

Econnect

Restoring the Web of Life













Protocol "Nature conservation and landscape planning" - Article 12

"The contracting parties take adequate measures to establish a network of existing national and transboundary protected areas, of biotopes and other protected elements or those to be protected. They commit themselves to harmonize the objectives and applicable measures in transboundary protected areas."







Protected areas in the Alps

Recognize the heterogeneous character of nature

The global - Alpine reality is that most protected areas are isolated from adjacent protected areas or that habitats are located in fragmented landscapes







Climate Change and Biodiversity

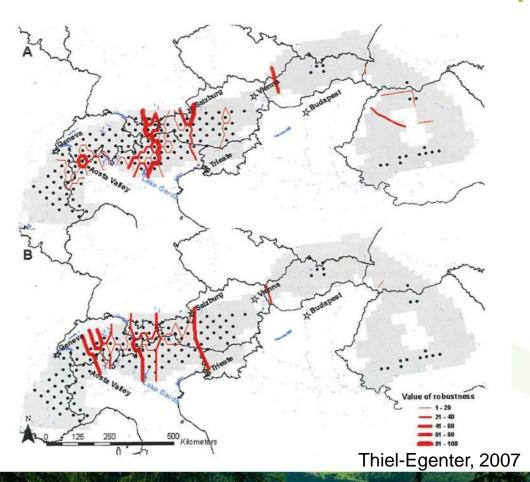


swisstopo 2011





Genetical differencies over the Alps









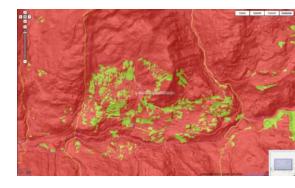




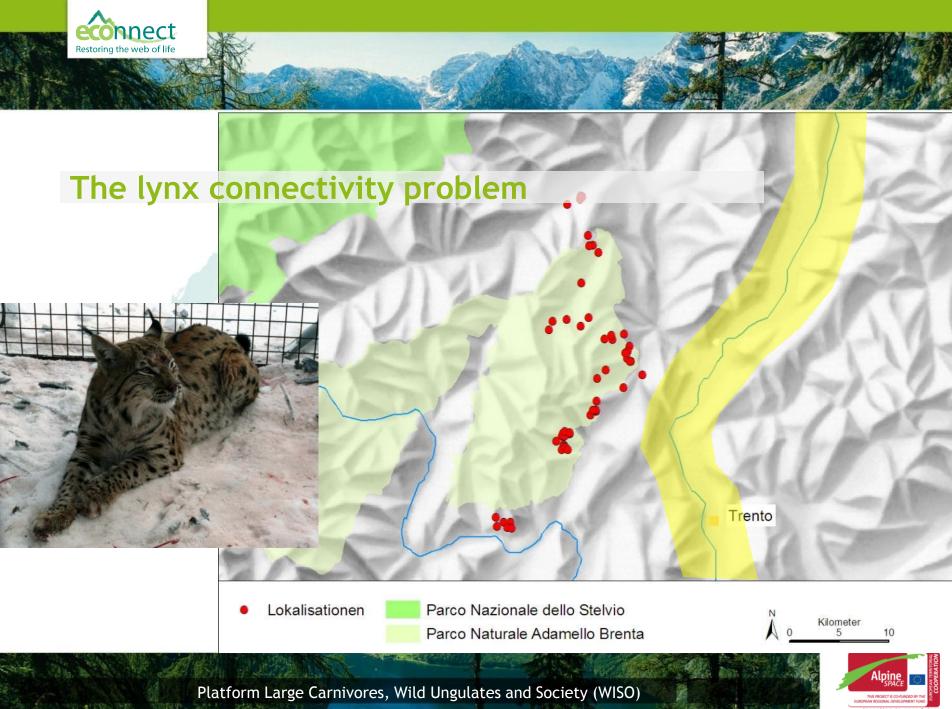
The butterflies' connectiviy problem







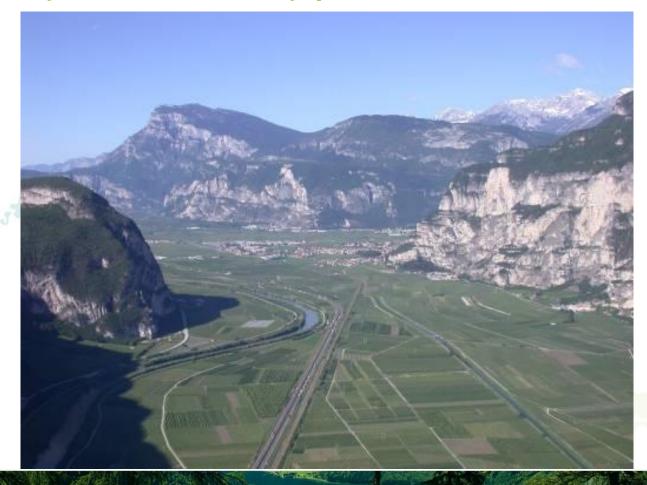








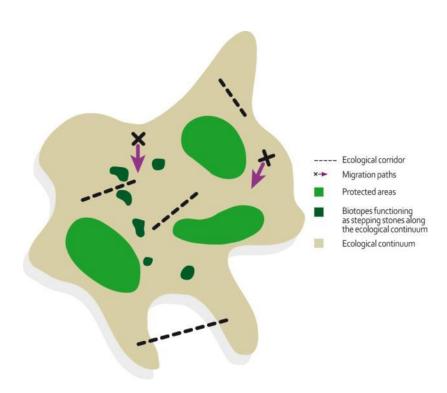
The lynx' connectivity problem







The theory for both species...





http://www.alpine-ecological-network.org



Project partner

Project of ETC Alpine Space Programme and co-funded by ERDF Total budget: 3.198.240,00€.

The partnership is composed by sixteen partners from six Alpine countries

Austria

- University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Research Institute of Wildlife Ecology (Lead partner)
- National Park Hohe Tauern
- Federal Environment Agency
- · National Park Gesäuse
- University of Innsbruck, Institute for Ecology

Germany

• National Park Berchtesgaden

France

- CEMAGREF
- Council of Department of Isère
- Task Force Protected Areas Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention

Italy

- Alpe Marittime Nature Park
- Autonomous Region of Valle d'Aosta
- European Academy of Bozen
- Ministry for the Environment
- · WWF Italy

Liechtenstein

 International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA)

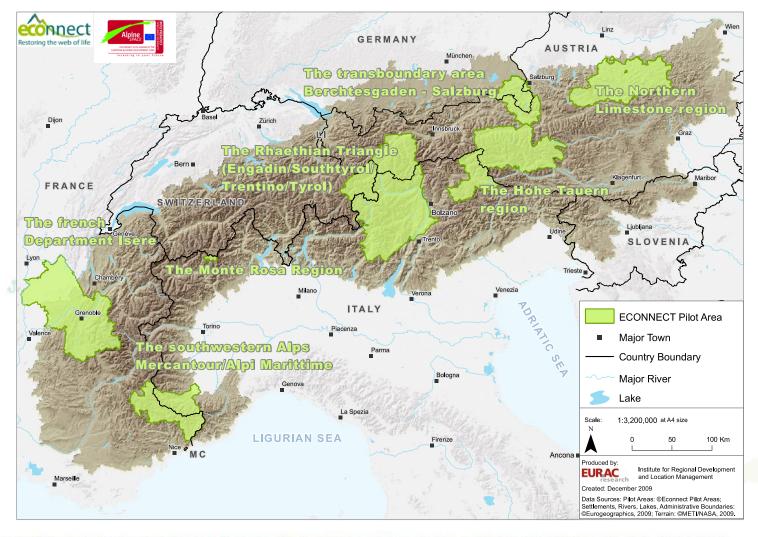
Switzerland

Swiss National Park











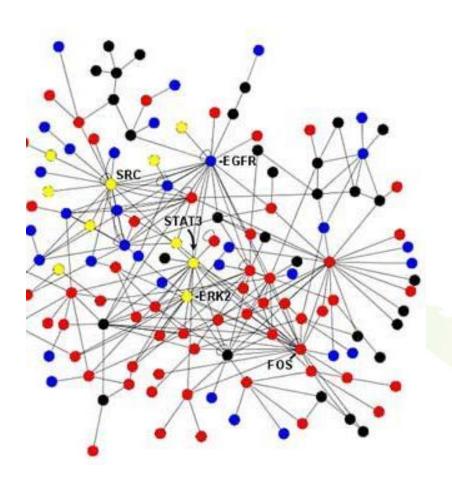
The Results

- 1. Vision
- 2. Pilot Regions
- 3. Scale
- 4. Functional and structural connectivity
- 5. Legal Analysis









Econnect is a network per se

Local and Alpine-wide

Enhances and extends existing cooperations







Result

What was the project actually trying to achieve?

Agreement concerning the conservation objectives







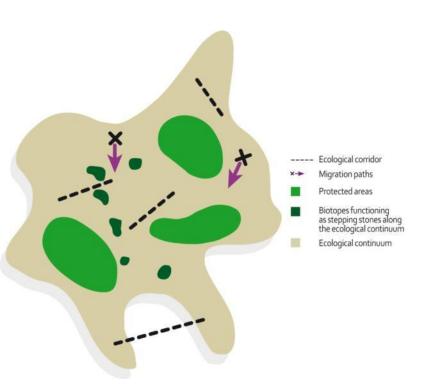
Vision

ECONNECT envisions an enduringly restored and maintained ecological continuum, consisting of interconnected landscapes, across the Alpine Arc region, where biodiversity will be conserved for future generations and the resilience of ecological processes will be enhanced.





The Econnect's Vision



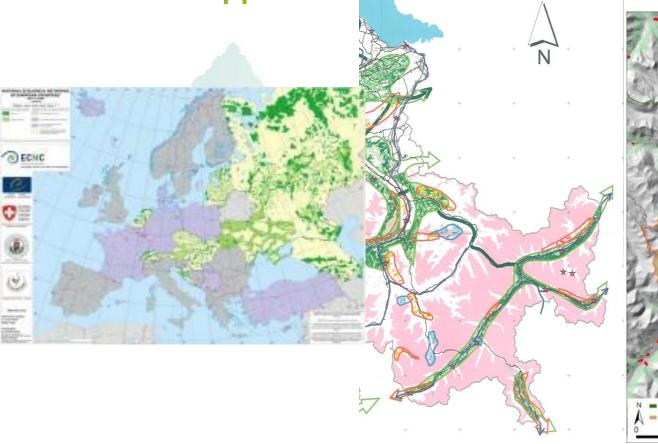
Active adaptive management and governance of resilience must not be limited to individual elements of an ecological network (corridors, core zones), but must necessarily be applied to the entire territory (matrix) and across all sectors of society, while enabling nonexclusive, multi-functional spaces for sustainable economic and recreational activities Alpine communities.

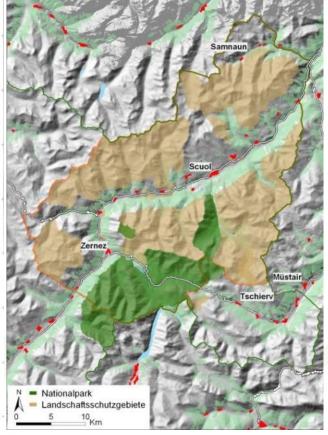
http://www.alpine-ecological-network.org





How to concatenate all spatial levels, overcome the corridor approach and the funct. and struct. thinking?









Functional and structural connectivity



CSI "The landscape approach"



SMA "The species approach"



CARL "The network approach"





Econnect's response to spatial permeability



JECAMI

Joint Ecological Continuum Analysis and Mapping
Initiative

A platform to analyze and visualize ecological connectivity in the Alps from local scale to global scale, for functional and structural connectivity and for all parties of the society

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"Mapping relevant factors"



CSI"The landscape approach"



SMA "The species approach"



CARL"The network approach"





Objectives of the landscape approach

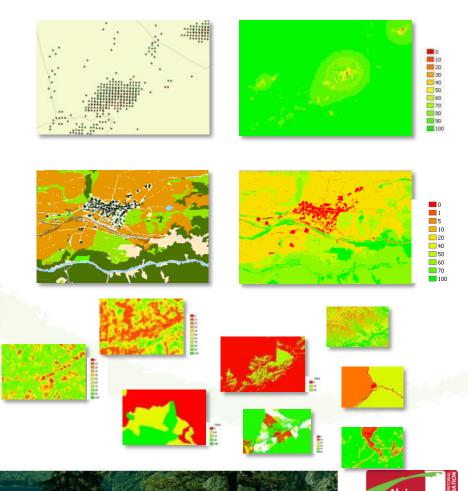
- General definition of the structure of an ecological continuum/ the connectivity
- Defining suitable criteria for an assessment of the space
- Definition of the scale: Provide **global**, alpine-wide analysis (>100 km²) as well as **local** analysis(<1 km²) in the municipalities
 - high spatial precision and resolution of data is appreciated
- Mapping on the web broad access for all interested parties without specific and expensive software





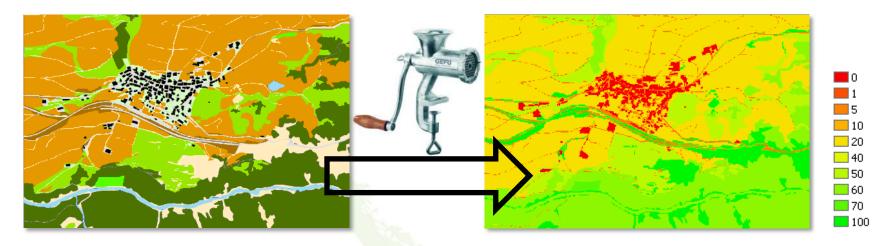
10 Indicators

Population Landuse Landuse Planning Altitude and Topography Fragmentation Infrastructure Landscape Heterogenity Edge density **International Protected Areas Ecological Measures**





Data processing



7 Pilot regions
Many Political regions
A few Coordinate systems
A bunch of Datasets

- 1 Coordinate system
- 10 Indicators (raster datasets)

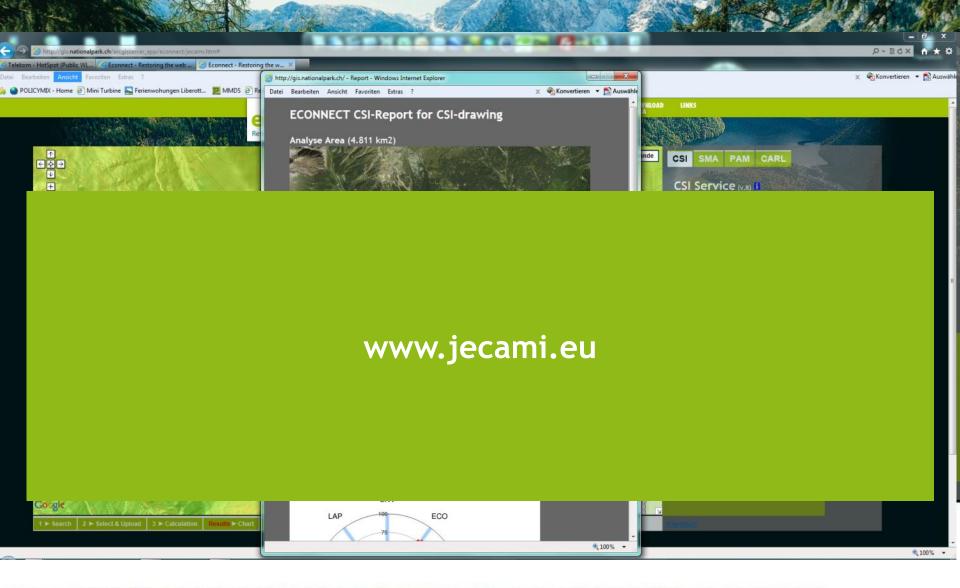








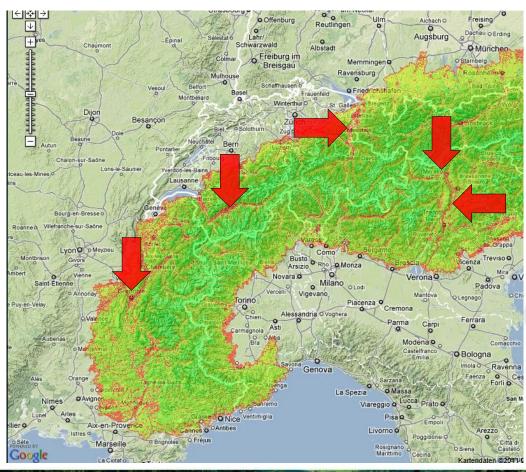


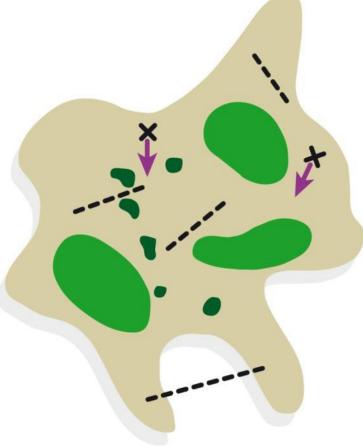






A step into real environments and real scales

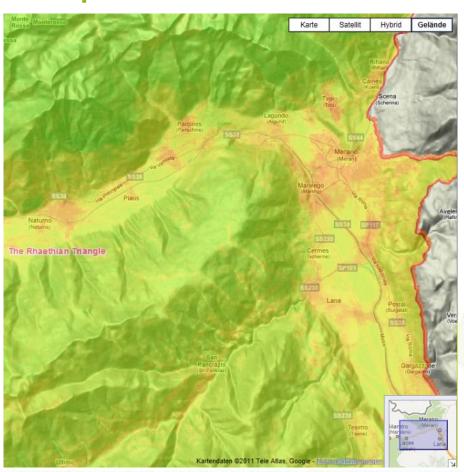


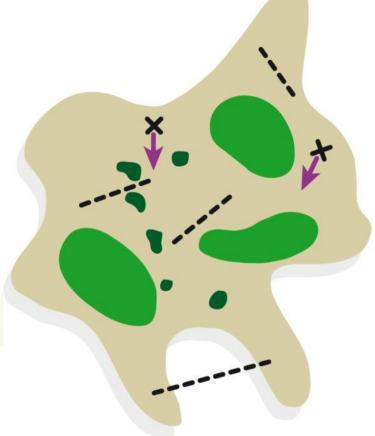






A step into real environments and real scales









"Mapping relevant factors"



CSI "The landscape approach"



SMA "The species approach"



CARL "The network approach"





Selected species for terrestrial models

Black grouse



Wolf



Griffon vulture



Lynx



Red deer



Brown bear



Copyright: touristik.freepage.de (grouse), naturschutzbuero-zollernalb.de (vulture), fullmoons.ch (wolf), maxwaugh.com (bear), naturfotografen-forum.de (lynx), new-forest-national-park.com (red deer)





Workflow:

Identification of habitat needs, search for observation records and/or species specific models

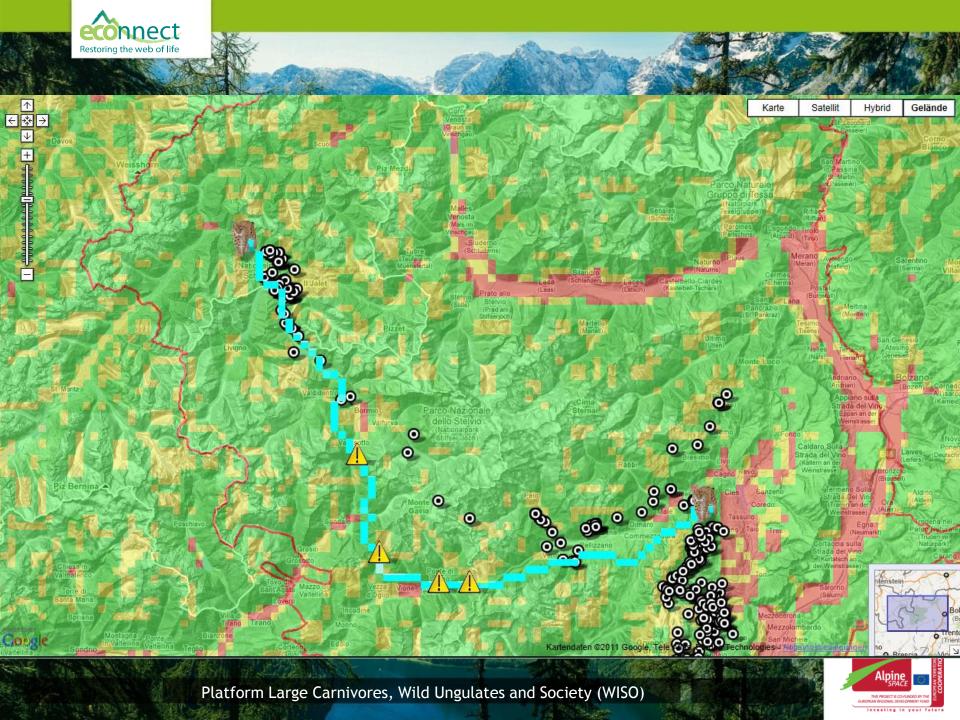


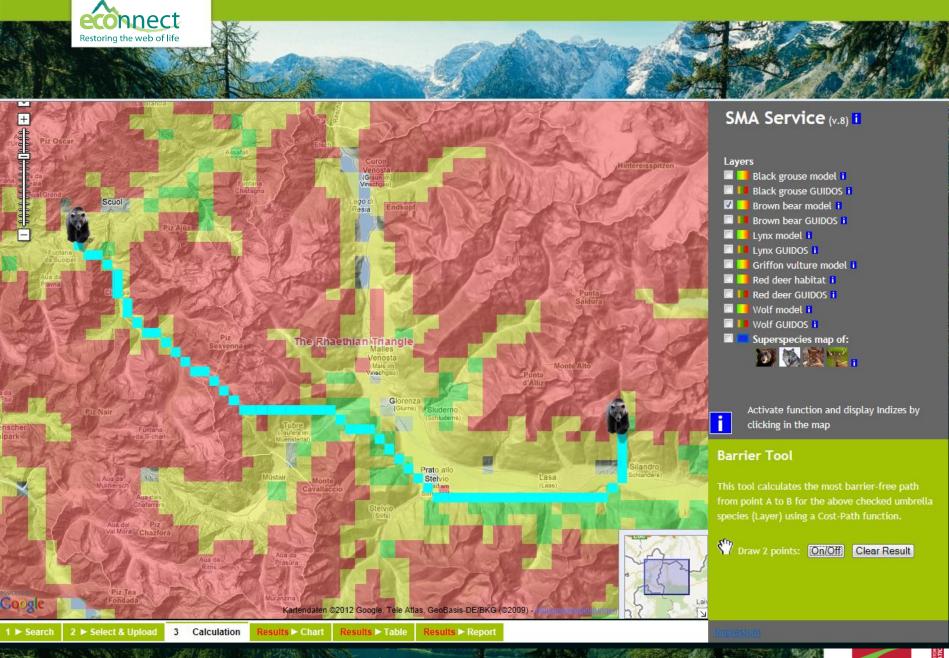
Identification of habitat suitability (Maps of potential distribution)



Categorisation of Habitat into Core area, corridors and isolated habitat patches (morphological spatial pattern analysis, MSPA, Software GUIDOS)







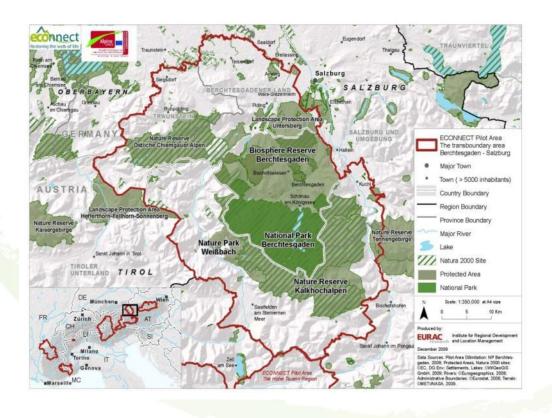


Ecological Measures

Local Networks

Common-Methodology

Implementation of Measures (see implementation guidelines)







Nationalpark* Hohe Tauern

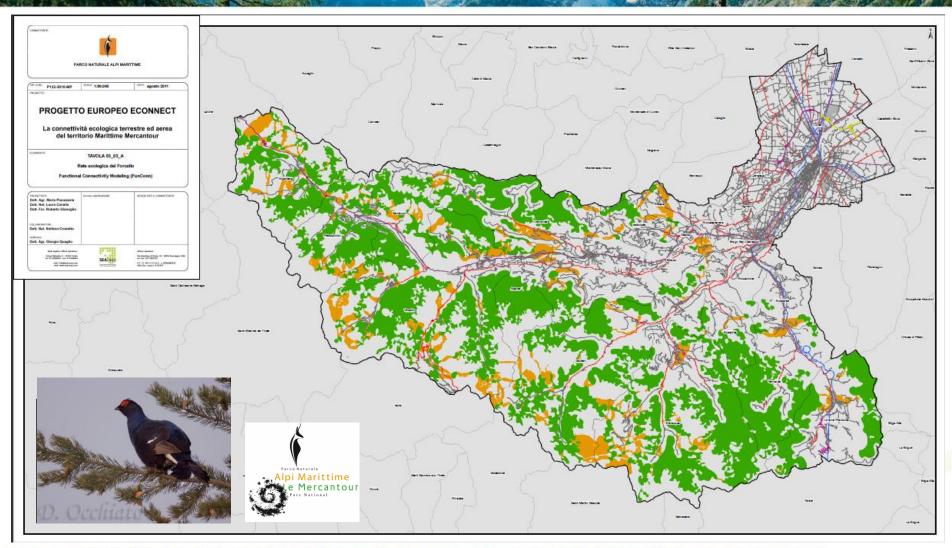












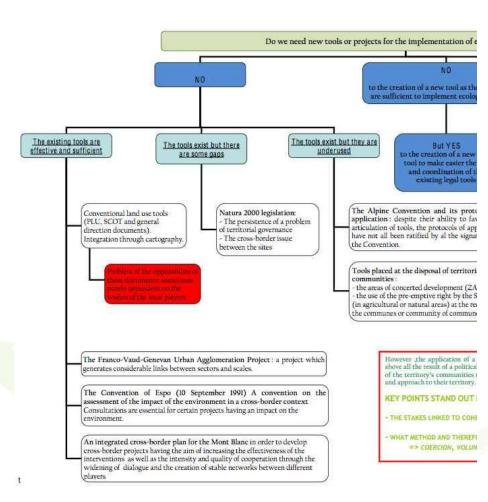




The Protection of Ecological Connectivity:

Analysis of the Principal Legal Instruments.

Comparisons between Swiss, French and Italian Jurisdictions.

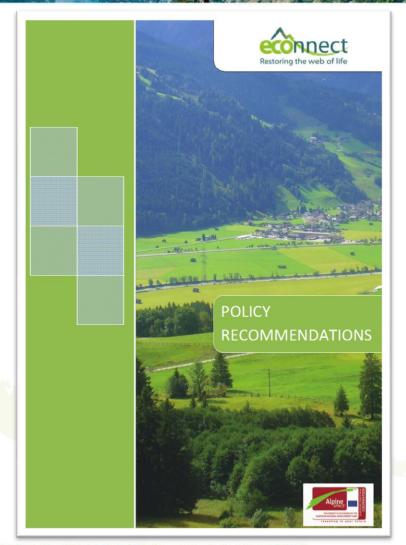






Final Documents

Policy Recommendations
Final booklet
Synopsis
Implementation
recommendations







RECOMMENDATION 01

Valorise ecological connectivity for Alpine society and economy...

... which would provide a solution to the growing fragmentation of the Alpine space especially as an adaptation strategy to climate change.





RECOMMENDATION 02

Establish a legal framework to realise ecological connectivity measures at various scales ...

... in order to increase the chances of success, which are imperative to identify legal opportunities and obstacles for the feasibility of every project.





RECOMMENDATION 03

Integrate the concept of ecological connectivity into all spatial planning instruments at all scales (local to international) using an inter-disciplinary approach ...

... is essential for biodiversity conservation and for enhancing the resilience of ecological processes in the face of global anthropogenic changes in the multi-functional Alpine landscape.













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www.econnectproject.eu www.jecami.eu

