

Resilience-based Forest Management in Protected Areas

Forest Connect: Towards a Climate-smart Forest Connectivity for Large Carnivores in the Balkan-Carpathian-Dinaric Region

Interreg Danube Region







The presentation will:

- Provide a brief overview of the ForestConnect project
- Present the one of the main output the Strategic Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience-Enhancing Forest Management in Ecological Corridors for Large Carnivores
- Ask the respected audience for feedback on strategic guidelines and practical solutions needed to help PAs managers to address climate change threats to large carnivore

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ForestConnect 7 countries

AT, BG, MN, RO, SK, SR, UA

9 pilot territories (Natura 2000 sites, National and nature parks, Biosphere reserve)

23 intervention sites to test climate-resilience measures in forests (e.g., planting of native forest fruite trees, cleaning of forest pastures, game fields, etc.)

Monitoring (transecks, photo traps, radio collring of LC), Mapping & Modeling of safe corridors for LCs (connectivity, barriers, future risk assessment, etc.)

Connecting people



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The main project outputs are:

- Joint monitoring tools: shared GIS database, digital twins model and online viewer of human-wildlife conflict hotspots
- **Pilot actions and guidelines** on preserving ecosystems and related services and on management of transnational mosaic habitats on key ecological corridors.
- **Strategic Guidelines** with adaptation actions and resilience-enhancing forest management practices for protected areas - Capacity building and experience-sharing



ForestConnect Context and Relevance

Climate change may significantly increase the negative impacts of already existing threats such as lost habitats lost and deterioration, overhunting, unsuitable harvest of non-timber forest products may increase the disturbance of LC even in the most remote areas therefore leads to additionally increasing the HWC.

Climate-induced changes can impede LCs range shifts and displace individuals from core areas (incl. PA) towards more populated settlements with a risk of **increasing HWC**.

Climate change effects are rarely taken or not taken into account in the forest management practices.

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Strategic Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience-Enhancing Forest Management in Ecological Corridors for Large Carnivores (under development; due date 30th June 2026)

Subtitle: Practical Recommendations for Protected Area/Land Managers in the Carpathian, Balkan, and Dinaric Regions

- As a main project output the SAP builds on the *International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians* endorsed by the Carpathian Convention
- The goal of the SAP is to provide a comprehensive framework for adaptation actions and resilience-enhancing forest management.
- The SAP elaboration is leaded by CUAS with the support of a Strategic Expert Group composed of ForestConnect PPs



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The process for the SAP elaboration foresees:

Feedback phase - (April-July 2025)

1) Consultations with PAs managers to ensure that the content of the SAP will be relevant and feasible for the boots-on-the-ground.

2) Questionnaire to assess current actions and identify future needs of PAs managers.

3) Consultations with the Carpathian Convention Working Groups on Biodiversity, Forest, Climate Change, Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, IUCN WCPA

Testing phase (July-Dec 2025)

1) Discussions in working groups (national, local) based on specific actions aiming to ensure collaboration between PA managers, rangers, researchers and other stakeholders

2) Providing drafts of SAP to experts (incl. Carpathian Convention Working Groups) to ensure relevant content is being provided

Validation phase (Jan-June 2026)

1) Workshops and communication

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Feedback from the audience

Current measures:

What measures are you currently implementing to enhance forest connectivity and mitigate climate change?

Future plans:

What additional measures would you like to implement to simultaneously improve forest connectivity, facilitate LC movement and support climate change adaptation?

Access to the survey

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<u>https://interreg-</u> <u>danube.eu/projects/forestconnect/about-us</u>

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