

5th Forum Carpathicum
Adapting to Environmental and Social Risk
in the Carpathian Mountain Region
Hotel Eger-Park, Eger, Hungary | 15-18 October 2018

**The human-wildlife conflicts in the Alps:
from problem to opportunity.**
***The ALPBIONET2030 project and a special
focus on South Tyrol***

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PROJECT BACKGROUND

Ecological connectivity is the basis of Alpine and global habitat and species protection. However, since different areas have different tools and assessments to measure and improve biodiversity, a **main issue is realizing an integrative concept for the protection of ecosystems, wildlife and biodiversity.**

www.alpbionet2030.eu

PROJECT OVERVIEW

In **ALPBIONET2030** 15 partners team up to develop an Alpine Ecological (Connectivity) Network.

- Objectives:**
- +Alps-wide coordination & planning of connectivity
 - +Enhance spatial concept for biodiversity protection
 - +Extend Alpine connectivity criteria to the EUSALP

Duration: Nov 2016 – Oct 2019

SUPPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION: € 2.241.693

Lead Partner:
ALPARC – Alpine Network for Protected Areas

15 Project Partners & 26 Observers

- research institutes
- protected area administrations
- NGOs for hunting & landcare
- forest services
- private business



Defining Strategic Alpine Conservation Areas (SACA) to enhance ecological connectivity within and beyond the Alps

Strengthening the Network for Ecological Connectivity – at all levels within the EUSALP perimeter

ACTIVITIES

Creating an Alps-wide planning tool for a smooth transition to a more connected Alpine macro-region

Integrating wildlife management & connectivity in sectoral policies

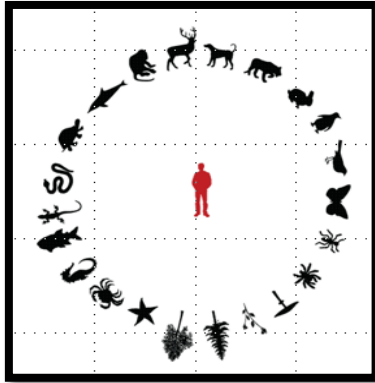
Developing guidelines for the resolution of human-nature conflicts

PROJECT BACKGROUND

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Models for coexistence

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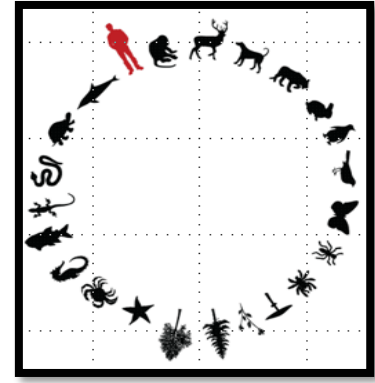
Ex-clusive
(humans VS wildlife)

There's no space for wildlife in a highly anthropic territory

- We have already occupied all the space
- This system works only in this way
 - We have always done like this
 - Change is dangerous



Et-Et



In-clusive
(humans AND wildlife)

The presence of wildlife calls for a new equilibrium in the territory

- We protect ourselves and our activities
- We define new space for a valuable change
 - New cooperation

HUMAN DIMENSION

Research on wildlife conflicts more frequently focuses on **human behaviour** and evaluation of management actions to change that behaviour, taking into account the **human-wildlife history** of an area, involving stakeholders and the large public

Social acceptance \neq Attitude

Attitude =

Personal belief and opinion about the wildlife presence in an area.
Influenced by the **personal experiences** with wildlife
May be regardless of the level of education owned.

Social acceptance =

Agreement to **accept somebody/someone in a group**.
Influenced by the level of **education**
Related to the **right to live** of living beings in a certain area

Without social acceptance, no conservation actions will have a total positive result



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Investigating youth's current knowledge

Deliverable D.T5.3.3: Scientific poster showing youth's current social knowledge and perceptions about local human-nature conflicts and EC (Jul 2018)

Questionnaires collection and analysis: Sept – Nov 2017;
More than 1000 surveys completed

Data entry and analysis: Jan – Mar 2018;

Data analysis: Apr – May 2018

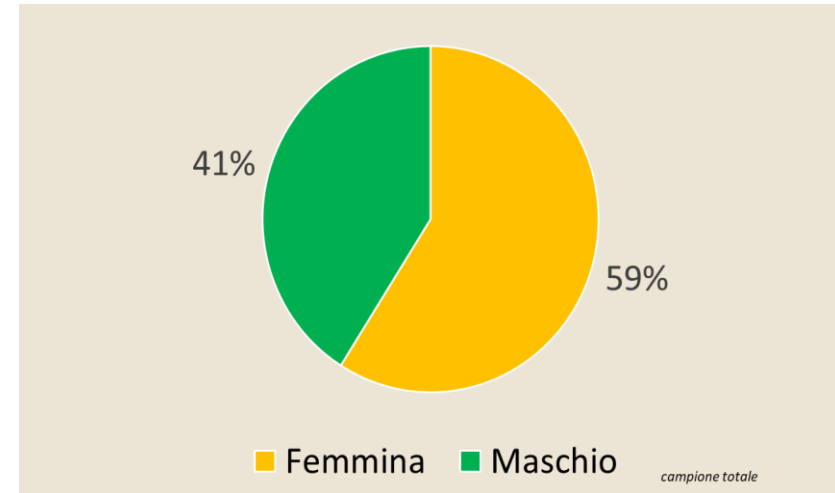
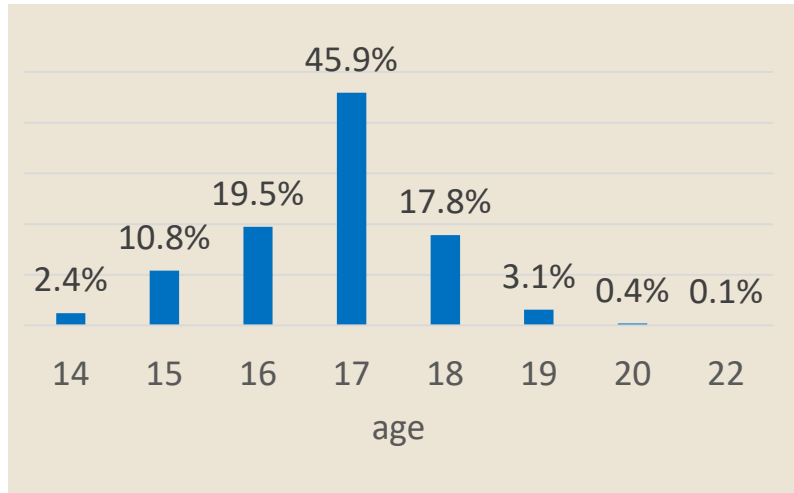
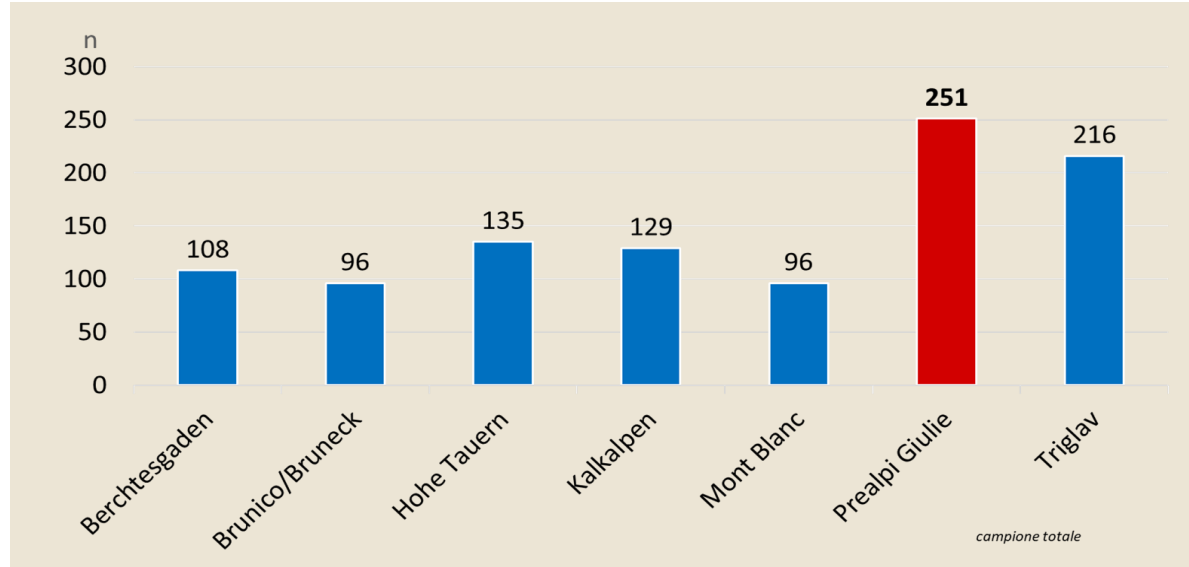
School meetings / Presentation of results
(1 per PWRs) May - Jun 2018;

Final Poster: July 2018

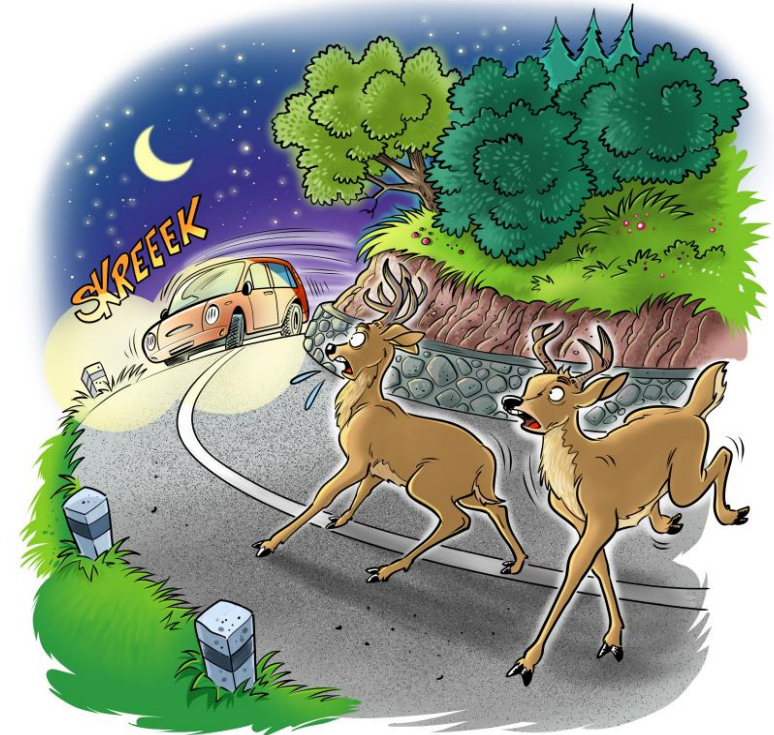
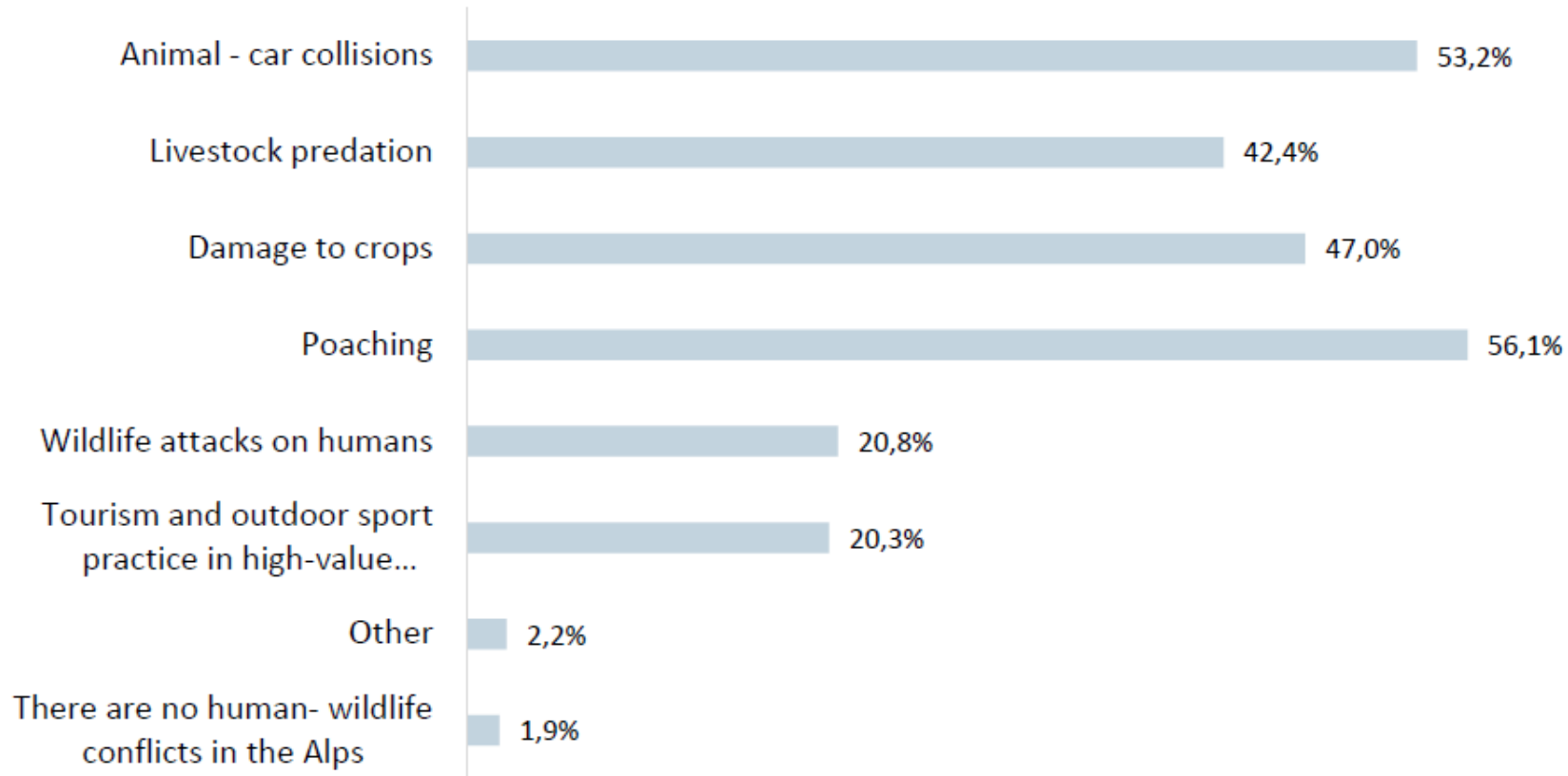


Investigating youth 's current knowledge

The sample

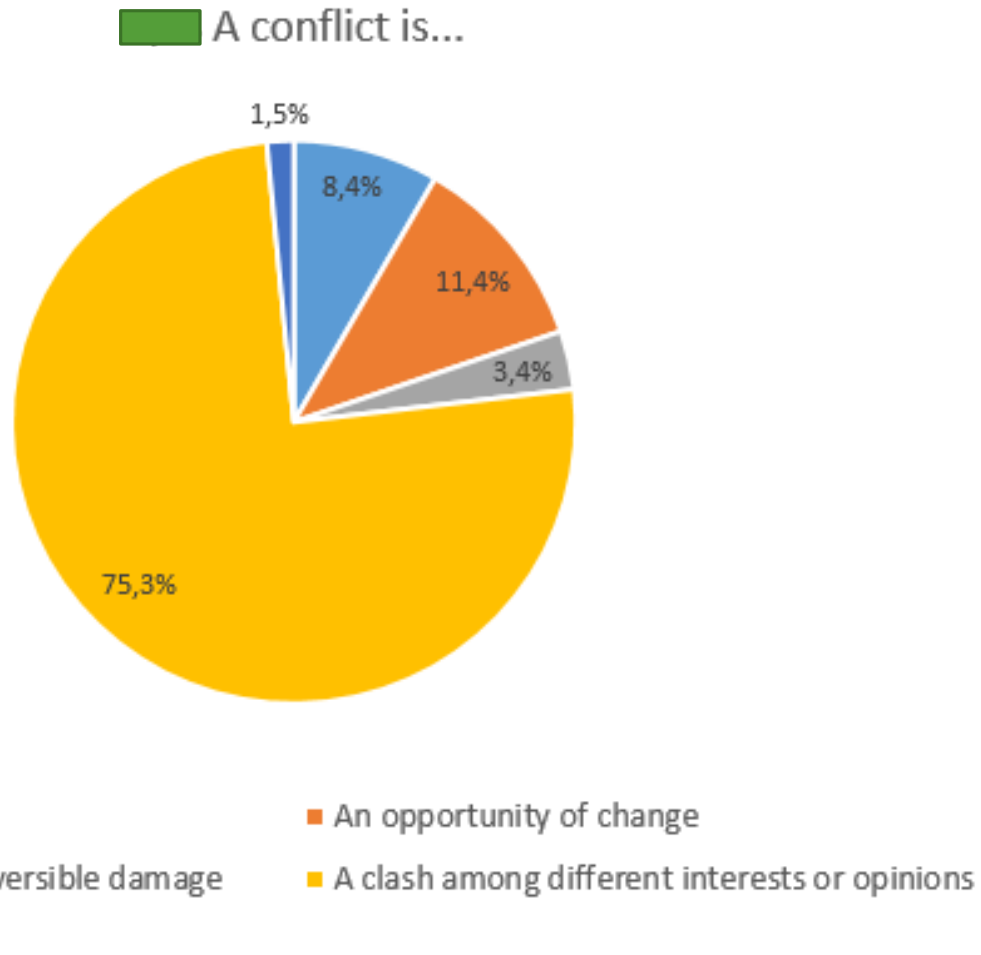


In your opinion, which are the main human-wildlife conflicts in the Alps?



Multiple-choice question

Investigating youth 's current knowledge



WP5 “Mediation in human-nature conflicts” outputs

Toolkit for Ecological Connectivity conflicts resolution in the Alps

1. Reduce/mitigate the problem

→ Strategies to prevent/mitigate the most occurring human-wildlife conflicts in an “ecological connectivity framework” (Wildlife-vehicle collisions; LCs’ predations)

2. Different social approaches and engaging techniques

→ Promote a constructive dialogue among parties, identifying the best approach for any issue, in any area

3. Promote personal questioning and creativity

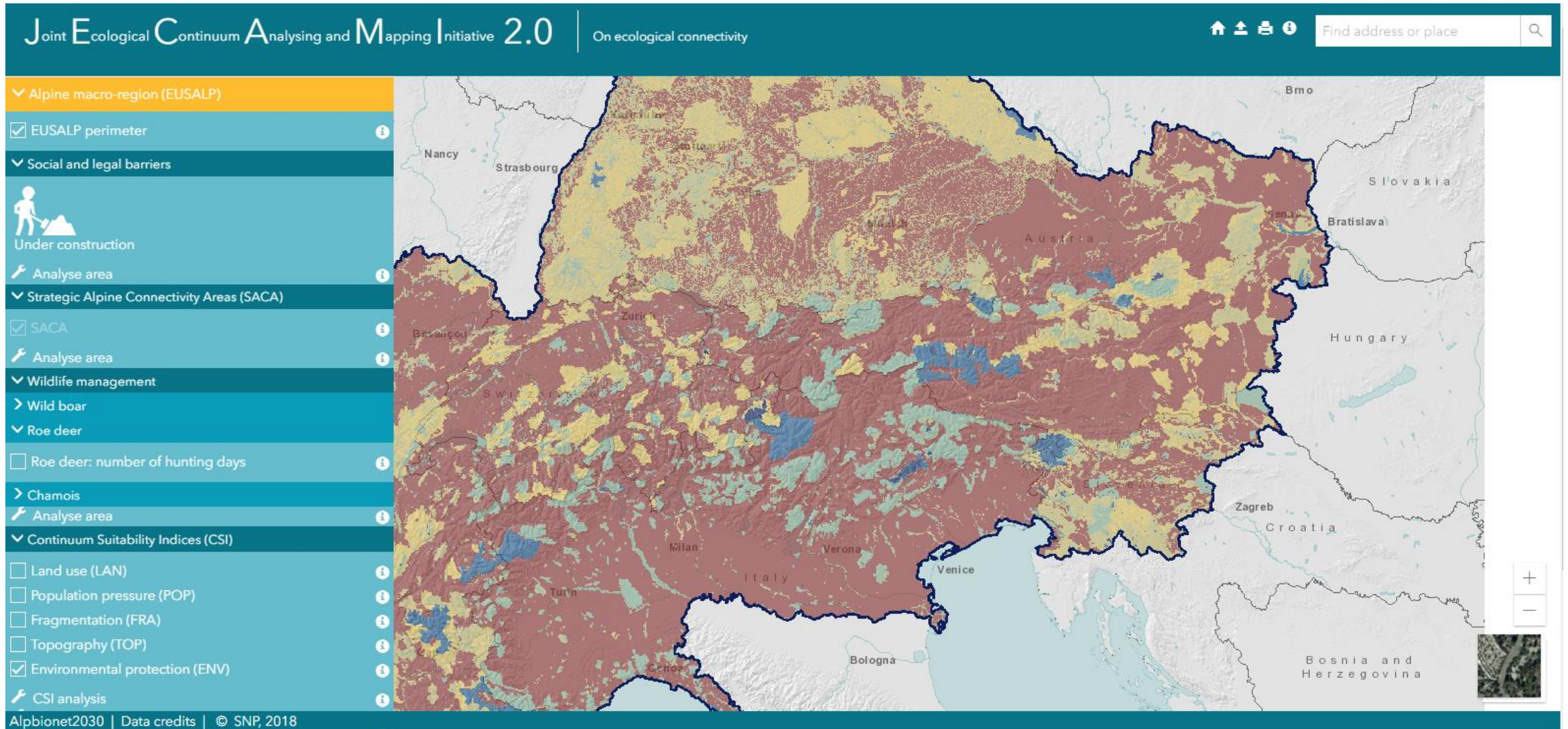
→ How can WE turn the problem in opportunity?

4. Stimulate the sense of community and the transnational cooperation

→ Enhancing the sense of belonging to a community can open new socioeconomic opportunities

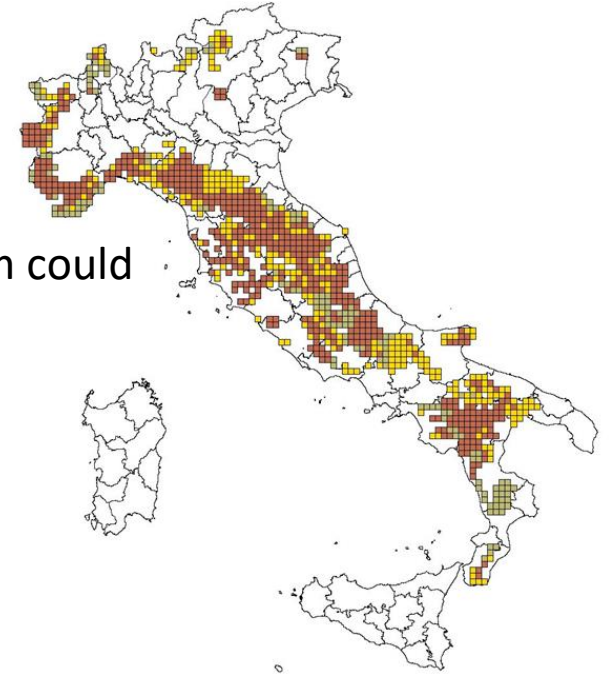


Social acceptance as a connectivity factor



The wolf in South Tyrol

- After more than 100 years, the wolf has reappeared in South Tyrol
- Farmers and livestock breeders are the most affected stakeholders
- Many stakeholders and local administrations fear that the mountain economy and tourism could die
- South Tyrol and Trentino proposed a regional law for problematic wolf culling
- The Italian Ministry of Environment is not going to ask for a Habitat Directive derogation
- Revitalization of the Italian National Wolf Action Plan (22 actions, including removal)



How can we prevent/mitigate human-wolf conflicts?

What is needed to encourage social acceptance?

What kind of benefits could arrive to the South Tyrolean society by a changed behaviour?



Human-wildlife conflicts can be real or perceived, economic or aesthetic, social or political (Messmer 2000).

Human reasons against:

- Economic: Threat to livestock, competitor for game species
- Social/Health: harmful for human safety (diseases, car collisions, perceived physical threat)
- Cultural: long-lasting fear and hate / Poster-Boy Animal / it holds more rights than other animals
- Ecological: too many individuals / not enough carrying capacity and control

Human reasons in favour:

- Welfare, right to live / Autochthonous Alps species / Maintain ecosystem health
- Harmless for humans
- Good tourism / funds attractor
- Intrinsic value (non-utilitaristic view of nature)



The wolf in South Tyrol

- Social & Political issue
- General low knowledge – differences between german/italian communities
- General tendency to make economy prevailing on environment
- Absence of informative campaigns
- High visibility of any damages/predation, even if not sure provoked by the wolf
- Difficulties in organizing stakeholders' tables
- Difficulties in discussing with SH if not a local



Südtirol sagt: Nein danke

Wolf und Bär zurück in den Alpen?

Dienstag, 16. Februar 2016 | 16:09 Uhr

The wolf in South Tyrol

- Human–Wildlife conflict **often** involves Human–Human conflict (*conflict of interests*)
- Biology is **part of the solution** but not sufficient in itself – wildlife management shows a substantial human dimension, which is **just as important** in any human-wildlife relationship even if not visible.
- **Perceptions of conflict** matter and solutions must address them (*why are people scared or angry?*)
- Importance of **balancing** global insights and local variability (*think globally, act locally*)
- Successful responses require the use of **Multiple and Adaptive Tools** (*in a shared environment*)
- Demonstrating **genuine effort** is a valuable first step



Save the date

Human-nature interactions and conflict management in mountain environment

Overcoming barriers in dialogue and mutual understanding to promote biodiversity conservation, regional development and ecological connectivity

26-27 November 2018

Eurac Research, Bolzano/Bozen, South Tyrol (Italy)
INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP



programme & registration form

<https://goo.gl/9KWpEy>

<http://www.eurac.edu/regionaldevelopment>



certified as "Green Event"
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of Bolzano/Bozen



Thank You!



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