



ConnectGREEN

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

Carpathian Convention Implementation Meeting

12-13 December 2019

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

www.interreg-danube.eu/connectgreen

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

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?

**Economic development
causes impacts on ecological
corridors, affecting:**

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

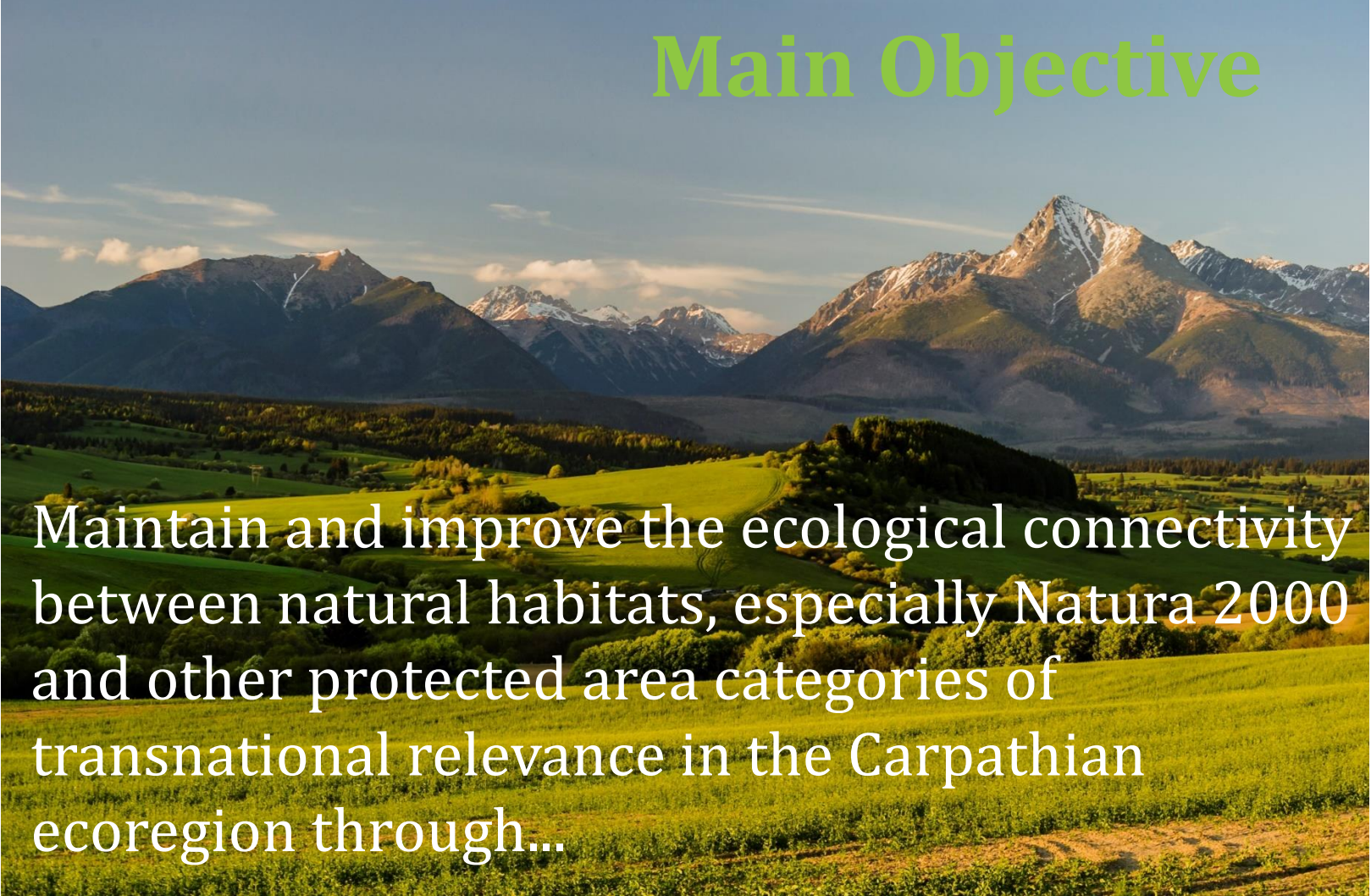
Policy Context

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
- 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...

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

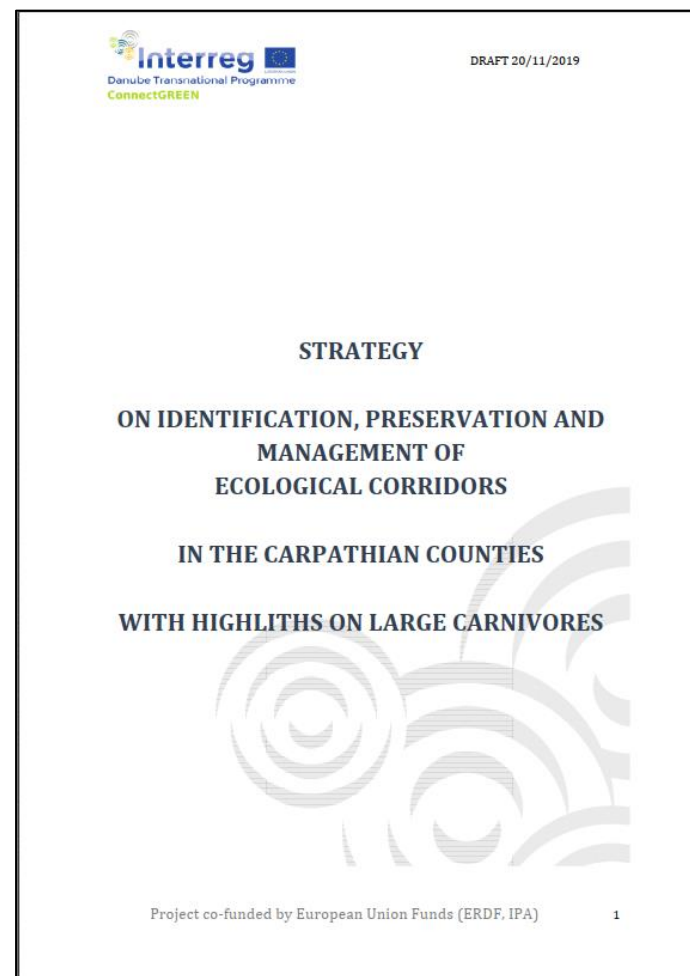
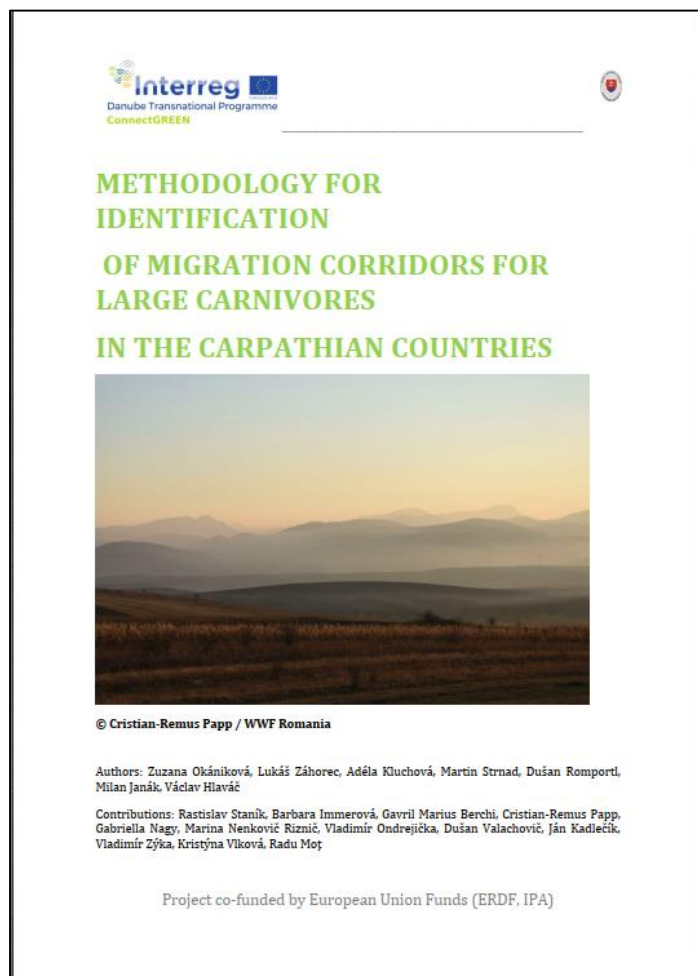
Pilot Areas



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

Main outputs & status



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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www.interreg-danube.eu/connectgreen

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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

Together possible!



Thank you!
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