



Connecting habitats, people, ideas

LIFE TIB

"Trans Insubria Bionet - Connection and improvement of habitat along the ecological corridor between the Alps and the Ticino Valley"

Claudio Celada, LIPU-BrdLife Italy



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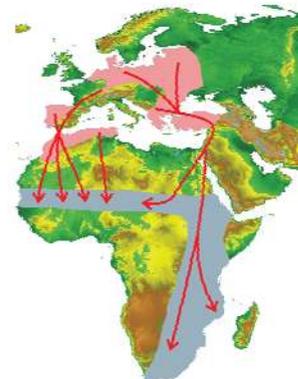
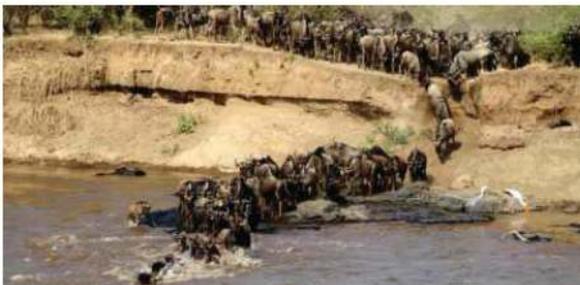


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Born to move

Every day, millions of creatures are born into a life on the march, on the wing, on the run.



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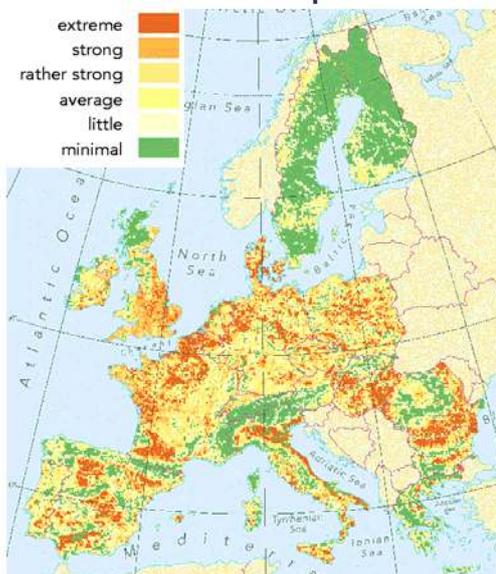
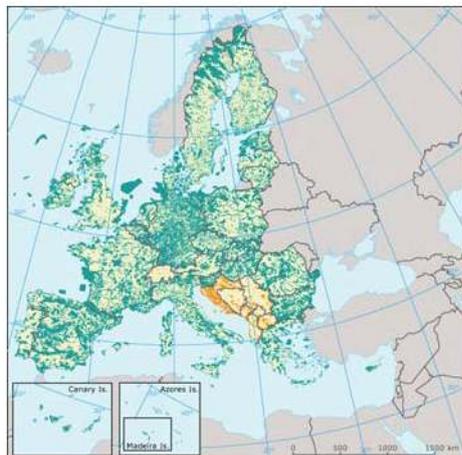


Connectivity vs Fragmentation

Natura 2000 Network

VS

Habitat fragmentation in Europe



From: EEA - www.eea.europa.eu

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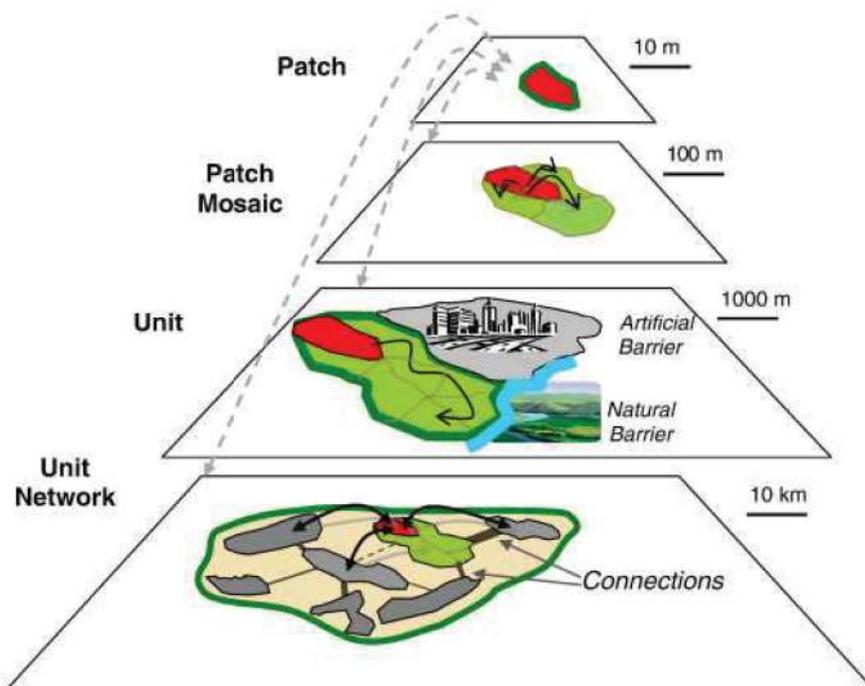
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The scale issue

Multi scale approach



From: Scolozzi e Geneletti, 2012

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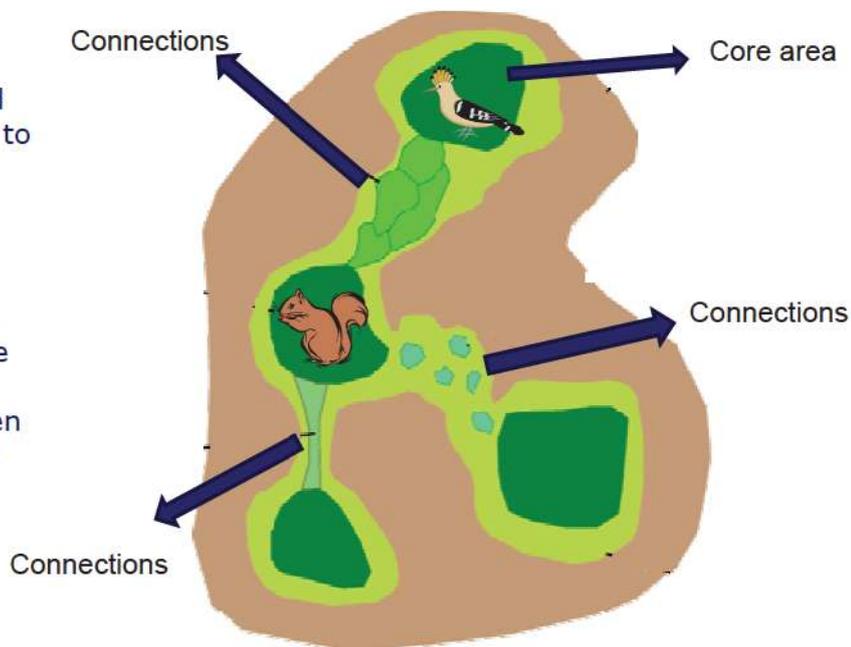
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The ecological network

- Establish interconnectivity between natural and semi-natural values to counteract physical fragmentation
- Provides the possibility for free movement of wildlife in an otherwise fragmented and often hostile environment



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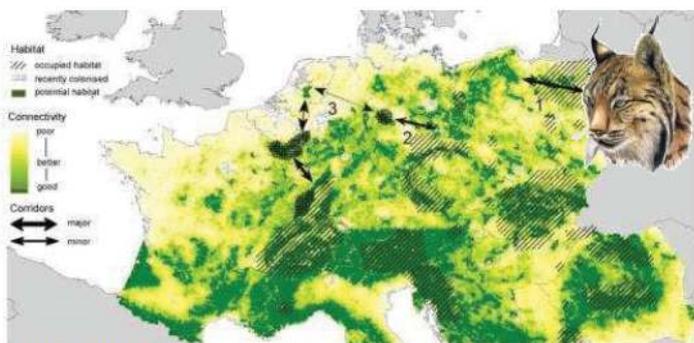
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What kind of network?

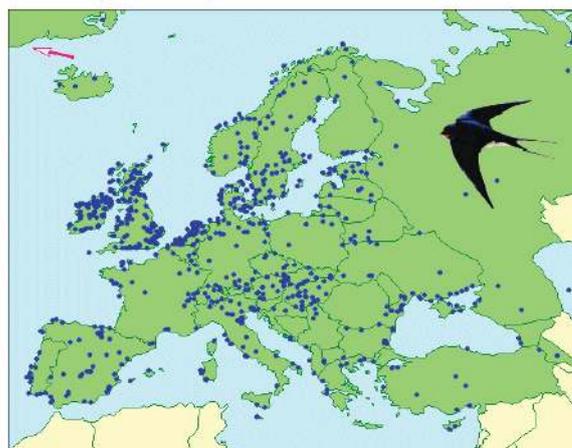
- The importance of definition of target species



Groot-Bruinderink in: Van der Sluis et al, 2004

Physical connection:

Es. Linx linx



Ramsar site

Functional connection

Es. Stop over site in wetlands for Migratory birds

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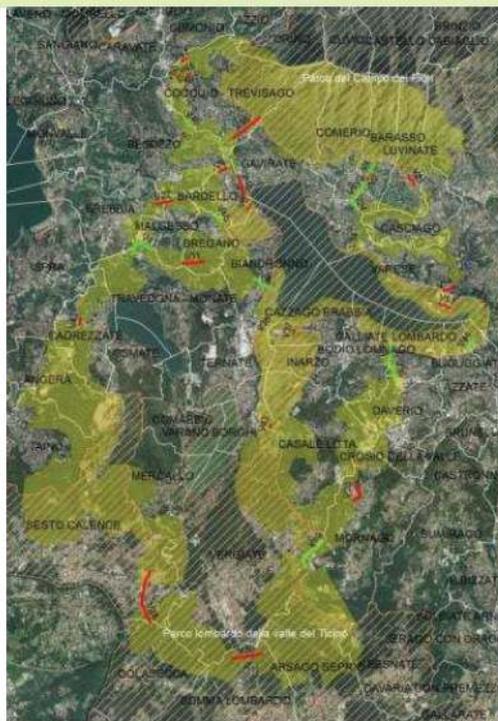
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What kind of network?

- Example from LIFE TIB project: medium and small size mammals, amphibians, birds



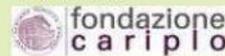
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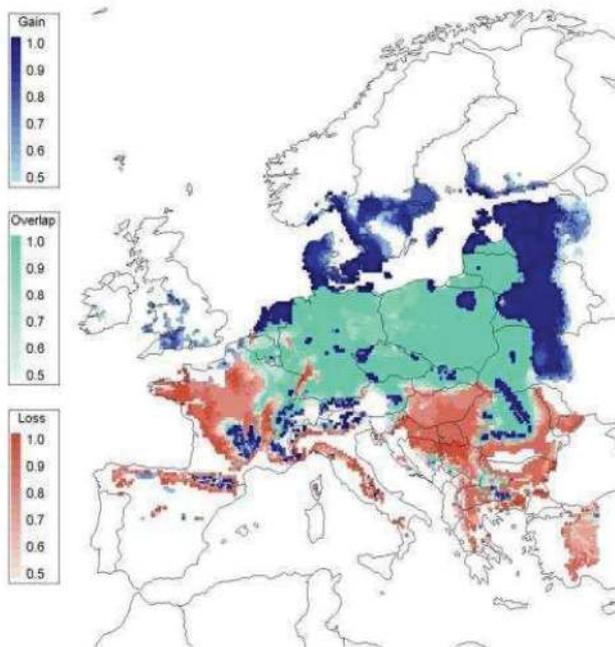


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climate change is causing a shift in range for many species

Projected Change in Simulated Climate Space



- Prediction of shifting climate zones



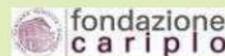
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Ecological networks and climate change

Possible corridors towards mountain habitats

Legend

EU Bos Corridor Typen

- Hoofd-corridor
- Potentiële-hoofd-corridor
- Zijtak-corridor

Mega Bos Bolwerken

- EU_Bolwerk
- EU_Corridor
- Corine 2000/2006 Bos + Pelcom



(van Eupen et al, 2009)

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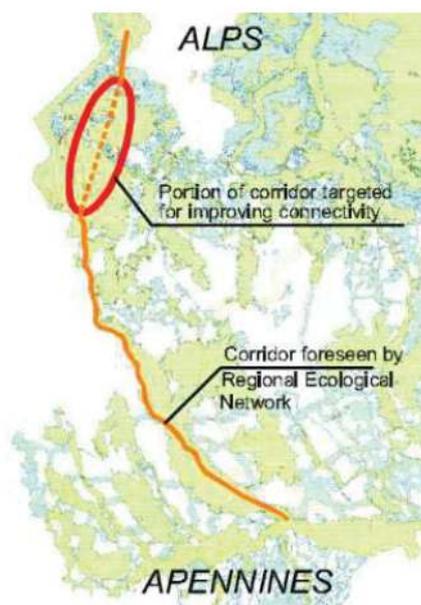
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The LIFE TIB Project



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The pre-LIFE stage: assessing needs and feasibility of a LIFE project

BACKGROUND NEEDED to:

- Define the project area
- Define the target species
- Identify the critical areas of work
- Identify the legislative and planning instruments available



TIB results from a number of previous projects carried out by the Province of Varese, Cariplo Foundation and LIPU since 2008



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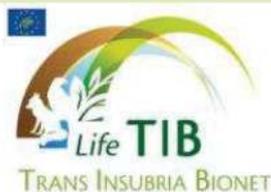
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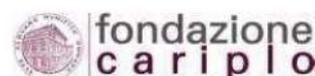
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LIFE TIB: Partner



- **Provincia di Varese**
Coordinating beneficiary
- **Regione Lombardia**
Associated beneficiary
- **LIPU Onlus**
Associated beneficiary
- **Fondazione Cariplo**
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The LIFE TIB Project

Project objectives:

- *Improving the functionality of core areas*
- *Preserving the functionality of corridors*
- *Re-establishing the connectivity in critical areas*
- *Harmonising Natura 2000 connectivity and land use planning*
- *Involving local communities*



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Project objectives

- **Reducing biodiversity loss caused by habitat fragmentation, degradation, and destruction.**
- Re-establishing the **latitudinal connectivity** between the Alpine and Continental bioregions for target species with different degrees of mobility.
- Improving the functionality of **critical passages** identified along the ecological corridor.
- Improving, whenever appropriate, the **conservation status** of Natura 2000 sites.
- Integrating the needs of generic **land use planning** with the needs to preserve biodiversity and maintaining coherence with the Natura 2000 network.
- Fighting the spread of **invasive exotic species** through strategic environmental enhancement interventions.
- Encouraging a culture that acknowledges the **intrinsic value of natural capital and the ecosystem services** nature provides to the reference community.

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Actions

- **Activities to help animals cross man-made barriers (defragmentation) (target species: animals with medium and high vagility):** Creation of Underpasses for amphibians and small/medium animals, interventions to improve animal passage in waterways
- **Actions to improve environmental quality (target species: animals with low vagility):** small wetlands and dry stone walls, planting new *Salix alba* trees to be managed by pollarding, increase tree necromass in woodland, in order to increase suitable sites for saproxylic fauna
- **Actions to fight the spread of invasive exotic species:** Experimentation with various techniques to remove invasive exotic water plants in the project area, such as *Nelumbo nucifera* and *Ludwigia grandiflora*
- **Awareness-raising actions and actions aiming to strengthen the integration between land use planning and biodiversity protection needs**

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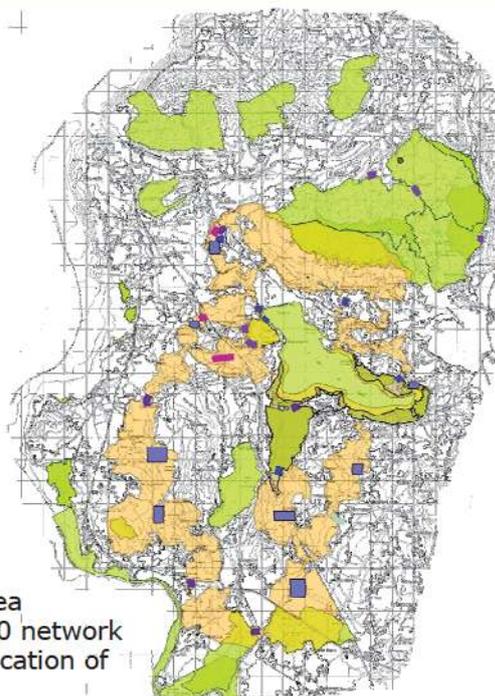


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Actions:

- A. Authorizations and mapping
- C. Defragmentation actions
- D. Communication plan
- E. Monitoring and project management



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Actions: improve environmental quality of sites and corridors

- **C.2** – creation of small wetlands (n. 8)



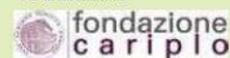
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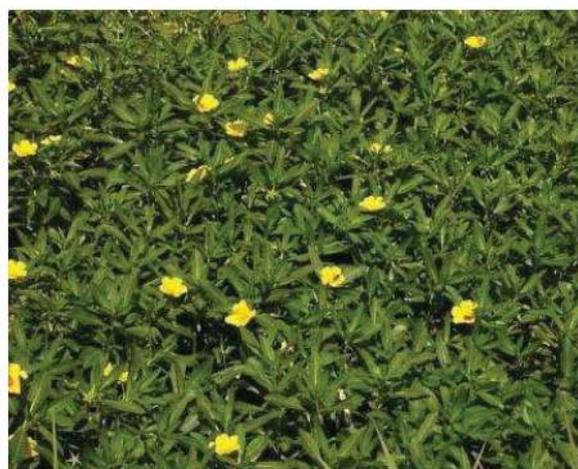


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Actions: fight the spread of invasive species

- **C.4** – experimentation with different techniques for the removal of the invasive plant *Nelumbo nucifera* and *Ludwigia grandiflora*



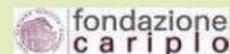
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Actions: improve environmental quality

- **C.6** - increase tree necromass
- **C.7** - creation of 150 log pyramids

} Bosco Fontana



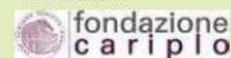
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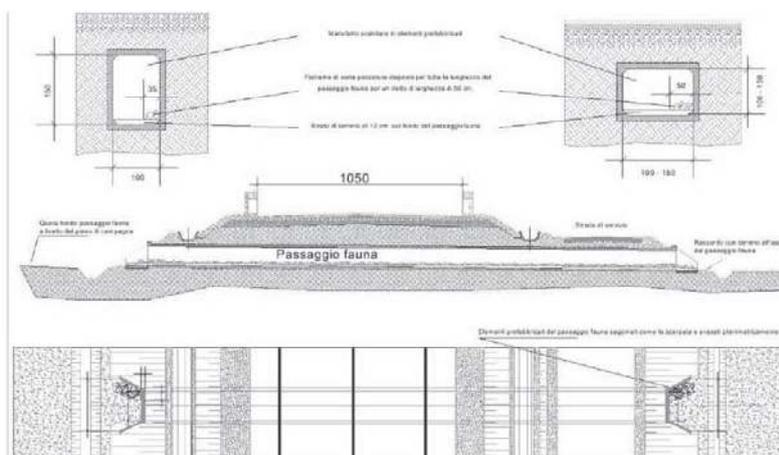


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Actions: Defragmentation

- **C.9** - underpasses for small/medium-sized animals using pipe-jacking techniques
- **C.10** - underpasses for small/medium-sized animals using cut-and-cover techniques



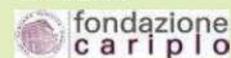
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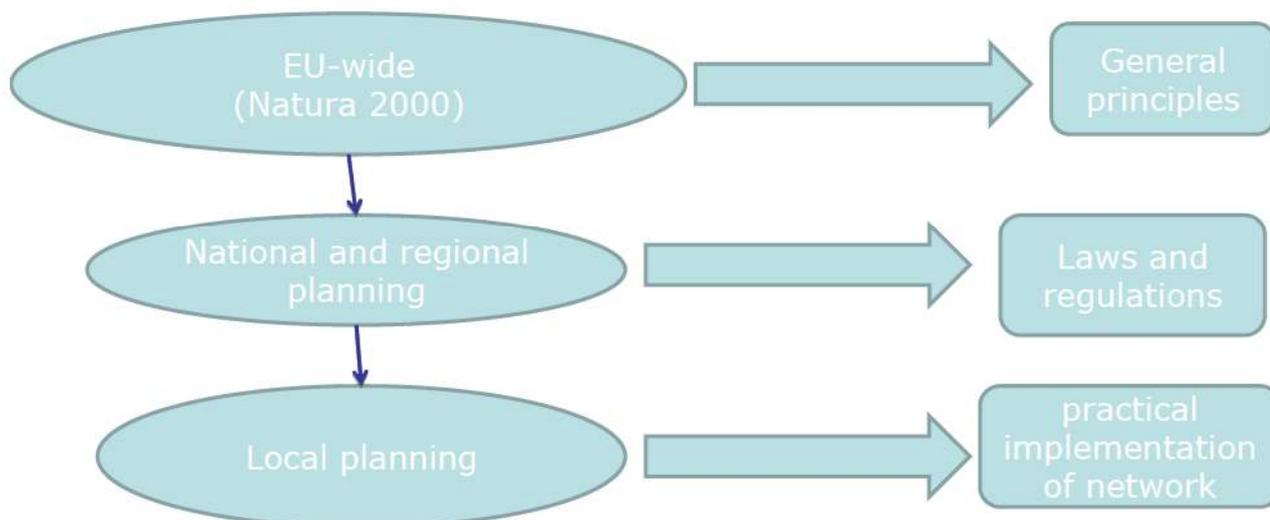


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Natura 2000 and land-use planning



Different species react at a different spatial scale

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The governance challenge

The network agreement

A voluntary instrument for the protection of the network

Objectives :

- Inform stakeholders on the concepts of ecological connection and the Natura 2000 network
- Describe the project and its aims
- Communicate the importance of local planning in the protection of biodiversity
- Discuss the crucial importance of a sound planning
- Define an agreement on the protection of corridors



Contents:

- Commitment to protect the ecological network (sites and corridors)

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A network of experiences

- Fragmentation of knowledge



- Importance of dissemination of experiences



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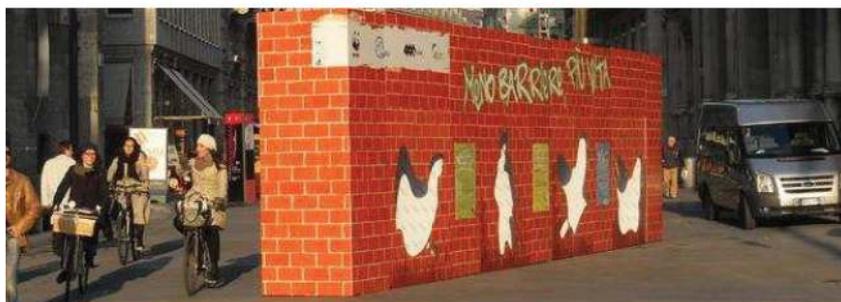
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A network of knowledge

- Involve all stakeholders
- Identify appropriate and effective methods of communication to different types of stakeholders



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Foundations and NGOs: working together for biodiversity and people

- Gap in funding for biodiversity (global, EU, national).
- Public-Private Partnership is not only about money.
- Need to act simultaneously at different levels and different spatial scales. Can the foundations help with the successful implementations of the big EU and national policies?
- Selecting priorities.
- Honest feedback from NGOs from the beginning of the funding process is important to improve the effectiveness of funding allocation.
- Improve capacity of NGOs will help deliver better results
- Start-up Vs. long-term commitment in biodiversity.
- The importance of communication and involvement of people

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Thank you for your attention

Visit www.lifetib.it

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