Nature conservation cooperation between Latvia and Estonia

Kaja Lotman
The cooperation between large wetland areas

1995 – signing Agreement of Mutual Cooperation between Administrations of Nigula Nature Reserve and North Viedzeme Biosphere Reserve
2006 – 2007 – INTERREG IIIA project “Tuned management and monitoring of the transboundary protected areas in North-Livonia as a support for local development” WETLIVONIA
2007 – Status of North Livonian Transboundary Ramsar Site
Wetland complex at the border area

North-Livonian wetland complex

Nigula Bog
Kodaja Bog
Rongu Bog
Ruunasoo Bog
Ollu Bog
Soku Bog
Pirtsmeze Bog
Sookuninga Bog
Rakste Bog

A. Leivits and A. Urtans, 2004
Lynx range at the border
Wolf range at the border
Bear range at the border
Scientific knowledge

bird’s habitat

%
Restoration of raised bogs in Estonia

Photos A. Leivits

Kaja Lotman
Restoration of salmon spawning areas in Latvia

A. Leivits
Kaja Lotman

bird's habitat
Cooperation at the national level

- 2008 –2011. Reforms of the protected areas governance. Ongoing cooperation in information exchange. Active Rural municipality cooperation developing different transborder contacts (i.e. Festival of North Livonia)

- 2011–2013 Tuned Nature Management in transboundary area of Estonia and Latvia – Green Corridor Interreg EST–LAT, cooperation in nature education etc

- 2014 Agreement between Latvian Nature Conservation Agency and Estonian Environmental Board, one of the aims is also Europarc Federation „Transboundary Parks – Following Nature’s Design“
Coastal cooperation green economy: West-Estonian Archipelago Biosphere program area and North-Vidzeme Biosphere Res...
Challenges

• Differences in management structures and in scale of managed protected areas. Frequent changes in management structures (administrations of PAs, regional and governmental structures, municipalities)
• Differences in national legislations
• Dependance from projects (funding)
• Communication between organisations (partners) in transboundary co-operation depends very much on personal contacts
• Cultural and lingual differences
Trasboundary cooperation – opportunities

- Better planning (avoiding overlapping activities, harmonization, reduce risks) and sharing resources (joint fieldworks, use of specific knowledges). Defining joint conservation goals for protection rules & management plans of PAs
- Complementarity (combining different traditions and skills of partners), establishment of joint infrastructure
- “Forced innovation” (lack of maps stimulated GIS development, remote sensing, lack of manpower forced to use automatic equipment etc)
- Strengthening cooperation with local stakeholders (municipalities, entrepreneurs, local people)
- Advertising the area internationally (transboundary agreements, commission, steering group)
- Application of community based adaptive management and ecosystem/landscape based approach in conservation
Thank You!

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