

Ecological network in the Alps

– a response to climate change that will conserve biodiversity?

Berchtesgaden, 15-16 October 2009

The vision of an Alpine-Carpathian-Pyrenean corridor

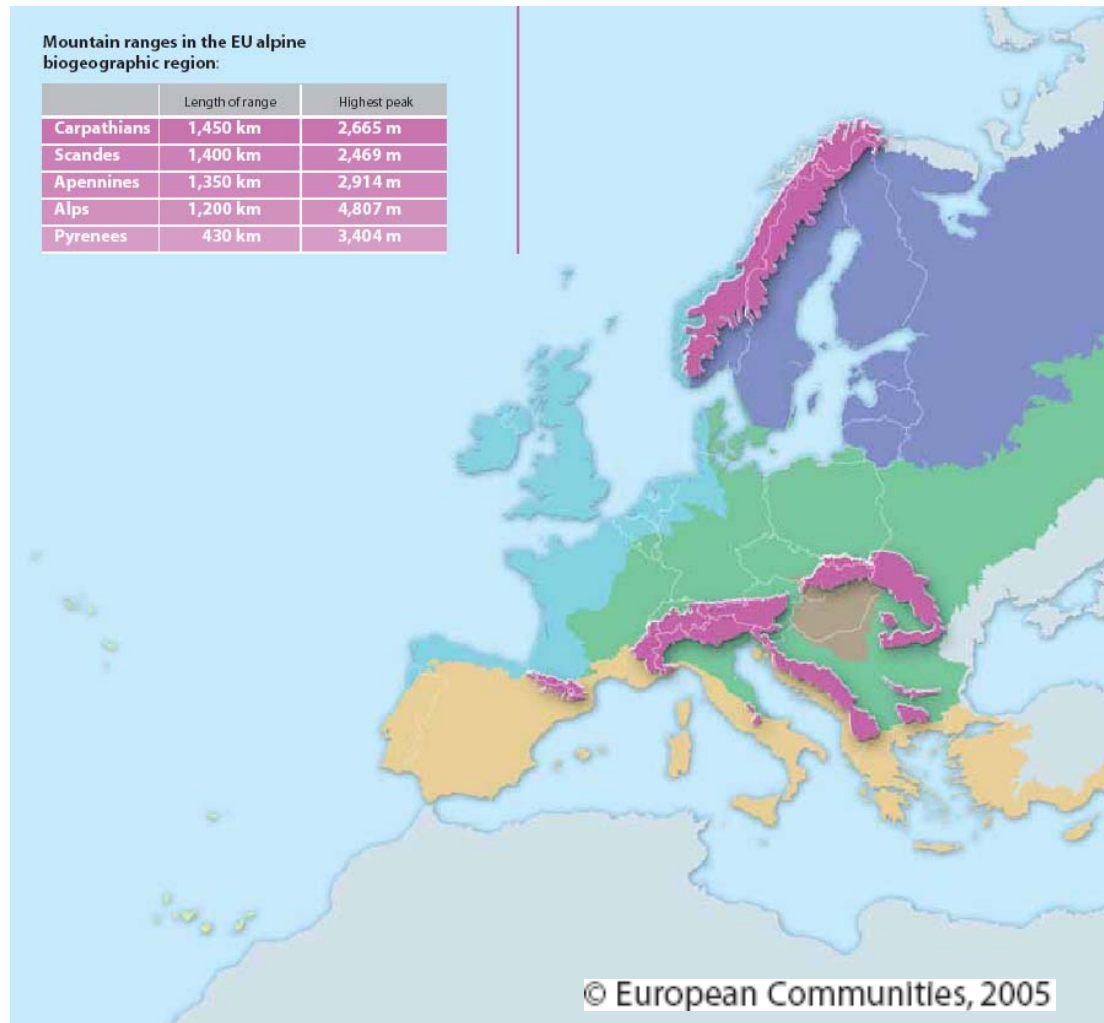
Jan Kadlecik, Carpathian Network of Protected Areas



Concept of building of networks of protected areas in mountain regions in Europe and ecological connectivity between them is a long-term vision of the coordinating bodies on international level (e.g. UNEP, CBD) and on regional level (ALPARC, CNPA)

Mountain ranges in the EU alpine biogeographic region:

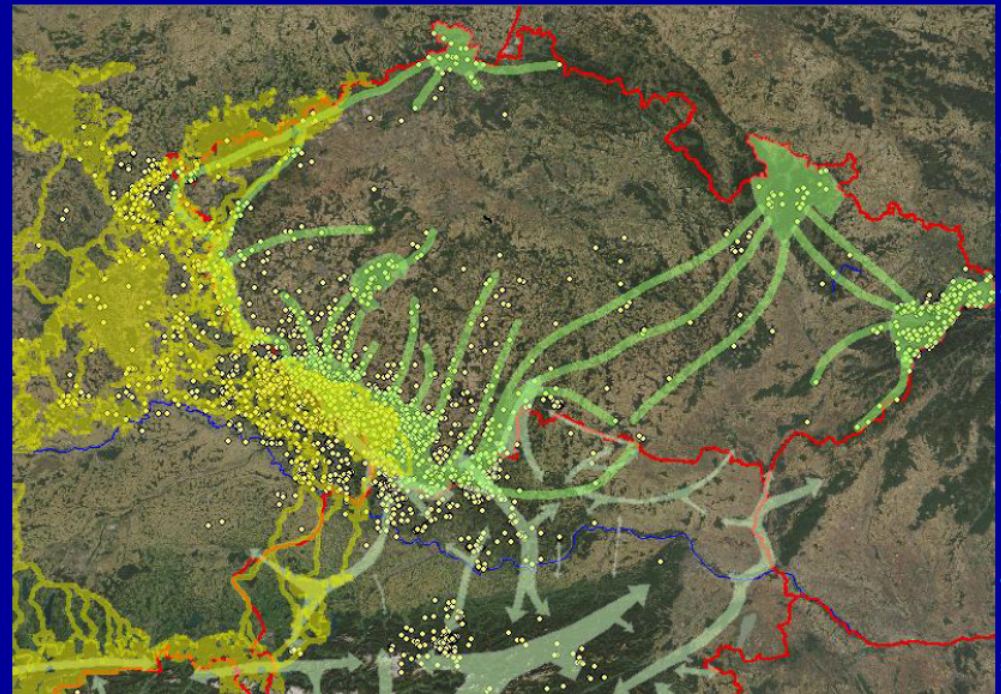
	Length of range	Highest peak
Carpathians	1,450 km	2,665 m
Scandes	1,400 km	2,469 m
Apennines	1,350 km	2,914 m
Alps	1,200 km	4,807 m
Pyrenees	430 km	3,404 m



Protected areas play a key role as core areas in building of ecological networks and are important step stones and source of biodiversity for its expansion.

Connections with the Carpathians, Dinaric, Balkan mountain areas, the Apennines, as well as the French Central Massif, the Pyrenees, and the Jura play a key role for the dissemination of many species.

corridors and lynx



source: Jagd / Naturschutz / Forst; LiU; AOPK CR, Hlavac; Proschek;

all lynx-references, categories 1, 2, 3 from 1995 - 2005



This vision is best developed in the Alpine and Carpathian mountain regions

Cooperation on developing an ecological network in the Carpathians is one of the main goals of the **Carpathian Convention**.

Article 4 on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity supports the protection and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats, their continuity and connectivity.

- The Parties shall cooperate in developing an ecological network in the Carpathians, as a constituent part of the Pan-European Ecological Network, in establishing and supporting a Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, as well as enhance conservation and sustainable management in the areas outside of protected areas.



Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Carpathian Convention

Article 9

Continuity and connectivity of natural and semi-natural habitats, ecological network in the Carpathians

1. Each Party shall take measures ... with the objective to improve and ensure continuity and connectivity of natural and semi-natural habitats in the, thus allowing dispersal and migration of wild species populations particularly of large carnivores, and genetic exchange between such populations.
2. Each Party shall maintain, manage and, if need be, expand existing protected areas in its national territory, and encourage the designation and management of new protected areas in the Carpathians.
3. The Parties shall cooperate on establishing an ecological network in the Carpathians, composed of protected areas and other areas significant for biological and landscape diversity and for coherence of the network.

Article 15

Enhancing conservation and sustainable management in the areas outside of protected areas

1. Each Party shall take measures ... with the objective to enhance conservation and sustainable management in the areas outside of protected areas in the Carpathians.
2. Each Party shall facilitate coordination and cooperation between all relevant stakeholders, so as to enhance conservation and sustainable management in the areas outside of protected areas in the Carpathians, in particular with the objective of improving and ensuring connectivity between existing protected areas and other areas and habitats significant for biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians.





This idea was further developed (in cooperation with ALPARC) also in the CNPA Medium-term Strategy, Work Plan 2010-2015 and in the Alpine-Carpathian Cooperation Action Plan

**1st CNPA Conference, Poiana Brasov, 23-24 September 2008
CNPA Work Plan 2010-2015 and CNPA Medium-term strategy, benefiting from experience of ALPARC**

III. Ecological networking – ecological continuum throughout the Carpathians

a) Preliminary study

Identification of cross-border parks and large structures of protected areas

Recognizing the ongoing projects and existing measures

Identification of pilot areas

b) Measures

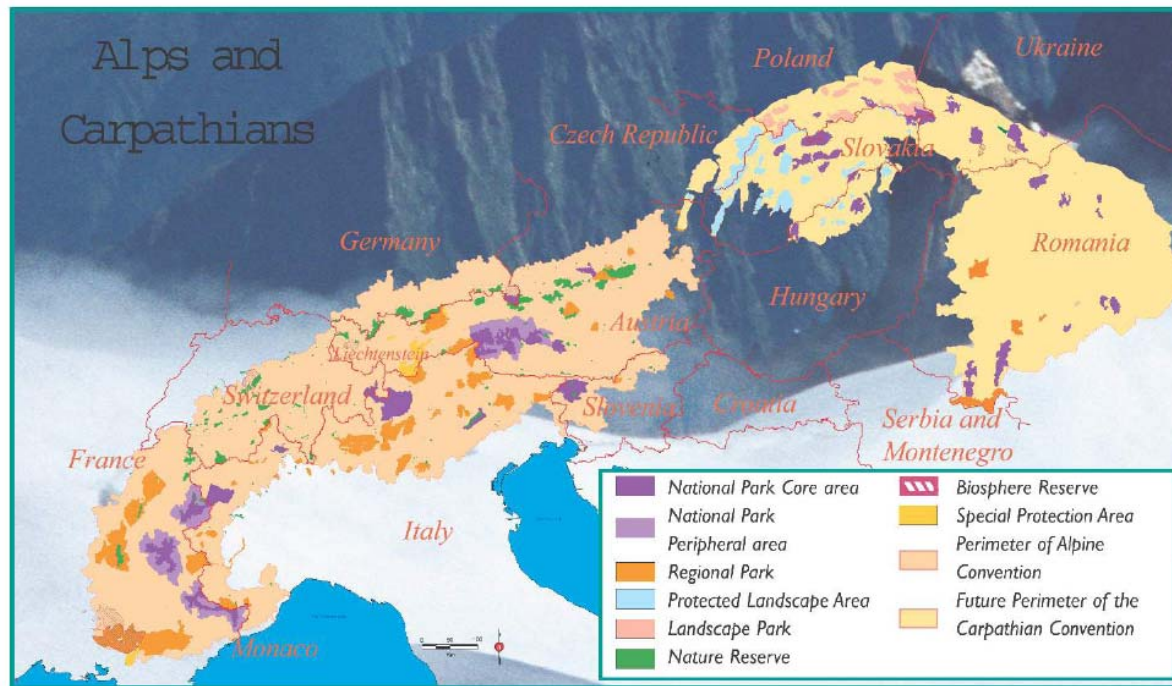
Establishment of the methodology of ecological network creation

Development of catalogue of measures for the improvement of the fauna migration

Work with pilot areas

Recognizing the ongoing projects and existing measures

At this time, several projects to create ecological network exist in the Alps and Carpathians. The protected areas play a crucial role in this networking as their territories have generally an important biological diversity.

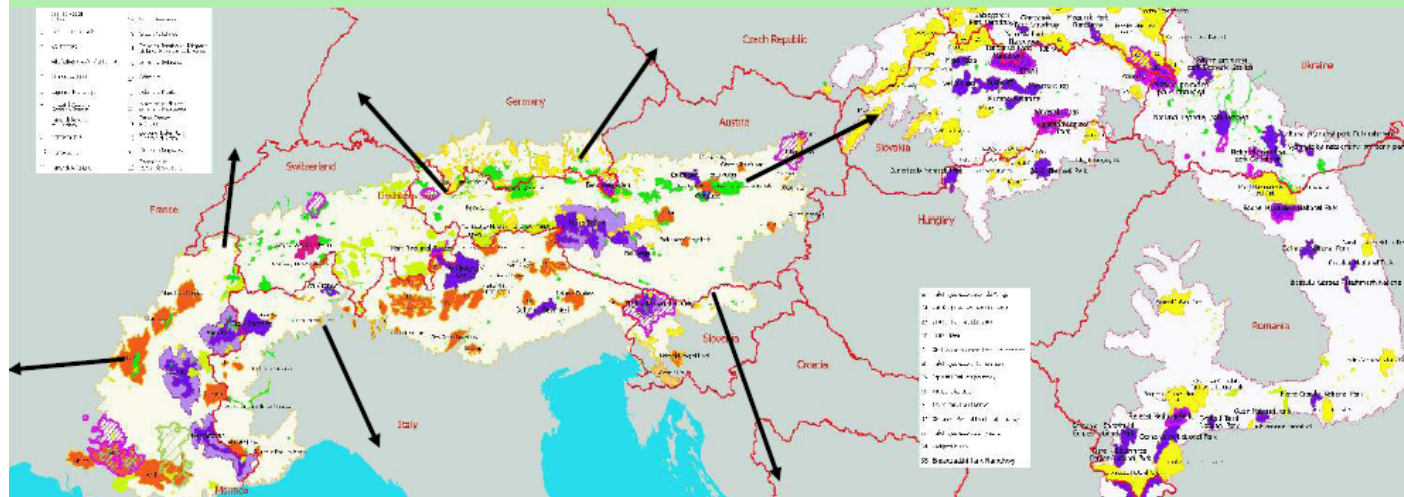


Ecological Continuum project (ALPARC, CIPRA, ISCAR, WWF)

WP 5+8 / Improve connectivity between the Alps and the neighbouring mountain regions:

*Carpathians / Balkan / Bavarian Forest - Sumava / Black Forest / Appenin / Jura /
Central Massif - Pyrenees*

Knowledge transfer / Networking / cooperation projects between the mountain ranges / European Programms / expertises about the most important corridors / mapping



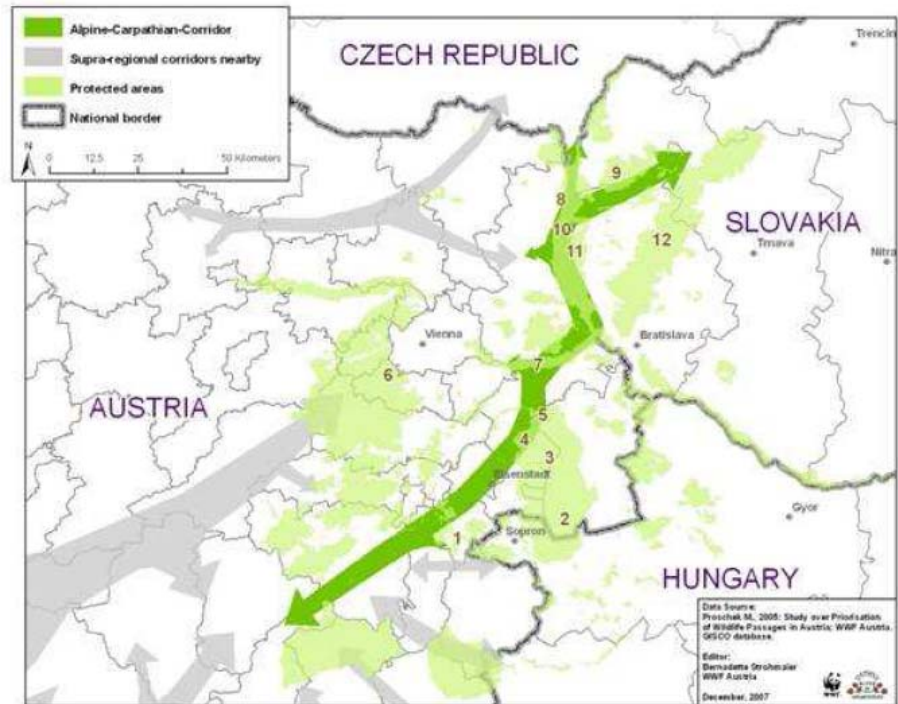
- 1) Identify the most important links from the Alps to the neighbouring mountain regions
 - 2) Create contacts with them and inform about the project in the Alps
 - 3) Identify already existing projects in the neighbour massifs and define possible cooperation fields → change data and knowledge
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Cantabric-Pyrenees-Alps Great Mountain Corridor: Rebuilding natural bridges across Old Western Europe

Alpine-Carpathian Corridor project
(Programme of crossborder
cooperation Slovak Republic –
Austria)

The Alps–Carpathians corridor, for
example, is vital for large carnivores



Development of a Carpathian Ecological Network: Strengthening the Capacities of the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI) in Supporting the Implementation of the Carpathian Convention” (CERI, MATRA BBI)

Proposal for Western Carpathian Ecological Network as a precondition for effective cross-border nature protection (CERI, IBN – Institut für Biodiversität, supported by DBU)

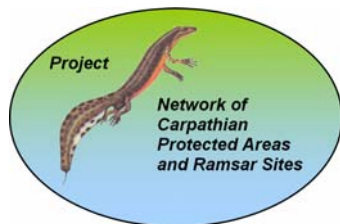




Danube River Network of Protected Areas - Development and Implementation of Transnational Strategies for the Conservation of the Natural Heritage at the Danube River

DANUBE PARKS

Initiatives: Carpathian Wetland Initiative (in cooperation with the Ramsar Convention)



Transborder Wetland Initiative (F)

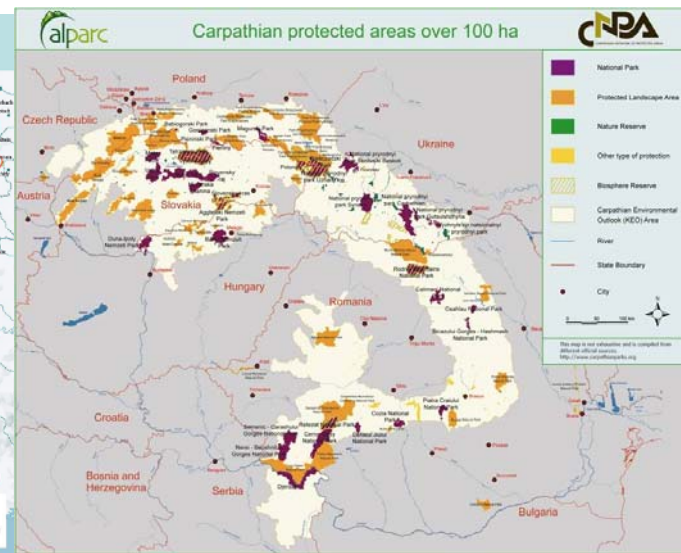
New project proposal ECONET-C, Ecological Continuum for the Carpathians (developed by UNEP, WWF, CNPA)



Alpine-Carpathian Cooperation Action Plan

The external cooperation is a strategic activity of Alpine Conv. and ALPARC
 -support for establishment of the CNPA
 -signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Alpine and Carpathian Convention in 2006.

Priorities of cooperation between both mountain ranges concerning protected areas include
 Ecological continuum establishment – within the massifs as well as between both of them



Challenges for Europe (recognized by CBD, ALPARC, UNEP)

„From trans-border cooperation to trans-mountain cooperation“

The Alpine Network of Protected Areas and the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas and other regional networks, offer the opportunity of “networking between networks”, and the exchange of experiences between protected areas managers of European mountain regions, including Pyrenees, Apenines, Balkan mountains and to stabilize stepping stones and corridors between them.



- **to strengthen the role of regional agreements; the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions should be taken as examples for experiences and lessons learned on regional cooperation that could be replicated in other regions:**
 - **establishment of an effective network of mountain protected areas and ecological networks, taking into account the concepts of ecological connectivity and landscape matrix; the planning and managing of the protected areas network should also take into account the need to adapt to climate change;**
 - **enhancement of transboundary cooperation and transboundary protected areas to strengthen, inter alia, research and monitoring activities and to effectively implement management at watershed level;**
- **Undertake a review on the potential application of mechanisms for the protection of the Balkans and Caucasus regions, and Arctic-Alpine ecosystems, using the experience of the Alpine Convention, its applying protocols and observation system.**

Other challenges

- **Develop projects (also in bilateral level) which should be more practically oriented**
- **Use regional funding mechanisms**
- **Intensify communication and harmonisation with CBD and other international treaties and their programmes**

