



Restoring and managing ecological corridors in mountains as the green infrastructure in the Danube basin - ConnectGREEN

ConnectGREEN Final Conference - Main project results

30th of September 2021

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WWF RO

Project co-funded by European Union Funds (ERDF, IPA)

www.interreg-danube.eu/connectgreen

Aim of the project

ConnectGREEN, aims at maintaining and improving the ecological connectivity between natural habitats in the Carpathian ecoregion.



1. Eco-corridors and connectivity gaps identified in the Carpathians
2. Capacity for identifying and managing eco-corridors improved
3. Identify and implement strategic directions and instruments/practices in order to promote the value of ecological connectivity, in particular of large carnivore corridors, among planners and decision makers







- **Duration:** June 2018 – 31 October 2021
- **11 Partners** from 6 EU countries (ERDF)
- **2 Partners** from Serbia (IPA)
- **10 Associated Strategic Partners (ASP)**
- **Coordinated by:** WWF Romania
- **Value:** ~ 2.6 million euros





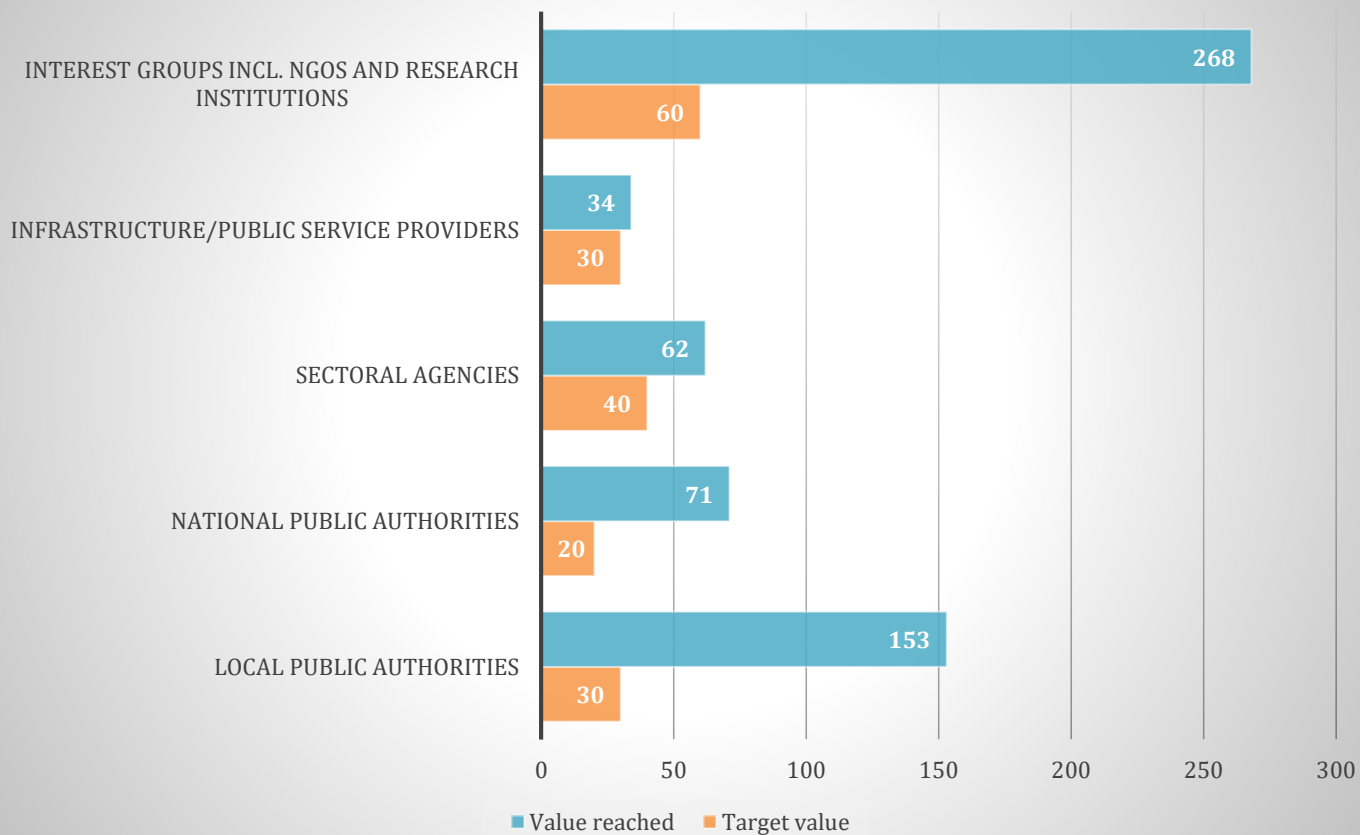
Target Groups

- Local Public Authorities
- National Public Authorities
- Sectoral Agencies
- Infrastructure and (public) Service Providers
- Interest Groups including NGOs



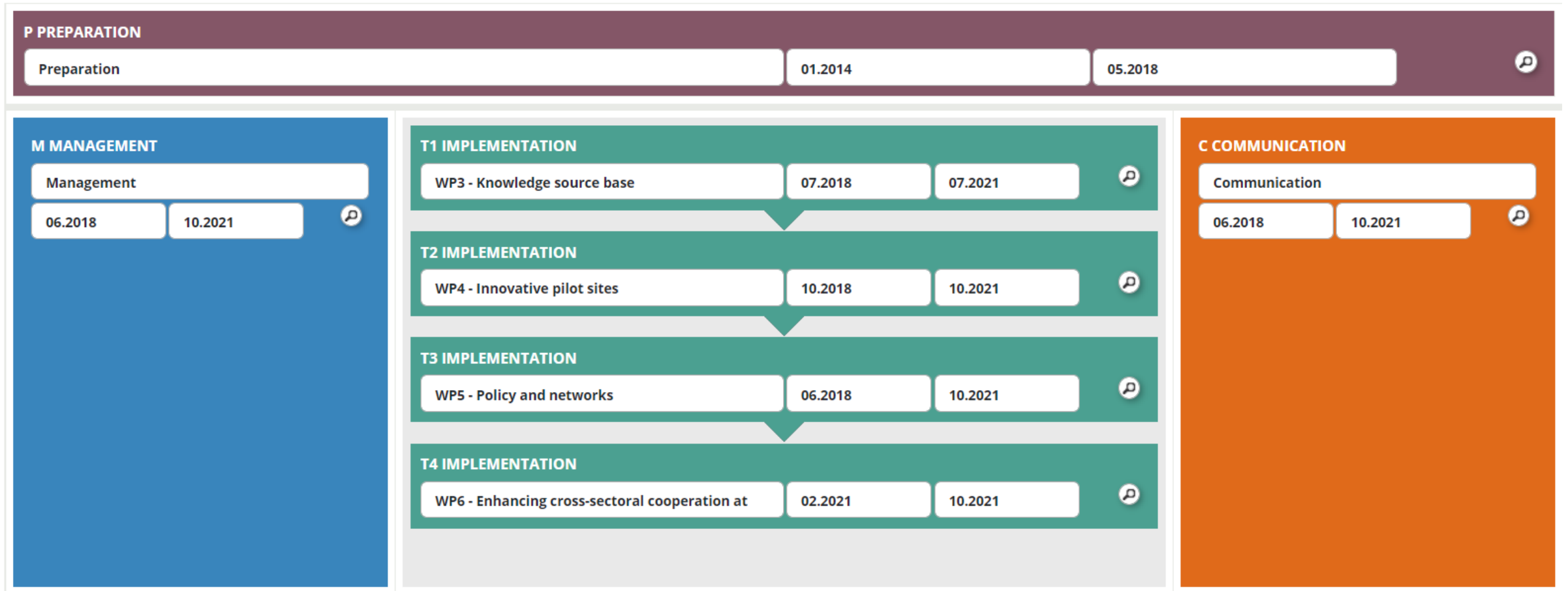
Target groups/ Stakeholders reach

Stakeholders reached until April 2021



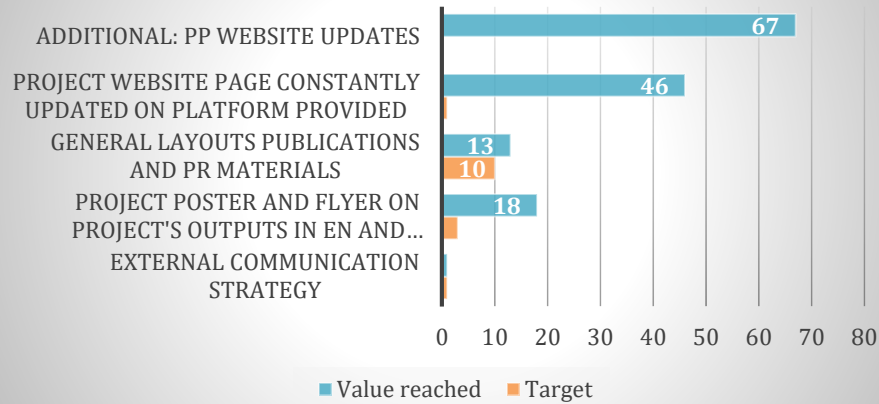
Target Groups	Target Value	Target Groups Reached So Far Percentage
local public authority	30.00	510.00 %
national public authority	20.00	355.00 %
sectoral agency	40.00	155.00 %
infrastructure and (public) service provider	30.00	113.33 %
interest groups including NGOs	60.00	446.66 %

Project structure - WPs

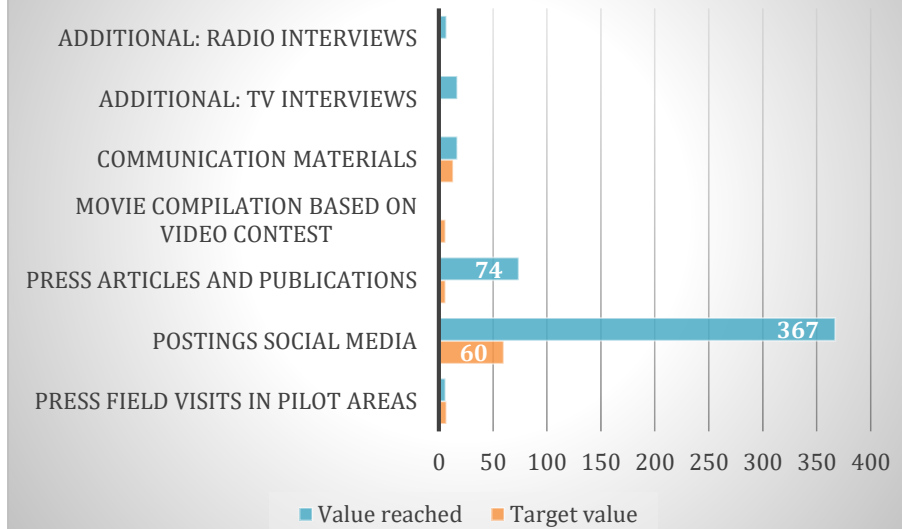


Comms results

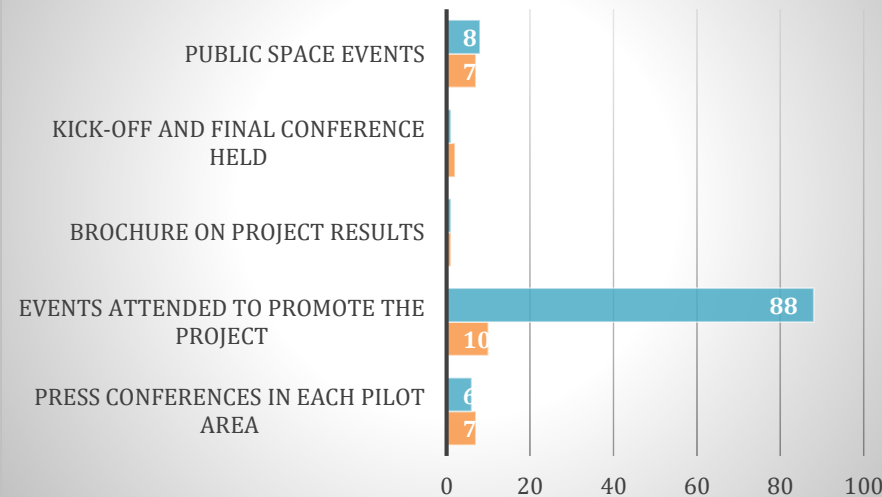
Activity 2.1 Set up and support communications

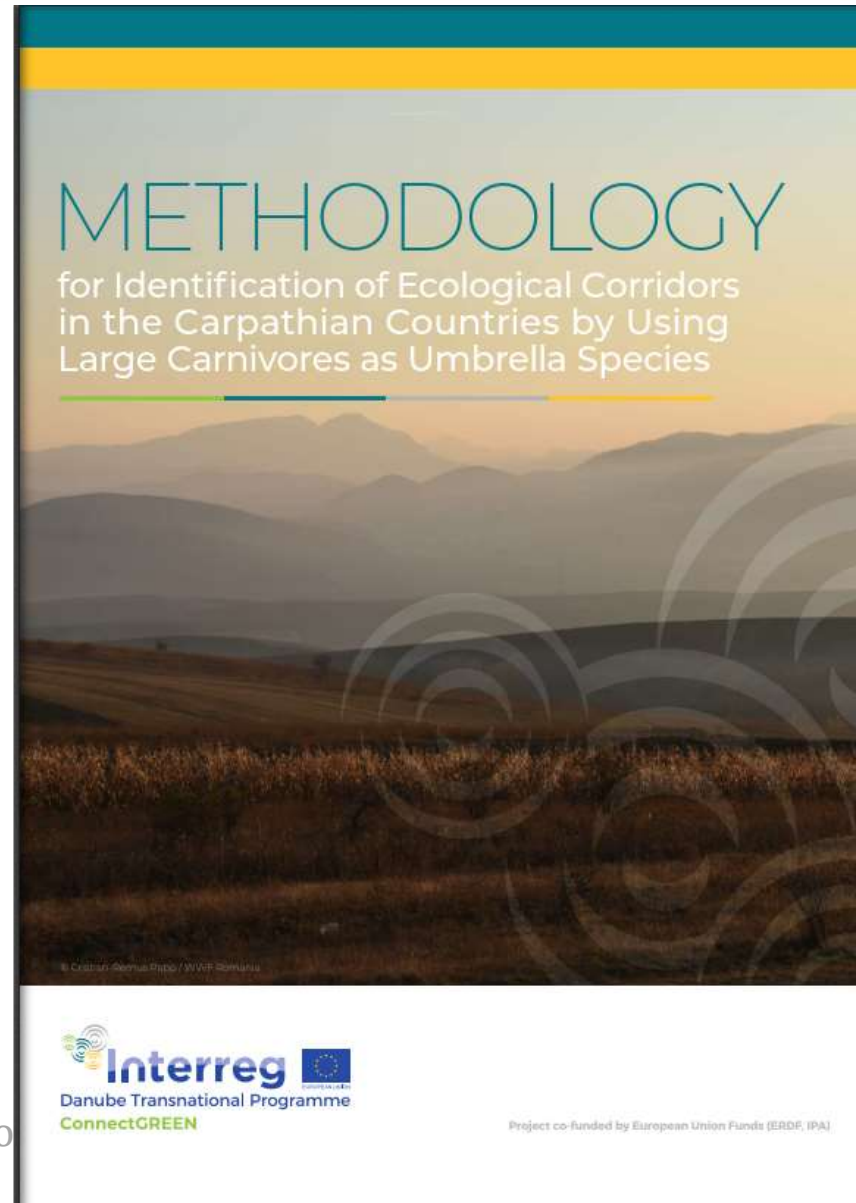


Activity 2.2 Directly support the objectives and activities of other work packages



Activity 2.3 Promotion of project and dissemination of its results: events, conferences





30S



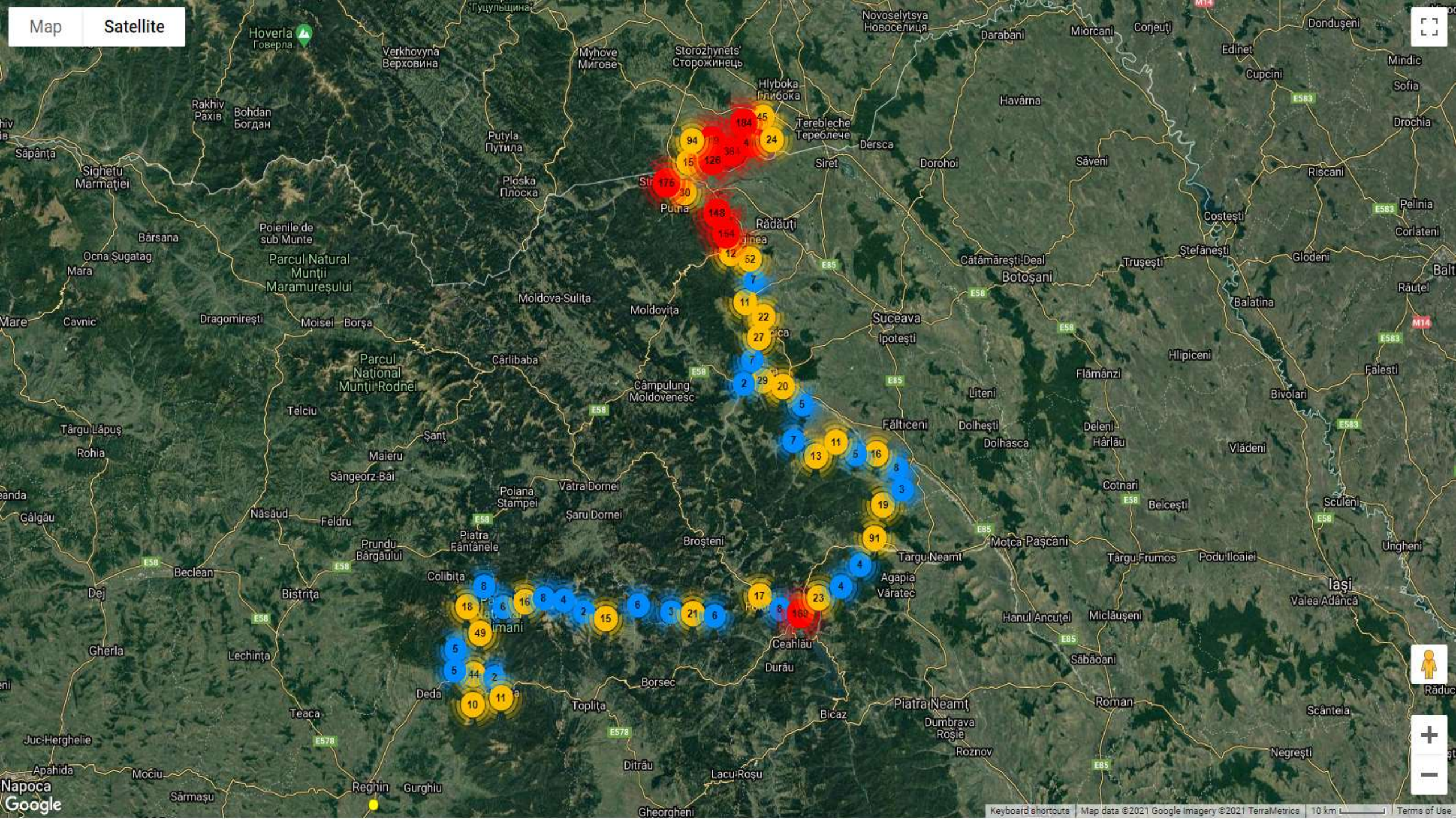
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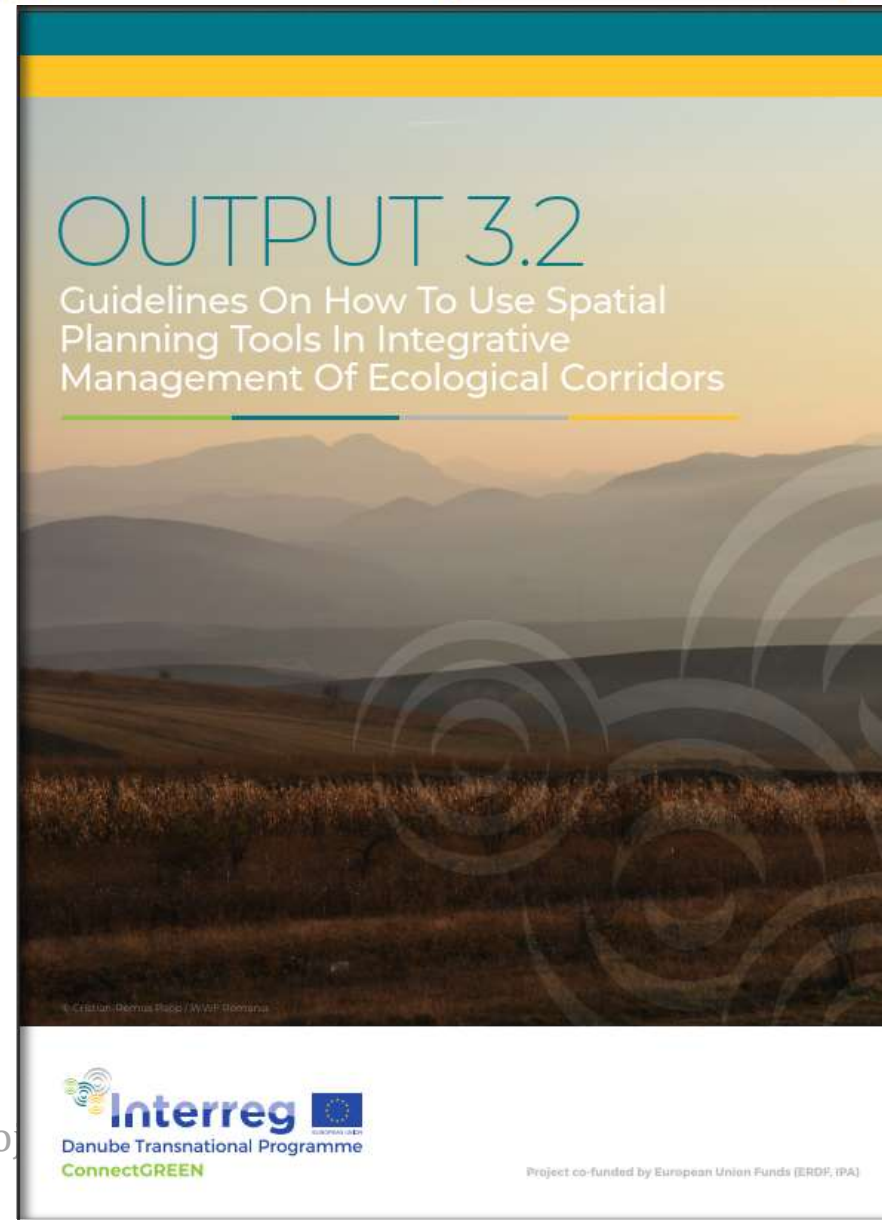
Map

Satellite

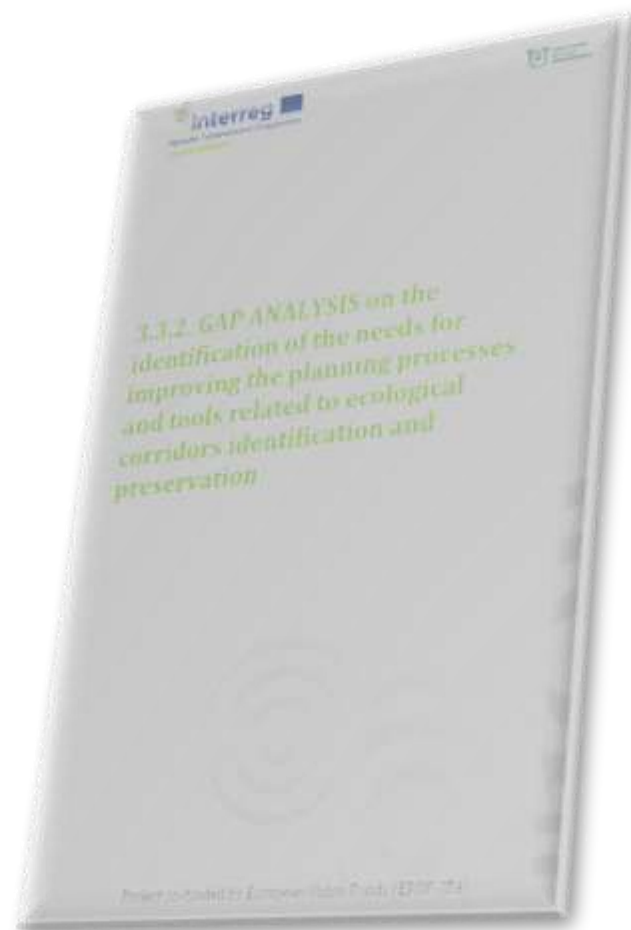




Output 3.2 – Guidelines on reducing conflicts in corridor areas



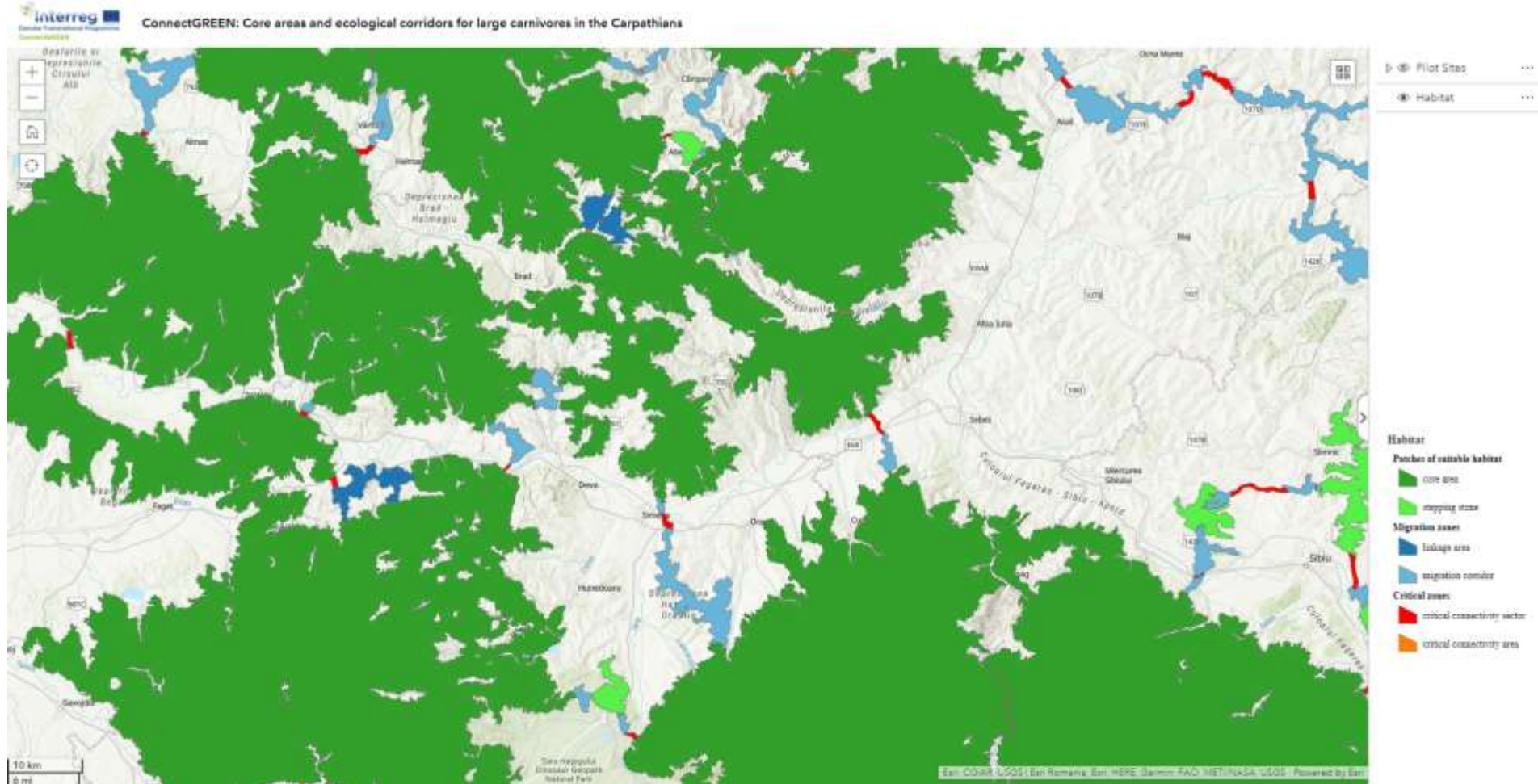
Examples of deliverables



Output 3.3 – Ecological corridors database within CCIBIS



Output 4.1 – Ecological corridor database for each pilot area



<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/03da1f6f67404518b3efe0d11f444e5a>

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Output 4.2 – Action plans for each pilot area



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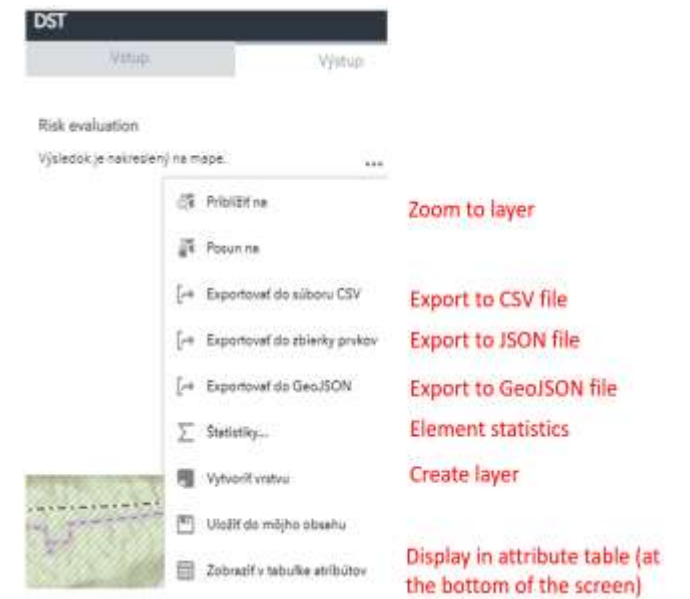
Output 4.3 – Decision support tool (DST)



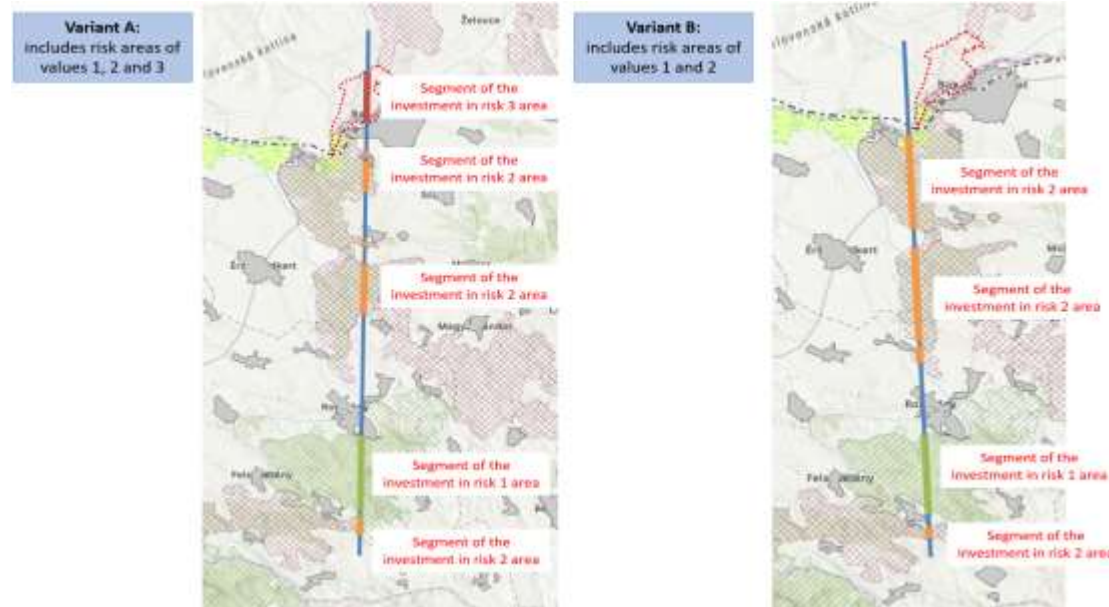
User interface



User interface - using DST – input



User interface - using DST – output



INTERNATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON CONSERVATION OF LARGE CARNIVORES AND ENSURING ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY IN THE CARPATHIANS



INTRODUCTION, LEGAL BACKGROUND AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Carpathians are a range of mountains in Central and Eastern Europe, stretching across seven countries in the form of an arch, starting in the north-east of the Czech Republic, continuing through the whole Slovak Republic, southern Poland, eastern Hungary as well as the west of Ukraine and Romania, and then going south to the eastern part of Serbia.

The Carpathian region is one of Europe's last great wilderness areas, with exceptional levels of biodiversity, extensive tracts of old-growth forest and one of the most important and biggest large carnivore populations in Europe. It is estimated that over 7,200 brown bears, 3,000 grey wolves, and 2,350 Eurasian lynxes currently existing in the Carpathian region (Chapron et al., 2014).

The above-mentioned species require extensive, non-fragmented habitats to establish their large home ranges and to allow long-distance movements to satisfy their biological and ecological needs. However, the sizes of habitats and their connectivity are being challenged by increasing pressures of current and future development of transport and other types of infrastructure in the Carpathian region.

Furthermore, despite their functional role as ecosystem keystone species and their long-term protection in some countries, human-carnivore conflicts can occur.

The large carnivore species existing in human-dominated landscapes often face a multidimensional problem, ranging from human-caused mortality to habitat loss and fragmentation. Compared to other



INTERNATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON CONSERVATION OF LARGE CARNIVORES AND ENSURING ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY IN THE CARPATHIANS

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DECISION COP6/9

Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity
Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Adopts* the International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity and *encourages* the Parties, the WG Biodiversity and other stakeholder with support of the Secretariat, to ensure smooth implementation of the Plan;

6. *Welcomes* the implementation of the project ConnectGREEN - *Restoring and managing ecological corridors in mountains as the green infrastructure in the Danube basin*, funded by the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme; *encourages* the Parties to promote and use the results of the project, as appropriate, *thanks* the WWF Romania and other partners, especially CEEweb for continued support in implementing the project;





Course 1
The Carpathian Large Carnivores

- There will be 6 lessons within this course
- Covers the basic ecological principles and ideas that are important to understand

Introduction
 The Carpathian Region
 Large Carnivores
 Ecological Sustainability
 Pathways
 Solutions



Course 2
The Methodology

- There will be 5 lessons within this course
- Covers what the methodology is, using models, and ecological networks

What is the Methodology?
 Modelling
 Ecological Networks
 Methodology Implementation
 Integrating Spatial Planning and Ecological Networks



Course 3
Spatial Planning

- There will be 3 lessons within this course
- Covers the diversity of problems when it comes to spatial planning, and the national differences in spatial planning regulations
- A number of case studies will be examined to give practical insight into the steps, problems and solutions

Spatial Planning and Biodiversity
 Differences in National Regulation
 Case Studies



Output 5.5 – Transferability strategy for best practices

Transferability study and strategy of the ConnectGreen project outputs

2021. August

Output 6.1 – 4 national roadmaps on integrating ecological corridors in spatial planning

FOAIE DE PARCURS
pentru armonizarea și integrarea
conectivității ecologice
în legislația și politicile publice din România



2021
București, ROMÂNIA

Output 6.2 – Detailed report on the possibilities to improve the EIA Directive



Interreg
Danube Transnational Programme
ConnectGREEN

Detailed report on the possibilities to improve the EIA Directive

September 2021

Actual spending

Project Partner	Spending vs budget (%)
1. WWF Romania (Lead Partner)	74.21%
2. WWF Central and Eastern Europe	78.44%
3. Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic	82.78%
4. Silva Tarouca Research Institute for Landscape and Ornamental Gardening	84.17%
5. CEEweb for Biodiversity	58.08%
6. Hungarian University for Agriculture and Life Sciences (formerly Szent Istvan University)	69.65%
7. National Institute for Research and Development in Constructions, Urban Planning and Sustainable Spatial Development	68.46%
8. Piatra Craiului National Park Administration	56.33%
9. Slovak Environment Agency	61.08%
10. The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic	67.71%
11. Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava – SPECTRA Centre of Excellence of EU	82.68%
12. Institute of Architecture and Urban & Spatial Planning of Serbia	84.13%
13. National Park Djerdap	71.90%
Total	72.09%

Spent until end of PPR 6: 1,876,826.42 euro

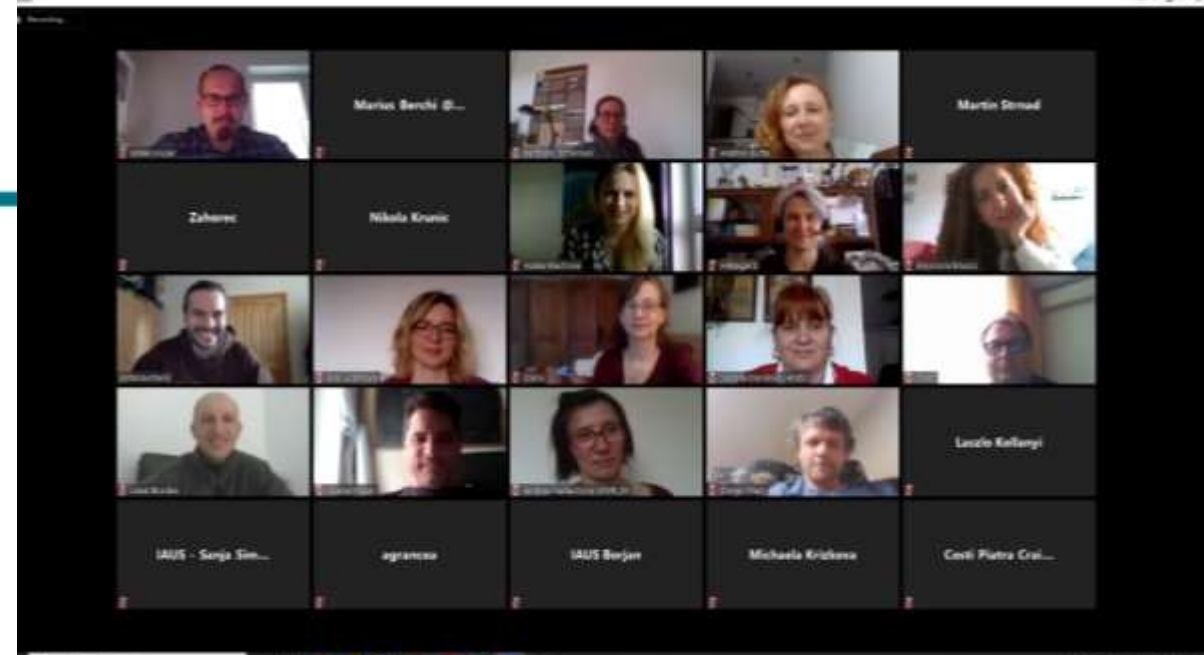
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- Cooperation with multi level stakeholders (from local to international) is key
- Relevant stakeholders have to be identified and involved (from local organizations and experts to universities and ministries)
- Borders should not represent a barrier, despite e.g. cultural differences, but rather an advantage (for improving/ adapting/ co-creating solutions to common projects)
- Stakeholder consultations should happen in every stage, from early planning to implementation
- Transdisciplinary approach is crucial to address complex issues (multiple use of land, management of conflicts)
- Connection with higher level policy makers (e.g. Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, EUSDR) is important
- Good personal contacts, including with representatives of international professional networks can facilitate synergies and smooth implementation
- Synergies are crucial, either planned or organized on demand

- TRANSGREEN (Interreg DTP)
- SaveGREEN (Interreg DTP)
- CENTRALPARKS (Interreg CE)
- BioGOV (Interreg Europe)
- ALPBIONET2030 (Interreg Alpine Space)
- OBWIC (HUSKROUA-CBC)
- BISON (H2020)
- Life EUROLARGE CARNIVORES (LIFE Governance and Information)
- Harmon (DTP Seed Money Facility)
- Life ConnectCarpathians (LIFE+)
- SwiPE (LIFE Governance and Information)
- Life Lynx (LIFE Nature), etc.

- Synergies with, e.g.:
 - IUCN (Guidelines on ecological connectivity)
 - Global Wildlife Connect Initiative (ConnectGREEN as a model project)
 - Center for Large Landscape Conservation (ConnectGREEN as a model initiative at landscape level)
 - InfraEcoNetworkEurope (IENE) (contributing to the Global Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Transport and other Linear Infrastructure)
 - Carpathian Convention – Biodiversity Protocol/ Working Group, etc.



Zoom Meeting ID: 321-494-761

Sharing Poll Results

Attendees are now viewing the poll results

1. How satisfied are you with the PP&SCOM meeting that has been organised today 31.03.2020 through the Zoom platform, given the current circumstances?

Very satisfied	(23) 88%
Satisfied	(3) 12%
Partly satisfied	(0) 0%
Not satisfied	(0) 0%

[Stop Share Results](#) [Re-launch Polling](#)



Zoom Meeting ID: 321-494-761

Sharing Poll Results

Attendees are now viewing the poll results

1. Do you have more free time now than one month ago?

Yes	(3) 14%
No	(16) 76%
I don't know	(2) 10%

[Stop Share Results](#) [Re-launch Polling](#)

Thank you all for the good cooperation and results!!!

