



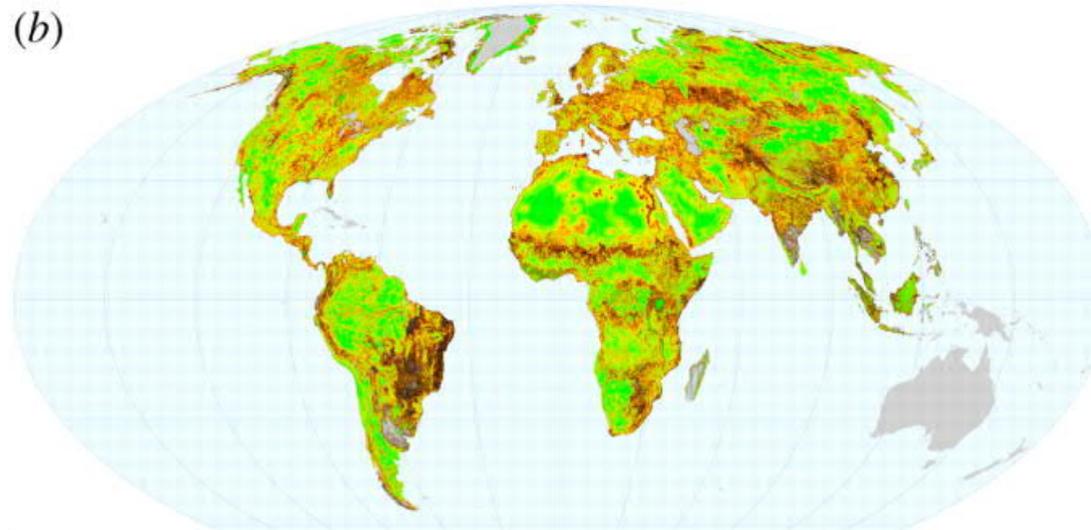
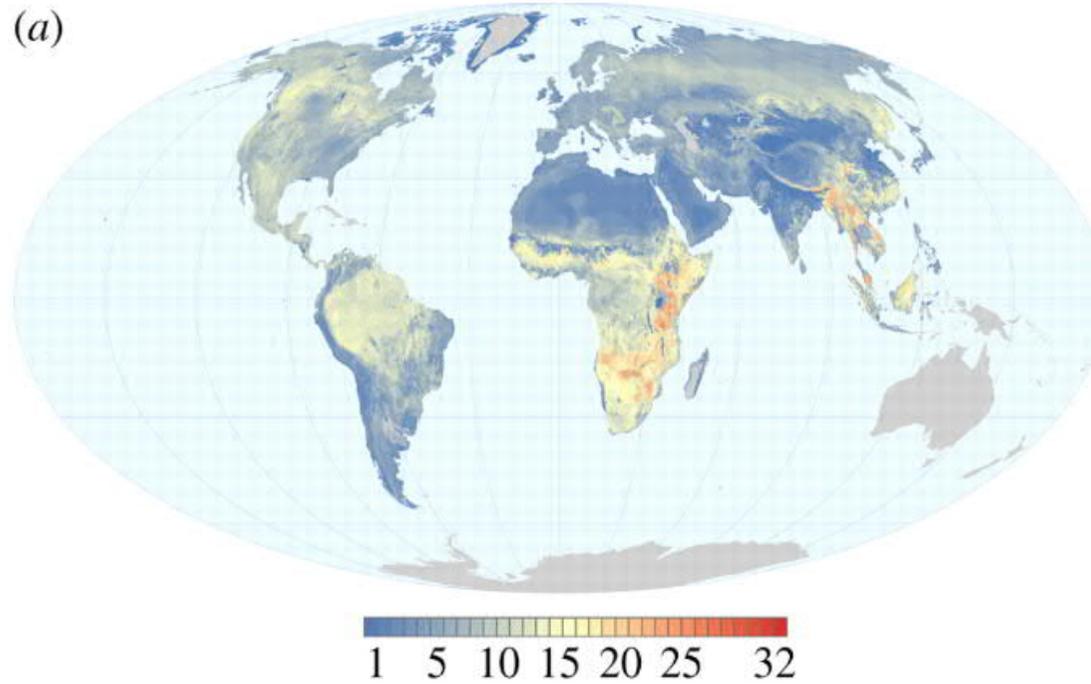
ConnectGREEN. Restoring and managing ecological corridors in mountains as the green infrastructure in the Danube basin

WWF DCP

WG on Transport Meeting
1-2 April 2019

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

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(a) Species richness of the world's terrestrial mammalian carnivores ($n = 246$) based on the extent of suitable habitat. Blue denotes sites with few carnivore species, and red denotes sites with the highest species richness. (b) Global hotspots of fragmentation and core habitat, standardized by species richness. Green denotes sites with low fragmentation, where carnivores, averaged across species with suitable habitat at a site, have the most intact high-quality core habitat. Black denotes sites with high fragmentation, where carnivore species on average have relatively little core habitat.



ConnectGREEN

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



Why ConnectGREEN?

Danube-Carpathian region is one of the Europe's last remaining strongholds for the large carnivore species:
gray wolf,
Eurasian lynx and
brown bear



Why ConnectGREEN?

The economic development in the area can lead to:



- barriers for wild species movements
- landscape and habitat fragmentation
- change of land use

Why ConnectGREEN?

Various impacts on ecological corridors, affecting:



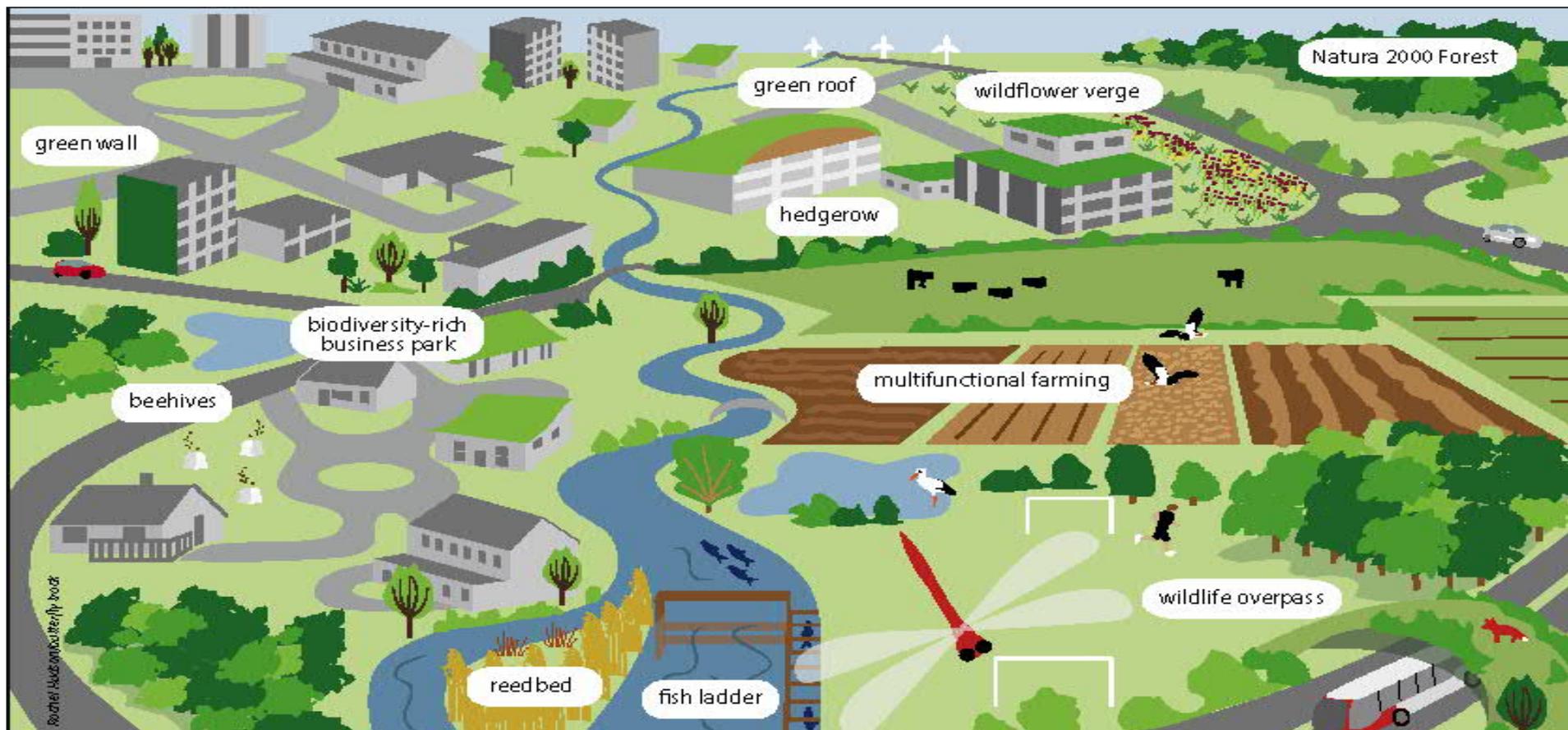
- Biodiversity
- Wildlife movement/ dispersal routes
- Stability and resilience of ecosystems
- Ecosystems services
- Regional prosperity

Policy Context

The integrated planning for transport and other infrastructure works prioritized by public policies and international regulations ...

- EU Strategy for the Danube Region
- EU 7th Environmental Action Plan
- EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy
- EU Strategy on Green Infrastructure
- TEN-T – Trans-European Network of Transport
- TEN-G – Trans-European Network of Green Infrastructure
- Carpathian Convention (and its relevant Protocols).

... **demands** a balanced infrastructure development taking into account the nature conservation for generating durable solutions



Potential components of a Green Infrastructure



- Core areas of high biodiversity value which act as hubs for GI, such as protected areas like Natura 2000 sites



- Core areas outside protected areas containing large healthy functioning ecosystems



- Restored habitats that help reconnect or enhance existing natural areas, such as a restored reedbed or wild flower meadow



- Natural features acting as wildlife corridors or stepping stones, like small watercourses, ponds, hedgerows, woodland strips



- Artificial features that enhance ecosystem services or assist wildlife movement such as eco-ducts or eco-bridges, fish ladders or green roofs



- Buffer zones that are managed sustainably and help improve the general ecological quality and permeability of the landscape to biodiversity, e.g. wildlife-friendly farming



- Multi-functional zones where compatible land uses can join forces to create land management combinations that support multiple land uses in the same spatial area, e.g. food production and recreation



Project in numbers

- Duration: June 2018 – May 2021
- 11 Partners from 6 EU countries (ERDF)
- 2 Partners from Serbia (IPA)
- 10 Associated Strategic Partners (ASP)
- Coordinated by: WWF International
Danube-Carpathian Programme - Romania
- Value: ~ 2.46 million euros

Project Partners

- **Romania:** WWF DCP Romania (Lead Partner); National Institute for Research and Development in Constructions, Urban Planning and Sustainable Spatial Development; Piatra Craiului National Park Administration;
- **Austria:** WWF International Danube-Carpathian Programme;
- **Czech Republic:** Nature Conservation Agency; Silva Tarouca Research Institute for Landscape and Ornamental Gardening;
- **Hungary:** CEEweb for Biodiversity; Szent Istvan University;
- **Slovakia:** The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic; Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava - SPECTRA Centre of Excellence of EU;
- **Serbia:** Institute of Architecture and Urban & Spatial Planning of Serbia; National Park Djerdap.

Associated Strategic Partners

- **Czech Republic:** Ministry of the Environment; Ministry of Regional Development;
- **Hungary:** Bükk National Park Directorate;
- **Romania:** Ministry of Environment;
- **Serbia:** Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection;
- **Slovakia:** Ministry of Transport and Construction;
- **Ukraine:** Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resource;
- **Austria:** Danubeparks - Danube River Network of Protected Areas;
- **France:** Alpine Network of Protected Areas – ALPARC;
- **Montenegro:** Parks Dinarides – Network of protected areas of Dinarides.

Main Objective

Maintain and improve the ecological connectivity between natural habitats, especially Natura 2000 and other protected area categories of transnational relevance in the Carpathian ecoregion through...

Specific Objectives

1. Eco-corridors and connectivity gaps identified in the Carpathians
2. Capacity for identifying and managing eco-corridors improved
3. Identify and implement strategic directions and instruments/practices in order to promote the value of ecological connectivity, in particular of large carnivore corridors, among planners and decision makers



Deliverables (I)

- Methodology for identifying ecological corridors
- State of the Art Report on the existing planning systems and their application for ecological corridor identification and management
- GAP analysis report on the identification of the needs for improving the planning processes and tools
- Set of recommendations developed together with spatial planners to avoid/ minimise fragmentation of ecological corridors and Natura 2000 sites

Deliverables (II)

- Ecological connectivity related database under the CCIBIS across the Carpathians and more specific for the pilot sites (spatial data, species distribution, critical barriers, ecological corridors)
- Strategy on the identification, preservation and management of eco-corridors in cooperation with the Carpathian Convention
 - Based on the Carpathian Convention Biodiversity Protocol
 - Strategic guidance document for maintaining and restoring ecological corridors

Other Activities

- Workshops on harmonizing the interests between nature conservation and different land uses on the national and international level
- Developing a brochure on ecological corridors
- E-learning training course for 2 target groups
- Public space events, video competition
- Media work

Target Groups



- Local public authorities
- National public authorities
- Sectoral agencies
- Infrastructure and (public) service providers
- Interest groups including NGOs

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Pilot Areas



Synergies

- **TransGreen**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVOuEuEWoag&list=PL3IAHhg1R_5vaVSQDLjtte4a02qL880IV
- **AlpBionet** <http://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/alpbionet2030/en/home>
- **BioGOV** <https://www.interregeurope.eu/biogov/>
- **HARMON, EURO LARGE Carnivores**
- **Etc.**



Together possible!



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Thank You!

