



13th Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity Updates on cooperation with the European Environment Agency

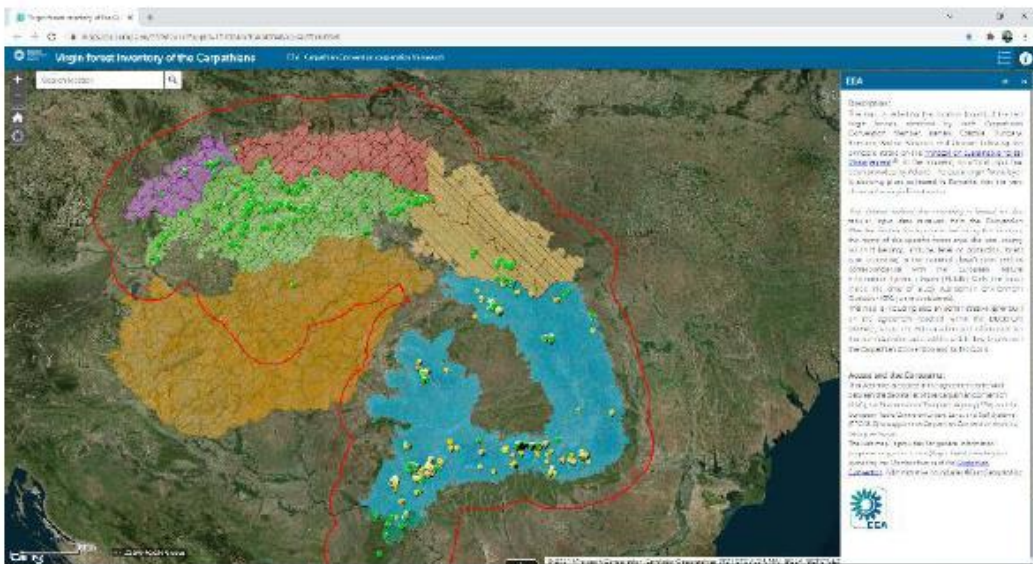
11-12 April 2022, ONLINE MEETING

UNEP Vienna Programme Office - Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention



Progress so far:

- Collation and update of official data sent by Carpathian countries on virgin, quasi-virgin and other old-growth forests in the region,
- Development of a quasi-forest Carpathian wide layer using peer-reviewed data sources
- Update these layers to the EEA map viewer developed for the Carpathian Convention
- Development of region-wide indicators on sustainable forest development



OBJECTIVES OF THIS MEETING:

- present the outcomes of 2021 work and
- Discuss and agree on the next steps expected under each priority action of 2022



2.1. The official virgin (and quasi-virgin) forest inventory - 2021

OUTCOMES – 2021

1

Harmonisation of forest typologies

Integration of the crosswalk between national forest types and EUNIS habitats classification for Ukraine plots

N	EUNIS	Ukrainian forestry types in English	Ukrainian forestry types in Ukrainian
1	F2.46 Carpathian [Pinus mugo] scrub	<p>Frequently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Damp Mountain Pine woodland/scrub on oligotrophic soils (B3 - Cr). <p>Rare and fragmented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Damp Mountain Pine woodland/scrub on oligotrophic soils (A3 - Cr).	<p>Часто:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Вологий гірськососновий субір (B3 - Cr). <p>Рідко та фрагментарно:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Вологий гірськососновий бір (A3 - Cr).

2

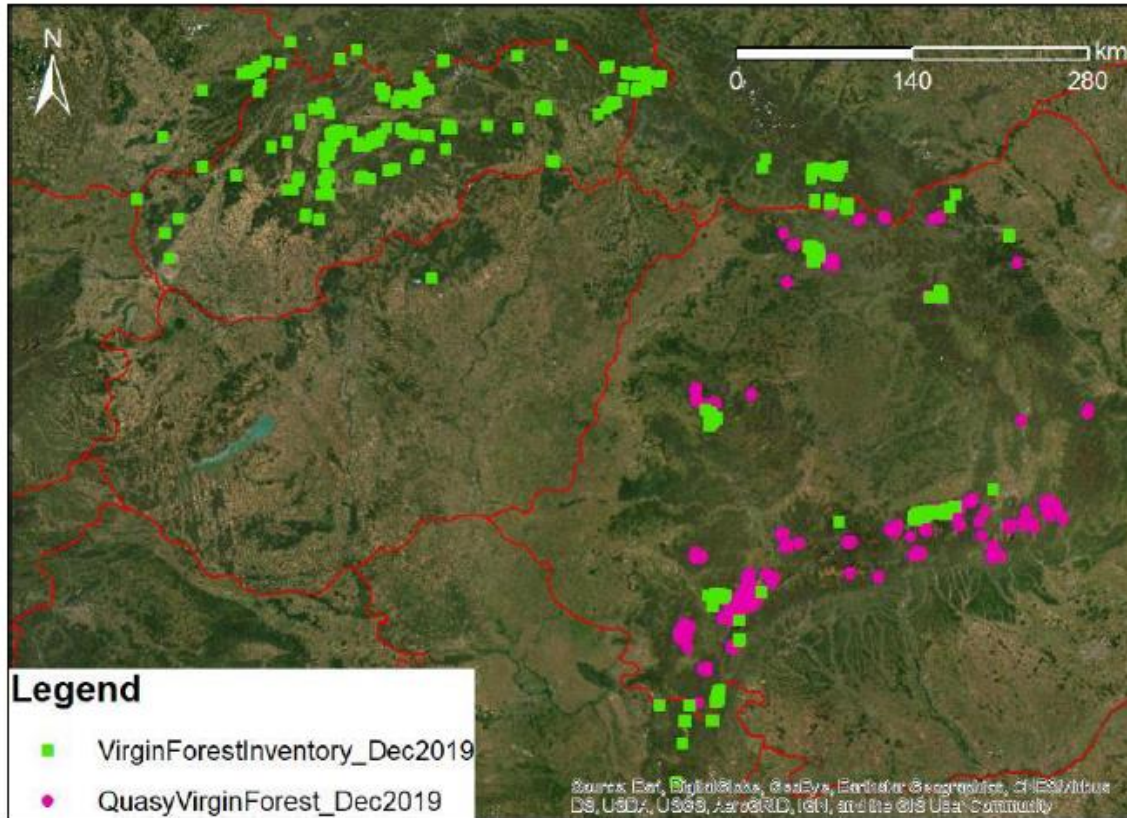
Integration of updated RO “official” Virgin and Quasi-virgin inventory



Virgin forest and quasi-virgin forest inventory of the Carpathians (KEO), version 2, December 2021

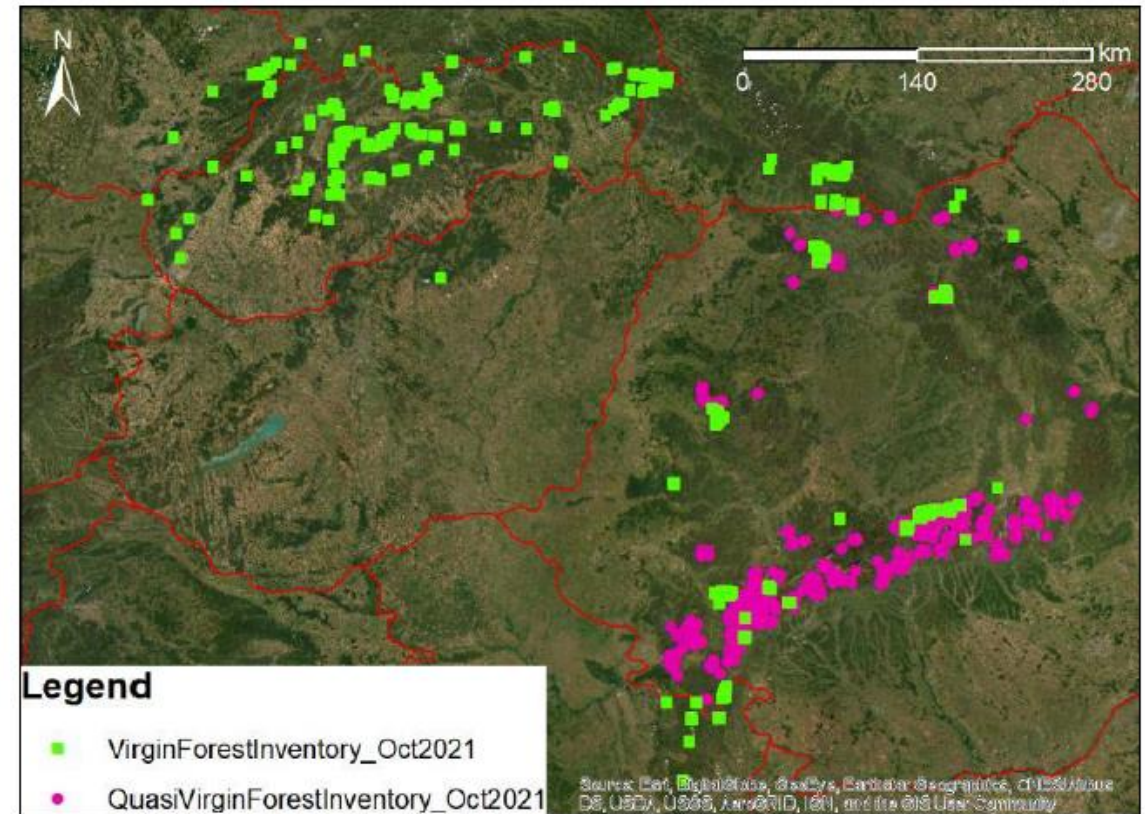
2.1. The official virgin (and quasi-virgin) forest map inventory - 2021

version 1, 2019



Virgin forest: 820 plots
Quasi-virgin forest: 1504 plots

version 2, 2021



Virgin forest: 915 plots (*refinement of the locations of 8 plots*)
Quasi-virgin forest: 3403 plots

3. Generate non-official primary and old-growth forests inventory - 2021

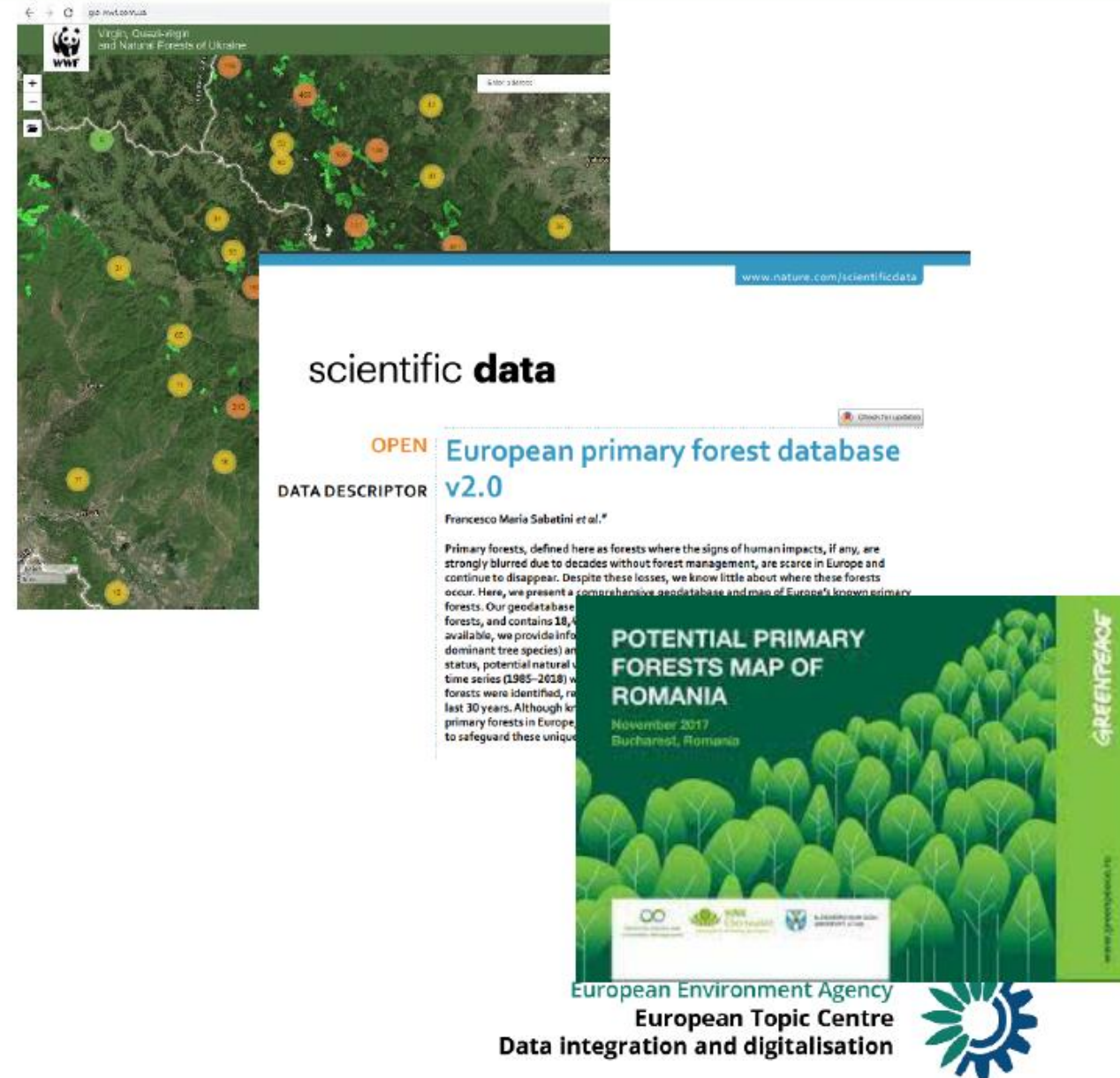
To *complement and enlarge the wide database on well conserved forest in the Carpathian Mountains* from trusted entities/organization to create a “non-official data” on well conserved forest (OGF) in the Carpathians,

Data sources explored

- European primary forest database v2.0 (Sabatini et al. 2021)
- WWF UA datasets (virgin, quasi-virgin and natural forests in Ukraine)
- Greenpeace Potential Primary Forests Map of Romania

Analysis

- European primary forest inventory (Sabatini et al. 2021) → based on local-to-national datasets, literature review and survey → **Baseline**
- WWF - Identified old-growth forests of Ukrainian Carpathians and Polissia map → already included in EU Primary forest inventory
- Greenpeace Potential Primary Forests Map in Romania → modelled location (non-validated) → **no ground truthing done and not used**



scientific **data**

OPEN DATA DESCRIPTOR

European primary forest database v2.0

Francesco Maria Sabatini et al.*

Primary forests, defined here as forests where the signs of human impacts, if any, are strongly blurred due to decades without forest management, are scarce in Europe and continue to disappear. Despite these losses, we know little about where these forests occur. Here, we present a comprehensive geodatabase and map of Europe's known primary forests. Our geodatabase contains 18,400 records of primary forests, and contains 18,400 records of primary forests (available, we provide information on dominant tree species) and their status, potential natural value, and time series (1985–2018) where forests were identified, or at least 30 years. Although known primary forests in Europe, to safeguard these unique

POTENTIAL PRIMARY FORESTS MAP OF ROMANIA

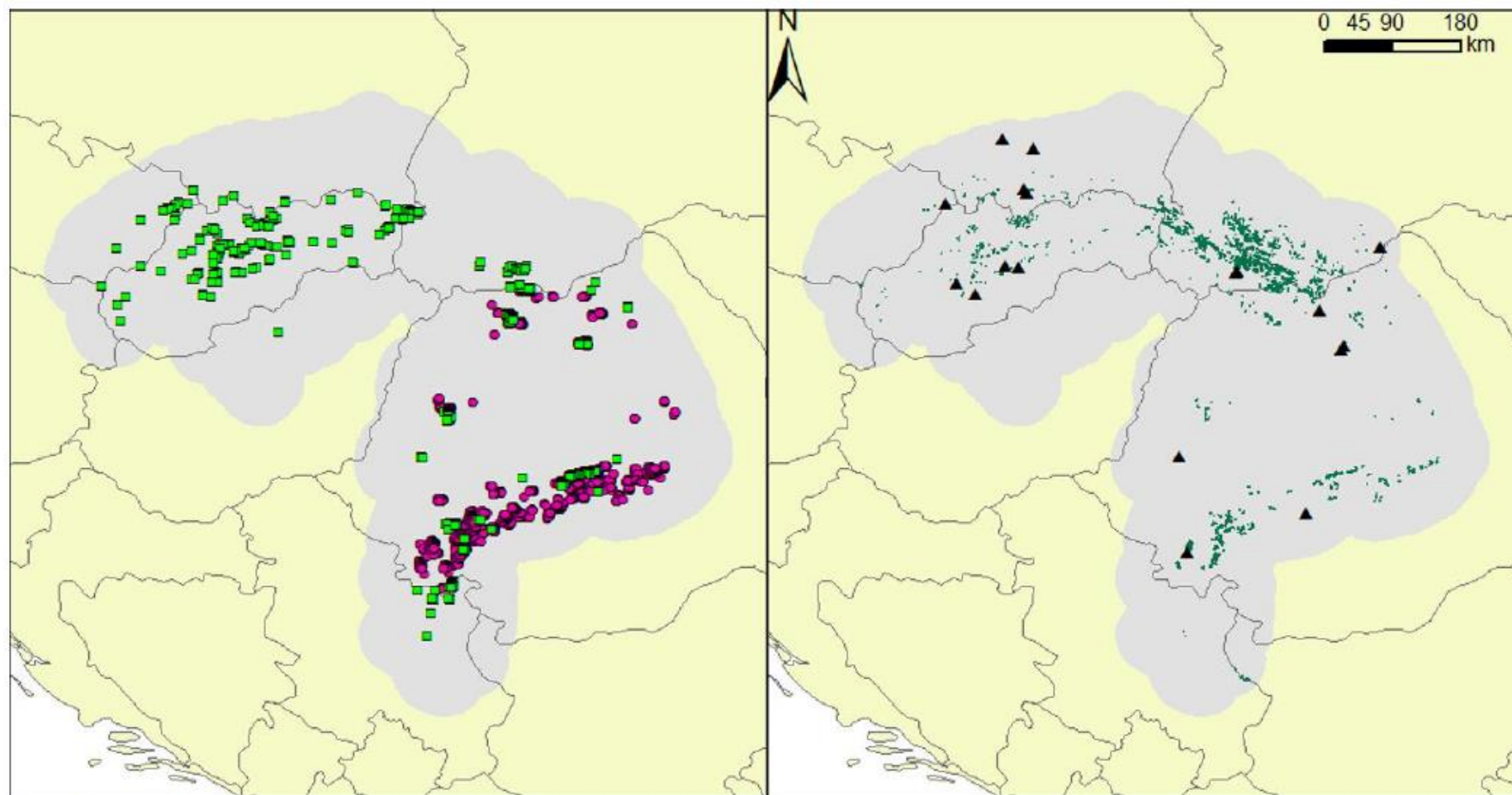
November 2017
Bucharest, Romania

GREENPEACE

European Environment Agency
European Topic Centre
Data integration and digitalisation

4.1. Forest connectivity assessment: identification of potential HNV forest areas as connectors

Comparison: Overview of Virgin and Quasi-Virgin forest layers of the Carpathian dataset (left) and European primary forest within KEO (right). **Identification of potential gaps**



Virgin forest inventory of the Carpathians (KEO), v2, 2021

- VirginForestInventory_Oct2021
- QuasiVirginForestInventory_Oct2021

European primary forest

- ▲ - points
- - polygons



4.1. Forest connectivity assessment: identification of potential HNV forest areas as connectors - 2021

Comparison of European primary forest inventory records vs Virgin forest and quasi-virgin forest inventory of the Carpathians (official - CCS)

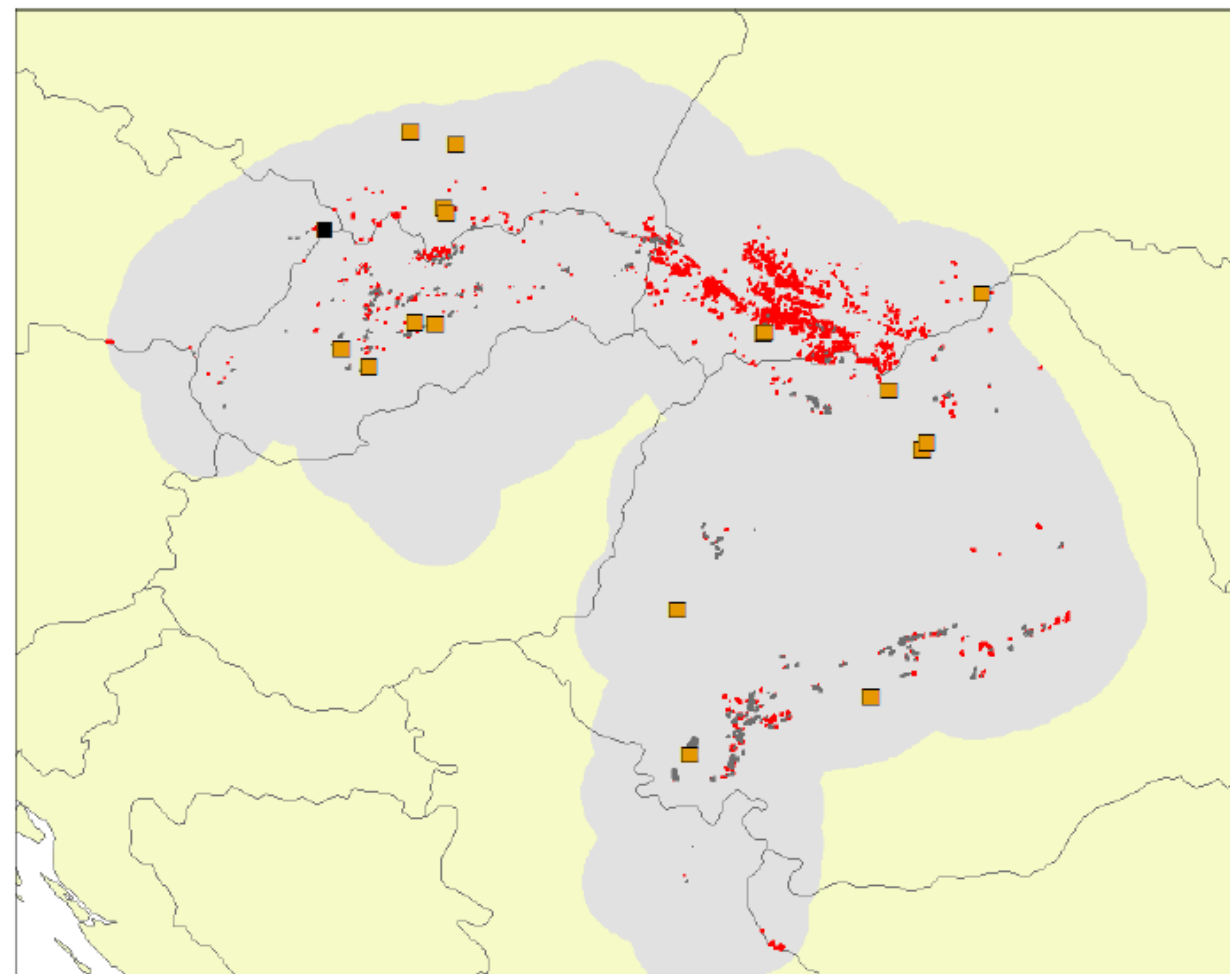


	Virgin and quasi-virgin forest inventory-v2 oct 2021	European primary forest database v2.0 within KEO (Sabatini et al. 2021)
Number of plots	4318	12708
Area (ha)	≈ 92500	≈ 176935



Identification of gaps

Potential **high nature value (HNV) forests areas** for connecting the "official" VF forests



European primary forest inventory records vs Virgin forest and quasi-virgin forest inventory of the Carpathians (official - CCS)

- Points present CCS datasets
- Polygons present CCS datasets
- Points not present CCS datasets
- Polygons not present CCS datasets

4.1. Forest connectivity assessment: identification of potential HNV forest areas as connectors - 2021

Assessment

Screening and selecting potential records that potentially could connect "official" VF forests

DONE

Comparison of Official Virgin and Quasi-virgin forests with European primary forest database v2.0

DONE

Filter out those objects already included in the Carpathian database based on:
•The name of the forest (or locality / region where it is located)
•The spatial overlapping

DONE

First version of potential gaps and forest connectors

TO DO

It contains elements of uncertainty that require expert and local consultation.
Consultation & validation with WG

Spatial analysis to identify potential forest connectors



1.1. Assessing forest connectivity & prioritisation for conservation – 2022 ongoing

