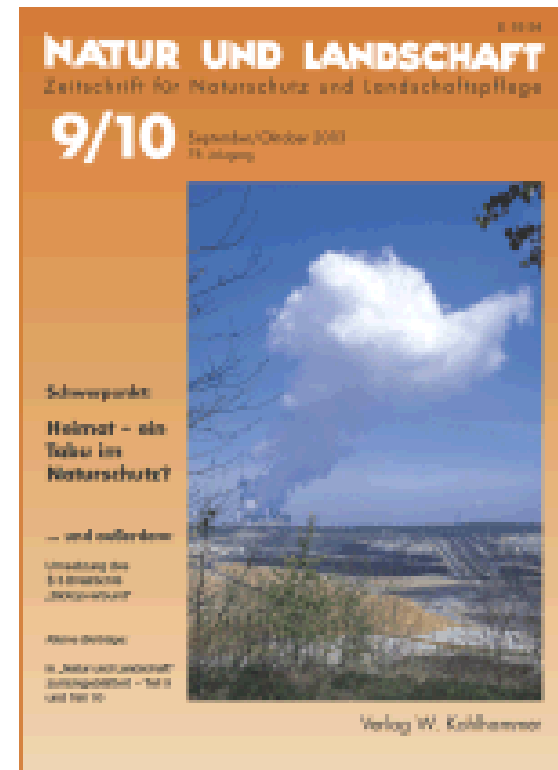


Naturschutz und Biologische Vielfalt 2 (2004)

Empfehlungen zur Umsetzung des § 3 BNatSchG „Biotopverbund“

Natur und Landschaft 9/10 (2003)

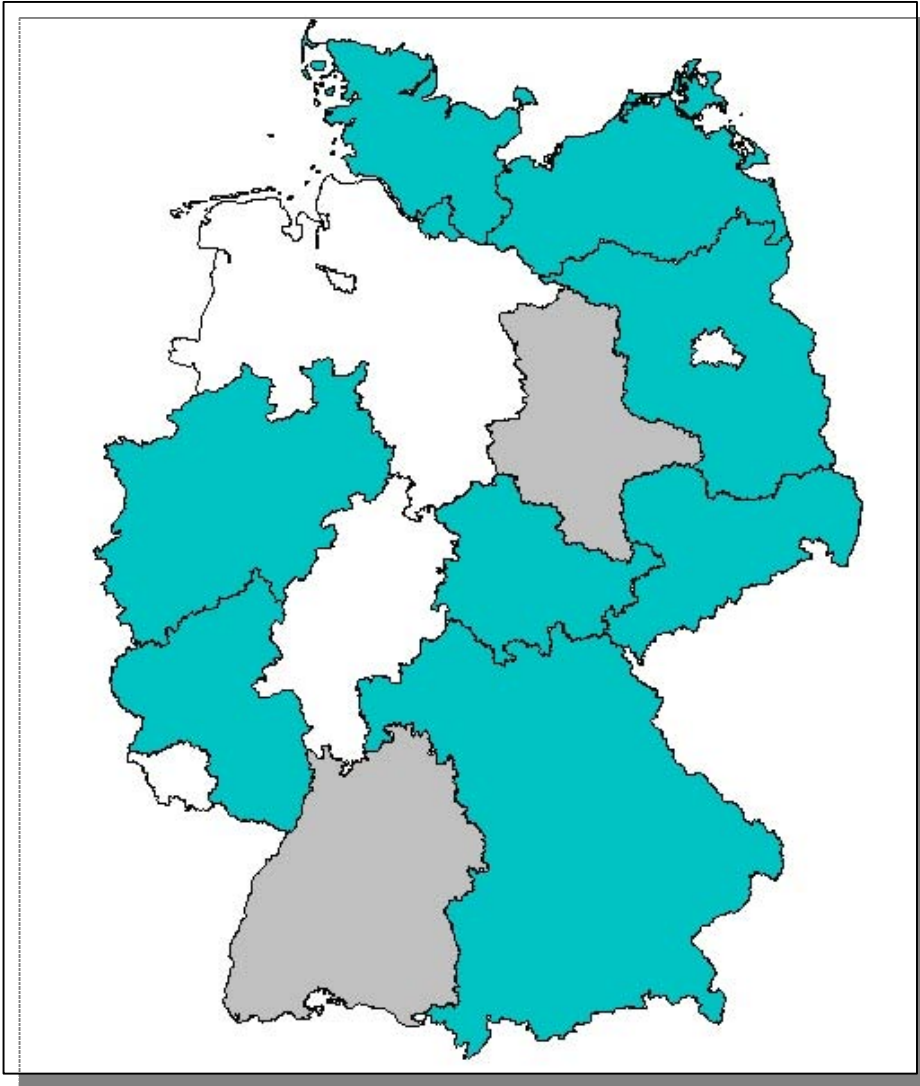
Naturschutzfachliche Kriterien zur Umsetzung des § 3 BNatSchG "Biotopverbund"



National ecological network – in progress



National ecological network in Germany



States (Länder) with **completed** or ongoing development of plannings for ecological networks on state level





2004 – 2006

Project: state crossing ecological corridors

**Identifying
international and national ecological corridors
(map in scale 1:1.000.000, database)**

- **concepts for ecological networks of the states (Länder)**
- **Natura 2000 sites**
- **species and habitat data**
- **criteria of the working group**



Thank you for attention!



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This presentation was held at the International Workshop “Ecological networks and coherence according to article 10 of the Habitats Directive” 9-13 May 2005 at the Isle of Vilm.

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