

SaveGREEN – Safeguarding the functionality of transnationally important ecological corridors in the Danube region

Transnational Experience Exchange Workshop in Ukraine
30 November 2022

Hildegard Meyer, WWF-Central and Eastern Europe

SaveGREEN in a nutshell

Duration: 1 July 2020 – 31 December 2022, 2.5 yrs

13 Project Partners from 6 European countries

20 Associated Strategic Partners from 4 more countries

Lead Partner: WWF Central and Eastern Europe

Project value: ~2.7 Mio EUR, ~2.3 Mio EUR ERDF Funds

Implementation in Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic,
Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine



SaveGREEN's Aim

SaveGREEN will achieve **improved** structural and functional **ecological connectivity in bottleneck areas** by adapting land use and management in the surroundings involving **stakeholders from different fields of experience** in Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine.



Objectives

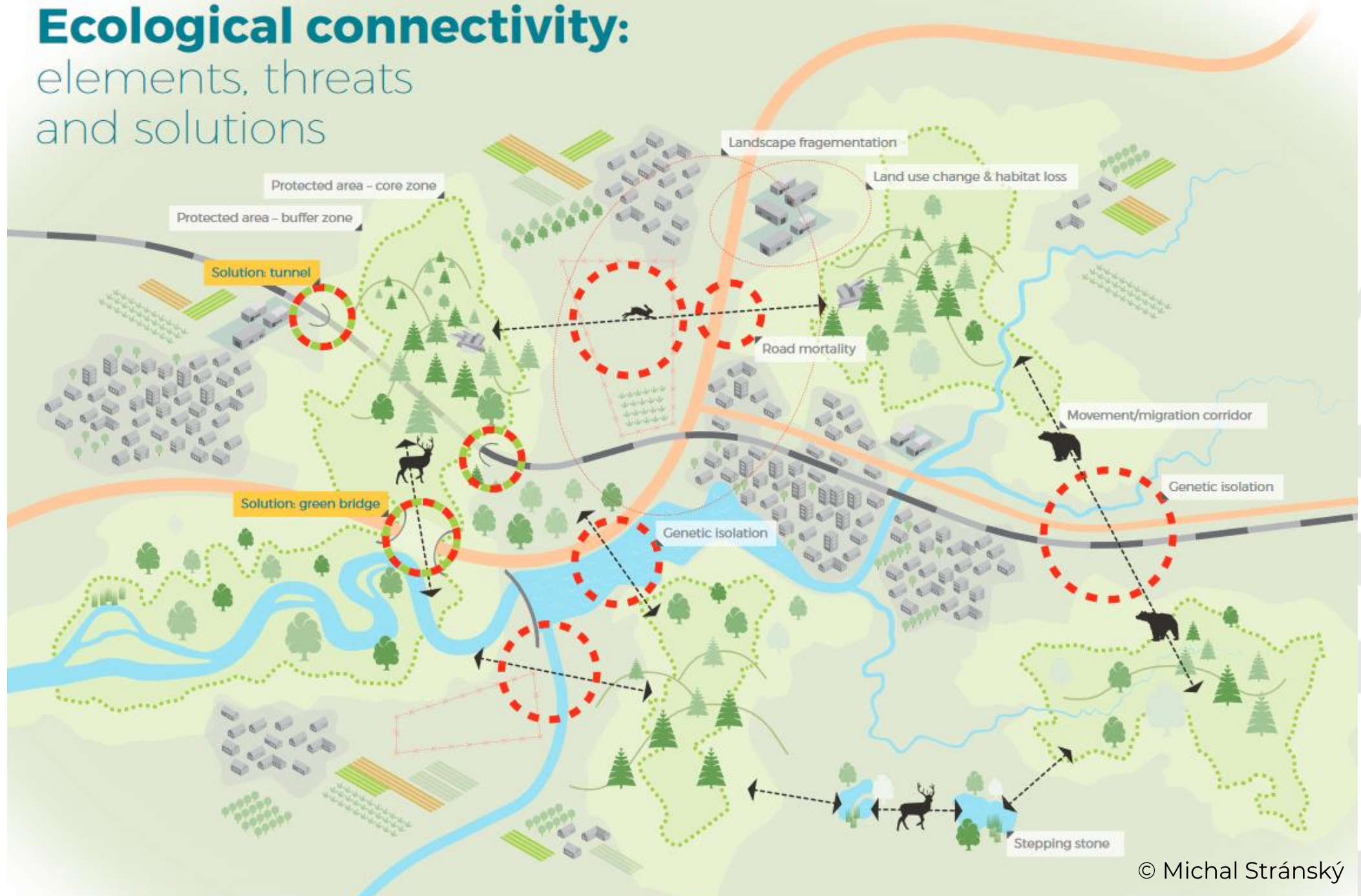
- **Knowledge/experience** among relevant authorities and key stakeholders **increased**
- **Cross-sectoral practices improved** relevant to Green Infrastructure for integrated mitigation measures, implementation and monitoring
- International and national **governance framework strengthened**

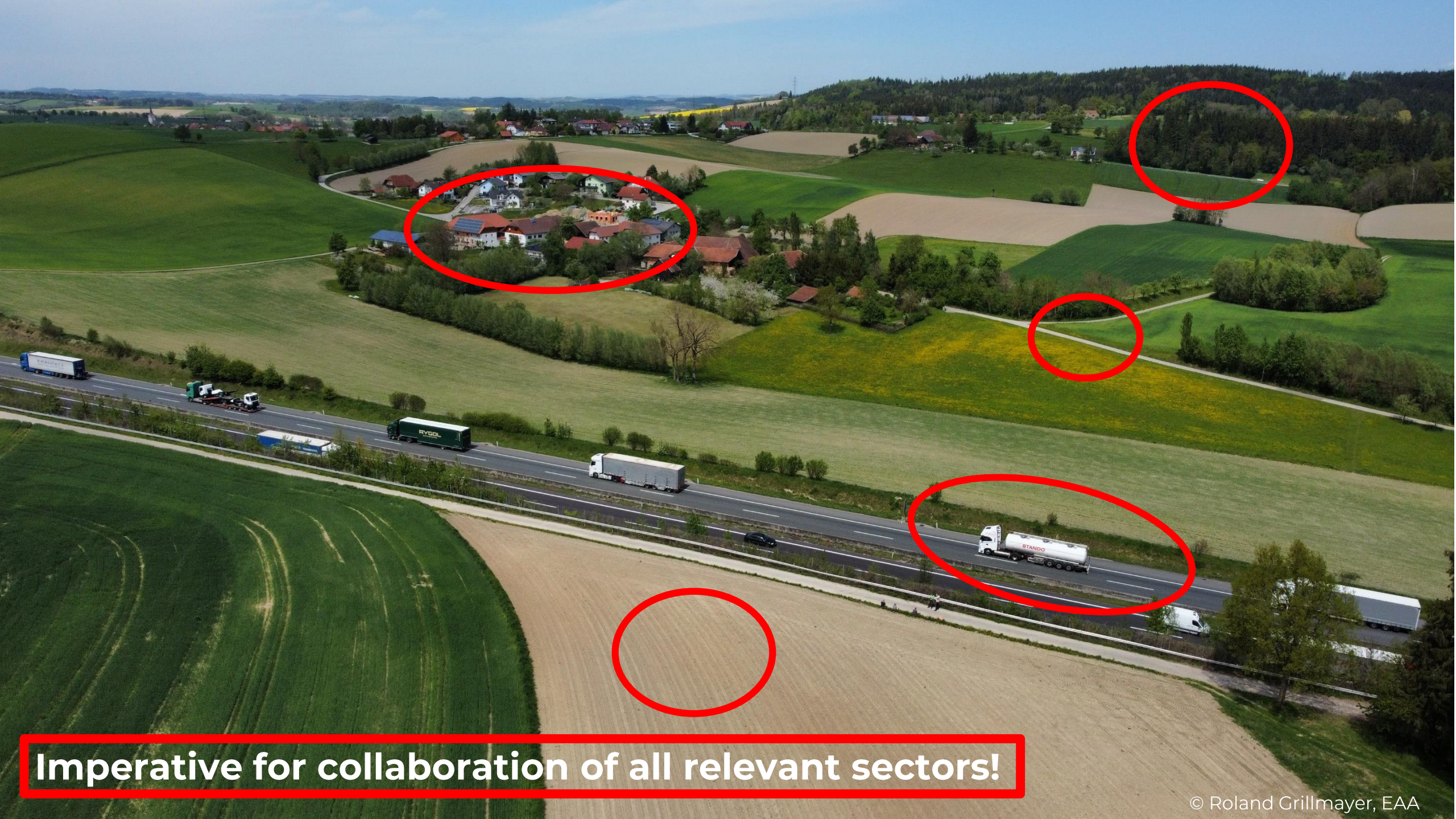


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Ecological connectivity:

elements, threats and solutions





Imperative for collaboration of all relevant sectors!

Pilot areas



Austria

1 Kobernausser forest

2 Pöttlaching (Alpine-Carpathian Corridor)

Czech Rep./Slovakia

3 Beskydy-Kysuce CZ-SK cross-border area

Hungary/Slovakia

4 Novohrad-Nógrád SK-HU cross-border area

Ukraine

5 Zakarpattia region

Romania

6 Mureş valley (Arad-Deva)

7 Mureş Valley (Târgu Mureş – Târgu Neamţ)

Bulgaria

8 Rila-Verila-Kraishte corridor

Species



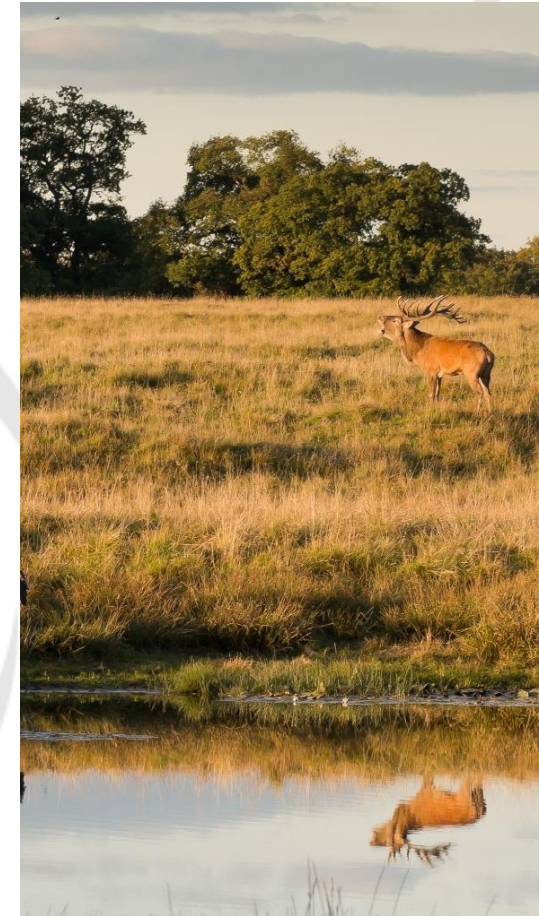
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Main Results

- Standardized **methodology for monitoring** structural and functional connectivity incl. application toolbox for fieldwork & analysis
- **Local cross-sectoral operational plans** for each pilot area incl. preparatory actions for its implementation
- **Capacity building program** for authorities & training events for public authorities and key players on cost/benefit analysis, SEA, EIA, etc.
- **Joint Declaration** on ecological connectivity in the Danube-Carpathian region

A Methodology for Standardised Monitoring of Ecological Connectivity

Guidelines for the Analysis of
Structural and Functional
Connectivity

Output T1.1 "Standardised Methodology for Monitoring"


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A step-by-step description of modelling structural ecological connectivity based on available data and field monitoring to identify functional connectivity

Structural and functional connectivity

Structural connectivity

Based on physical constitution of a landscape

- Land cover
- Topography
- Rivers
- Protected areas
- Settlements
- Land use, landscape elements
- Barriers like fences, railways, highways

 **Model of ecological connectivity**
based on resistance surface

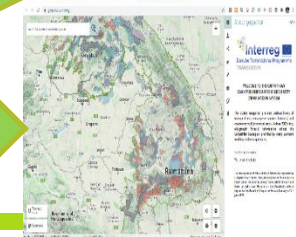
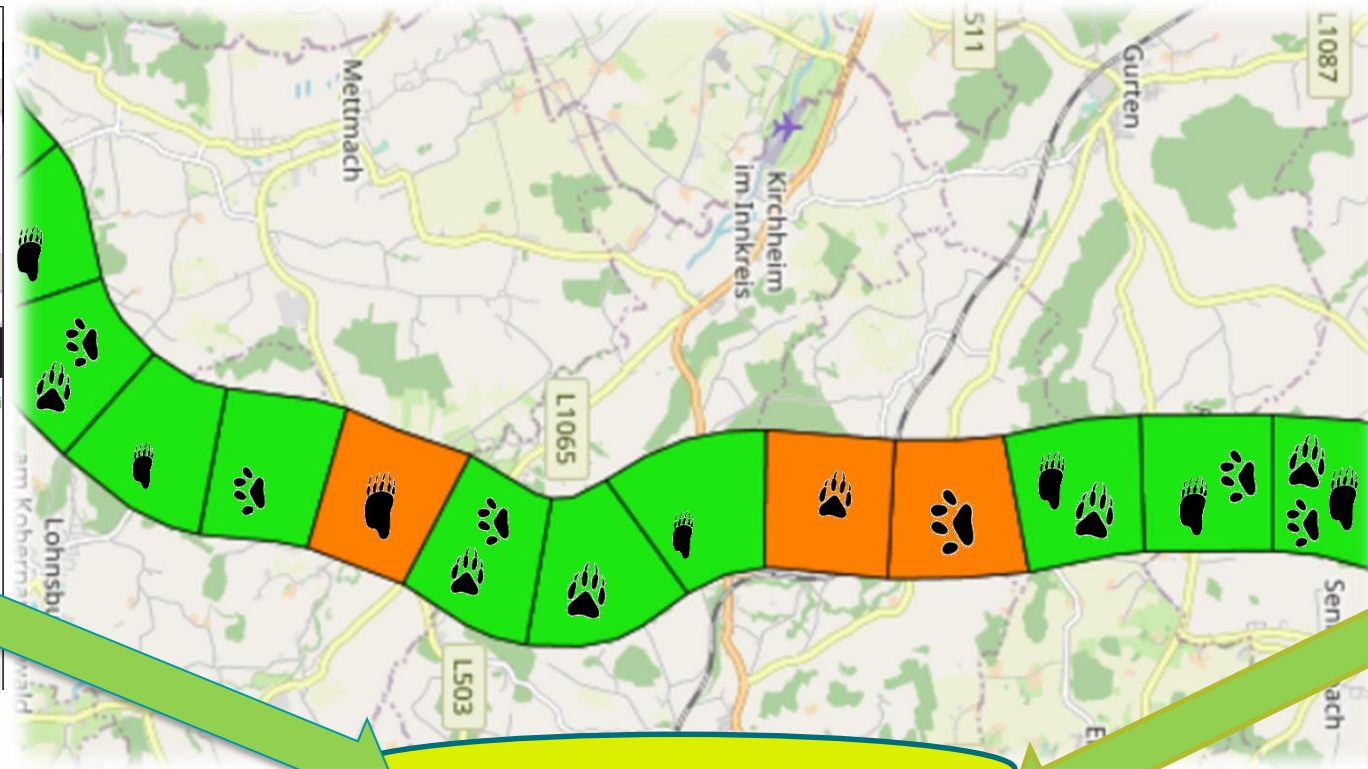
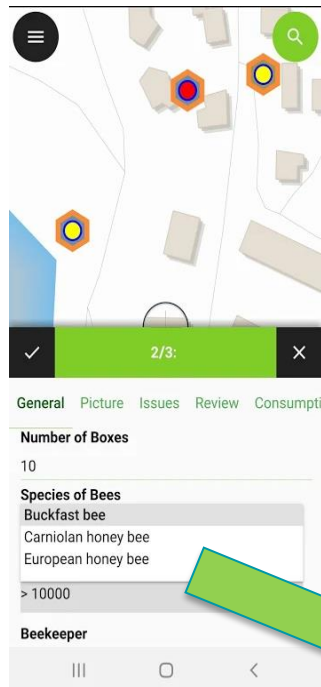
Functional connectivity

Based on the species' perspective. Designated ecological corridors are assessed for **bottleneck areas**, which in turn are monitored in the field for wildlife activity by means of

- Camera traps
- Footprint analysis
- Other signs of activities (scratches, etc.)

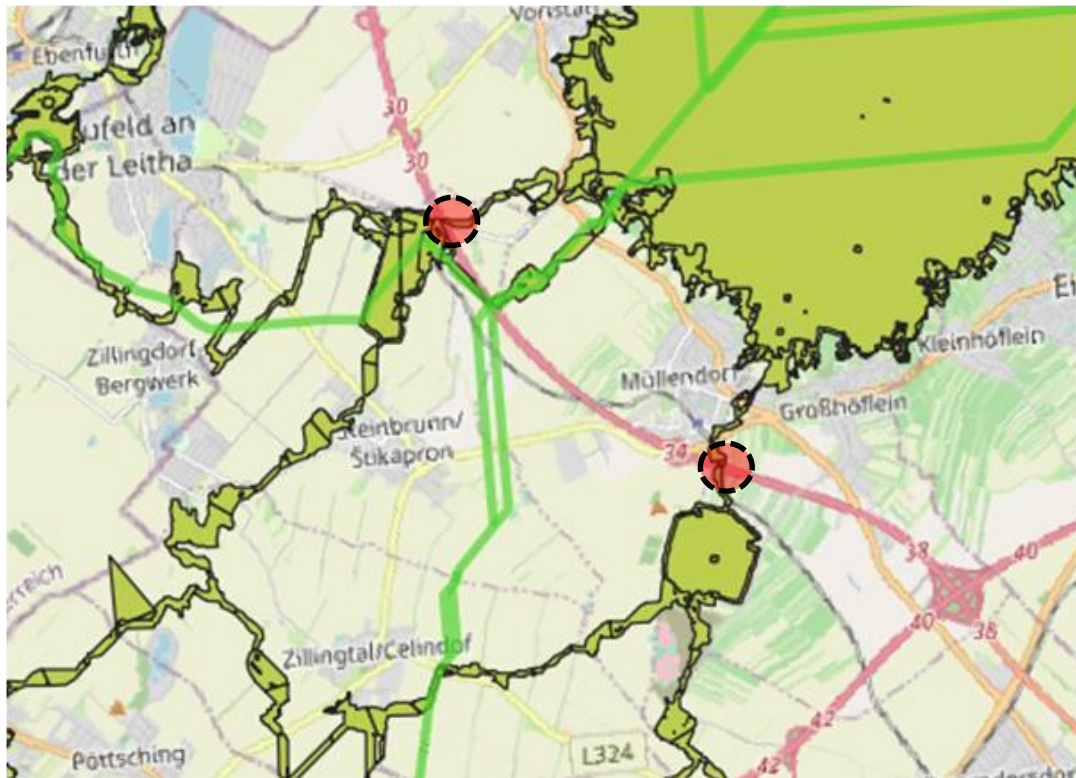
Results from both give a clear indication of the status of a corridor.

Monitoring system

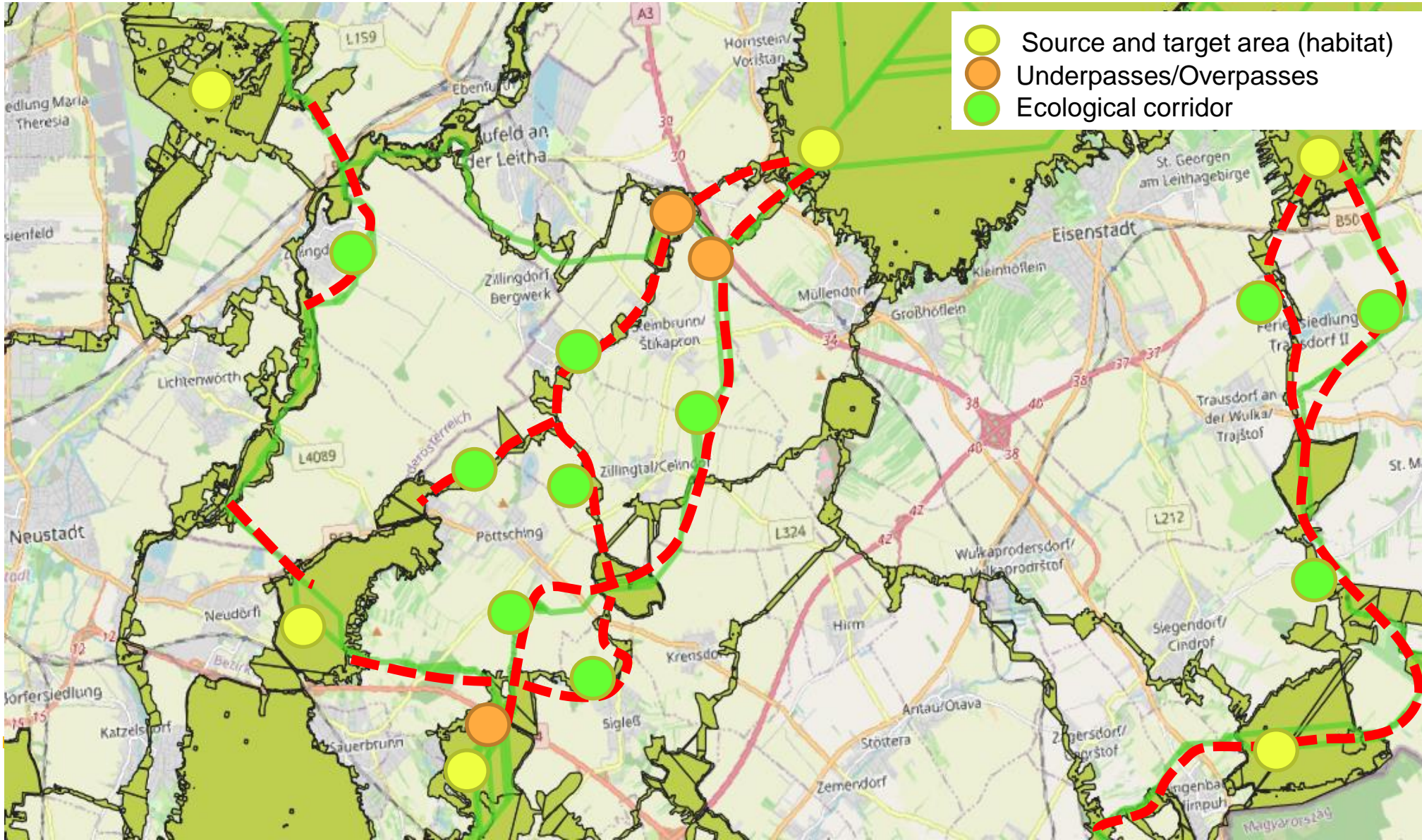


Development of monitoring plan

- Evaluation of critical corridor areas (high resistance values) or under- and overpasses (and other anthropogenic structures) with unknown permeability



Determination of monitoring areas



Online platform – www.ccibis.org



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Welcome

Carpathian Countries Integrated Biodiversity Information System
CCIBIS



Cross-sectoral operational plans - CSOP

- Identify threats/pressures for ecological connectivity in the pilot areas
- Analysis of concrete problems
- Important parts are
 - Stakeholder analysis
 - Monitoring plan
 - Communication plan
 - Recommendations for mitigation measures & solutions

Collaborative development across sectors with local and other relevant stakeholders



Deliverable D.T2.2.4 CSOP Kobernausser Forest Stage 2&3 (DRAFT)



Environment Agency Austria

Christoph Plutzer
###

January 2022

Capacity building program

Consists of the following parts

- EIA/SEA Toolkit
- Handbook on good practice examples derived from current and earlier projects and other initiatives
- Materials for a 2-days training event dedicated to authorities and other relevant stakeholders



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Transnational experience exchange workshops

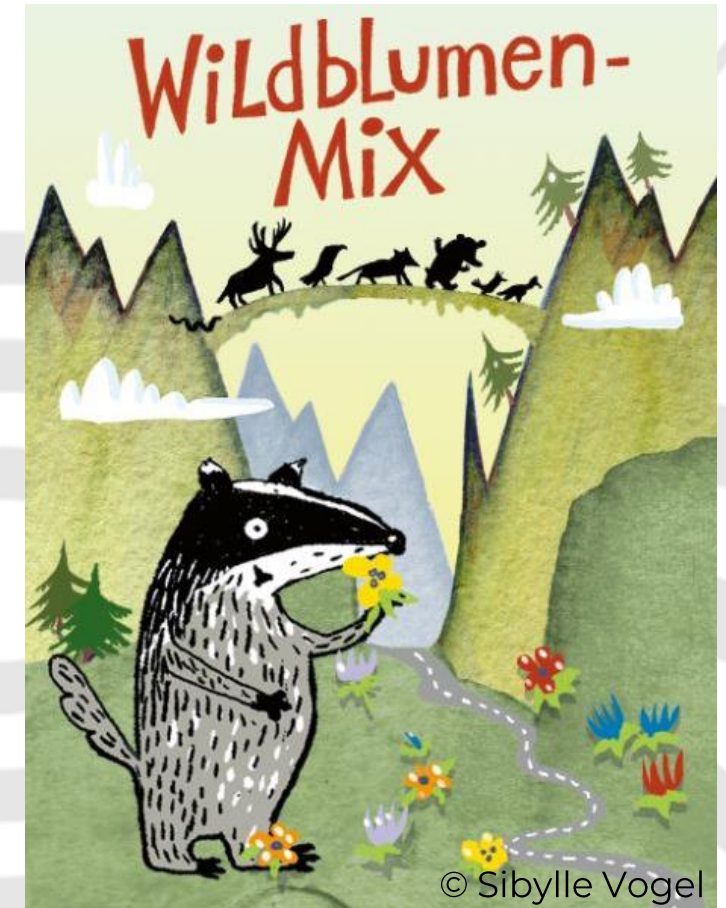
- 11-13 May: Dupnitsa, South of Sofia, **Bulgaria** (Pilot area: Rila-Verila-Kraishte corridor)
- 18-20 May: **Hungary** and **Slovakia** (Pilot area: Novohrad-Nógrád cross-border area)
- 31 May - 2 June: Hainburg, **Austria** and Lidečko, **Czech Republic** (Pilot areas: Pöttlaching/Alpine Carpathian Corridor (AT), Beskydy-Kysuce (CZ))
- 21 September: Arad-Deva, **Romania**
- 30 Nov: **Zarkapattia pilot area, Ukraine**



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Important events

- 19-23 Sep 2022: **IENE Conference**, Cluj Napoca, Romania – **Workshops & Excursion & Transnational Experience Exchange Workshop** (Pilot area: Arad-Deva in the Mures valley)
- 19-20 Oct 2022: **EUSDR Annual Forum**
- **Final Conference** in Vienna, 6-7 Dec 2022 – hybrid format



Thanks for your interest

Hildegard Meyer, Project Manager, WWF-CEE , hmeyer@wwfcee.org
+43 650 276 3764
Christophe Janz, Project Officer, WWF-CEE, cjanz@wwfcee.org
+43 677 627 906 44



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Project Partners



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