

PILOT AREA ACTIONS

A landscape photograph showing rolling hills covered in dense green vegetation. A thick layer of white mist or fog fills the valleys and lower slopes, creating a soft, ethereal atmosphere. The sky is a pale, hazy yellow, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

CROSS-SECTORAL OPERATIONAL PLANS,
SaveGREEN's original contribution to safeguard connectivity at landscape scale

Final Conference, Vienna
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Project co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF)

www.interreg-danube.eu/savegreen

PILOT AREA ACTIONS



LANDSCAPE APPROACH: THINK AND ACT AT A LARGER SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL SCALE

Definitions of Landscapes

> integrating concrete elements with perceptual values.

Landscape is an area defined by its interlinked **natural and/or anthropogenic features and processes** and by the **human values associated with them.**

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LANDSCAPE APPROACH:
THINK AND ACT AT A LARGER SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL SCALE

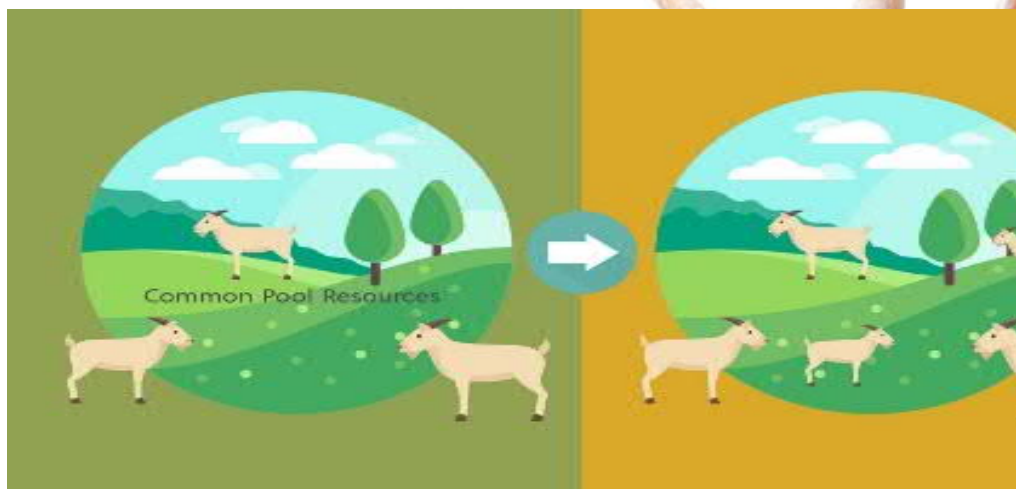
A strong time component:

> dynamic & constant changes.

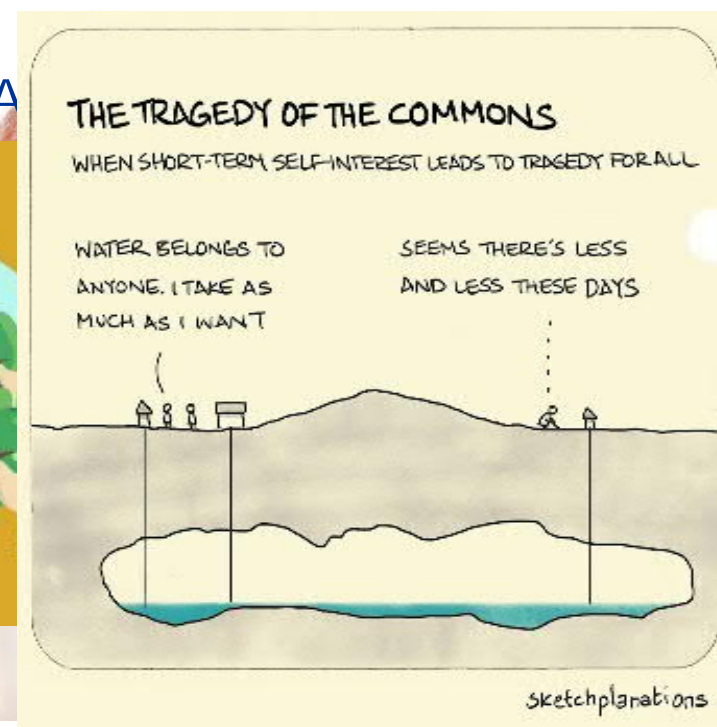
Intriguing concept, but also a hard one to operationalize.

PILOT AREA ACTIONS

WHY?
THINK AND ACT AT A LARGER SPATIAL SCALE



“tragedy of the commons”



PILOT AREA ACTIONS



WHY?

THINK AND ACT AT A LARGER SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL SCALE

“tragedy of the commons”

Sustainable development

In nature protection:
cumulated effects may cause significant negative impacts.

Understanding the interlinkage and implications of our actions,
and to adjust individual interests for a greater goal.

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Singapore, showing a large green area with a river or canal system. The city is densely packed with buildings, and the green area is a mix of forest and open spaces. The text is overlaid on the image.

BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

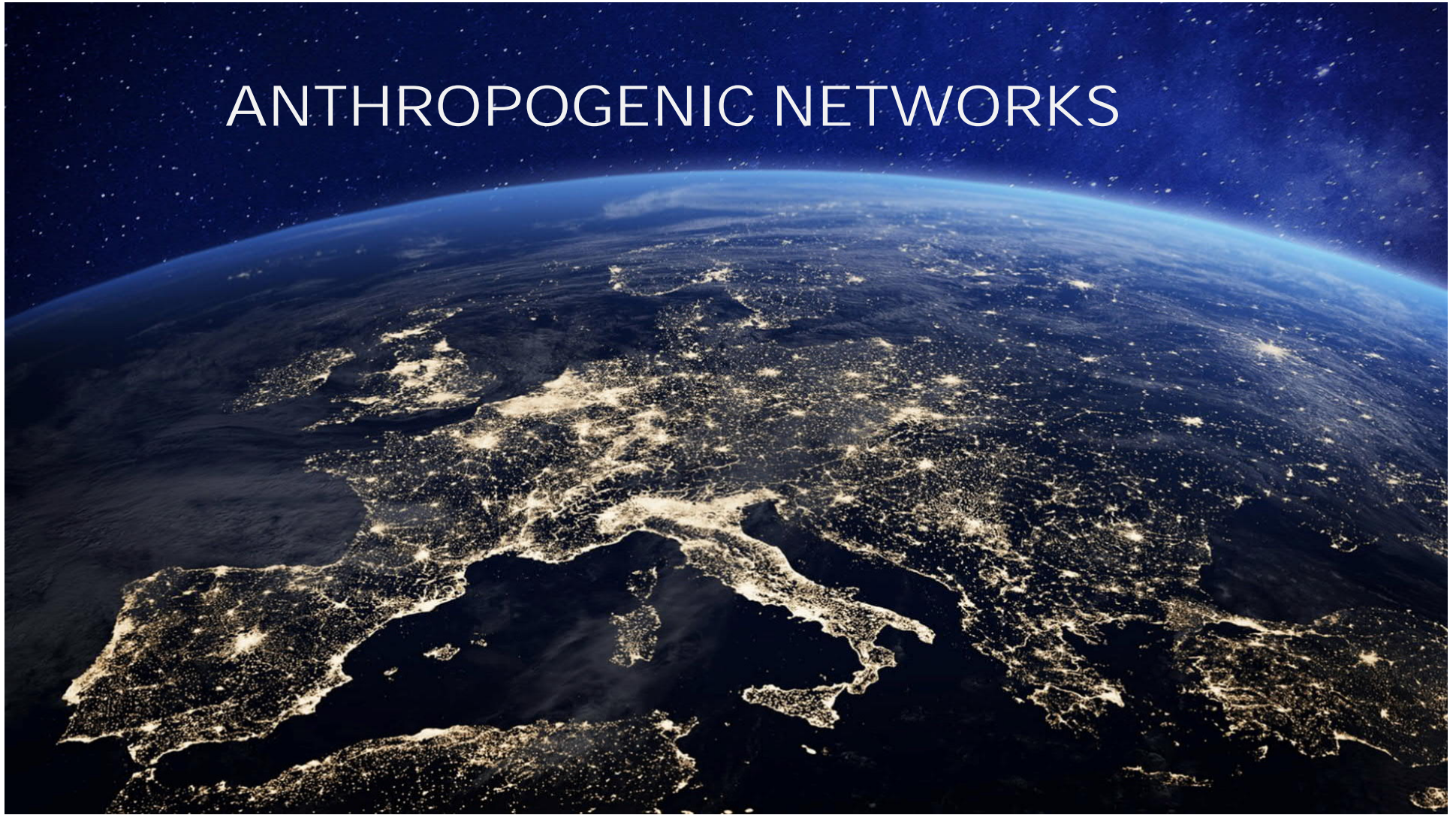
protecting ISOLATED biodiversity hotspots is not efficient anymore

CONNECTIVITY

the capacity of an individual to freely move through a landscape

New challenges!

ANTHROPOGENIC NETWORKS



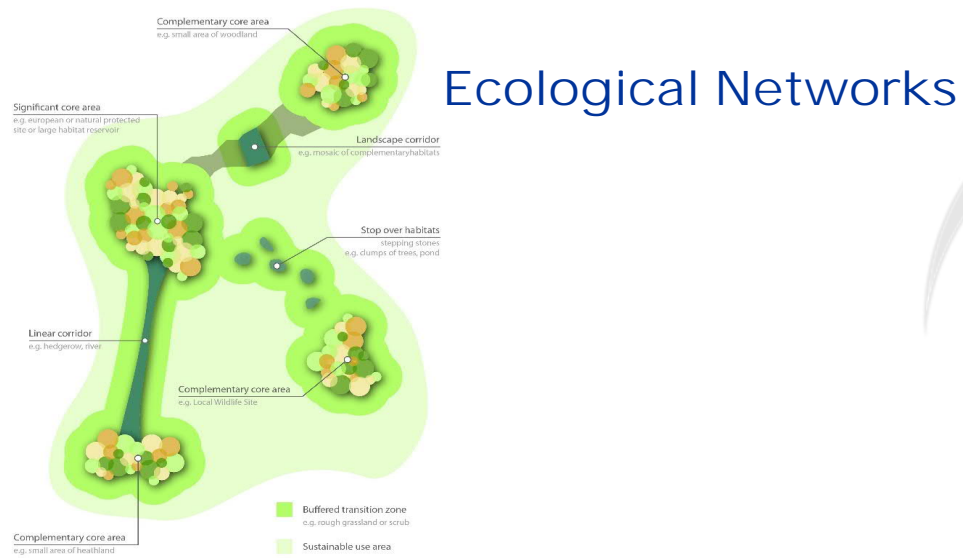
An aerial photograph of a city, likely Vienna, showing a winding river (the Danube) through the urban landscape. The city is densely packed with buildings, roads, and green spaces. The river flows from the top right towards the bottom center, with several bridges crossing it. The surrounding area is a mix of urban development and natural greenery, including parks and forests. The sky is clear and blue.

Image: Manfred Sterck

ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY
considered nowadays as essential for long-term
biodiversity protection

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LANDSCAPE APPROACH: Ecological Connectivity at Landscape Level



Grey and Green infrastructure



Structural & Functional Connectivity

Aim for a functional infrastructure within the landscape

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LANDSCAPE APPROACH:

Critical: Harmonization of Grey & Green Infrastructure

Impacts of transport infrastructure on biodiversity:

- i. Land- and sea-use change, ... irreversibly fragmenting habitats and populations, ... increasing wildlife mortality risks, ... changing the structure and functionality of ecosystems, ... generating a cascade of changes at landscape levels;
- ii. Direct exploitation of organisms ... facilitating access to previously remote natural areas;
- iii. Climate change, ... increasing green-house gas emissions;
- iv. Pollution from all sources;
- v. Invasive alien species, facilitating their introduction and spread.

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LANDSCAPE PLANNING:

Critical: Harmonization of Grey & Green Infrastructure

Significant steps made by the TRANSPORT sector:

- Avoid – mitigate – compensate
- Stakeholder engagement
- **Planning at landscape scale**



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LANDSCAPE PLANNING:

Critical: Harmonization of Grey & Green Infrastructure

Internal constrains:

- Limited capacity (resources, interdisciplinary expertise);
- Time & budget pressure;
- Limited jurisdiction.

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LANDSCAPE PLANNING:

Critical: Harmonization of Grey & Green Infrastructure

External constrains:

- Access to landscape data / lacking responsible for spatial planning at regional level;
- Stakeholder awareness & facilitated interaction;
- Cooperation for cross-sectoral integrated solutions;
- Compensation based opportunities / not on the landscape specifics & priorities.

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LANDSCAPE PLANNING:

Critical: Harmonization of Grey & Green Infrastructure

IMPORTANT: Dynamic of landscape elements

- Green Infrastructure is species-specific and in a constant dynamic;
 - Modeling based umbrella / key-species;

- Grey Infrastructure – long term / permanent impact;
 - All permeable sectors & objects needs to be considered!

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LANDSCAPE PLANNING:

Critical: Harmonization of Grey & Green Infrastructure

IMPORTNAT: Intersection between Grey & Green Infrastructure

➤ CRITICAL AREAS:

- Intersection is inevitable;
- Plan for intersect in locations where functional solutions could be implemented and maintained;
- Functional solutions = adapted locally & integrated into green infrastructure, to be addressed cross-sectoral.



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LANDSCAPE APPROACH:

Critical: Harmonization of Grey & Green Infrastructure

Cooperation for cross-sectoral integrated solutions:

Understand each sector!

- Potential impacts on connectivity;
- Sectoral strategies to norms and practices = sectoral tools;
- Identify and relate with stakeholders = find your champions;
- Discuss the problems + agree on targets + make a plan;
- Implement solutions – start with critical + easy ones.

Participatory development of 8 Cross-Sectoral Operational Plans (CSOPs)
for ecological corridors' functionality

&

Partial implementation of the CSOPs during the project duration in 8 Pilot Areas.



Where?

In 8 pilot
areas
located on
critical
ecological
corridors

7 countries
of the
Danube
Region

CROSS-SECTORAL ACTION PLANS



The logframe of CSOPs

1. Pressures & threats
2. Specific objectives to address P&T
3. Sectors of interest
4. Stakeholders & Main actors
5. Problems, Measures/Targets
& Actions
6. Tools, methodologies, ...
7. Locations
8. Calendar
9. Indicators & monitoring
10. Resources
11. Relative priorities
12. Comments / feedback /
lessons learned, ...

CROSS-SECTORAL ACTION PLANS



Predefined elements:

Pre-defined Threats / Pressures to connectivity (8)

Relevant Sectors

Pre-defined Specific connectivity objectives (49) - *to address the T/P*

+ Descriptive part > specifics within each PA

CROSS-SECTORAL ACTION PLANS



Workflow:

1. Sectoral Stakeholder Analysis

Approach for engaging stakeholders

Sectoral potential impact on connectivity

List of main stakeholder groups
(European – national – local)



CROSS-SECTORAL ACTION PLANS



Workflow:

2. Identify potential **Problems**
(what could prevent specific objectives to be met?)
3. Draft **Measures / Targets**
(what is needed to solve the problems?)
4. Draft **Actions**
(what are the concrete, specific steps to implement the measures?)
5. **Collecting data / Monitoring & Updating the Plans**



CROSS-SECTORAL ACTION PLANS



Workflow:

6. Start implementing actions

- Stakeholder outreach and engagement
- Capacity building (with T1)
- Monitoring methodologies, tools (with T1), Monitoring Plan, Monitoring and PA database (with T1)
- Awareness, networking and communication (with C)

CROSS-SECTORAL ACTION PLANS



(POTENTIAL) NEXT STEPS:

- Continuing stakeholder outreach and engagement
- Monitoring and update PA database
- Awareness, networking and communication
- Update / improve the logframe

- Transfer relevant sections into Sectoral Plans

- Develop implementation projects

CROSS-SECTORAL ACTION PLANS



(POTENTIAL) NEXT STEPS:

- Upscaling the approach at European level
(i.e. DTP HARMON > H2020 BISON)

Legacy:

- General matrix to assess connectivity at landscape level
- Collection of cross-sectoral problems to be addressed
- Examples of measures / targets
- Examples of steps towards meeting the targets

- Experience gained & connections between organisations and persons

LOCAL ACTIONS



Thank you!

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