

# NaturaConnect

## “Designing a resilient and coherent Trans-European Network for Nature and People”

Project: 101060429 (HORIZON-CL6-2021-BIODIV-01)

Work Package 1

Engagement, Communications, Dissemination, Capacity Building

### Call for tender

External service contract for the evaluation of stakeholder engagement of the NaturaConnect project



Issued by: **EUROPARC Federation**

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# 1. Summary

The EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy aims to put biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030, as a contribution to the European Green Deal goal of preserving and restoring Europe's natural capital and placing Europe in a leadership position in the Post-2020 CBD Framework. A key component of the EU Biodiversity Strategy is the development of a truly coherent Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N). EUROPARC is part of a successful consortium, recently awarded a HORIZON-CL6-2021-BIODIV-01 project "NaturaConnect - Designing a resilient and coherent Trans-European Network for Nature and People". EUROPARC is responsible for overseeing the Stakeholder Engagement, Communications, Dissemination and Capacity Building functions within this ambitious project.

This call for contractors is issued within the scope of the NaturaConnect Project. The contracting authority is EUROPARC Federation, with address: Waffnergasse 6, D-93047 Regensburg, Germany.

The indicative budget for this external assistance contract is **gross €15.000, inclusive of VAT**. As a minimum, all bidders must demonstrate experience of working with EU based NGOs or institutions. Bidders must provide evidence of delivering comprehensive evaluations which have focussed on stakeholder engagement activities and capacity building: this must include evidence of the types of evaluation tools and methods used. Specifically, the successful contractor is expected to be able to demonstrate their work, including the analyses made and reports produced. Ultimately, those bidding for this contract must clearly state how such evidence and their expertise will be applied within the scope of this contract and benefit the evaluation of the stakeholder engagement of the project.

## **Contextual background:**

Together with key stakeholders, NaturaConnect will co-develop knowledge, tools and capacity building programmes to support EU Member States in implementing an ecologically representative, resilient and well-connected trans-European nature network (TEN-N) that builds on the existing network of protected areas, Natura 2000 sites and Green and Blue Infrastructure. Through research, engagement and dissemination activities at the European scale and in a set of six case studies, we will elicit stakeholders' visions and preferences about conservation objectives, tap into best practices in protected areas' management and funding mechanisms, mobilise data and test the TEN-N spatial prioritisation analyses and tools

produced by NaturaConnect. The stakeholder engagement plan is a substantive element of the project. The policy relevance of our work will be guaranteed by ensuring credibility, saliency and legitimacy via constant **engagement and collaboration between researchers and diverse societal actors**. Conservation, restoration and sustainable management must be grounded with adequate, accessible, and relevant capacity building and communications for stakeholders who will implement and manage such a network. The project therefore includes a robust and integrated stakeholder engagement process, which is underpinned by theory and practice addressed in the BiodivERSA Stakeholder Handbook (Durham et al. 2004) and which follows approaches of appreciative Inquiry, introduced by external consultants to the project consortium. Communication, dissemination and stakeholder engagement are at the core of our activities, from the design of the criteria to develop the TEN-N network to the implementation of our results.

Stakeholder engagement activities take place on three different levels of the project: (1) Meta/European level, (2) case study level, (3) specific topic related engagement by the different work packages.

### **Purpose and timeline of the contract:**

The contracting authority is looking to engage an experienced external service provider to produce a comprehensive, evidence-based evaluation of the stakeholder engagement activities. Project evaluation activities should be planned to reflect the activities during the different phases of the project.

In order to have an ongoing process of assessment and improvement the external evaluator will be subcontracted between **January 2021- February 2026**.

The main output of this external service contract is an **assessment of the stakeholder engagement events of the project**, which will be conducted by different project partners. The contractor shall provide a mid-term review of the stakeholder engagement events taking place until January 2024. The mid-term review is an important deliverable of EUROPARC in the project. Based on the outcome of the mid-term review, the project will reflect and potentially adjust the engagement approaches in place. A final evaluation report shall be provided by the contractor to the end of the project (project end: June 2026).

Specifically, the contract requirements of this external services technical support contract are to:

1. Recommend and provide **advice on feedback methods to be used by project partners for their specific types of engagement events** (face to face meetings, workshops, online workshops etc.) in various contexts and countries.

The collected information will be shared with the contractor for further analysis and the overall evaluation. This shall include quantitative and qualitative information.

2. Collect and analyse feedback from participants of events and stakeholders in the form of qualitative interviews, surveys or any other suitable innovative form for data and information collection. The contractor is responsible to design and conduct interviews with key stakeholders and to analyse the results.

Based on this, the overall assessment (mid-term review and final review) shall be developed including (1) short feedback to be collected by the project partners directly after the event with advice from the contractor on method/tools to be used, if applicable this would include an assessment of the chosen engagement approach, (2) qualitative independent interviews and/or other innovative forms of information gathering from stakeholders and participants.

## 2. Contract deliverables and timescale

The evaluation to be conducted shall primarily assess the effectiveness of the stakeholder engagement itself.

### Key moments of evaluation

1. 1st Stakeholder Engagement Forum in Brussels organised by the project, 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2023. This event will take place on policy level with support of an external facilitator. It is the first big in person event with the key stakeholders from EU level. A list of key stakeholders identified in the early stage of the project, which will be further elaborated by the project, can be found in Annex 2.
2. Workshops and meetings by the different work packages throughout 2023 and beyond. A description of the work packages can be found in Annex 1.
3. Workshops and meetings by case studies (as part of work package 8) throughout 2023 and beyond.

### Contract timeline

This external service contract has three main phases and deliverables as outlined in the following table.

<b>Inception phase</b>	
Tender issued	22/11/2022
Tender submission and deadline	06/12/2022
Internal assessments	08/12/2022
Interviews with selected candidates: The potential bidder shall shortly present an outline of an evaluation plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working methods proposed for the contract, taking into account the different partners (e.g. NGOs, academia from different countries and regions)</li> <li>• Design and creation of evaluation tools to be applied, including the methods for gathering feedback in both for face two face and online events</li> <li>• Types of analyses to be produced (for both qualitative information &amp; quantitative data)</li> </ul>	Between 12th-16th of December 2022
Contract awarded	19/12/2023
Contract start	05/01/2023
Evaluation contract “Kick- off” meeting- contractor to present more detailed outline of the evaluation plan.	January 2023 (date to be discussed)
<b>1st Implementation phase</b>	
During the contract implementation phase, the contractor has three main responsibilities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommend and advise on feedback/evaluation methods to be used by project partners for their events depending on the context and country. The contractor shall ensure a systematic collection of information along the different project partners.</li> <li>- In consultation with EUROPARC, provide briefing sessions for project partners to ensure partners are enabled to collect feedback during their events or workshops based on the recommended methods provided by the contractor.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Conduct independent qualitative interviews with selected stakeholders and participants to assess impact and effectiveness of the stakeholder engagement events that have been organised. This is the main part for the mid-term review and the overall evaluation contract.</li> </ol> <p>Responsibilities by EUROPARC:</p>	Throughout 2023-2026

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequent meetings with EUROPARC and the contractor will be set up to ensure coherent evaluation of the stakeholder engagement activities.</li> </ul> <p>The contractor shall analyse and summarise the information gathered in a mid-term review (January 2023).</p>	
<p><b>Mid-term review</b></p> <p>The contractor summarises the results of the evaluation on stakeholder engagement in a <b>mid-term report</b>/analysis based on conducted activities by the case studies/work packages and conducted interviews by the contractor. The report should include recommendations and necessary adjustments to the used engagement approaches if necessary. This report is a key deliverable of the project and is a direct output from this invitation to tender.</p>	January 2024
<p><b>Final review</b></p> <p>Based on the feedback gathered by the project partners and through qualitative interviews by the contractor, the contractor will produce an overall report for the project on the stakeholder’s engagement processes.</p>	January 2026
<b>Deliverables</b>	
<p>D1 Evaluation Plan - January 2023</p> <p>D2 Outline of semi-structured interviews for key stakeholders on European and case study level (sentiment about the project with stakeholders, assess satisfaction) and conduction of interviews</p> <p>D3 Outline of different feedback methods depending on context and event (February 2023)</p> <p>D4 Report on stakeholder engagement (Mid-term review due to January 2024)</p> <p>D5 Final report (due to January 2026)</p>	

### 3. Background – about HORIZON NaturaConnect

#### Background

NaturaConnect is a four-year project running from July 2022- August 2026. Together with key stakeholders, NaturaConnect will co-develop knowledge, tools and capacity building programmes to support Member States in implementing an ecologically representative, resilient and well-connected trans-European nature network (TEN-N) that builds on the existing network of protected areas.

Through research, engagement and dissemination activities at the European scale and in a set of six case studies, NaturaConnect will elicit stakeholders’ visions and preferences about conservation objectives, tap into best practices in protected areas management and funding mechanisms, mobilise data and test the TEN-N spatial prioritisation analyses and tools produced by NaturaConnect. This addresses two major obstacles identified by the EU Nature

Legislation Fitness Check of the Birds and Habitat Directives ([link](#)): lack of stakeholder awareness and cooperation, and insufficient knowledge and access to existing funding mechanisms.

- NaturaConnect aims at creating a Nature Network to build on the existing network of protected areas so as to better manage Europe's biodiversity, specifically by connecting its natural areas with those in between them (Green & Blue Infrastructures) by bringing together diverse stakeholders so that there is better integration societally, politically, economically, etc.
- NaturaConnect will meet the needs of: (1) Increasing stakeholder awareness and co-operation, (2) Increasing knowledge so better access to funding mechanisms can be achieved, and (3) increasing availability of knowledge on biodiversity distribution, drivers of change and conservation solutions.
- NaturaConnect brings together a consortium of 20 organisations including top European scientists, policy experts and NGOs to produce and mobilise relevant data and knowledge
- The project aims at: (1) Developing improved data, knowledge, models and spatial planning methods to identify gaps in protected area coverage, connectivity and resilience under climate and land-use change, (2) Developing scenarios for expanding protected areas, by establishing ecological corridors and other areas of connectivity to address these gaps, and (3) Offering a blue-print for realising TEN-N by further providing knowledge and decision support for policy, financing and implementation mechanisms at all relevant scales.
- To achieve these aims the project will work at two main levels: (1) A meta European level that will engage diverse influential stakeholders (spatial planners, forestry management, protected area management, European Commission policy makers and other decision makers to ensure that the modelling tools developed are relevant and applicable and, (2) Case studies that will be carried out in specific countries, some on a cross border basis (Portugal & Spain and Carpathian region), national basis (France, Finland) and sub national (Germany).
- The project is made up of eight work packages (WP) with EUROPARC and WWF Central and Eastern Europe are responsible for WP1, which includes Stakeholder Engagement, Capacity Building and Communication (EUROPARC is responsible for the first two aspects and WWF the latter).

## **Stakeholder Engagement Approach**

Conservation, restoration and sustainable management must be grounded with adequate, accessible, and relevant capacity building and communications for stakeholders who will implement and manage such a network. The project therefore includes an integrated stakeholder engagement process, underpinned by theory and practice addressed in the BiodivERSA Stakeholder Engagement Handbook (Durham et al. 2004) and follows approaches of appreciative inquiry. The engagement process, throughout the project, will reflect an interface with the scientific research across various levels of engagement from informing to collaboration and co-design. The work packages and case studies will carefully choose when and what level of engagement and choice of participatory mechanism is required for their purpose and to identify the nature of the policy issue relevant to the NaturaConnect objectives (list of objectives can be found in Annex 3).

The primary stakeholders are those who are expected to apply the NaturaConnect planning data, frameworks and tools at the different levels and include:

- (1) Relevant EC cabinets, directorates and agencies,
- (2) Member States delegation in relevant EC working groups and commissions
- (3) Member states authorities responsible for designation of new conservation and connectivity areas
- (4) Authorities responsible for managing and monitoring conservation areas and biodiversity within and outside them
- (5) Environmental and other related sector Organisations (NGOs)
- (6) Landowners, farmers, foresters and other land and freshwater users
- (7) Land and resource management authorities
- (8) Scientists.

A more detailed preliminary list with the key stakeholders on EU level can be found in Annex 2. Work packages and case studies have conducted their individual stakeholder mapping and identified different key stakeholders they will be interacting with.

### **Consortium Partners:**

NaturaConnect is led by IIASA (International Institute for Applied System Analyses) with the support of 19 partners from different countries. The contracting authority EUROPARC is one consortium member. Close cooperation with all other partners is important for the success of the project. The partners are shown in Table 1.



**Table 1:**

1	Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) - Germany	11	Humboldt-University (UBER) - Germany
2	University la Sapienza of Rome (US) - Italy	12	Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) - Belgium
3	Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) - Netherlands	13	Rewilding Europe (RE) - Netherlands
4	BirdLife Europe (SBE) and International (SBI) - Belgium	14	WWF Central and Eastern Europe (WWF CEE)
5	Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources (CIBIO) - Portugal	15	WWF- Romania
6	Evora University (UE) - Portugal	16	WWF- Hungary
7	National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) - France	17	Finish Environment Institute (SYKE) - Finland
8	University of Helsinki (UH) - Finland	18	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) - Austria
9	State Council of Scientific Research (CSIC) - Spain	19	University of Warsaw (UW) - Poland
10	EUROPARC Federation (EF) - Germany		

## 4. Supporting Information

To fulfil the objectives of this contract, the expertise and advice of the successful contractor will be required to provide the project consortium on feedback methods to be used and to ensure consistency of approaches.

Once EUROPARC has discussed and agreed with the project partners, the successful contractor will update the project evaluation plan to confirm how, when and from whom data and feedback is to be gathered. The evaluation plan must confirm the evaluation process for the project, including the methodology(-ies) to be applied, data gathering tools to be used and the timeline for outputs to be produced.

Utilising the external contractor's advice and based on their expertise, it is expected that the main evaluation methods for the independent evaluation by the contractor will be in the form of – but are not restricted to - a combination of online questionnaires and interviews conducted by the contractor. More innovative ideas about methods which could be used within the project should be proposed in the bids for the contract.

Throughout the contract and the evaluation process, the successful contractor will be required to deliver outputs which contain clear and concise language, graphics and explanations of evaluation methodologies applied. All evaluation analyses and reports will be produced in English, with the case studies, WPs as well as EUROPARC supporting the gathering of information and feedback on country level.

The EUROPARC Federation will be responsible for the overall management of the external service contract for the project's evaluation, with significant inputs also required from project partners. Meetings together with the contractor, the lead partner and EUROPARC will be arranged.

### **Contract Management**

The service contract will be managed by EUROPARC. The main points of contact will be Marit Schnepf ([marit.schnepf@europarc.org](mailto:marit.schnepf@europarc.org)) and Anna Castelli ([anna.castelli@europarc.org](mailto:anna.castelli@europarc.org)). Any potential travel and subsistence expenses will be covered by the bidders. Where and if necessary, the contractor may be required to participate in other meetings with the contracting authority's other external service providers (however, this will be kept to an absolute minimum and would be online). EUROPARC is always the main contact for the contractor and they should never be in contact with partners directly unless pre-agreed with EUROPARC.

## 5. Tendering Process

### **Submission of technical and financial proposals**

Bids must be submitted in English. It should include:

- Your understanding of the external services to be delivered - in four-pages maximum:
  - A detailed description of your proposed approach to meet the requirements of the contract.
  - Outline preliminary evaluation plan including suggested evaluation methods.
- Your quote - in two-pages maximum:

- All costs quoted will be fixed for the period of the contract, in EUROS & inclusive of VAT (19%), which must be shown separately. Please note that EUROPARC is an NGO based in Germany and not entitled to input tax deduction.
- Number of people and days allocated.
- All bids must be sufficiently detailed with clear descriptions and costs for services to be provided.
- Evidence of previous work of a similar scope and scale.
- Experience of writing insightful and coherent reports, which identify clear recommendations for future stakeholder engagement activities.
- Skills, expertise and experience of your proposed team. This would include a breakdown of the contracted team by their role, experience and expertise. Short form CVs for each member of the team must be submitted as an appendix.
- Short narrative introduction to your organisation.
- Languages of operation that can be used for the assignment. Multi-lingual teams will be given preference.

Essentially, the consultant must be able to demonstrate experience in impact evaluation of participatory stakeholder events.

### **Process of return**

- Submission deadline for bids to be considered in the evaluation process: 6th of December, 23.59 CET. Applications submitted after 23.59 CET on 6<sup>th</sup> of December will not be considered for evaluation. Bids must be submitted in English and sent by email to Marit Schnepf ([marit.schnepf@europarc.org](mailto:marit.schnepf@europarc.org)).
- Successful applicants will be invited for an online interview in the second week of December (12th-16th). Candidates who will be invited for an interview are expected to prepare a short presentation outlining an overview of planned evaluation methods.
- Winning applicant will be informed by the 19th of December 2022.

### **Award criteria**

The contract will be awarded to the most economically advantageous tender evaluated by the contracting authority to demonstrate value for money, added value for the project and quality.

## **Contract terms & conditions**

Subject to satisfactory performance and delivery of external assistance services and products required, payment will be made as follows:

- 30% of the total contract value will be paid upon approval by the contracting authority of a draft detailed evaluation plan, specifying timeline, methods and tools to be used throughout the period of the contract.
- 30% will be paid after approval of the mid-term evaluation report.
- 40% of the contract value will be paid after approval of the final impact evaluation report.

## **6. GDPR compliance & data archiving requirements**

All data management must comply with GDPR requirements. The contractor must treat all contract data in strictest confidence. At no time will the contractor be able to use the data provided, gathered or analysed for any other purpose outside the scope of the external service contract. All data used and produced via the contract must be handed over to the contracting authority on request and certainly by the end of the contract. Data will be shared with the project partners for data archiving purposes by the contracting authority.

### **Intellectual property rights & confidentiality**

With the end of the contract, the contractor must provide a full and complete handover of all technical materials related to the services provided. The contracting authority, as a project beneficiary, retains sole responsibility for the implementation and delivery of any external service contract which may be awarded arising from the invitation to tender: it is expressly stipulated that any external service provider, which may be awarded a contract within the scope of this Horizon project, have no rights vis-à-vis the European Commission. All products of this external service contract and intellectual property rights arising will belong to the project. All GDPR requirements must be strictly adhered to - all reasonable precautions to protect user data security must be ensured and built into the external services provided by the contractor. This includes safeguards for personal data – for example, by using password control processes - to prevent misuse by malicious third parties.

Annex:

1. Description of work packages
2. Key stakeholders identified on the European level
3. List of project objectives

## A1) Description of Work Packages

### **Work Package 1:**

Engagement, communications, dissemination and capacity building

*Lead: EUROPARC Federation*

*Co-lead: WWF Central and Eastern Europe*

Conservation, restoration, and sustainable management must be grounded in accessible and relevant capacity building and communications for stakeholders who are implementing and co-managing the Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N).

Our team is developing a comprehensive strategy for reaching out to interested parties and engaging NaturaConnect stakeholders – from the European Union to the local level. We are also guiding a progressive Capacity Building process. Throughout the duration of the project, we are identifying training needs and developing courses for project partners and future TEN-N users on topics such as communication, stakeholder engagement, and financing in the context of protected and conserved areas. All courses will be made available via the NaturaConnect website.

### **Work Package 2:**

Governance, policy and financing TEN-N

*Lead: Stichting Birdlife Europe (SBE)*

*Co-lead: Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP)*

The success of a Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N) will rely on designing and applying effective governance and funding mechanisms for protected and conserved areas.

The main aim under this work package is to support Member States and regional authorities to successfully implement the 2030 EU Biodiversity Strategy objectives for the TEN-N through better governance and funding. To achieve this, we are producing a range of products

reviewing and synthesizing available information and best-practice regarding land-use planning, governance and protected area management policy, and a series of factsheets on available public and private finance and investment tools. We will cover both established and innovative approaches to support their roll out. To ensure the usefulness and usability of these products, we will draw on the experience of the project's case studies, and we intend to engage with relevant stakeholders throughout their development.

### **Work Package 3:**

Baselines and scenarios for European biodiversity

*Lead: Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)*

*Co-lead: Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas (CSIC)*

Designing an ecologically-representative, resilient and well connected Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N) depends on accurate information on the location of biodiversity, ecosystem and ecosystems services data, and scenarios about different, but likely, possible future changes.

In this work package, we are identifying, documenting, mobilizing and curating the baseline biological, environmental and socio-economic data available for the European continent. The biological data will be used to evaluate spatial completeness and adequateness for deriving relevant indicators, and to identify key areas, species and/or habitats for future biodiversity monitoring in Europe. We will then use state-of-the-art modelling approaches to create spatially explicit projections of current and future distributions of species, traits, interaction networks and habitats to be used for the TEN-N design and case studies, including the identification of winner and loser species and habitats in different configurations of the network.

### **Work Package 4:**

Nature and people

*Lead: Ministerie van Infrastructuur en Waterstaat (PBL)*

*Co-lead: Stichting VU (VUA)*

To design and implement an effective and feasible Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N), we need to understand the interaction between nature and people.

In this work package, we are investigating benefits, such as the valuable services that nature provides to people, but also socio-economic trade-offs of new protected and conserved areas, which could affect people. For our analysis, we are identifying and mapping the socio-

economic and land-use conditions that constrain or enable an effective TEN-N implementation. We will further develop natural capital and ecosystem services models to inform TEN-N design, and evaluate ecosystem services supply and demand under alternative configurations and future socio-economic development and climate change scenarios.

### **Work Package 5:**

Scenarios for nature futures

*Lead: Stichting VU (VUA)*

*Co-lead: Università degli Studi di Roma La Sapienza (US)*

Things always change – it is to be expected that we will see changes in policy, land use and climate in Europe over the coming decades. Accounting for a number of plausible futures increases the chance that the design of the network will be resilient in the face of different possible changes, and can still achieve its objectives under changed environmental and social conditions.

To achieve this, in this work package we will investigate and combine visions and preferences of society and stakeholders to build plausible socio-ecological development pathways, and translate these into rules, weights, and sources of uncertainty in our models and scenarios.

Our work will help to create a network of protected areas that is as future proof as possible, and will create as many net benefits to society as possible. Understanding possible negative impacts will help to find constructive and pre-emptive measures that are acceptable for people who may be impacted.

### **Work Package 6:**

Multi-scale nature connectivity and corridors design

*Lead: Martin-Luther-Universität Hallewittenberg (MLU)*

*Co-lead: Associação Biopolis (CIBIO)*

A resilient network of protected areas requires ecological connections facilitating the movement of organisms across landscapes. Furthermore, ecological corridors can support many other services such as carbon sequestration and recreational spaces for people, providing value as green and blue infrastructures.

We are developing a methodological framework and guidelines for mapping ecological connectivity and associated services from sub-national to European scales. We will advance protocols, data, and models that help prioritize conservation and restoration of corridors and

other green and blue infrastructure, allowing for the migration and dispersal of species and preserving beneficial ecosystem functions. Our work includes identifying, together with stakeholders, the more suitable landscape elements and planning instruments. We will also map opportunities and risks for enhancing connectivity consistently across Europe in order to support conservation and restoration plans under different climate and land use scenarios. Finally, we will analyze optimal configurations of corridors and restoration needs to achieve a coherent TEN-N.

### **Work Package 7:**

An integrated Trans-European nature network design

*Lead: International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)*

*Co-lead: Helsingin Yliopisto (UH)*

For many problems, there is not one best solution, but many possible options, each with different trade-offs. Decision-makers need to learn about the advantages and disadvantages of different options, to be able to make informed decisions. This work package aims to provide decision-makers with multiple possible configurations of a European network of protected areas, linked to the different positive and negative impacts in current and future times. To achieve this, we are developing the decision framework, support system and design criteria intended to guide spatial conservation decisions across scales, using a multi-criteria spatial planning approach. The framework will be based on data created by other work packages (work packages 3-6), and will be informed by stakeholder preferences and values. We will assess the applicability and usefulness of multiple characterizations of possible TEN-N designs by their scalability, robustness, reproducibility, representativeness, spatial coherence and resilience. Furthermore, we will provide stakeholders with guidance, training and data for the application of the TEN-N planning framework across scales.

### **Work Package 8:**

Showcasing the implementation of TEN-N

*Lead: Martin-Luther-Universität Hallewittenberg (MLU)*

*Co-lead: International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)*

The analyses, tools and guidelines developed under this project need to be applied in the real world, with authorities who will implement the Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N). In this work package, six [case studies](#) will be used to inform and evaluate how a network of protected areas can be designed and implemented at different spatial scales. More specifically,



we will provide strategic support to managers and policy makers, and. showcase spatial planning tools that simulate expansion of protected areas which, together with a monitoring system, will allow for performance evaluation of area-based conservation measures to support decision-making. Key challenges for decision-makers include: considering how to take advantage of opportunities between conservation priorities and plans at different scales; how to achieve optimal trade-offs for sustainable management at different levels of governance; and identifying common challenges resulting from the comparison of different contexts. To overcome these challenges, we will leverage the network of governance and policy instruments of key decision makers to show how prioritization and connectivity is not a burden but rather an opportunity to adapt for global change.

### A2) List of identified key stakeholders on European level

Stakeholders at EU level identified September 2022. The list will be updated frequently during the project lifetime.	Stakeholder Groups
<b>Member States delegation in relevant EC working groups and commissions</b>	EU Nature Directors
	EU Biodiversity Platform
	NADEG
<b>Member states authorities responsible for designation of new conservation and connectivity areas</b>	National ministries and regional authorities
	Env. ministries and agencies at national and regional level
	Agencies at national levels
<b>Relevant EC cabinets, directorates and agencies</b>	DG Env
	DG Clima
	DG ECHR
	DG Agri
	DG Regio
	EEA

	Cabinet of ENV Commissioner
	Cabinet Agri Commissioner
	Cabinet Vice president
	Knowledge center for biodiversity
<b>Science-policy</b>	CBD
	UNFCCC
	Consulting companies supporting MS and regional authorities on restoration and on Natura 2000 identification
	Other relevant life and Horizon projects
<b>Landowners, farmers, foresters and other land and freshwater users</b>	European Landowners Organisation
	Partner Organisation Network
	Motivated private land owner
	Copa – Cogeca
	Hunters: FACE and European Network of Game
	EUSTAFOR
<b>Environmental and other related sector organisations</b>	All partner networks
	European Green Belt
	IUCN commissions and expert groups
	Other members of the European Habitat Forum: Friends of the earth, Rewilding Europe, EuroNatur, Client Earth
	CEEWEB

## A3: List of project objectives

- Support planning authorities, by collecting and making accessible the best available data and tools to assess biodiversity and the benefits to people.
- Provide input to planning authorities into the design of an effective Trans-European Nature Network by anticipating future developments in climate and land use conditions that may limit or enable the development of such a network.
- Identify alternative configurations of protected areas and corridors based on preferences related to policy targets.
- Identify opportunities and challenges to the implementation of the network, mechanisms, and instruments of implementation, particularly financial instruments and ways to mitigate barriers through extensive dialogue with practitioners.
- Showcase applications of the protected area network design through case studies.