



## PROJECT INFORMATION

State as at Dezember 2010

# Capacity building and transboundary nature conservation along the South Eastern European Green Belt



Border area between Macedonia and Kosovo.

Photo: T. Pezold (IUCN)

## Background

The European Green Belt initiative ([www.europeangreenbelt.org](http://www.europeangreenbelt.org)) has the vision to create 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. The former Iron Curtain in Europe shall be converted into a network of transboundary protected areas. Moreover, the initiative shall serve to better harmonize human activities with the natural environment and to improve the socio-economic development of the local communities. In South Eastern Europe, conflict prevention and international understanding are of special importance.

Against this background, local acceptance for the work of armed forces and border police along the borders has to be improved, requiring an increased involvement of the regional military actors into local society. The conservation of the shared natural values and of the unique biodiversity of the area offers a possibility to facilitate such an involvement.

## Project

The project reinforced the transboundary cooperation of actors involved in nature conservation in the trilateral border region of Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia - a region which is characterized by outstanding biodiversity and landscape values. Target groups of this project were the local population as well as public actors (protected area administration, border police, scientific institutions) and non-governmental actors (nature conservation organisations).

The objectives of this project were:

- to increase the capacities of the local population and of stakeholders involved in activities related to the management of biodiversity in the project's area,
- to strengthen cross-sectoral and international cooperation on the conservation of biodiversity and
- to increase the awareness of key stakeholders and the local population on the conservation of valuable natural heritage in the region.

The project activities included a training and a study tour which aimed on transferring information on protected area management and funding, monitoring of biodiversity, European nature conservation policy and approaches of transboundary cooperation. One of its results was a brochure presenting best practice examples. The project partners offset the project's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

- Funding: Advisory Assistance Programme of the German Federal Ministry of Environment
- Project identification: 380 01 219
- Region: Albania, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia,
- Duration: 10/2009 – 12/2010
- Project management: German Federal Environment Agency
- Technical Management: German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
- Project partner: International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)