



NaturaConnect Update for the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee

Activities, publications, uptake & next steps

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Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee,
Belgrade, Serbia, 2-3 December 2025

Content

- Objectives & activities in the Danube-Carpathian Region
- Selected publications relevant for the Carpathian Convention
- Activities carried out in 2025
- NaturaConnect in use
- Next steps

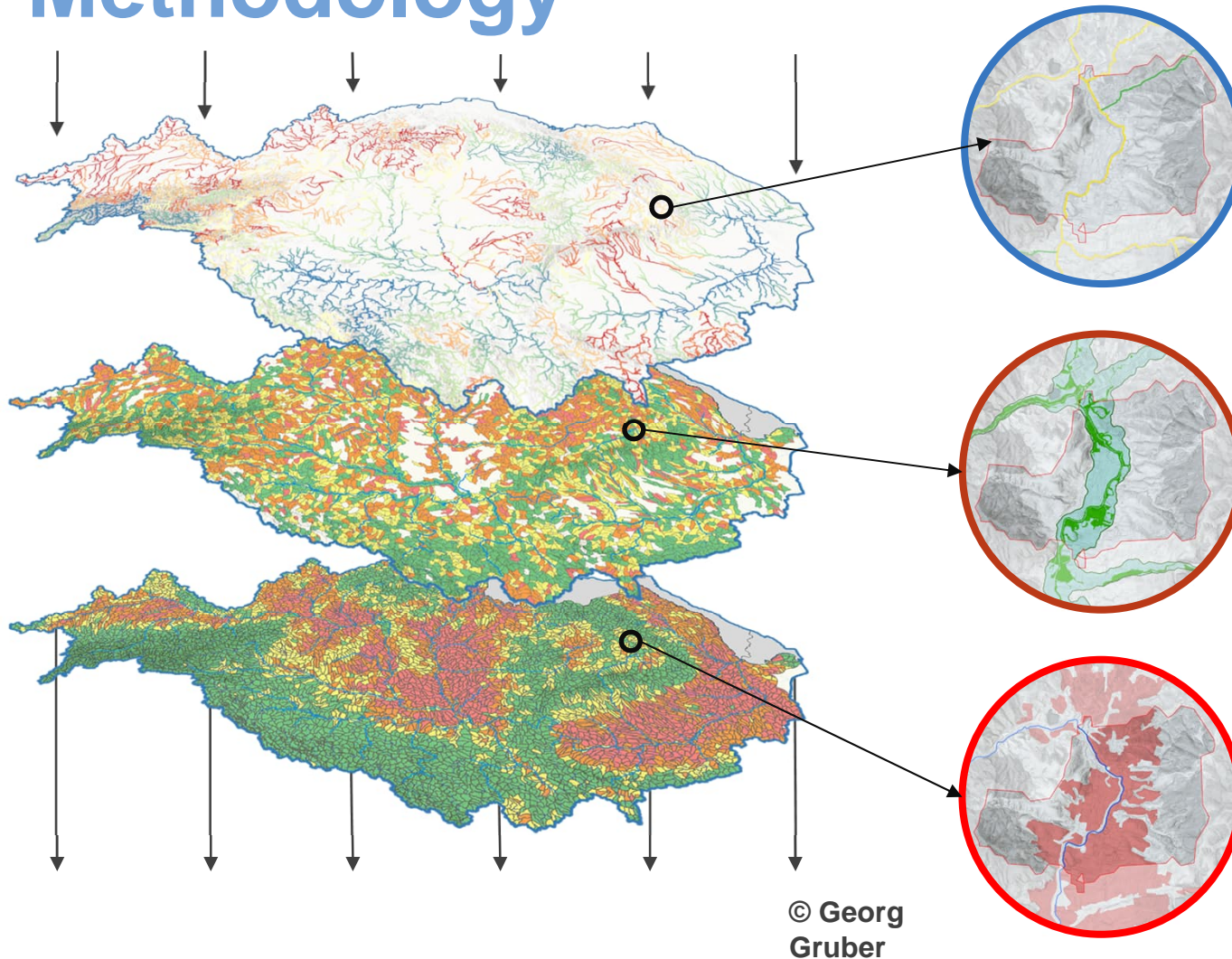
NaturaConnect Objectives in the DCR - recap

- Establish transboundary freshwater & terrestrial connectivity
- Develop connectivity prioritisation approach
- Prepare suggestions for restoration and conservation areas
- Investigate multiple stressors across the landscape/realms
- Engage with stakeholders to consult, co-design & strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration



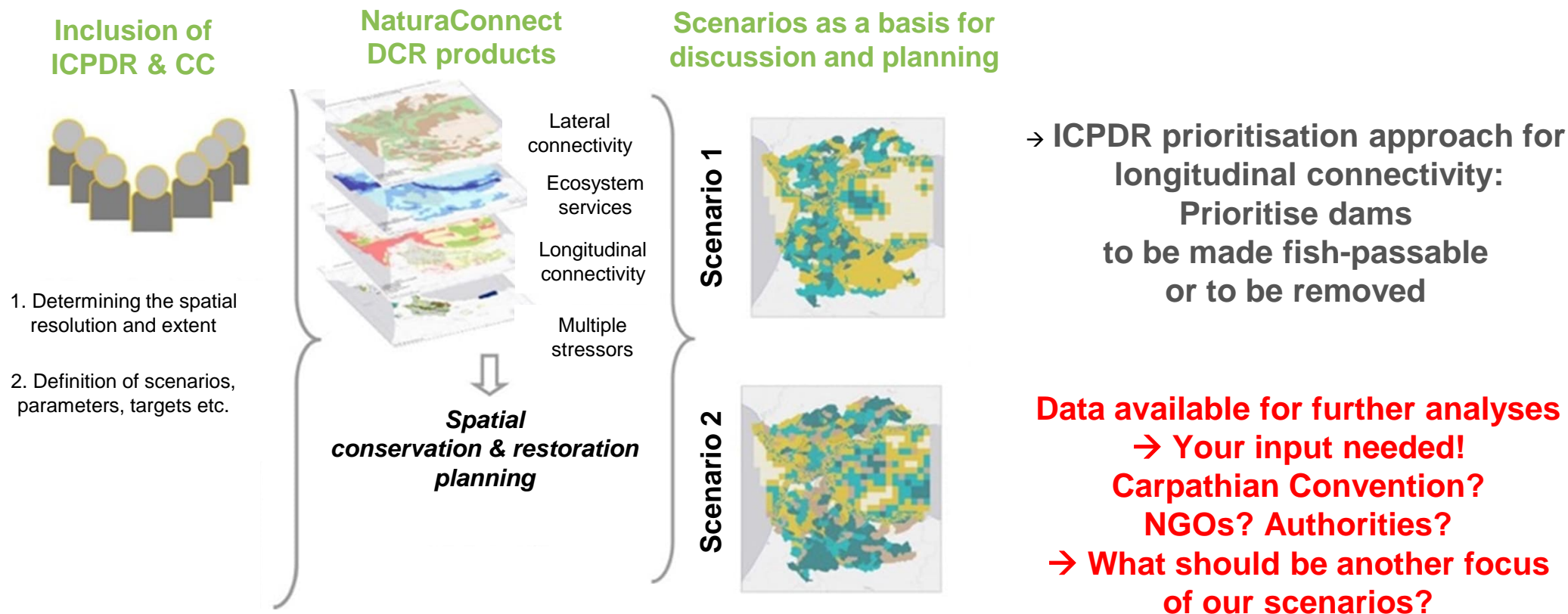
Image: Dan Dinu

Methodology



- Conditions of the river-waterbody (Longitudinal connectivity -> network approach)
- Conditions of the riparian zone (Lateral connectivity -> circuit theory)
- Conditions of the hinterland (Connectivity of wetland habitats -> effective mesh size)

Integration & prioritisation of NaturaConnect DCR products



Adapted from Barbosa et al, 2019, STOTEN

Activities in the Danube-Carpathian Region in 2025

Science & stakeholder engagement

- Prioritisation approach elaborated with ICPDR stakeholders
- Preliminary illustration of areas with restoration potential
- Presentations at the Forum Carpathicum & recommendations, 2-5 Sep 2025, and other events
- Webinar Linking Blue and Green Infrastructure in the DCR, 11 Nov 2025
- Webinar The road ahead: Financing Nature Conservation in the DCR, 23 Oct 2025



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Link to webinar materials: <https://naturaconnect.eu/past-events/>

Review and synthesis of best practices in governance and land-use policies to implement TEN-N

- **Review with recommendations** on appropriate mechanisms, policies and instruments to create resilient TEN-N
- **Case studies across six regions** (Danube-Carpathian, Finland, France, Portugal, Spain and Germany)
- Identification common **governance barriers and successful frameworks**
- Information on **legal frameworks, policies, governance for PAs** for more than 20 countries

Launch of the Political Economy Analysis Module at the NaturaConnect Learning Platform, 10 April 2025



DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3897/arphapreprints.e139236>

Link to webinar materials: <https://naturaconnect.eu/past-events/>



Financing options for TEN-N

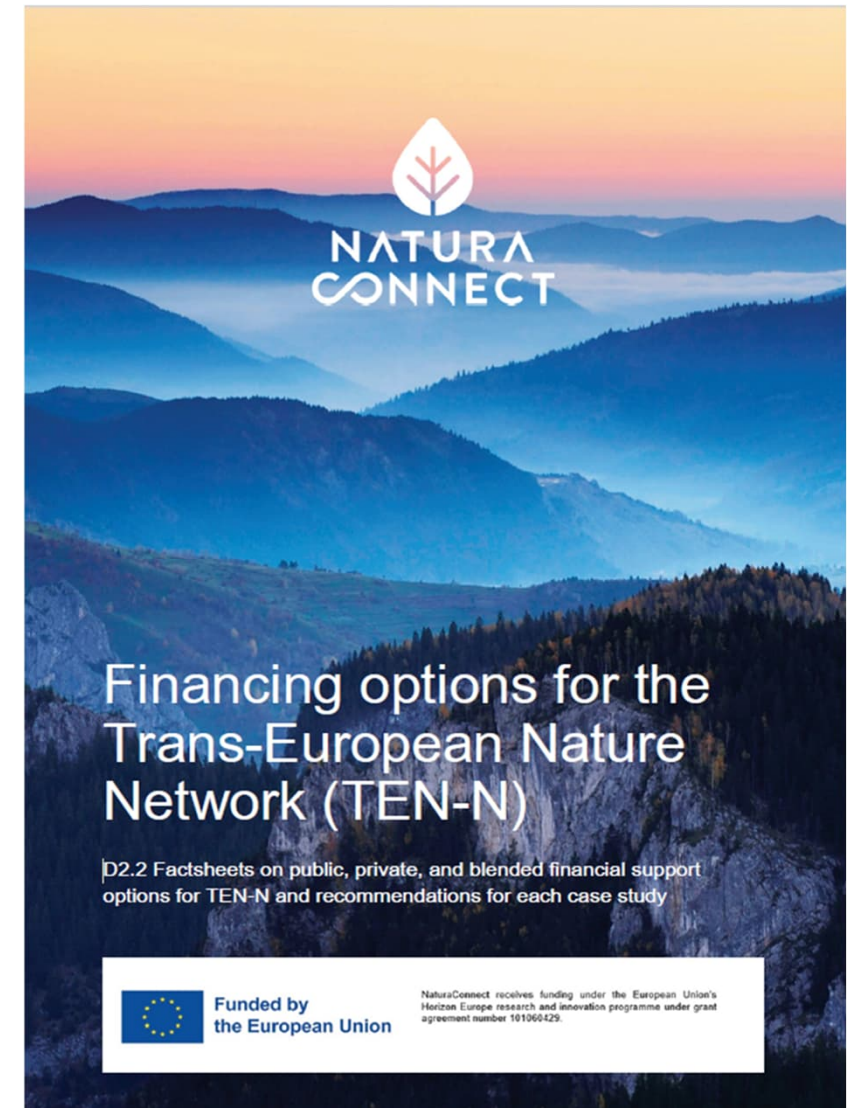
- Identification important **funding opportunities** to support protected areas and ecological connectivity.
- **Public** EU funding and **private** financing
- Outline their relative **strengths and limitations**
- Examples of funded projects / initiatives
- Private finance factsheets

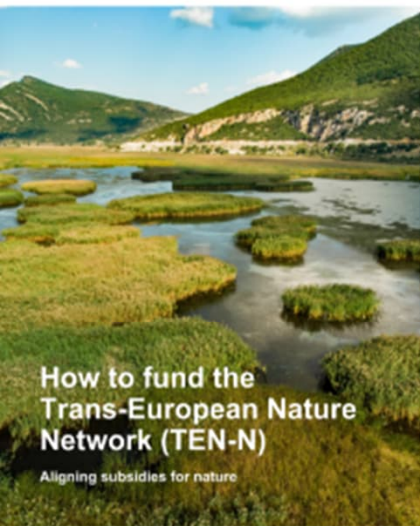
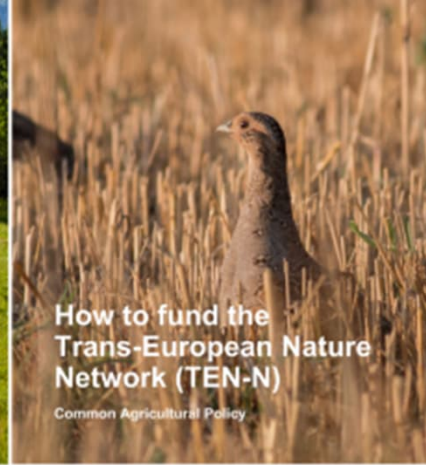
Two webinars held on public and private financing, featuring the future EU Multiannual Financial Framework, 18 June & 23 October 25

<https://naturaconnect.eu/financing-options-for-the-trans-european-nature-network-ten-n/>



Link to webinar materials: <https://naturaconnect.eu/past-events/>





Guidelines for connectivity conservation and planning in Europe



D6.1 Guidelines for connectivity conservation and planning in Europe with supporting webbased inventory and databases

This report presents a coherent methodological framework and guidelines for mapping functional and structural connectivity at the European scale, as part of the Horizon Europe NaturaConnect project, which is supporting EU Member States in developing a coherent TEN-N of protected and conserved areas.

Author(s): Francisco Moreira, Filipe S. Dias, Jeremy Dertien, Ana Ceia Hasse, Luis Borda-de-Água, Silvia Carvalho, Miguel Porto, Francesca Cosentino, Luigi Maiorano, Andrea Sacchi, Luca Santini, Florian Borgwardt, Georg Gruber, Nikolaj Poulsen, Rafaela Schinegger, Carina Seliger, Néstor Fernández

Webinar held in collaboration with the World Commission on Protected Areas, 25 March 2025 & WWF-NC exchange on connectivity models (Jun & Sep 2025)

Link to webinar materials: <https://naturaconnect.eu/past-events/>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3897/arphapreprints.e129021>

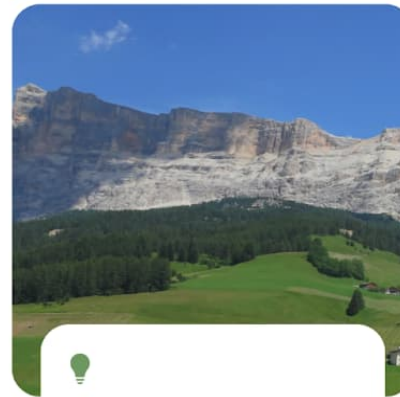
Connectivity project database: <https://naturaconnect.idiv.de/projects/>

NaturaConnect Learning Platform

Modules

- Self-paced training course with sequential and stand-alone modules
- 6 out of 12 modules have been released, partly with a launching event
- >220 registered external users

<https://www.europeannatureacademy.com/course/naturaconnect>

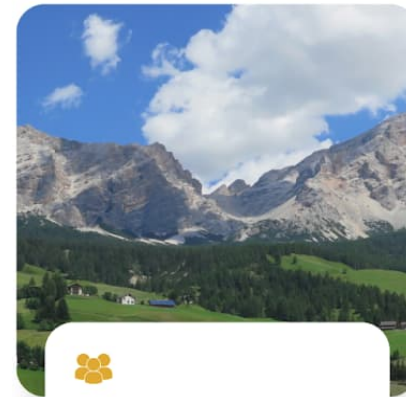


Section 1 - Concepts

Background information.

Modules

- 1.1. Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N) ✓
- 1.2. Cross-sectoral Policy Frameworks ✓
- 1.3. Nature Futures Framework (NFF) ✓
- 1.4. Connectivity Conservation
- 1.5. Integrated Spatial Planning



Section 2 - Governance

Processes and instruments.

Modules

- 2.1. Stakeholder Engagement ✓
- 2.2. Financial Instruments ✓
- 2.3. Political Economy Analysis (PEA) ✓



Section 3 - Technical Tools

Project outcomes.

Modules

- 3.1. Biodiversity Modelling
- 3.2. Scenarios on Land Use and Climate Change ✓
- 3.3. Connectivity Analyses
- 3.4. Spatial Planning for Protected and Restoration Areas

An integrated Trans-European nature network design & Nature and people

Decision framework and support system designed to guide spatial conservation decisions

Webinar Mapping the Future of Europe's Protected Areas – Setting Priorities for Strategic Expansion, 22 May 2025

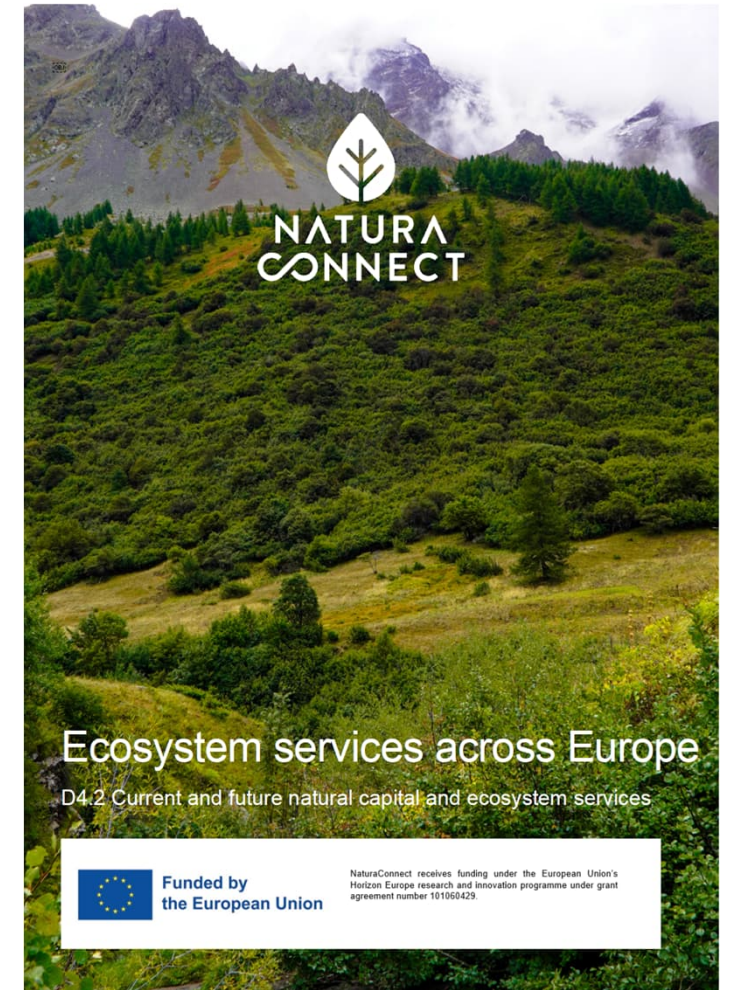
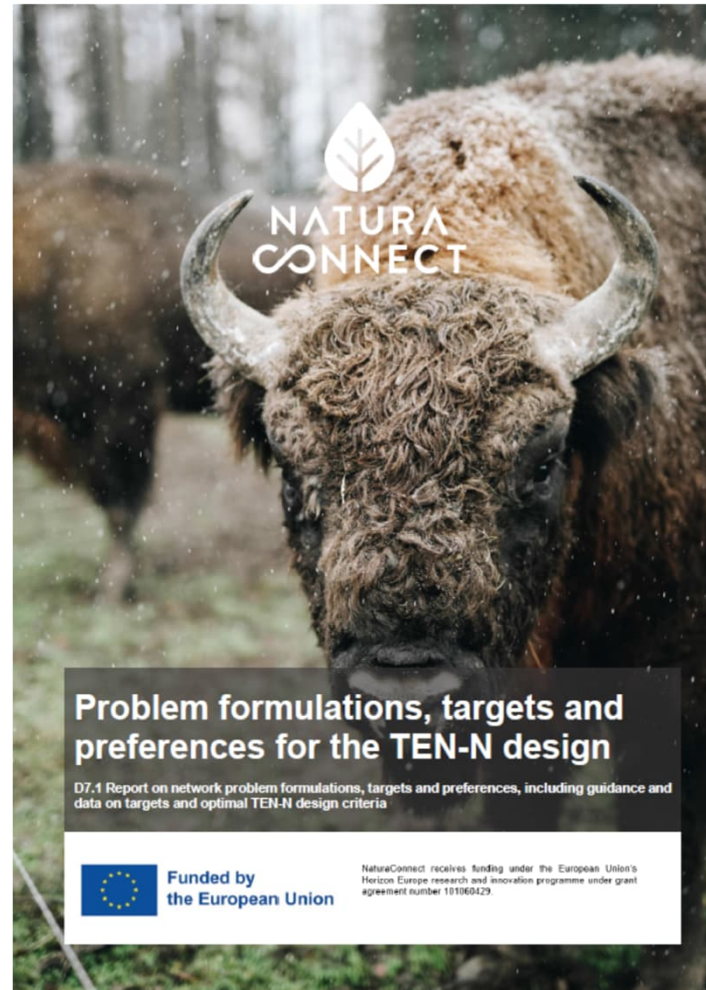
Link to webinar materials:

<https://naturaconnect.eu/past-events/>

<https://naturaconnect.eu/deliverables/>

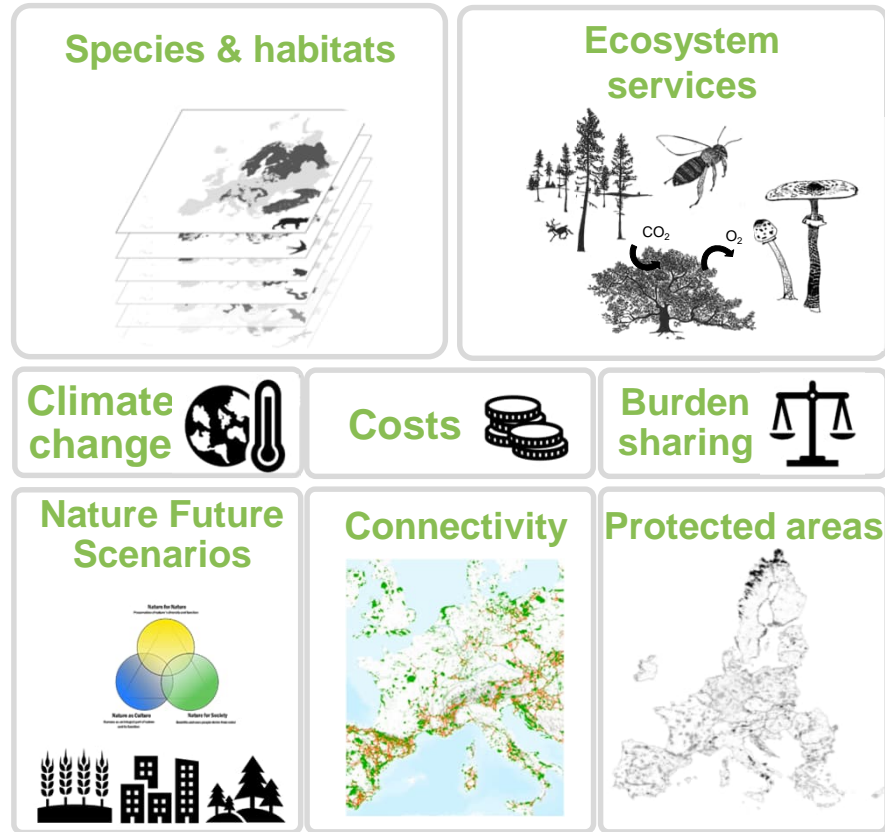


Not yet published, coming soon.



An integrated Trans-European nature network design

Identify priority areas using multi-criteria spatial planning algorithms (lead: IIASA)



Problem formulation and prioritization:

30% protected areas

10% strict protection

20% Restoration

Green infrastructure



NC products in use

- ForestConnect Strategic Action Plan
- GRID – Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development Integrated Program (one part implemented in Ukraine)
- Support for WWF's work on renewables – maps of sensitive areas
- Prespa Ohrid Nature Funds (PONT Connect Strategy)
- Support for LIFE SNaP project development, WP2
- Future research and more

Link to webinar materials: <https://naturaconnect.eu/past-events/>



Next steps

Webinars

- Second part of setting priorities for mapping protected areas in Europe – feedback integrated, early 2026
- Climate Change, early 2026
- NaturaConnector – decision supporting tool

Methodology - BOKU

- Integrate land use pressures (Copernicus)
- Integrate other outputs from the NaturaConnect project
- Connectivity for EUNIS habitats



Image: Mircea Vergheet

FROM SCIENCE TO ACTION:

Strategic planning for the Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N)



20 & 21 January 2026



Atelier29 | Brussels



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