

Human and Wildlife Conflicts in the Alpine Region

- a scientific perspective -

eurac
research



Filippo Favilli, PhD
Eurac Research, Bolzano, Italy

Landcare Europe Workshop

Human & wildlife co-existence – traditional & modern farming approaches in the mountains

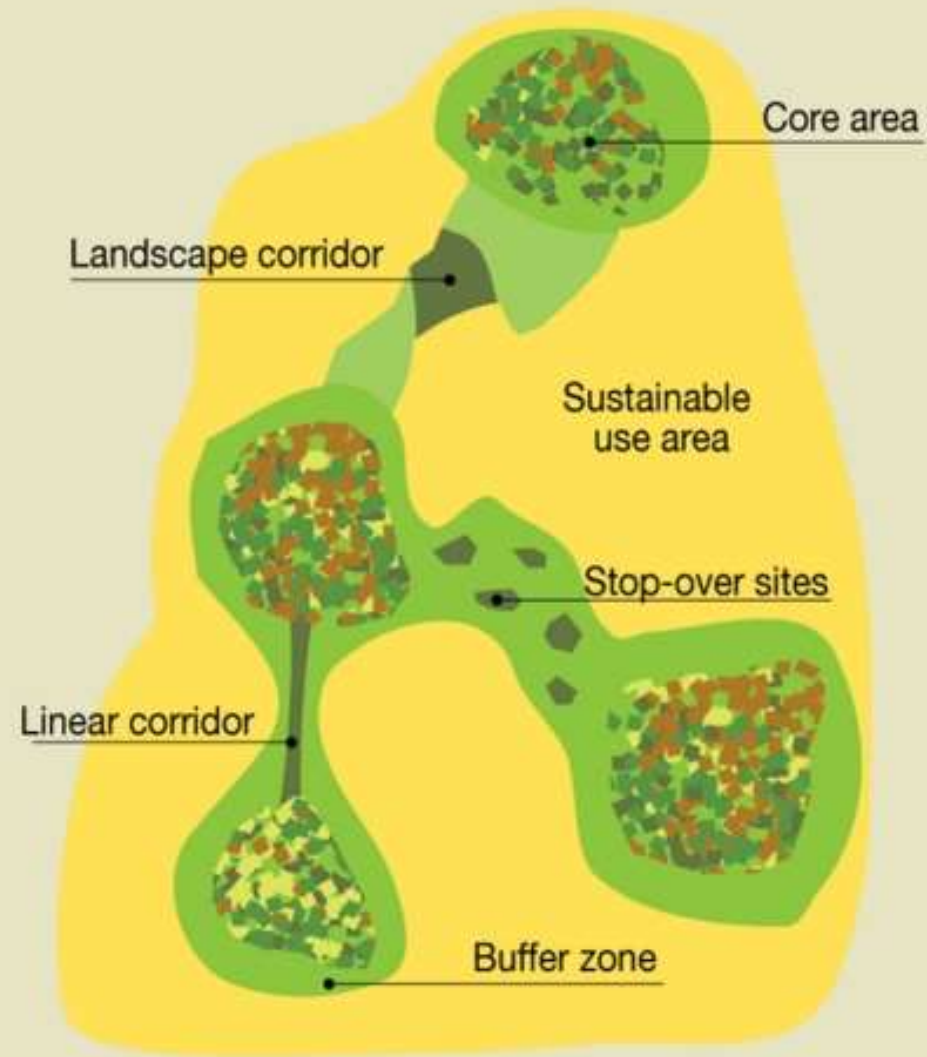
11 – 13 July 2022 Sighisoara - Transylvania (Romania)

Ecological Connectivity

“Ecological Connectivity is the unimpeded movement of species and the flow of natural processes that sustain life on Earth.” (CMS, 2019)

- Essential part of nature
- Functionality of ecosystems
- Survival of wild animals and plant species
- Ensuring genetic diversity
- Adapting to climate change

Spatial configuration of an ecological network

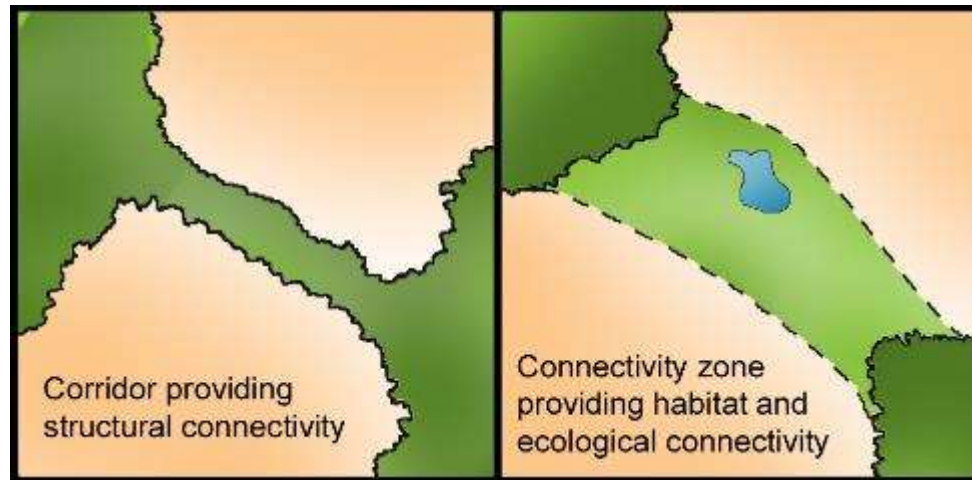


Spatial Models - approaches

Structural & functional

Structural Connectivity

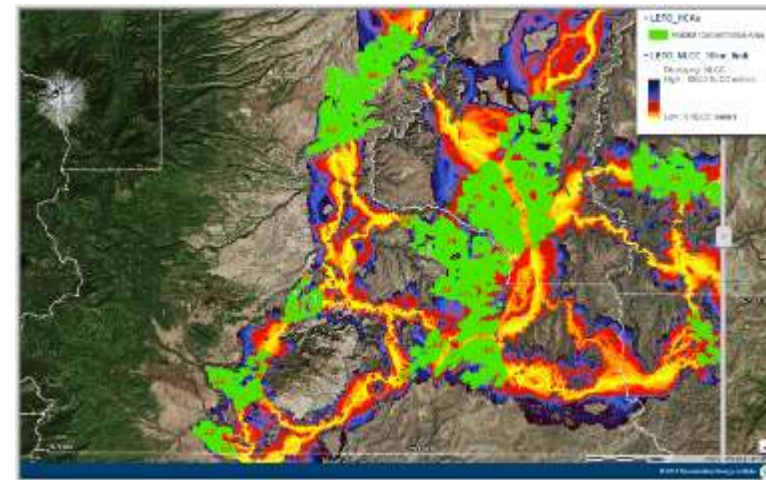
Physical characteristics that support or impede a connected natural landscape



Source: <https://hudson.dnr.cals.cornell.edu>

Functional Connectivity

How well a landscape allows for movement of organisms and processes such as seed dispersal, breeding migrations, and genetic exchange.



Source: Linkage Mapper

Spatial Models

Structural & functional

Involvement of Eurac Research in model developed in EU projects



ECONNECT - ALPS

2008-2011

Functional connectivity at macro-regional level for umbrella species.
JECAMI platform.
Structural connectivity in pilot sites: Continuum Suitability Index (CSI)



BioREGIO - Carpathians

2011-2013

Functional connectivity (species) on macro-regional level + social impact



AlpBioNet2030 - ALPS

2016 - 2019

Structural approach on macro-regional level for strategy
Continuum Suitability Index (CSI) + social barriers to EC



DinAlpConnect – Alps & Dinaric mountains

2020-2023

Structural approach on macro-regional level (CSI)
Functional in pilot sites



Spatial Models

**Project area
and pilot sites
(WP1 – Eurac)**

Spatial Models Selection

Objective:	Connect Alps with Dinaric Alps, Assess the current state of EC,
Timeframe:	long time - persistence (not seasonal)
Type of habitat:	Terrestrial model
Scale:	Macroregional & Pilot site
Approach:	Holistic/structural
Elements:	Landscape permeability: Low degree of human disturbance Core areas, stepping stones, corridors, main barriers

Macro-regional model

The Continuum suitability index (CSI)

Land use/ Land cover

Landscape type (e.g., urban area, forest)

Population

Population pressure
(density)

Environment

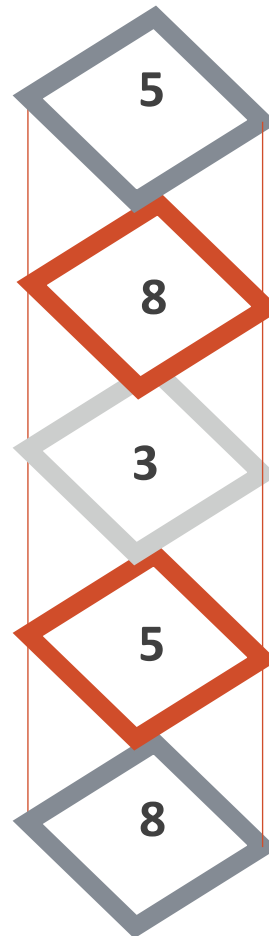
Protected areas, based on
legal status, IUCN categories

Fragmentation

Fragmentation by human
infrastructure

Topography

Absolute altitude and slope



Evaluation 0 - 10

0 = Low permeability
10 = High permeability

Methods:

- Thresholds from Econnect, AlpBioNet
- Expert evaluation

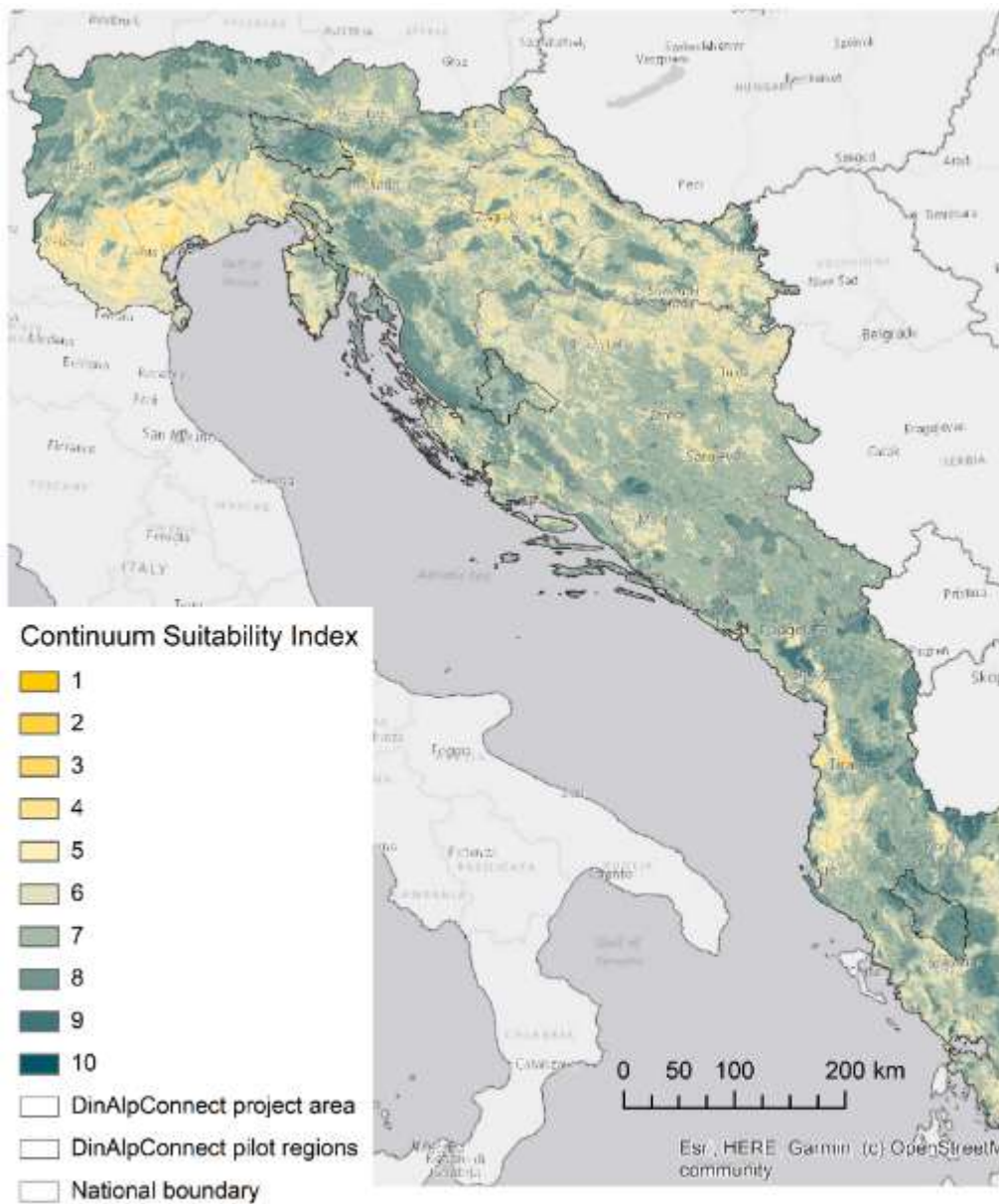
Macro-regional model

The Continuum suitability index (CSI)

$$CSI = \frac{2*LAN + 2*POP + ENV + FRA + TOP}{7} = \frac{2*5 + 2*8 + 3 + 5 + 8}{7} = 6$$

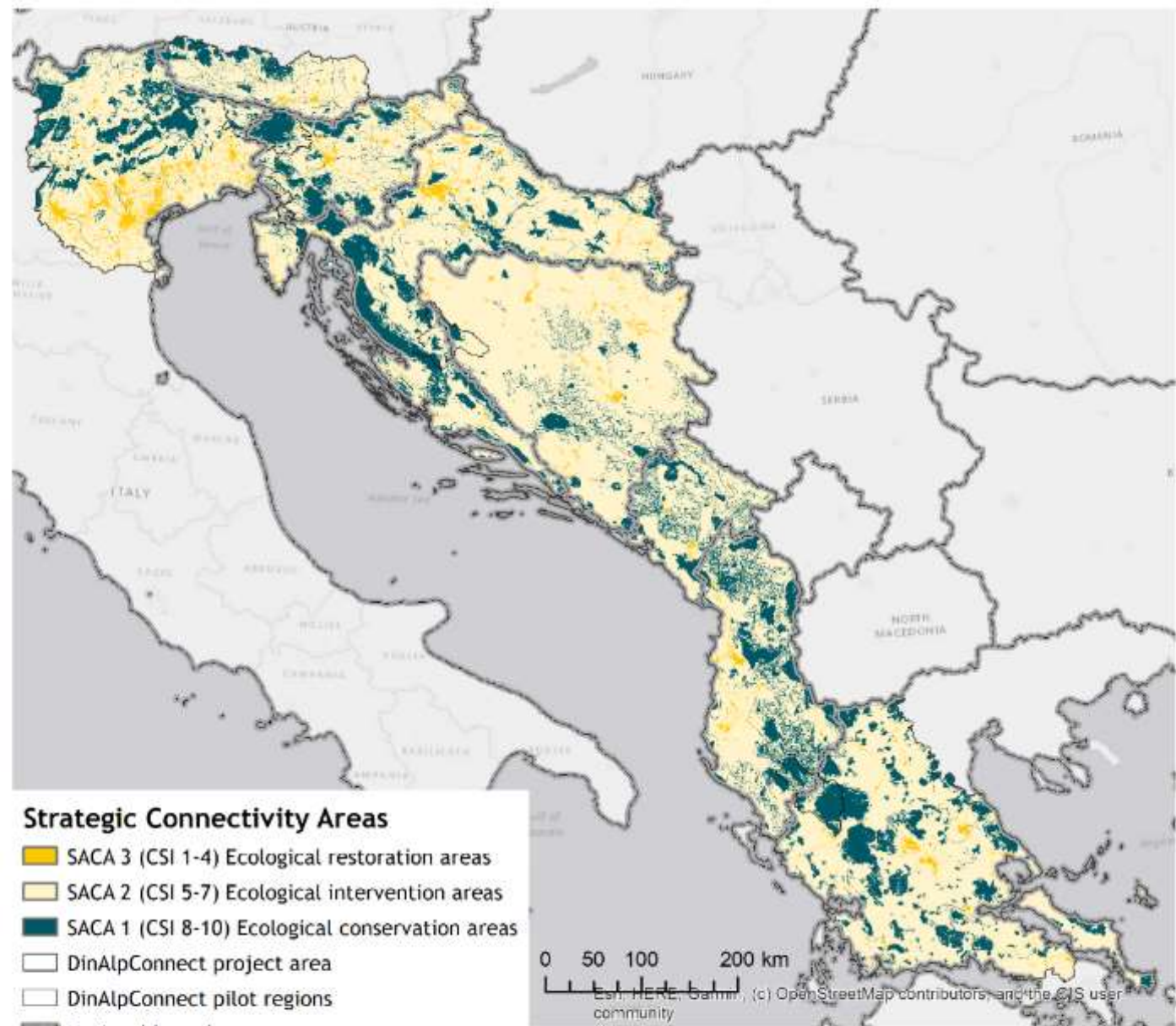
Strategic Connectivity Areas (SACAs)

$CSI \geq 8$ AND ≥ 100 ha	Ecological conservation areas	(SACA 1)
$5 \leq CSI < 8$	Development areas	(SACA 2)
$CSI < 5$	Connectivity restoration areas/ Barriers	(SACA 3)



Sources: Administrative boundaries: Eurostat/GISCO 2016

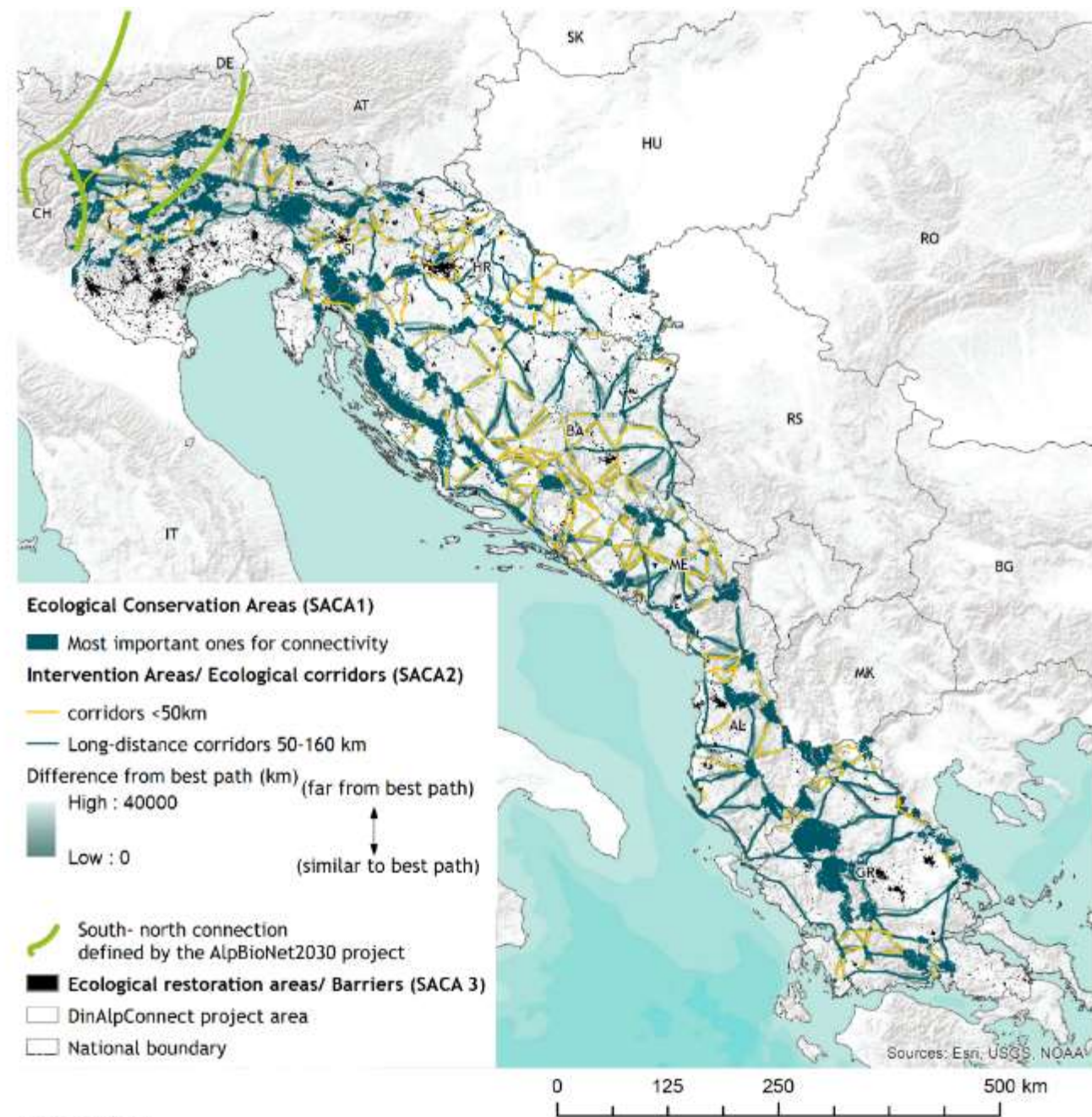
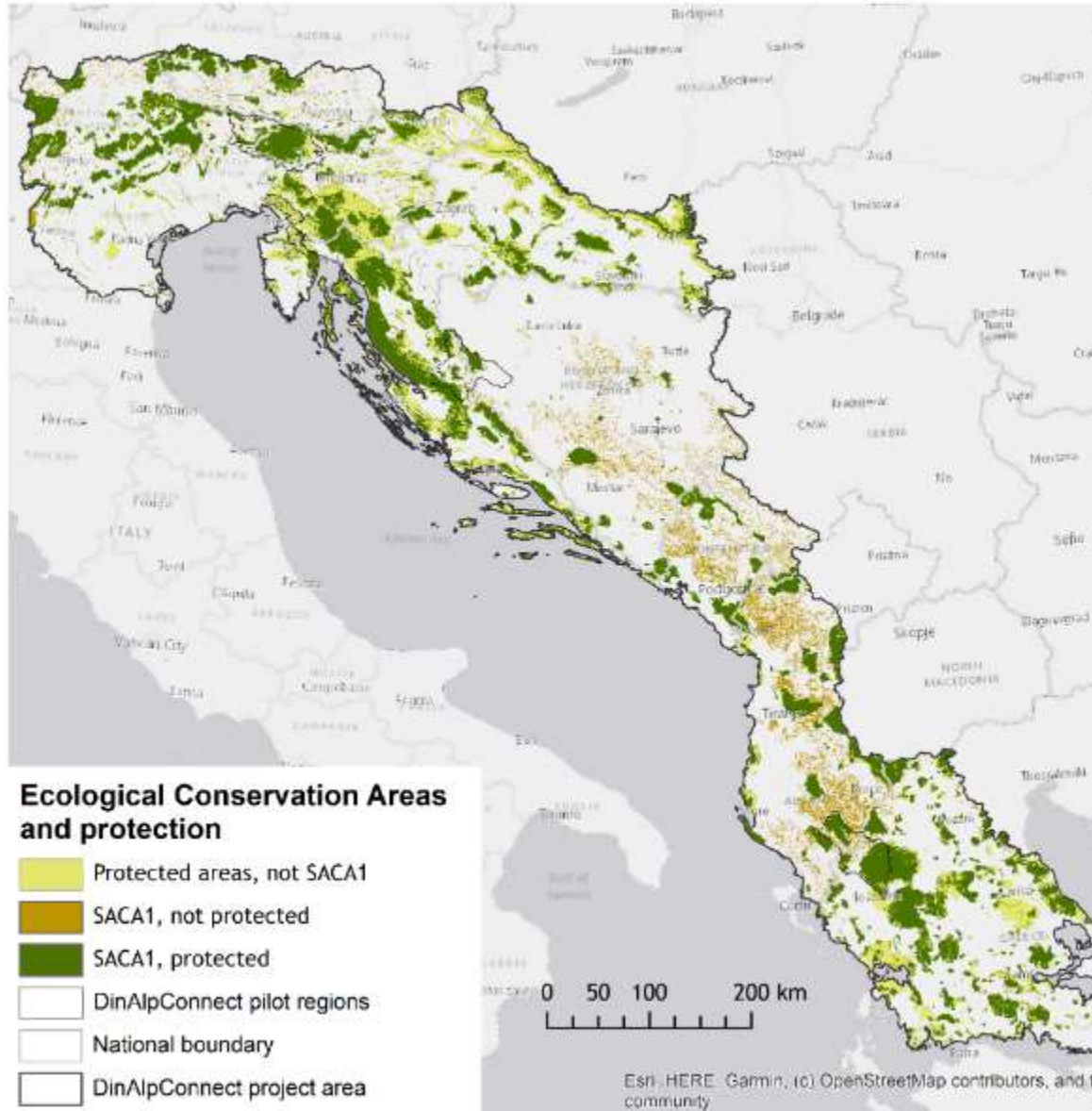
Eurac Research
Institute for Regional Development
Cartography: Peter Laner
Date: 04.11.2021

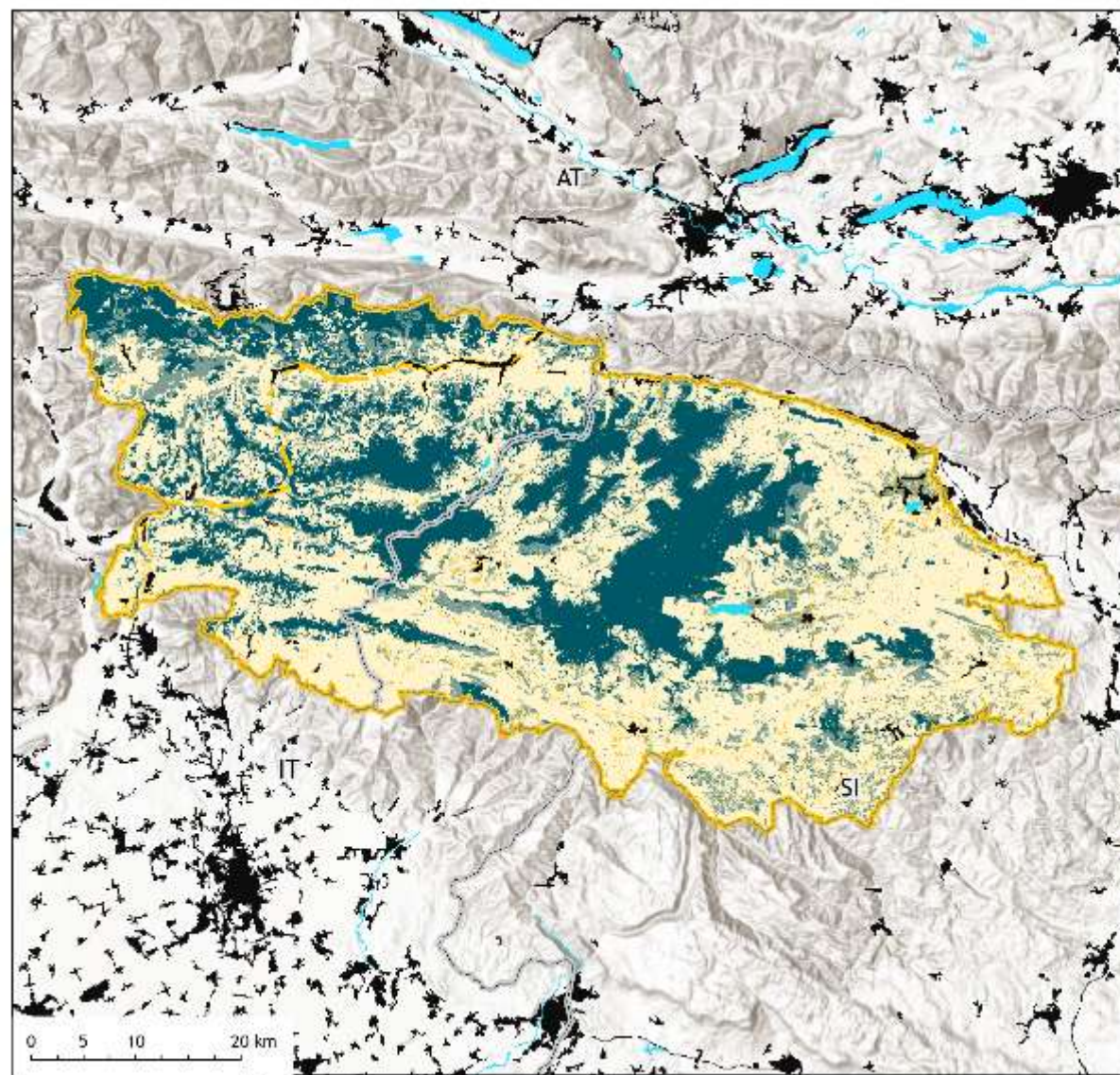
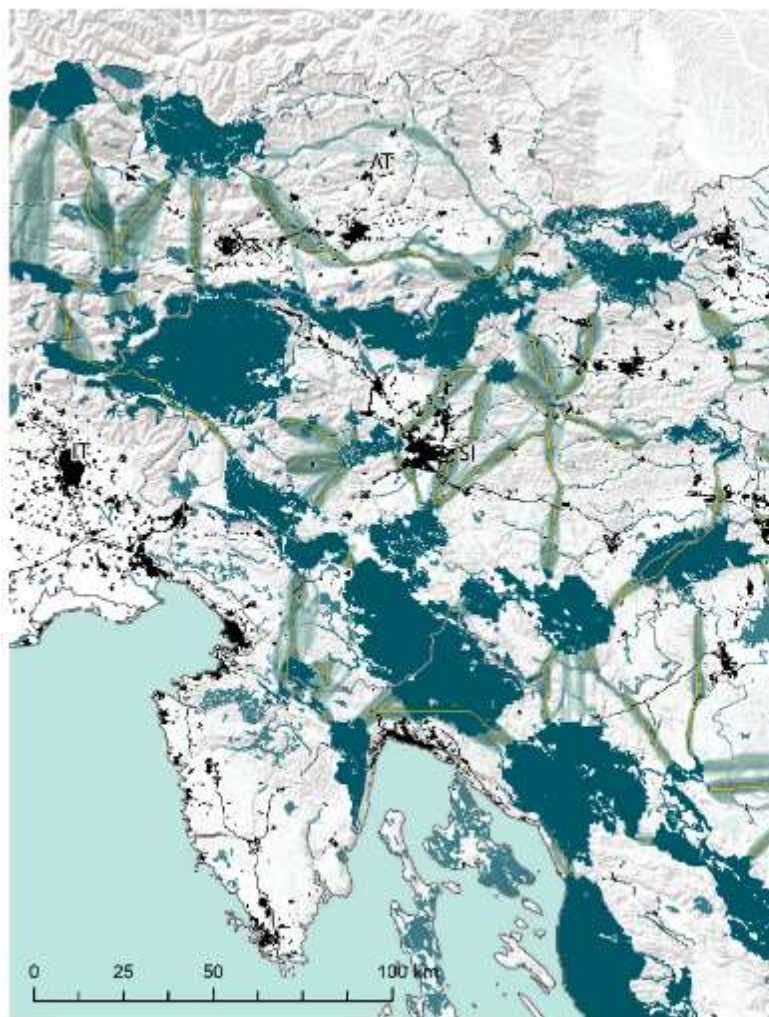


Sources: Administrative boundaries: Eurostat/GISCO 2016; Basemap: ESRI ArcGIS.

Eurac Research
Institute for Regional Development
Cartography: Peter Laner
Date: 04.11.2021

Overlay of Ecological Conservation Areas (SACA1) and protected areas



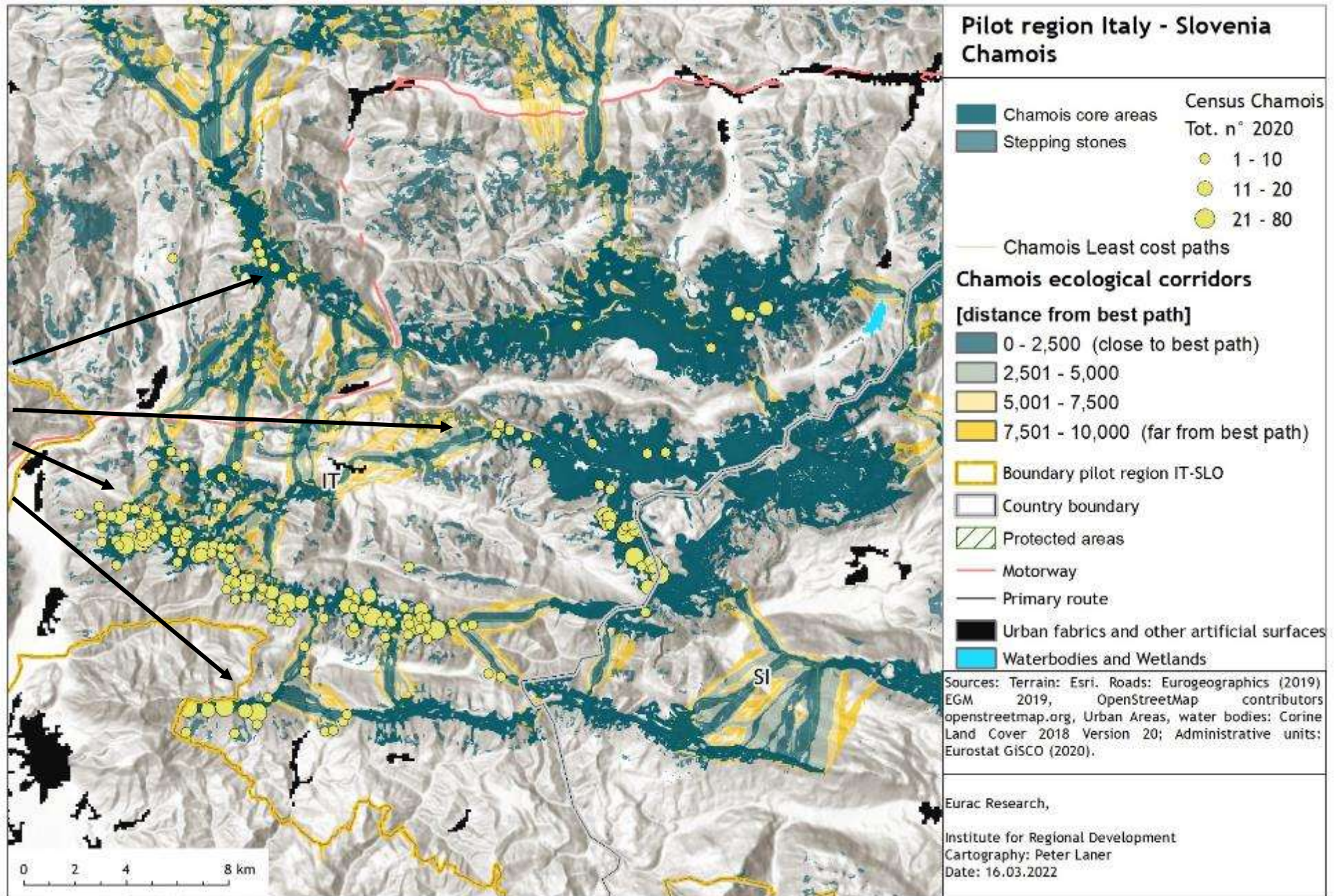


Sources:
Terrain: Esri, Roads: Eurogeographics (2019) EGM 2019, OpenStreetMap contributors openstreetmap.org, Urban Areas, water bodies: Corine Land Cover 2018 Version 20; Administrative units: Eurostat GISCO (2020).

Eurac Research,

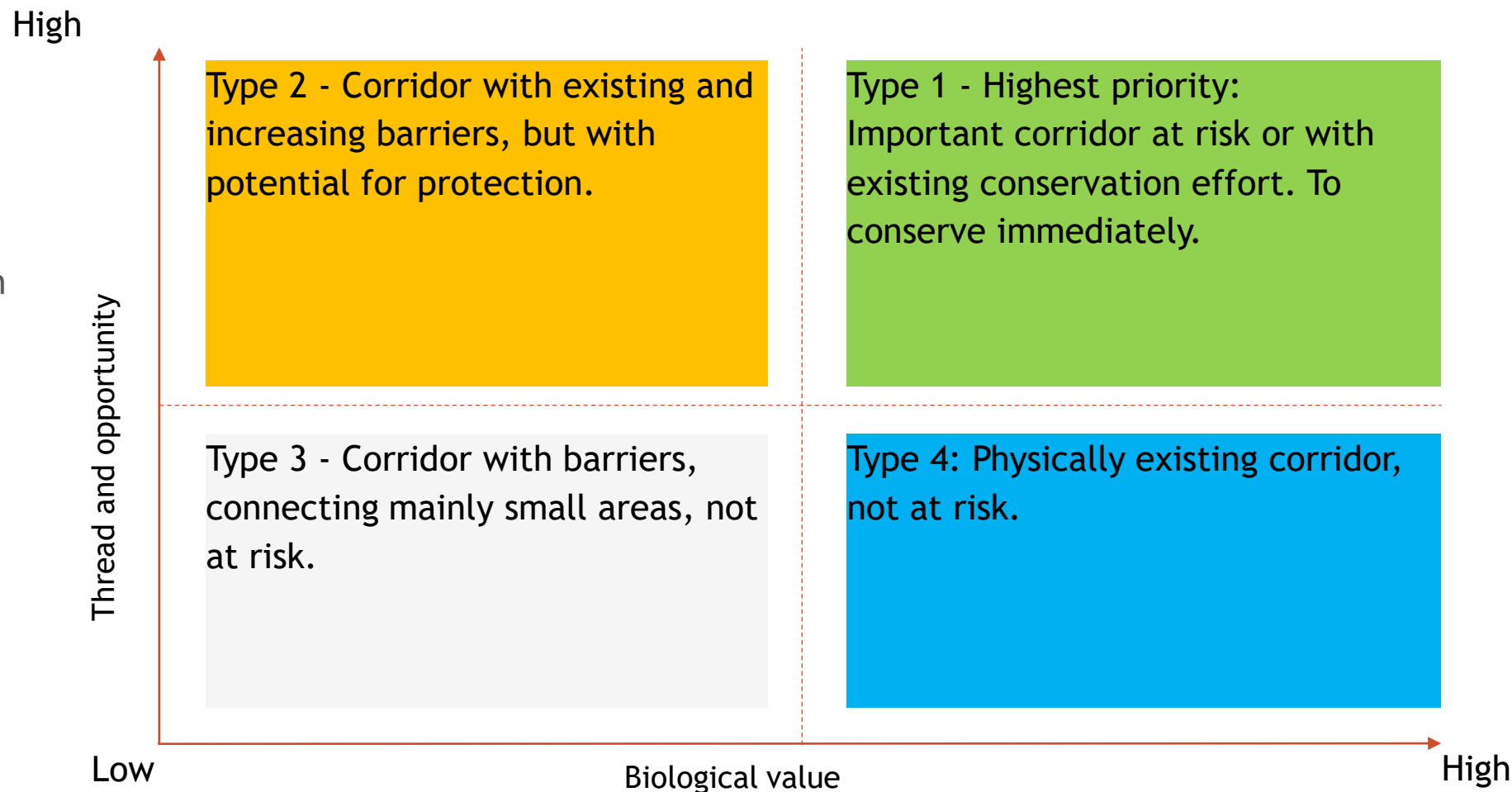
Institute for Regional Development
Cartography: Peter Laner
Date: 14.03.2022

Chamois found
on corridors or
stepping stones



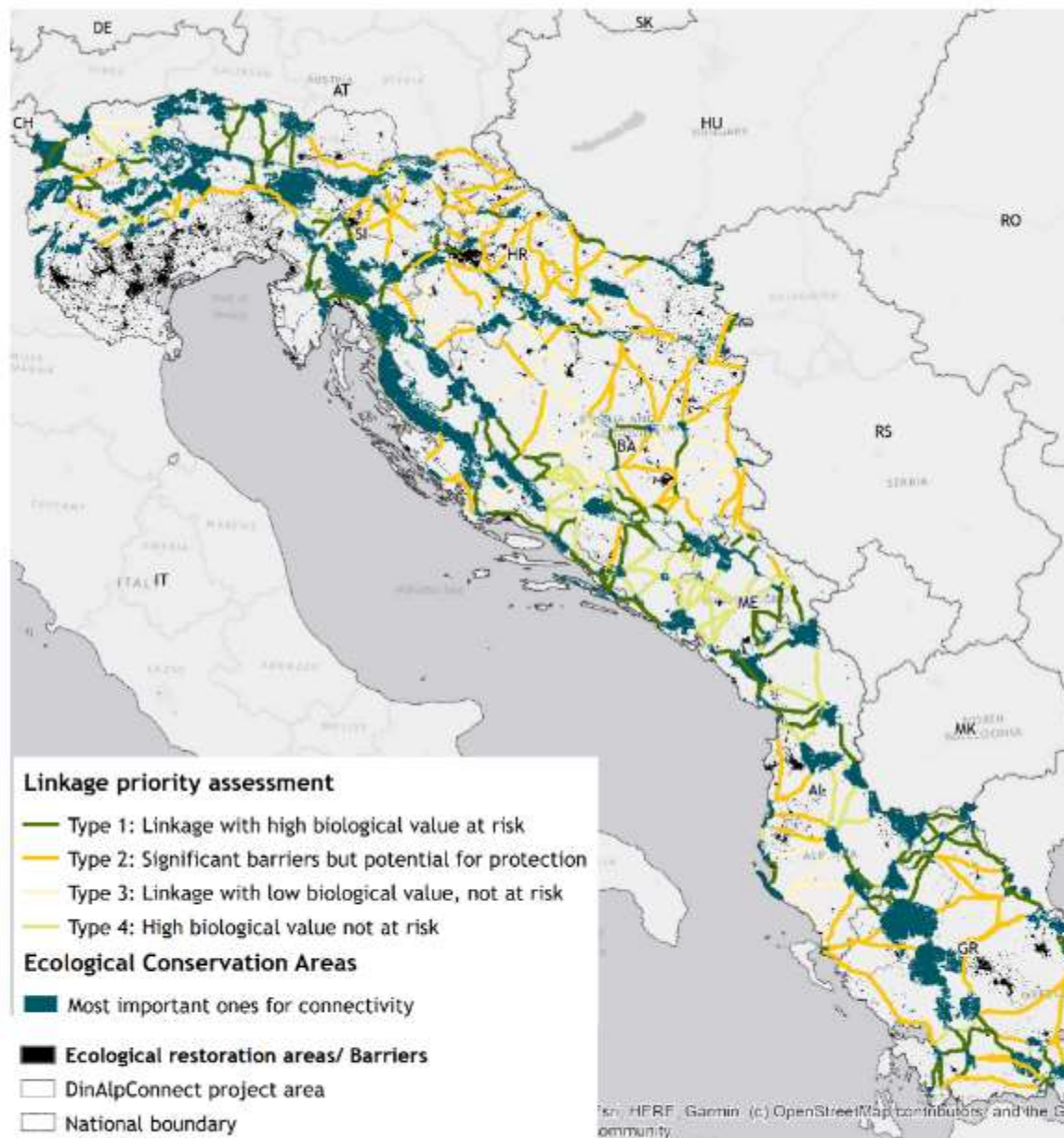
EC – Assessment of Regional corridors

- **Opp.1:** Macro-Regional connection
- **Opp.2:** Existing conservation effort
- **Threats:** Urbanization, motorway



Source: Beier et al. (2013), modified by
Laner P. 2022

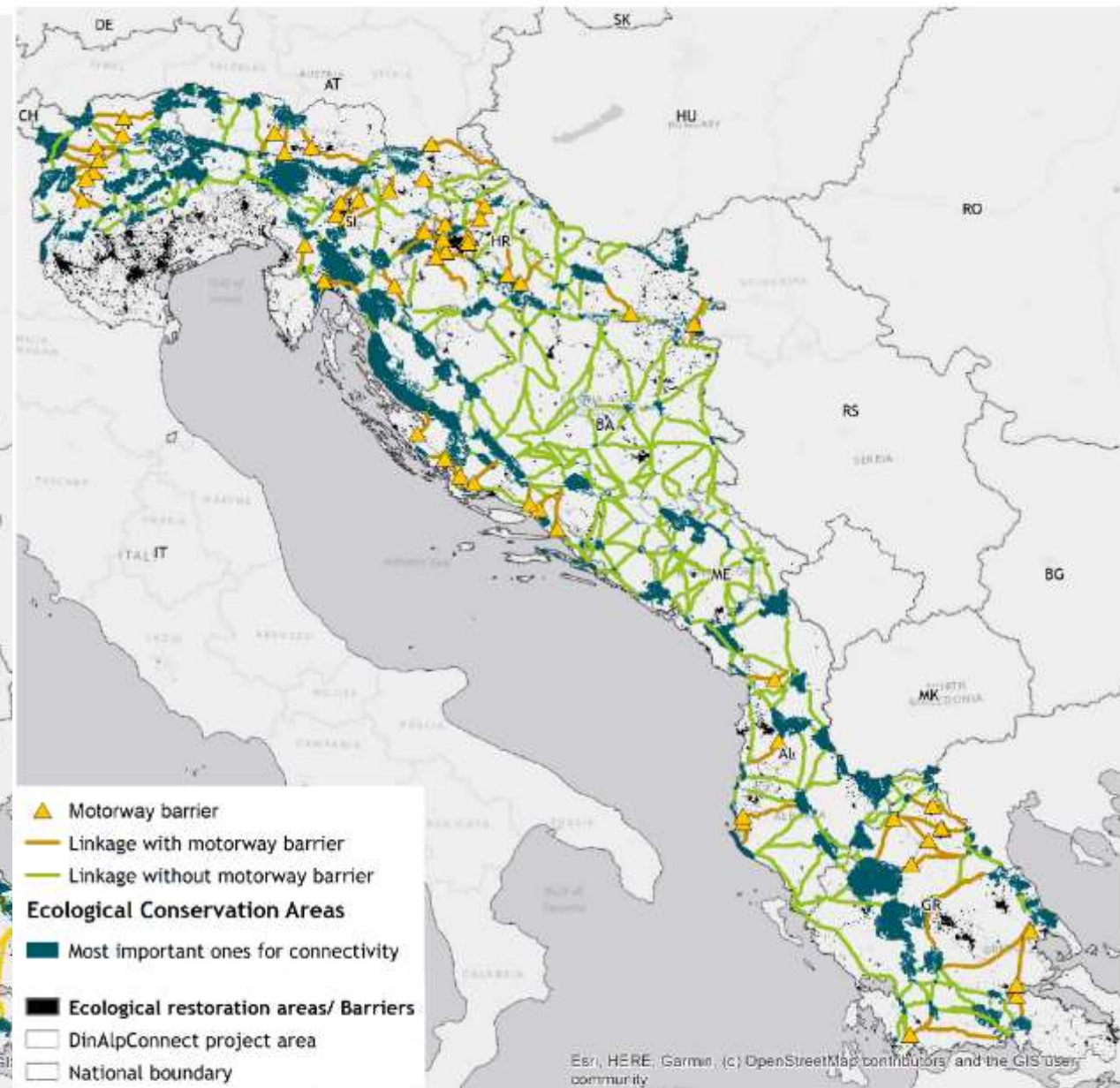
- Interaction intensity (size & distance),
- Centrality,
- South–north connection



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Institute for Regional Development
Cartography: Peter Laner
Date: 12.05.2022

Sources: Corridors calculated by Linkage Mapper. Adm boundaries: Eurostat/GISCO 2016; Basemap: ESRI ArcGIS



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Institute for Regional Development
Cartography: Peter Laner
Date: 19.04.2022

Sources: Corridors calculated by Linkage Mapper. Administrative boundaries: Eurostat/GISCO 2016; Basemap: ESRI ArcGIS.

Socio-ecological Connectivity



@StauderJulia



@123RF



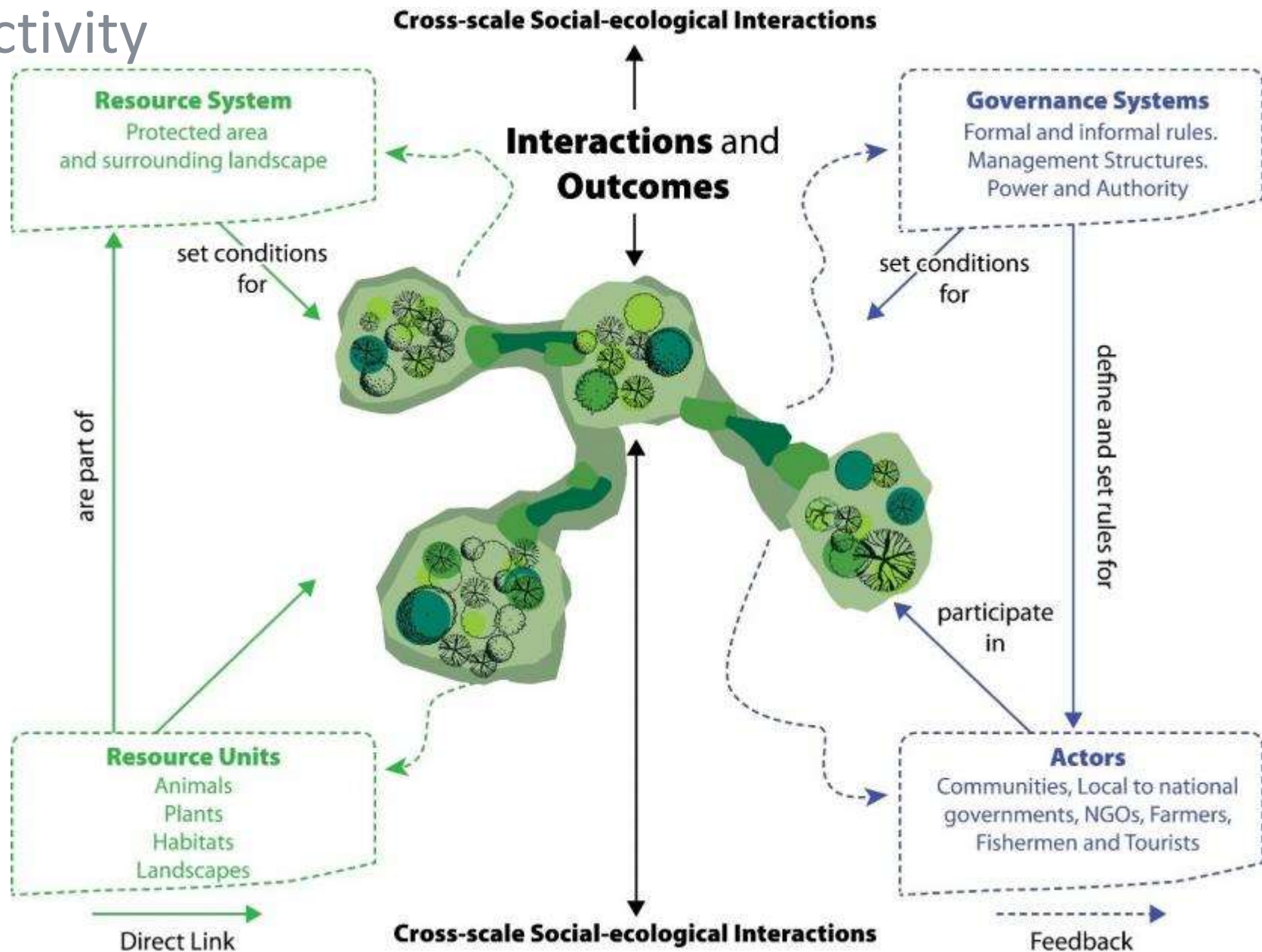
Socio-ecological Connectivity

Understand interdependencies and interactions

- between people and their environments
- between stakeholders from different backgrounds

Interpretation of biophysical environment

- Integration of disciplines
- Focus on sustainable development and protection of un-human world
- Communication



Human-Nature Conflicts have an impact on Ecological Connectivity?

WP5 –Eurac

Interaction between humans' society and (current or planned) wildlife corridors which causes (or may cause) harm, whether it's to the human, the wild animal, or property.

- “Bold” wildlife frequenting residential areas
- Large Carnivores' depredation on livestock or domestic animals
- Ungulate damage to crops and fences
- Wildlife-Vehicle collisions

2016 - 2019



@Eurowildlife.org



@Summitpost

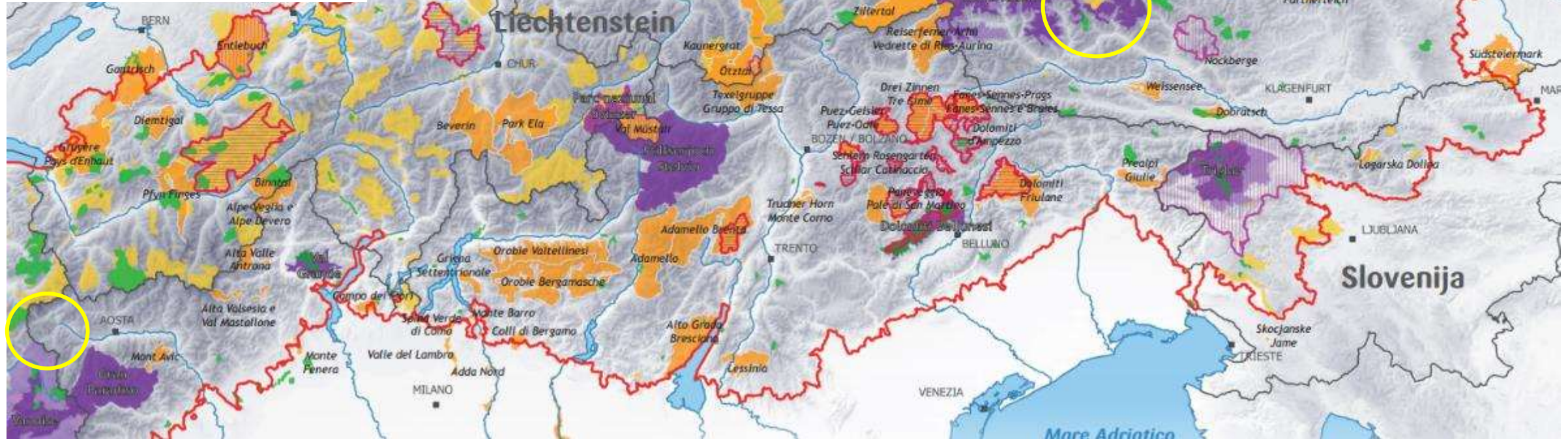


@Focusbikes



@Turismarche

2016 - 2019



FRANCE / ITALY

Espaces Mont Blanc

GERMANY

Nationalpark
Berchtesgaden

ITALY / SLOVENIA

Parco naturale
delle Prealpi
Giulie / Triglav NP

AUSTRIA

Nationalpark
Hohe Tauern

Approach to conflicts



„ Bitte nicht stören!
Ich wohne hier.



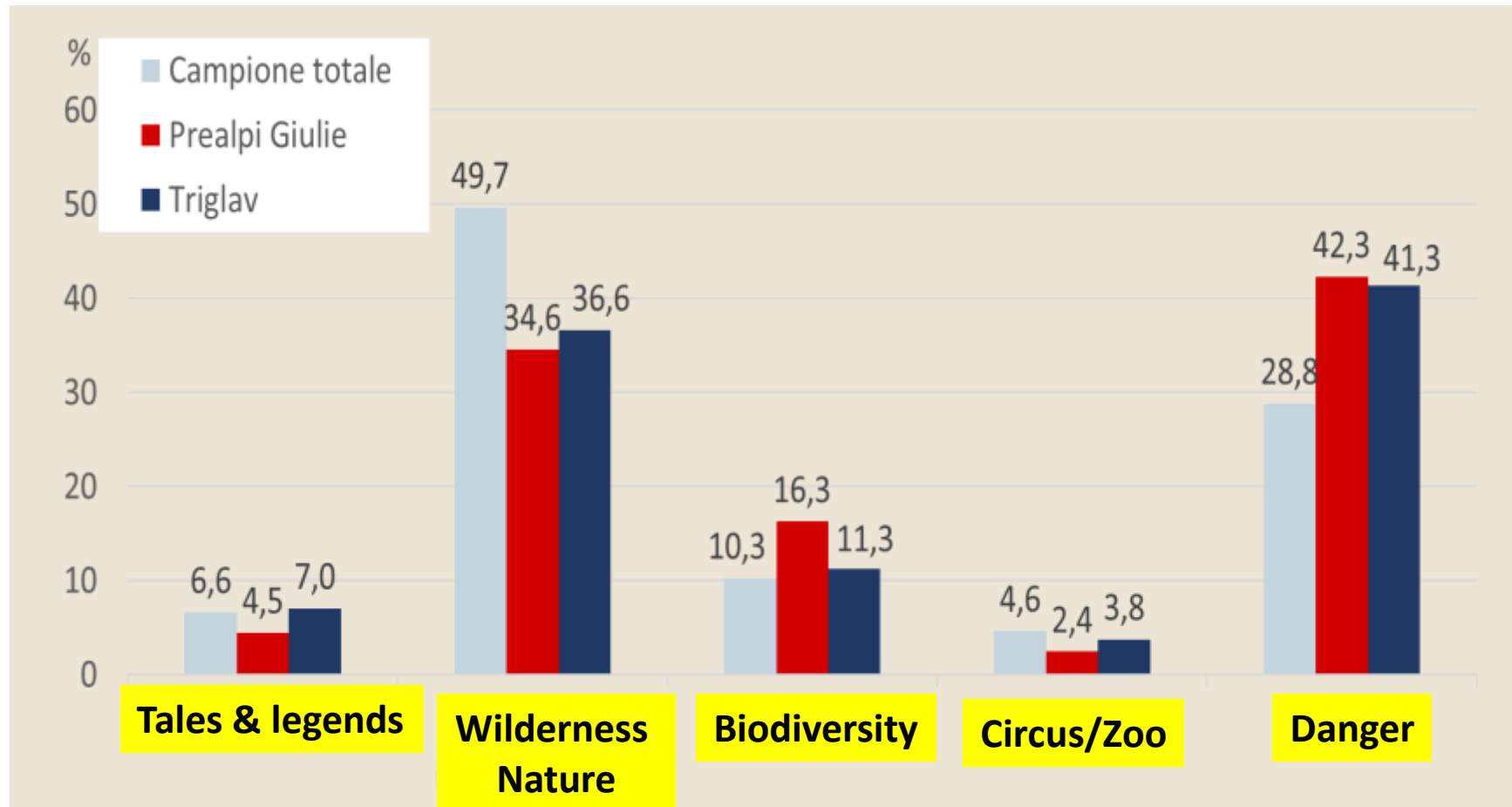


Interreg
Alpine Space
ALPBIONET²⁰³⁰
MIND YOUR MOUNTAIN. ENJOY YOUR LIFE.

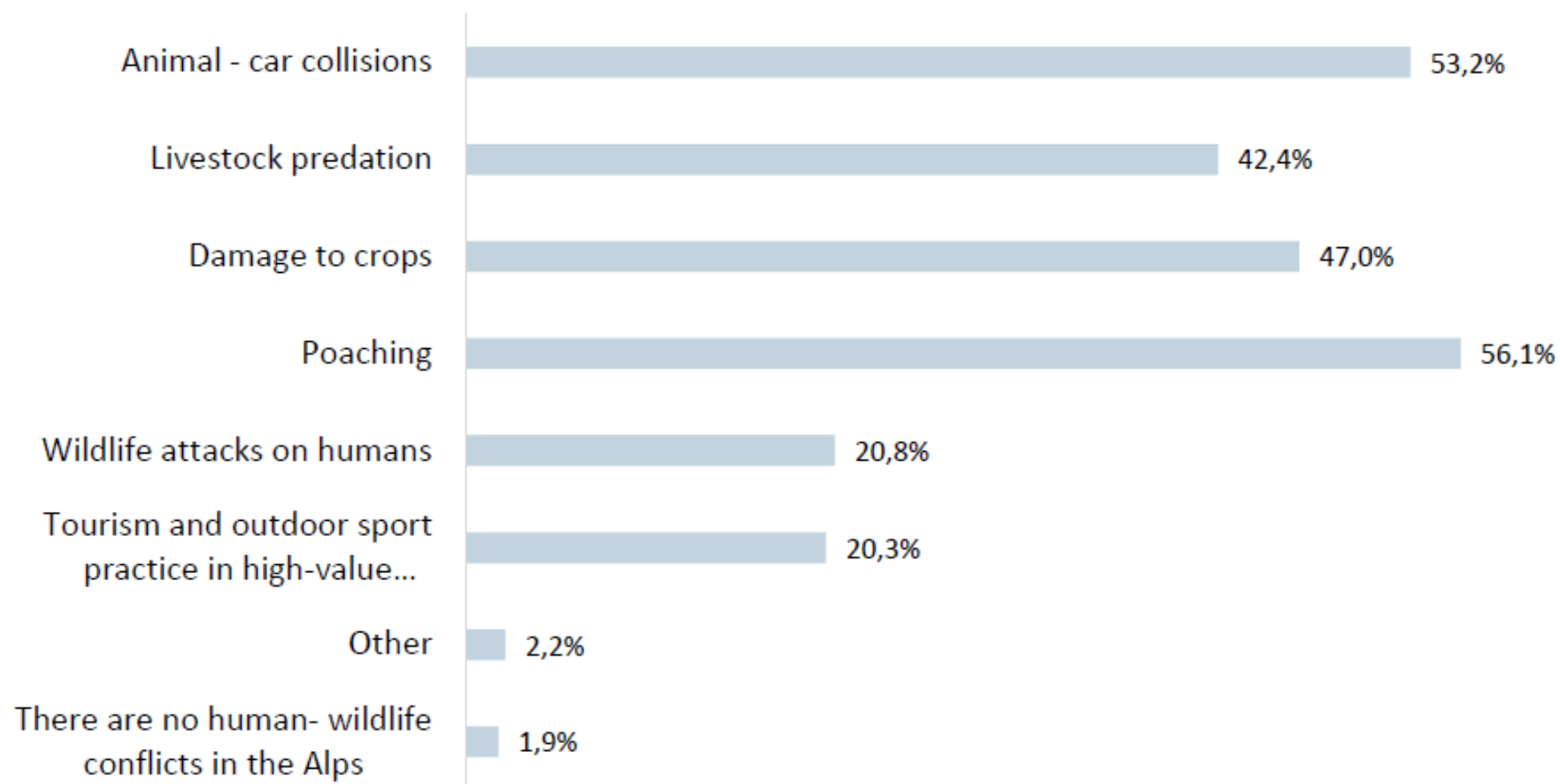


Students' survey

**When you think about a bear,
what is the first thing that comes into your mind?**

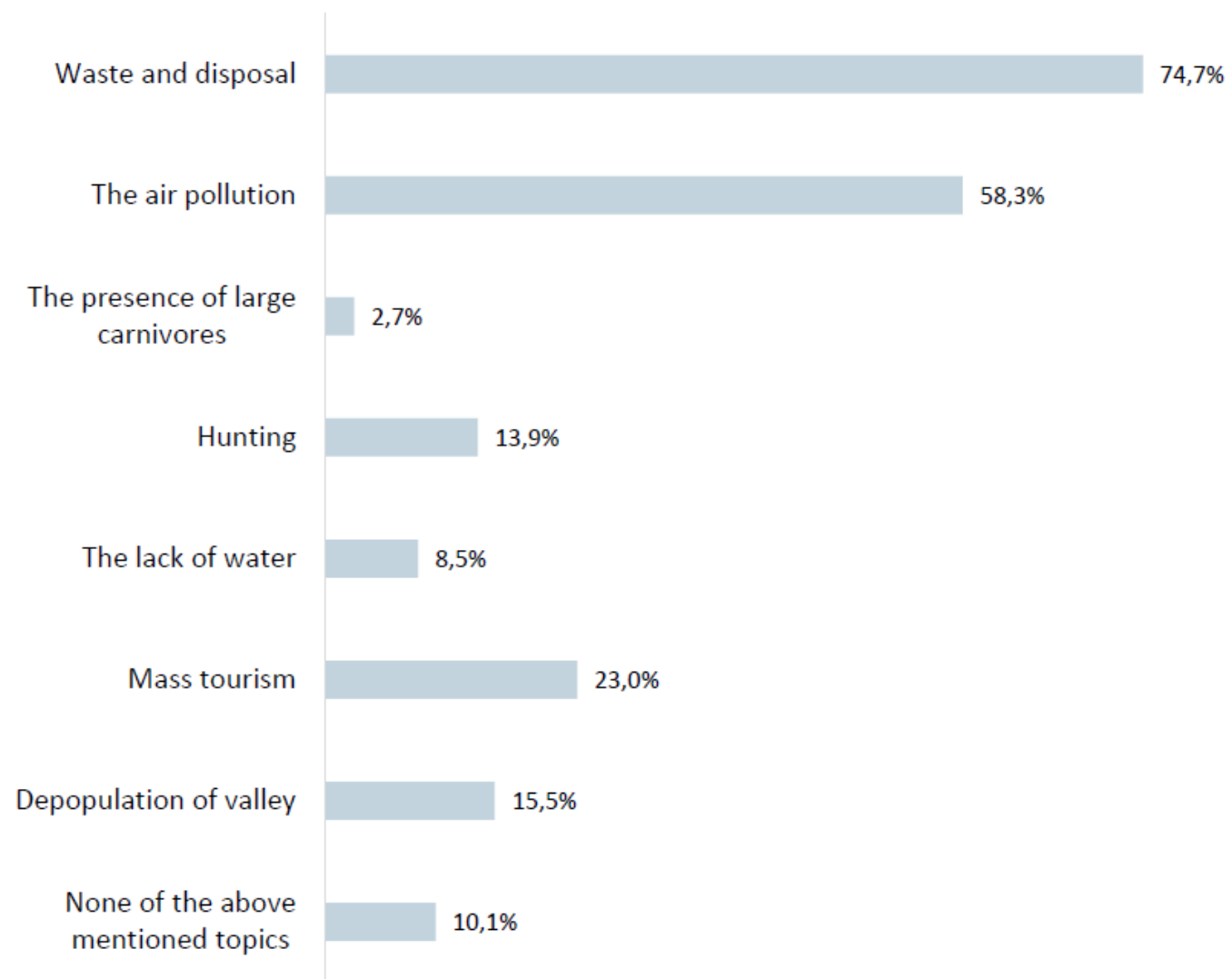


19. In your opinion, which are the main human-wildlife conflicts in the Alps?

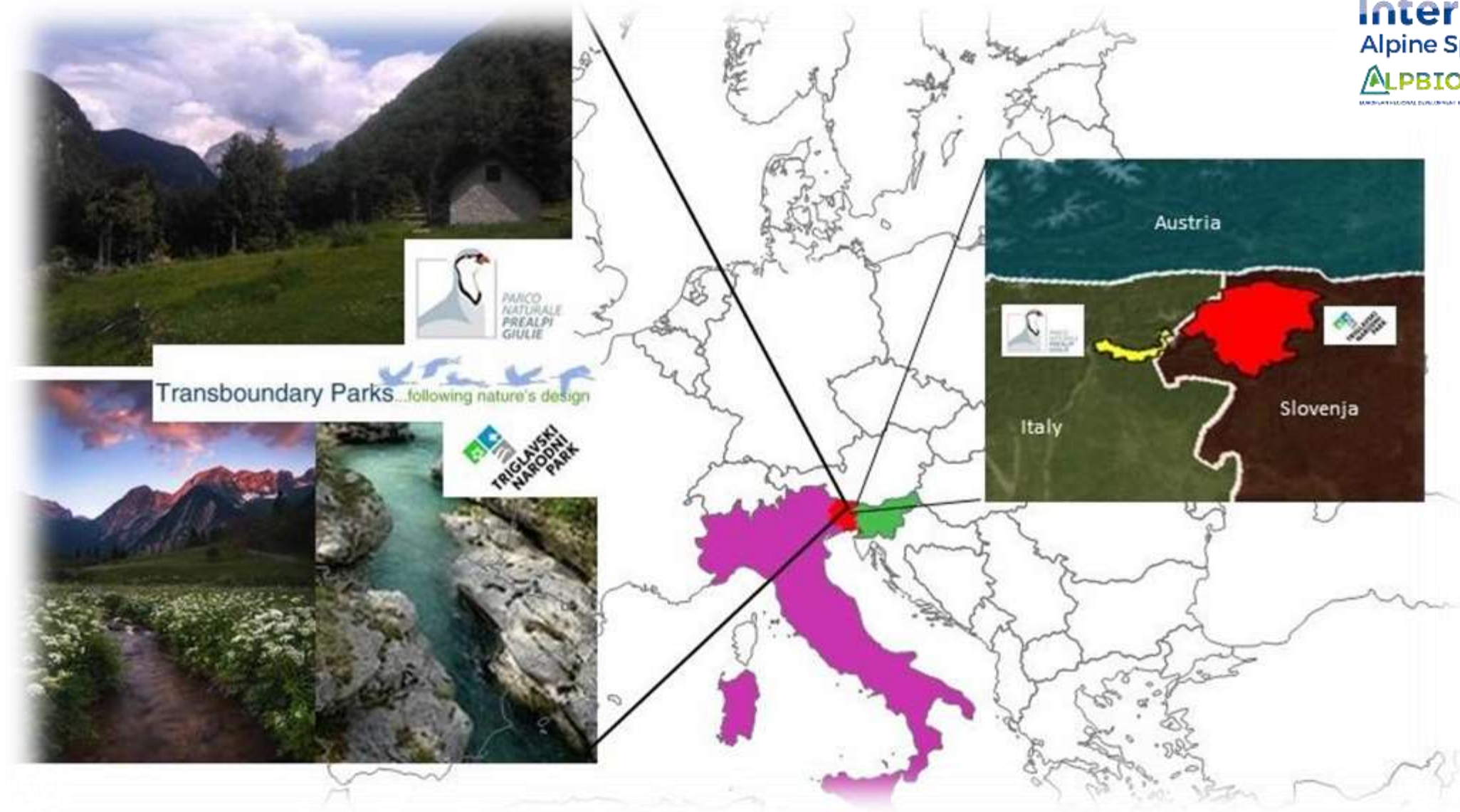


Multiple-choice question

22. What, in your opinion, poses a real threat to the environment protection and to the safety of the place where you live?



Multiple-choice question



Relationship between human and nature, especially zootechnical activities and large carnivores, in the Park and surroundings.

INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS : The path towards the solution

WORKSHOPS

- Ideal place to debate and elaborate proposals and strategies in participative way
- Possibility to bring together different stakeholders

3 MEETINGS



- 1) Grazing and management of large carnivores in the cross-border pilot area Julian Pre-Alps Nature Park and Triglav National Park
- 2) Pastures, breeding and interactions with the local community
- 3) Breeding, guard dogs and possible interactions



STAKEHOLDERS INTERVIEWS

LOCAL PEOPLE AND TOURISTS' QUESTIONNAIRES



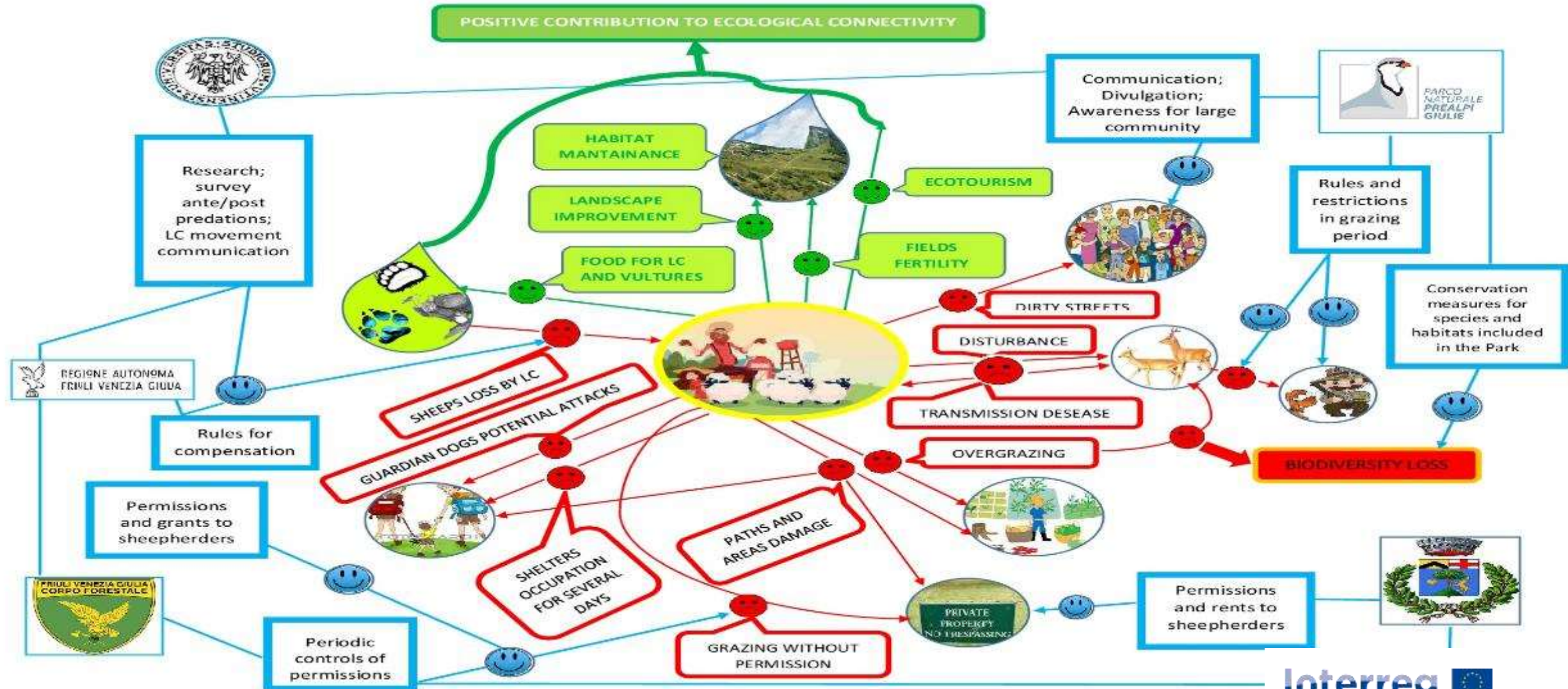
PROPOSALS FOR MANAGEMENT WITH THE GOAL OF COEXISTENCE

TRANSHUMANANCE AND CONFLICTS MAPS

RAISING AWARENESS

CONFLICTS MAP

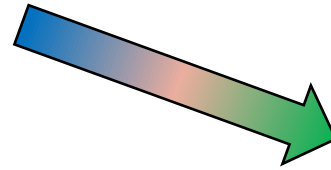
The existing relationship among stakeholders, problems, procedures, effects



TRANSHUMANCE MAP

a concrete tool to increase knowledge, to improve coexistence, to raise awareness

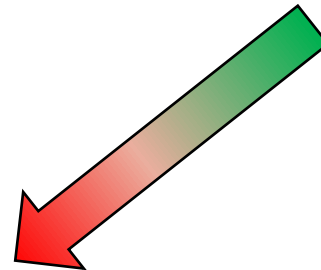
✓ From field....

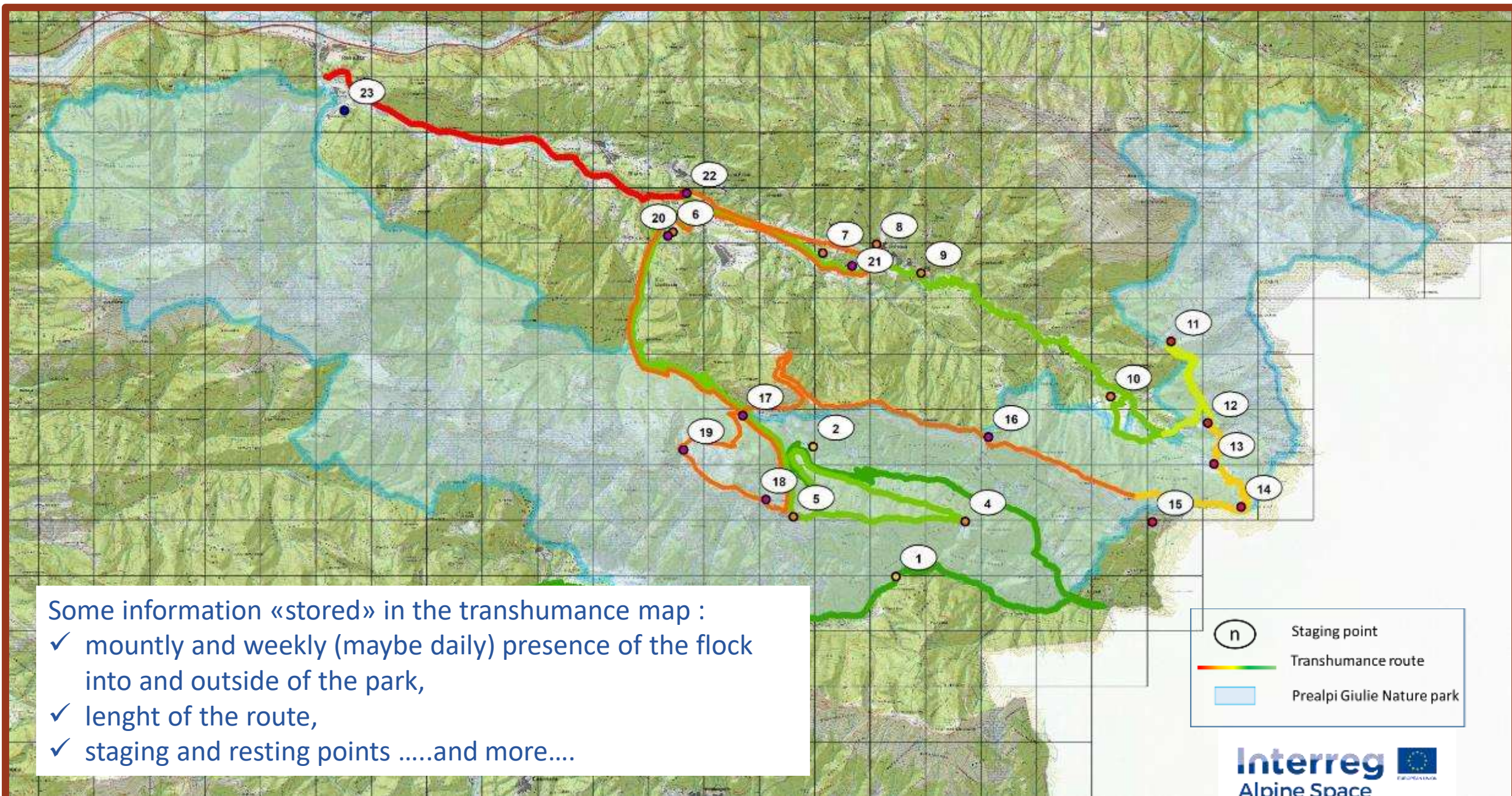


✓To chart....

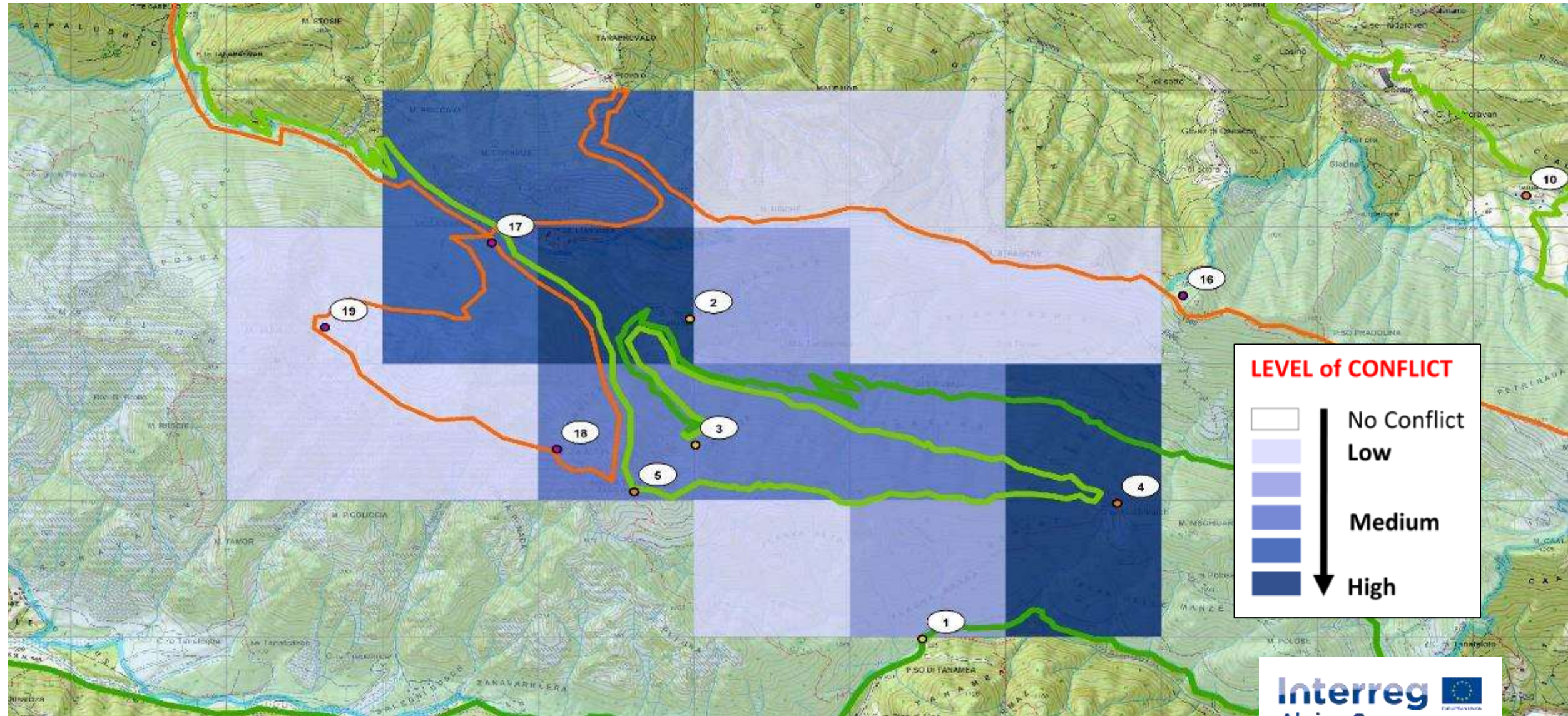


✓ ...To GIS:



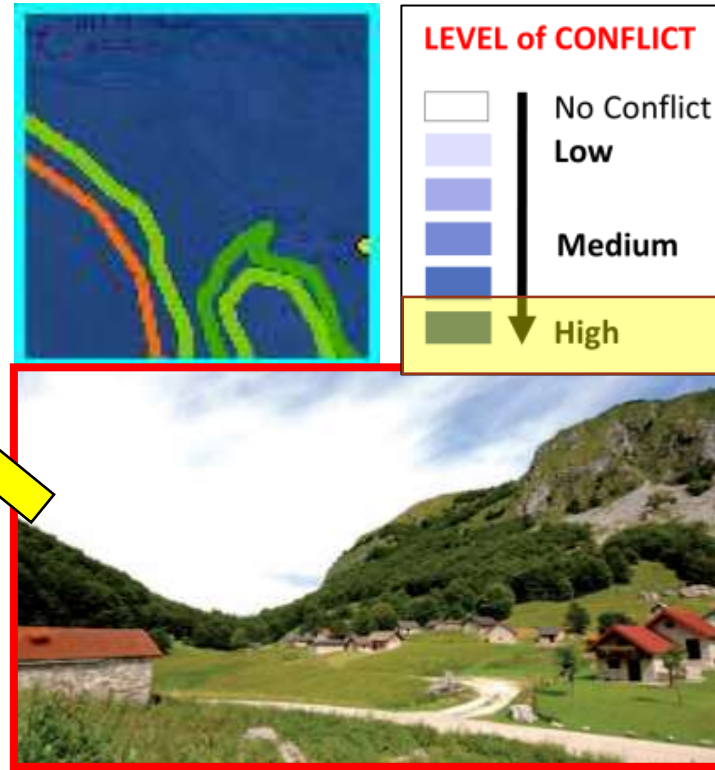


Transhumance & conflicts COMBO map



- Small/big and different breeders and shepherds use the same pastures at the same time

Specific Area «Sella Carnizza-S.Anna»



- Presence of Brown bear (= potential depredation)



- Presence of Crex crex

- Herb - picker



- Tourism : hikers, bikers, agritourism



The «power» of transhumance and «conflicts» map?

Guidelines and success factors to improve the humans-humans coexistence and humans-wildlife coexistence

- Placement of “field” mitigation measures
- Concentrate the monitoring efforts about particular species
- Provide useful data to specific research project
- Develop field activities for the large public to improve awareness about “the life in the mountain”!
E.g: ECOTOURISM
- Promote dialogue and mutual understanding
- Highlight socioeconomic benefits of wildlife and EC

ALPBIONET2030: Integrative Alpine wildlife and habitat management for the next generation

<https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/alpbionet2030/en/home>

YOUTHS' ATTITUDE AND AWARENESS HUMAN-WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS

PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE AND TO TURN CONFLICTS INTO OPPORTUNITIES

L. De Bortoli, F. Maino, A. Giovannini, F. Favilli
Eurac Research | INSTITUTE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Alps area is the scene of continuous interactions between human activities and wildlife, which may have both positive and negative effects on the environment. Administrative regions, the economic sector and the local communities are directly involved in the management of wildlife. However, the different views and interests of the various stakeholders may lead to conflicts. This is why it is important to promote knowledge and awareness among the youth, to turn conflicts into opportunities and to promote the sustainable management of wildlife. This is the aim of the ALPBIONET2030 project, which is part of the Alpine Space programme and is the first ecological network. This ALPBIONET2030 project is the first of its kind in the Alps and its aim is to promote the sustainable management of wildlife. This is the aim of the ALPBIONET2030 project, which is part of the Alpine Space programme and is the first ecological network. This ALPBIONET2030 project is the first of its kind in the Alps and its aim is to promote the sustainable management of wildlife.

OUTDOOR SPORT ACTIVITIES PARAGLIDING

Paragliding is a growing recreational activity in the Alps. It is a sport that involves flying over the mountains and is often done in the presence of wildlife. This can lead to conflicts between the two. It is important to promote knowledge and awareness among the youth, to turn conflicts into opportunities and to promote the sustainable management of wildlife. This is the aim of the ALPBIONET2030 project, which is part of the Alpine Space programme and is the first ecological network. This ALPBIONET2030 project is the first of its kind in the Alps and its aim is to promote the sustainable management of wildlife.

LARGE CARNIVORES

Large carnivores such as wolves and bears are often the subject of conflicts with humans. It is important to promote knowledge and awareness among the youth, to turn conflicts into opportunities and to promote the sustainable management of wildlife. This is the aim of the ALPBIONET2030 project, which is part of the Alpine Space programme and is the first ecological network. This ALPBIONET2030 project is the first of its kind in the Alps and its aim is to promote the sustainable management of wildlife.

PASTURES

Pastures are an important part of the Alpine landscape. They are often the subject of conflicts with wildlife. It is important to promote knowledge and awareness among the youth, to turn conflicts into opportunities and to promote the sustainable management of wildlife. This is the aim of the ALPBIONET2030 project, which is part of the Alpine Space programme and is the first ecological network. This ALPBIONET2030 project is the first of its kind in the Alps and its aim is to promote the sustainable management of wildlife.

ANIMAL WELFARE

Animal welfare is an important part of the Alpine landscape. It is often the subject of conflicts with humans. It is important to promote knowledge and awareness among the youth, to turn conflicts into opportunities and to promote the sustainable management of wildlife. This is the aim of the ALPBIONET2030 project, which is part of the Alpine Space programme and is the first ecological network. This ALPBIONET2030 project is the first of its kind in the Alps and its aim is to promote the sustainable management of wildlife.

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT TOOLKIT FOR THE ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY IN THE ALPS

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FILIPPO FAVILLI,
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Viale Druso 1, 39100 Bolzano (IT)

SCIENCE

eurac research
Interreg Alpine Space
Alpine Space
EUROPEAN UNION



...di un'attività del 2005, e da qualche mese attivo anche a Bolzano. Il movimento internazionale non-profit

Ricerca
di Silvia M. C. Senette

BOLZANO Sono oltre mille gli incidenti stradali che, ogni anno, vedono coinvolti animali selvatici nel solo Alto Adige. Un dato che emerge dallo studio presentato venerdì nel corso dell'evento informativo organizzato a Casa Kolping, a Bolzano, da Eurac Research nell'ambito del progetto «Erasmus - ENVEROS» (Educazione ambientale attraverso il sistema di osservazione delle vittime della strada).

A illustrare le finalità del progetto è stato il ricercatore Filippo Favilli, che ha modellato gli interventi di esperti e tecnici. Tra l'uditorio, come spettatore partecipante, l'ex sindaco del capoluogo Luigi Spagnoli, direttore dell'Ufficio caccia e pesca della Provincia.

«Questo progetto di informazione e consapevolezza, che ha un partner della Repubblica Ceca e uno di Clipro, vuole mostrare quanto è ampio il fenomeno degli incidenti con la fauna selvatica»

si dispongono a quadrato e mostrano con degli schermi le immagini incassate riprese all'interno degli alleva-

2005, il presidente, e il gruppo Anonymous for the voleleers.

Emma è assistente di ricerca presso l'Università di Bolzano e Veronica lavora come buyer

te l'identità del territorio
Daria Sini
RIPRODUZIONE

Selvaggina sulle strade: mille incidenti l'anno

Lo studio Eurac. Favilli lancia la app: gli automobilisti possono caricare dati e i



In pericolo Due cervi attraversano la strada poco prima dell'arrivo di un'auto

splega il coordinatore — Abbiamo creato un sito web e una applicazione per smartphone per far sì che i cittadini possano contribuire alla raccolta dei dati: l'utente della strada potrà fare una foto all'animale e geolocalizzarsi fornendo dati preziosi per circoscrivere un fenomeno

animali e com'è il loro rapporto con le auto per fare in modo, in strategia condivisa tra chi gestisce la fauna e le strade, di trovare le soluzioni migliori.

A tal fine saranno di grande utilità i dati forniti dagli automobilisti che andranno a integrare quelli raccolti dall'associazione dei cacciatori. «Il programma basato su un algoritmo statistico ci permette di individuare i punti più a rischio, con una mappatura aggiornata ogni anno con i dati della Provincia — precisa Favilli —. I cittadini hanno una grande responsabilità: molti sono residenti, conoscono le strade e guidano a occhi chiusi, spesso troppo veloci o distratti, ma senza sapere dove sono gli animali e quali sono le zone ad alto transito».

Il futuro, già realtà in molti punti, sarà una app che permet-

per caso si possono creare sottopassi per i versare gli animali sotto le o ponti verdi di so so per animali più i chiarisce il ricercato — Ma sono sistemi i stosi e occorre indi punti giusti in cui i re».

Intanto sul sito è possibile scaricare Roadkill che offrono on-line gratuito con lo vademecum. I c no semplici quazi mentali. «Rispettar guardarsi intorno, i che le assicurazioni mente non risarcis ni da investimento i — conclude l'espert cidente avvenuto, im fobbigo di legge di e avvertire le autorità spostare l'animale che

Daniza superstar: un caso internazionale

Dell'orso parlano The Guardian e Licia Colò. Vanoni: «Mai più in Trentino»



Daniza, l'orso che ha fatto parlare di sé in tutto il mondo

La Guardia ha fatto un'indagine sul sito di Daniza, un orso che ha fatto parlare di sé in tutto il mondo. L'articolo è stato pubblicato su The Guardian e ha attirato l'attenzione internazionale. Daniza è un orso che vive in un'area protetta in Trentino e ha fatto parlare di sé per la sua bellezza e la sua forza.

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«Provincia colpevole, scarsa informazione»

L'esperto Favilli (Eurac): «A Probo nessun attacco, reazione normale per un mammifero. L'appello più cartelli in montagna»

Trentino — «L'idea di un'indagine sul sito di Daniza, un orso che ha fatto parlare di sé in tutto il mondo. L'articolo è stato pubblicato su The Guardian e ha attirato l'attenzione internazionale. Daniza è un orso che vive in un'area protetta in Trentino e ha fatto parlare di sé per la sua bellezza e la sua forza».

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SCIENZA» LA CONVIVENZA TRA UOMINI E GRANDI CARNIVORI

«Basta isterie sul lupo», arriva il dossier Eurac

Bolzano, primo passo per cercare di ridare concretezza al dibattito. Favilli sul prodotto: troppa informazione, c'è. Bisogna confrontarsi di più

eurac research

How do you benefit from the Environment around you?



greenAlps
connecting mountain people nature

The concept of Ecosystem Services (ESS)

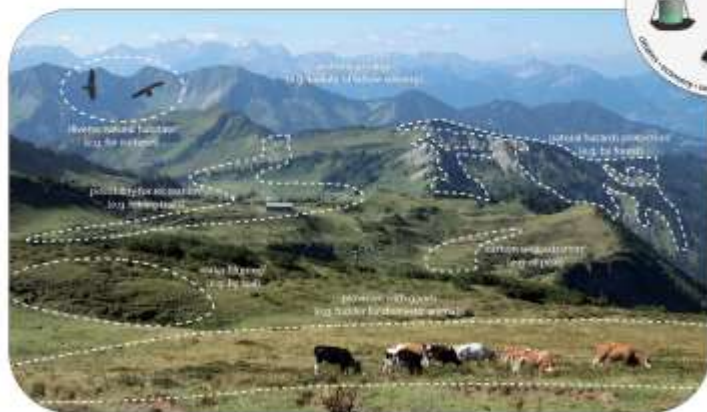
definition	Ecosystem services are the benefits people can derive from ecosystems		
why ESS?	Ecosystem services are not unlimited but increasingly threatened by human activities. Linkage between ecosystems and human wellbeing?		
categories (CICES)	Provisioning Services	Regulation & Maintenance Services	Cultural Services
	Materials and energy outputs obtained from ecosystems	All ways in which ecosystems control or modify biotic or abiotic parameters	Ecosystem outputs that have symbolic, cultural or intellectual significance
links to decision making?	To help inform decision-makers, ecosystem services are being mapped for highlighting their spatial occurrence and/or are being assigned economic values (e.g. replacement cost of anthropogenic alternatives)		

Renewable Energy & Ecosystem Services conflicts

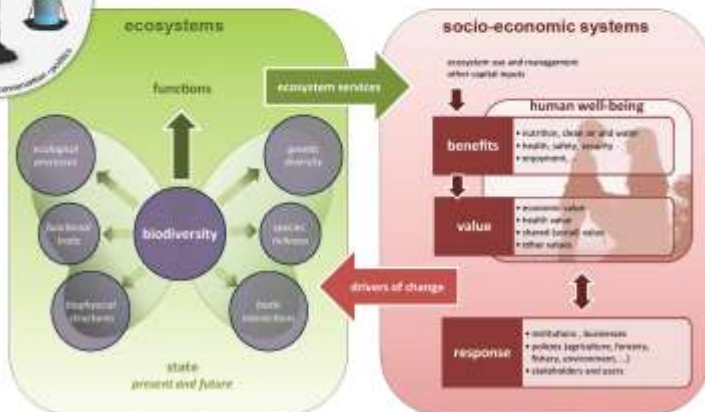
conflict context	Alps:	high biodiversity	local environm. prot.	limited space available
	RE:	high renewable energy potential	global CO2 targets	space required for renewable energies

conflicting priorities: Various renewable energy sources versus various ecosystem services

- potential for solutions:
- Ecosystem services provide a conceptual basis for handling the multiple dimensions of environmental conflicts in face of expanding renewable energy production
 - Decision Support tool to illustrate changing ecosystem services benefits/values in face of expanding renewable energy production
 - Incorporation of ecosystem services in Strategic Environmental Assessments
 - Ecosystem services as „soft“ framework for dealing with conflicts arising from expanding renewable energy production that fall neither in „priority“ nor „no-go-area“ category



Ecosystem Services examples at Hoher Freschen (Vorarlberg/AT). Photo: Richard Hastik
1 = Provisioning service, 2 = regulation & maintenance service, 3 = cultural service



Conceptual framework for EU wide ecosystem assessments. Source: MAES (2013)

Modified by: EURAC

recharge green
Credits: Richard Hastik - University of Innsbruck

Your steps towards Ecological Connectivity

greenAlps
connecting mountain people nature

1 There is a new opportunity to connect with the world. Open your mind and search for a new contact with nature. Try to imagine...

2 What happens if something out of your control strikes in your back? Something like a bomb, a barrier or a specific human behavior that impedes but does not completely block movements. How would you feel?

3 The heart shows and the head remembers. The more obstacles created and the natural order of things changes, your backaches disappear because you cannot stay on your own path.

4 Our largest river network is for a healthy functioning brain. As the air is for man, ecological connectivity is important for many ecological processes, including wildlife dispersal and gene flow, breeding, breeding, and responses to climate change. Two primary strategies are usually followed to enhance ecological connectivity. The first focuses on removing existing barriers to wildlife movement. The second focuses on creating new barriers to wildlife movement. The second focuses on creating new barriers to wildlife movement.

5 Detecting barriers and then inspect would summarized territorial connectivity analysis. Some barriers may be surmountable. Humans and wildlife need free legs.

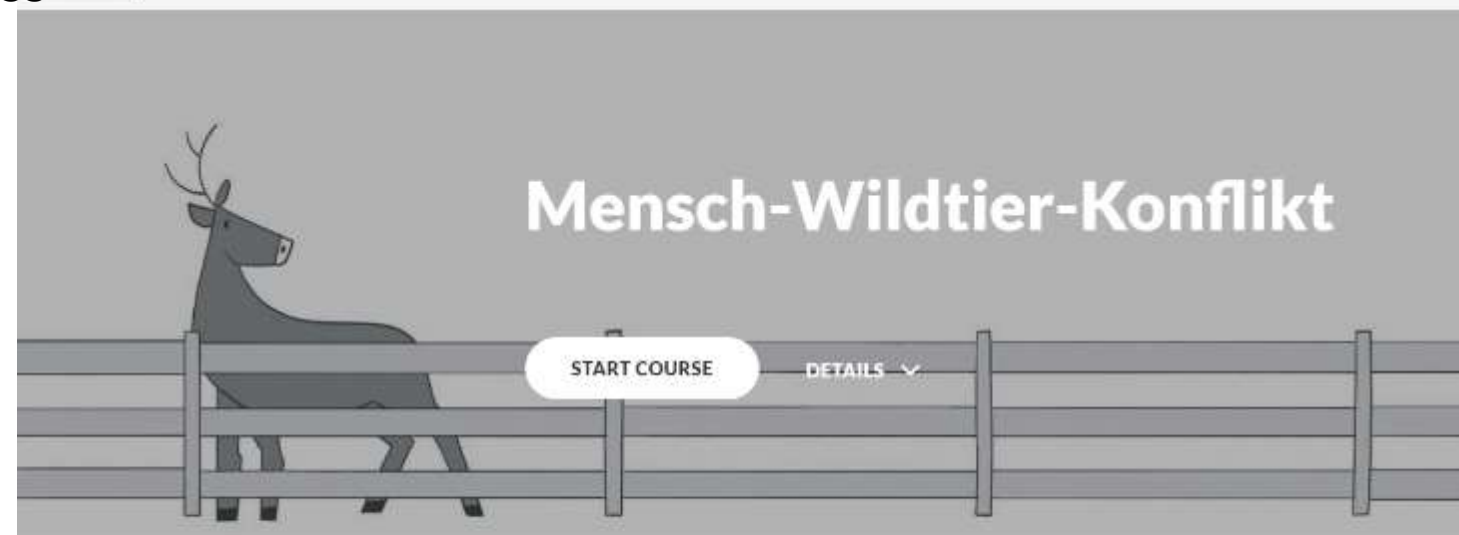
6 It is fundamental to identify and conserve important areas for wildlife connectivity. Several important issues have to be considered.

EUROPEAN GREEN BELT
The European Green Belt forms a transcontinental green infrastructure of more than 10,000 km, linking the Baltic Sea to the Mediterranean. It is the largest green infrastructure in the world, connecting the natural heritage of Europe with the cultural heritage of the continent. The European Green Belt forms a transcontinental green infrastructure of more than 10,000 km, linking the Baltic Sea to the Mediterranean. It is the largest green infrastructure in the world, connecting the natural heritage of Europe with the cultural heritage of the continent.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
The Green Infrastructure concept is a strategic approach to the management of natural and semi-natural areas and other areas that are essential for the maintenance of ecosystem services and the resilience and sustainability of the territory. It is a strategic approach to the management of natural and semi-natural areas and other areas that are essential for the maintenance of ecosystem services and the resilience and sustainability of the territory.

Human society and wildlife share the same need: free movement for a healthy working brain. Take initiative! Get informed! What can YOU do for ecological connectivity?

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Lesson 6 of 8

Il ritorno del lupo nelle Alpi

La situazione

I lupi vivono da sempre in diverse regioni europee, Appennini e Alpi compresi. Nel XIX e XX secolo hanno tuttavia rischiato l'estinzione per i seguenti motivi:

- Campagne per la protezione del bestiame attraverso lo sterminio dei lupi.
- Crescita della popolazione umana e invasione dell'habitat dei lupi.
- Caccia con armi sempre più precise e specializzata nei confronti del lupo.



Negli anni settanta si contavano meno di 100 esemplari in Italia e tutti concentrati negli Appennini. Oggi, la popolazione dei lupi è in aumento in tutta Europa e tende a colonizzare nuove aree.

The attitude of society to the return of the wolf in South Tyrol (Italy)

[Julia Stauder](#) , [Filippo Favilli](#), [Agnieszka Elzbieta Stawinoga](#), [Andrea Omizzolo](#) & [Thomas Philipp Streifeneder](#)

European Journal of Wildlife Research **66**, Article number: 40 (2020) | [Cite this article](#)

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Abstract

This article provides a first investigation on the attitude of South Tyrolean residents (northern Italy) toward the return of the wolf in their province. Data were collected through an online questionnaire, which was available for 54,527 residents (≥ 18 years old) of South Tyrol with internet access and a Facebook® account and was shared on the institute's homepage. In total, 1818 valid responses were collected in 2 months in 2018. Cluster analysis evidenced four homogenous groups of respondents characterized by the components of attitude, their district community, the wolf distribution in their area, belief factors, and the personal fear of wolves. The data analysis revealed differences and relations between the four clusters in the level of knowledge, experience with wolves, education level, and the expected impact on the tourist sector. The obtained results (1) evidence some key factors influencing the attitude of residents, (2) underline the importance of considering small spatial scale attitudinal differences, and (3) urge for an extended human dimension of wolf coexistence research to support local management strategies.

Lupo, tutte le sorprese dello studio Eurac «In molti a favore»

I dati della ricerca. Il 65% degli altoatesini ha un'opinione tendenzialmente positiva o neutra L'83% del campione intervistato non ritiene che il lupo sia pericoloso per l'uomo Stauder: «Gli allevatori si sentono però penalizzati e incompresi da parte di chi vive nelle città»

10 aprile 2019 | A- | A+ |  |  | 



How can EU projects help?

- Provide rural populations the knowledge about socioeconomic potentials of wildlife
- Sustain wildlife-based tourism with scientific data
- Increase awareness on wildlife ecological functions and ecosystem services
- Spread the concept of intrinsic value of Nature



Cooperation needed

- Human-wildlife conflicts → **Human-human conflicts**
- Ecology is part of the solution – **human dimension** is as much as important
- Consider personal **perception** of conflict
- **Balance** global view with local needs
- Utilize multiple instruments and tools – **holistic** approach



Cooperation needed

- **GIS** Analysis of EC / **Social** impact of EC / **Economic** potentials of EC
- Collect and discuss the **causes** of current conflicts
- Create **scenarios**
- Discuss appropriate **methods**
- Capacity building of **actors**
- Communication and information to the **public**





THANK YOU

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A species survives when, and only when, humans decide to value it, have positive attitudes toward it, and actively engage in doing something to conserve it (Bath, 2009)

The future of wild species depends as much on human attitudes, emotional responses and behaviours as it does on wildlife ecology (Enck et al., 2006)