



# Restoring and managing ecological corridors in mountains as the green infrastructure in the Danube basin - ConnectGREEN

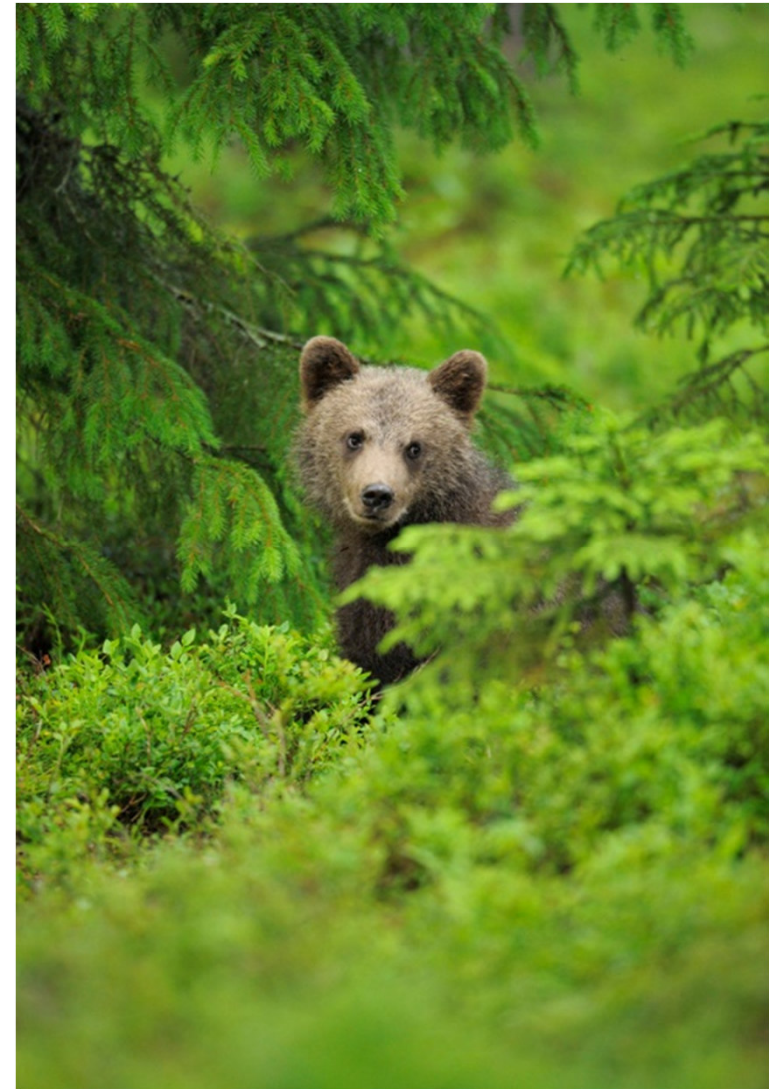
**Mountain Biodiversity Day**  
13<sup>th</sup> of January 2021  
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Wildlife and Landscape National Manager,  
ConnectGREEN Project Coordinator  
WWF RO

Project co-funded by European Union Funds (ERDF, IPA)

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Why ecological connectivity is important for mountain ecosystems and what are the biggest challenges in this respect?





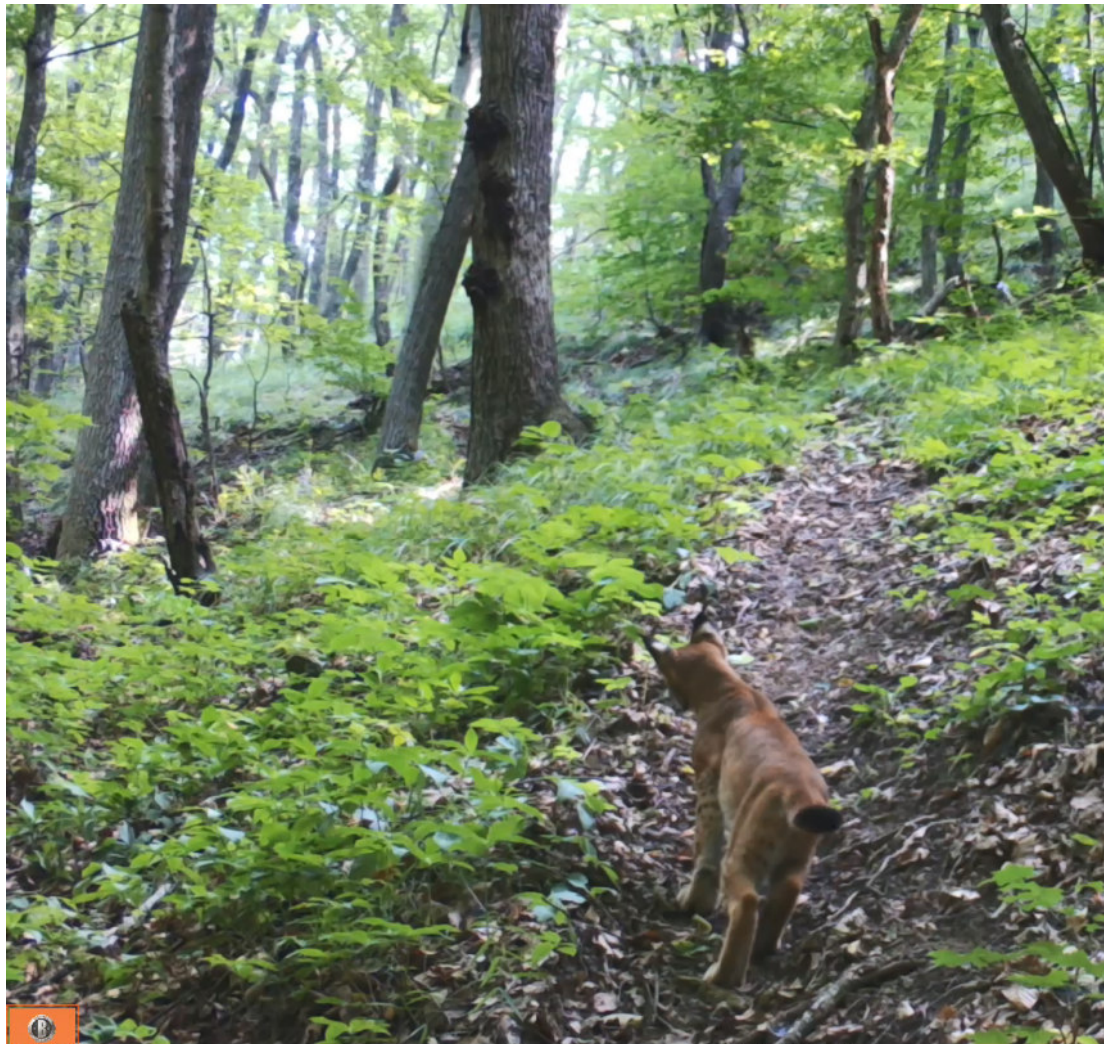


56°F13°C

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64°F17°C

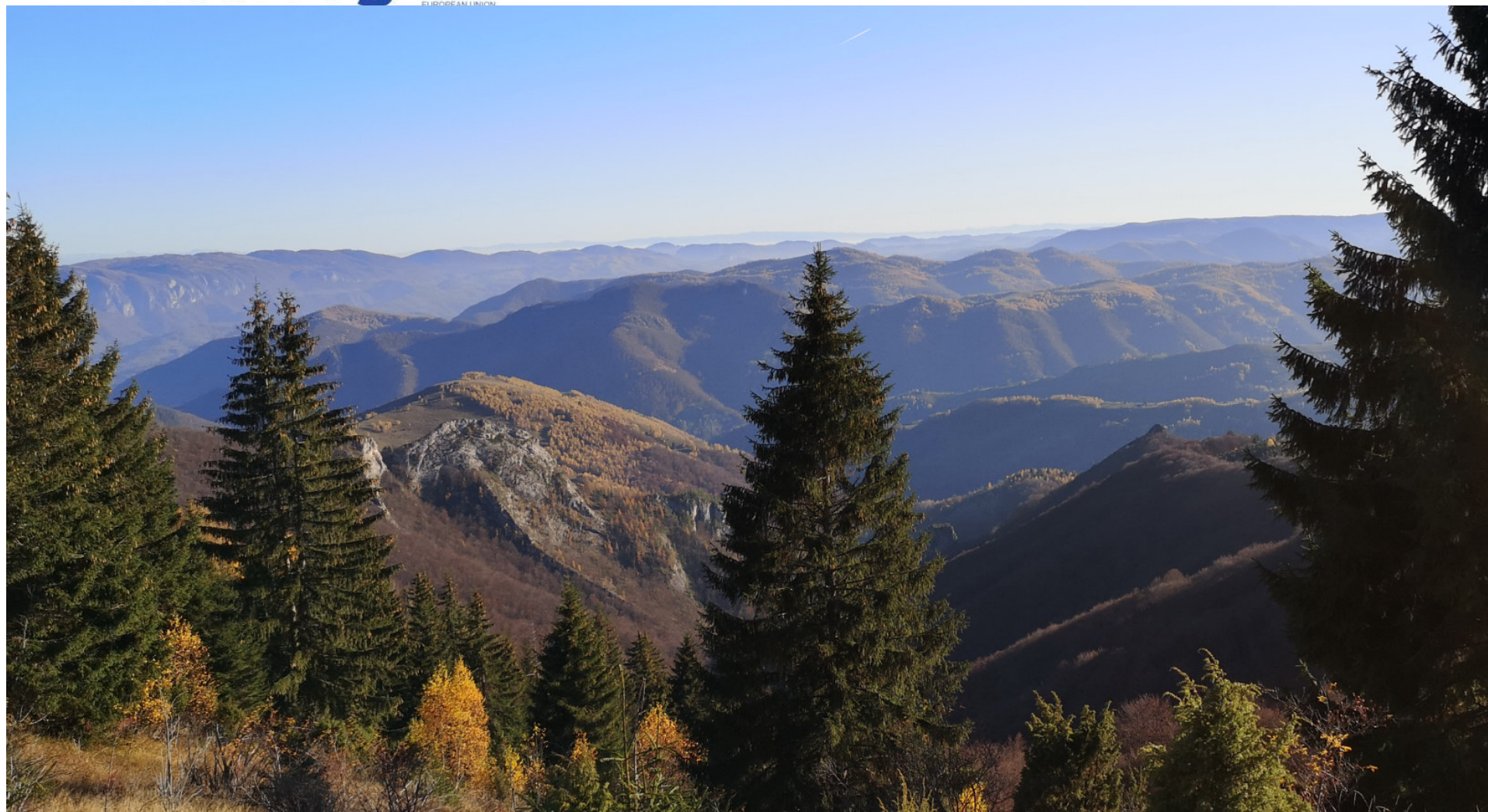


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## 4. Transportation and service corridors within the protected area

(Threats from long narrow transport corridors and the vehicles that use them, including associated wildlife mortality)

4.1 Roads and railroads (include road-killed animals)	38.39%
4.2 Utility and service lines (e.g. electricity cables, telephone lines, etc.)	32.74%
4.3 Shipping lanes and canals	13.39%
4.4 Flight paths	9.82%

## 7. Natural system modifications

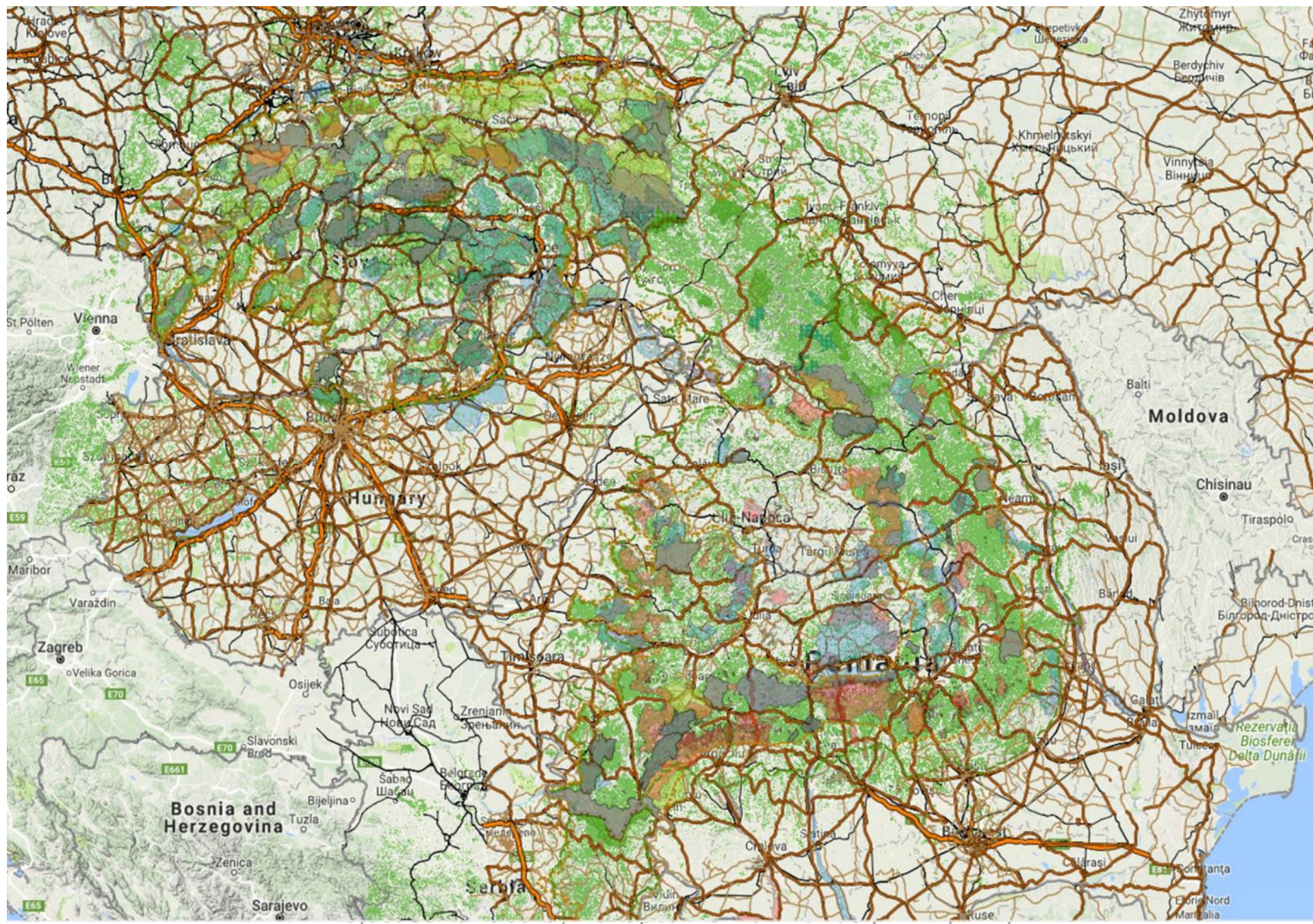
(Threats from other actions that convert or degrade habitat or change the way the ecosystem functions)

7.1 Fire and fire suppression (including arson)	29.76%
7.2 Dams, hydrological modification and water management / use	30.06%
7.3 Increased fragmentation within protected areas	37.5%
7.4 Isolation from other natural habitat (e.g. deforestation, dams without effective aquatic wildlife passages)	30.06%
7.5 Other "edge effects" on park values	23.81%
7.6 Loss of keystone species (e.g. top predators, pollinators etc.)	27.68%











# Pilot Areas

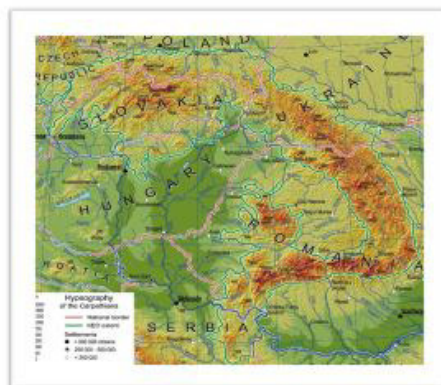


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## INTERNATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON CONSERVATION OF LARGE CARNIVORES AND ENSURING ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY IN THE CARPATHIANS



### INTRODUCTION, LEGAL BACKGROUND AND IMPLEMENTATION

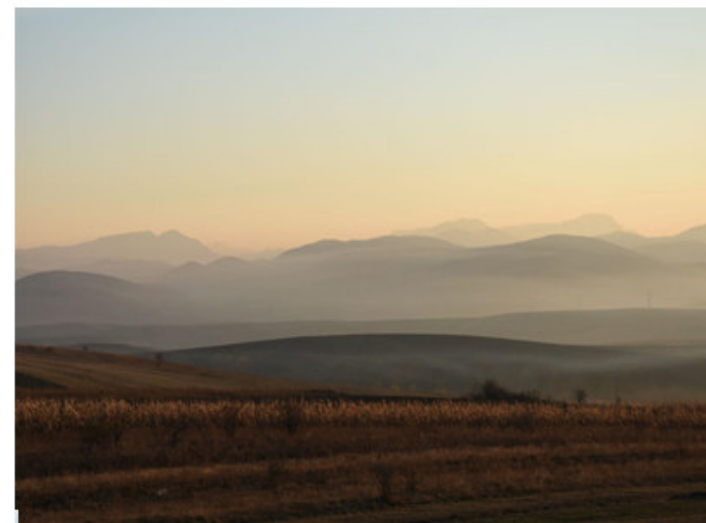
The Carpathians are a range of mountains in Central and Eastern Europe, stretching across seven countries in the form of an arch, starting in the north-east of the Czech Republic, continuing through the whole Slovak Republic, southern Poland, eastern Hungary as well as the west of Ukraine and Romania, and then going south to the eastern part of Serbia.

The Carpathian region is one of Europe's last great wilderness areas, with exceptional levels of biodiversity, extensive tracts of old-growth forest and one of the most important and biggest large carnivore populations in Europe. It is estimated that over 7,200 brown bears, 3,000 grey wolves, and 2,350 Eurasian lynxes currently existing in the Carpathian region (Chapron et al., 2014).

The above-mentioned species require extensive, non-fragmented habitats to establish their large home ranges and to allow long-distance movements to satisfy their biological and ecological needs. However, the sizes of habitats and their connectivity are being challenged by increasing pressures of current and future development of transport and other types of infrastructure in the Carpathian region.

Furthermore, despite their functional role as ecosystem keystone species and their long-term protection in some countries, human-carnivore conflicts can occur.

The large carnivore species existing in human-dominated landscapes often face a multidimensional problem, ranging from human-caused mortality to habitat loss and fragmentation. Compared to other



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## METHODOLOGY FOR IDENTIFICATION OF ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS IN THE CARPATHIAN COUNTRIES BY USING LARGE CARNIVORES AS UMBRELLA SPECIES







# Thank You!

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