

Designing a resilient and coherent Trans-European conservation network for nature and people

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Analysis



Funded by
the European Union

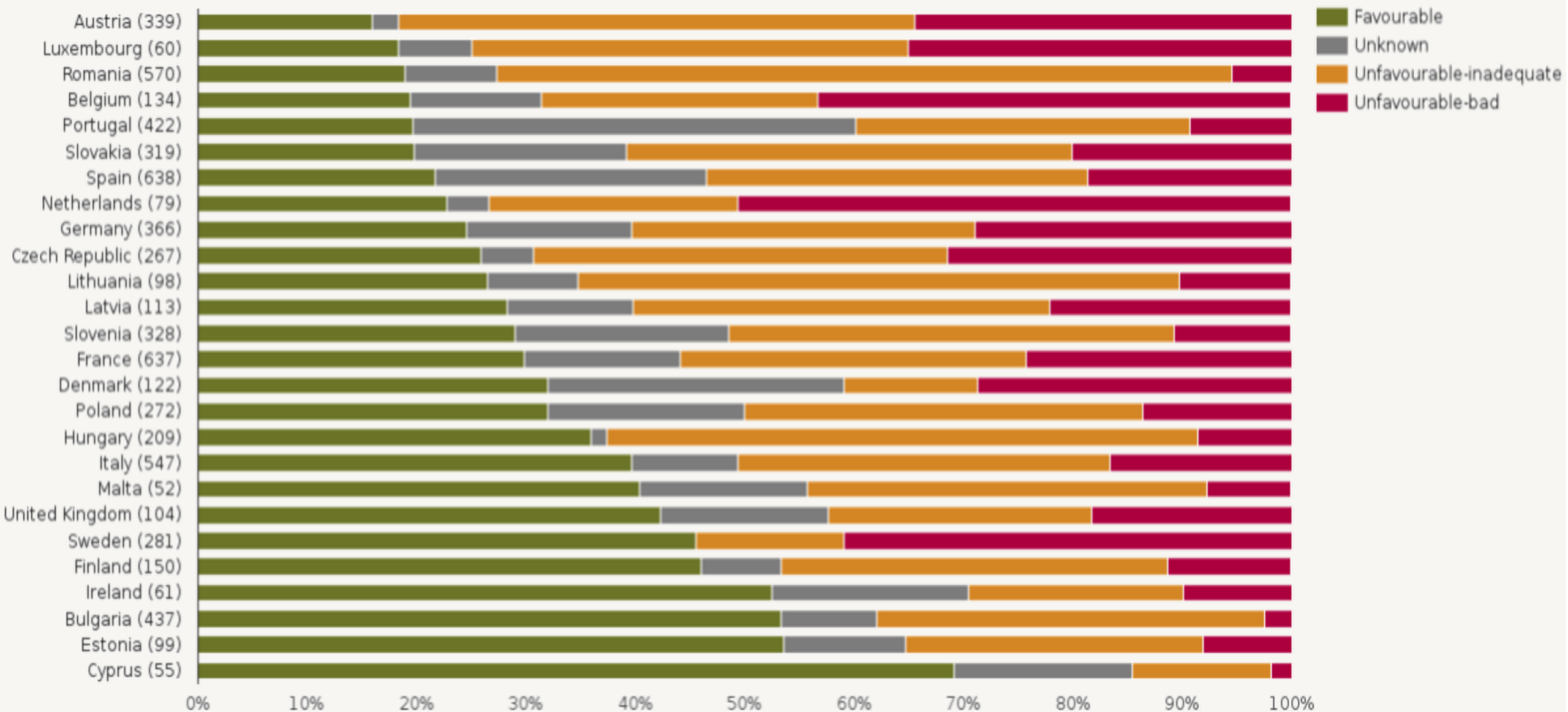


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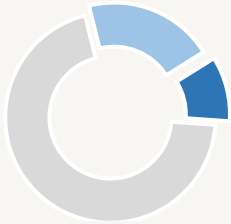
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Chart – Proportion of species assessments in each conservation status class per Member State



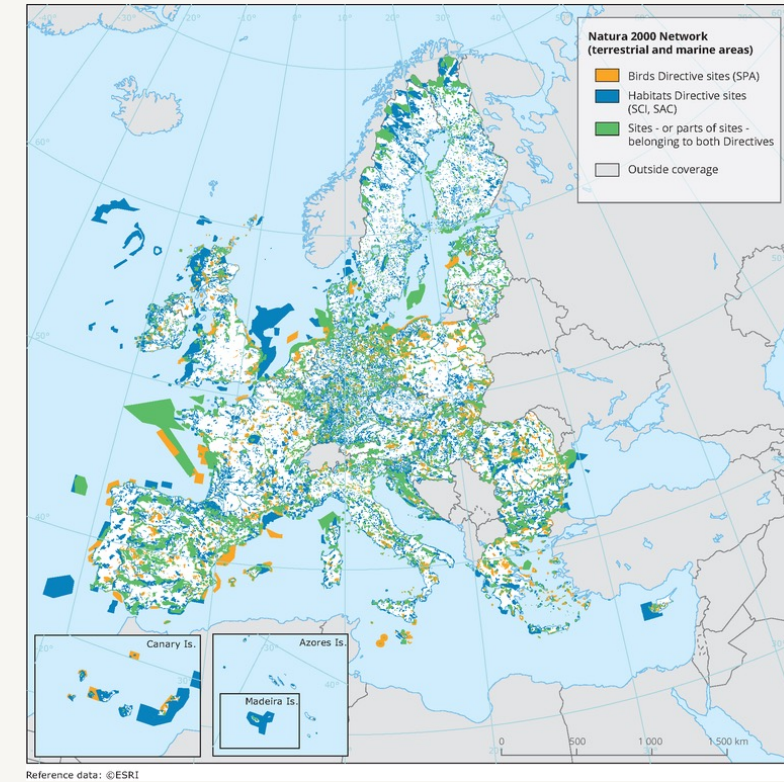
Source EEA

Protected Area targets and strategy



Legally protect at least 30% of the land, including inland waters, and 30% of the sea in the EU. At least **1/3** of this should be **strictly protected**.

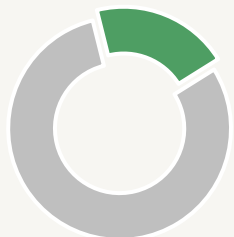
Targets to be achieved **for each biogeographical region**



Priorities:

- 1. Completion of the N2K network** following annex III of the HD
- 2. National designations to support habitats and species not in the annexes**
- 3. Protect ecosystems providing climate mitigation services** (peatlands, coastal wetlands, forests)

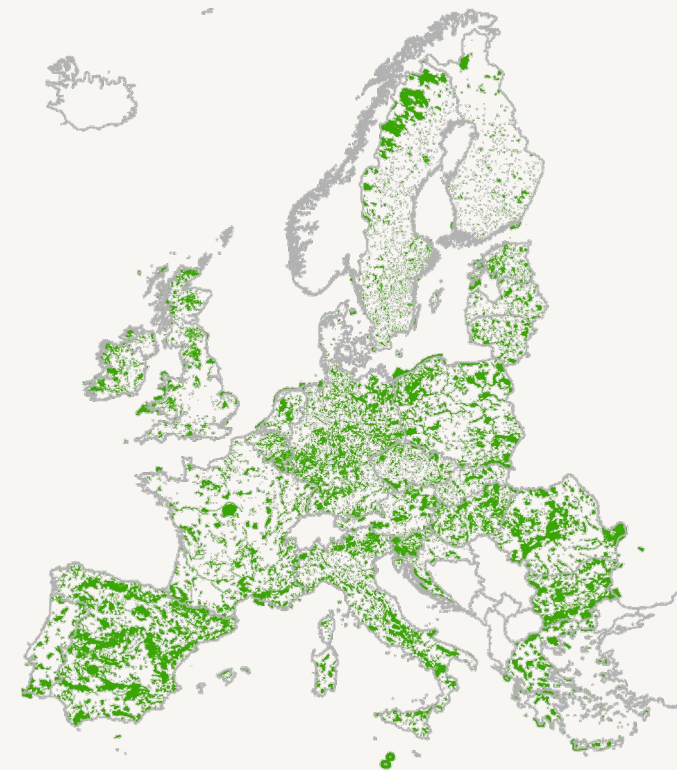
Nature Restoration Law



20% of EU land is under active **restoration efforts** supporting recovery of ecosystems and species towards **good ecological condition**


Possible break up by 2030

- 1. Annex I habitat up to 4% of EU land area** under restoration, which represents ~ 30% of habitats not in good conditions:
- 2. Other agro-ecosystems ~6% EU land under** restoration, which represents about 15% of other agro-ecosystems (NRL Impact Assessment p62)
- 3. Other managed forests up to 9% EU land** under restoration, which represents about 27% of other forest ecosystems (NRL Impact Assessment p62)



Farm 2 Fork Strategy

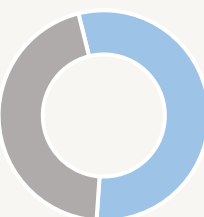
 **Reduce use of chemical pesticides by 50% and support Integrated Pest Management** (revision of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive)

 **Reduce nutrient loss by 50% and fertilizers by 20%** without deteriorating fertility (integrated nutrient management action plan + CAP strategy plans)

 **25% of EU agriculture is organic**

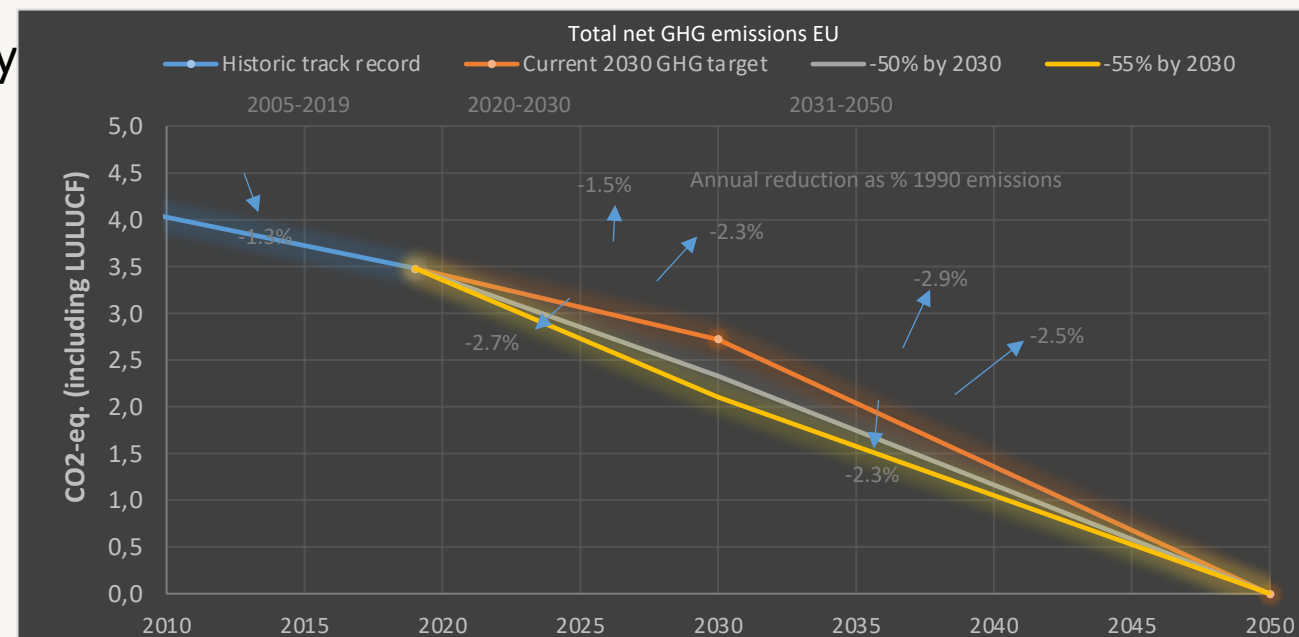


Fit 4 55 climate mitigation package

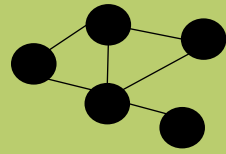
 55% net greenhouse gas emission reductions by 2030 compared to 1990

Selected measures

1. Sustainably increase LULUCF sink to -310 MtCO₂eq/y
2. AFOLU sector climate neutral by 2035
3. Protect old growth and primary forest
4. Restore carbon-rich ecosystems
5. Plant 3 billion trees
6. Increase solar and wind by 400-500% 2015-2030
7. >100% in bio-energy production 2015-2030



Comprehensive
Adequate
Resilient
Effective

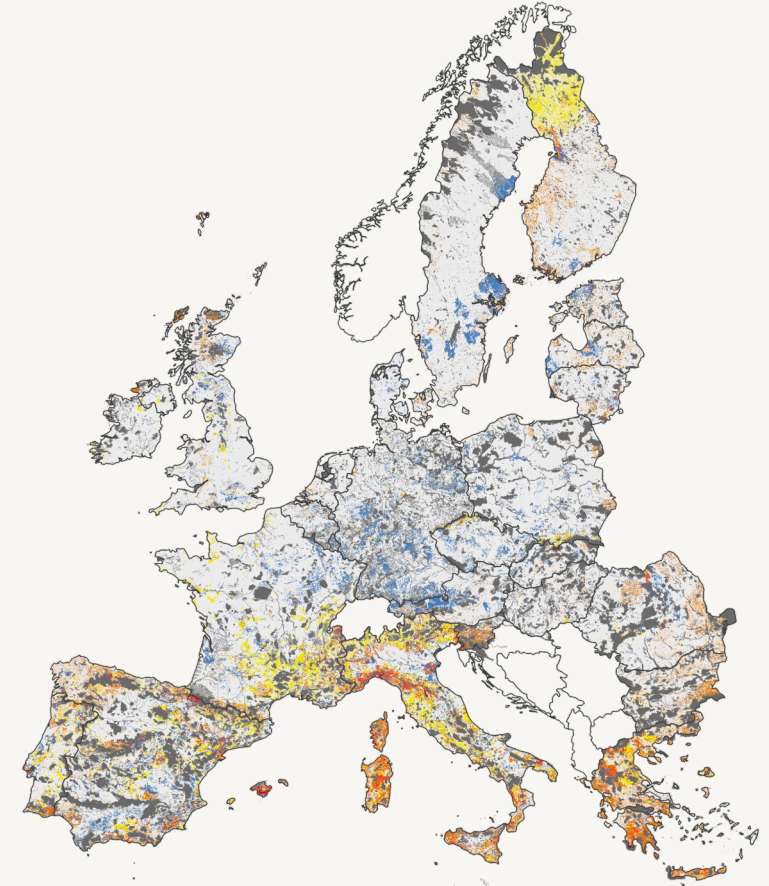


Top 5% priorities for expanding Natura 2000

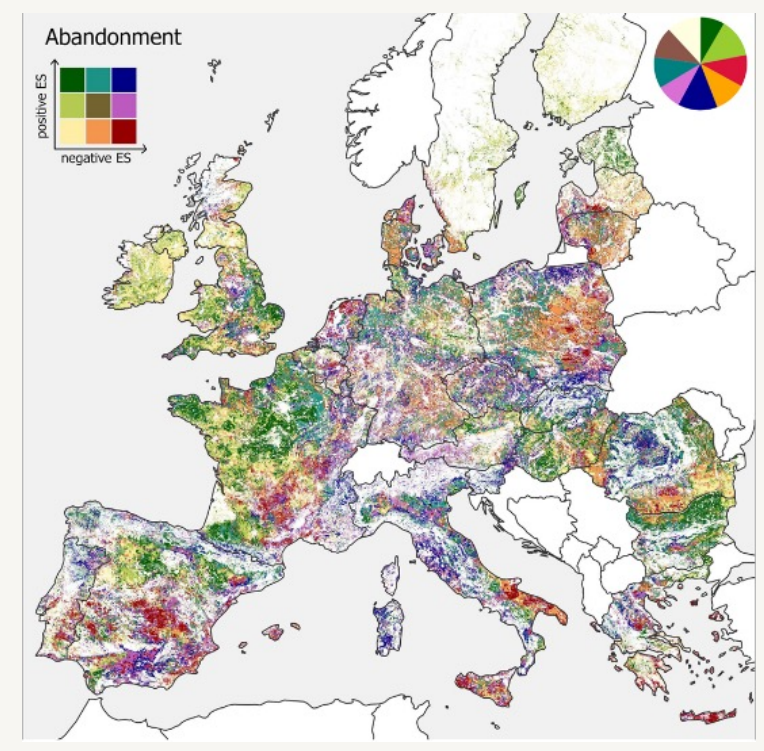
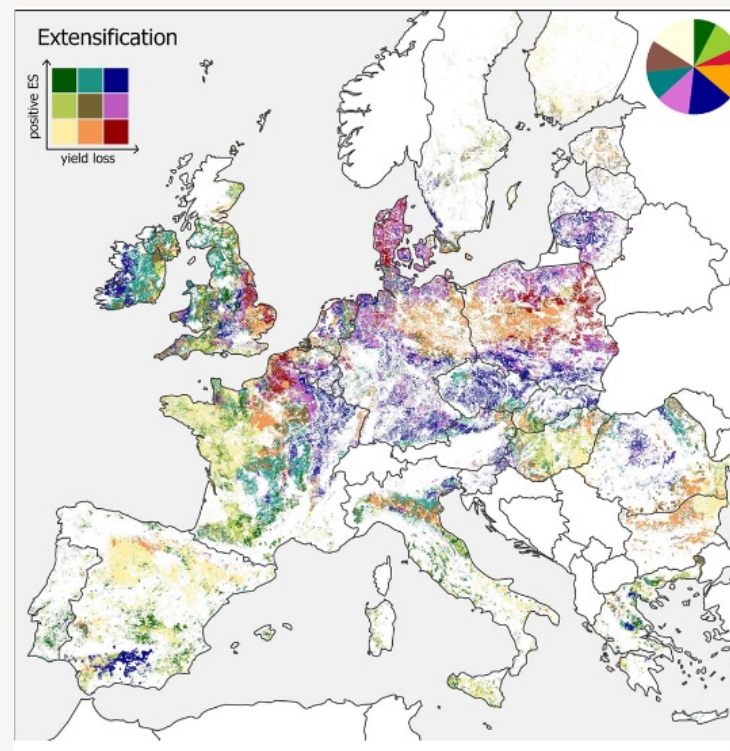
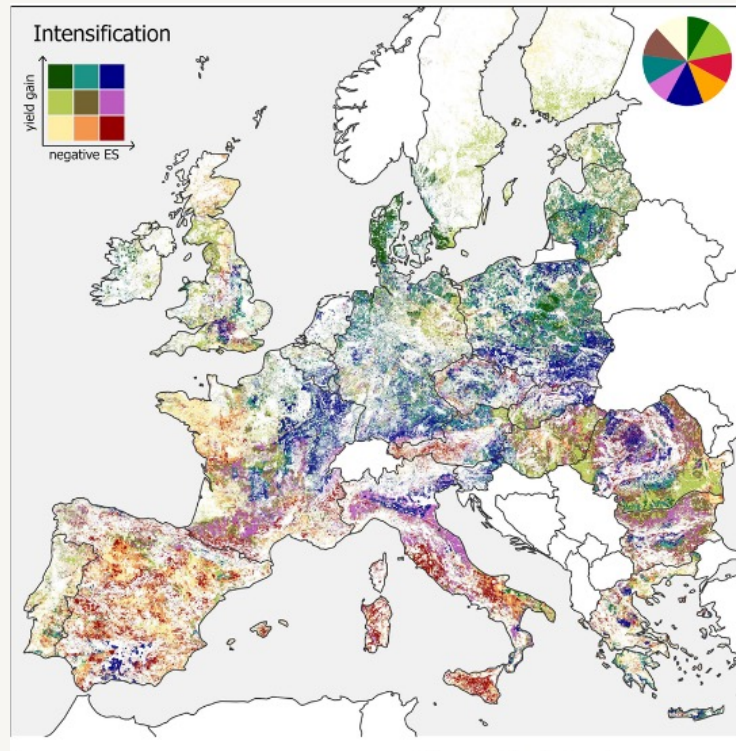
O'Connor et al., 2021 (*Science*)

Define a blueprint for TEN-N that addresses gaps in ecological representativeness of the protected area network

- **Spatial priorities for national and international designations** to support TEN-N and reduce conservation gaps.
- **Provide capacity building** that will optimize the functionality and usability of NaturaConnect data, methods and tools.
- Proposal for supporting **monitoring and reporting of TEN-N performance**



Develop participatory scenarios, informing climate and land-use projections with stakeholder visions



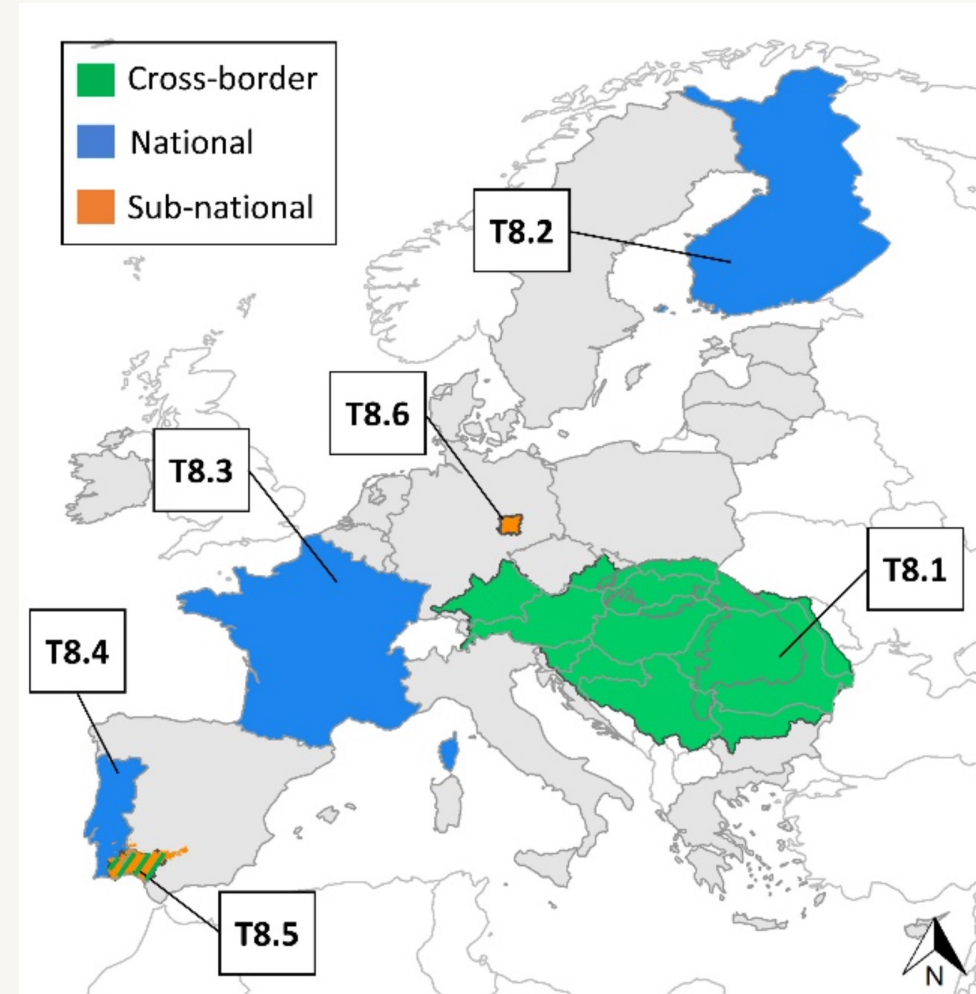
Support the protection and restoration of multifunctional connectivity across scales

- Guidelines, data and tools for connectivity conservation for the designation of corridors from local to pan-European scales
- Conservation and restoration priorities to increase the resilience of the network
- Maps of conservation and restoration value for corridors connectivity under different scenarios



Review current practices, co-designing novel tools and guidelines and maximize uptake

- **Planning decision support tools**
- **Stakeholders forum**
- Training need analysis and Moodle
- **Financial and policy** reviews and guidelines
- Several other technical and **policy-support activities in 6 case studies**



T8.4 Portugal

T8.5 The Doñana region

T8.6 Leipzig-Halle peri-urban floodplains

T8.1 The Danube-Carpathian region

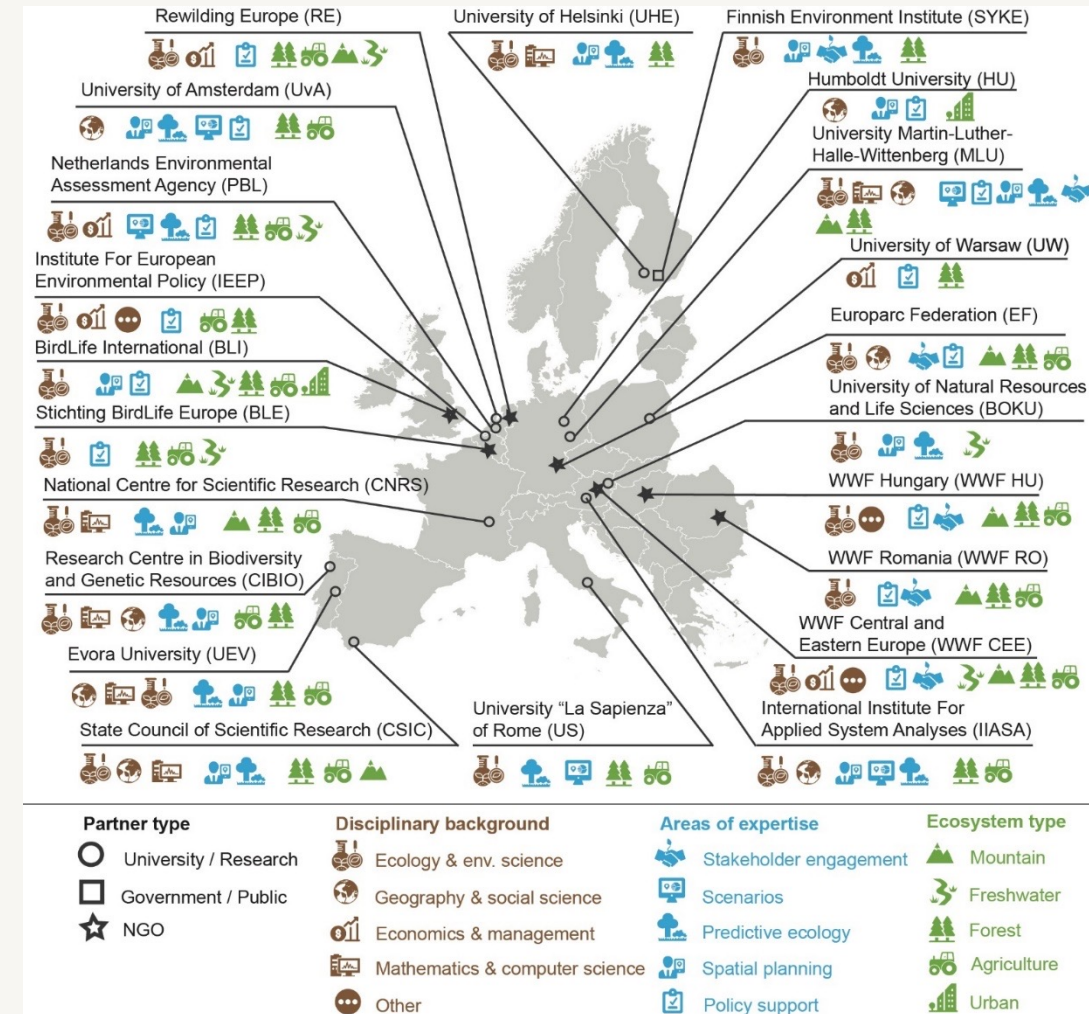
T8.2 Finland

T8.3 France



**Funded by the Horizon Europe program
Jul 2022 – Jun 2026**

The ambition of NaturaConnect is to **co-create with key decision-makers and stakeholders, knowledge, tools and capacity building to support EU Member States in realizing an ecologically representative, resilient and well-connected network of conserved areas** that contribute to achieving the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030



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