

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

12th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity

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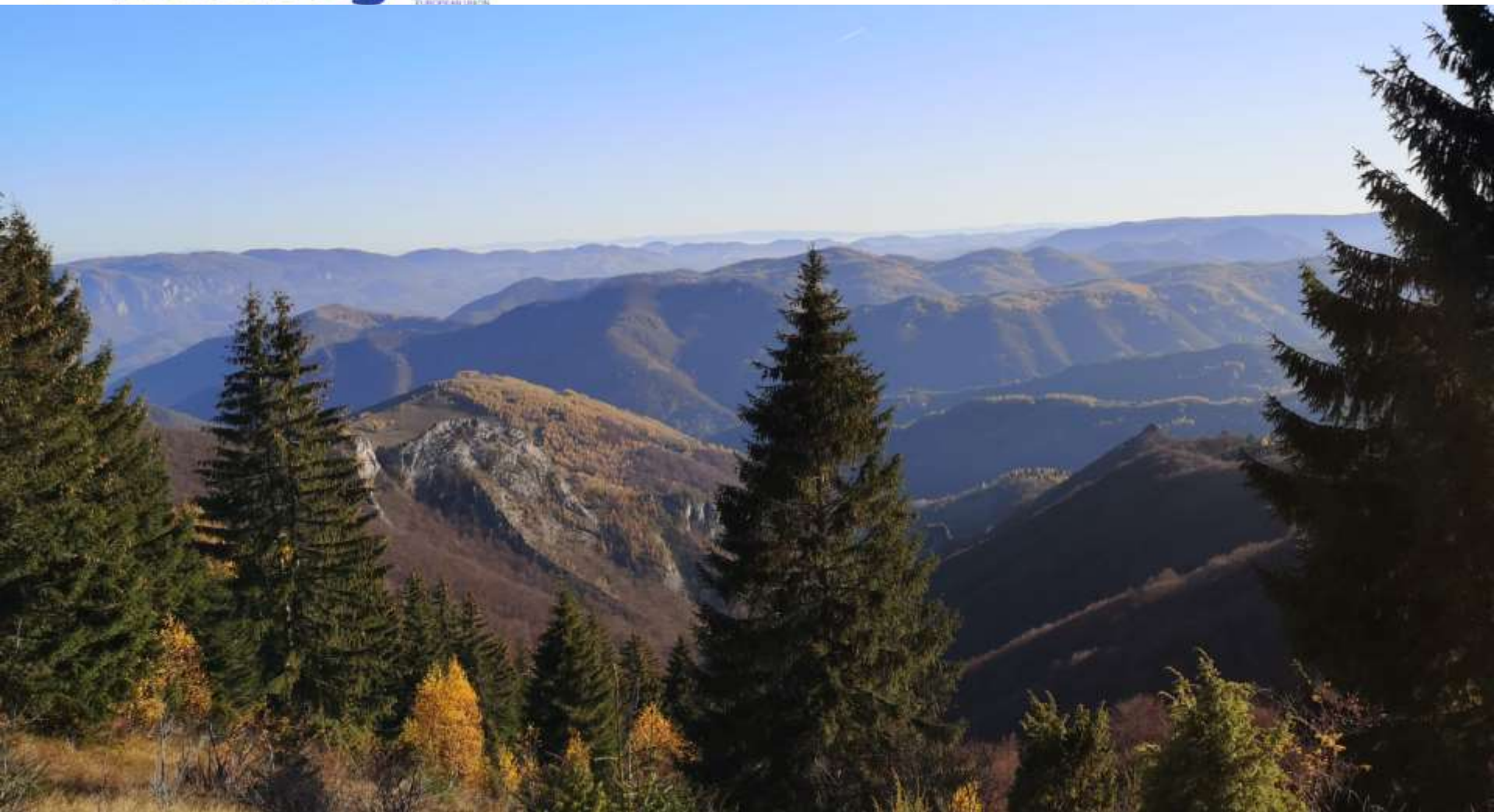
Project co-funded by European Union Funds (ERDF, IPA)

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ConnectGREEN

Aims at maintaining and improving the ecological connectivity between natural habitats in the Carpathian ecoregion.





Project Results

METHODOLOGY

for Identification of Ecological Corridors
in the Carpathian Countries by Using
Large Carnivores as Umbrella Species



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3.3.1. State of the Art Report on the existing planning system and their application for ecological corridor identification and management in the Carpathians

3.3.2. GAP ANALYSIS on the identification of the needs for improving the planning processes and tools related to ecological corridors identification and preservation



D 3.3.3 Summary on best practices addressing ecological connectivity and spatial development

Output 3.2

GUIDELINES ON HOW TO USE SPATIAL PLANNING TOOLS IN INTEGRATIVE MANAGEMENT OF ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS



[ABOUT CCIBIS](#) [CARPATHIAN FEATURES](#) [PARTNERS](#) [LIBRARY](#) [CONTACT](#)

CARPATHIAN FEATURES



[Red List of Species, Habitats and Invasive Alien Species in the Carpathians](#)

GEOPORTAL



The CCIBIS Geoportal presents various items of biological (e.g. endangered species, habitats) and environmental (protected areas, Natura 2000 sites, old-growth forests) information about the Carpathian Ecoregion provided by many partners working in the Carpathians.

See the manual.

[Go to GEOPORTAL](#)



Ecological network for LCs in the Carpathians



<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/03da1f6f67404518b3efe0d11f444e5a>

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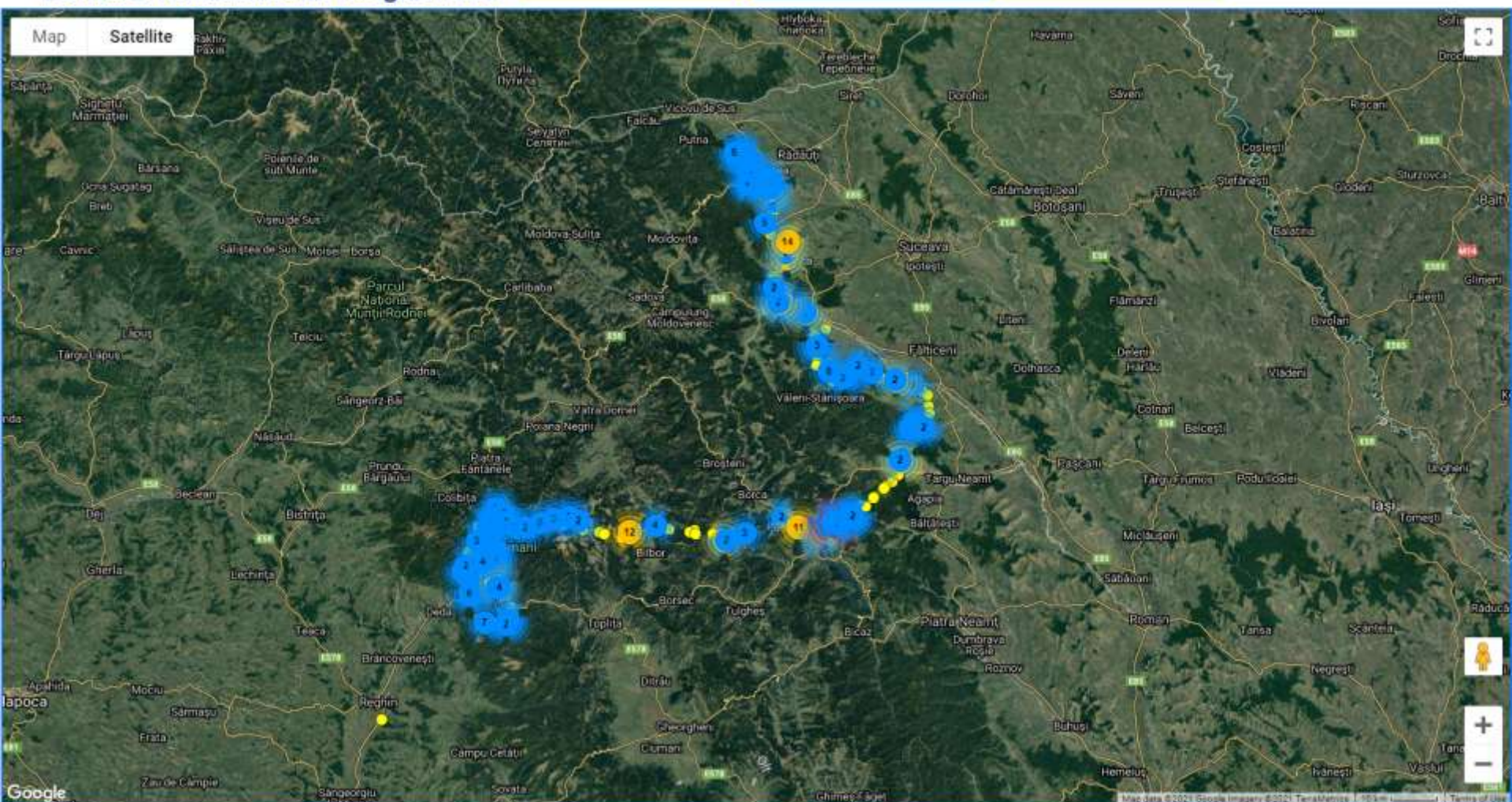
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INTERNATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON CONSERVATION OF LARGE CARNIVORES AND ENSURING ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY IN THE CARPATHIANS



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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DECISION COP6/9

Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

- Adopts the International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity and encourages the Parties, the WG Biodiversity and other stakeholders, with support of the Secretariat, to ensure smooth implementation of the Plan;
- Welcomes the implementation of the project ConnectGREEN - Restoring and managing ecological corridors in mountains as the green infrastructure in the Danube basin, funded by the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme; encourages the Parties to promote and use the results of the project, as appropriate, thanks the WWF Romania and other partners, especially CEEweb for continued support in implementing the project;

**GUIDELINES FOR THE IDENTIFICATION,
CONSERVATION, RESTORATION, AND
MANAGEMENT OF ECOLOGICAL
CORRIDORS IN THE CARPATHIAN
ECOREGION**



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AUTHORS: DR. GABRIELLA NAGY, SERGIO REJADO ALBAINA, VALENTINA DELCONTE, NELLA SERGEJEVA

Course 1

The Carpathian Large Carnivores

- There will be 6 lessons within this course
- Covers the basic ecological principles and ideas that are important to understand



Introduction

The Carpathian Region

Large Carnivores

Ecological Disturbances

Problems

Solutions

Course 2

The Methodology

- There will be 5 lessons within this course
- Covers what the methodology is, using models, and ecological networks



What is the Methodology?

Modelling

Ecological Networks

Protected Areas

Integrating Spatial Planning and Ecological Networks

Capacity Building / Learning Platform

Course 3

Spatial Planning

- There will be 3 lessons within this course
- Covers the diversity of problems when it comes to spatial planning, and the national differences in spatial planning regulations
- A number of case studies will be examined to give practical insight into the steps, problems and solutions



Spatial Planning and Biodiversity

Differences in National Regulation

Case Studies

Transferability study and strategy of the ConnectGreen project outputs

New WP(6)! - Enhancing cross- sectoral cooperation at regional Carpathian level and beyond

- Develop a roadmap on integrating ecological aspects in spatial planning policy, a guiding legislative approach/tool – Sectoral improvements to ensure operability/ inclusion of ecological corridors at national and regional levels.
- Promote cross-sectoral cooperation
- EIA process conflict analysis

What is next?

- Action plans for each pilot area to maintain/improve connectivity
- Spatial planning decision support tool (DST) linked to CCIBIS to assess scenarios
- Roadmap for integrating ecological corridors into spatial planning
- Comprehensive analysis of EIA processes
- CNPA Conference – Visegrad, Hungary, 28-30 September 2021

Thank You!



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