

# Ecological networks and coherence according to article 10 of the Habitats Directive – Introduction

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## Ecological Networks



**NATURA 2000 - Art. 10**

**International Workshop  
9.-13. May 2005  
Isle of Vilm**

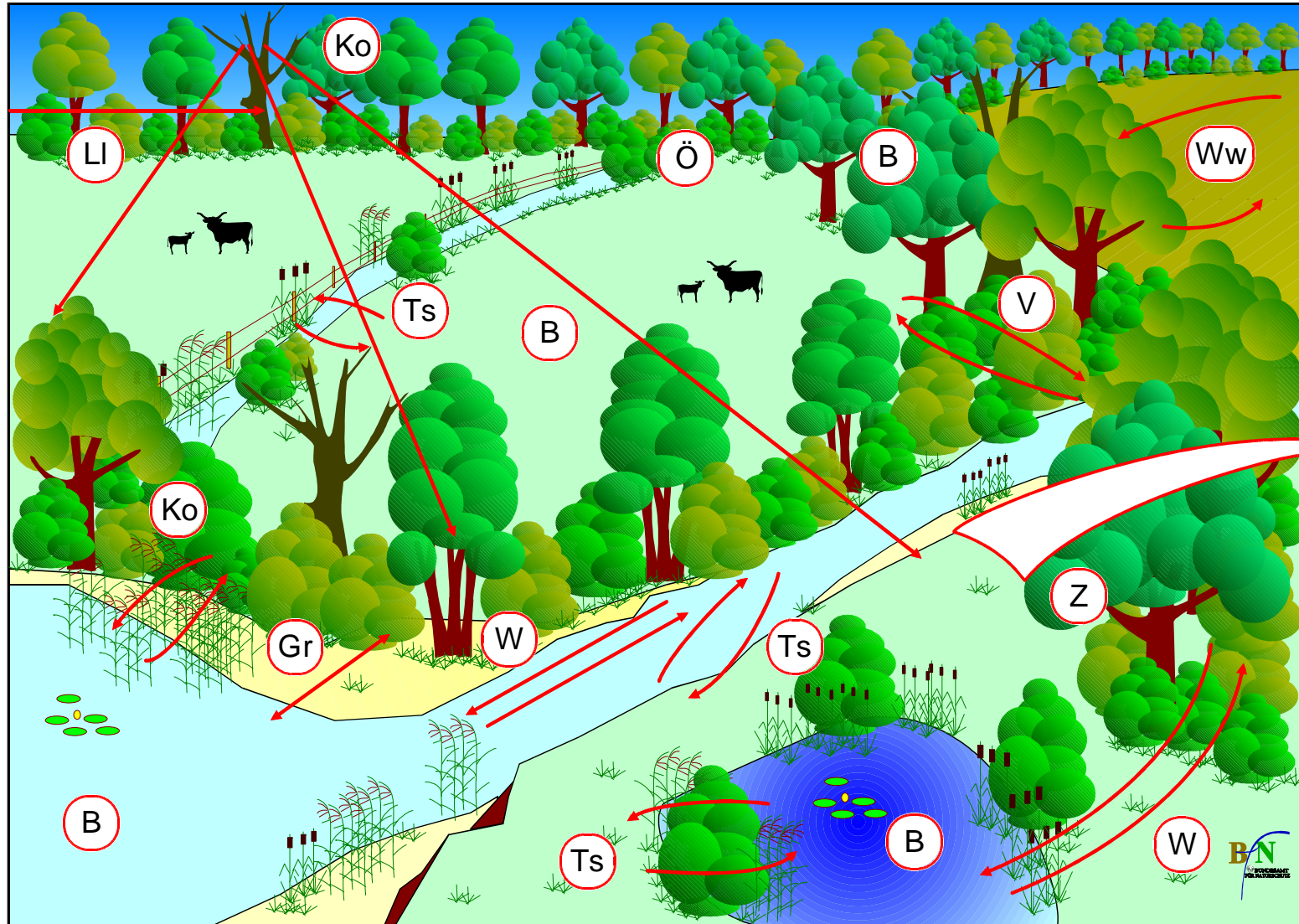


# Introduction

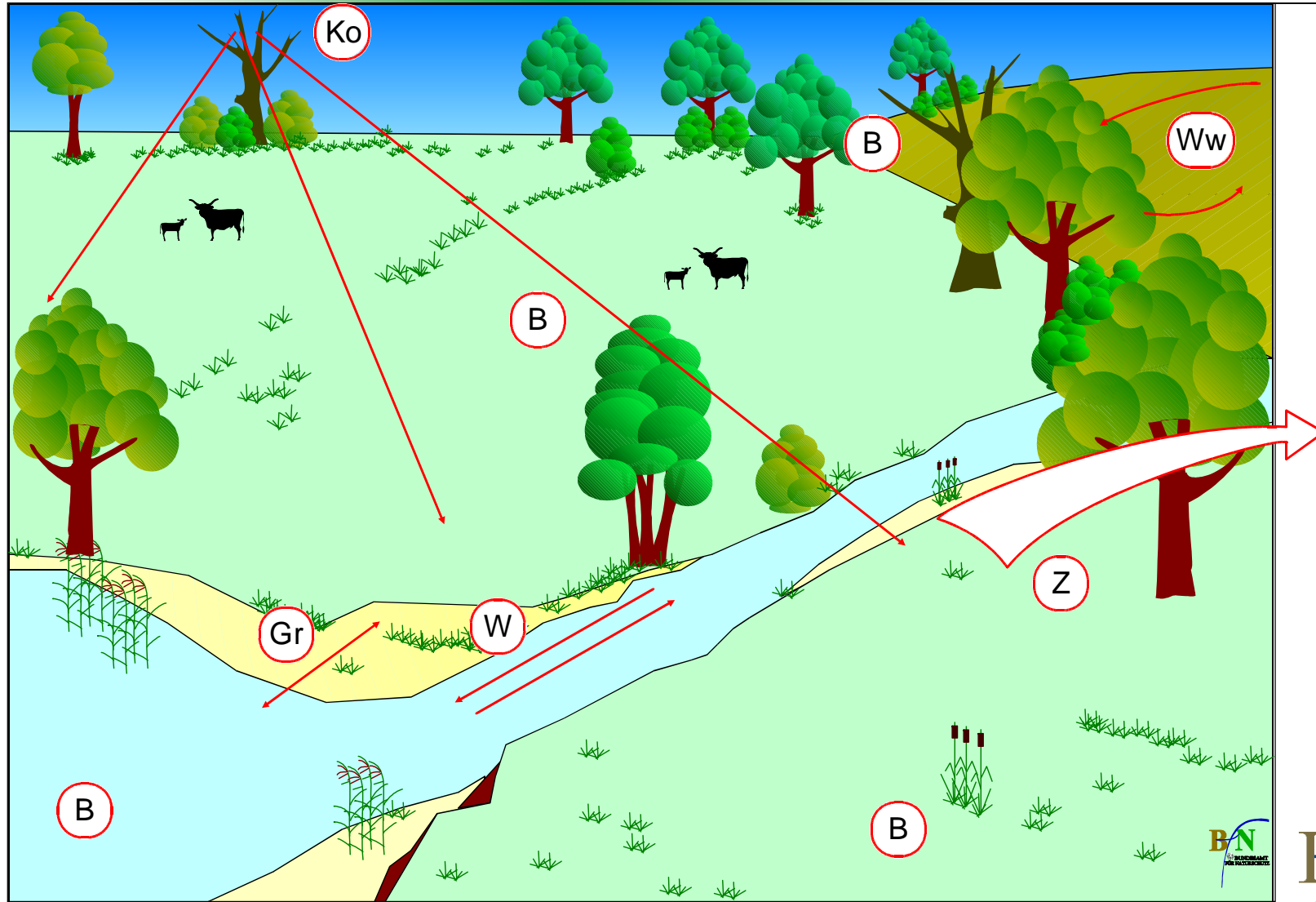


- **Why ecological networks? - Concept**
- **Legal background**
- **National ecological networks versus Natura 2000**
- **Objectives of the workshop**

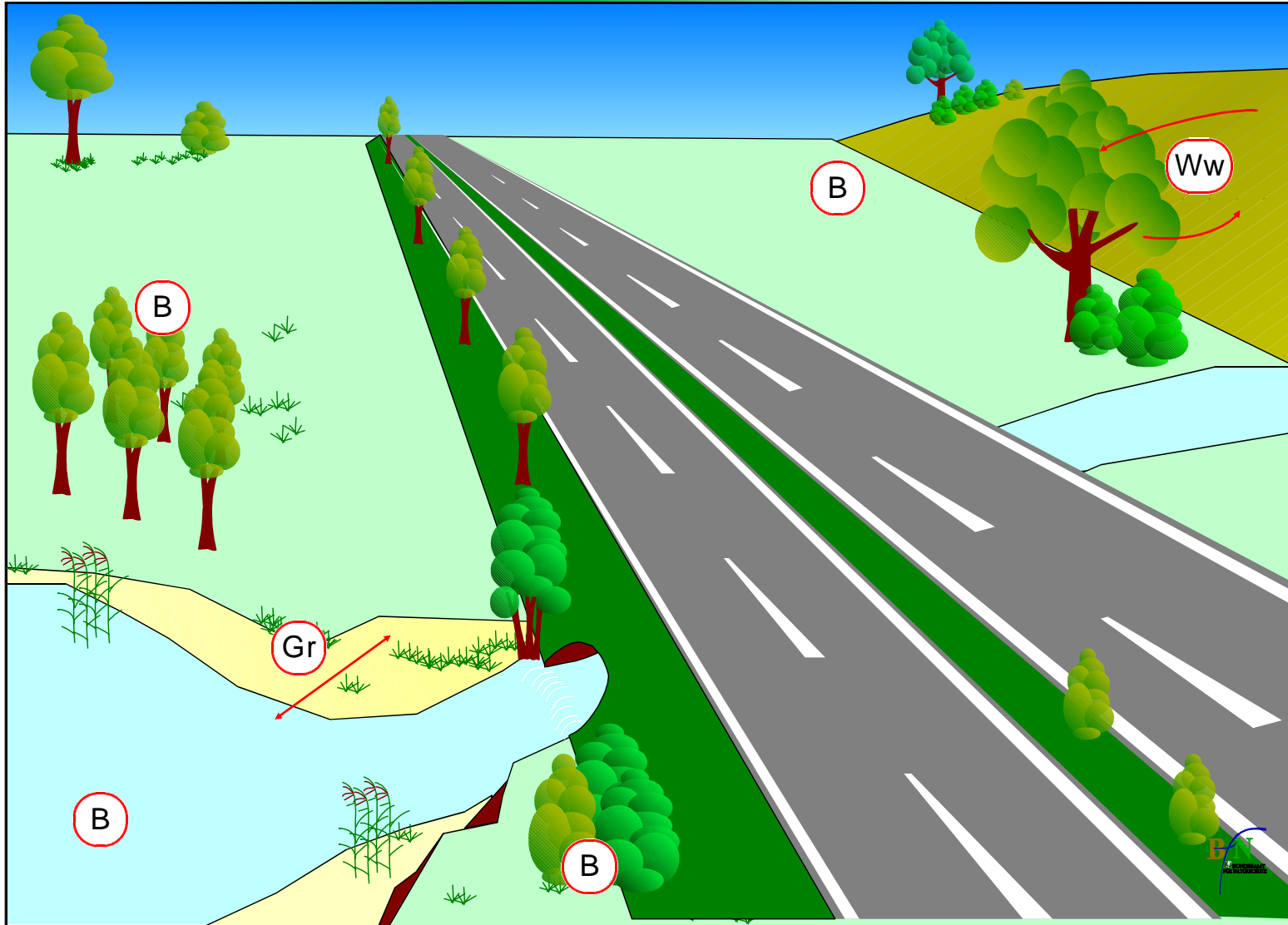
# Why ecological networks?



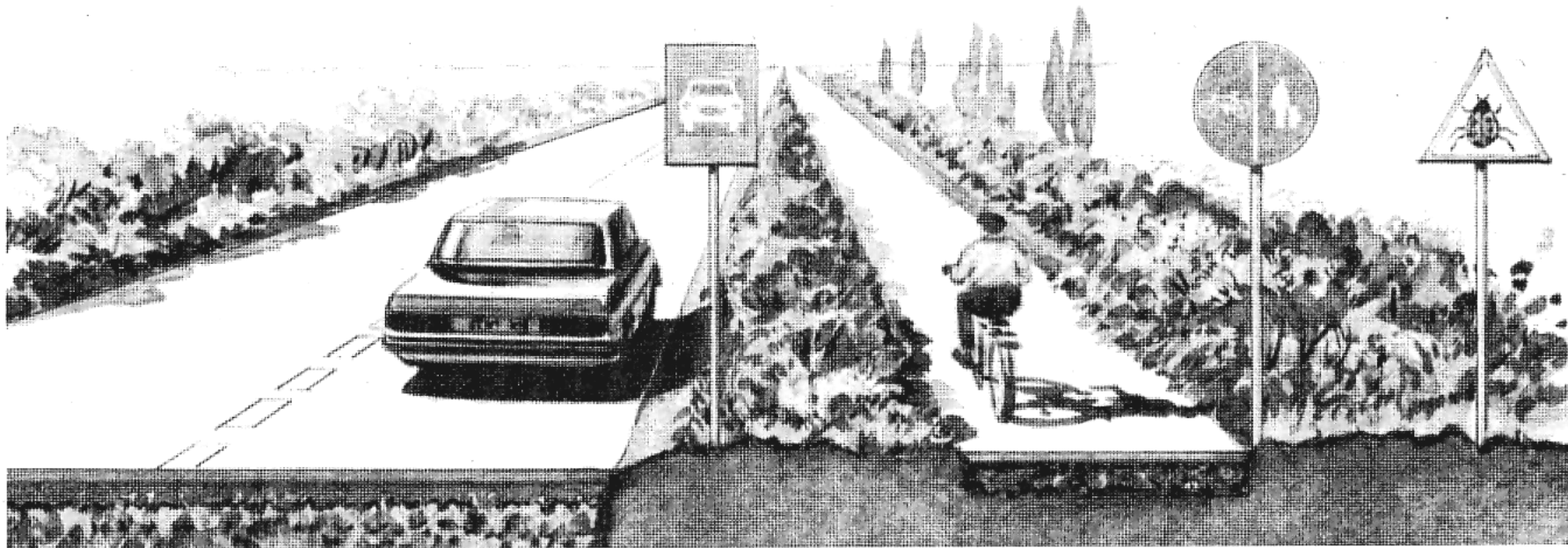
# Why ecological networks



# Why ecological networks?



# Concept of ecological networks



## „Trivial“ habitat connectivity

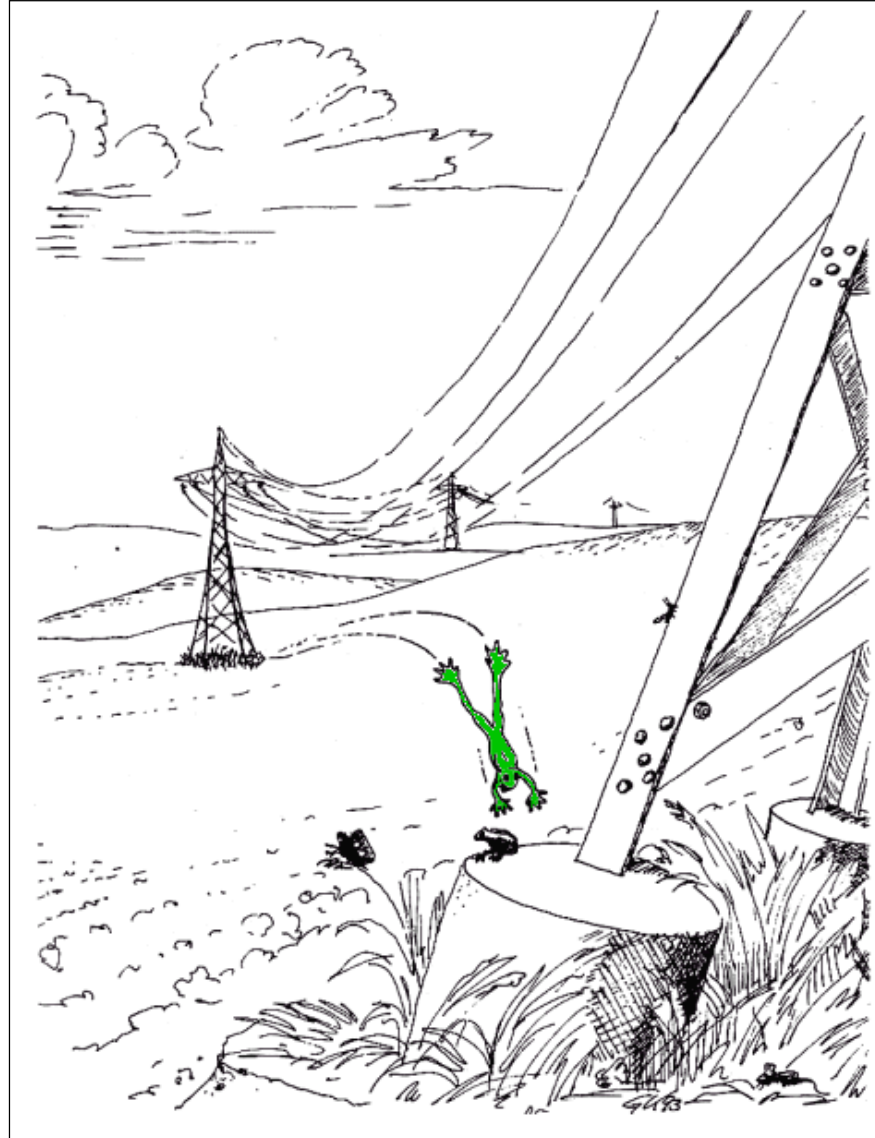
from Dierssen (1991/92)

# Concept of ecological networks

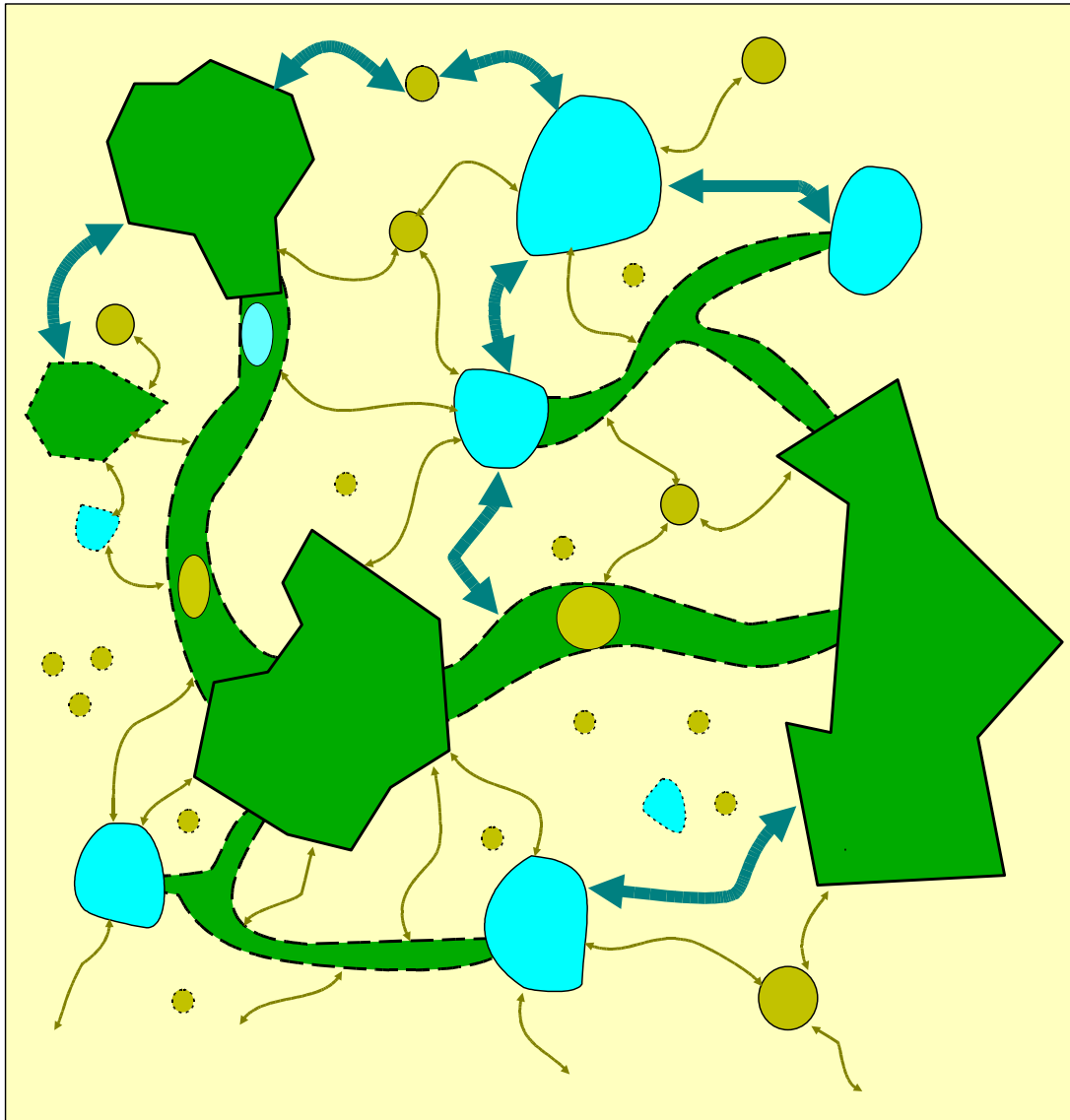


## „Trivial“ habitat connectivity

*Ruderal sites at the base of high-tension poles as stepping stone habitats in agricultural landscapes  
(Drawing by G. Klose)*



# Concept of ecological networks



## Ecological networks required at all spatial levels

function	core areas	corridors	stepping stones
national			
regional			
local			

up to European and even transcontinental level

# Legal background

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## Legal instruments

- **International conventions** (CBD, Bern Convention, PEBLDS, Bonn Convention, Ramsar Convention)
  - **Habitats Directive** (and **Birds Directive**) – Goals and implementation
  - **National legislation** or **political programmes**, e.g. Article 3 of the German Federal Nature Conservation Act (ecological network)
- All demand the maintenance or restoration of **coherent ecological networks**

# Legal background

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## Implementation

- Each instrument has **strengths and weaknesses** in terms of chances for a successful implementation. Which?
- **Overlaps and differences** in demands and concepts?
- How can they **profit from each other** in implementation?
- What are additional aspects that are **singular** in each legal instrument?

## First steps

- What does **'coherent ecological network'** mean, especially in the context of the Habitats Directive?
- What is necessary to achieve **ecological coherence**?
- What **implications** does this have?

# Legal background – Habitats Directive

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## Goals

**Preamble:** ... to ensure the restoration or maintenance of natural habitats and species of Community interest at a **favourable conservation status**, it is necessary to designate special areas of conservation in order to create a **coherent European ecological network** ...

**Article 1:** “**conservation status of a natural habitat**” means the sum of the influences acting on a natural habitat and its typical species that may affect its long-term natural distribution, structure and functions as well as the long-term survival of its typical species ...

It will be taken as ‘**favourable**’ when ...

# Legal background – Habitats Directive



## Implementation

**Article 3 (1):** A **coherent European ecological network** of special areas of conservation shall be set up under the title Natura 2000. (... including SCI's and SPA's of the Birds Directive)

**Article 3 (3):** ... Member States shall endeavour to improve the **ecological coherence of NATURA 2000** by maintaining, and where appropriate developing, **features of the landscape** which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora, as referred to in Article 10.

**Article 10:** ... Such features are those which, by virtue of their **linear and continuous structure** ... or their **function as stepping stones** ..., are essential for the **migration, dispersal and genetic exchange** of wild species.

# National ecological networks – Natura 2000

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## Case Studies

### National ecological networks

- Concepts focus on ecological coherence?
- Implementation?
- What can we learn from them?

### Natura 2000

- State of ecological coherence in Natura 2000 sites?
- Differences in consideration of ecological coherence?
- Demands and deficits in ecological coherence

# Objectives of the workshop

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## Sessions 1 to 3:

- Gathering of background information
- Potential of different legal or political instruments to maintain or restore coherent ecological networks
- Analysis of state of ecological coherence based on Natura 2000 and additional demand

## Session 4: Habitats Directive – draft recommendations

- Definitions (e.g. coherent ecological network)
- Objects of coherence
- Spatial and functional aspects of coherence
- How to implement coherence

→ **Tasks for tomorrow's workshops**

# Have an interesting workshop ...

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## Ecological Networks



NATURA 2000 - Art. 10

... many useful results

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