



# Final considerations

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17<sup>th</sup> Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee Meeting

7-8 September 2026



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07-08/09/2026

# ➤ Objectives of the NaturaConnect project

## To support countries in designing a Trans-European Nature Network



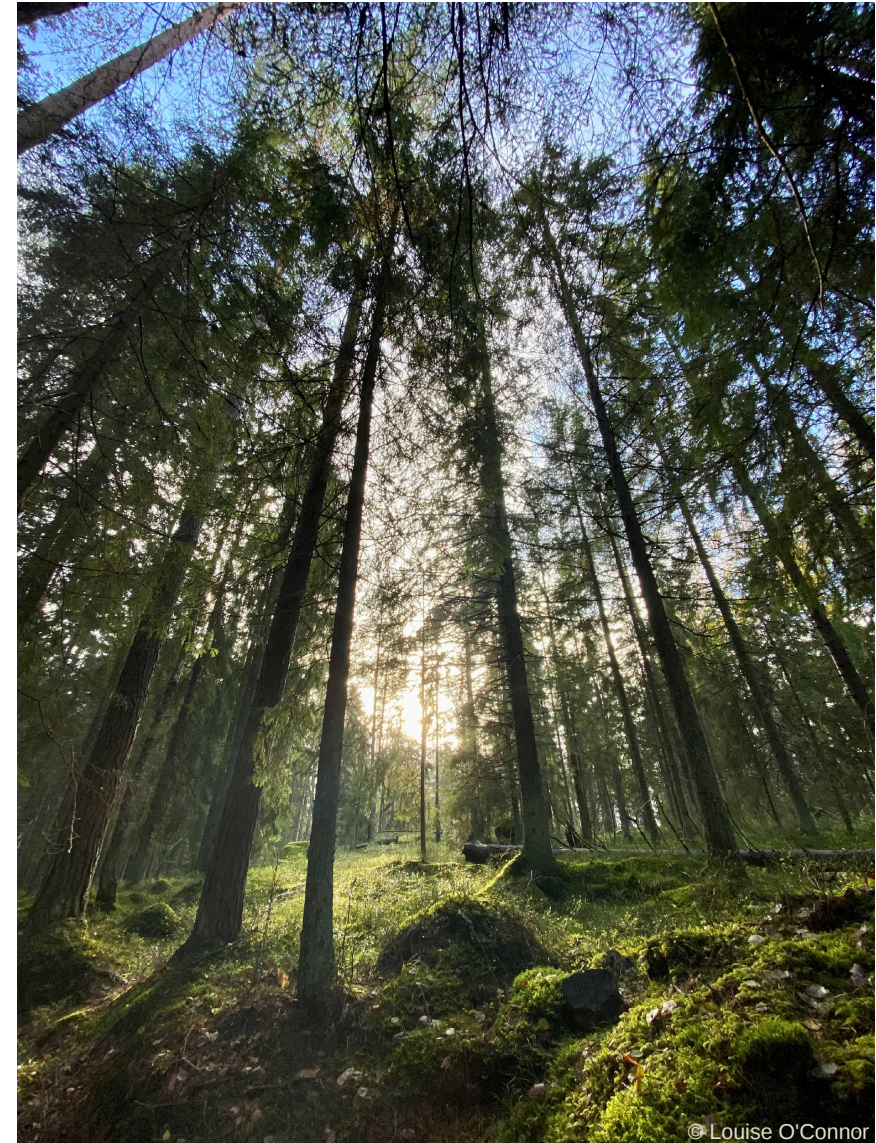
to **protect** at least 30% of the land, with at least 10% under **strict protection** (EU Biodiversity Strategy)



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



© Louise O'Connor

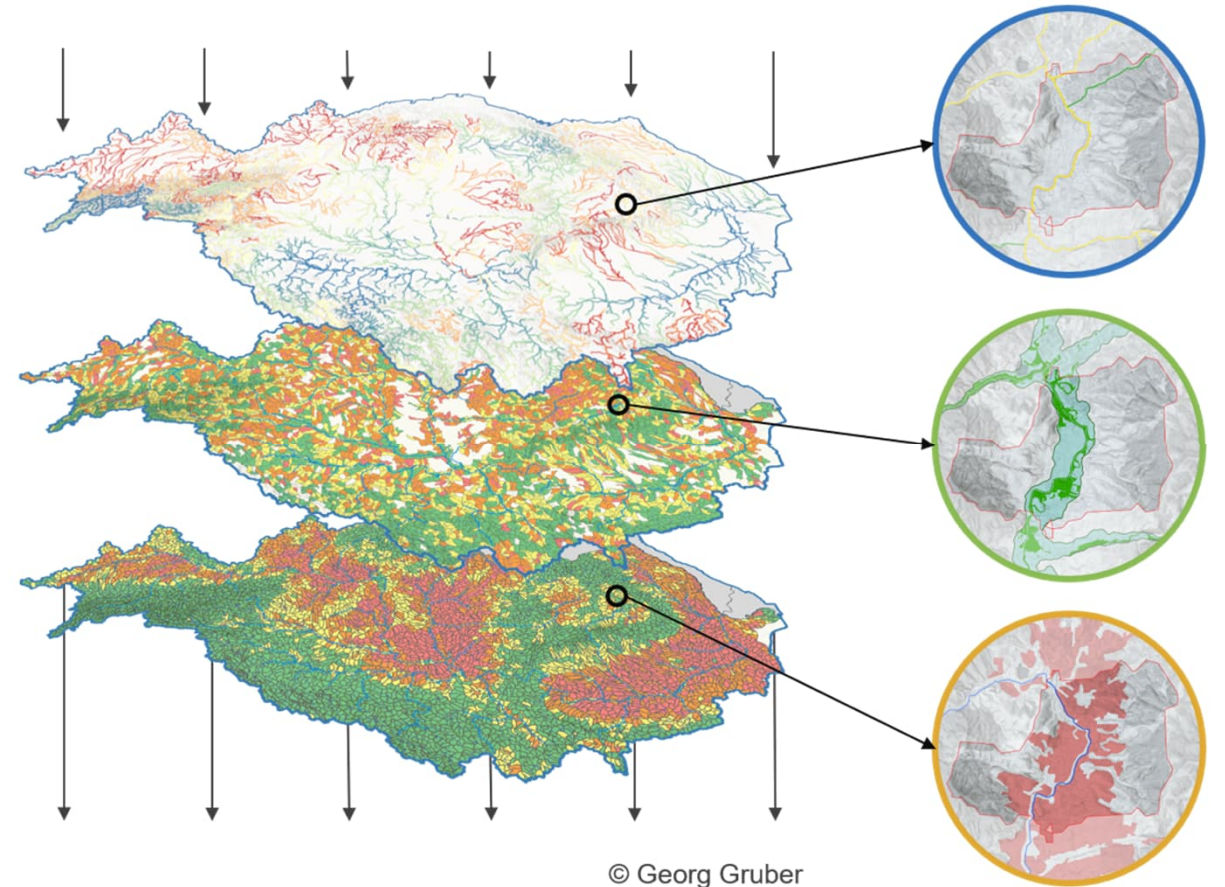
# NaturaConnect Objectives Danube-Carpathian Region

- Establish transboundary freshwater & terrestrial connectivity
- Develop connectivity prioritization 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
- Engage with stakeholders for an analysis of governance structures for protected areas & connectivity, enablers and barriers

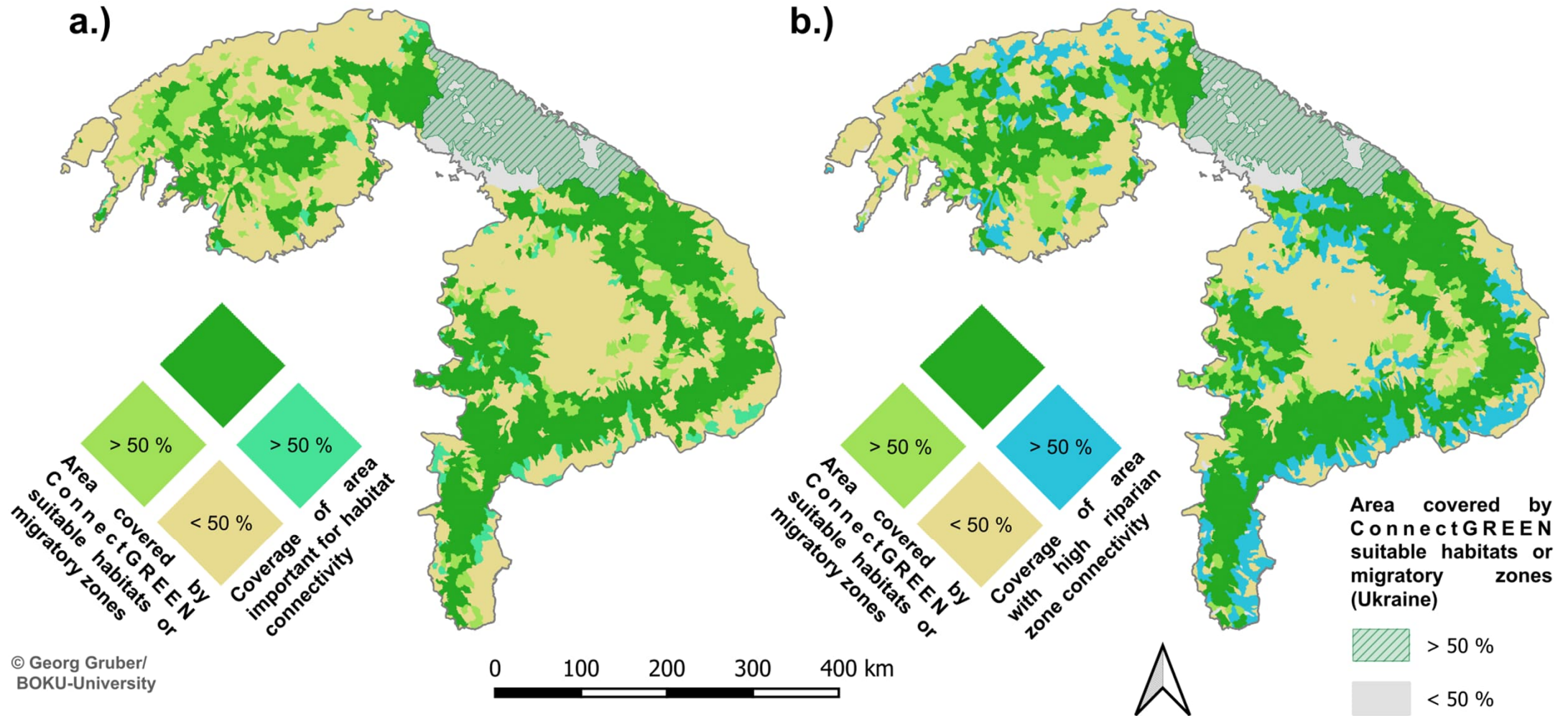


# NaturaConnect's integrated approach

- NaturaConnect connects three dimensions:
  - River continuity (longitudinal)
  - Floodplain and riparian connectivity (lateral)
  - Terrestrial habitat networks (hinterland)
- The framework integrates blue and green infrastructure into a single planning approach.
- It identifies barriers, bottlenecks and priority restoration areas.
- It provides a science-based foundation for TEN-N implementation.

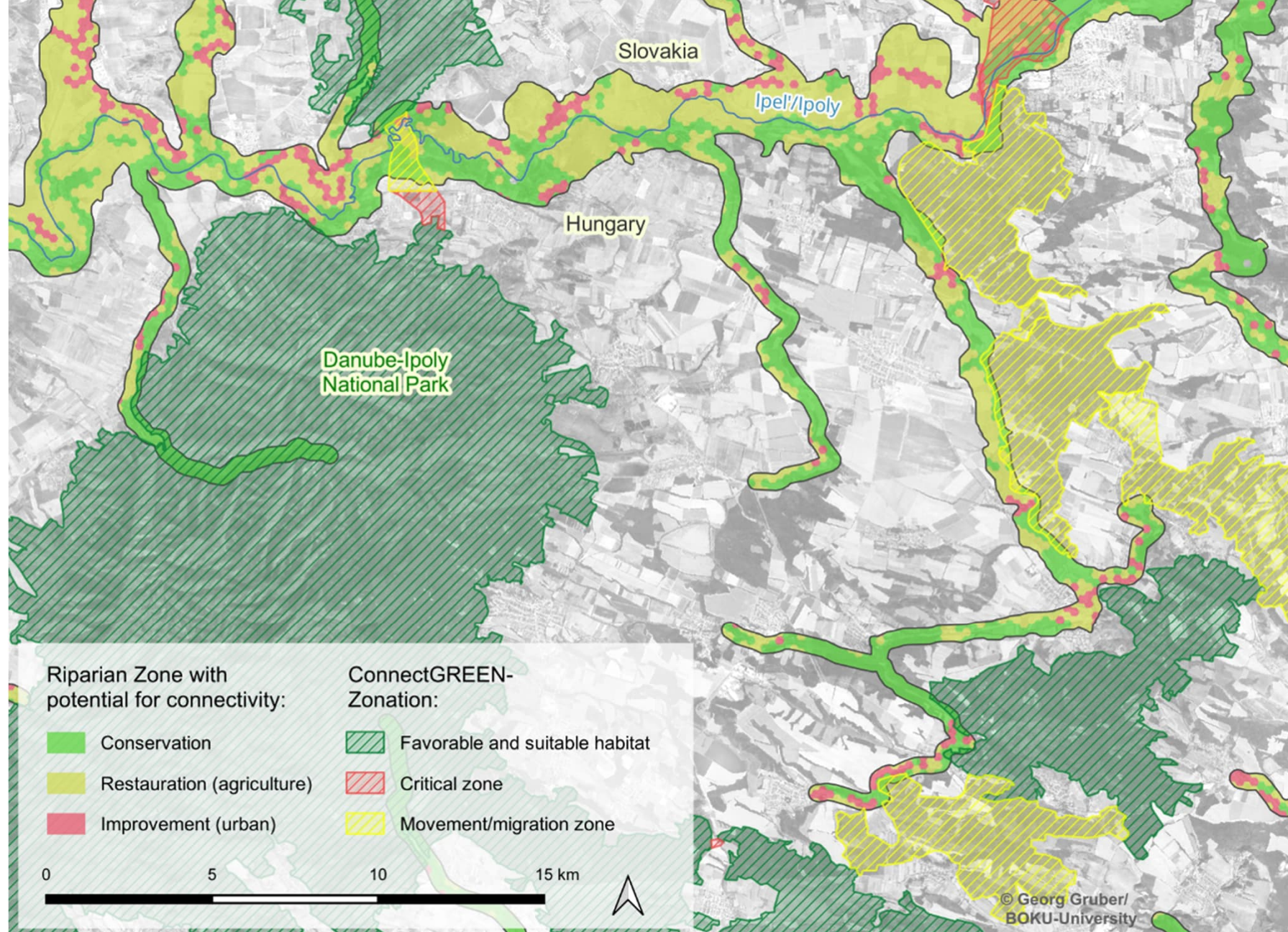


# Overlay with NC & ConnectGREEN results



Please note that datasets for Ukraine could not be obtained due to their only recently started cooperation with the European Environment Agency (EEA).

# Detailed map – preview of the QGIS project



# What NaturaConnect found

- Ecological processes operate across landscapes, while **policy implementation remains fragmented** by sectors and national borders.
- Connectivity is recognised in policies, but **implementation remains limited** across countries.
- Protected areas alone are insufficient to maintain connectivity – **50% of the corridors are outside** protected areas
- **Restoration of key bottlenecks** can generate disproportionate ecological benefits.
- Integrated restoration also supports **climate resilience, water retention and ecosystem services**.
- Existing **governance platforms**, like the Carpathian Convention, provide a strong starting point for action.

*Targeted restoration can deliver multiple biodiversity and societal benefits.*

# Priorities for the Carpathian Convention

- Facilitate embedding of ecological connectivity into Nature Restoration Plans, biodiversity strategies and spatial planning.
- Strengthen coordination among ministries and sectors.
- Facilitate restoration where freshwater and terrestrial connectivity objectives overlap, e.g. in projects.
- Facilitate building harmonised data systems, indicators and monitoring frameworks through the working groups
- Facilitate securing long-term financing and strengthen transboundary cooperation – e.g., lobby for the continuation of the LIFE program, connectivity objectives in the DRP, and national CAP foci
- Raise political awareness on the importance of ecological connectivity

# A roadmap for TEN-N

- Existing ecological corridor initiatives provide a strong foundation.
- Integrating green and blue infrastructure creates a more resilient ecological network.
- NaturaConnect offers practical guidance for prioritising conservation and restoration actions, including capacity-building
- The Carpathian Convention can help translate evidence into coordinated regional action.

**Building TEN-N requires coordinated action across countries, sectors and landscapes.**



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**22<sup>nd</sup> September 2026 | Brussels**  
**NATURACONNECT FINAL STAKEHOLDER EVENT**  
**Pathways to a Trans-European Nature Network**



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# Connect with NaturaConnect!

 [www.naturaconnect.eu](http://www.naturaconnect.eu)

 [naturaconnect@iiasa.ac.at](mailto:naturaconnect@iiasa.ac.at)

 [facebook.com/NaturaConnectProject](https://facebook.com/NaturaConnectProject)

 [linkedin.com/company/naturaconnect/](https://linkedin.com/company/naturaconnect/)

 <https://bsky.app/profile/naturaconnect.bsky.social>



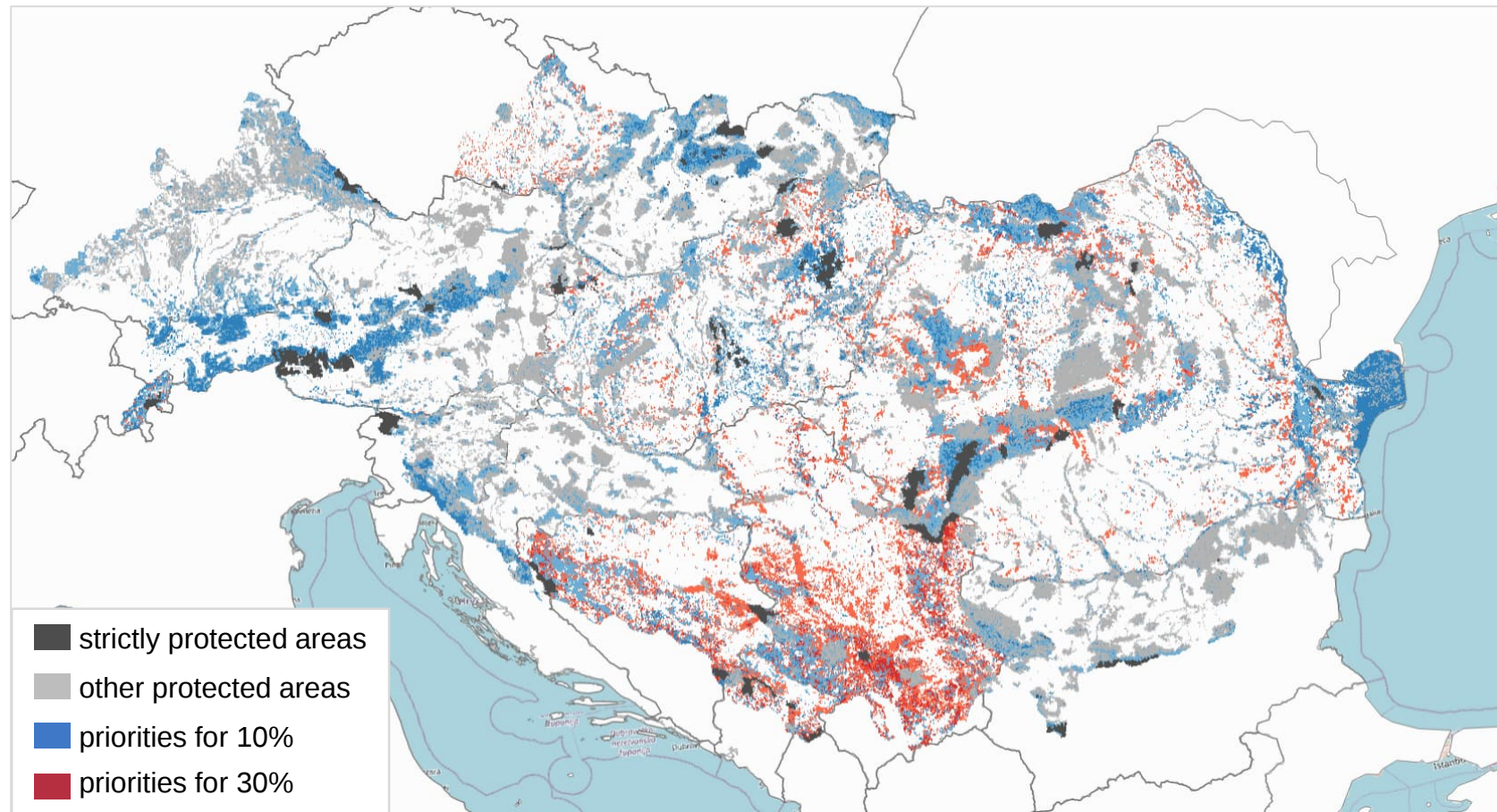
Scan the code to visit our website!

# Resources

- NaturaConnect website
  - <https://naturaconnect.eu>
- Zenodo – Open access database
  - <https://zenodo-rdm.web.cern.ch/communities/naturaconnect/records?q=&l=list&p=1&s=10&sort=newest>
- Rio publications collection
  - [https://riojournal.com/topical\\_collection/247/](https://riojournal.com/topical_collection/247/)
- NaturaConnector
  - <https://naturaconnector.iiasa.ac.at>
- NaturaConnect Learning Platform
  - [tinyurl.com/ENA-NC](https://tinyurl.com/ENA-NC)
- Connectivity project database
  - <https://naturaconnect.idiv.de/projects/>

## Top priorities for conservation and strict protection

Zooming into the Danube-Carpathian region



# 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**

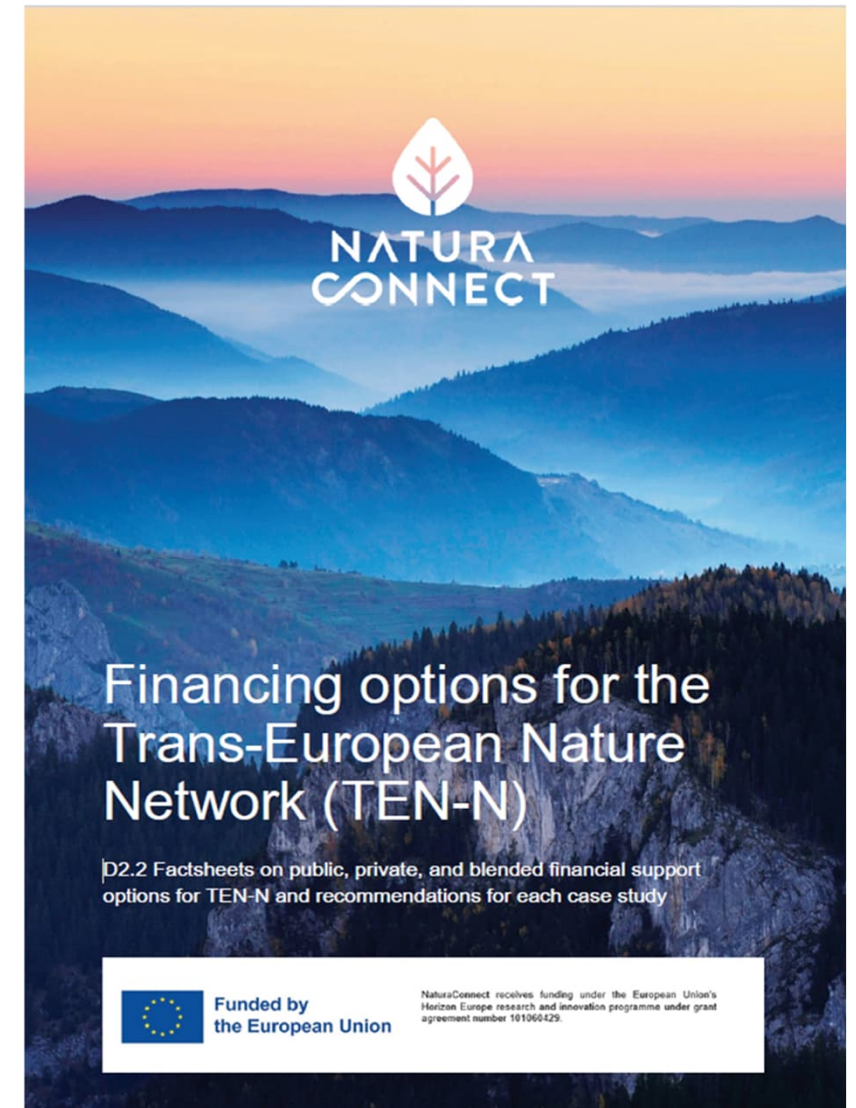


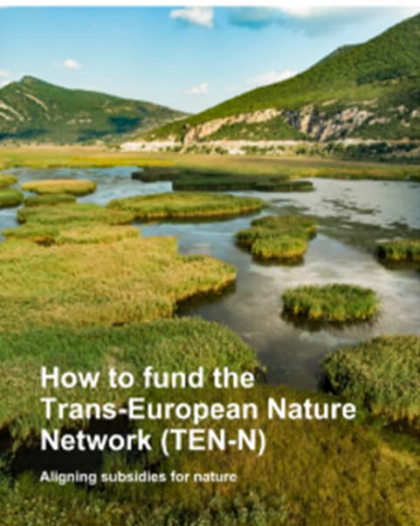
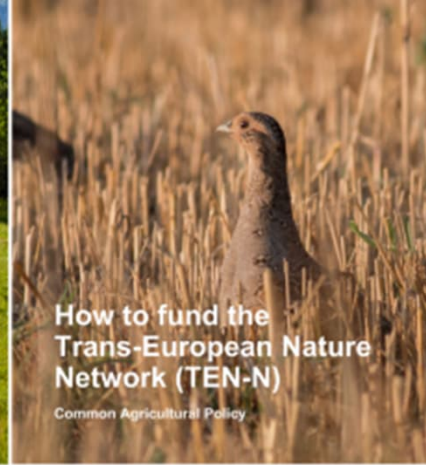
# Financing options for TEN-N

- 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/>





# 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)**

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

Project database: <https://naturaconnect.idiv.de/projects/>

# Welcome to the NaturaConnect Learning Platform.

This is the capacity-building hub of the NaturaConnect project. Here, you will find a range of resources and training modules developed by project partners to enhance professional competences for designing and implementing the Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N).

[Continue](#)



## NaturaConnect Training Course

Organised into 3 sections with a total of 13 modules.



### Section 1 - Concepts

5 modules of background information.



### Section 2 - Governance

3 modules of processes and instruments.



### Section 3 - Technical Tools

5 modules of project tutorials.



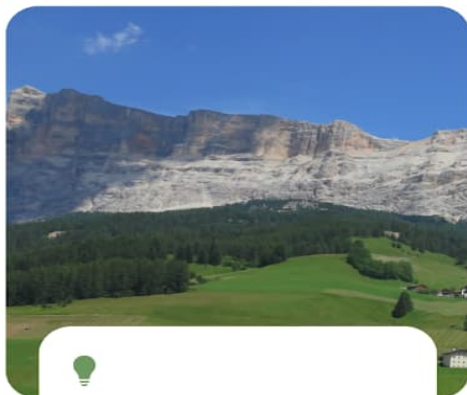
## Project websites and platforms

Overview and easy access to all project resources.



# NaturaConnect Learning Platform

## Modules

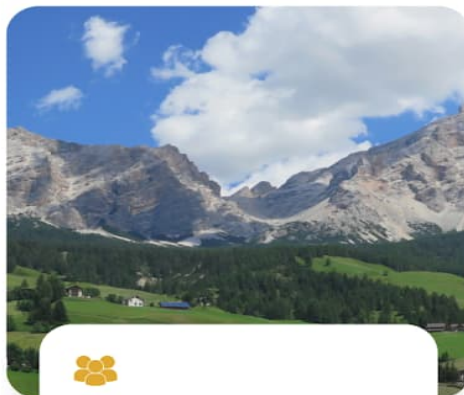


### Section 1 - Concepts

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



[tinyurl.com/ENA-NC](https://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.

Get in touch!

Let's talk to the scientists  
and see how we can use the  
results!