

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

WWF DCP RO
ConnectGreen Meeting
06 August 2018

- Agenda:
 - Welcome
 - Short introduction of each PP
 - General project introduction
 - WPs & deliverables
 - Project management set up
 - Steering Committee + everyday management (content + financial)
 - Regular virtual & f2f meetings
 - Common folder
 - <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/relevant-documents/documents-for-project-implementation>
 - Communication between LP & PPs
 - Other: Kick-off meeting
 - Questions

ConnectGREEN

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



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 milion 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

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*

The economic development in Danube-Carpathian area leads to:

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

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 planification for transport and other infrastructure works prioritised by public policies and international reglementations...

- 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
- Carpathian Convention (an its relevant Protocols).

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

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...

Methodology

1. Identification of ecological corridors
2. Reconciliation of nature conservation and spatial planning practices,
3. Capacity building of protected areas' staff
4. Development of management measures by using active stakeholder engagement processes.

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
- Database with all relevant spatial information in each **pilot site**
- **Maps** with the distribution of target species, core areas, ecological corridors and critical barrier sites in each pilot areas
- **Strategy** on the identification, preservation and management of eco-corridors

Other activities

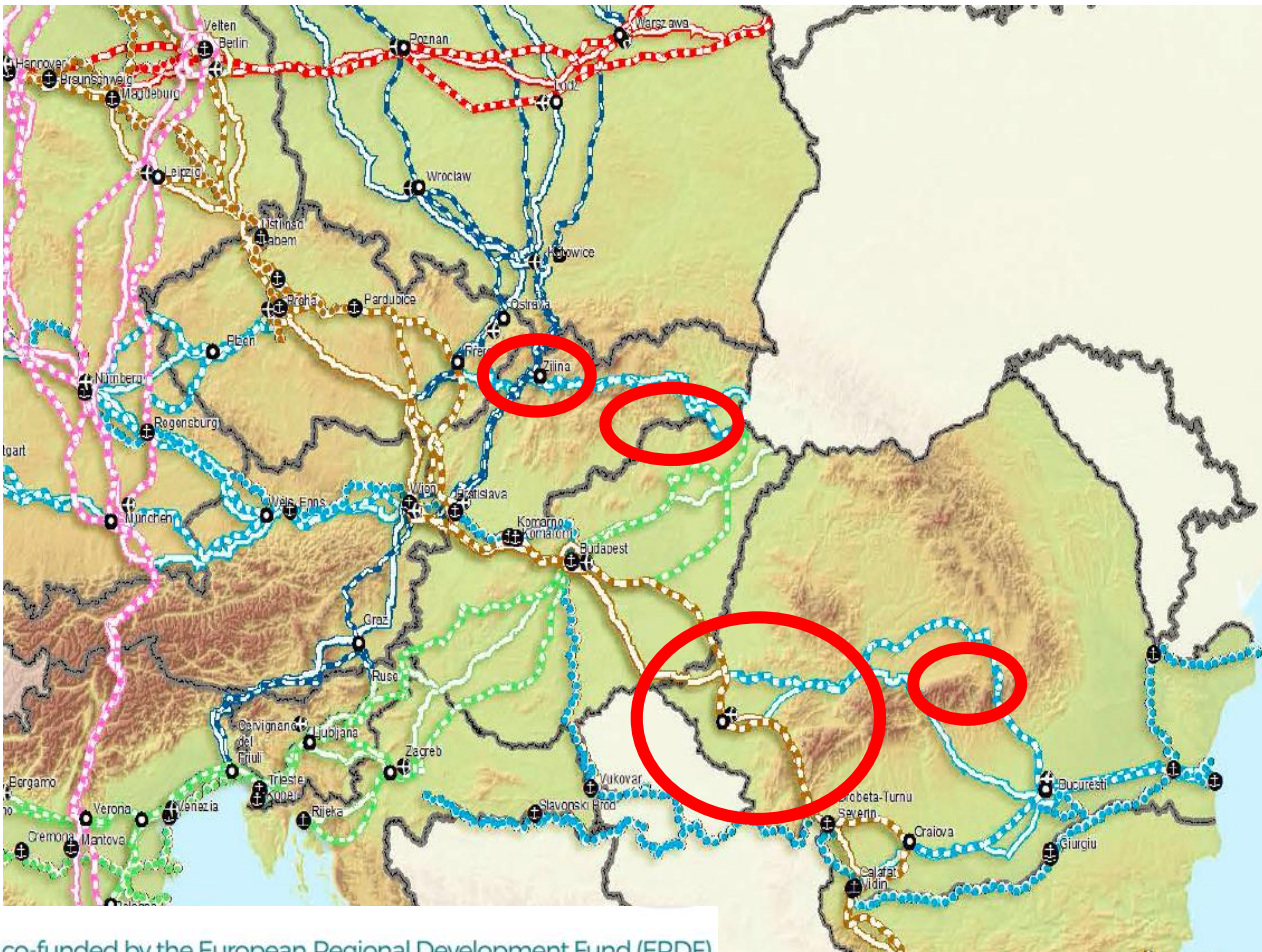
- Workshops on harmonizing the interests between nature conservation and different land uses
- Developing a brochure on ecological corridors
- E-learning training course for 2 target groups
- Public space events
- Media work

Target Groups

- Local Public Authorities
- National Public Authorities
- Sectoral Agencies
- Infrastructure and (public) Service Providers
- Interest Groups including NGOs



Pilot Areas



1. **Piatra Craiului National Park (RO)**
2. **Apuseni-SW Carpathians (RO)/ National Park Djerdap (SB);**
3. **Western Carpathians (CZ-SK)**
4. **Bükk National Park (HU)/ Cerová vrchovina Protected Landscape Area (SK)**

Thank You!

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