

## Military training areas of high nature conservation value in Central and Eastern Europe – first analysis of database and networking process



**Dr. Kerstin Höntsch & Adrian Johst**  
**Naturstiftung David (Germany)**

In cooperation with



Sponsored by



## Content:

1. Setting the scene
2. Goals of the project
3. Overview of the situation in CEE
4. Introduction of the database
5. Follow-up projects, outlook



## 1. Introduction

### Problems in nature conservation

1. Europe is densely populated
2. Habitats/populations are often fragmented
3. Protected Areas are often too small
4. Nearly no wilderness, but fertilizers and herbicides everywhere



## 1. Introduction

### Can military areas contribute to solve this dilemma in nature conservation?



**Yes**, since they show a high degree of biodiversity

- they are large and show internally a high degree of connectivity
- they are rather undisturbed
- there is low impact of agriculture and forestry

## 1. Introduction

### Nature Conservation & the Military

- Naturstiftung David has been started 2001 in Germany and 2007 in CEE with a literature research and a data collection of military areas (active and decommissioned)
- Building up an information network with the major NGOs, the Armed Forces, the Federal Conservation Agencies and the Ministries of Environment and Defence in CEE in cooperation with CEEweb
- Initiated this project in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE)  
01/2008 - 10/2010



## 2. Aims

### Main goals of the CEE-project:

- Presenting the significance of military areas for central Europe
- Establishing a web-based database, connected with GIS application
- Point out problems and challenges concerning changes in use of military areas
- Indicate strategies to solve problems in conservation and management
- Rising public awareness of how military defends nature
- Establishing an information network



## 2. Aims

### Structure of the CEE-project

- A) Overview research of the situation of military sites in CEE
- B) Establishing a database
- C) Project development



### 3. Situation in CEE

#### A) Overview of the situation in CEE-countries

- 17 countries included
  - diverse situation  
From north to south the collaboration between defence and environment authorities and NGOs is less advanced
- 
- + Baltic states: LV, ET, LT (no official contact to MoD LT so far)
  - + 4 Visegrad states: PL, SK, HU, CZ
  - +/- South eastern states: SL, RO, BG, AL, BA, HR, MK, MD, BY, UA



#### 4. Database

**B) Look at the database [www.naturstiftung.de/osteuropa\\_test/start.php](http://www.naturstiftung.de/osteuropa_test/start.php)**

Nature conservation and the military in Central Europe

Instructions | Information about the database | flag


Please select country

sponsored by:

DBU | FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY | Visegrad Fund | European Union


## 4. Database

### Example: Czech Republic and its MTAs




Nature conservation and the military in Central Europe

[instructions](#) | 
 [information about the database](#) | 
 [flag](#)



[login](#) ?

---


**Czech Republic**

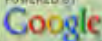
**military use**

- all sites -

**area size**

- all sites -



POWERED BY  


Kartendaten ©2009 PPWK, Tele Atlas - [Nutzungsbedingungen](#)

**9 military areas**

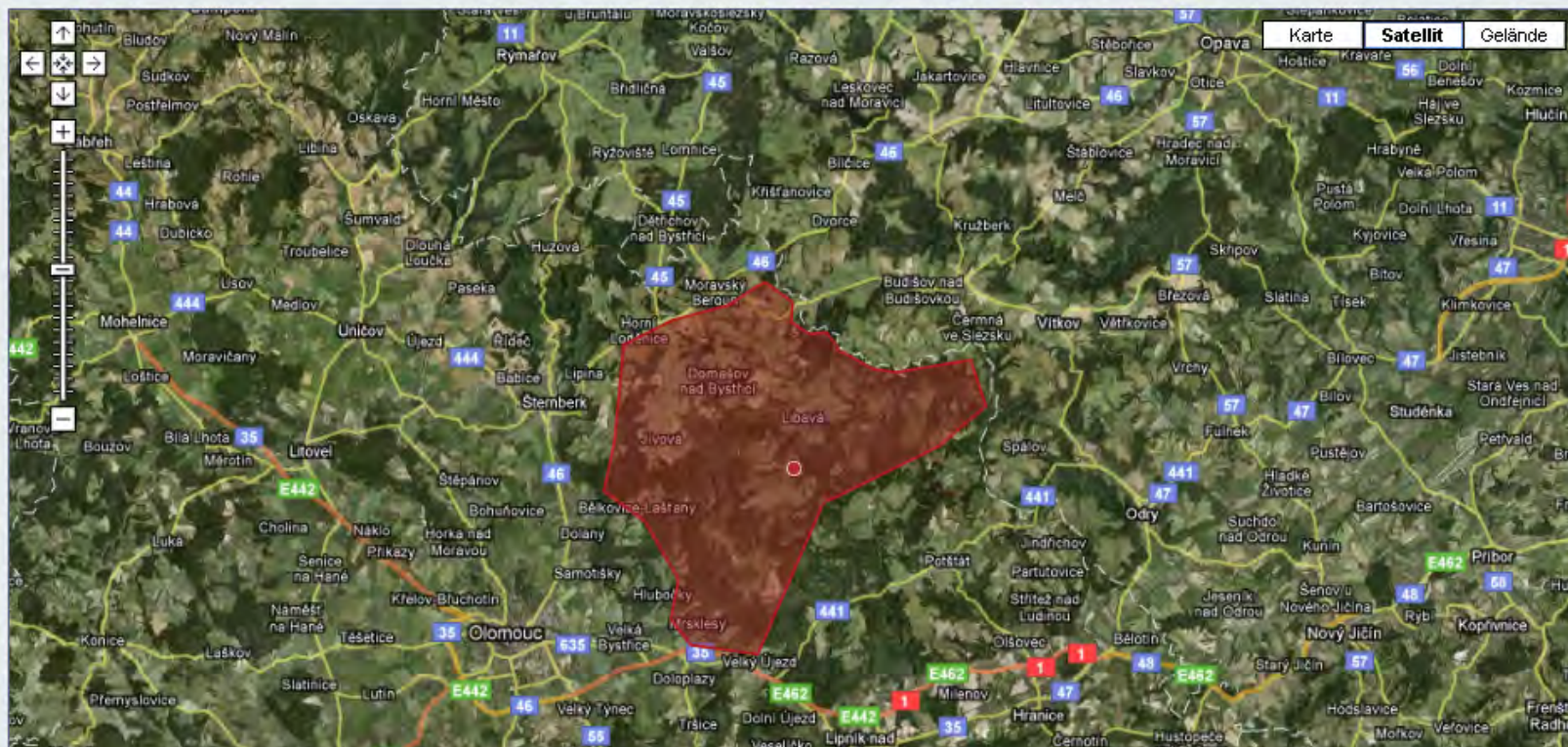
- Boletice (Vojensky Ujezd Boletice)*
- Dobra Voda (Hartmanice)*
- Hradiste (Doupov)*
- Jince (Vojensky Ujezd Brdy)*
- Libava*
- Mlada (Airfield of Boží Dar)*
- Prameny*
- Ralsko (Hradcany, former military airport)*
- Vyskov (Vojensky Urad Brezina, Dedice)*

**1** from **1** pages

## 4. Database

### Data of location

CZ-002 - Libava



## 4. Database

### Results of the database:

- 6 countries are cooperating in the project and entering data
- to date 97 military areas are recorded
- whereof 73 sites in military use and 24 decommissioned
- 40 sites are more than 1,000 ha large, ranges from 300 – 37,000 ha
- 24 sites with protection status (NPR, Natura2000) in all countries
- 35 LIFE+ projects on MTAs in Europe, 8 in new member states



## 5. Projects in CEE

### LIFE+Nature and the Military in CEE:

#### Hungary:

1. Restoration and conservation of priority habitats and species in the Eastern Bakony area. Total budget 2.218.000 €; EU cofinancing 75%
2. Establishing the background of saving the Hungarian meadow viper (*Vipera ursinii rakosiensis*) from extinction. Total budget 649.000€; EU cofinancing 50%
3. Conservation of *Otis tarda* in Hungary. Total budget 4.350.000 €; EU cofinancing 44%
4. Conservation of *Aquila heliaca* in the Carpathian basin. Total budget 585.000 €; EU cofinancing 75%



## 5. Projects in CEE

### LIFE+Nature and the Military in CEE:

#### Slovakia

1. Restoration and management of Sand Dunes Habitats in Zahorie Military Training Area. Total budget 1.538.000 €; EU cofinancing 70%
2. Restoration of wetlands at Zahorie lowland. Total budget 624.000 €; EU cofinancing 50%



## 5. Projects in CEE

### **LIFE+Nature and the Military in CEE:**

#### **Latvia:**

1. Marine Protected Areas in the Eastern Baltic Sea. Total budget 3.111.000 €; EU cofinancing 50%
2. Restoration of biological diversity in military training area and Natura2000 site Adazi. Total budget 905.000 €; EU cofinancing 50%



## 5. Outlook

### C) Priority setting

- For reliable assessment of the database we need more consistent data
- developing forms of evaluation
- Kit of different criteria to set individual priorities
- Evaluation from different angles



## 5. Outlook

### **Objective of this workshop: project development**

Concrete reports on different countries in the morning session

Brain-storming and workshops with experts in the afternoon

**Aims:** development of transnational projects  
national restoration projects  
marketplace for project contacts and potential partners



**Thank you for your attention!**



For more details:



[www.naturgebiete.de](http://www.naturgebiete.de)