



# econnect

Restoring the web of life



**econnect** final  
conference  
26-28 sep 2011 • Berchtesgaden

# Introduction - Background and Key Results

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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

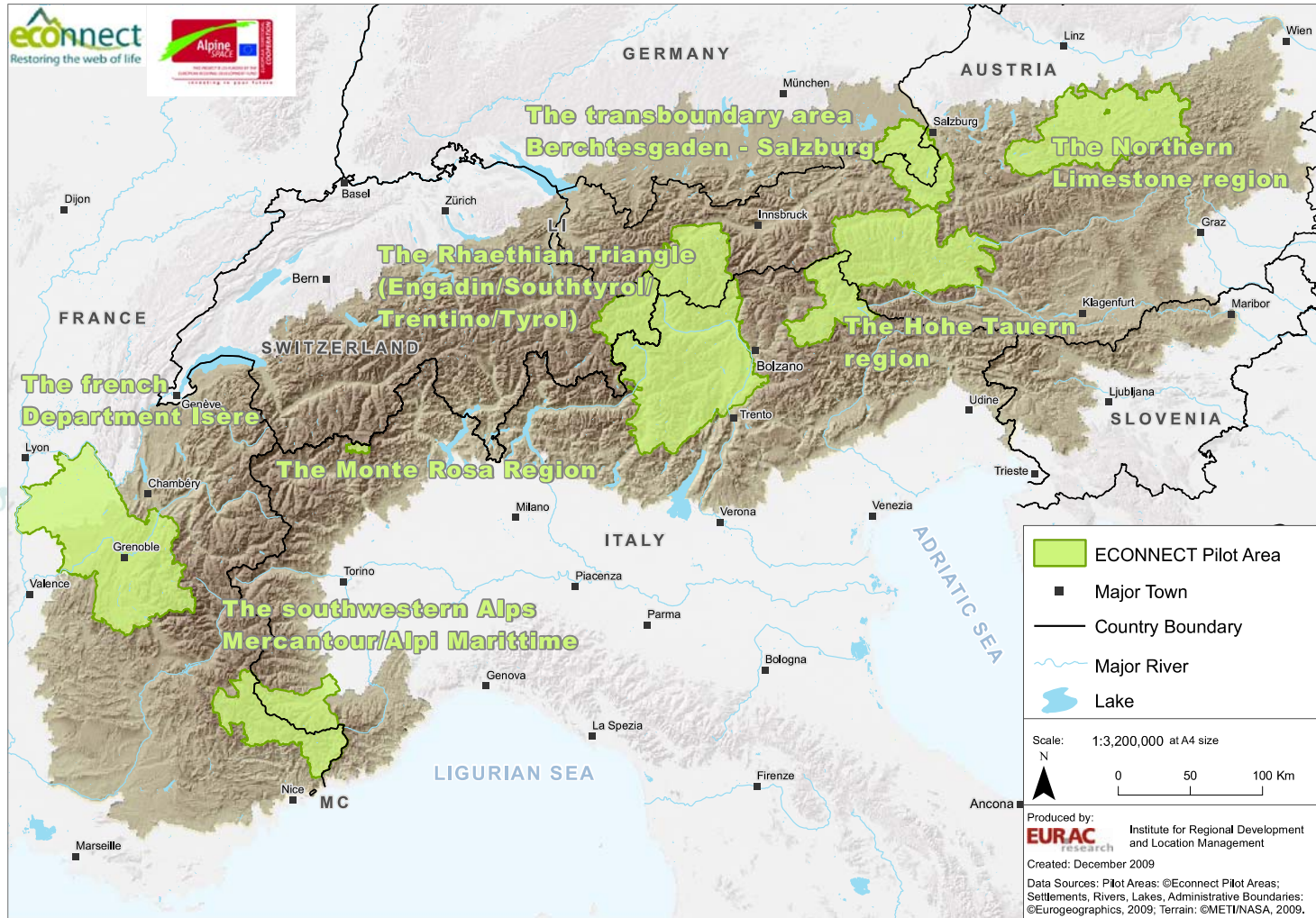
- International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA)

## Switzerland

- Swiss National Park



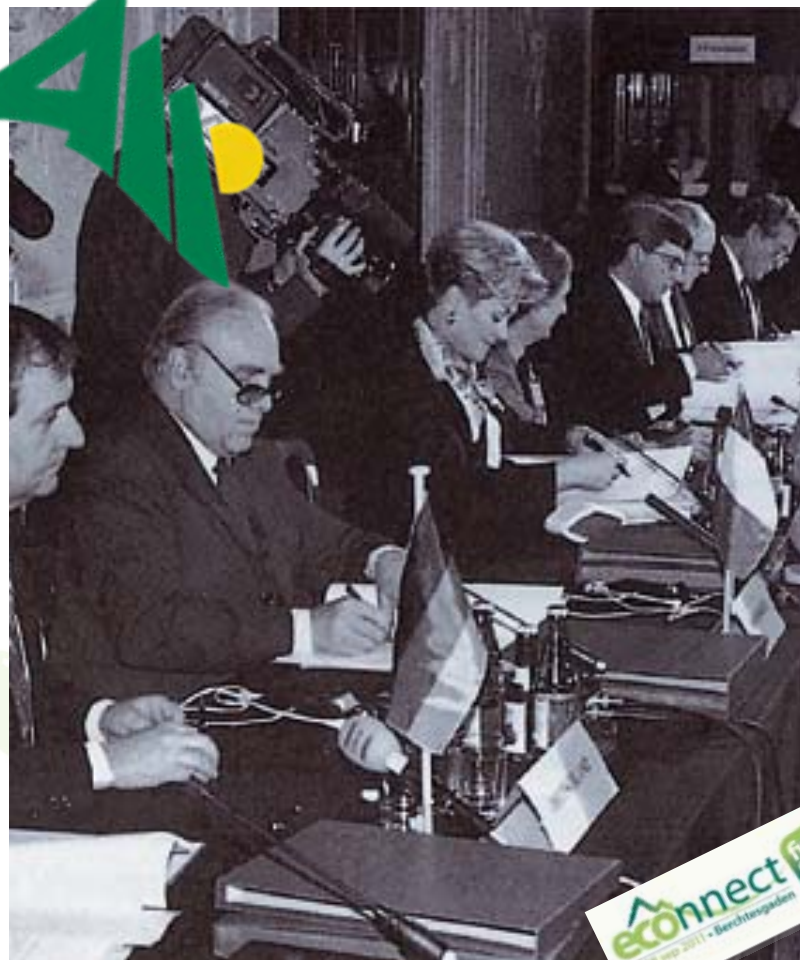






## Protocol “Nature conservation and landscape planning” - Article 12

“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.”

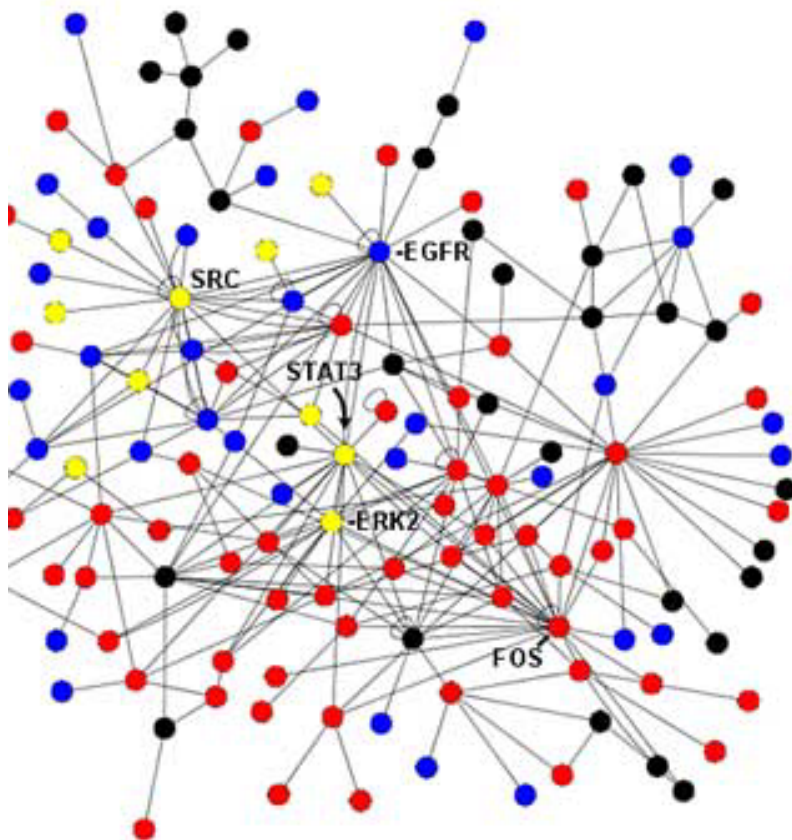




Provides momentum  
for connectivity issues  
in the Alps - enhanced  
previous and on-going  
work

Platform Ecological  
Networks - AC  
Continuum Initiative





Econnect is a network  
per se

Local and Alpine-wide

Enhances and extends  
existing cooperations





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





# What was/is the project actually trying to achieve?

## Agreement concerning the conservation objectives



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.





## Assumptions must be made

- i) Larger tracts of interconnected and permeable landscapes in undisturbed and human-dominated landscapes maintain more biodiversity than fragmented landscapes, which enables regeneration and renewal to occur after ecological disruption.
- ii) Following disruption, smaller less diverse ecosystems may suddenly shift from desired to less desired states and their capacity to generate total economic value may decrease.
- iii) Functioning ecological processes are the foundation for the adequate provision of ecosystem services.



The challenge consists in identifying indicators and metrics that permit the tracking of connectivity changes - improvements in the way nature is managed and used

Scale

~~Approach - functional vs. structural connectivity~~

Functional AND structural connectivity



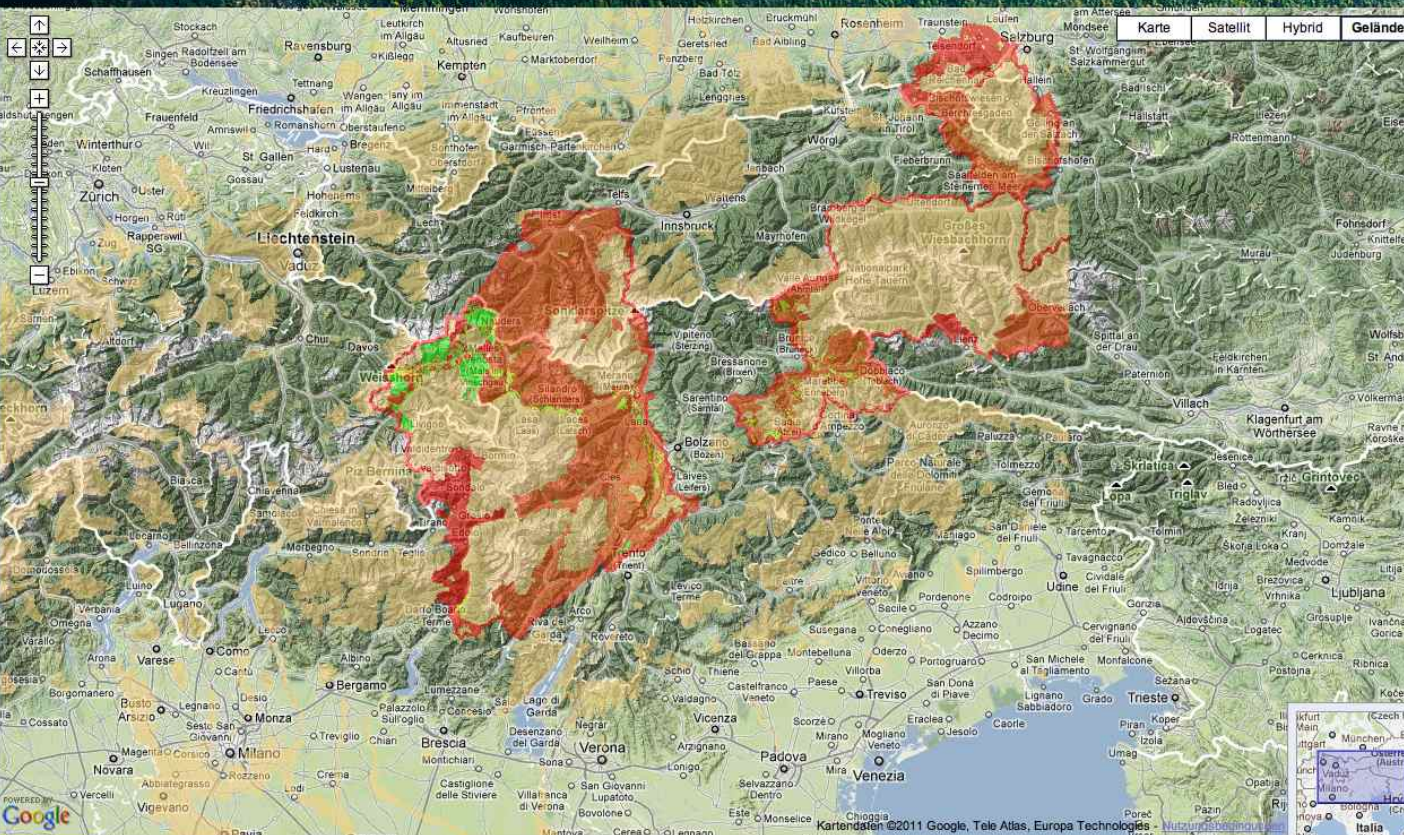
## Joint Ecological Continuum Analysis and Mapping Initiative - JECAMI

CSI : The CSI is a combined analysis of structural landscape connectivity and landscape permeability

SMA: Species Map Application - Analysis of umbrella species application to detect barriers and corridors between two spatially separated locations for one of the umbrella species on a alpine scale







CSI SMA PAM CARL

CSI Service (v.8) [i](#)

Legend

- Pilot areas [i](#)
- Municipality borders [i](#)
- Protected areas [i](#)
- Landuse LAN [i](#)
- Landuse Planning LAP [i](#)
- Population POP [i](#)
- Infrastructure INF [i](#)
- Altitude Topography TOP [i](#)
- Fragmentation FRA [i](#)
- Patch Cohesion COH [i](#)
- Edge density ED [i](#)
- Environmental Protection ENV [i](#)
- Ecological Measures ECO [i](#)
- CSI [i](#)

[i](#) Activate function and display Indizes by clicking in the map

Search

Search a municipality inside a pilot region:

Search pilot region:

Rhaetian Triangle

Search Place or Address





Restoring the web of life

Karte Satellit Hybrid Gelände

CSI SMA PAM CARL

### SMA Service (v.8) [i](#)

**Legend**

- Black grouse model [i](#)
- Black grouse GUIDOS [i](#)
- Brown bear model [i](#)
- Brown bear GUIDOS [i](#)
- Lynx model [i](#)
- Lynx GUIDOS [i](#)
- Griffon vulture model [i](#)
- Red deer habitat [i](#)
- Red deer GUIDOS [i](#)
- Wolf model [i](#)
- Wolf GUIDOS [i](#)

[i](#) Activate function and display Indices by clicking in the map

### Search

Search a municipality inside a pilot region:

Search pilot region:

Search Place or Address

[Impressum](#)

1 Search 2 Select & Upload 3 Calculation Chart Table Report

Kartendaten ©2011 Google, Tele Atlas, Europa Technologies - Nutzungsbedingungen



- ✓ Integrates structural and functional connectivity indicators
- ✓ High scalability and flexibility - NO previous homogenisation of source and INPUT data
- ✓ Preservation of high spatial resolution and accuracy on source data
- ✓ Quality-Indicator informs about source data





# 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY sep 26

## Putting Connectivity on the Alpine Political Agenda

- 🕒 **11.30** Registration and lunchtime snack
- 🕒 **12.45** Press conference
- **INTRODUCTION: THE KEY MESSAGE OF ECONNECT**
- 🕒 **14.00** Institutional welcoming  
C. Walzer, *Lead Partner ECONNECT, FIWI Vienna (A)*  
F. Rasp, *Mayor of Berchtesgaden (D)*  
M. Vogel, *Transboundary Pilot Region "Berchtesgaden-Salzburg", Berchtesgaden National Park (D)*  
H. Hinterstoisser, *Transboundary Pilot Region "Berchtesgaden-Salzburg", Land Salzburg Nature Conservation (A)*  
M. Onida, *Secretary General of the Alpine Convention - TBC*
- 🕒 **14.15** Welcoming by Joint Technical Secretariat of Alpine Space Programme  
M. Gaifami, *Joint Technical Secretariat of Alpine Space*
- 🕒 **14.30** The key message of ECONNECT: introduction, background, main results  
C. Walzer, *Lead Partner ECONNECT, FIWI Vienna (A)*

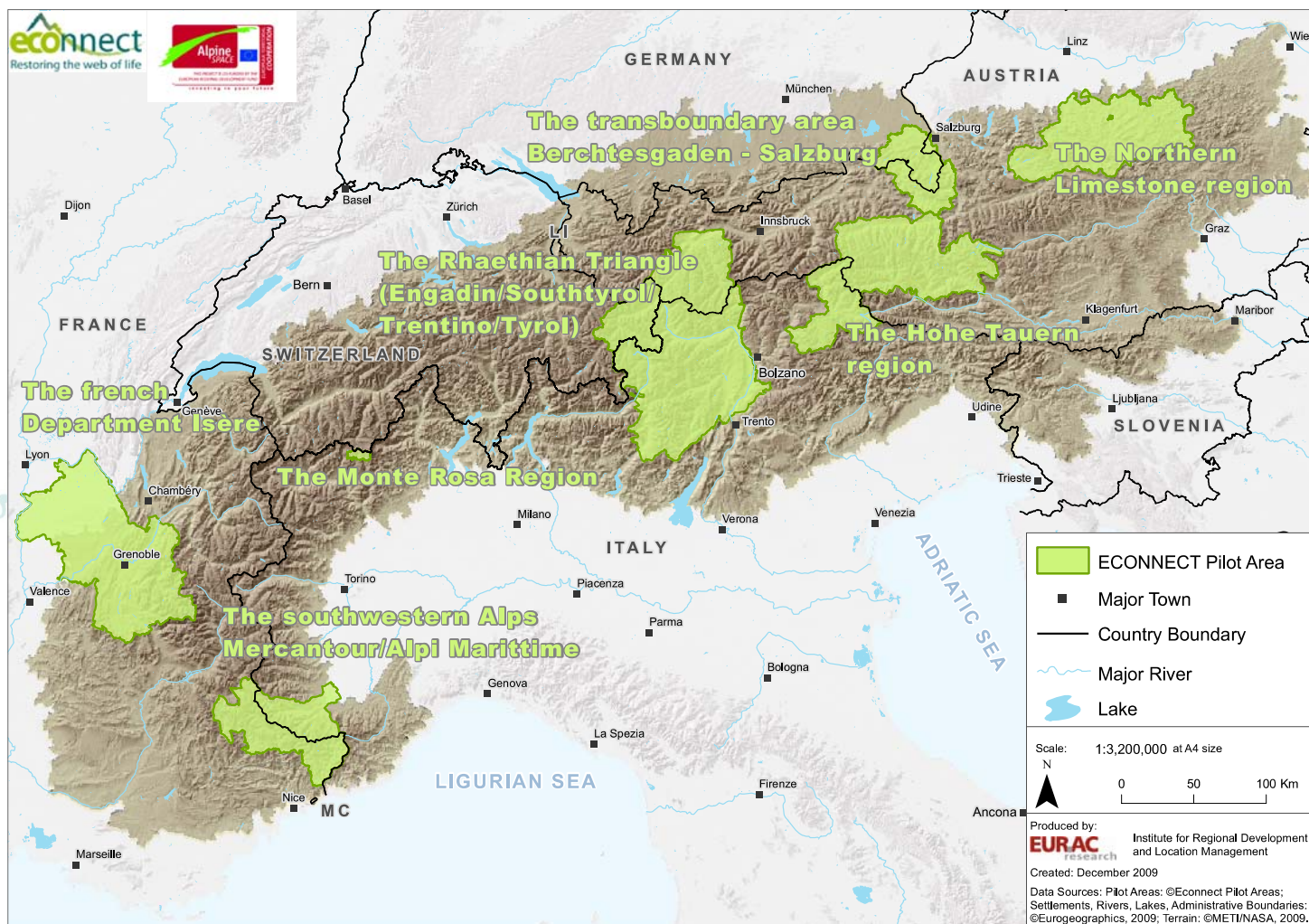
- 🕒 **14.45** Regional dimension of ECONNECT outcomes  
*Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Public Health (D) - TBC*  
*Provincial Government Land Salzburg (A) - TBC*
- 🕒 **15.15** Global dimension of ECONNECT  
Luis Gomez-Echeverri, *Global Energy Assessment, IIASA: Environment and Economics - Turning global trade-off challenges into co-benefit opportunities*
- ☕ **15.45** Coffee break
- **SESSION 1: CONNECTIVITY IN THE EUROPEAN POLITICAL DIMENSION**
- 🕒 **16.30** Key results from ECONNECT for Alpine and European policy  
M. Vogel, *Transboundary Pilot Region "Berchtesgaden-Salzburg", Berchtesgaden National Park (D)*
- 🕒 **17.00** The Alpine dimension of connectivity  
M. Onida, *Secretary General of the Alpine Convention - TBC*
- 🕒 **17.15** The spatial dimension of connectivity  
R. Haller, *Swiss National Park (CH)*
- 🕒 **17.30** Conclusions, outlook, recommendations  
Speaker TBC
- 🕒 **18.00** End of the first day  
Alpine Aperitif and common dinner in Berchtesgaden  
*For the Alpine Aperitif we kindly invite you to bring a speciality of your region (food or drinks) to share with the other participants. The registration office will take care of your contributions and arrange a common buffet with the delicacies of all participants.*

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





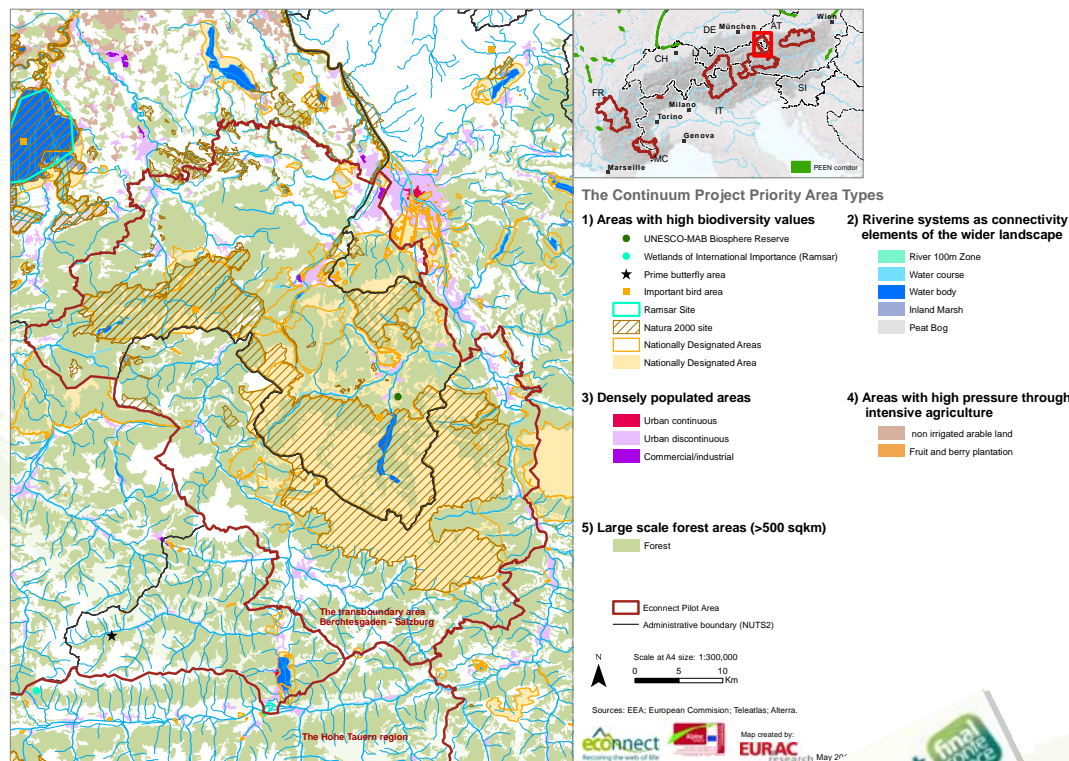




# Local Networks

# Common-Methodology

# Implementation of Measures





## 2<sup>ND</sup> DAY sep 27

Key Results of ECONNECT

### SESSION 2: ON CONNECTIVITY

9.00 Introduction  
C. Walzer, Lead Partner

9.10 Geographical  
ECONNECT  
K. Renner, EURA

9.30 Aquatic systems  
A. Bou-Vinals, U

9.50 Development  
tivity in the Alps  
and Mapping  
Portal  
Swiss National P

10.25 Coffee break

### SESSION 3: IMPROVING THE PILOT REGION

11.15 Motivation  
in the Alps  
National Park of

11.35 Tools, planning and stakeholder involvement for the establishment of an ecological network  
Gesäuse National Park (A), Berchtesgaden National Park (D)

## 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY sep 28

Webs of Life in the Transboundary  
Pilot Region "Berchtesgaden-Salzburg".  
Promotion and Establishment of an  
Ecological Continuum in the Northern Alps

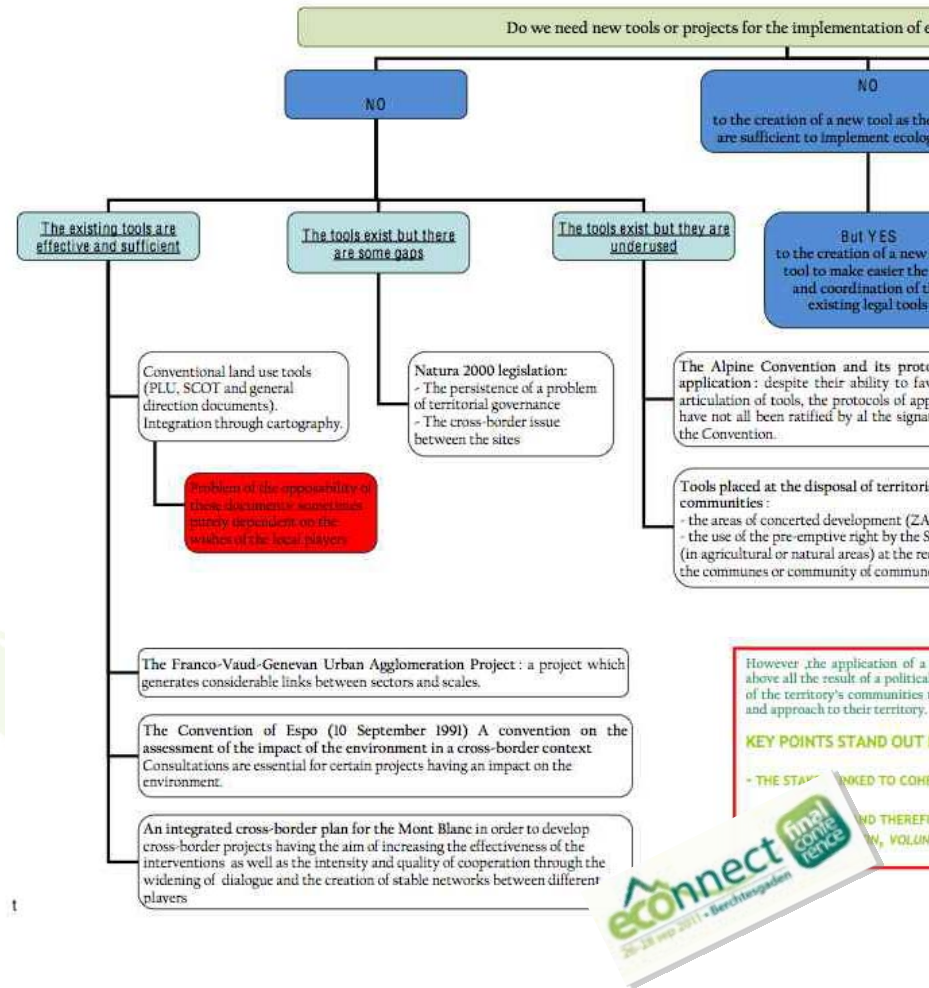
9.00 Start of the field-trip

12.30 Lunch break

15.00 End of the field-trip

# The Protection of Ecological Connectivity: Analysis of the Principal Legal Instruments.

## Comparisons between Swiss, French and Italian Jurisdictions.



However, the application of a tool above all the result of a political choice of the territory's communities and approach to their territory.

**KEY POINTS STAND OUT:**

- THE STATE LINKED TO COMMUNITIES AND THEREFORE TO VOLUNTARISMS





## 2<sup>ND</sup> DAY sep 27

### Key Results of ECONNECT

#### SESSION 2: OBSTACLES AND SOLUTIONS TO ALPINE CONNECTIVITY

-  **9.00** Introduction  
*C. Walzer, Lead Partner ECONNECT, FIWI Vienna (A)*
-  **9.10** Geographic data availability in the Alps: the case of ECONNECT  
*K. Renner, EURAC Bolzano (I)*
-  **9.30** Aquatic species as example for the modeling  
*A. Bou-Vinals, University of Innsbruck (A)*
-  **9.50** Developing a tool of the potential ecological connectivity in the Alps: the Joint Ecological Connectivity Analysis and Mapping Initiative (JECAMI) and the ECONNECT Geo-Portal  
*Swiss National Park (CH) & EURAC Bolzano (I)*
-  **10.25** Coffee break

#### SESSION 3: IMPLEMENTATION OF CONNECTIVITY IN THE PILOT REGIONS

-  **11.15** Motivation and challenges for an ecological network  
*in the Alps*

#### SESSION 4: THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF CONNECTIVITY

-  **14.50** The EGTC (European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation) as a tool to overcome legal barriers between protected areas  
*P. Angelini, Italian Ministry of the Environment (I)*

-  **15.20** Coffee break

#### SESSION 5: BEYOND ECONNECT

-  **15.50** Developing an European continuum: other projects on connectivity  
*Dipl. Ing. Anke Hahn, ETC Central Europe: Reflexions from the TransEcoNet Project*  
*Dr. Marie Vandewalle, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ: Report from the Biodiversity Knowledge Project*  
*Mr. Mircea Verghelet, Lead Partner from ETC SEE project BIOREGIO: Ecological connectivity in the Carpathian Mountains*
-  **17.20** Ecological networks and the Alpine Convention  
*M. Bruno, Stephan Walder and Mrs Christine Fehr, Federal office of the Environment - FOEN (CH)*  
*German and French Presidencies of the Platform Ecological Network of the Alpine Convention*  
*S. Reppe, German Ministry of the Environment (D)*  
*M.-O. Guth, French Ministry of the Environment (F)*
-  **17.55** Conclusion: next steps forward  
*C. Walzer, Lead Partner ECONNECT, FIWI Vienna (A)*

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30.11.2011

Final Documents

PR

Final booklet

Synopsis

Implementation GL





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UK IT DE ES FR

**Econnect:  
restoring  
the web  
of life.**

HOME ABOUT THE PROJECT PILOT REGIONS WORK PACKAGES PARTNERS & OBSERVERS NEWS & EVENTS DOWNLOAD AREA LINKS

The Alps are one of the best-known mountain ranges as well as being one of the richest in biodiversity, it is, however, also one of the most densely populated. The traditional tool used to conserve biodiversity and the natural environment has always been the creation of protected areas, however it has become increasingly obvious that a majorly important aspect in the conservation process is to connect protected areas to one another to allow the migration of species across the entire alpine range. Genetic flow across the whole alpine range is important particularly to help species to adapt to the environmental transformations brought about by Climate Change. To successfully protect biodiversity across the whole alpine range a coordinated and transnational approach is needed in accordance with the legal framework provided by the Alpine Convention.

The ECONNECT project aims at the enhancement of ecological connectivity across the Alpine range. The project involves International umbrella organisations linked to the Alpine Convention, scientific institutions and local implementation partners. All these entities have joined forces to demonstrate the need for connectivity across the Alps as well as exploring the best options for coordinated action and the development of innovative tools to promote ecological connectivity.

**News**  
19 July 2011  
*Econnect final conference*  
Now it's possible to register to the Econnect Final Conference

**jecami**  
Jecami

**final conference**  
Final Conference



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**Webs of life - Alpine biodiversity needs ecological connectivity**  
Results from the ECONNECT project

