

Keynote Address

Transboundary Access to Justice for Environmental NGOs



Who we are - NABU

NABU - German Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union

- Founded in 1899
- More than 420.000 members and 40.000 supporters
- A real grassroots organisation
- Nearly 2000 NABU-Groups with ten thousands of volunteers
- German partner of BirdLife International



Transboundary Access to Justice
Berlin | 15th October 2010



National Access to Justice

- Legal foundations
 - Nature Conservation Act (since 1979)
 - Environmental Appeals Act (since 2006)
 - EU law
- Application areas
 - Advocacy for Nature and Environment by enforcing the law (Natura 2000, WFD, immission-reduction)
 - Prevention of damages
 - Enhancing environmental performance of projects and business



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Reality Check

- Not strength in numbers but in quality and strategic approach
- Above average success at Administrative Courts
- NABU responsible for more than 30 % of all cases



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Why Transboundary Access to Justice?

- + International projects
- + International environmental aspects (e.g. migrating species)
- + Challenges are too big for one country
- + Stakeholders and legal framework are international
- + Civil society: free choice of work and residence



Steps forward

1. A good law is an enforced one!
Lobby work and case work for a better implementation of the Aarhus directives
2. Strengthening the international cooperation between civil society stakeholders with test cases
3. Intensive communication about these new instruments into the public





**Salamanders can't
go to court!**

But we can....

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