



Local Cross-sectoral Operational Plans

Annex

Glossary

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Glossary of terms used in the SaveGREEN Local Cross-sectoral Operational Plans

Barrier effect – a combination of different factors (technical structures and their parameters, disturbances, fauna mortality) that together decrease the probability and success rate of crossing linear features or surfaces by wildlife.

Biodiversity/Biological diversity – The richness among living organisms including terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems and the ecological complexes to which they belong. It includes diversity within and between species and ecosystems as well as the processes that link ecosystems and species.

Connectivity – The state of structural landscape features that are being connected, enabling access between places via a continuous route of passage. Physical connections between landscape elements.

Corridor – A tract of land or water connecting two or more areas of habitats that aid animal movement across the landscape. See also 'Wildlife corridor'.

Ecological connectivity – The binding or interconnection of eco-landscape elements (semi-natural, natural habitats or buffer zones) and biological corridors between them from the viewpoint of an individual, a species, a population or an association of these entities, for the whole or part of their developmental stage, at a given time or for a period given to improve the accessibility of the fields and resources for fauna and flora.

Ecological/wildlife corridor – Landscape structures of various size, shape and vegetation cover that mutually interconnect core areas and allow migration of species between them. They are defined to maintain, establish or enhance ecological connectivity in human-influenced landscapes.

- Wildlife corridors – allow the movement of a wide range of organisms between high-natural-value areas
- Migration corridors – allow animal movement (both regular and irregular) between areas of their permanent distribution (core areas)
- Movement corridors – allow animal movement within core areas (including daily movements in search of food, etc.).

Ecological network – A coherent system of natural and/or semi-natural landscape elements configured and managed with the objective of maintaining or restoring

ecological functions as a means to preserve biodiversity while also providing appropriate opportunities for the sustainable use of natural resources (Bennett, 2006). Ecological network consists of core areas, corridors and buffer zones.

Ecosystem services¹ - The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment defined Ecosystem Services as “the benefits that people derive from ecosystems”. Besides provisioning services or goods like food, wood and other raw materials, plants, animals, fungi and micro-organisms provide essential regulating services such as pollination of crops, prevention of soil erosion and water purification, and a vast array of cultural services, such as recreation and a sense of place.

Fauna passage – A measure installed to enable animals to cross over or under a road, railway or canal without coming into contact with the traffic.

Fragmentation (of landscape, habitats, populations) – a process, in which continuous landscape is further divided into smaller and smaller units that are mutually isolated or reduced in an area. Such units then gradually lose their potential for fulfilling their original functions. Transformation of large habitat patches into smaller, more isolated fragments of habitat. (<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/landscape-fragmentation-in-europe>). Such units then gradually lose the potential for fulfilling their original functions.

Green Infrastructure – A strategically planned network of high-quality natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features, which has been designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services and protect biodiversity in both rural and urban settings.

Habitat – The type of site (vegetation, soils, etc.) consisting of biotopes, where a living organism or population naturally occurs – including a mosaic of components required for the survival of a species. Assemblage of all biotic and abiotic factors that create the environment of a specific species, population, and community.

Land use/spatial planning – A type of activity aimed at predetermining the future spatial usage of land and water by society. A process of spatial planning with an aim to use the landscape resources in a sustainable way and balance socio-economic and environmental needs and conditions.

¹Via <https://www.iucn.org/commissions/commission-ecosystem-management/our-work/cems-thematic-groups/services>

Linkage areas – Broader areas of connectivity important to facilitate the movement of multiple species and maintain ecological processes within two or more neighbouring core areas, where delineating clear wildlife/migration corridors for species is difficult due to a relatively high degree of permeability.

Migration – Regular movement of animals outside their original home ranges. For the purpose of the SaveGREEN project, the term migration is also applied to other types of animal movement (within home ranges, food searching, dispersal of young etc.).

Migration barrier – Natural and anthropogenic structures in the landscape which restrain the free movement of animals.