



Update and Outlook

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17th Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity
Meeting, online, 24 February 2026



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➤ Objectives of the NaturaConnect project

To support countries in designing a Trans-European Nature Network



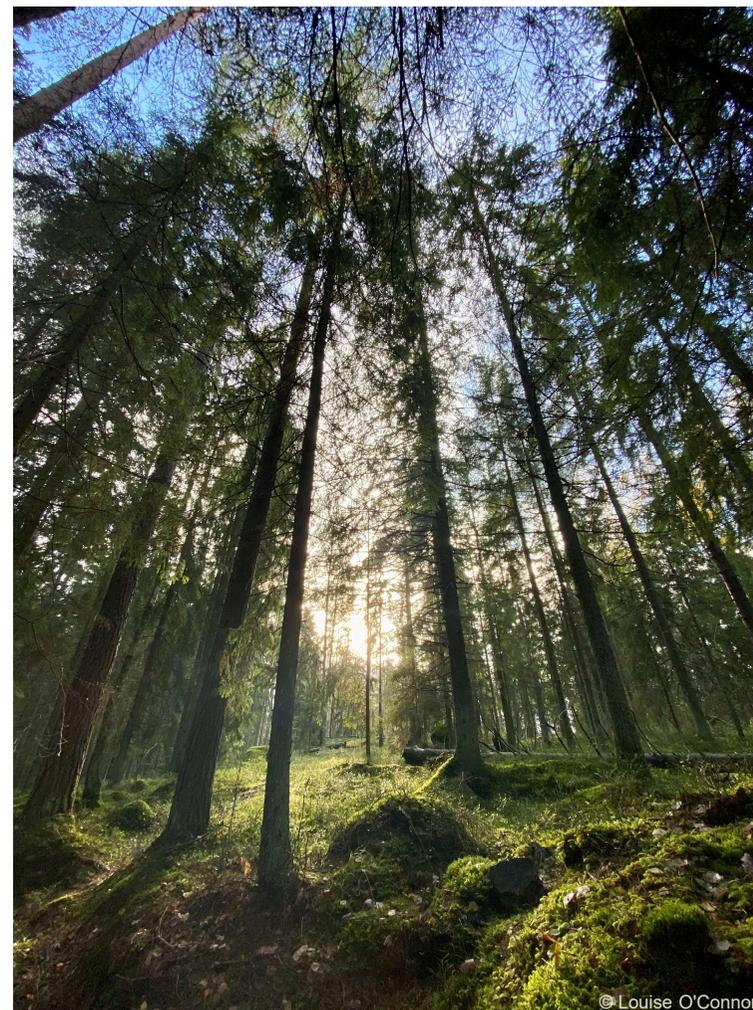
to **protect at least 30% of the land**, with at least **10% under strict protection** (EU Biodiversity Strategy)



to implement **ecological restoration on 20% of land** (Nature Restoration Regulation)



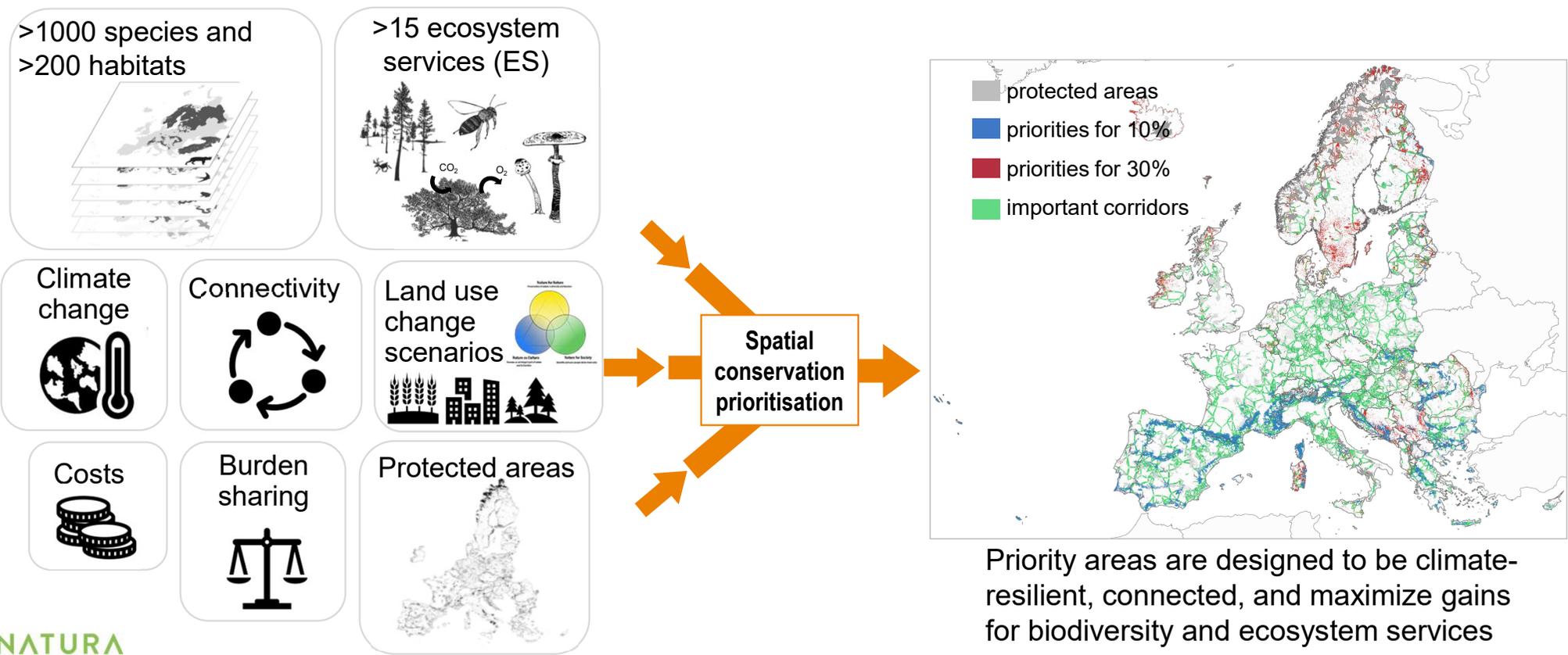
to maintain and restore **ecological corridors** to prevent genetic isolation, allow for species migration, and maintain healthy ecosystems



Key outputs

Priorities for conservation, restoration, and connectivity

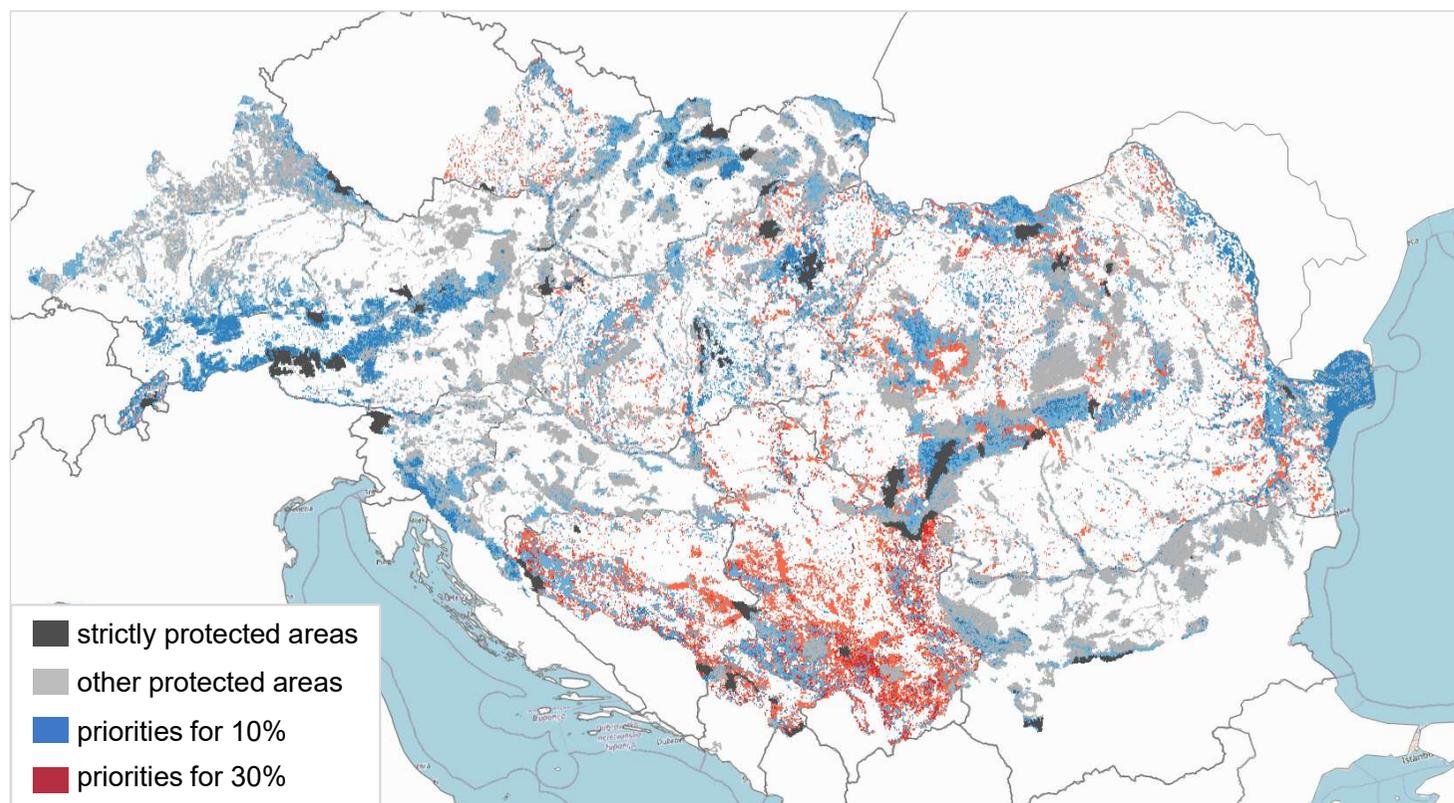
based on spatial data for species, habitats, ES, climate and land use scenarios, costs



➤ Key outputs

Top priorities for conservation and strict protection

Zooming into the Danube-Carpathian region



Priority areas are designed to be climate-resilient, connected, and maximize benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem services

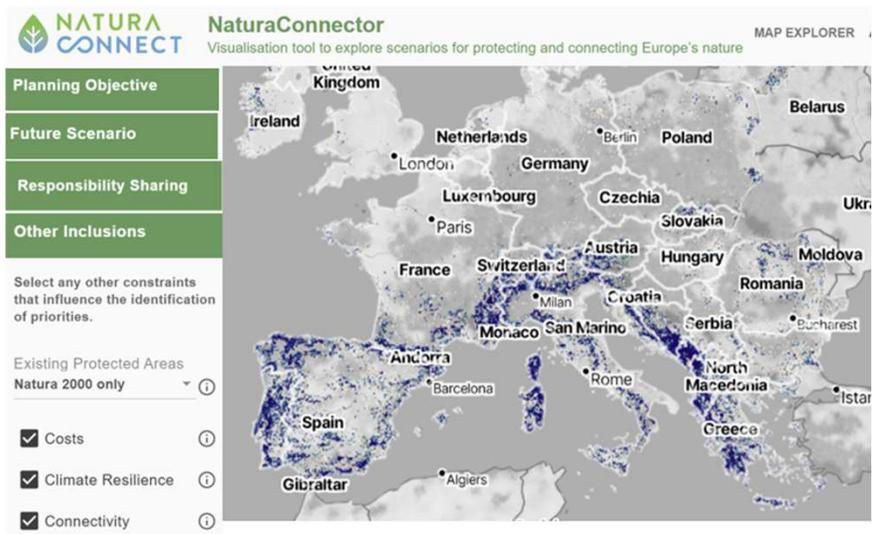
➤ Key outputs

Platforms for engagement and dissemination

✂ We are developing 2 online tools to visualize maps and provide feedback

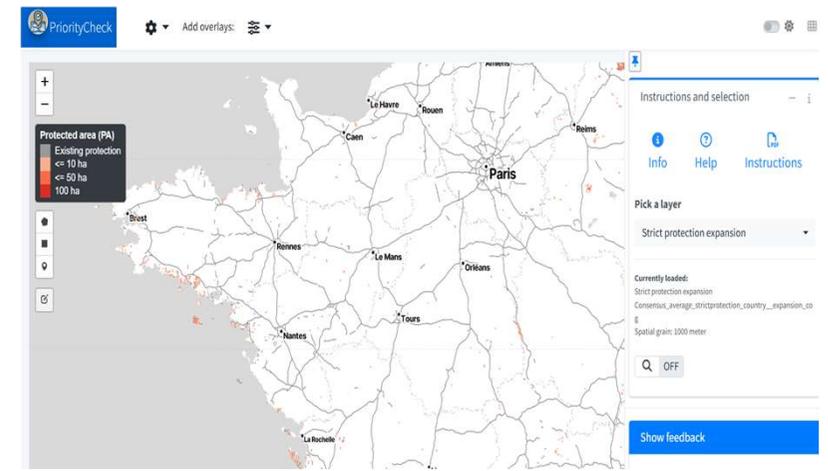
NaturaConnector

Navigate and explore all scenarios



PriorityCheck

Check and provide feedback on top priority areas



Join our upcoming webinar on Tuesday, March 17!



From Science to Action

Brussels, 20-21 January 2026

Report out soon!



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

©Sandra Grego, EUROPARC Federation

Webinar Linking Blue and Green Infrastructure in the Danube-Carpathian Region: Prioritising Rivers, Wetlands, and Landscapes

50 participants: International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), Carpathian Convention, governmental administrations or authorities, NGOs, research institutions, and other stakeholders from the private or sub-national level.

Objectives of the Webinar

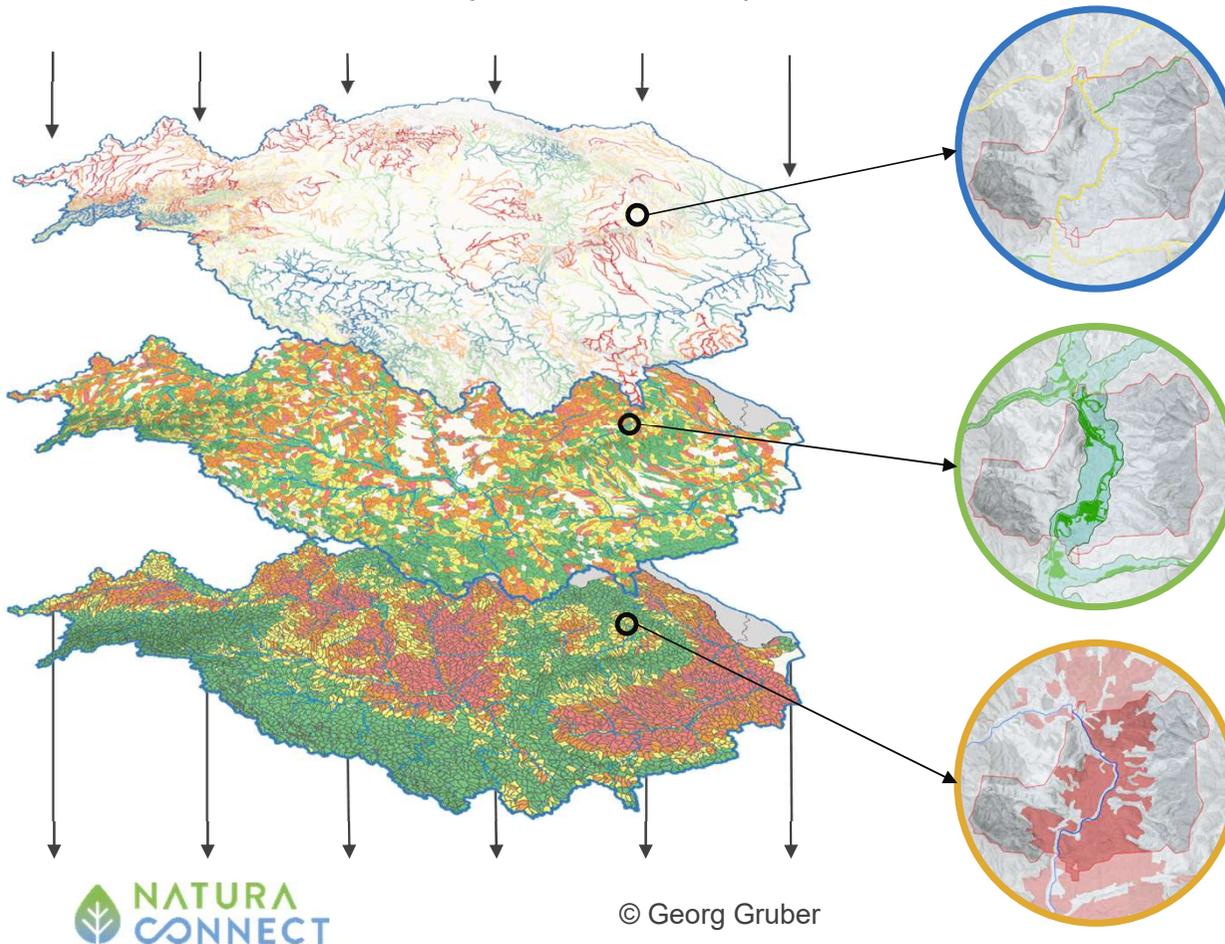
- **Introduce the NaturaConnect case-study methodology**
- **Invite participants to share feedback** on the methodology, usability, and next steps.
- Support EU biodiversity and restoration targets **through coordinated, cross-border planning approaches.**
- **Raise awareness & inspire action in the DCR** on integrated restoration and connectivity conservation.



BOKU's Approach: Combination of 3 scales

Main investigation unit:

Functional Elementary Catchments (FECs; $\varnothing \sim 60 \text{ km}^2$) and associated rivers (ECRINS network; $\varnothing \sim 2.5 \text{ km}$)



- **Longitudinal connectivity (river)**

Riverconn indices

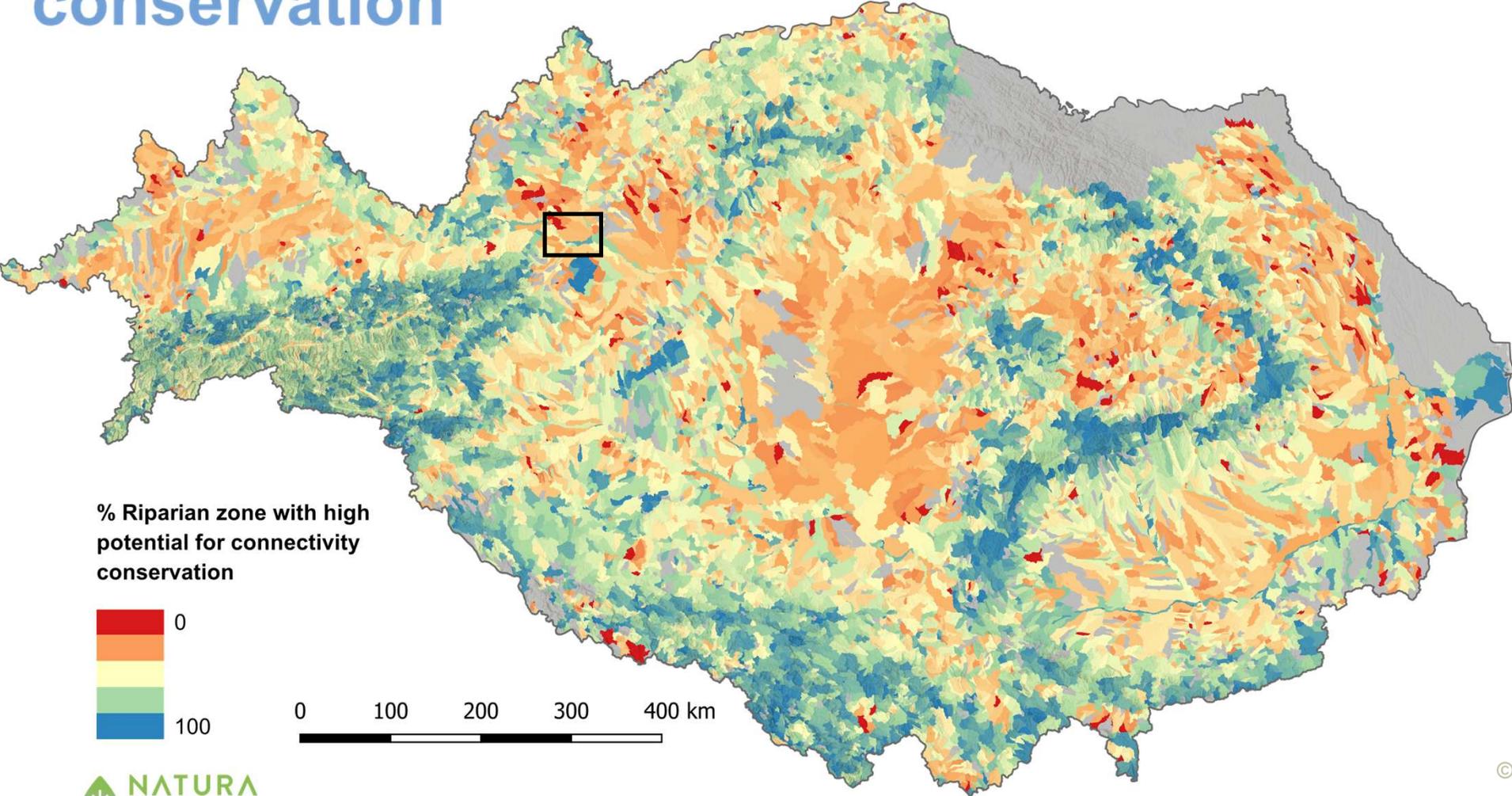
- **Lateral connectivity (riparian zone/floodplain)**

Resistance-based Omniscape approach

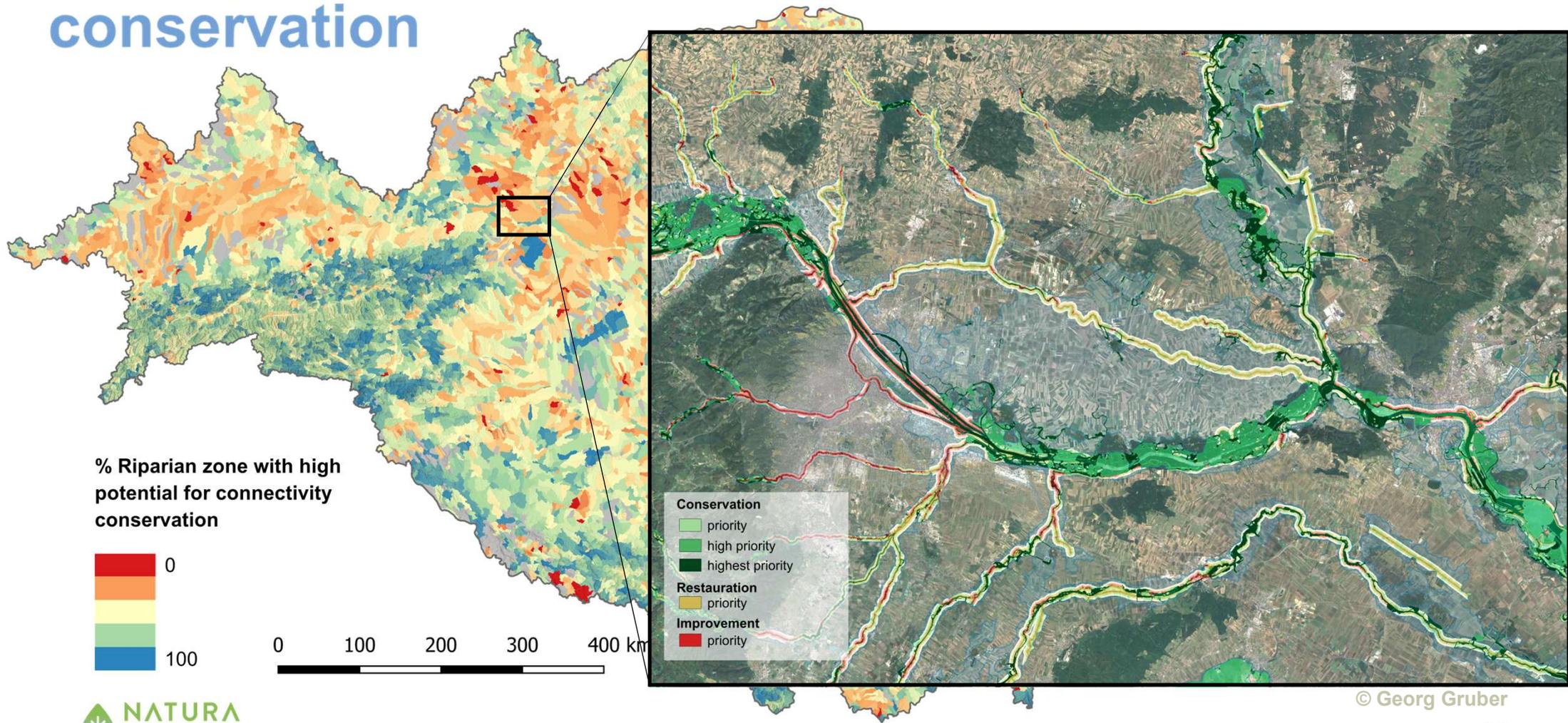
- **Habitat connectivity (sub-catchment)**

Effective mesh size

Priority for connectivity conservation

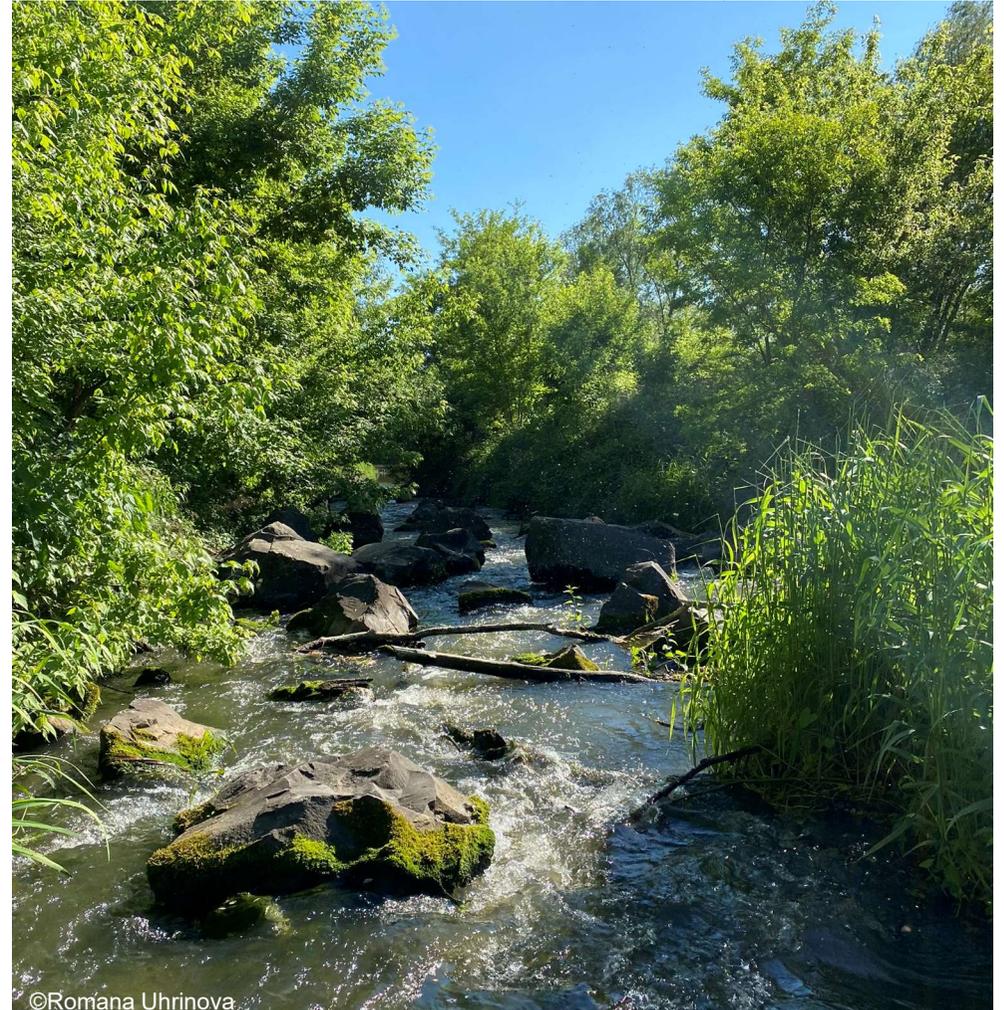


Priority for connectivity conservation



Next events

- **Brussels event** report release soon!
- 17 March: **Providing feedback on priority areas for implementing European area-based biodiversity targets** organised by IIASA [Registration link](#)
- 26 March: **Navigating Climate Change: Methodologies and Applications for Conservation** in cooperation with Sapienza, EUROPARC Federation & WWF
 - Invitation to come soon!
- 23 April (TBC): Webinar on Land Use in cooperation with University of Amsterdam, EUROPARC Federation and WWF
 - Preparation in progress
- September: **Final event**



Connect with NaturaConnect!

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tinyurl.com/ENA-NC

NaturaConnect Learning Platform

The project capacity building hub supports professional development to design and implement the Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N).

It provides easy access to training modules and learning resources for stakeholder engagement, spatial conservation planning and more.