



Restoring and Managing Ecological Corridors in Mountains as the Green Infrastructure in the Danube basin

Integration of Ecological Corridors into Spatial Planning

Protected Areas – Cornerstones of Ecological connectivity in Carpathians and Beyond ConnectGREEN final conference, Visegrad, 28. – 30. 9. 2021 Ing. Rastislav Staník, Slovak Environment Agency

Project co-funded by European Union Funds (ERDF, IPA) www.interreg-danube.eu/connectgreen





- ecological connectivity and landscape fragmentation
- in the EU and Slovakia
- project outputs implementation into spatial planning process in Slovakia







Ecological connectivity and landscape fragmentation

Probability with which it is possible to connect two randomly selected points in the chosen area, which tells us to what extent migration is possible between different parts of the landscape. The more barriers to migration in the landscape, the lower the probability. This is of course related to the species locomotion abilities (birds – large mammals – amphibia – insects).

The reasons for animal migration are searching for food, shelter, need to change territory or to breed.

Landscape fragmentation is the result of transformation of large, continuous areas of habitats into smaller, more isolated fragments. The fragments do not have to be completely isolated to lose the function of ecological connectivity, depending on the target species and natural conditions.

The level of ecological connectivity is affected by the so-called fragmentation geometry (FG), which represents a set of all migration barriers in the given area.

The density of the elements of fragmentation geometry per area (s_{eff}) represents degree, to which fragmentation geometry interrupts movement between different parts of the landscape.

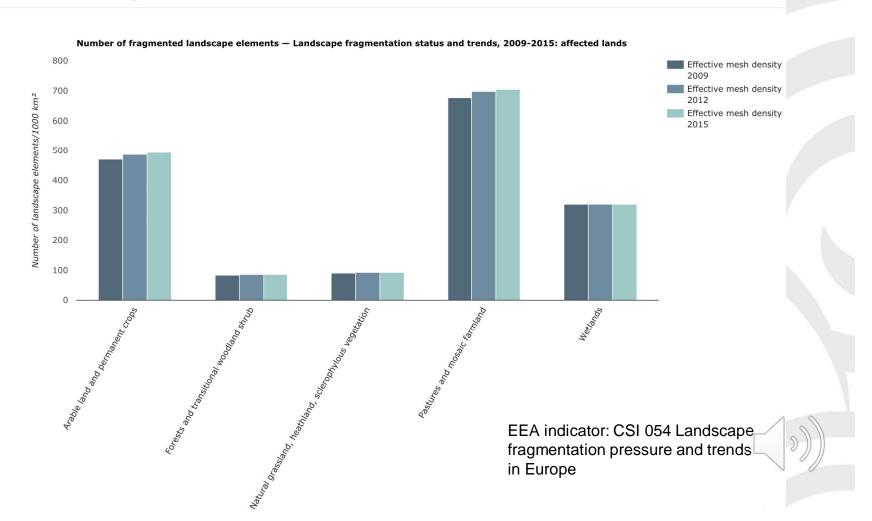
(Jaeger, 2000)





Landscape fragmentation on the EU level



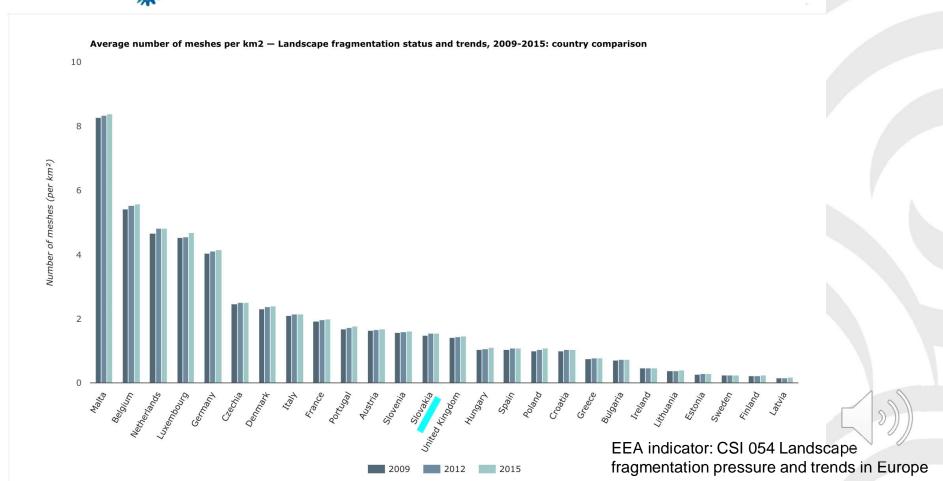




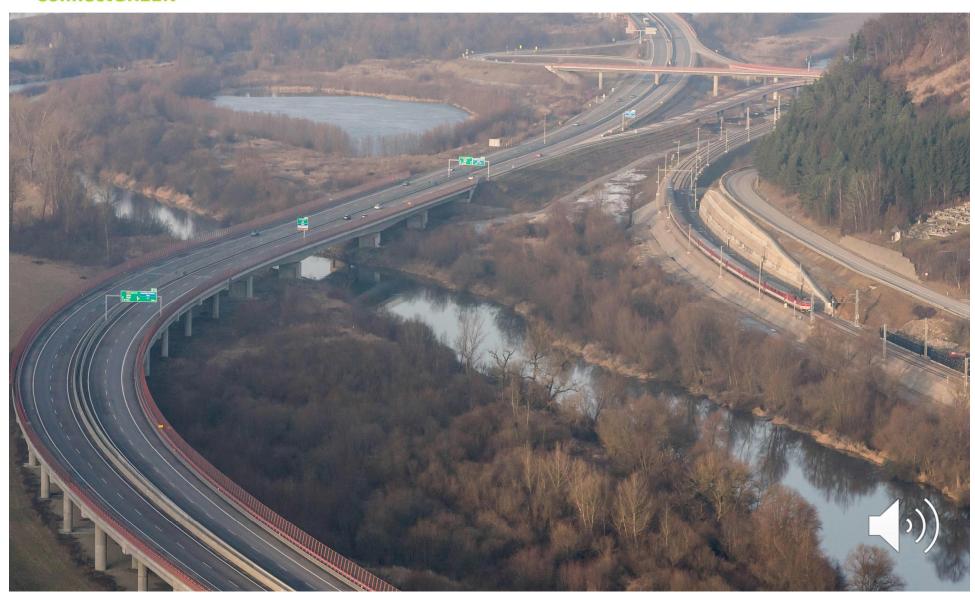


Landscape fragmentation on national level in the EU













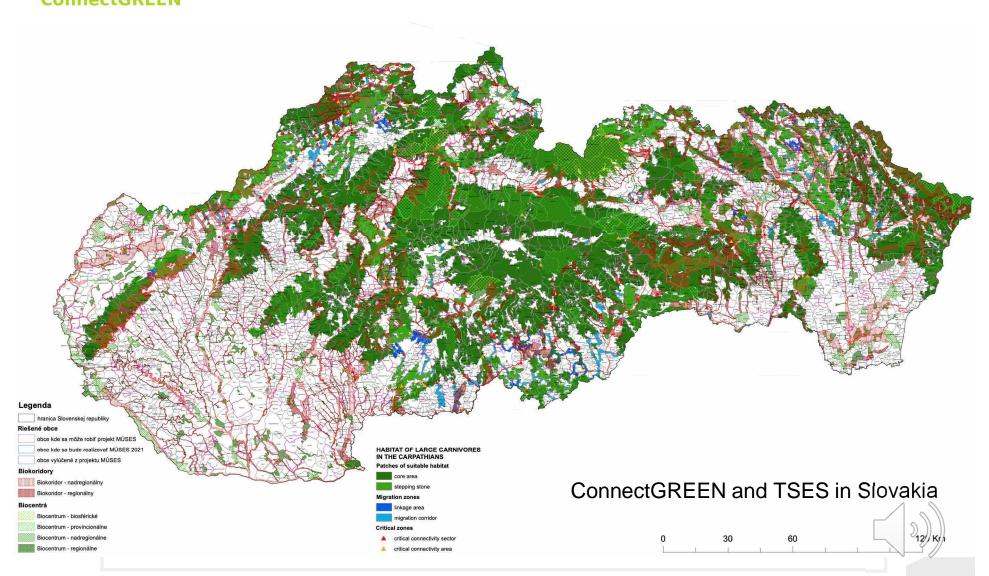
Ecological connectivity and networks in Slovakia

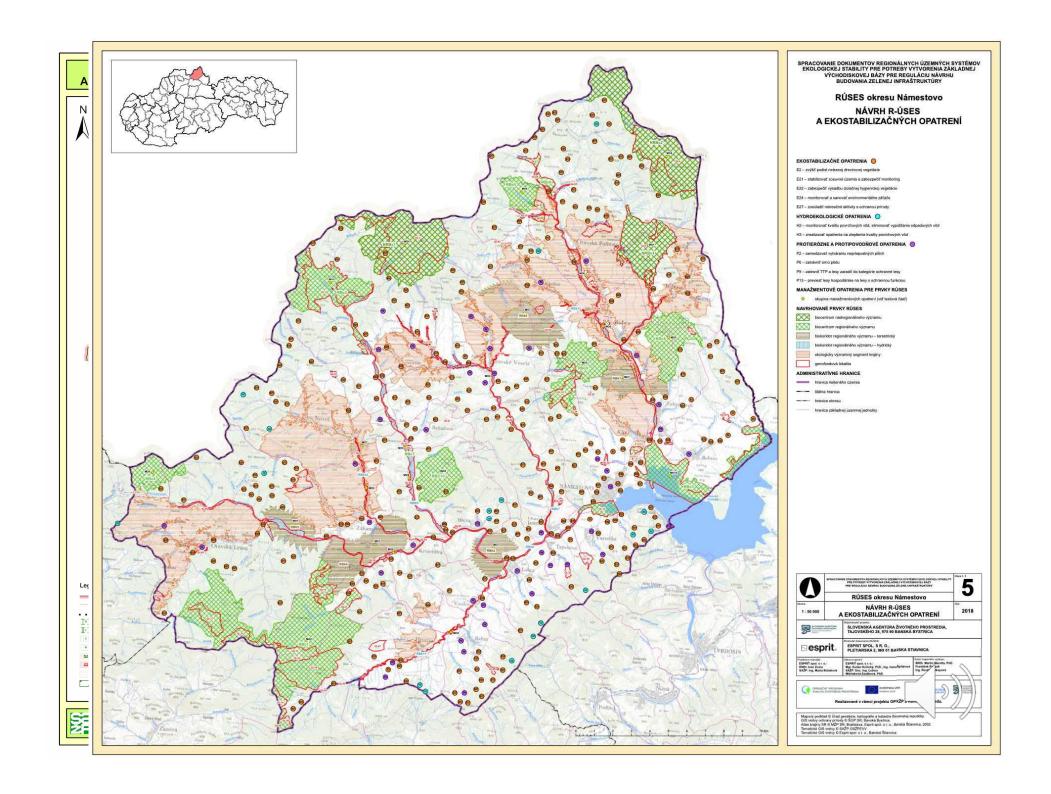
In Slovakia, the legally implemented concept of the Territorial System of Ecological Stability (TSES), which has three hierarchical levels (local, regional and supraregional), represents an integrated, analytical-synthetic approach of landscape-ecological planning to ensure sustainable use of natural resources as well as preserving and increasing ecological stability of the landscape. It includes i. a. proposal of elements of the TSES network, which directly takes into account the need to maintain and improve ecological connectivity in the addressed area, with focus on fauna migration in the territory. The TSES documentation represents one of the legally binding inputs in the process of territorial planning.

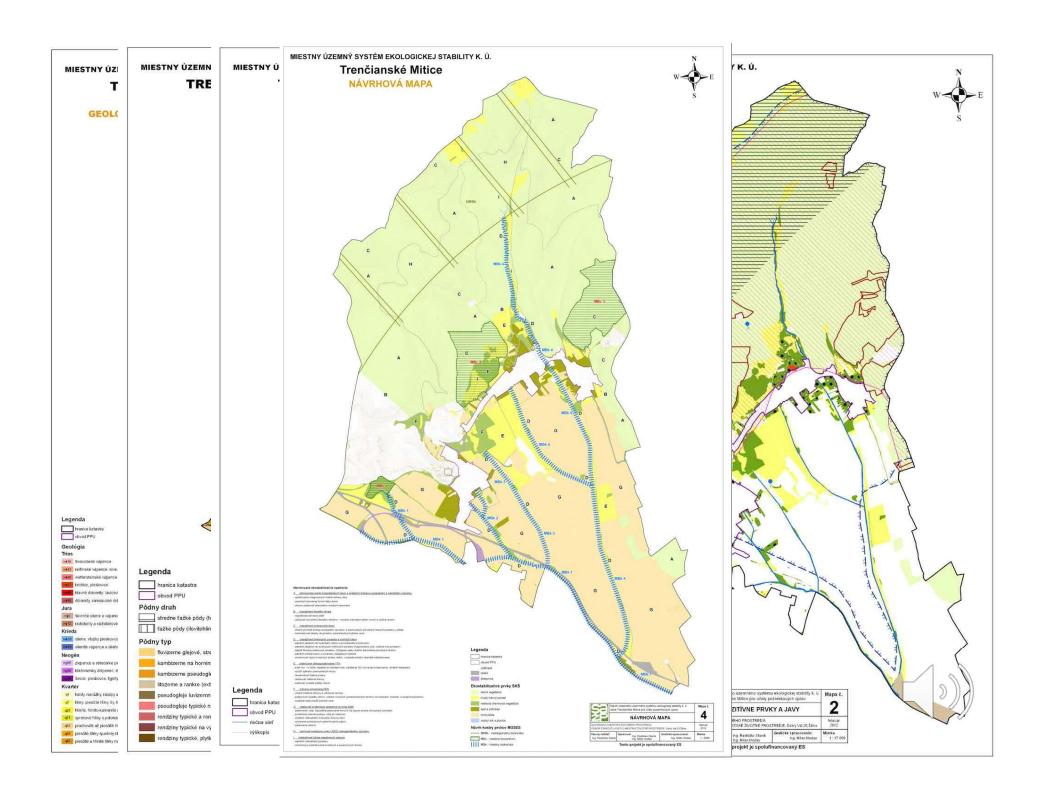
















Ecological connectivity and networks in Slovakia

Currently, the Slovak Environmental Agency (SEA SR) is also implementing a project "Elaboration of documents of Local Territorial Systems of Ecological Stability, as one of the inputs for the basic database for regulation of Green infrastructure proposal development".

The aim is to implement a system for semi-automatic elaboration of these documents, using up-to-date, official and scientifically correct datasets and geodatabases, providing a tool for faster production of cheaper, high quality outputs based on current science, that will be supporting the spatial planning process on municipality level and incorporation of the concept of green infrastructure into the nature and landscape protection and planning systems in Slovakia.



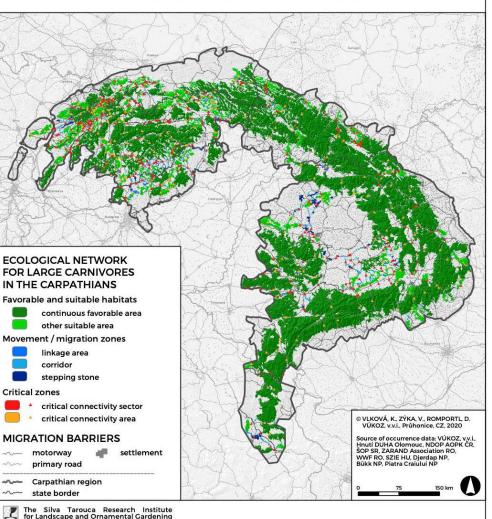
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CORE AREAS AND ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS FOR LARGE CARNIVORES IN THE CARPATHIANS



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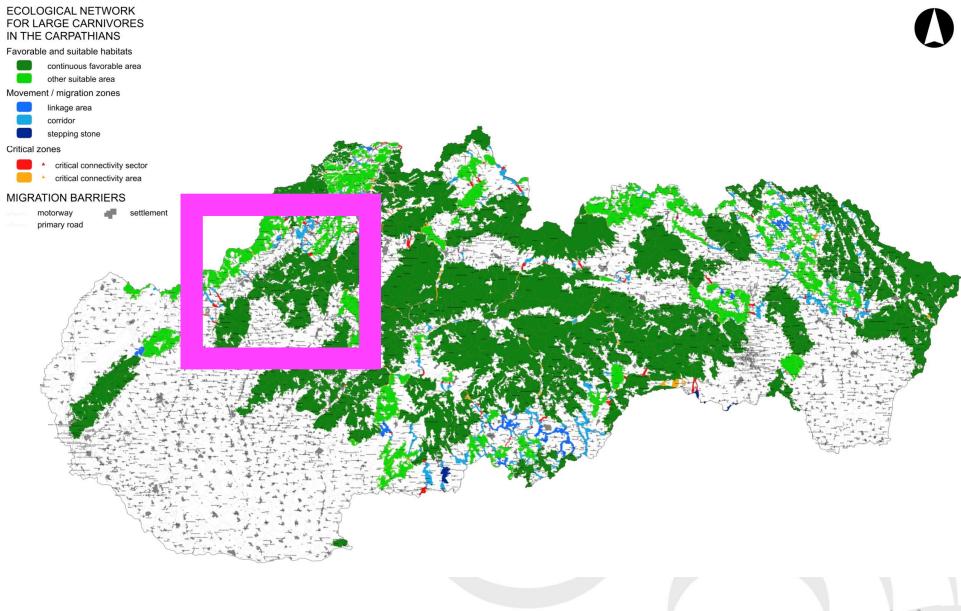


Implementation of the ConnectGREEN project results in the elaboration of TSES documents

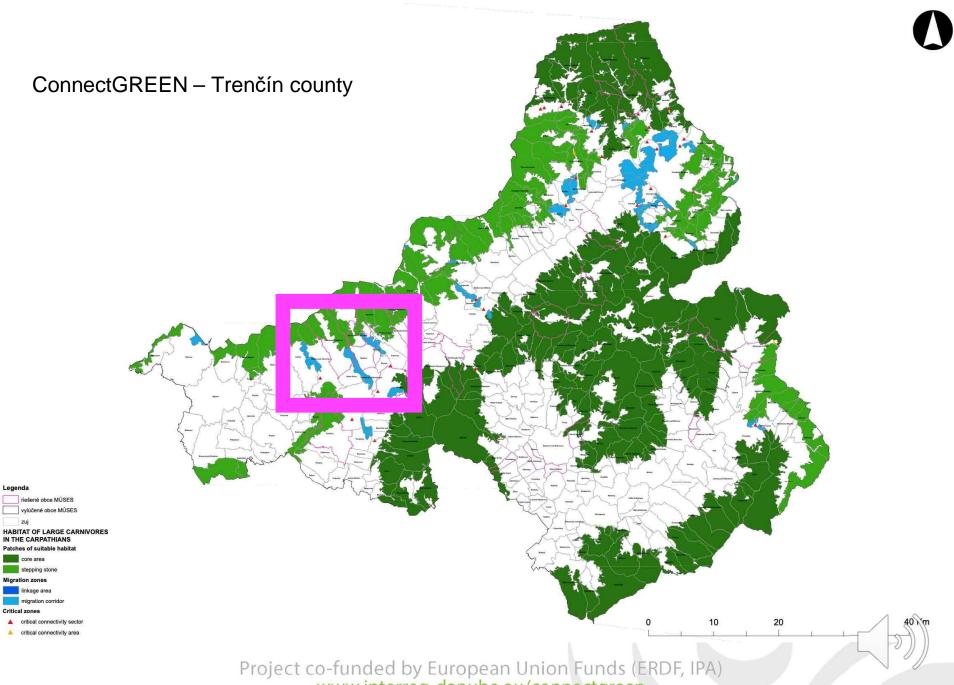
Practical example of how we currently use and integrate the outputs from the ConnectGREEN project in the documents of the Local TSES in Slovakia

- selection process
- field mapping and analytical synthetic phase
- propositions of the ecologocal networks

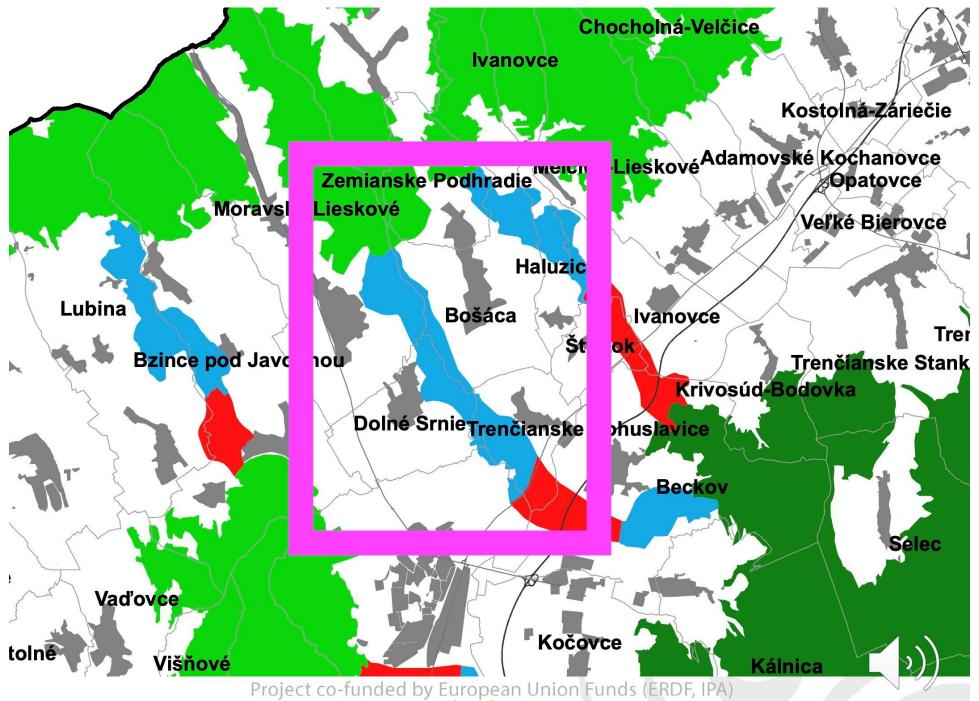








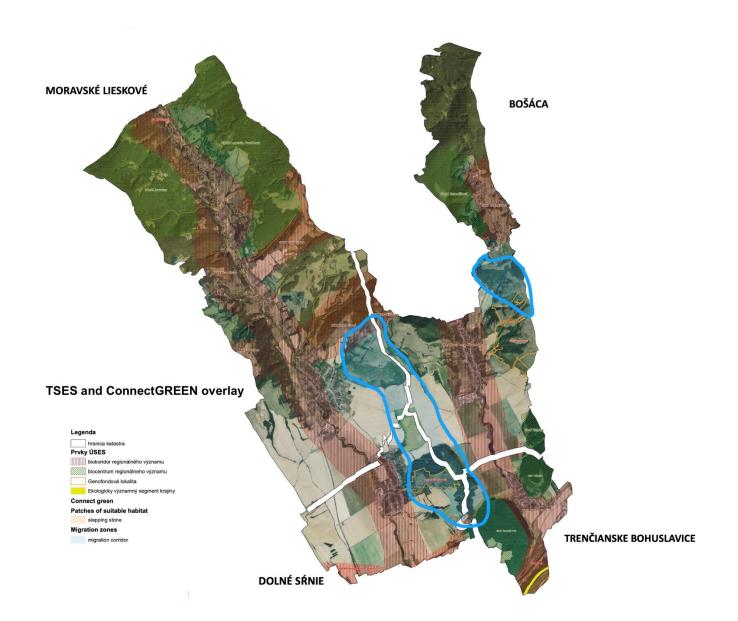
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Implementation of the ConnectGREEN project results in the elaboration of TSES documents

The delineation of the migration corridors from the project ConnectGREEN is considered in its whole course, not just in a single municipality's territory, and the proposal process of the ecological networks will take this into account in order to ensure that the proposal represents a functional ecological network.







Thank you for your attention!

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