



# Ecological Corridors in the Carpathians

## Results and activities derived from the 3 GREENS

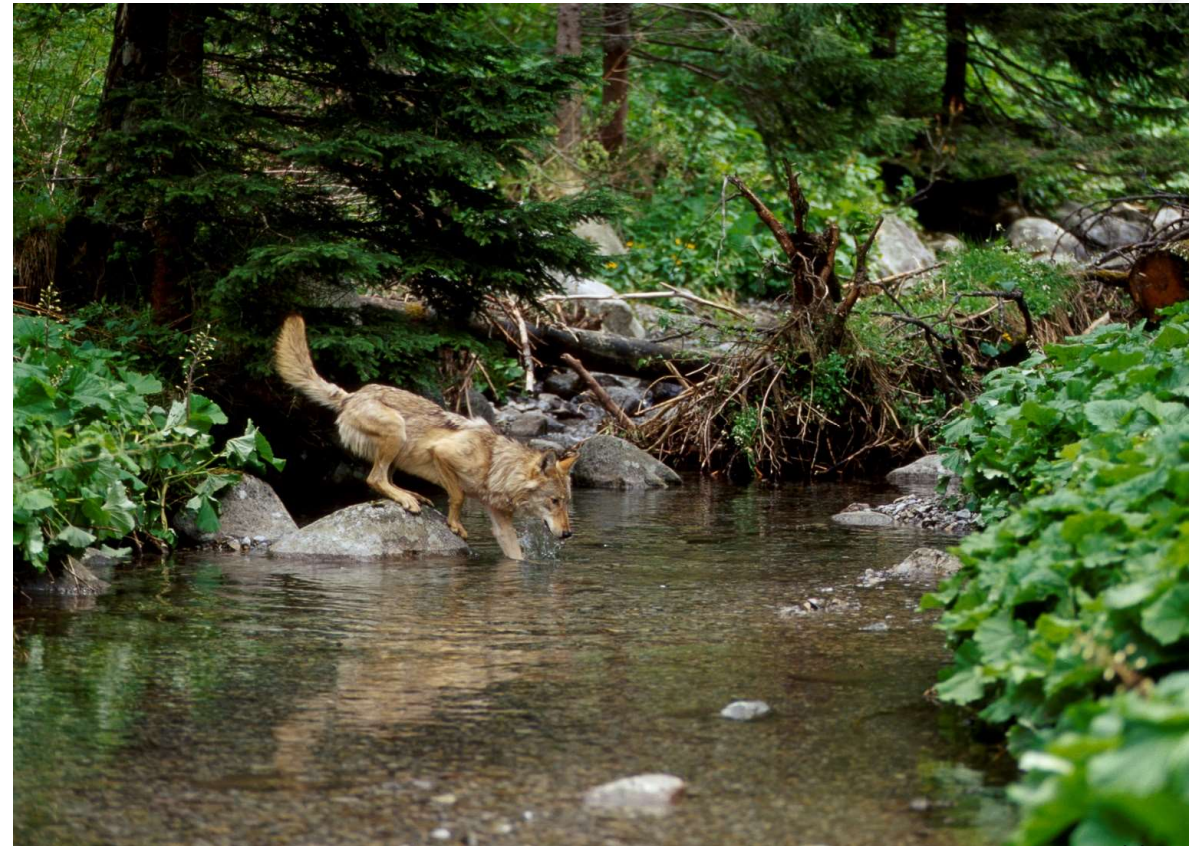
# TRANSGREEN & ConnectGREEN & SaveGREEN

**12<sup>th</sup> CCIC Meeting, Krakow, Poland**  
**17-18 November 2021**  
**Hildegard Meyer, WWF-CEE**

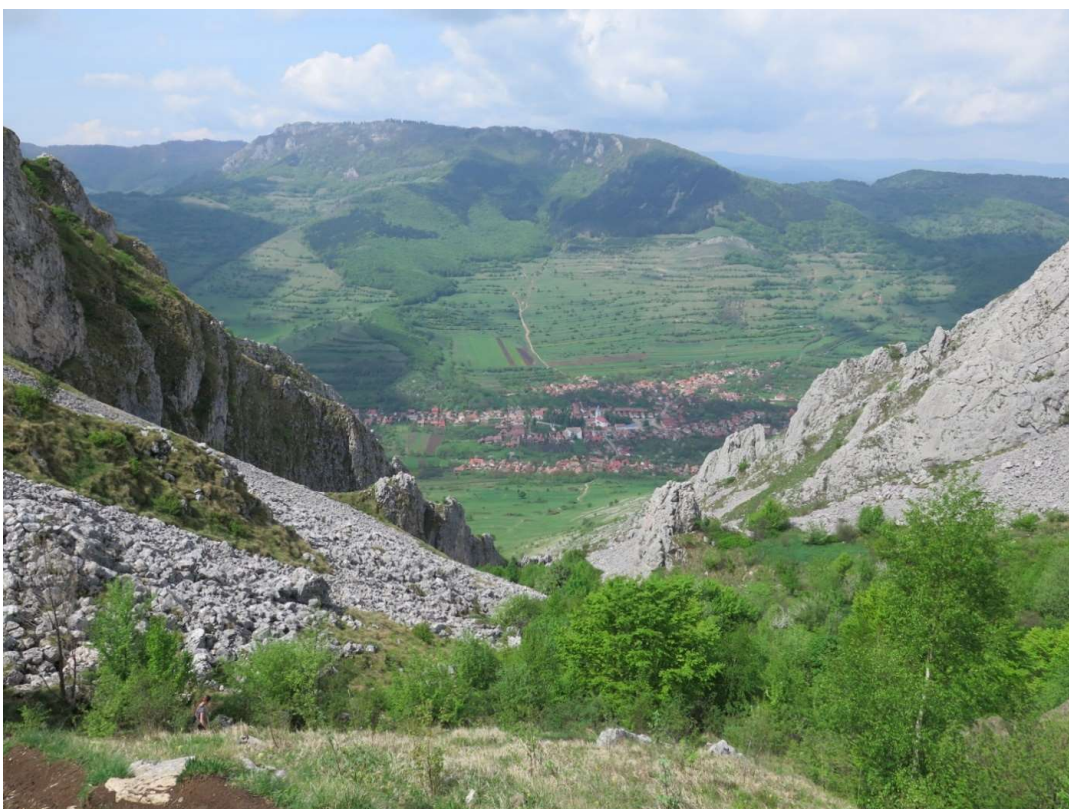
# Content



1. Context
2. Challenges
3. Principles
4. Compiled objectives
5. Compiled results
6. Next steps
7. Follow up



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# Species



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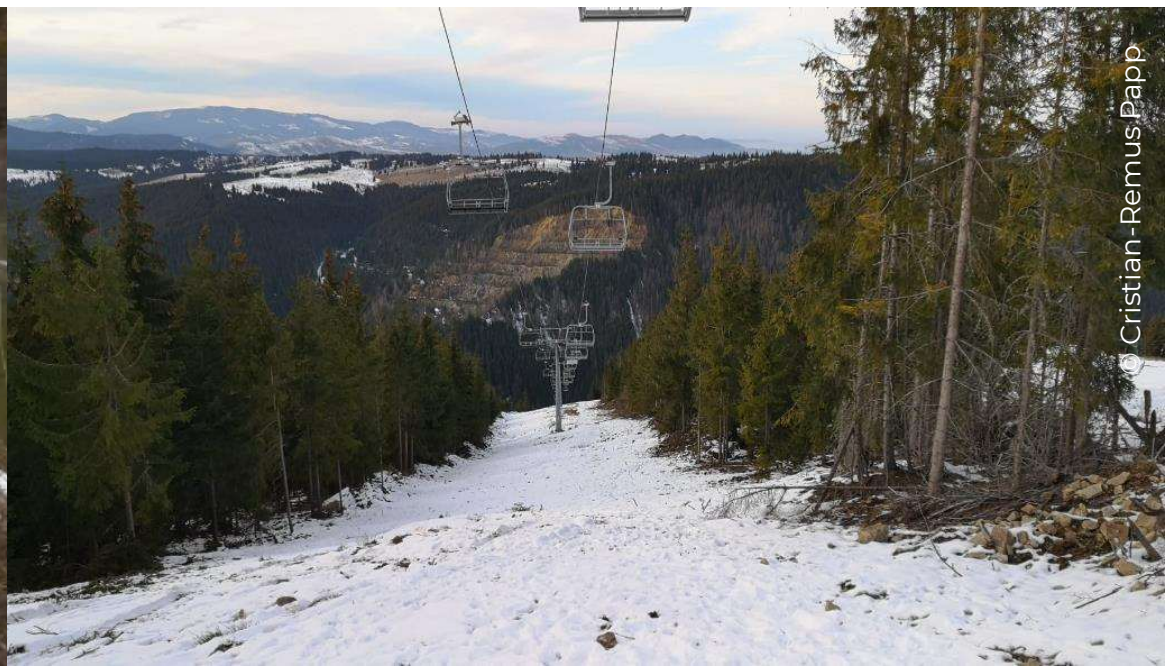
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# The challenges

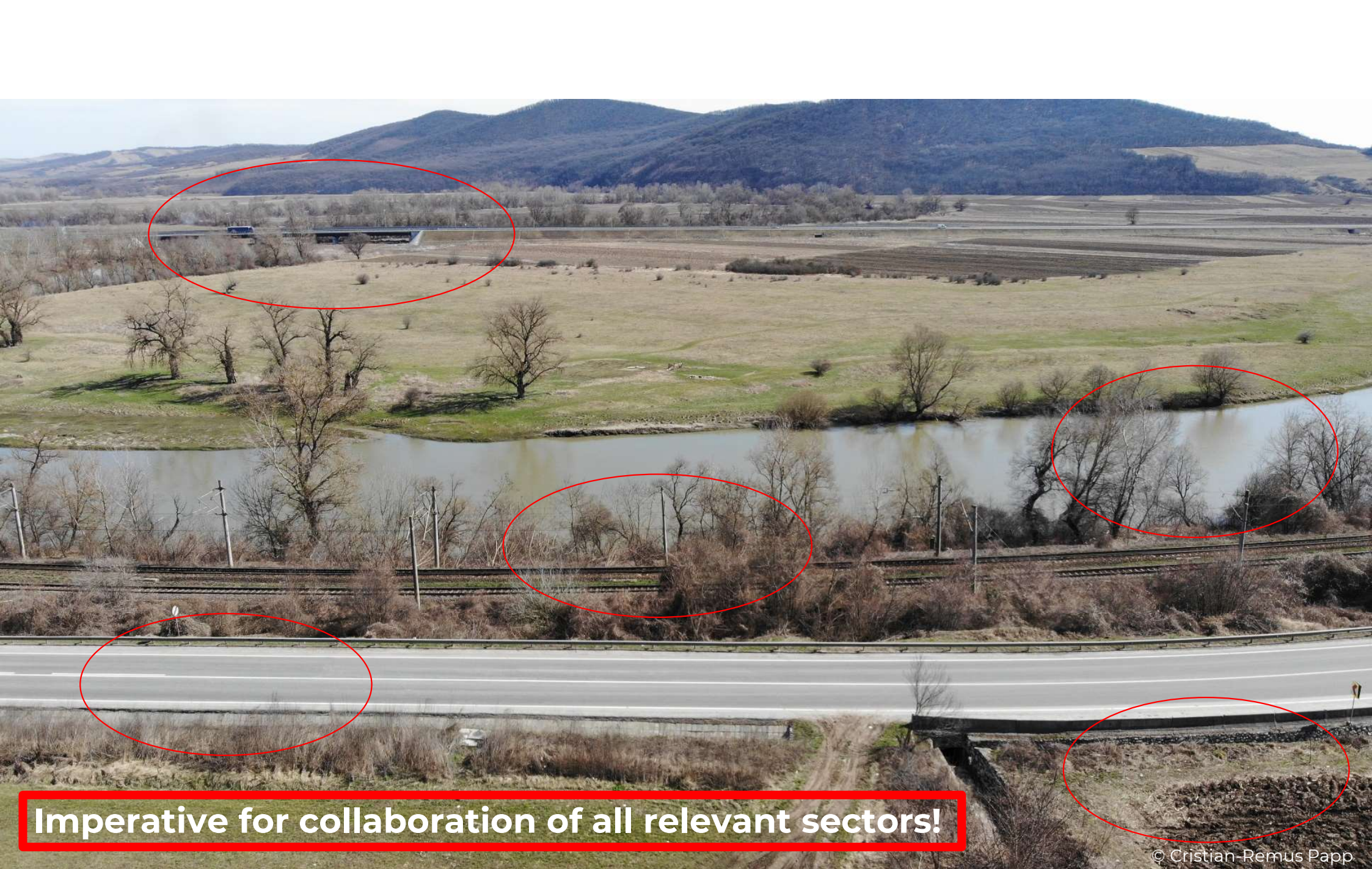


- Lack of **understanding** the **importance** of **ecological connectivity** for healthy livelihoods
- To **balance** people's needs for safer and better infrastructure while conserving nature
- **Lack of experience of authorities and engineers** in incorporating the needs for preserving eco connectivity in the planning procedures and eco-corridor identification/designation
- Lack of **cross-sectoral cooperation** and **early engagement**
  - Nature conservation, spatial planning, transport, agriculture etc.
- **Lack of** accessible, scientifically sound biodiversity **data**
- **Low performance** of environmental **law implementation**

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**Imperative for collaboration of all relevant sectors!**



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## NATURE NEEDS SPACE!

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## Balancing people's and nature's needs



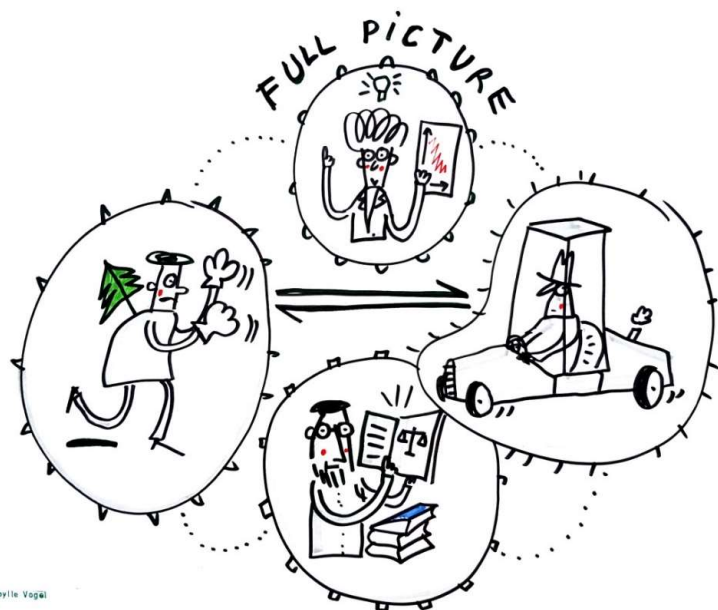
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# Key principles



Sibylle Vogel

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- Foster **collaboration** of key stakeholders beyond the projects' partnerships
- Strengthen **multi-disciplinary approach** for finding proper solutions, capacity building, science
  - Nature conservation, transport, spatial planning, agriculture, forestry, protected areas, water management, science etc.
- Engage in **policy development** at the national and EU level, Carpathian Convention
- **Awareness raising** at all levels

**January 2017 –  
June 2019**

**~2.4 Mio EUR co-  
funded by ERDF**

**12 Partners, Lead:  
WWF-CEE**

**9 Associated  
Partners**

**Romania, Austria,  
Czech Republic,  
Hungary, Serbia,  
Slovakia, Ukraine.**

## **Integrated Transport and Green Infrastructure Planning in the Danube-Carpathian Region for the Benefit of People and Nature**



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

June 2018 – October 2021

~2.5 Mio EUR, co-funded by ERDF, IPA

13 Project Partners, Lead: WWF-RO

10 Associated Partners (Ministries, Protected Area Networks)

Romania, Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine, Montenegro, France

Carpathian Convention



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# Safeguarding the functionality of transnationally important ecological corridors in the Danube basin

July 2020 – December 2022

~2.7 Mio EUR, co-funded by ERDF

13 Project Partners, Lead: WWF-CEE

20 Associated Partners

Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France,  
Germany, Greece, Hungary, Romania,  
Slovakia, Ukraine, Carpathian Convention



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# Pilot areas



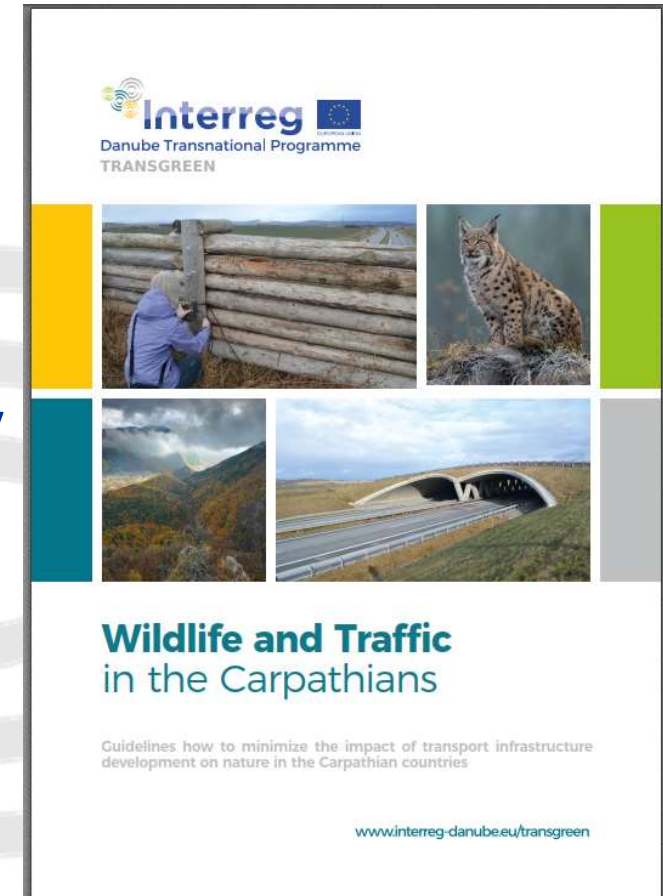
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# Results



- **Improved collaboration** between the sectors and across the target countries, awareness raised among relevant stakeholders - **over 460 organisations** were involved!
- **Guidelines on Wildlife and Traffic** endorsed by 7 Parties to the Carpathian Convention and adapted to national needs in Romania
- **EIA Training Package** successfully increases capacity in Ukraine & Romania
- **Catalogues of measures** provide good solutions for existing and planned motorways in the pilot areas, uptake into **Defragmentation Programme** in the **Czech Republic**, good basis for **future planning of A8** highway in Romania
- **Draft Joint Strategic Action Plan 2021 – 2023** for the Implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport - Carpathian Convention



# Results



## EU Natura 2000 Award 2020



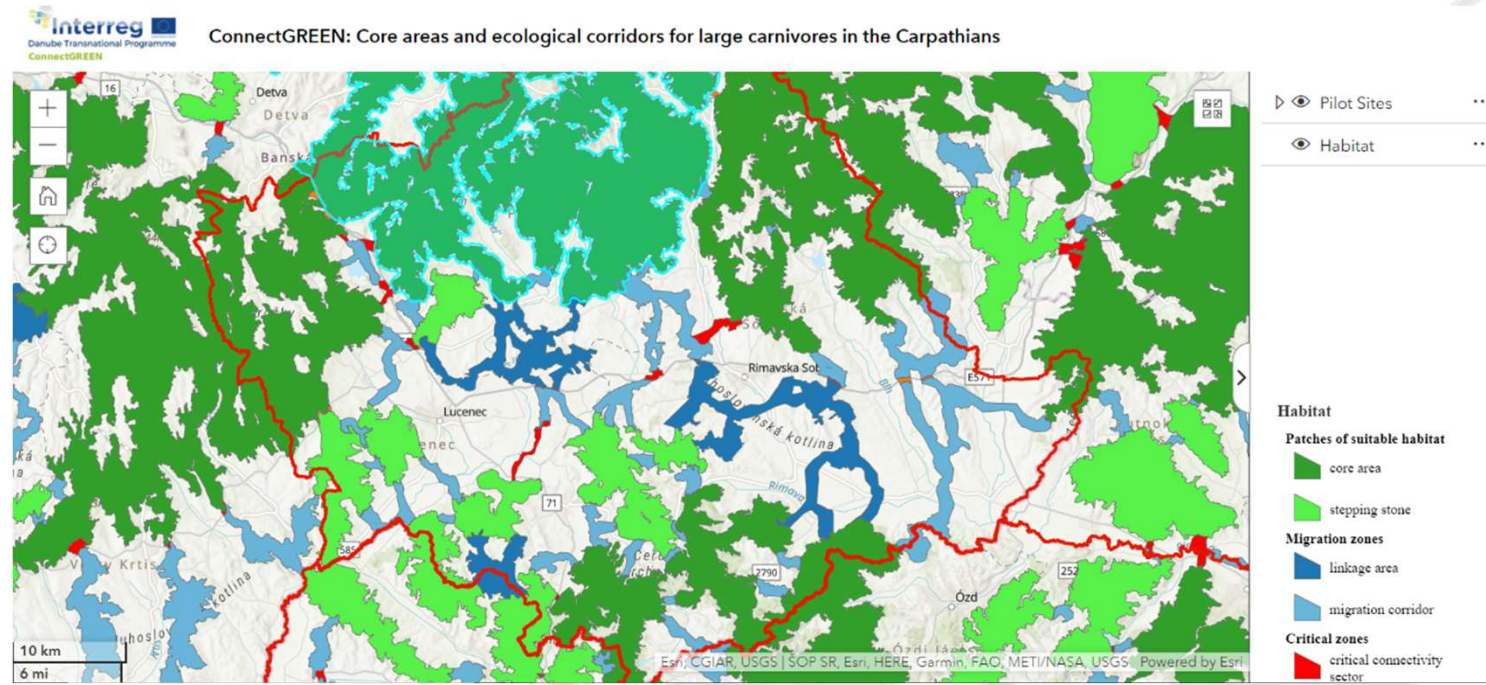
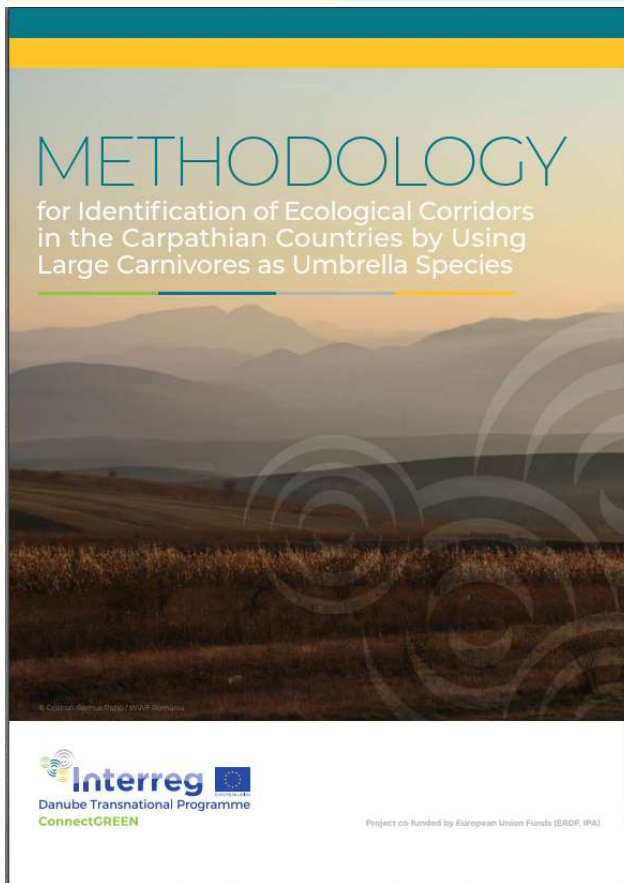
Screenshot

Category  
**Cross-border cooperation  
and Networking**  
**14 October 2020**

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# Results - tools



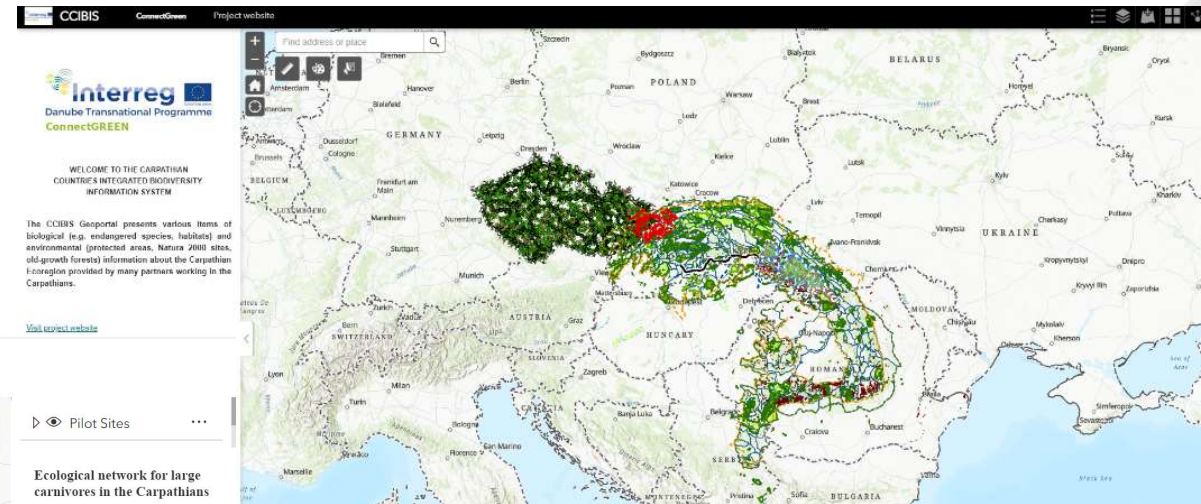
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# Results - tools



## Carpathian Map of Ecological corridors – confirmed with relevant national stakeholders

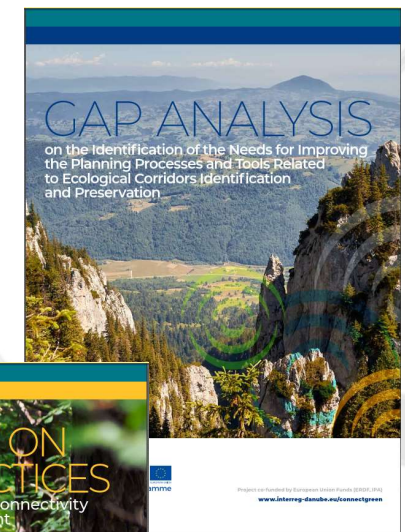
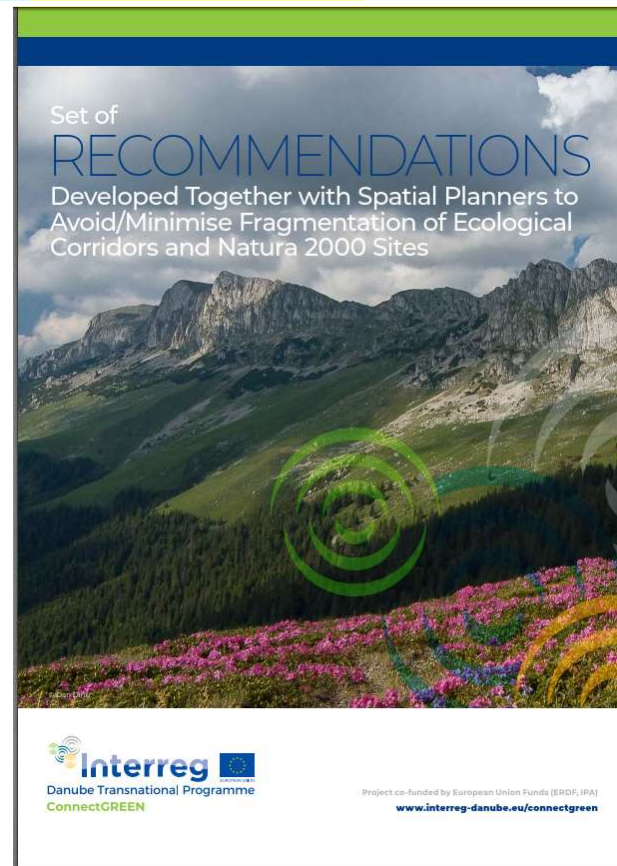
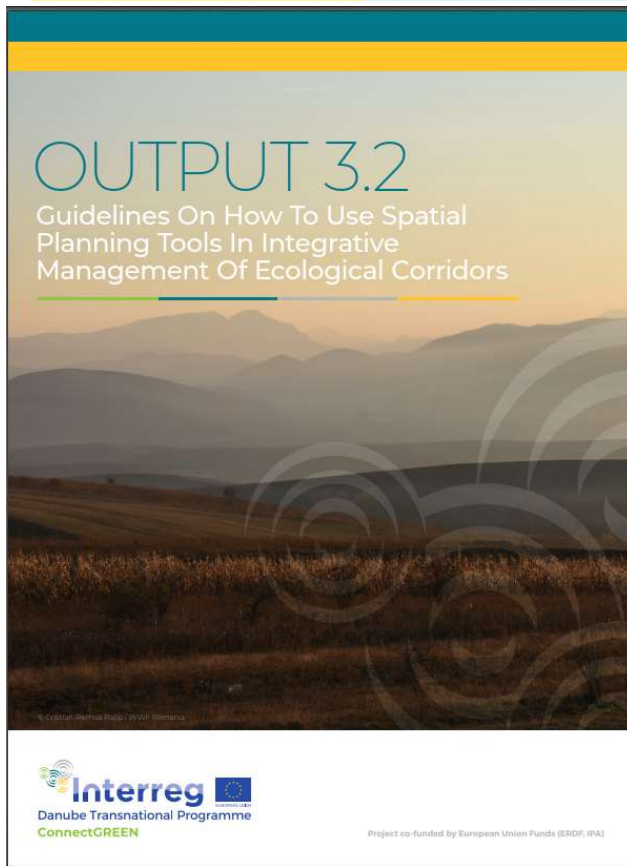


**Carpathian Countries Integrated Biodiversity Information System –** living platform, updated, containing the Decision Support Tool and the e-learning platform – [www.ccibis.org](http://www.ccibis.org)

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# Results – tools & studies



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# Results – policy

The cover of the report "International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians". It features logos for Interreg Danube Transnational Programme ConnectGREEN, UN Environment Programme, eurac research, CE web, and WWF. Below the logos are four photographs: two wolves, a brown bear, a lynx, and a mountain landscape. The title "INTERNATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON CONSERVATION OF LARGE CARNIVORES AND ENSURING ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY IN THE CARPATHIANS" is printed in bold, with the website [www.interreg-danube.eu/connectgreen](http://www.interreg-danube.eu/connectgreen) and "Project co-funded by European Union Funds (ERDF, IPA)" at the bottom.The cover of the report "Guidelines for the Identification, Conservation, Restoration, and Management of Ecological Corridors in the Carpathian Ecoregion". It features a landscape photograph of a green valley with mountains in the background. The title "GUIDELINES" is prominently displayed, followed by the subtitle "For the Identification, Conservation, Restoration, and Management of Ecological Corridors in the Carpathian Ecoregion". At the bottom, it includes the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme ConnectGREEN logo and the text "Project co-funded by European Union Funds (ERDF, IPA) and the Hungarian State" with the website [www.interreg-danube.eu/connectgreen](http://www.interreg-danube.eu/connectgreen).

## National Roadmaps on Integrating Ecological Corridors into National Spatial Planning

## Detailed report on the possibilities to improve the EIA Directive

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## International Conference

### Protected Areas - Cornerstones of Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians and Beyond

Visegrád, Hungary  
28-30 September 2021  
Format: hybrid

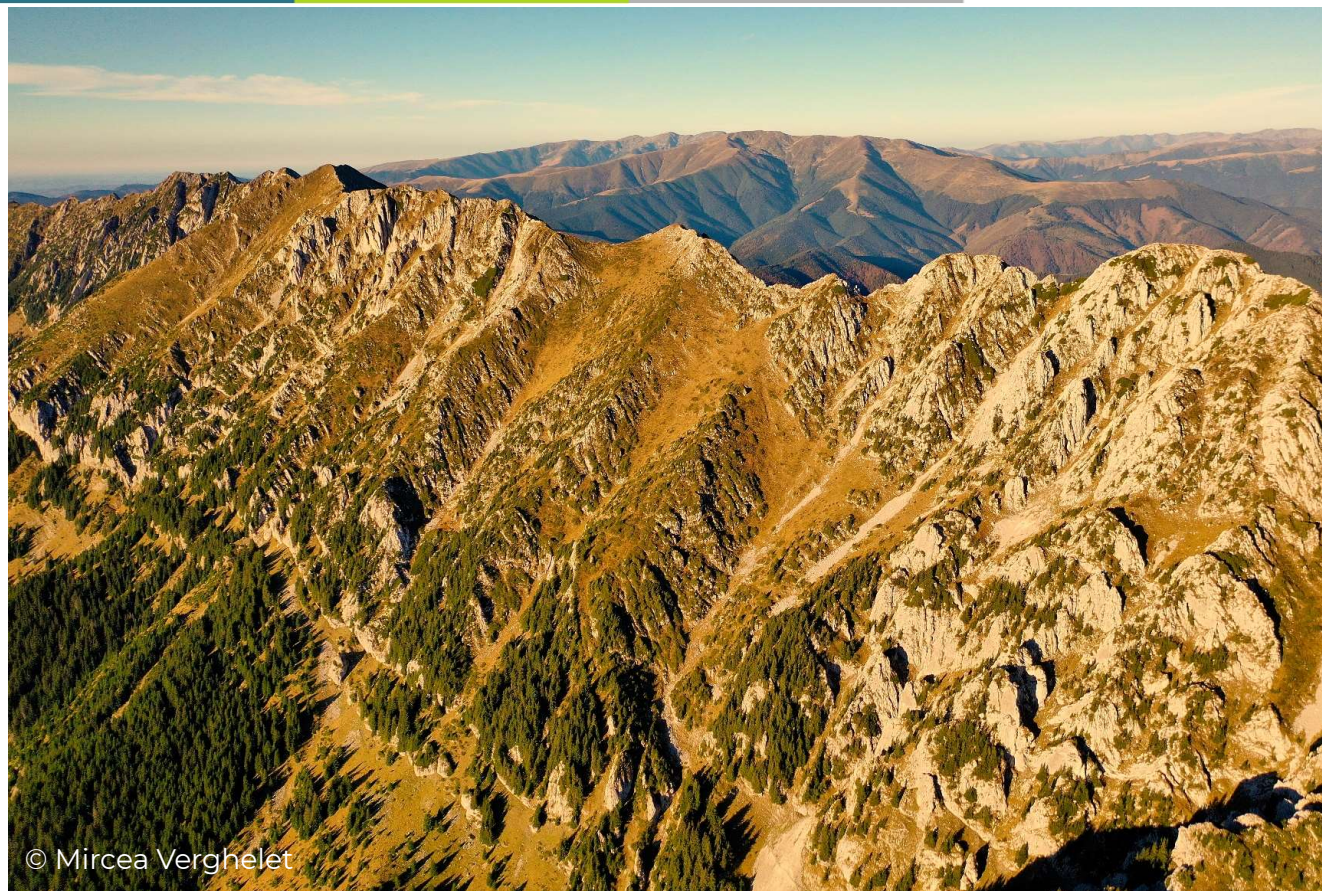
For more information, go to  
[www.interreg-danube.eu/connectgreen](http://www.interreg-danube.eu/connectgreen)

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# Expected results

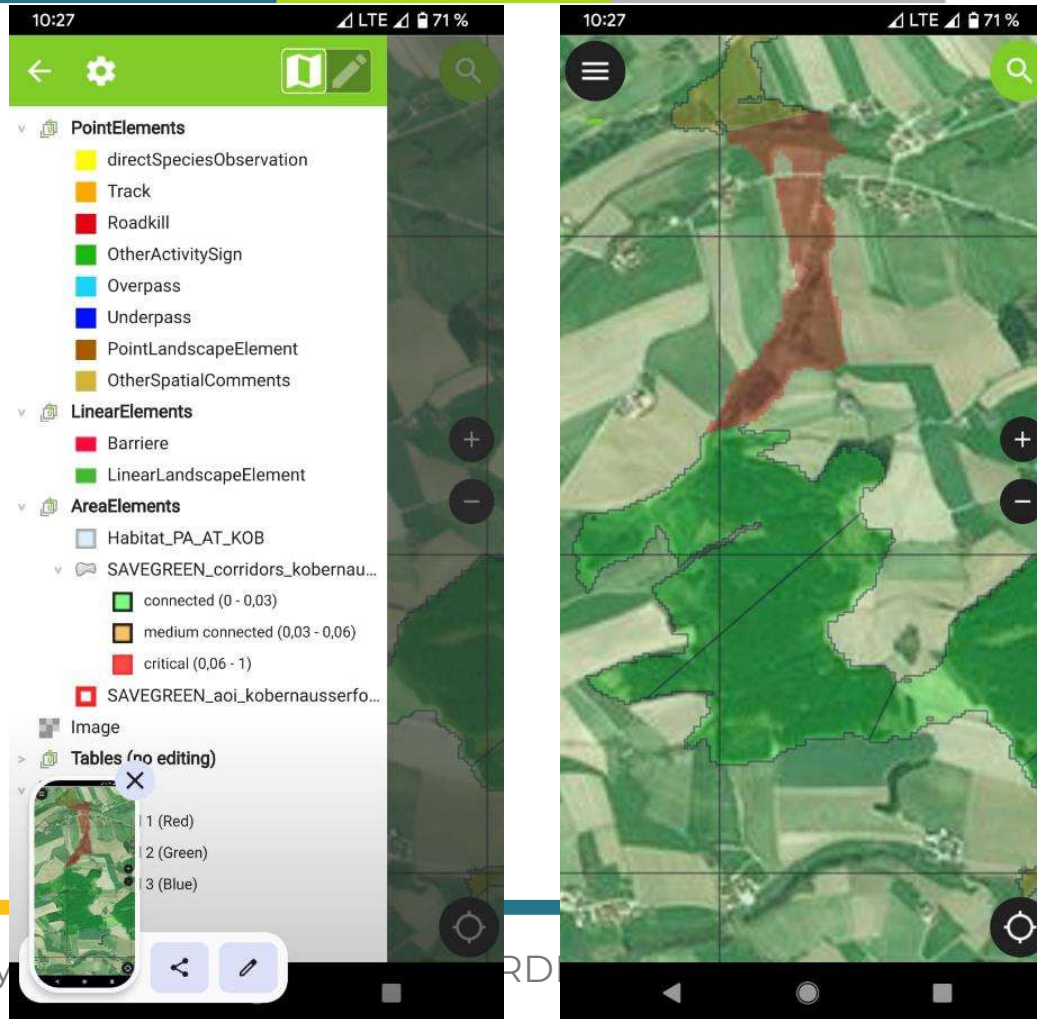


- Standardized **methodology for monitoring** structural and functional connectivity incl. application toolbox for fieldwork & analysis
- **Local cross-sectoral operational plans** for each pilot area incl. preparatory actions for its implementation
- **Capacity building program** for authorities & training events for public authorities and key players on cost/benefit analysis, SEA, EIA, etc.
- **Recommendations** towards the integration of mitigation measures into the national and EU level policy processes
- **International conference** in coordination with IENE 2022 Conference

# Current Activities



QField GIS app  
For harmonizing  
data collection



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# Joint activities Carpathian Convention



- **Promotion** of ecological connectivity across all sectors
- **Mainstreaming** principles of ecological connectivity into national and regional policy & funding schemes
- Biodiversity **Standardization** (in the very beginning)
- **Implementation** of the **Joint Action Plan** on Sustainable Transportation & **International Action Plan** on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity
- **Joint Declaration on Ecological Connectivity** for the recognition at the next **EUSDR Annual Forum** in Ukraine, autumn 2022 - join forces together with EUSDR Priority Areas 1B, 2, 4, 5 and 6 & macro-regional strategies



# Thanks for your attention!

**Hildegard Meyer**, Project Manager, WWF-CEE, [hmeyer@wwfcee.org](mailto:hmeyer@wwfcee.org)

## Project Partners



**And many,  
many more!!!**



# Contacts



**Hildegard Meyer**, Project Manager, WWF Central and Eastern Europe, [hmeyer@wwfcee.org](mailto:hmeyer@wwfcee.org), +43 650 276 3764

**Cristian-Remus Papp**, Project Manager, WWF Romania, [cpapp@wwf.ro](mailto:cpapp@wwf.ro), +40 745 891 929

**Irene Lucius**, Supervisor, Conservation Director, WWF Central and Eastern Europe, [ilucius@wwfcee.org](mailto:ilucius@wwfcee.org), +43 676 842 728 215

**Christophe Janz**, Project officer, WWF Central and Eastern Europe, [cjanz@wwfcee.org](mailto:cjanz@wwfcee.org), +43 677 627 906 44

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