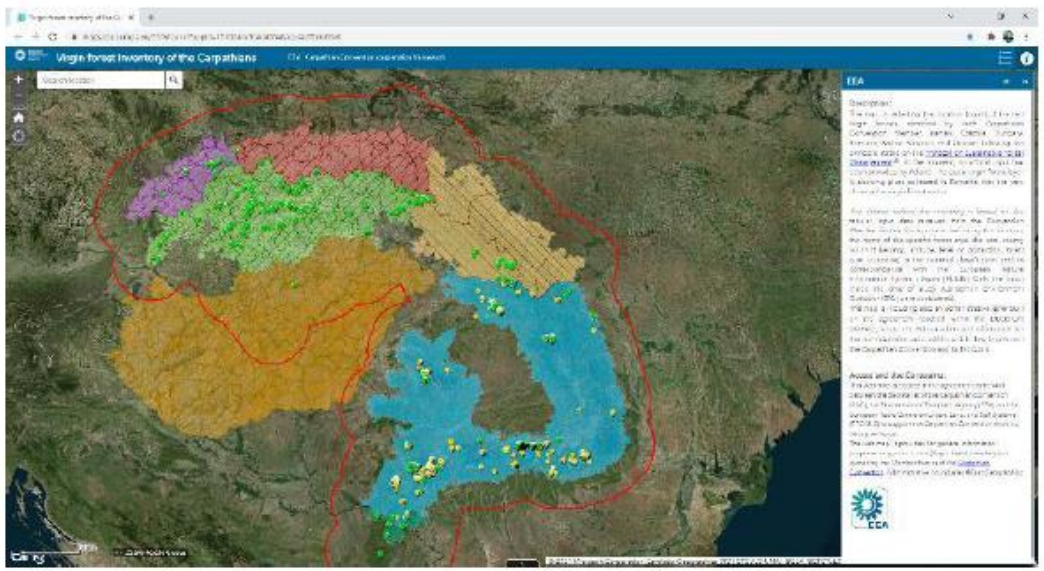
13th Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity
Updates on cooperation with the European Environment Agency

11-12 April 2022, ONLINE MEETING

UNEP Vienna Programme Office - Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Progress so far:

- Collation and update of official data sent by Carpathian countries on virgin, quasi-virgin and other old-growth forests in the region,
- Development of a quasi-forest Carpathian wide layer using peer-reviewed data sources
- Update these layers to the EEA map viewer developed for the Carpathian Convention
- Development of region-wide indicators on sustainable forest development



OBJECTIVES OF THIS MEETING:

- present the outcomes of 2021 work and
- Discuss and agree on the next steps expected under each priority action of 2022

European Environment Agency
European Topic Centre
Data integration and digitalisation

2.1. The official virgin (and quasi-virgin) forest inventory - 2021

OUTCOMES – 2021

1

Harmonisation of forest typologies

Integration of the **crosswalk between national forest types and EUNIS habitats** classification for Ukraine plots

N	EUNIS	Ukrainian forestry types in English	Ukrainian forestry types in Ukrainian
1	F2.46 Carpathian [Pinus mugo] scrub	Frequently: • Damp Mountain Pine woodland/scrub on oligotrophic soils (B3 - Cr), Rare and fragmented: • Damp Mountain Pine woodland/scrub on oligotrophic soils (A3 - Cr)	Часто: • Вологий гірськососновий субір (B3 - Cr), Рідко та фрагментарно: • Вологий гірськососновий бір (A3 - Cr)

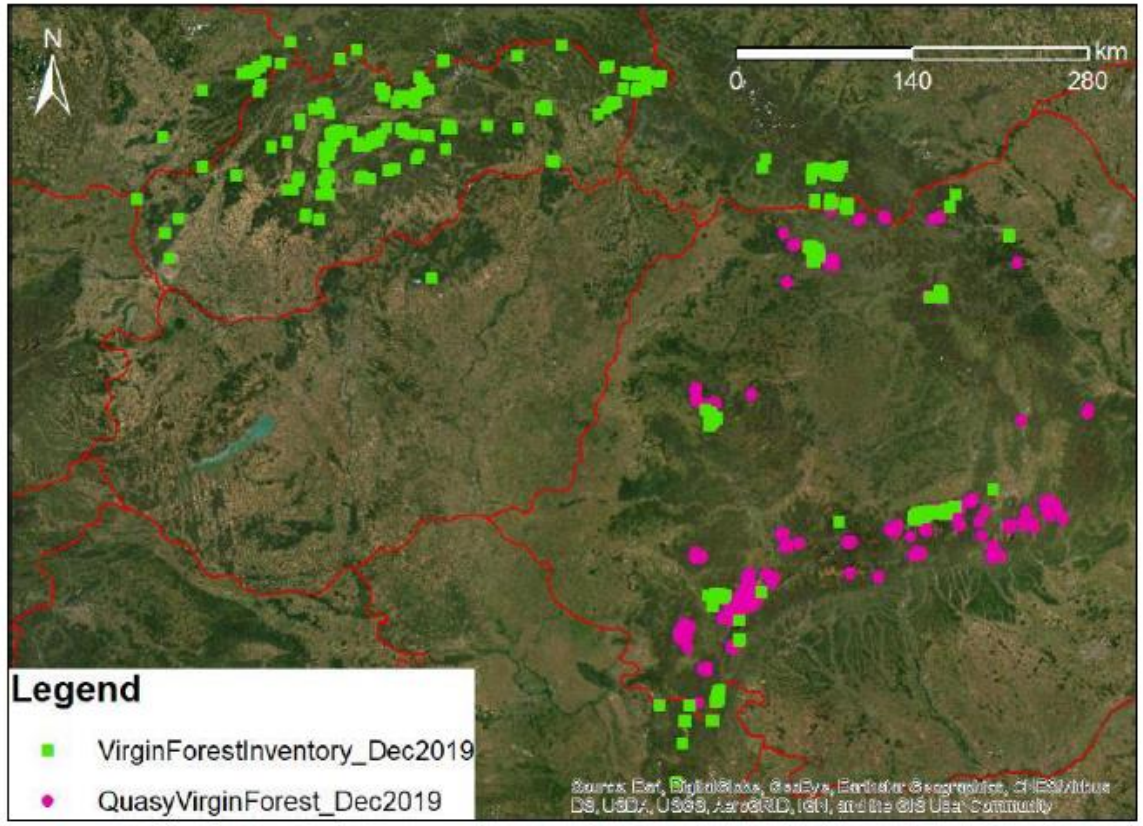
2

Integration of updated RO "official" Virgin and Quasi-virgin inventory

Virgin forest and quasi-virgin forest inventory of the Carpathians (KEO), version 2, December 2021

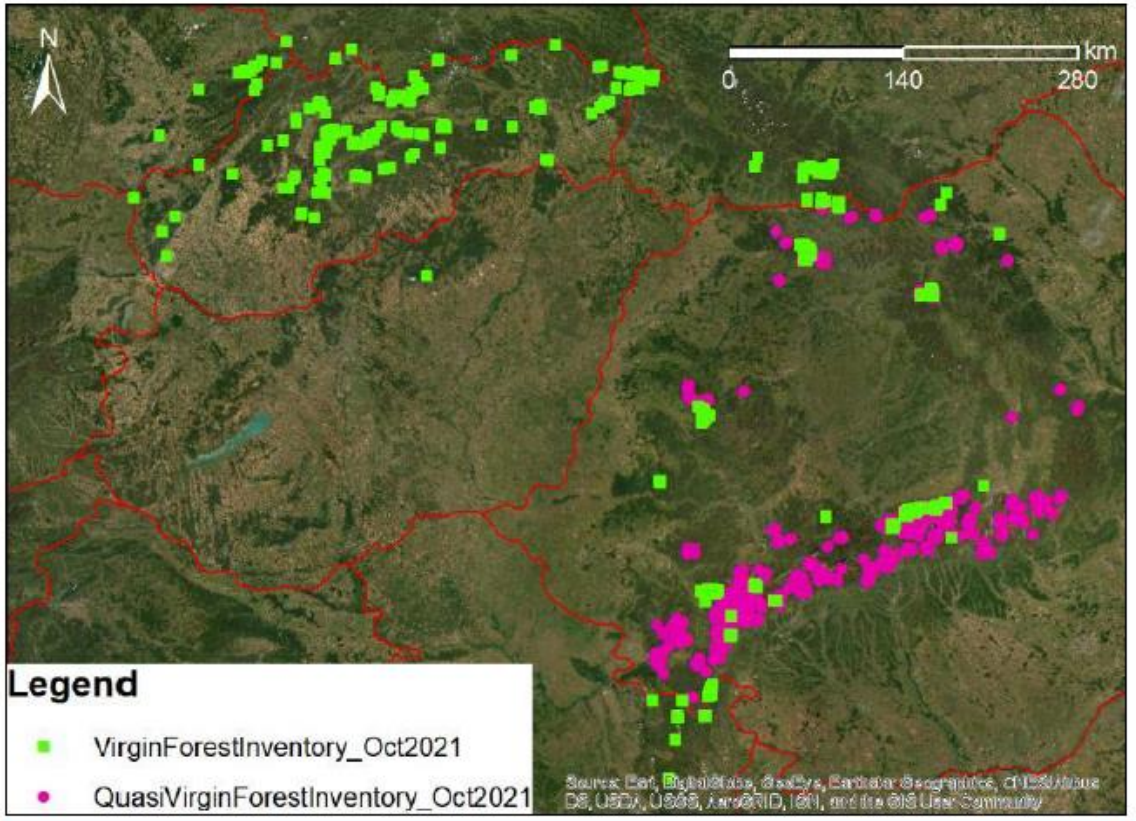
2.1. The official virgin (and quasi-virgin) forest map inventory - 2021

version 1, 2019



Virgin forest: 820 plots
Quasi-virgin forest: 1504 plots

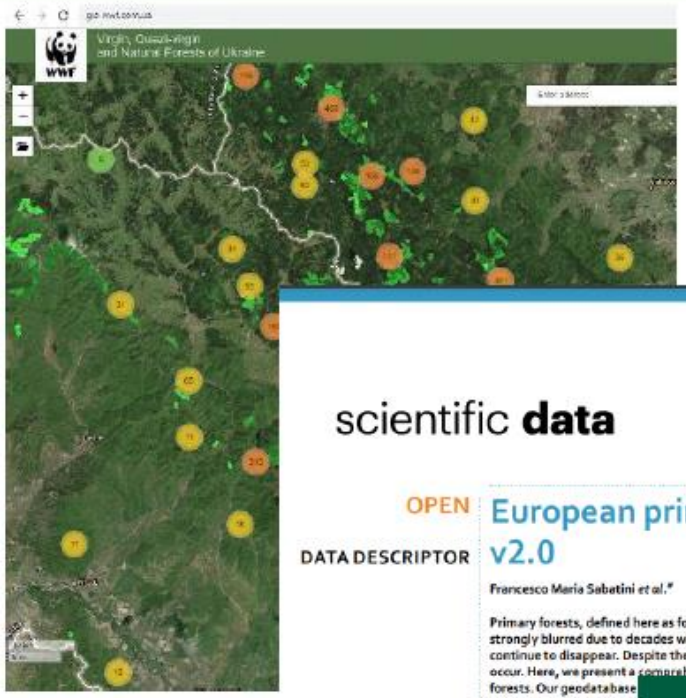
version 2, 2021

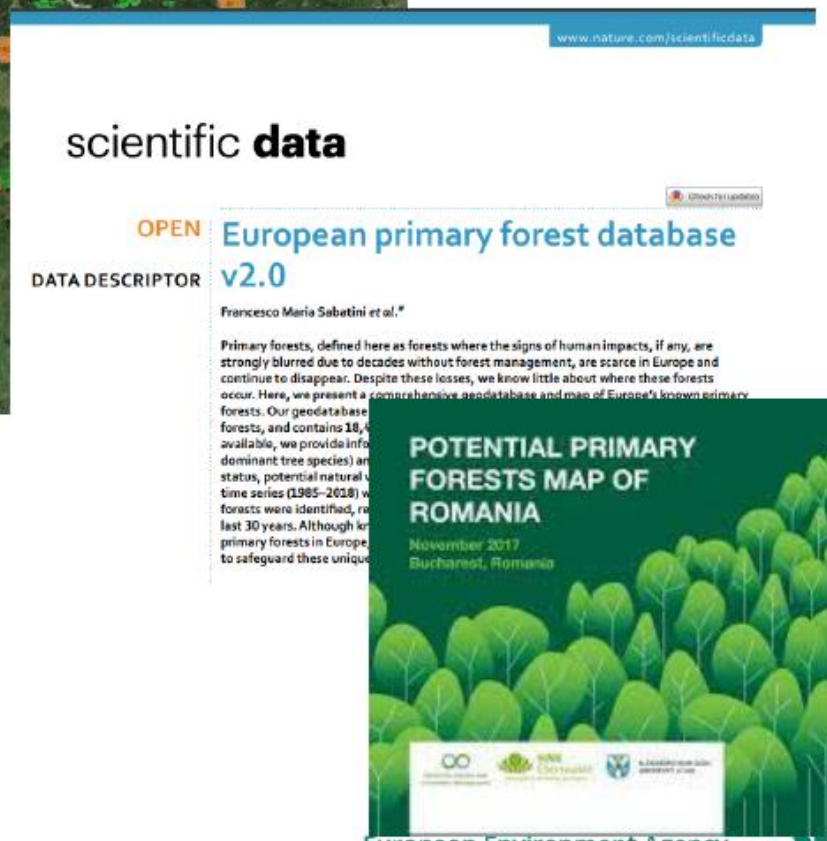


Virgin forest: 915 plots *(refinement of the locations of 8 plots)*
Quasi-virgin forest: 3403 plots

3. Generate non-official primary and old-growth forests inventory - 2021

To ***complement and enlarge the wide database on well conserved forest in the Carpathian Mountains*** from trusted entities/organization to create a "non-official data" on well conserved forest (OGF) in the Carpathians,





Data sources explored

- European primary forest database v2.0 (**Sabatini et al. 2021**)
- WWF UA datasets (virgin, quasi-virgin and natural forests in Ukraine)
- Greenpeace Potential Primary Forests Map of Romania

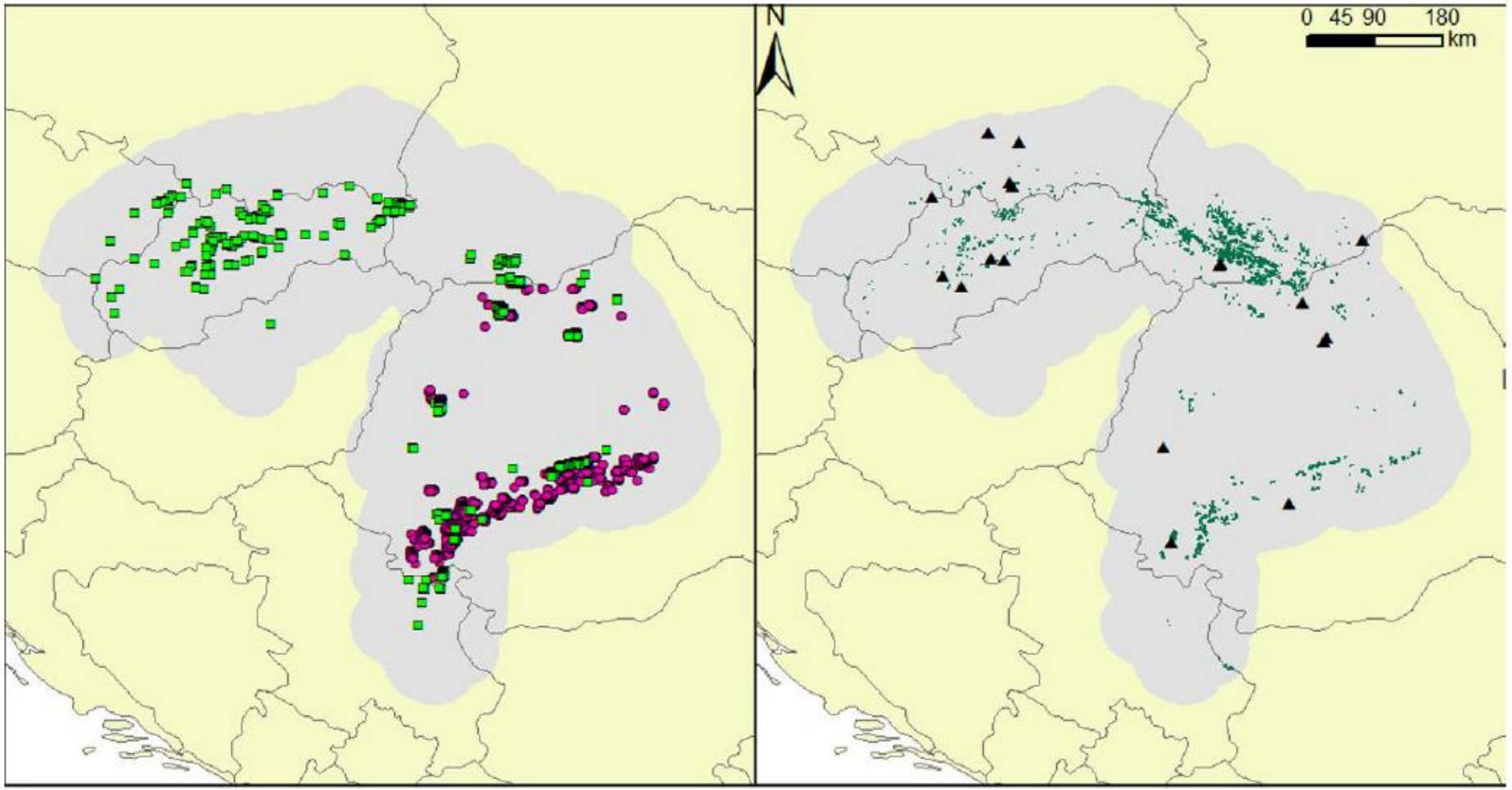
Analysis

- European primary forest inventory (Sabitini et al. 2021)→ based on local-to-national datasets, literature review and survey → Baseline
- WWF - Identified old-growth forests of Ukrainian Carpathians and Polissia map → already included in EU Primary forest inventory
- Greenpeace Potential Primary Forests Map in Romania → modelled location (non-validated) → no ground truthing done and not used

European Environment Agency
European Topic Centre
Data integration and digitalisation

4.1. Forest connectivity assessment: identification of potential HNV forest areas as connectors

Comparison: Overview of Virgin and Quasi-Virgin forest layers of the Carpathian dataset (left) and European primary forest within KEO (right). **Identification of potential gaps**



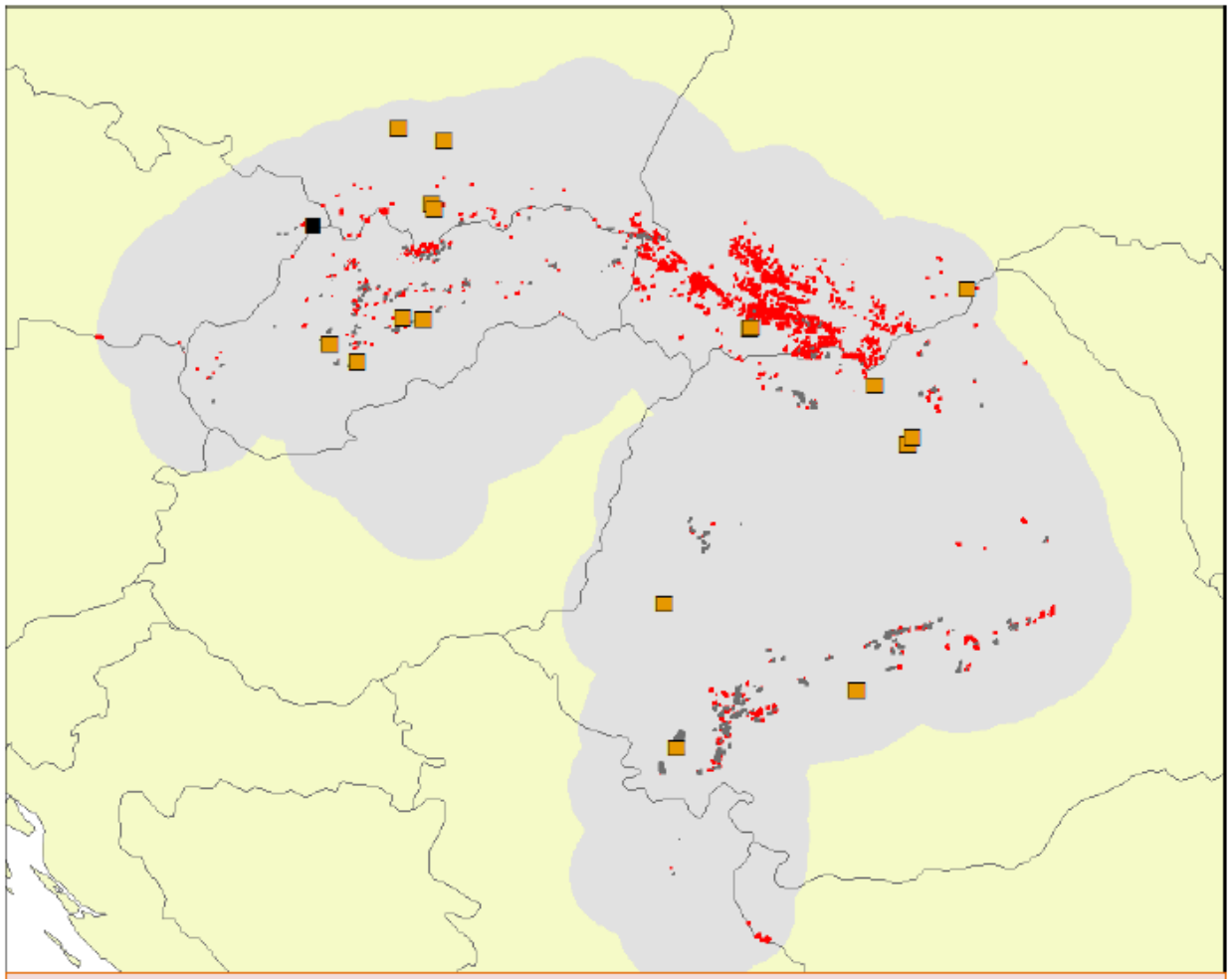
4.1. Forest connectivity assessment: identification of potential HNV forest areas as connectors - 2021

Comparison of European primary forest inventory records vs Virgin forest and quasi-virgin forest inventory of the Carpathians (official - CCS)

	Virgin and quasi-virgin forest inventory-v2 oct 2021	European primary forest database v2.0 within KEO (Sabatini et al. 2021)
Number of plots	4318	12708
Area (ha)	≈ 92500	≈ 176935

Identification of gaps

Potential **high nature value (HNV) forests areas** for connecting the "official" VF forests



European primary forest inventory records vs Virgin forest and quasi-virgin forest inventory of the Carpathians (official - CCS)

4.1. Forest connectivity assessment: identification of potential HNV forest areas as connectors - 2021

Assessment

Screening and selecting potential records that potentially could connect "official" VF forests

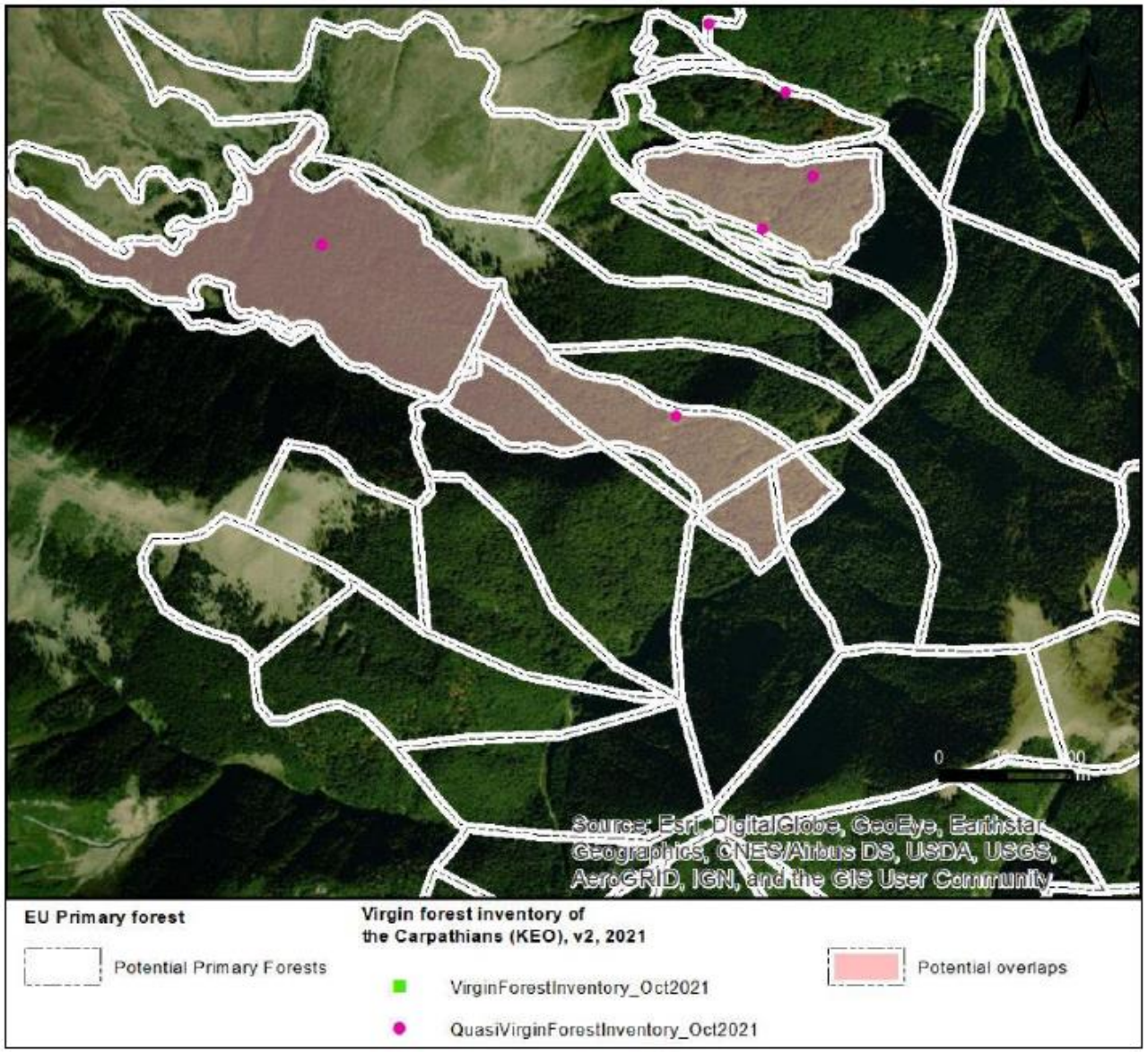
DONE — **Comparison of Official Virgin and Quasi-virgin forests with European primary forest database v2.0**

DONE — Filter out those objects already included in the Carpathian database based on:
- The name of the forest (or locality / region where it is located)
- The spatial overlapping

DONE — First version of potential gaps and forest connectors

TO DO — *It contains elements of uncertainty that require expert and local consultation.*
Consultation & validation with WG

Spatial analysis to identify potential forest connectors



.1. Assessing forest connectivity & prioritisation for conservation – 2022 ongoing