

ECONNECT FINAL CONFERENCE

Berchtesgaden
September 26/27, 2011

The main findings of ECONNECT
- Policy recommendations -

How to overcome these barriers? - Two examples



Introduction

ECONNECT aims at the enhancement of ecological connectivity in the Alpine Space and has developed new methodologies for connectivity analysis, modeled and mapped connectivity, implemented measures in the field, and analysed legal aspects.

The project output aims at informing policy makers and decision makers at all levels, from local to regional to trans-national, about key conclusions of the project.

The vision of ECONNECT goes in line with international and European wide policy goals:

- Alpine Convention
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- European Union Habitats Directive - NATURA 2000 network
- EU 2020 biodiversity strategy
- ...



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 01 - Valorise ecological connectivity for Alpine society and economy

Biodiversity and ecosystem services provide important values to society and economy. Likewise, ecological connectivity represents an indispensable value for society and the economy, because it plays a central role in ecosystem functioning.

When the connectivity between habitats is lost, these habitats gradually degrade and biodiversity levels within them (and associated ecosystem services) decline.

Hence, ecological connectivity is a determining factor for the survival, migration and adaptation potential of all plant and animal species present in a given habitat and – by extension – a determining factor for the preservation of ecosystem services.



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.

Text

2. Abschnitt

Schadenersatzpflicht

Haftung für Jagd- und Wildschäden; Ersatz für getötete Haus- und Hoftiere

§ 91

(1) Soweit keine besonderen Vereinbarungen getroffen werden, ist jeder Jagdinhaber verpflichtet innerhalb seiner Jagdgebiete während der Jagdperiode bzw. seiner Jagdpacht an Grund und Boden, an den forstwirtschaftlichen Kulturen oder an deren noch nicht eingebrachten Erzeugnissen

a) bei Ausübung der Jagd von ihm selbst, von seinen Jagdgästen, Jagdschutzorganen und Treibern durch die Jagdhunde dieser Personen verursachten Schaden (Jagdschaden),

b) von Wild einschließlich dem aus Wildgehegen und Wintergattern ausgebrochenen, dort gehegt mit Ausnahme der Beutegreifer

verursachten Schaden (Wildschaden), soweit dieser nicht auf Grundstücken entstanden ist, auf denen die Jagd ruht, nach Maßgabe der Vorschriften dieses Gesetz zu ersetzen.

(2) Dem zum Ersatz von Jagd- und Wildschäden Verpflichteten steht es jedoch frei, wenn er Ersatz gegenüber dem unmittelbar Schuldtragenden im ordentlichen Rechtsweg Rückgriff zu nehmen.

(3) Schäden, die durch ganzjährig geschontes Wild verursacht werden, sind nach den folgenden Bestimmungen vom Land zu ersetzen. Im Verfahren tritt dabei die Landesregierung an die Stelle des Jagdinhabers.

(4) Wildschäden, die in der Umgebung von Sonderschutzgebieten im Nationalpark Hohe Tauern (Nationalpark) oder in dem durch die Errichtung des Nationalparks Hohe Tauern im Land Salzburg entstanden und durch Sonderschutzgebiet geltenden besonderen jagdlichen Bestimmungen verursacht worden sind, sind dem Nationalparkfonds zu ersetzen. Der Nationalparkfonds tritt dabei im Verfahren an die Stelle des Jagdinhabers.

(5) Für Schäden, die ganzjährig geschonte Beutegreifer oder Vögel durch das Töten von Haus- und Hoftieren oder Fischen verursachen, kann das Land als Träger von Privatrechten Ersatz leisten.

Text

1. Abschnitt

Nationalpark

Allgemeines

§ 1

(1) Dieses Gesetz wird in dem Bewußtsein erlassen, daß die Hohen Tauern einen besonders eindrucksvollen und formenreichen Teil der österreichischen Alpen darstellen, der in den bewirtschafteten Bereichen seit vielen Jahrhunderten durch Fleiß und Ausdauer der bergbäuerlichen Bevölkerung geprägt und gegen Naturgewalten behauptet worden ist. Hier steht die Erhaltung, Pflege und Gestaltung der naturnahen Kulturlandschaft gleichrangig neben dem Schutz der Naturlandschaft.

(2) Der Nationalpark Hohe Tauern umfaßt nach der Vereinbarung der Länder Kärnten, Salzburg und Tirol vom 21. Oktober 1971 über die Schaffung des Nationalparks Hohe Tauern die Hohen Tauern, die mit ihrem Wechsel von der Kulturlandschaft der Almen, Bergmäher und Wälder zur Naturlandschaft der Felsen, Gletscher, Gewässer und alpinen Pflanzenwelt in ihrer Schönheit und Ursprünglichkeit als Beispiel einer für Österreich repräsentativen Landschaft zum Wohle der Bevölkerung, zum Nutzen der Wissenschaft und zur Förderung der Wirtschaft für alle Zukunft zu erhalten sind. Er erstreckt sich hienach

im Land Kärnten:

auf Gebiete in der Glocknergruppe, der Schobergruppe, der Goldberggruppe und der Ankogelgruppe;

im Land Salzburg:

auf Gebiete in der Reichenspitzengruppe, der Venedigergruppe, der Granatspitzengruppe, der Glocknergruppe, der Goldberggruppe und der Ankogelgruppe;

im Land Tirol:

auf Gebiete in der Lasörlinggruppe, der Rieserfernergruppe, der Venedigergruppe, der Granatspitzengruppe, der Glocknergruppe und der Schobergruppe.

(3) Bis zur Schaffung des Nationalparks Hohe Tauern im Sinne der im Abs. 2 genannten Vereinbarung durch abgestimmte Regelungen der Länder Kärnten, Salzburg und Tirol wird für den im Land Salzburg gelegenen Teil des Nationalparks dieses Gesetz als Schutzvorschrift erlassen. Als "Nationalpark Hohe Tauern" oder kurz "Nationalpark" im Sinne dieses Gesetzes gilt im folgenden der im Land Salzburg gelegene Teil des Nationalparks Hohe Tauern.

(4) Mehrbelastungen, die auf Grund strukturbewahrender Auflagen nach diesem Gesetz entstehen, sind den betroffenen Grundeigentümern angemessen abzugelten.

RECOMMENDATION 02 - Establish a legal framework to realise ecological connectivity measures at various scales

Connectivity is an issue involving very different scales and multiple and diverse stakeholders.

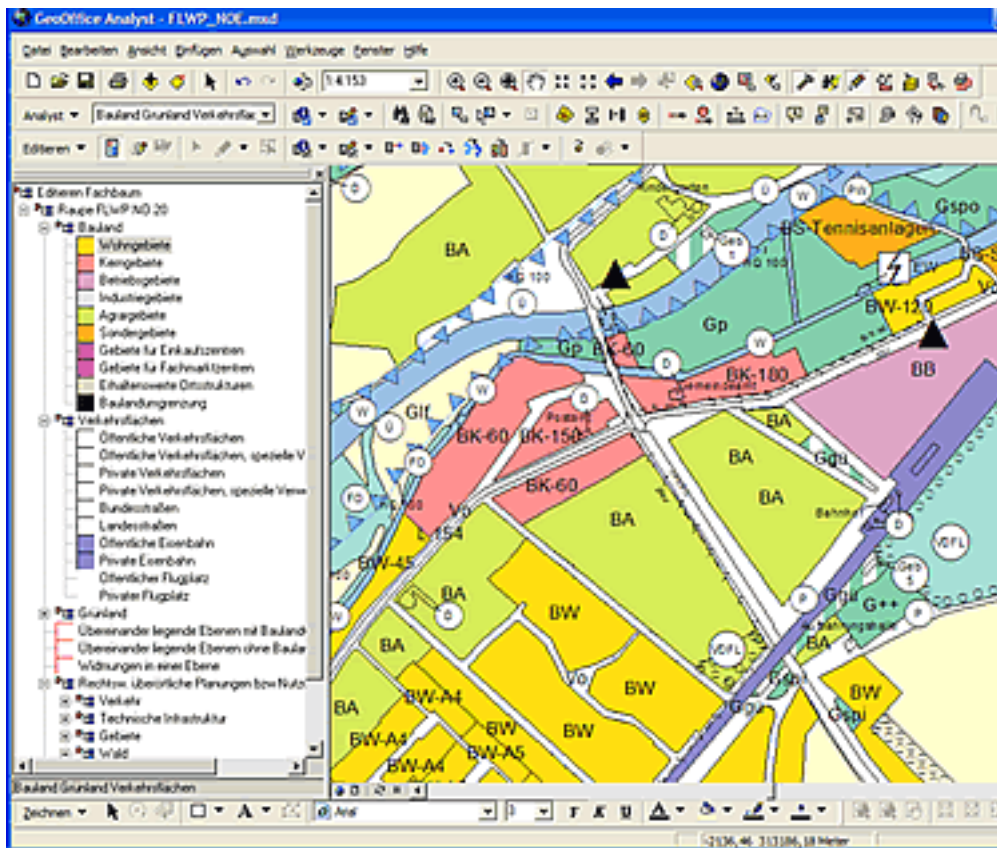
It became clear within the ECONNECT project that the respect of private landowners' rights is a key element for the conservation and improvement of connectivity.

It is impossible to realise a sustainable ecological continuum without the participation of private and public landowners and interest groups (the ECONNECT pilot region approach is based on such stakeholder involvement).

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.



Towards a green infrastructure for Europe
Integrating Natura 2000 sites into the wider countryside

Proceedings of the European Commission workshop
7th-26th March 2009 Brussels, Belgium

Ecosystems Ltd
Kerstin Sundseth & Aleksandra Sylwester

www.ecconnect-infrastructure.com/ecospace.org

RECOMMENDATION 03 - Integrate the concept of ecological connectivity into all spatial planning instruments at all scales (local to international) using an inter-disciplinary approach

The planning process must be integrated across all relevant sectors, including agriculture, tourism, industry, transport and environmental conservation.

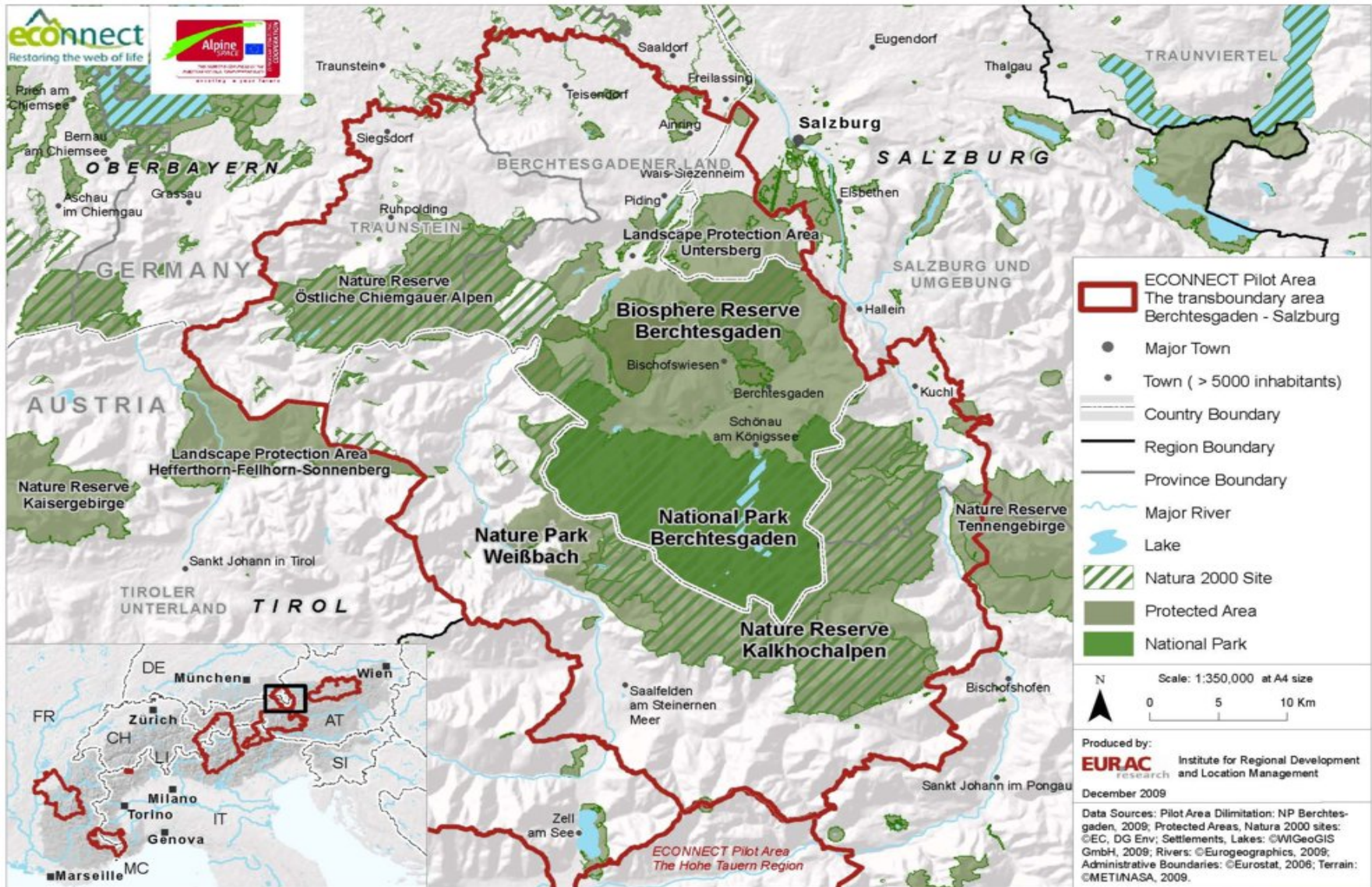
Ecological connectivity must be included in the spatial planning instruments of the local, regional and national management and governance authorities.

Successful integration of ecological connectivity into spatial planning must consider varied social, cultural, legislative, economic and ecological demands, while assigning sufficient resources and capacities for biodiversity conservation and the maintenance of ecosystem functions.

RECOMMENDATION 04

Enable protected area managers to play an active role in the local and regional ecological network by supporting and promoting the process and involving relevant stakeholders ...

... to ensure the spatial and functional integration of the protected area into its surroundings.



RECOMMENDATION 04 - Enable protected area managers to play an active role in the local and regional ecological network by supporting and promoting the process and involving relevant stakeholders

Park borders are generally too constrained to allow for fully functional ecosystems at a scale large enough to conserve biodiversity.

Indeed, the Alpine parks and nature reserves alone are too small to protect Alpine biodiversity, especially in times of climate change where increased migration of fauna and flora is essential for the survival of whole groups of species.

This migration needs horizontal and vertical interconnected habitats with as little fragmentation as possible.

RECOMMENDATION 05

Make data which has been collected with public funds openly available through a joint data management system at a European (Alpine-wide) scale ...

... in order to reduce time and money spent for data acquisition and management.

RECOMMENDATION 05 - Make data which has been collected with public funds openly available through a joint data management system at a European (Alpine-wide) scale

ECONNECT has clearly shown that necessary and important data sets are widely dispersed among diverse institutions and that access is generally difficult, prohibitively expensive or impossible.

In the various regions and countries of the Alpine Arc data is often acquired and stored in different formats and with divergent spatial attributes.

Lack of common standards and metadata add to this unsatisfactory situation. This constitutes an impediment to the reuse and comparability of public sector information, which is essential for planning cross-border ecological networks well and efficiently.



DIRECTIVES

DIRECTIVE 2007/2/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 14 March 2007

establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 175(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee ⁽¹⁾,

After consulting the Committee of the Regions,

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty, in the light of the joint text approved by the Conciliation Committee on 17 January 2007 ⁽²⁾,

Whereas:

(1) Community policy on the environment must aim at a high level of protection taking into account the diversity of situations in the various regions of the Community. Moreover, information, including spatial information, is needed for the formulation and implementation of this policy and other Community policies, which must integrate environmental protection requirements in accordance with Article 6 of the Treaty. In order to bring about such

integration, it is necessary to establish a measure of coordination between the users and providers of the information so that information and knowledge from different sectors can be combined.

- (2) The Sixth Environment Action Programme adopted by Decision No 1600/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 2002 ⁽³⁾ requires full consideration to be given to ensuring that the Community's environmental policy-making is undertaken in an integrated way, taking into account regional and local differences. A number of problems exist regarding the availability, quality, organisation, accessibility and sharing of spatial information needed in order to achieve the objectives set out in that programme.
- (3) The problems regarding the availability, quality, organisation, accessibility and sharing of spatial information are common to a large number of policy and information themes and are experienced across the various levels of public authority. Solving these problems requires measures that address exchange, sharing, access and use of interoperable spatial data and spatial data services across the various levels of public authority and across different sectors. An infrastructure for spatial information in the Community should therefore be established.
- (4) The Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (Inspire) should assist policy-making in relation to policies and activities that may have a direct or indirect impact on the environment.
- (5) Inspire should be based on the infrastructures for spatial information that are created by the Member States and that are made compatible with common implementing rules and are supplemented with measures at Community level. These measures should ensure that the infrastructure for

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 221, 8.9.2005, p. 33.

⁽²⁾ Opinion of the European Parliament of 7 June 2005 (OJ C 124 F



Thank you very much
for your attention