

Horizon – NaturaConnect

Designing a resilient and coherent Trans-European Network (TEN-N)
for nature and people.

Seminar Dialogue 16th of November 2022
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Connectivity and prioritization
is an opportunity to adapt to
climate change!



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A resilient network of protected areas is required for conservation and adaptation to climate change.

Policy background



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EU BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

At least 30% of the land and 30% of the sea should be protected in the EU (additional 4% on land and 19% for sea areas)

At least one third of protected areas (10% of EU land, 10% of EU sea) should be strictly protected

In a nutshell...



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NaturaConnect

Lead organization: IIASA -
International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

Granting Authority: European Research
Executive Agency

Period: 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2026

The project aims to:

- Build a coherent Trans-European Nature Network.
- Identify crucial ecological corridors.
- Spatial prioritization analyses.
- Building on existing network of Natura 2000 sites and other designated protected areas.



CARE



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Comprehensive

Adequate 

Resilient



Effective 



Resilient – the challenge



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*The current temperature conditions
are projected to disappear from
almost all the studied Protected
Areas by the end of this century.*

Heikkinen R. et al. 2021 Scientific Report

The project



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Scenarios for nature futures → developing different climate change scenarios and expected land-use changes.

Multi-scale nature connectivity and corridors design

- Identifying together with stakeholders the more suitable landscape elements and planning instruments.
- Analyse optimal configurations of corridors and restoration needs to achieve a coherent TEN-N.

An integrated Trans-European nature network design → providing decision-makers with multiple possible configurations of a network of protected areas.

What else?.....



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Engagement, communication, capacity building → engaging NaturaConnect stakeholders – from the EU to local level, guiding capacity building process, developing courses for project partners and future TEN-N users on topics such as communication, stakeholder engagement and financing in the context of protected areas.

Governance, policy and financing TEN-N → identifying effective governance and funding mechanisms.

Case studies



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Showcasing the implementation of TEN-N (six case studies)

1. Cross-border region: Carpathians and Danube Basin

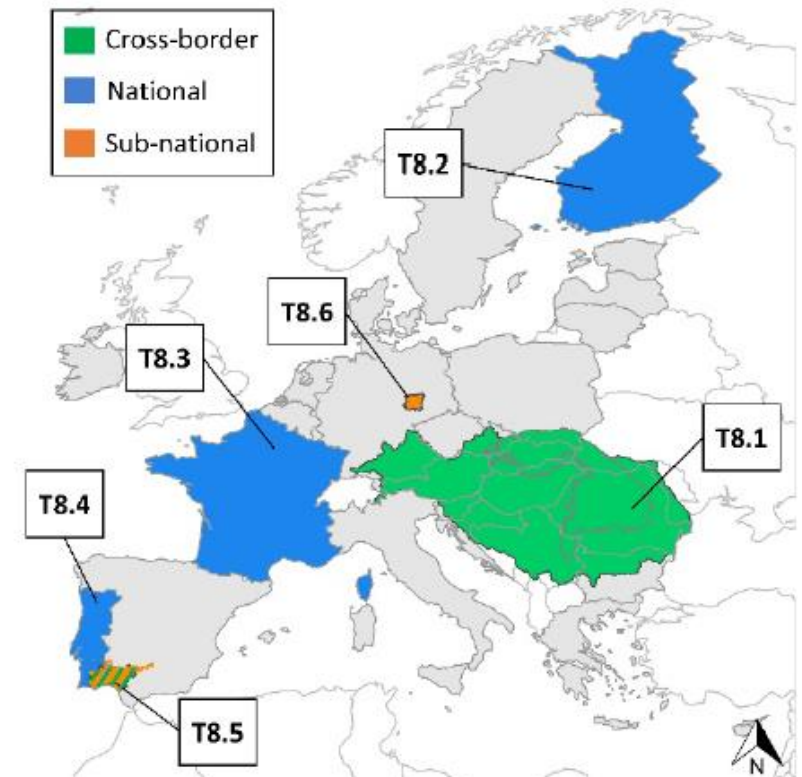
2. National level: Finland

3. National level: France

4. National level: Portugal

5. Sub-national level: Doñana area

6. Sub-national urban level: Halle-Leipzig



Other challenges in the context of climate change



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Species will cross non-protected land: linear infrastructure (e.g. trainlines), big rivers with man-made elements can hinder species movement → Importance of green infrastructure.



Natural disturbances e.g. pests, wildfires driven by climate change & extreme weather event.



Transboundary conservation (shift in responsibilities for species protection).

An aerial photograph capturing the confluence of the Drava and Danube rivers at sunset. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, with a bright orange and yellow glow from the setting sun breaking through near the horizon. The rivers, appearing as light-colored channels, wind through a lush green landscape of forests and fields. The water in the foreground reflects the warm colors of the sunset. A semi-transparent brown rectangular overlay covers the lower portion of the image, serving as a background for the text.

Questions?

Thank you!



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