



18-20 Nov, 2014, Kuusamo, Finland

Hyvät vastaanottajat,

vihreän vyöhykkeen tulevaisuudesta järjestettiin alkukesällä 2014 neljä alueellista työpajaa: Inarissa, Lappeenrannassa, Joensuussa ja Petroskoissa. Työpajoissa vyöhykkeen ainutlaatuisien luontoalueiden ja niiden ympärille kehitettävän toiminnan tulevaisuutta ideoitiin paikallisten toimijoiden voimin. Mukana oli eri hallinnonalojen ja –tasojen viranomaisia, tutkijoita, yrittäjiä, edunvalvoja ja järjestöjen edustajia – kaikki vihreän vyöhykkeen asukkaita. Kiitos teille osallistumisesta!

Työpajojen tuloksia on sittemmin käsitelty vihreän vyöhykkeen kolmikantaisessa ohjausryhmässä sekä työryhmässä. Tuloksena on *Strategy for the Green Belt of Fennoscandia until 2020* (liitteenä), jota on nyt mahdollisuus kommentoida kirjallisesti. Kolmikantainen ohjausryhmä käsittelee kaikki saadut kommentit ennen strategian hyväksymistä. Mahdolliset kommentit tulee lähettää **tiistaihin 21.10.2014 mennessä** sähköpostitse koordinaattori Aino Rekolalle (aino.rekola@ymparisto.fi).

Nyt kommentoitava oleva strategia sisältää vihreän vyöhykkeen konseptin, vision sekä lähivuosien tavoitteet yhteistyölle kuuden teeman alla. Strateginen tavoitteenasettelu on nähty tärkeäksi muun muassa tulevia rahoitushakuja silmälläpitäen. **Strategia on myös marraskuisen Green Belt of Fennoscandia Dialogue Forumin keskeinen lähtökohta ja taustadokumentti.** Forumissa strategian teemoja syvennetään suunnitteleamalla toimenpiteitä, työkaluja sekä uusia rajat ylittävän yhteistyön hankkeita tavoitteiden toteuttamiseksi.

Green Belt of Fennoscandia Dialogue Forumiin ehtii vielä ilmoittautua! Tervetuloa viimeistelemään strategiatyö ja suunnittelemaan hankkeita strategian toimeenpanoksi. Lisätietoa sekä ilmoittautumisohjeet www.ym.fi/greenbelt.

Toivomme näkevämme teidät runsaslukuisina Kuusamossa, sillä ainutlaatuisen vihreän vyöhykkeen tulevaisuus on meidän käsissämme! Parhain terveisin,

Kristiina Niikkonen ja Aino Rekola

Aino Rekola

Coordinator, Green Belt of Fennoscandia -project

tel. +358 2952 50352, mobile +358 50 384 8320

Ministry of the Environment/Department of Natural Environment

P.O. Box 35, FI – 00023, GOVERNMENT, Finland

Strategy for the Green Belt of Fennoscandia until 2020

The concept of the GBF network

The core of GBF is a network of existing and planned protected areas (PA's) of differing status along the Finnish-Norwegian, Finnish-Russian and Norwegian-Russian borders, stretching from the Gulf of Finland to the Barents Sea. The PA network with surrounding areas ensure both north-south and east-west ecological connections for habitats and migration and protection of species. GBF development is underpinned by biological and geological diversity and rich cultural heritage of the region.

GBF has physical and functional boundaries. The physical boundaries comprises of the existing and planned protected areas¹. The functional boundaries include the cooperative network and those stakeholders who see benefit from the PA's included to physical boundaries.

GBF development is implemented through a cooperative network of administrations of the regional and municipal border areas, protected areas of differing status, enterprises, scientific institutions, NGO's and other bodies, with special focus on participatory cross-border processes at both national and regional level.

Thereby, GBF is a platform for comprehensive:

- trilateral cooperation in research and biodiversity conservation,
- development of livelihoods and social well-being in the region, based on the region's unique nature,
- promoting environmental sustainability in spatial planning and in coordination of development processes in the area,
- supporting environmentally sustainable nature tourism businesses and cross-border cooperation and
- increasing environmental awareness and participation at all levels.

Through development of the GBF identity and in the context of biodiversity conservation under the CBD framework, it provides a framework for ecologically economically, socially and culturally sustainable transboundary cooperation and for developing social well-being in the border areas.

As an oldest part of the European Green Belt, the GBF forms a mechanism for influencing in wider European cooperation in research, biodiversity conservation and economic and social development.

The Vision in 2020

The Green Belt of Fennoscandia is developed into a widely acknowledged transboundary model area for biodiversity conservation, social well-being, environmentally sustainable economic growth generated by the region's unique nature and cultural heritage.

¹ ANNEX List of protected areas belonging to the Green Belt of Fennoscandia from each country.

Biodiversity conservation

Goal: Development of a network protected areas and ecological connections within the three countries that ensure biodiversity conservation.

Target 1.1

Representative PA network and ecological connectivity established.

Target 1.2

PA's are managed so that the conservation status of habitats and species is maintained and/or improved.

Target 1.3

Cooperation in management of transboundary populations and habitats leads to maintenance and/or improvement of their status.

Target 1.4

Key species and habitats, and physical elements of ecosystems of the GBF area are defined, surveyed with harmonized methods and data made available.

Research

Goal: Intensified trilateral research cooperation on conservation of biodiversity, climate change and social well-being of the GBF.

Target 2.1

Multidisciplinary and transboundary analysis of the shortages of scientific information is conducted for the whole GBF-area.

Target 2.2

Measures established for monitoring the changes in biodiversity and ecosystem services under the impact of climate change and other factors.

Target 2.3

GBF provides a platform for active research cooperation and dissemination of GBF-related research to the research community, decision makers and general public.

Economic and regional development

Goal: Strengthened sustainable economic and regional development based on the ecosystem services of the GBF region

Target 3.1:

GBF- brand is developed to support the GBF marketing and self-identity of local people.

Target 3.2:

GBF approach is integrated into spatial and development planning in the whole GBF region.

Target 3.3:

GBF-based nature tourism and other environmentally sustainable services and products developed.

Target 3.4:

GBF is acknowledged as an eligible target for funding in relevant funding programs for regional and economic development.

Social and cultural development

Goal: Strengthened livelihoods based on the region's nature values and cultural heritage

Target 4.1:

Traditional knowledge and cultural heritage are recognized, key cultural heritage sites are secured.

Target 4.2:

Active cross-border livelihood development based on the GBF, to secure social well-being and lifelong connection over the border.

Institutional development

Goal: Intensified cross-border cooperation within the GBF network.

Target 5.1:

GBF is a well-known part and influential in the European Green Belt (EGB) network.

Target 5.2:

Twin park cooperation established for all managers of the region's PA's.

Target 5.3:

Methods and platforms developed for active sharing of best practices and for cooperation with key stakeholders to strengthen local and regional engagement.

Target 5.4

GBF is a well-organized cooperation network with sufficient resourcing ensured.

Target 5.5

Good cross-border access and cooperation with border authorities.

Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA)

Goal: High level of awareness on the GBF's unique nature and its conservation among all stakeholders.

Target 6.1

Improved environmental awareness among public, authorities and businesses operating in the GBF-region.

Target 6.2

GBF CEPA plan is prepared, implemented and monitored in good coordination.