ConnectGREEN

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

Carpathian Convention Implementation Meeting
12-13 December 2019
Hildegard Meyer, WWF CEE

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

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Danube-Carpathian region is one of the Europe’s last remaining strongholds for the large carnivore species: gray wolf, Eurasian lynx and brown bear.
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(Crooks et al., 2011)
Why ConnectGREEN?

Economic development causes impacts on ecological corridors, affecting:

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

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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
- Carpathian Convention (and its relevant Protocols)
- EU New Deal for Nature

... 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...

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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

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**Pilot Areas**

1. Piatra Craiului National Park / Bucegi Nature Park (Romania)
2. Apuseni mountains / Southwest Carpathians (Romania) / National Park Djerdap (Serbia)
3. Western Carpathians (Czech Republic – Slovakia)
4. Bükk National Park (Hungary) / Cerová vrchovina Protected Landscape Area (Slovakia)

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Main outputs & status

• Guidelines on reducing conflicts in corridor areas

• Ecological corridors database for the Carpathians and in more detail for the pilot areas

• Decision support tool

• Action plans for mitigating threats to corridors

• Networking: CNPA Conference, multi-sectoral meetings, cooperation with other mountainous regions, e-learning training courses

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METHODOLOGY FOR IDENTIFICATION OF MIGRATION CORRIDORS FOR LARGE CARNIVORES IN THE CARPATHIAN COUNTRIES

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Main outputs & status

STRATEGY ON IDENTIFICATION, PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS IN THE CARPATHIAN COUNTRIES WITH HIGHLIGHTS ON LARGE CARNIVORES

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Your support is needed!

- **Feedback for draft outputs! You will be contacted.**
- **Strategy** on the identification, preservation and management of eco-corridors in the Carpathians – in preparation, planned to be up for adoption at COP6 2020
- **CNPA Conference** – call on CNPA SG members
- **Multi-sectoral meetings** at the Carpathian Convention level.

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NEW!!! DTP3 SaveGREEN proposal

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

• Based on and complementary to TRANSGREEN, ConnectGREEN & HARMON
• Focus on ecological connectivity in areas with transport infrastructure as barriers and bottlenecks
• Monitoring methodology for structural and functional eco-connectivity
• Reaching out to stakeholders necessary to maintain continuation of ecological corridors across to bottleneck areas (e.g. agriculture, forestry, water management)
• Capacity building program for authorities and workshops
• Policy activities related to EU, EUSDR and Carpathian Convention, standardization
• 13 Project Partners and 21 Associated Strategic Partners from AT, BG, CZ, FR, GE, GR, HU, RO, SK, UA; Jun 21 – May 2022; Budget: approx. EUR 2.7 Mio

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Together possible!

Thank you!
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