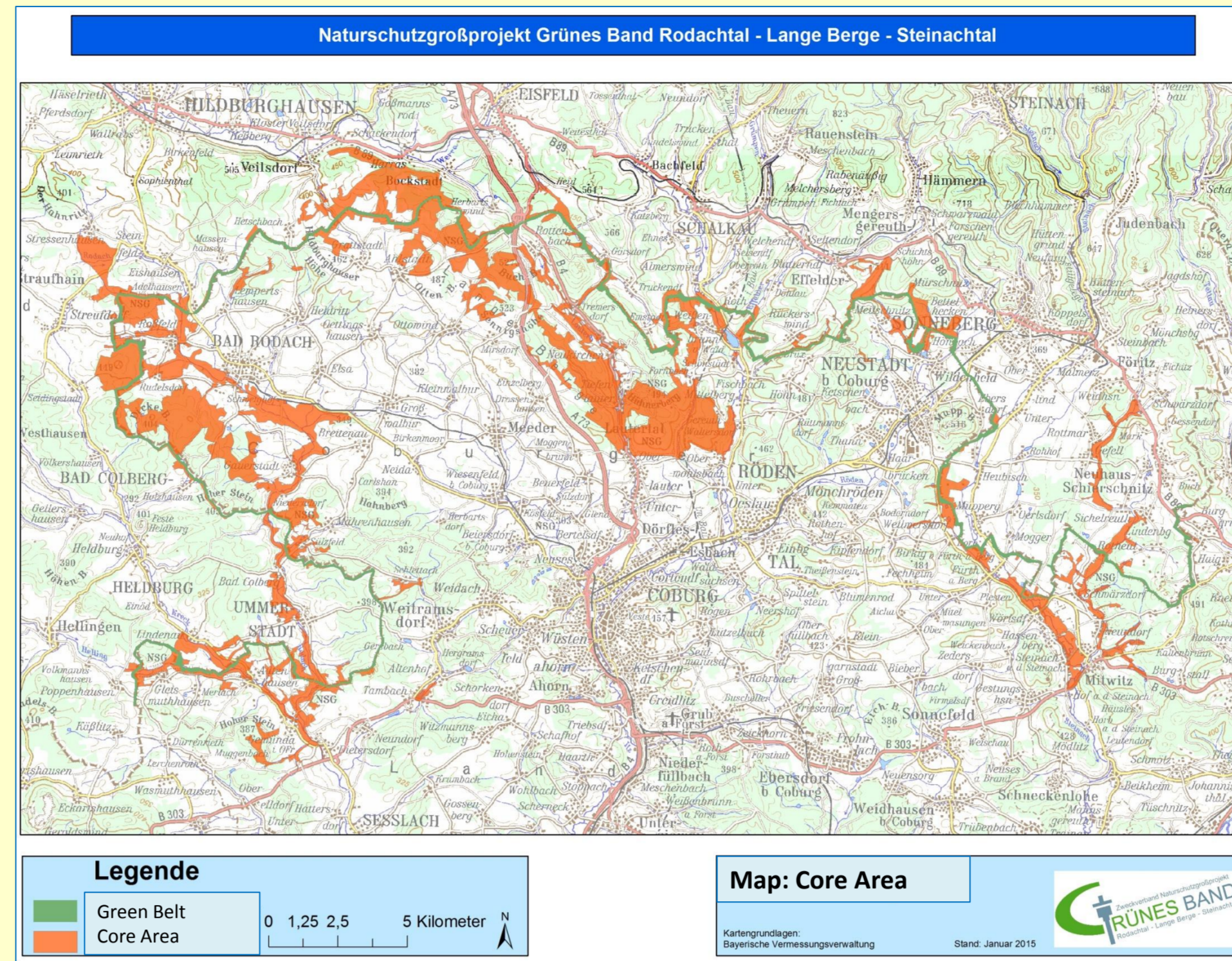
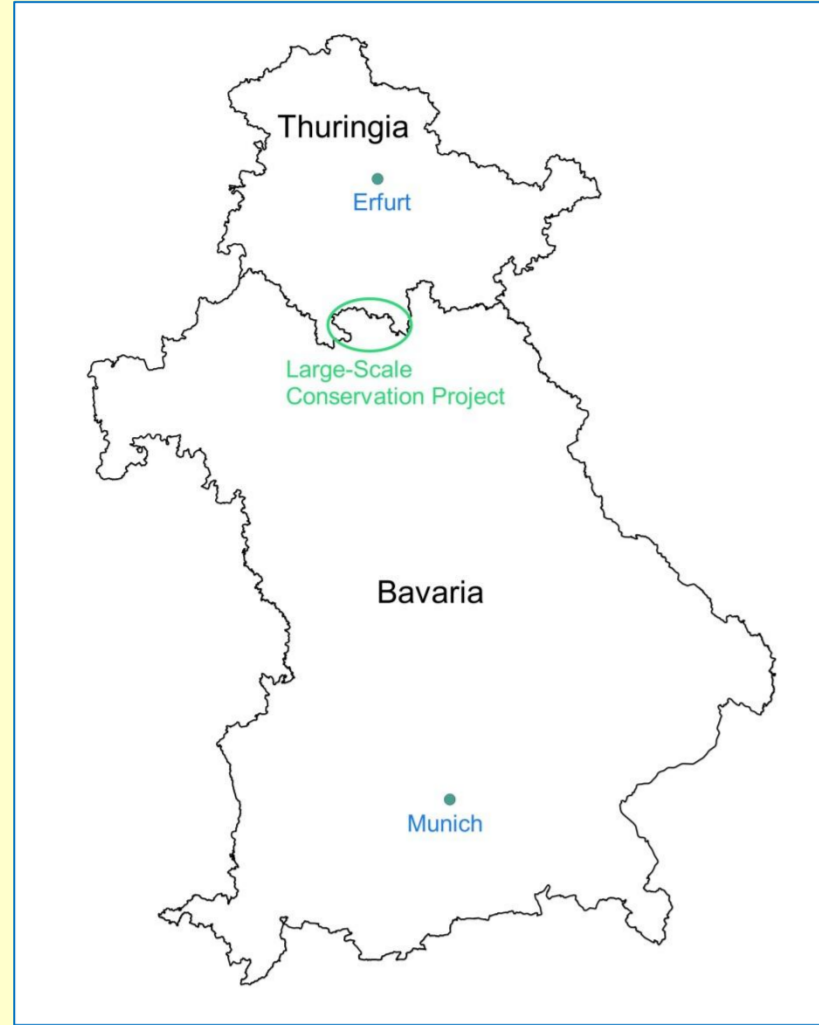


Rodachtal-Lange Berge-Steinachtal

Location:

Bavaria and Thuringia: Coburg, Kronach, Sonneberg and Hildburghausen (administrative districts)



Area:

- Core area: 8,206 hectare
- Length of the Green Belt in the core area: 127 km

Project description:

The **primary objective** of this large-scale conservation project is to link numerous valuable habitats in the project area into an ecological network in which the Green Belt serves as an ecological corridor. Large-scale forests, valuable farming countryside habitats and watercourses are linked to the Green Belt by functionally suitable stepping stone habitats and corridors.

The **main aim** is to maintain the habitat diversity and structural diversity of near-natural segments of the Green Belt within the project region and to foster the development of other areas to restore their nature conservation value. Further objectives include long-term conservation, management and development of valuable, rare or endangered forest ecological communities and farming landscape habitats, and renaturalisation of selected sections of watercourses.

The core area has a large share (about 38 percent) of **near-natural and natural habitats**. These notably include large areas of critically endangered habitat types (Red List categories 1 and 1-2) such as dystrophic ponds, European dry heaths, transition mires and quaking bogs, petrifying springs with tufa formation, bog woodland and alluvial forests. Other habitats of note include priority habitats under the Habitats Directive such as karstic calcareous grasslands, semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco Brometalia*) and *Tilio-Acerion* ravine forests.

Also noteworthy are the large numbers of **Red List species**, including 51 Critically Endangered/RL 1 species and 152 Endangered/RL 2 species. Examples include barbastelle bat, common snipe, woodchat shrike, European crayfish, common river mussel, small water lily, common corncockle, and oak polypore.



Green Belt with semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (FFH 6210). Adjacent to the Green Belt are other valuable habitats: Galio-Carpinetum oak-hornbeam forests (FFH 9170), Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests (FFH 9130), Pine forest of dry locations and semi-natural dry grasslands (FFH 6210).



Lowland hay meadows (FFH 6510) and semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (FFH 6210) inside and outside the Green Belt with occurrence of Whinchat and Large Blue (*Phengaris arion*)



Funding period:

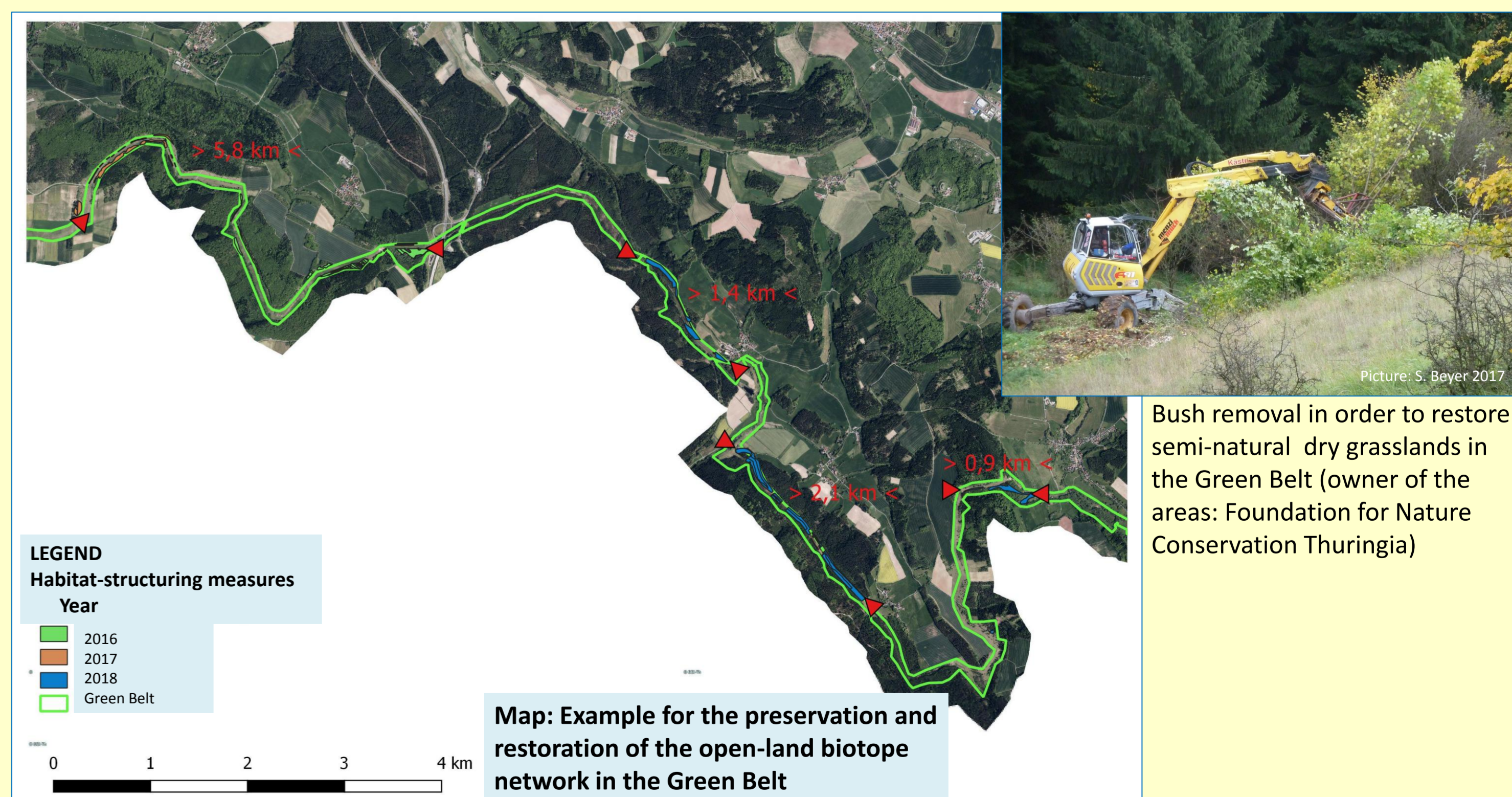
- Project I: 2010 - 2013 (management and development planning)
- Project II: 2016 - 2026 (implementation)

Grant amount:

- Project I: € 867,000
- Project II: approx. € 8.7 million (planned)

First results:

- Purchase of land (in 2016 and 2017):
 - In Bavaria : 22 hectare (€ 256,000)
 - In Thuringia (inside and outside the Green Belt): 54 hectare (€ 367,000)
- Habitat-structuring measures (in 2016 and 2017): € 290,000
 - Plant of ponds and wetlands;
 - Bush removal in order to restore European dry heath and semi-natural dry grasslands;
 - Promotion of grazing with cattle, horses, sheep and goats (provision of fixed fences, mobile fences, water barrels).



Bush removal in order to restore semi-natural dry grasslands in the Green Belt (owner of the areas: Foundation for Nature Conservation Thuringia)