

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



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## 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 in CEE 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
- CEE military areas are just as important as western European ones



## 1. Introduction

### Nature Conservation & the Military

- Naturstiftung David has started 2001 in Germany with a literature research and a data collection of military areas (active and decommissioned).
- CEEweb has started international military project with CEE network in 2006. Since 2007 we work together
- Building up an information network with the major NGOs, the Armed Forces, the Federal Conservation Agencies and the Ministries of Environment and Defence



## 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
- Enable priority setting and future project planning
- 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

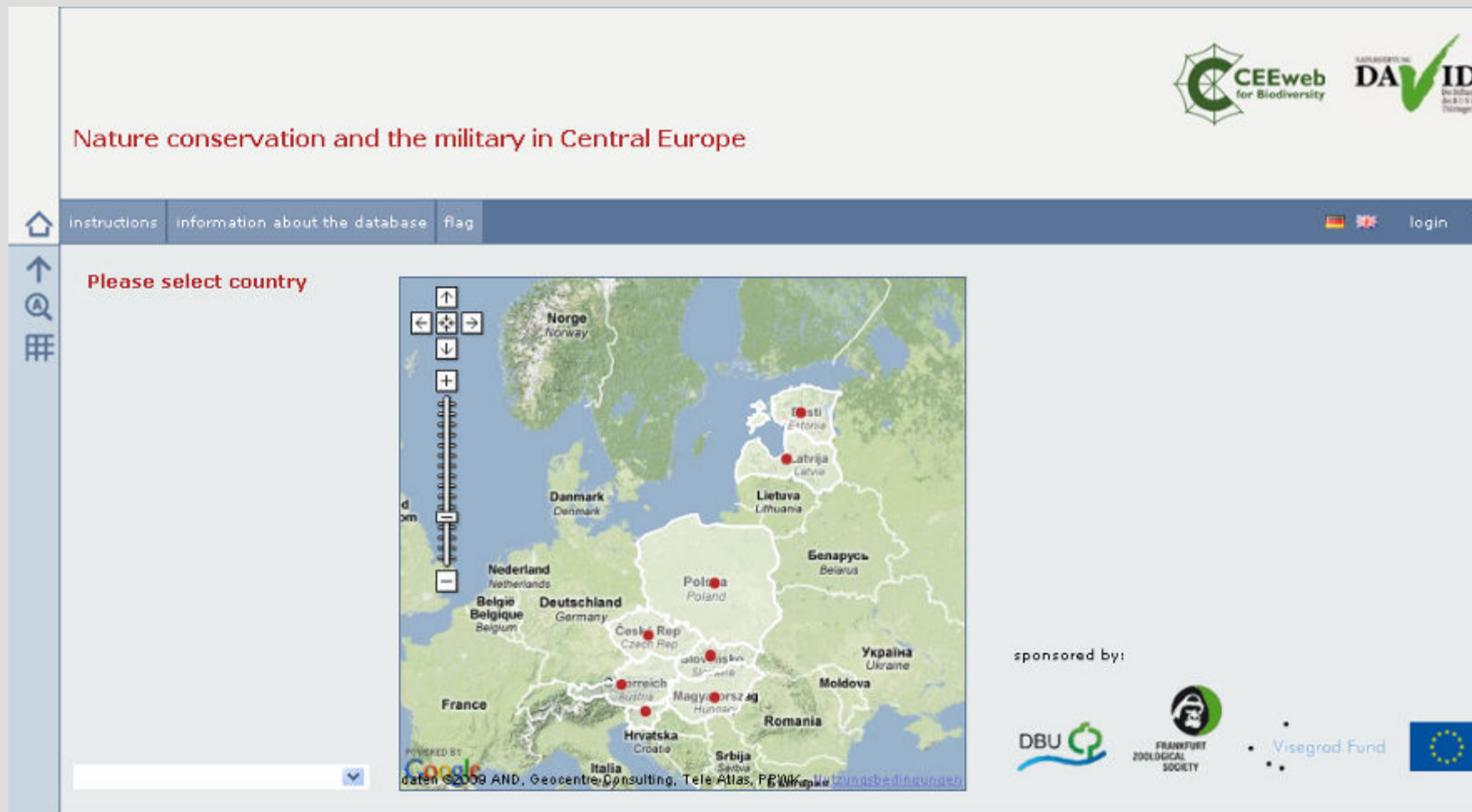
#### A) Overview of the situation in CEE-countries

- 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)



The screenshot shows the website interface for "Nature conservation and the military in Central Europe". At the top right, there are logos for CEEweb for Biodiversity and NATURSTIFTUNG DAVID. Below the title, there is a navigation bar with links for "Instructions", "information about the database", and "flag", along with a "login" button and flags for Germany and the UK. The main content area displays the text "Please select country" in red. Below this is a map of Europe with red dots indicating data points in various countries, including Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Rep, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Ukraine. The map includes navigation controls like arrows and a zoom slider. At the bottom of the map, there is a small text block: "powered by: daten 2009 AND, Geocentre Consulting, Tele Atlas, PEWAK, www.landsbedingen.de". To the right of the map, there is a "sponsored by:" section with logos for DBU, FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Visegrad Fund, and the European Union flag.

#### 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 -



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9 military areas

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

1 from 1 pages

## 4. Database

### Information included in the database:

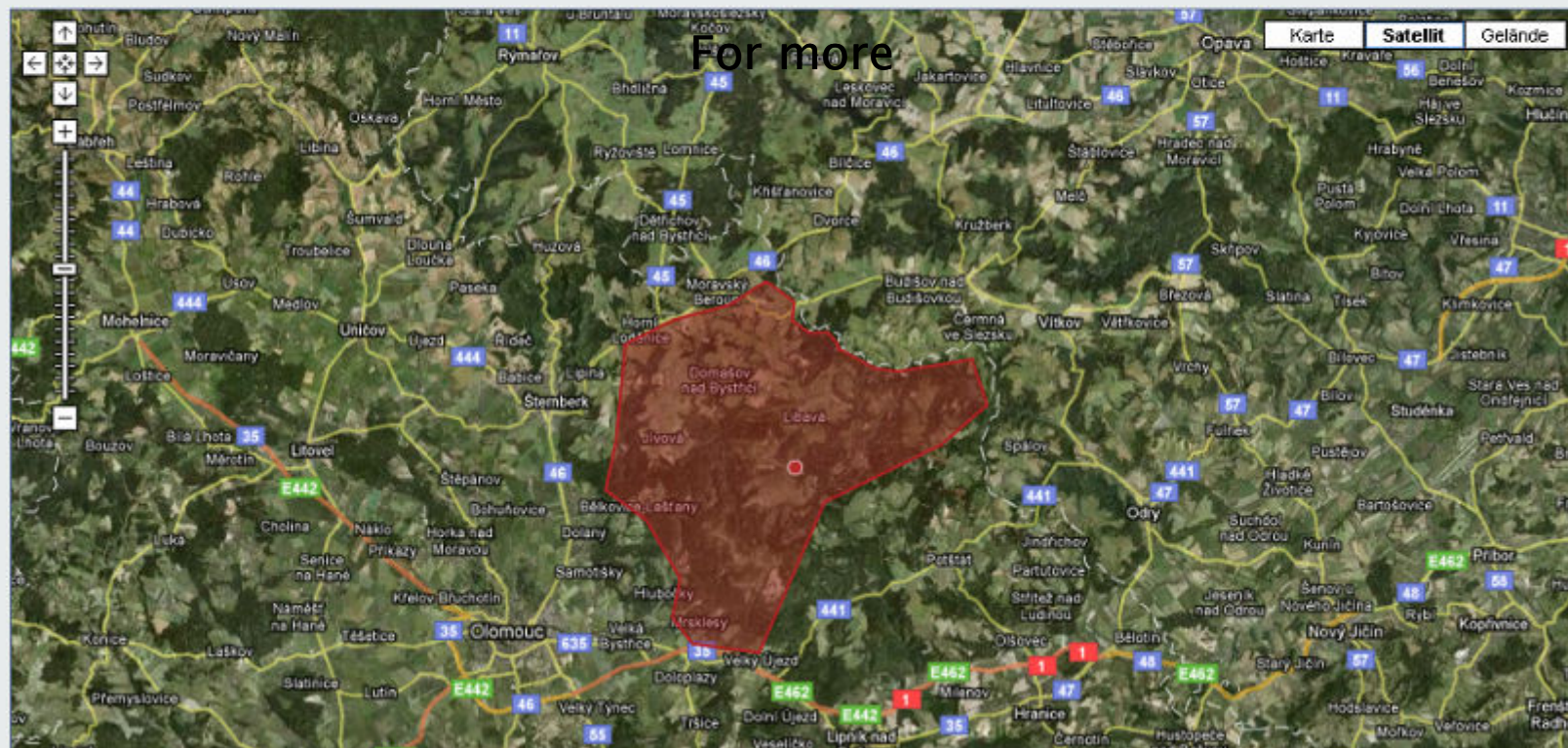
- General information (size, name, history, location)
- Ownership and users
- Ecological data: habitats and species
- GIS data
- Protection status, protected areas
- Management (military, conservation)
- Bibliography



## 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%



### 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
- We need your contribution!



## D) Project development

30/09 - 01/10 Passau Workshop

Concrete reports on different countries

Brain-storming and workshops with experts on future projects

**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)

Database online: [http://www.naturstiftung.de/osteuropa\\_test/start.php](http://www.naturstiftung.de/osteuropa_test/start.php)

Questions and contact: [sarolta@ceeweb.org](mailto:sarolta@ceeweb.org)