



Bayerisches Staatsministerium für
Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz



DTP Thematic Seminars

Ecological Connectivity and Ecological Corridors

***EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
Priority Area 06 of EUSDR***

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Bucharest, 04.12.2018

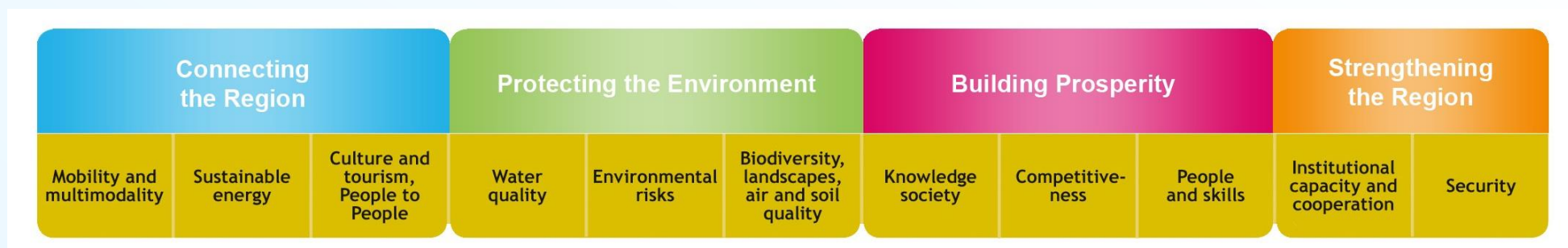


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EU Strategy for the Danube Region

Four Pillars – 11 Priority Areas



- Coordination of implementation of the **11 Priority Areas** by two **Priority Area Coordinators (PACs)** from two countries.
- **Bavaria** (Bavarian State Ministry for the Environment and Consumer Protection) together with **Croatia** (Ministry for Environment and Nature Protection) acts as PAC for Priority Area 6: Preserving biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils

Priority Area 06 of the EUSDR

Preserving biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils

Targets of Priority Area 06

| | |
|--|--|
| By 2020 strengthen the work on halting the deterioration in the status of all species and habitats covered by EU nature legislation in order to achieve a significant and measurable improvement, adapted to the special needs of the respective species and habitats in the Danube Region . | Biodiversity Landscapes |
| Enhance the work on establishing green infrastructure and the process of restoration of at least 15% of degraded ecosystems , including soil , in order to maintain and enhance ecosystems and their services by 2020 in the Danube Region and to improve air quality . | Biodiversity Landscapes Soils Air |
| Encourage achieving significant progress in identification and prioritization of Invasive Alien Species and their pathways in order to control or eradicate priority species, to manage pathways and to prevent the introduction and establishment of new Invasive Alien Species in the Danube Region by 2020. | Biodiversity |
| Continue the ongoing work and efforts to securing viable populations of Danube sturgeon species and other indigenous fish species by 2020. | Biodiversity |

Task Forces and Work Groups of Priority Area 06

| Task Force | Full Name | Topic | Chair |
|-------------|--|---|--|
| DSTF | Danube Sturgeon Task Force | Saving and restoring Danube Sturgeons Implementation of "Sturgeon 2020" | Institute of Biology Bucharest Romanian Academy (RO) |
| DIAS | Danube Region Invasive Alien Species Network | Measures to monitor, manage and prevent aquatic IAS | Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IBER-BAS) (BG) |
| Danubeparks | Danubeparks - Network of Protected Areas | Network of protected areas along the Danube, Ecological Connectivity, WILDislands | Danubeparks Association Nationalpark Donauauen (AT) |
| SONDAR | Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region | Soil protection network in the Danube region, linked to ELSA (European Land and Soil Alliance) | Government of Lower Austria (AT) |
| TFPC | Task Force Pesticides and Chemicals | Management and prevention of loss of obsolete Pesticides and Chemicals | Slovenian National Institute for Public Health (SI) |
| TFAQ | Task Force Air Quality | Measures to improve air quality, e.g. in terms of domestic fire and CO ₂ emissions | Joint Research Centre (JRC) (EC) |
| Masterplan | Masterplan Living Space Bavarian Danube | Systematic, participatory and bottom-up oriented measures for enhancing biodiversity at the Bavarian Danube and its floodplains | Bund Naturschutz, Auenzentrum Neuburg, Landesbund für Vogelschutz, Bavaria (DE) |

PA 06 Study - 2018

Ecological Connectivity in the Danube Region

Objectives of the Study:

- **Inventory of Ecological Connectivity** in the Danube region
- Identifying **needs for action** and concrete proposals for projects to increase the understanding of the role of Ecological Connectivity along the Danube in all habitats (air, water, land).
- Identification of **relevant political and administrative actors** in the regions, including their impact mechanisms develop links for cooperation with neighboring regions and strategies such as the EUSALP and other MRS
- Anchoring concept of **EU Green Infrastructure** (GI) in the Danube Region
- Contribution to the objective of a **Trans-European Green Infrastructure Network** (TEN-G) along the Danube.



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Ecological Connectivity in the Danube Region

Final Report



Client:

Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz,
(Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection,
PA 6 Leader of EUSDR)
September 2018



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1. Introduction
2. Ecological Connectivity in the DRB: Status Quo
3. Existing ecological corridors and connectivity elements in the DRB
3. Existing Gaps and challenges
4. Project outline for enhancing ecological connectivity
5. Concluding recommendations
6. References

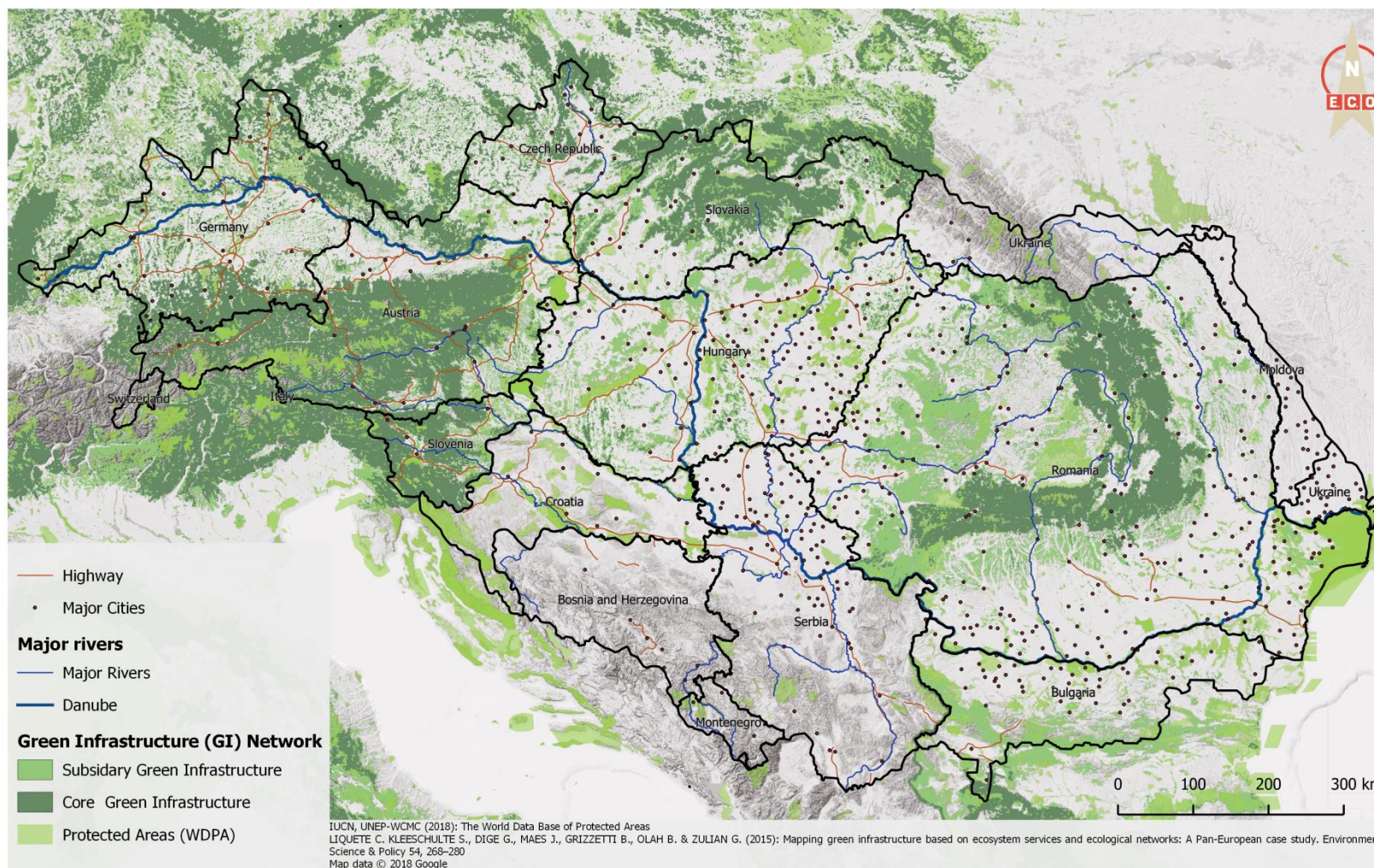
Available for download at [www.danube-nature.eu \(/files\)](http://www.danube-nature.eu (/files))



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Ecological Connectivity in the Danube Area

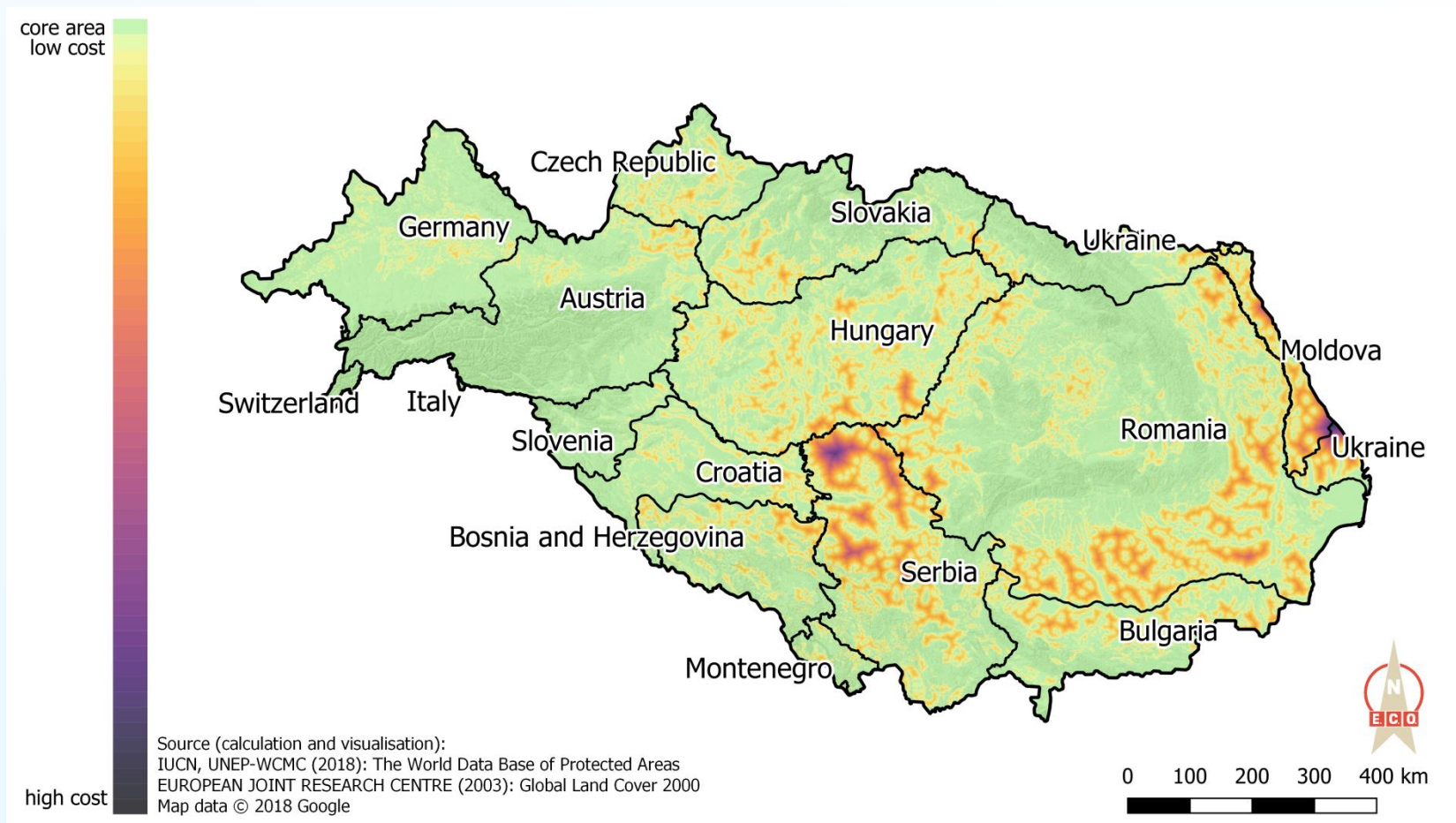


Excerpt from
Huber, M.,
Jungmeier, M.,
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Höfferle, P.,
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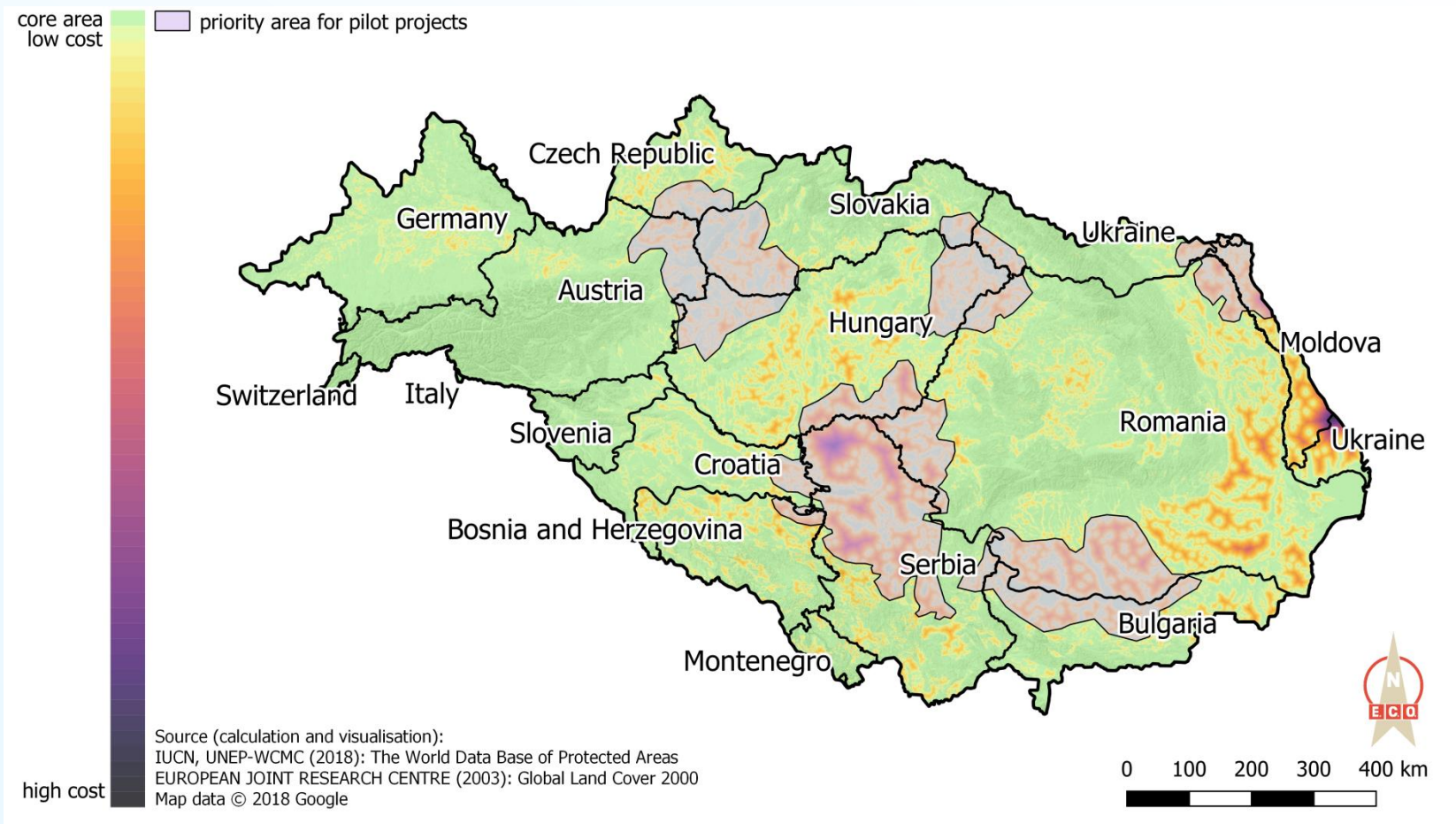
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Status of Macro-regional ecological connectivity – Cost–Distance analysis



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Status of Macro-regional ecological connectivity – potential Pilot Areas



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Identified gaps and challenges as regards ecological connectivity (1)

Research Gaps:

- Selective connectivity topics
- Lack of a common model
- Interface science – policy making
- Complex large ecological processes

Knowledge Gaps:

- Macro-regional overview
- Detailed information about priority corridors



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Identified gaps and challenges as regards ecological connectivity (1)

Knowledge Gaps:

- Macro-regional overview

| | Transboundary activity | Corridors known | Quality of corridors known | Barriers mapped | Legally integrated | Integration into spatial planning |
|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Austria | | | | | | |
| Bulgaria | | | | | | |
| Croatia | | | | | | |
| Czech Republic | | | | | | |
| Germany | | | | | | |
| Hungary | | | | | | |
| Moldova | | | | | | |
| Serbia | | | | | | |
| Slovakia | | | | | | |
| Slovenia | | | | | | |
| Romania | | | | | | |
| Ukraine | | | | | | |

Available information and activities regarding ecological connectivity in individual countries of the Danube Region

green: good information/frequent activities,

yellow: medium information level/some activities

orange: no information available/no activities)

Excerpt from Huber, M., Jungmeier, M., Glatz-Jorde, S. Höfferle, P., Berger, V. (2018): Ecological Connectivity in the Danube Region. Final Report.

Identified gaps and challenges as regards ecological connectivity (2)

Cooperation Gaps:

- Knowledge exchange and institutional cooperation
- Disconnection between ecology and policy / other sectors
- Connecting national and local network initiatives
- Lacking of main vision and understanding of GI and ecological connectivity

Institutional Gap:

- Coverage of the DRB (areas not covered by Danubeparks, ALPARC, CNPA)
- Limited access to funding / limited knowledge about funding sources
- Lack of a transboundary coordinating body



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Summary of project outlines to enhance ecological connectivity

| Nr. | Title | Key Objective | Type |
|-----|--|--|---|
| 1 | Connecting corridors: Development of a common approach to define and determine ecological corridors for key target species on land | Harmonized approaches and tools for macroregional planning; Creation of basis for implementation | Research, transnational cooperation |
| 2 | ConnectTHEdisconnected: Ecological corridors and connectivity: Detailed analysis of barriers and priority corridors. | Improvement of terrestrial connectivity; intersectoral cooperation between transportation and environment sector | Research, transnational cooperation; identification of demonstration projects |
| 3 | ConnectAir: Protection of migratory bird corridors and establishment of air corridors and related step stones | Improvement of sky corridors; intersectoral link between ecology, & energy sector | Research (Demonstration project) |
| 4 | ConnectForest: Increasing beech forest connectivity in the Danube River Basin | Improve forest connectivity, thematic network building | Transnational cooperation, demonstration projects, research |

Excerpt from Huber, M., Jungmeier, M., Glatz-Jorde, S. Höfferle, P., Berger, V. (2018): Ecological Connectivity in the Danube Region. Final Report.



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Summary of project outlines to enhance ecological connectivity

| Nr. | Title | Key Objective | Type |
|-----|---|--|-------------------------------|
| 5 | ConnectionBeyond: Establish a network of linked protected areas and policy stakeholders to enhance ecological connectivity outside protected areas: Pilot project on green and blue corridors | System of blue and green corridors, Options for integration into spatial planning | Policy development |
| 6 | Communicating ecological connectivity: Establishment of a transnational communication and knowledge sharing platform | Improvement of awareness; knowledge sharing amongst policy, science, practitioners | Transnational Cooperation |
| 7 | ConnectivitySolutions: Pilot actions towards closing gaps of ecological corridors | Physical improvement of corridors; Demonstration sites for communication and awareness raising | Demonstration/ Implementation |

Excerpt from Huber, M., Jungmeier, M., Glatz-Jorde, S. Höfferle, P., Berger, V. (2018): Ecological Connectivity in the Danube Region. Final Report.



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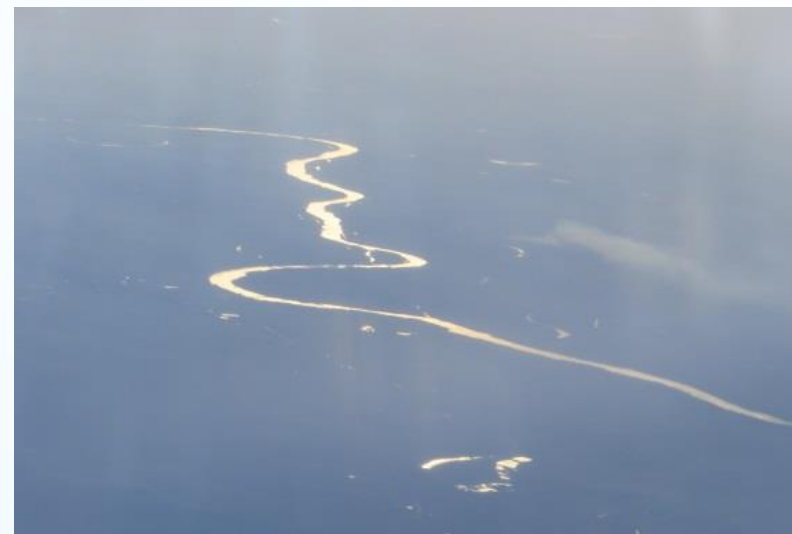
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