



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

**13th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention
Working Group on Biodiversity**

11–12 April 2022, ONLINE MEETING

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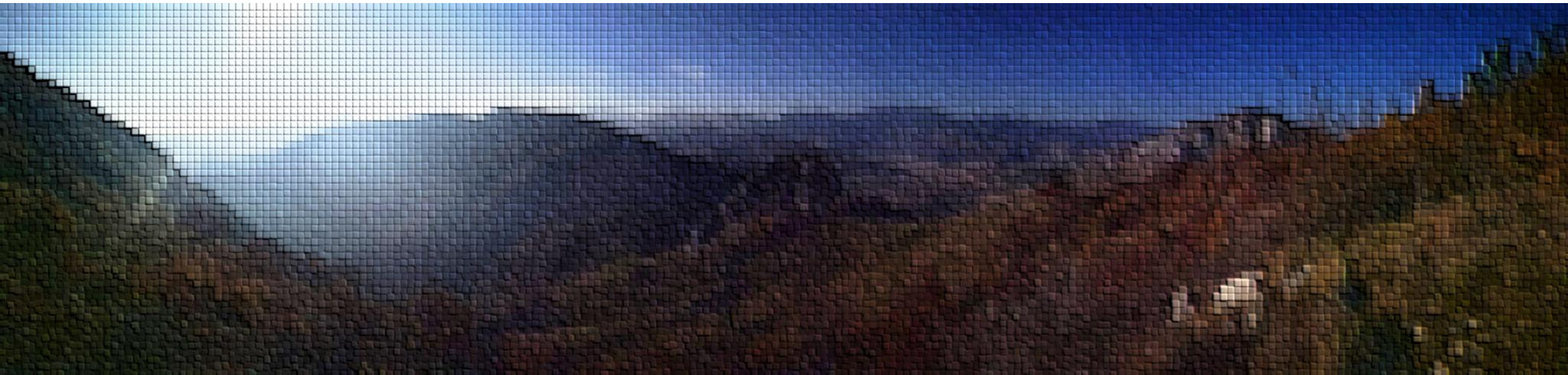
ConnectGREEN:

- Duration: June 2018 – 31 October 2021
- 11 Partners from 6 EU countries (ERDF)
- 2 Partners from Serbia (IPA)
- 10 Associated Strategic Partners (ASP)
- Coordinated by: WWF Romania
- Value: ~ 2.6 million euros



Aim: **ConnectGREEN**, aimed at maintaining and improving the ecological connectivity between natural habitats in the Carpathian ecoregion.

01. Eco-corridors and connectivity gaps identified in the Carpathians
02. Capacity for identifying and managing eco-corridors improved
03. 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







4. Transportation and service corridors within the protected area (Threats from long narrow transport corridors and the vehicles that use them, including associated wildlife mortality)

4.1 Roads and railroads (include road-killed animals)	38.39%
4.2 Utility and service lines (e.g. electricity cables, telephone lines, etc.)	32.74%
4.3 Shipping lanes and canals	13.39%
4.4 Flight paths	9.82%

7. Natural system modifications (Threats from other actions that convert or degrade habitat or change the way the ecosystem functions)

7.1 Fire and fire suppression (including arson)	29.76%
7.2 Dams, hydrological modification and water management / use	30.06%
7.3 Increased fragmentation within protected areas	37.5%
7.4 Isolation from other natural habitat (e.g. deforestation, dams without effective aquatic wildlife passages)	30.06%
7.5 Other "edge effects" on park values	23.81%
7.6 Loss of keystone species (e.g. top predators, pollinators etc.)	27.68%



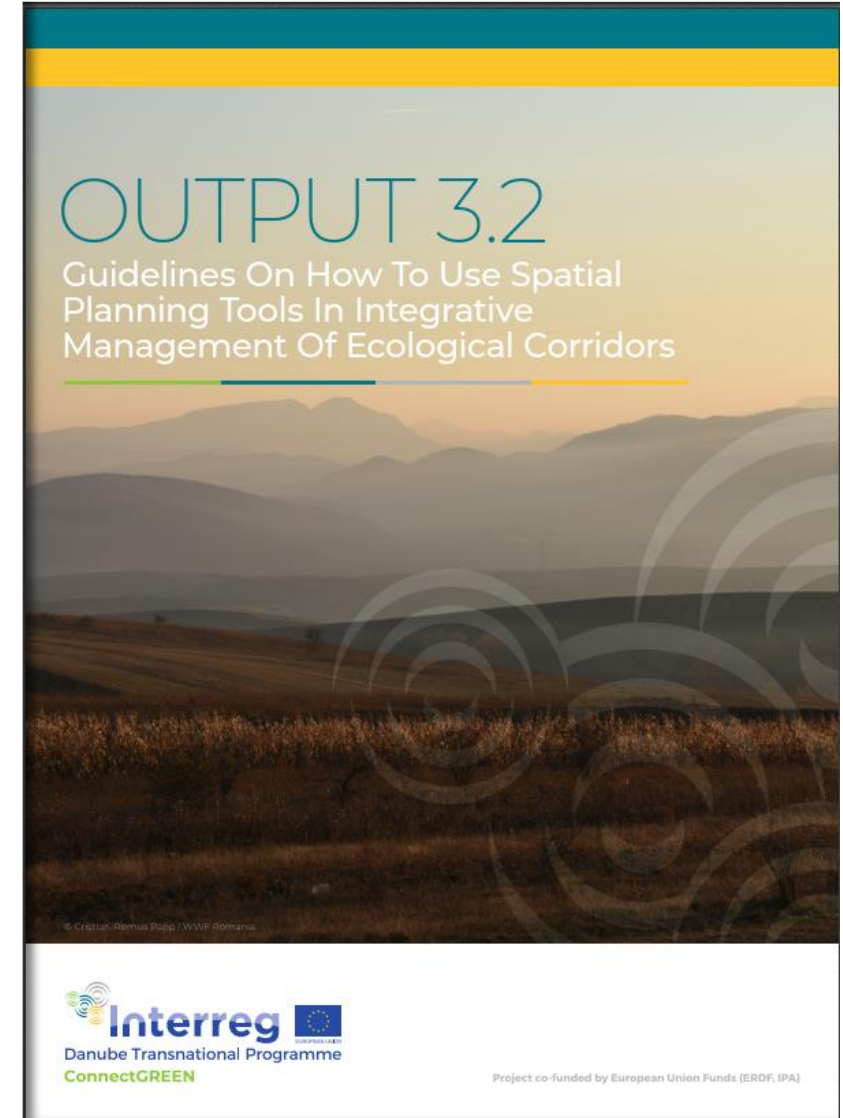
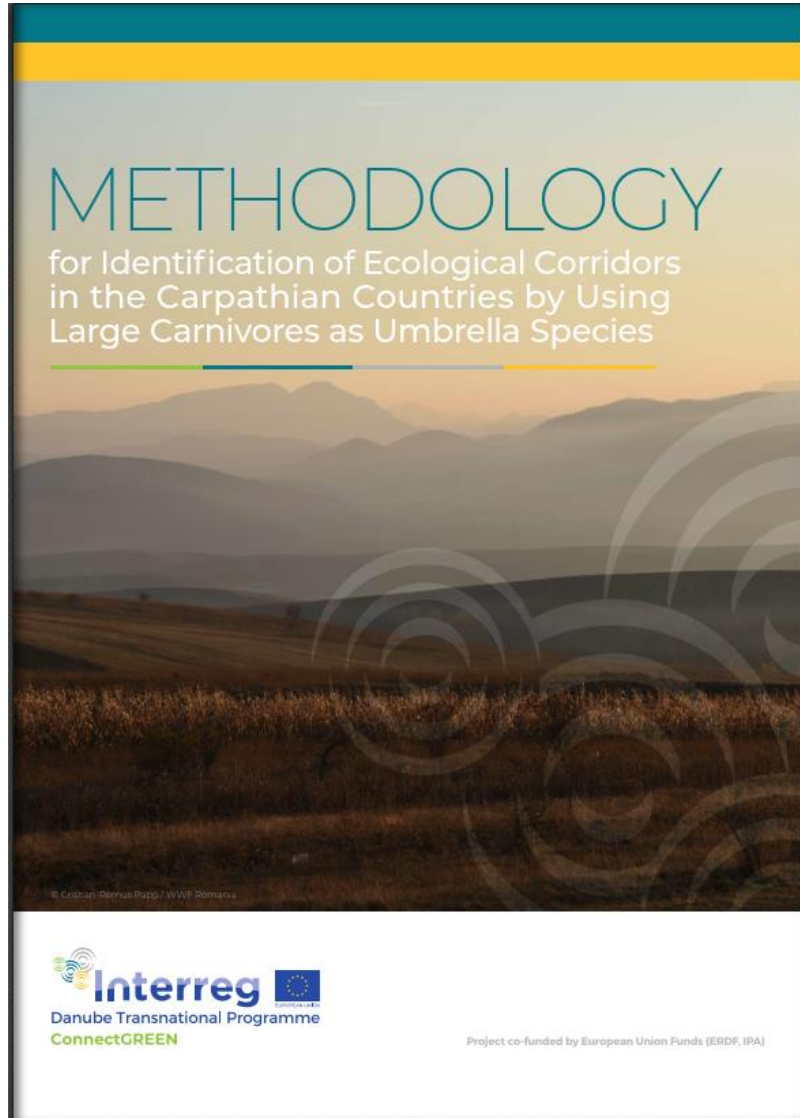
Pilot areas:

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)

Target Groups

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





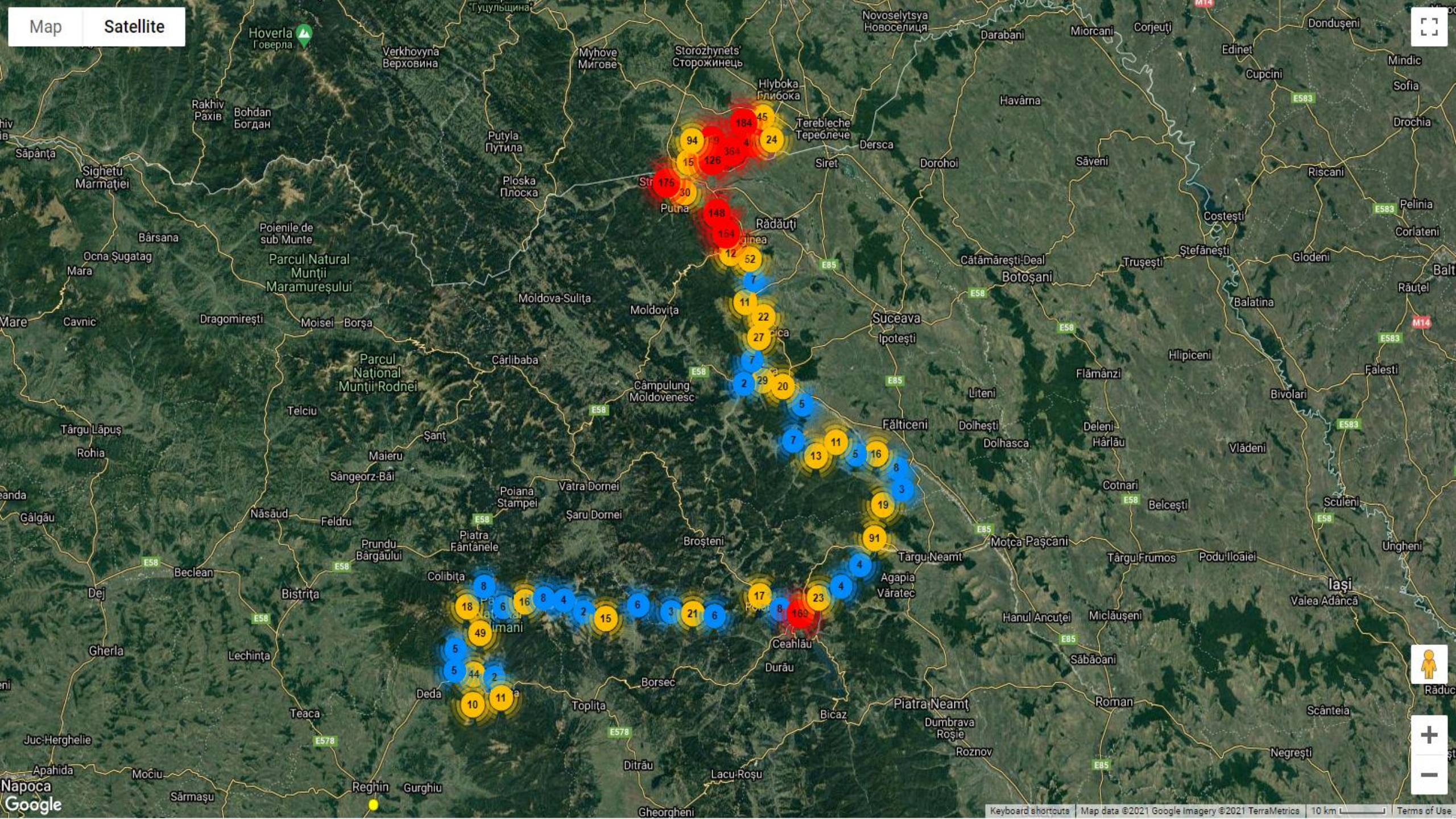
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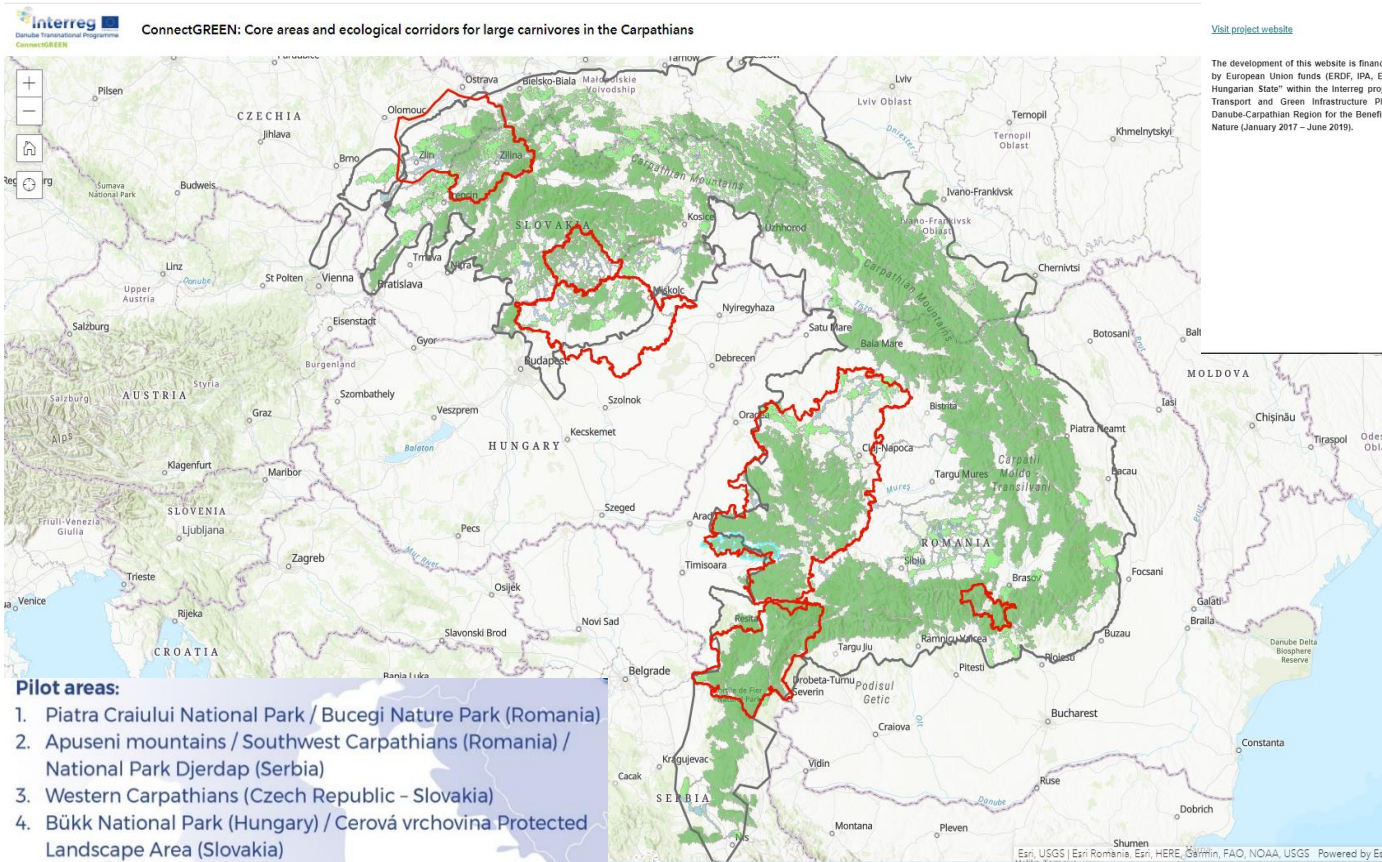
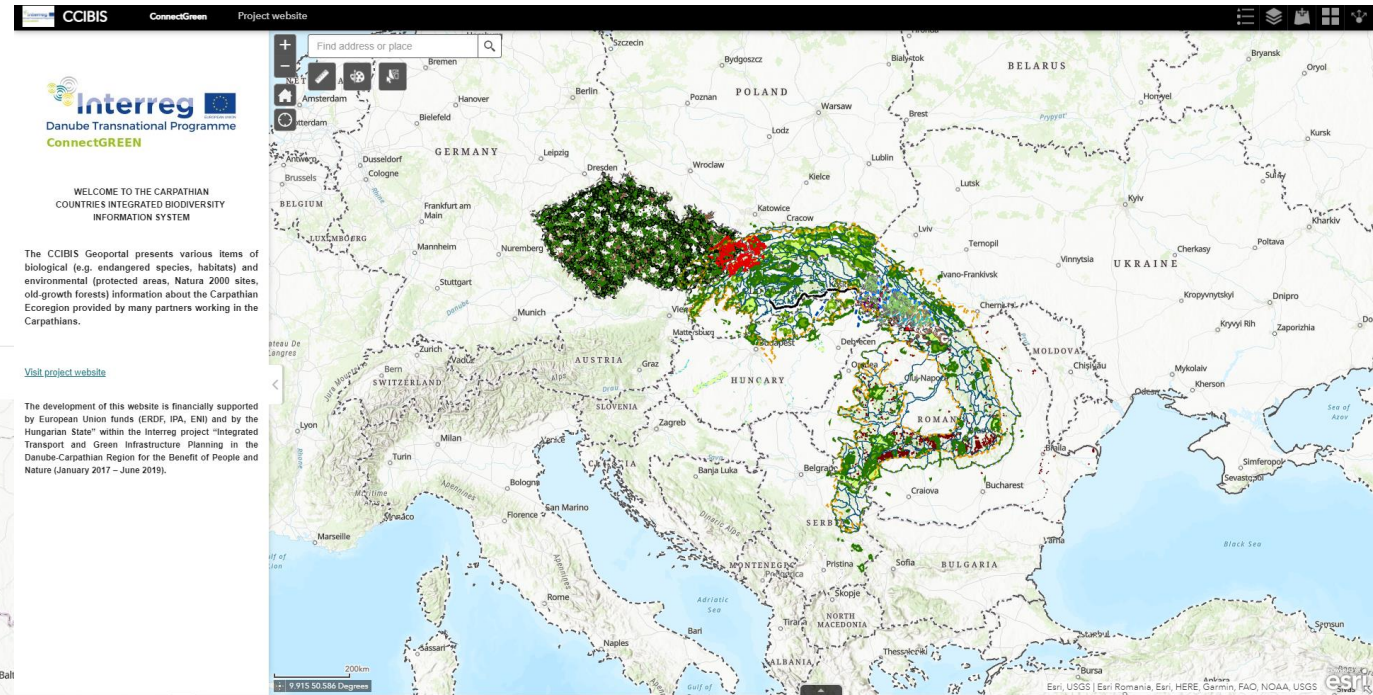






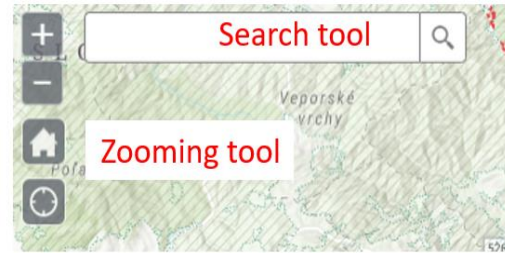


Ecological corridors database within CCIBIS



<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/03da1f6f67404518b3efe0d11f444e5a>

Decision support tool (DST)



User interface



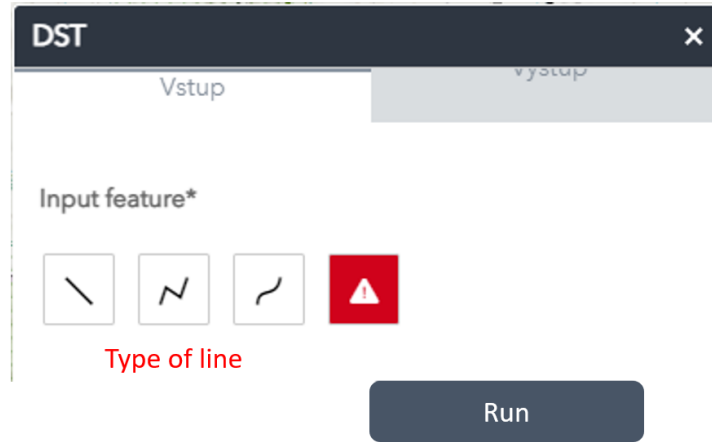
Attribute table

Legend

Layers

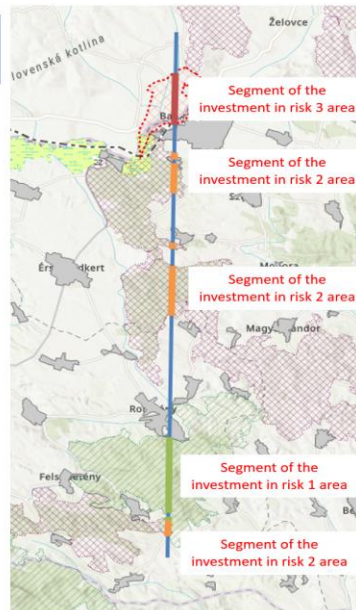
Measurement

Decision Support System

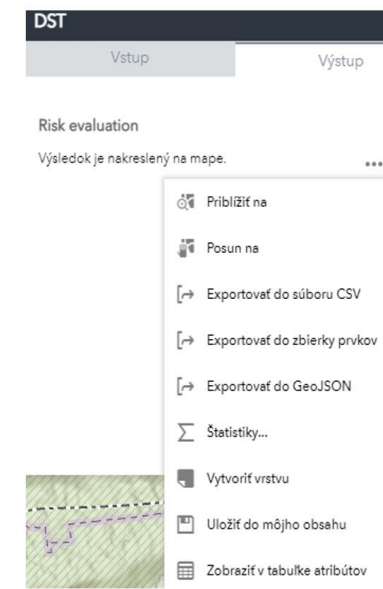
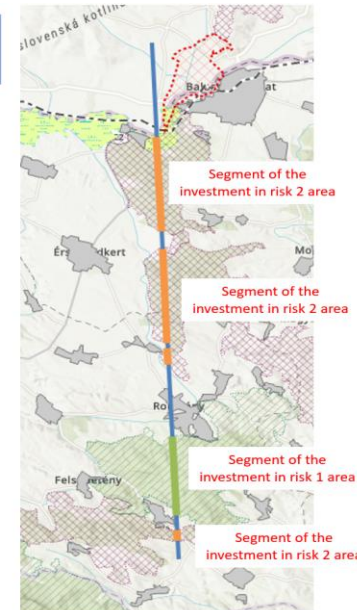


User interface - using DST – input

Variant A:
includes risk areas of values 1, 2 and 3



Variant B:
includes risk areas of values 1 and 2

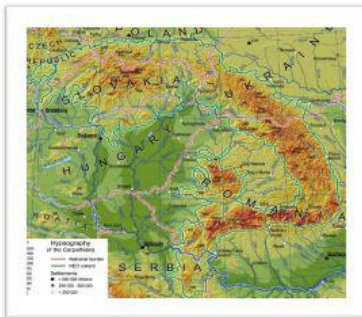


User interface - using DST – output

Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

CC/COP6/DOC9/FINAL DRAFT

INTERNATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON CONSERVATION OF LARGE CARNIVORES AND ENSURING ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY IN THE CARPATHIANS



INTRODUCTION, LEGAL BACKGROUND AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Carpathians are a range of mountains in Central and Eastern Europe, stretching across seven countries in the form of an arch, starting in the north-east of the Czech Republic, continuing through the whole Slovak Republic, southern Poland, eastern Hungary as well as the west of Ukraine and Romania, and then going south to the eastern part of Serbia.

The Carpathian region is one of Europe's last great wilderness areas, with exceptional levels of biodiversity, extensive tracts of old-growth forest and one of the most important and biggest large carnivore populations in Europe. It is estimated that over 7,200 brown bears, 3,000 grey wolves, and 2,350 Eurasian lynxes currently existing in the Carpathian region (Chapron et al., 2014).

The above-mentioned species require extensive, non-fragmented habitats to establish their large home ranges and to allow long-distance movements to satisfy their biological and ecological needs. However, the sizes of habitats and their connectivity are being challenged by increasing pressures of current and future development of transport and other types of infrastructure in the Carpathian region.

Furthermore, despite their functional role as ecosystem keystone species and their long-term protection in some countries, human-carnivore conflicts can occur.

The large carnivore species existing in human-dominated landscapes often face a multidimensional problem, ranging from human-caused mortality to habitat loss and fragmentation. Compared to other

International Action Plan on LCs and connectivity



INTERNATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON CONSERVATION OF LARGE CARNIVORES AND ENSURING ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY IN THE CARPATHIANS

www.interreg-danube.eu/connectgreen

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

DECISION COP6/9
Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity
Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention

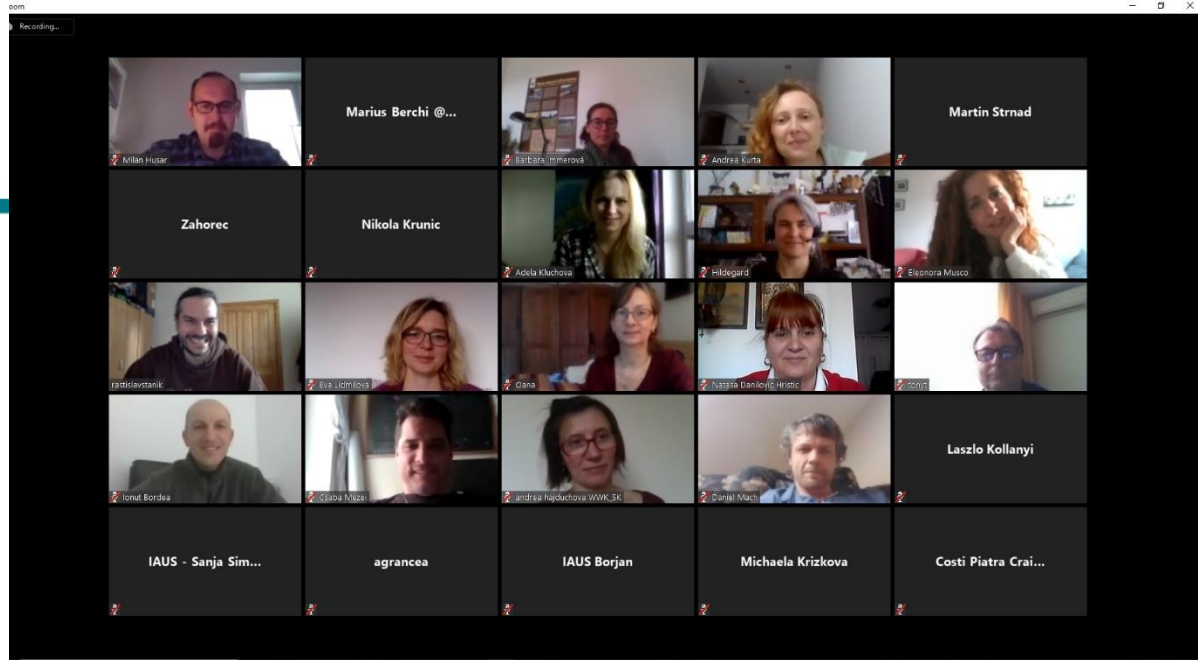
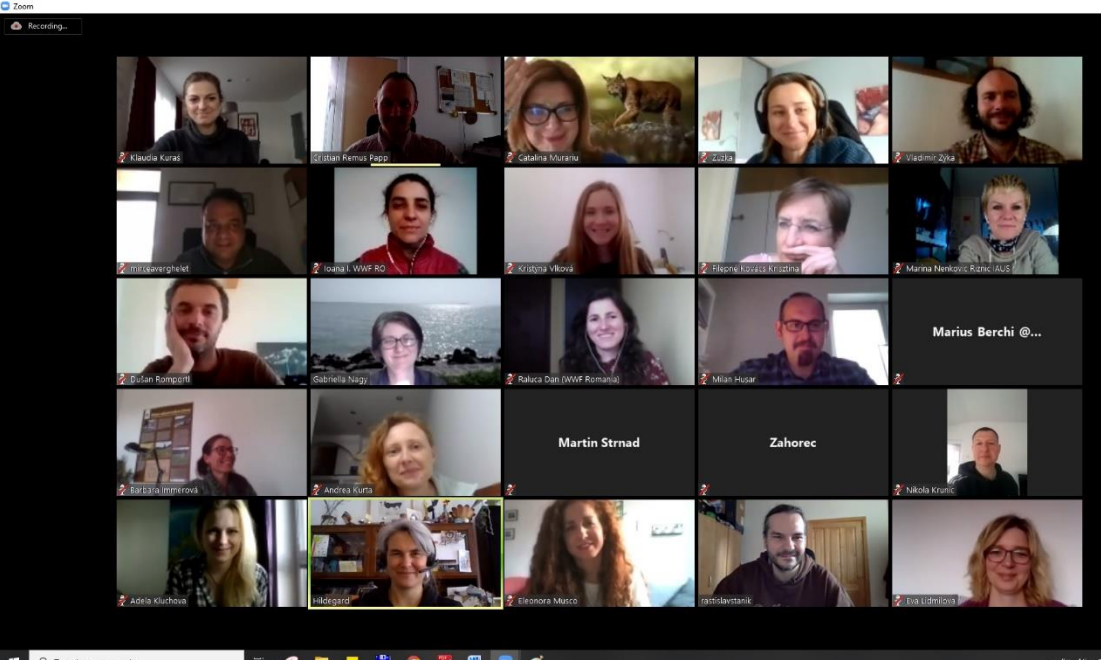
The Conference of the Parties

1. *Adopts* the International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity and *encourages* the Parties, the WG Biodiversity and other stakeholder with support of the Secretariat, to ensure smooth implementation of the Plan;

6. *Welcomes* the implementation of the project ConnectGREEN - *Restoring and managing ecological corridors in mountains as the green infrastructure in the Danube basin*, funded by the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme; *encourages* the Parties to promote and use the results of the project, as appropriate, *thanks* the WWF Romania and other partners, especially CEEweb for continued support in implementing the project;

Multi-sectoral meetings and fora





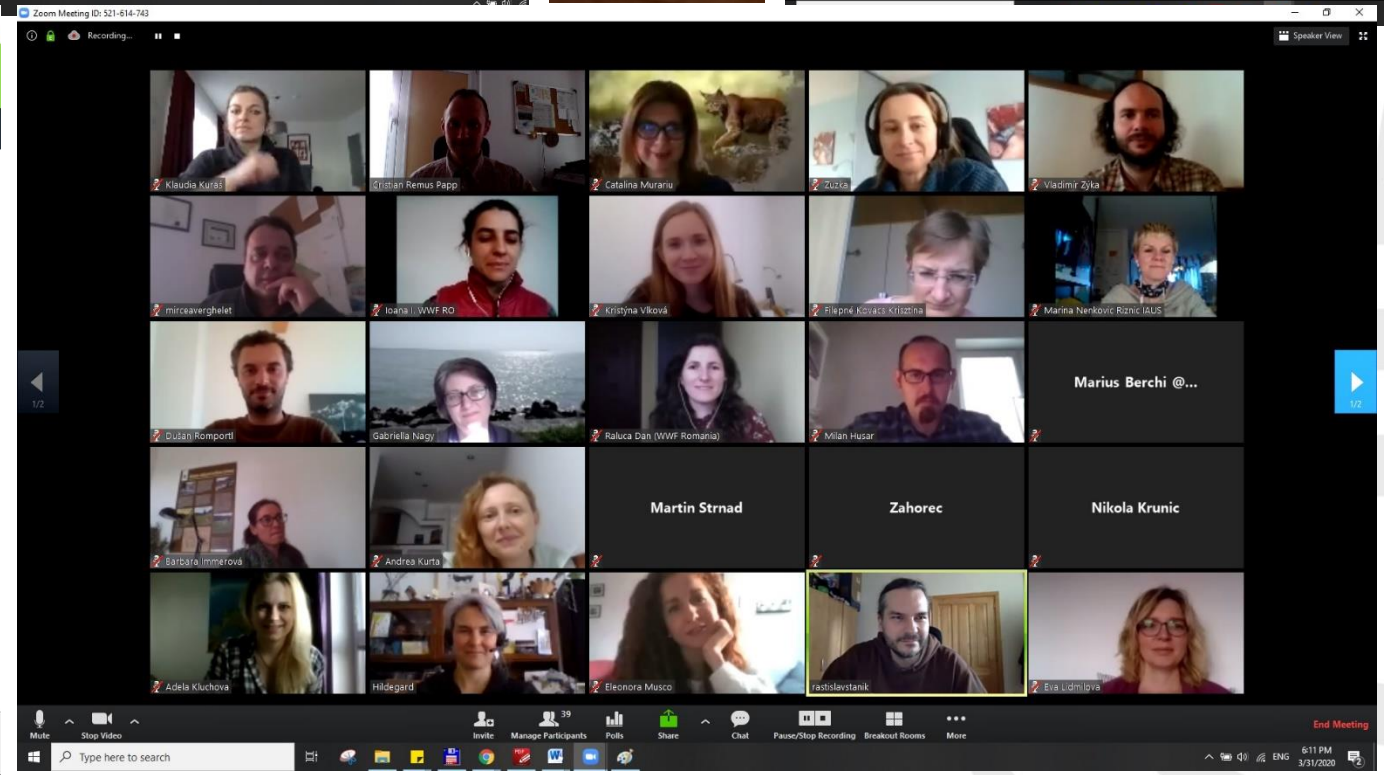
Sharing Poll Results

Attendees are now viewing the poll results

1. How satisfied are you with the PP&SCOM meeting that has been organised today 31.03.2020 through the Zoom platform, given the current circumstances?

Very satisfied	(23) 88%
Satisfied	(3) 12%
Partly satisfied	(0) 0%
Not satisfied	(0) 0%

[Stop Share Results](#) [Re-launch Polling](#)




Sharing Poll Results

Attendees are now viewing the poll results

1. Do you have more free time now than one month ago?

Yes	(3) 14%
No	(16) 76%
I don't know	(2) 10%

[Stop Share Results](#) [Re-launch Polling](#)



Course 1

The Carpathian Large Carnivores

- There will be 6 lessons within this course
- Covers the basic ecological principles and ideas that are important to understand

- Introduction
- The Carpathian Region
- Large Carnivore
- Ecological Definitions
- Problems
- Solutions



Course 2

The Methodology

- There will be 5 lessons within this course
- Covers what the methodology is, using models, and ecological networks

- What is the Methodology?
- Modelling
- Ecological Networks
- Stakeholder Involvement
- Integrating Spatial Planning and Ecological Networks



Course 3

Spatial Planning

- There will be 3 lessons within this course
- Covers the diversity of problems when it comes to spatial planning, and the national differences in spatial planning regulations
- A number of case studies will be examined to give practical insight into the steps, problems and solutions

- Spatial Planning and Biodiversity
- Differences in National Regulation
- Case Studies



- Cooperation with multi level stakeholders (from local to international) is key
- Relevant stakeholders have to be identified and involved (from local organizations and experts to universities and ministries)
- Borders should not represent a barrier, despite e.g. cultural differences, but rather an advantage (for improving/ adapting/ co-creating solutions to common projects)
- Stakeholder consultations should happen in every stage, from early planning to implementation
- Transdisciplinary approach is crucial to address complex issues (multiple use of land, management of conflicts)
- Connection with higher level policy makers (e.g. Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, EUSDR) is important
- Good personal contacts, including with representatives of international professional networks can facilitate synergies and smooth implementation
- Synergies are crucial, either planned or organized on demand

Thank you for your attention!!!

