

AlpWeek

Alps in our hands

23.09.2024 - 25.09.2024

Nova Gorica, Slovenia

Alpski Teden

Alpe v naših rokah

Semaine Alpine

Alpes entre nos mains

Settimana Alpina

Alpi nelle nostre mani

AlpenWoche

Alpen in unseren Händen

Serena Arduino

**Indeed in our hands.
Optimistic reflections on biodiversity
governance**

Biodiversity governance

Give visibility to governance
(invisible, mentioned only by a few)

Acknowledge governance: it
channels efforts in the right
direction, avoids frustration after
awareness has been raised, allows
no excuses for inaction

*Few facts, several opinions –
optimism vs. pessimism*

Natural resource governance refers to the norms, institutions and processes that determine how power and responsibilities over natural resources are exercised, how decisions are taken, and how citizens – women, men, indigenous peoples and local communities – participate in and benefit from the management of natural resources. (Natural Resource Governance Framework IUCN)

Natural resource governance can range from developing natural resource-based policies at the regional and national level to community-based natural resource management advancing IPLC rights and gender equality.

(IUCN)

Progress in biodiversity governance in the Alps

(1994 – 1st ForumAlpinum)

2001 - 1st panAlpine workshop to create a biodiversity vision for the Alps (WWF, ALPARC, CIPRA, ISCAR)

2004 – Biodiversity vision presented at 1st AlpWeek

Several projects on Protected Areas and corridors since then

Several maps, for the Alps and beyond. General maps further taken up and more detailed ones produced (relation with LIFE SNAP NatConnect2030)

Agreed pilot areas

Several Thematic Working Bodies, incl. Alpine Biodiversity Board

Alpine Convention declarations

Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention ,with resolutions on biodiversity

Biodiversity and ecosystems 1 of 3 pillars of the AC Multi-Annual Work Progr.

Biodiversity officer at PSAC

EUSALP, AC-EUSALP cooperation; EUSALP AG7 and AG6

AlpsLife – valuing the existing; all Alpine countries involved

Much more cooperation across boundaries

Biodiversity Policy Brief, Biodiversity Action Plan

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Failures

AC objectives far from achieved

AC not a success in legal terms

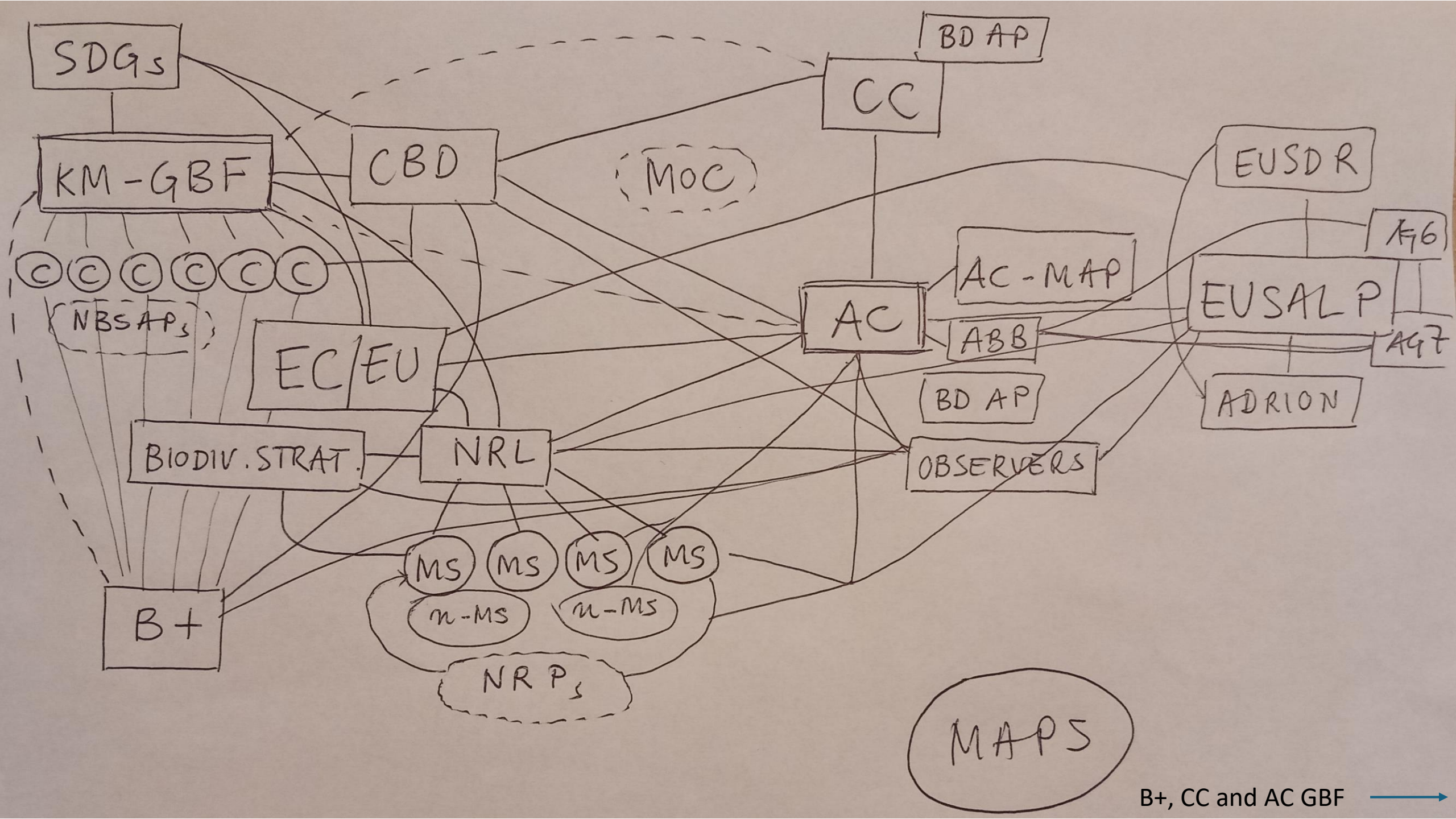
Correct procedures, but low impact

Advice

Define priorities at different territorial scales, with overall coherence

Connection to nature, to then make the right decisions

There has to be more attention to biodiversity in local politics



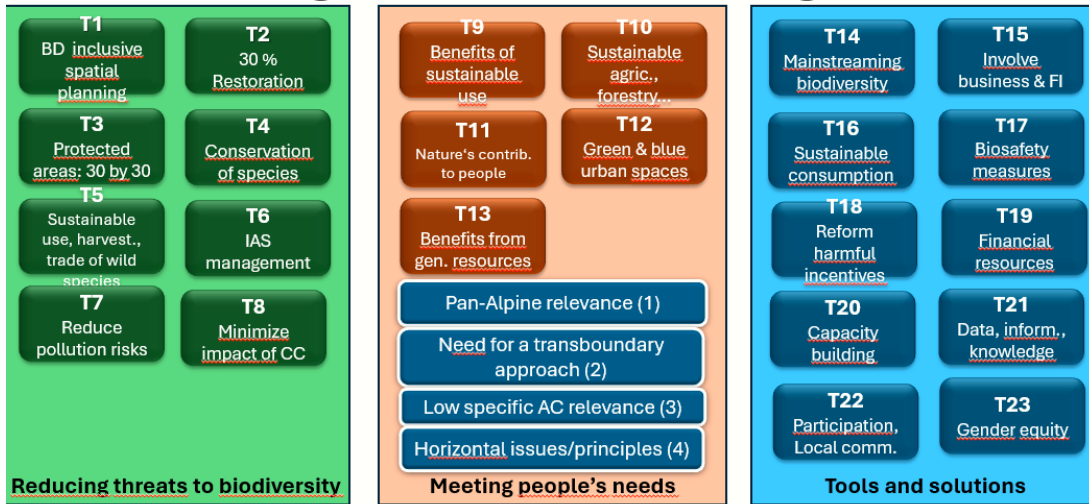
Alpine framework to implement the GBF

Kind permission by P. Skoberne

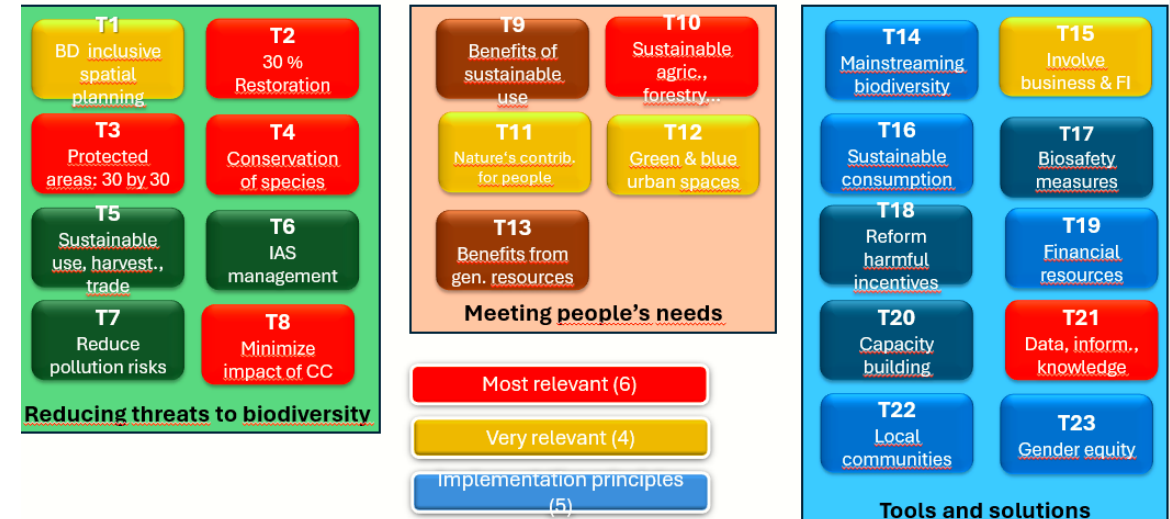
(adapted)



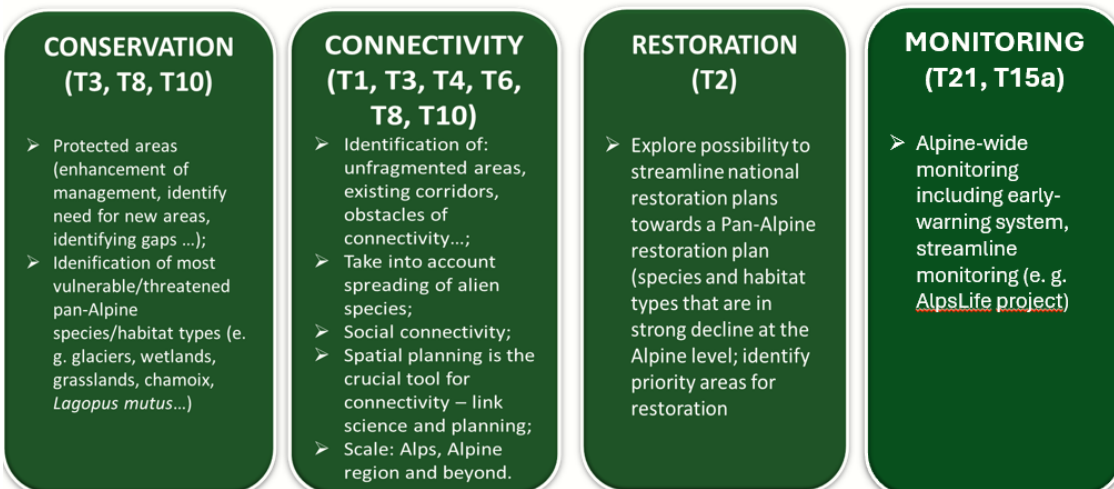
Kunming-Montreal Goals & Targets



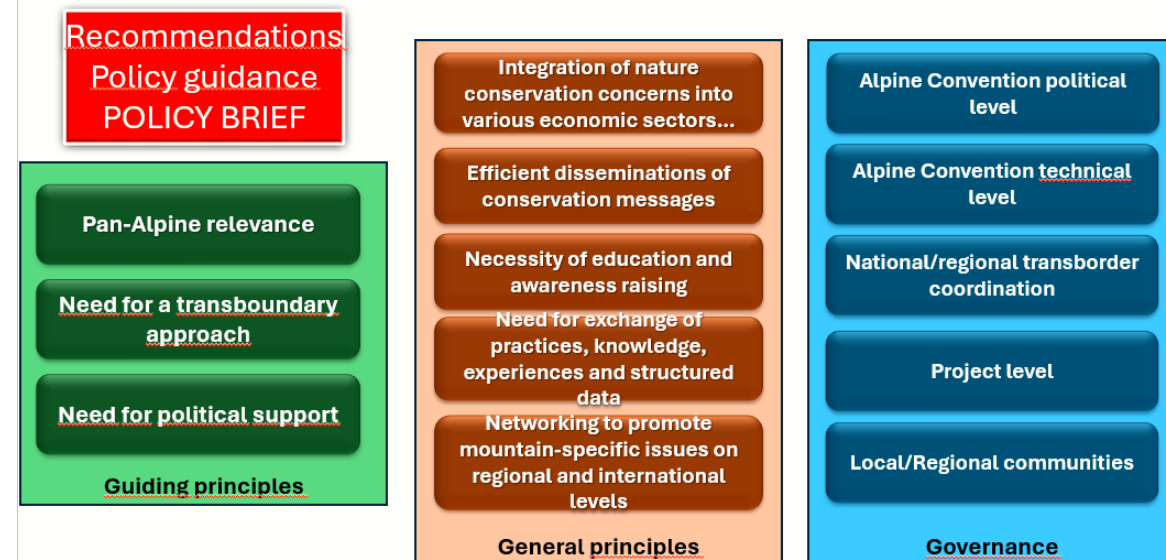
Results of scanning



Working areas (4 thematic clusters)



Implementation



No second guessing.

Implement surely, following the indicated path.

There is a need for critical mass to actually achieve ambitious goals.

In a post-truth, post-fact, opinion-driven-vs-knowledge-driven society, never before was it seen: a NRL and a GBF pushing for science-based, measurable targets, and ways to measure.

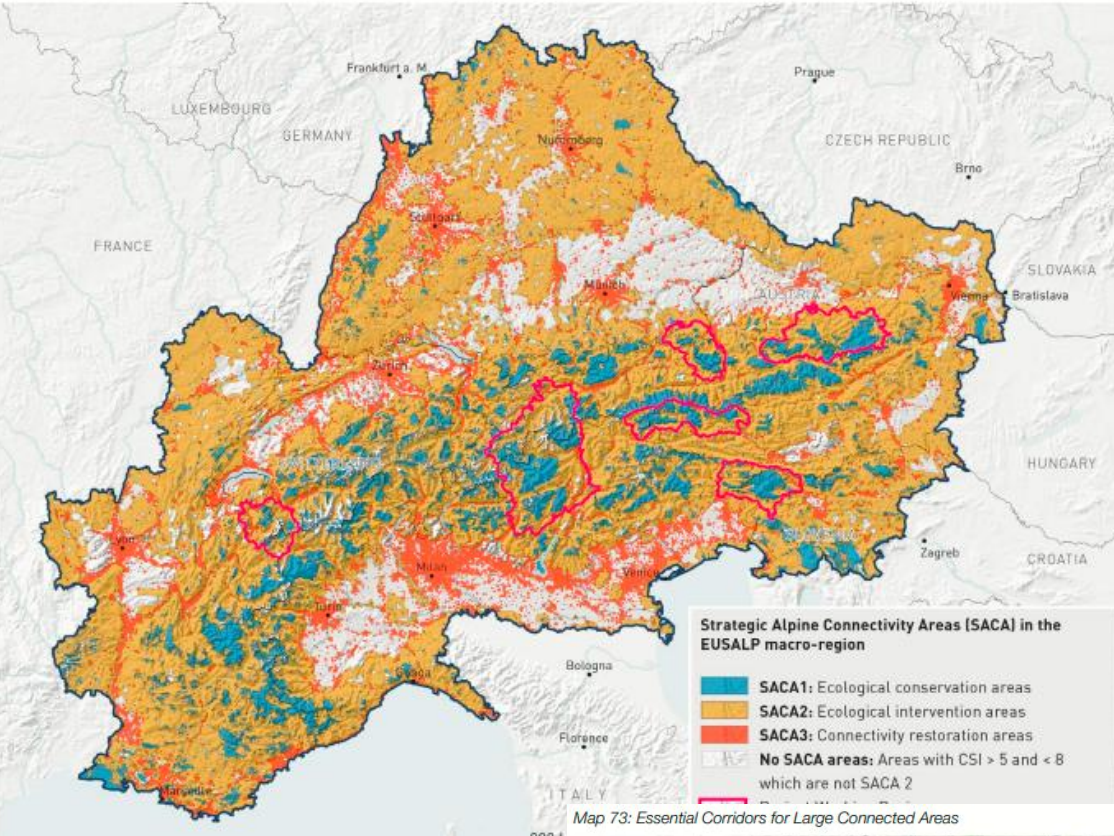
It is happening at global and European and regional level. Not always at national. Experts are there and listened to, reports are out and listened to.

GBF calls... and others respond

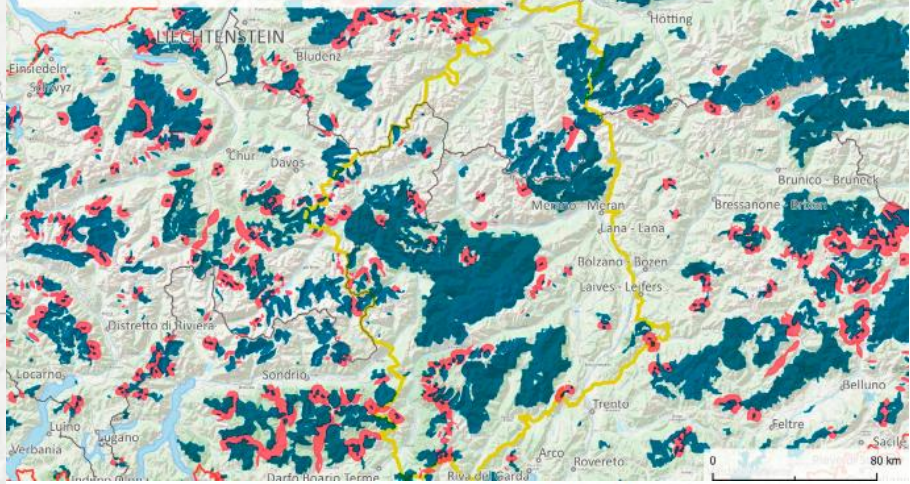
And we know where to do what



Map 44: Strategic Alpine Connectivity Areas



Raethian triangle region - ecological corridor network
«Corridors» between Ecological conservation areas (SACA 1) in the PWR Raethian triangle region - ecological corridor



«If I had jurisdiction over some land, I would look at where that land falls in the maps»

Role of spatial planning

Maps from Alpine Parks 2030

- All protected areas
- Distribution of large carnivores
- Barriers and connectivity for LCs (barriers and potential actions to restore connectivity)
- Strategic Alpine Connectivity Areas (SACAs): 1 (conservation), 2 (intervention), 3 (restoration)
- Priority conservation areas
- Non fragmented areas / open spaces
- Spatial development/infrastructures (buffered)
- Effectiveness of PA system and options to reach the protection targets (ecologically favourable areas)
- Climate refugia of high-elevation birds
- Biodiversity value
- ...

Map 73: Essential Corridors for Large Connected Areas

Essential corridors for large connected areas

«Buffered corridors» connecting SACA 1 to «connected areas» larger than 3 000 km²

- «Connected areas» larger than 3 000 km²
- Buffered corridors
- EUSALP perimeter
- Alpine Convention
- National border
- Hydrographic network

alparc

Buffers of ~300 m were built around the calculated «corridors» in order to connect them with the existing SACA 1. Buffers were only used if the corresponding area was categorized as SACA 2.

Sources: Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention for the Alpine Convention perimeter; EuroGeographics EuroGlobalMap opendata (Original product is freely available) for rivers, lakes, built-up areas and localities; EuroGeographics for the administrative boundaries; Astors; SNP; Basemap; ESRI, March 2023.



Ecological network in the Alps

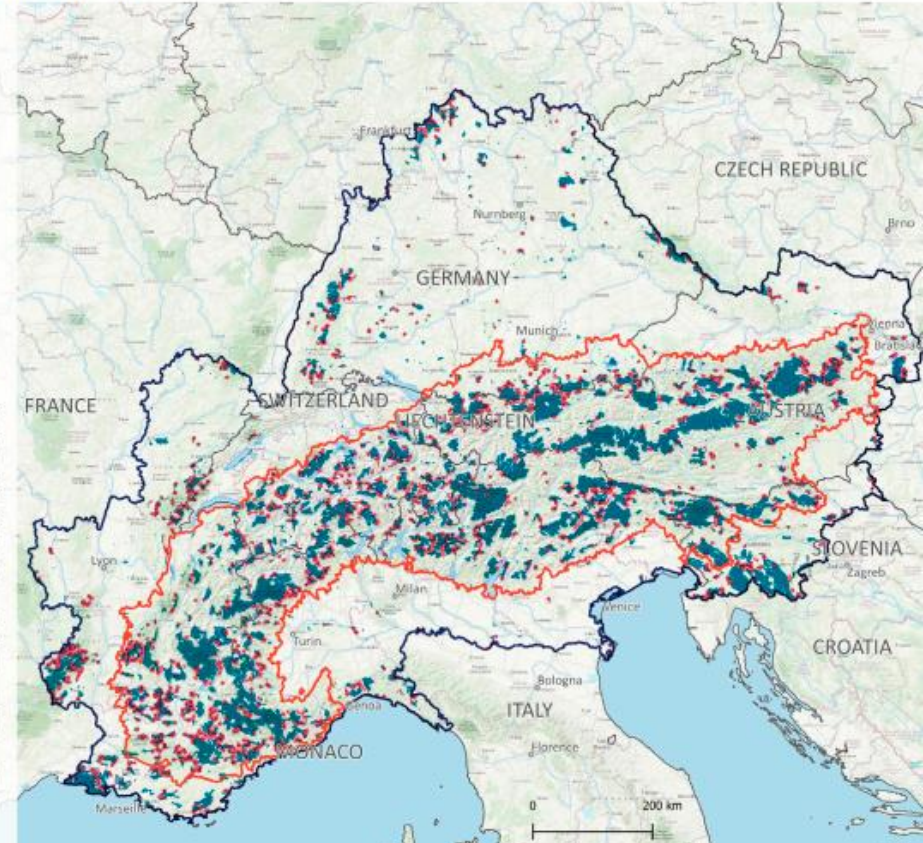
Potential «corridors» for ecological connectivity between Ecological conservation areas (SACA 1)

- SACA 1 - Ecological conservation areas
- Potential «corridors»
- EUSALP perimeter
- Alpine Convention
- National border
- Hydrographic network

alparc

Planation: Buffers were calculated around SACA 1. The resulting intersections between the buffers were only considered «corridors» if the corresponding area was categorized as SACA 2. Further information on the calculation of «corridors» can be found in the annex.

Sources: Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention for the Alpine Convention perimeter; EuroGeographics EuroGlobalMap opendata (Original product is freely available) for rivers, lakes, built-up areas and localities; EuroGeographics for the administrative boundaries; Astors; SNP; Basemap; ESRI, March 2023.



If spatial planning is done properly and with participation, then we can act now without (much) additional work on the biodiversity framework nor on tools.

We have enough results. We can take concrete decisions and actions now, without further studies, guidelines etc.

Time is of the essence. Time needs to be used wisely.

Change is not a problem because nature adapts. This biodiversity governance allows for decisions that let nature make the changes it needs

Why biodiversity governance is good enough



Why the current biodiversity governance is *good* governance

- Reflects nature: interconnected, continuum
- We have good frameworks and they dialogue with one another. At Alpine level, AC/EUSALP allow for supra-nationality. We have the mindset and the bodies for cooperation and we are trained to work together
- We have measurable targets, *meaningful* indicators, in some cases indexes, long data series
- We have medium- and long-term objectives: looking beyond political mandates
- Critical challenges are now. We have the tools to address them (energy, restoration, climate resilience, overtourism). Biodiversity decisions are related to spatial planning. Current (spatial planning) maps indicate the direction
- We have enough results to shape policies, to take concrete decisions and actions now, without further studies, guidelines etc.

No, not just anybody could do it.

It takes vision.

It takes courage.

In our hands

The governance framework is good, it is **implementation** to be weak. Current *corpus* of governance elements is sufficient – we can move to implementation.

The right person at the right place at the right time can make the difference. Good governance and **scrupulous officers advance the biodiversity agenda.**

Good governance framework including good spatial planning compensate for participation fatigue. There has to be **space for participation**, but **participation is no obligation**. Duty bearers vs. right holders.

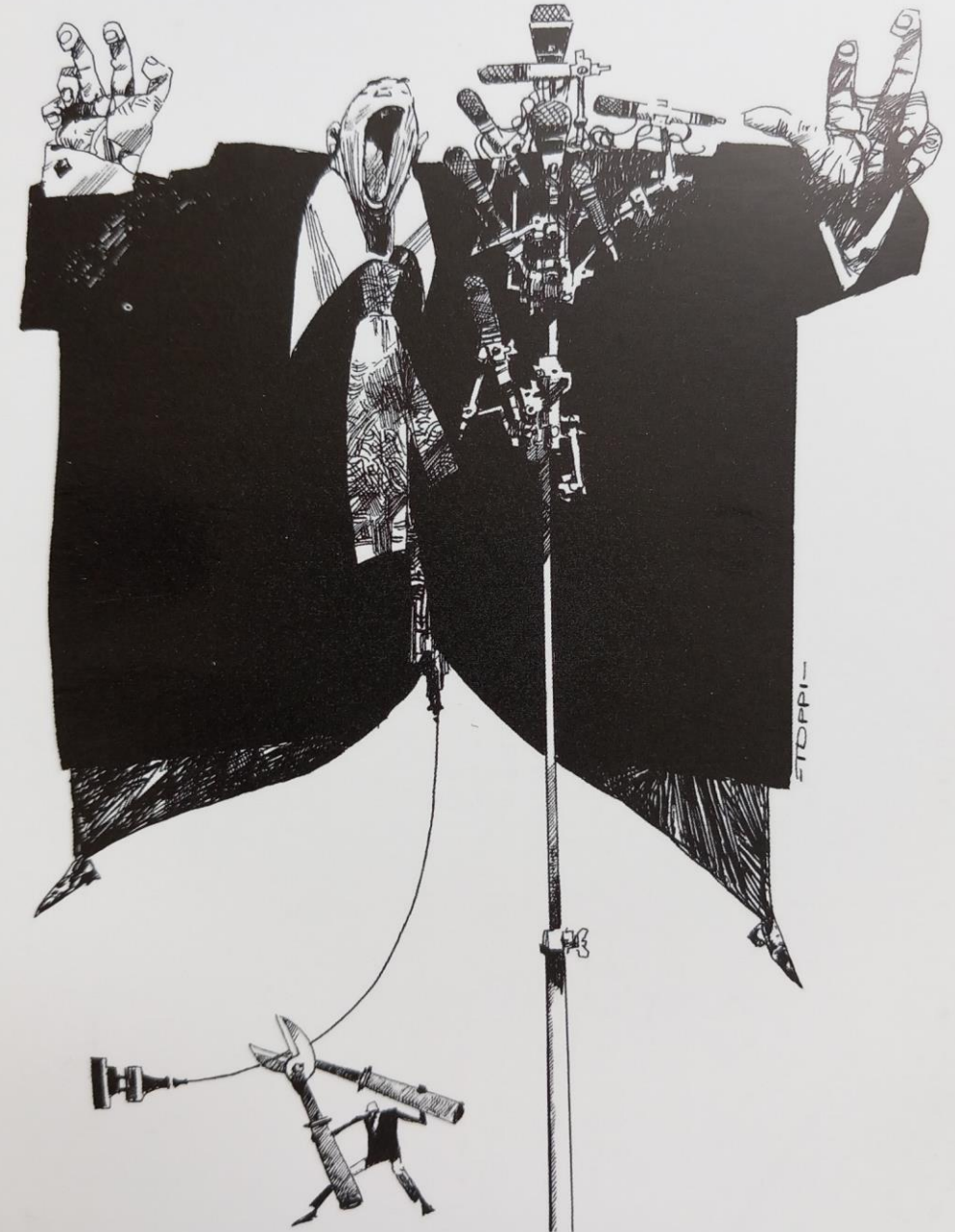
Solid governance framework supports **courageous political decisions**. Long-term targets have to be met by politicians even if outside their **mandate period**.

There is an unprecedented need for action and opportunity for **convergence**. Our actions can converge towards the same targets and build a critical mass of efforts. Convergence increases impact. GBF brings all these initiatives to a common landmark.

And we can show our contribution



Kind permission by Aldina Toppi



The Alps contribute and can **show their contribution**. The Alpine community is in a position to facilitate, gather info and communicate it. Alps in the global context

Low-hanging fruit: **National restoration plans are to be ready at the same time**, cooperation EU and non-EU countries. Favourable governance comes at the right time: we are ready and capable to work and exchange across boundaries

Interesting creative evolution in biodiversity governance: *technical facilitators, Nature on the Board*

It will work because it is good, but we need to take advantage of it, to use it.

We reached very high standards in biodiversity governance. Let's not lower the standards and the ambitions in the implementation.