

Keynote Address

Transboundary Access to Justice for Environmental NGOs



Who we are - NABU

NABU - German Nature and Biodiversity
Conservation Union

- Founded in 1899
- More than 420.000 members and 40.000 supporters
- A real grassroot organisation
- Nearly 2000 NABU-Groups with ten thousands of volunteers
- German partner of BirdLife International



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National Access to Justice

➤ Legal foundations

- Nature Conservation Act (since 1979)
- Environmental Appeals Act (since 2006)
- EU law

➤ Application areas

- Advocacy for Nature and Environment by enforcing the law (Natura 2000, WFD, immission-reduction)
- Prevention of damages
- Enhancing environmental performance of projects and business



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Reality Check

- Not strength in numbers but in quality and strategic approach
- Above average success at Administrative Courts
- NABU responsible for more than 30 % of all cases



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Why Transboundary Access to Justice?

- + International projects
- + International environmental aspects (e.g. migrating species)
- + Challenges are too big for one country
- + Stakeholders and legal framework are international
- + Civil society: free choice of work and residence



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Steps forward

1. A good law is an enforced one!
Lobby work and case work for a better implementation of the Aarhus directives
2. Strengthening the international cooperation between civil society stakeholders with test cases
3. Intensive communication about these new instruments into the public



JUSTICE
AARHUS CONVENTION
for our environment

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**Salamanders can't
go to court!**

But we can....

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