



connecting mountains people nature

Stakeholder Workshop

Triglav National Park, 26th May 2014

Ecosystem Services and ecological connectivity: a new challenge for the Park, new opportunities for transboundary cooperation



**Site visit, transboundary projects,
survey analysis, new ideas**



***Filippo Favilli
Serena Frittoli
Isidoro de Bortoli***

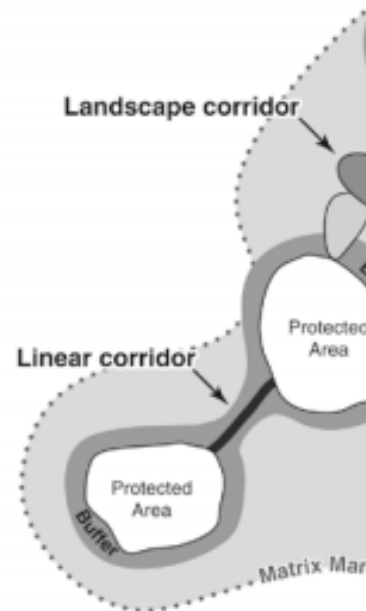
EURAC Research, Bolzano, Italy



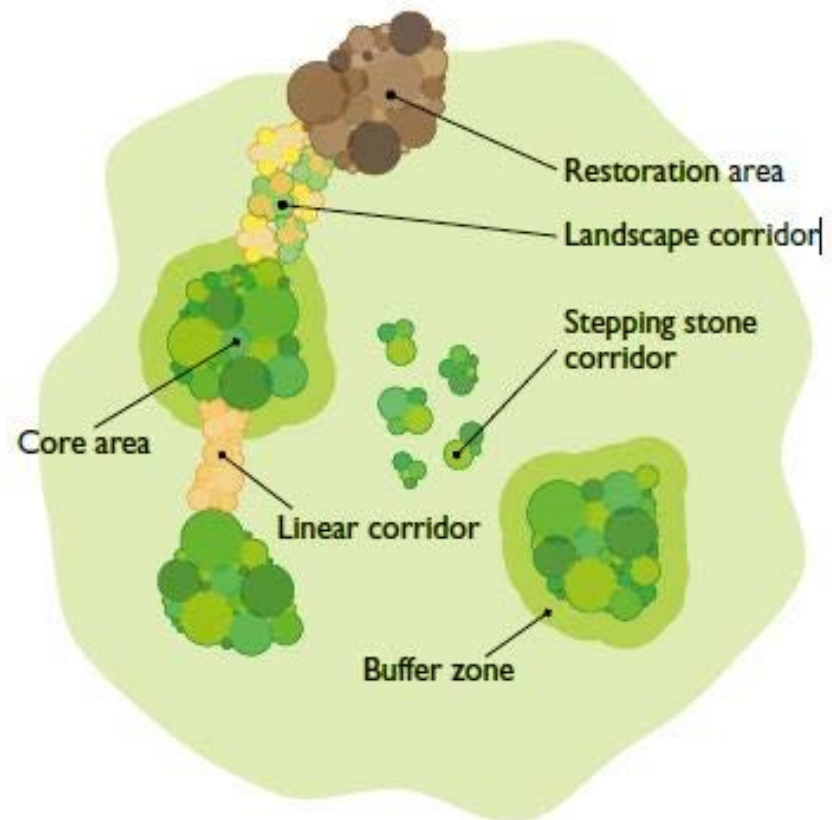
- Definition of **Ecological Connectivity** and **Ecosystem Services**
- Cooperation between Triglav NP and Prealpi Giulie RP
- **Overview of the Site visit** in Triglav
 1. Organization
 2. Funding
 3. Main Projects
 4. Regional development & stakeholder
 5. Ecosystem Services
 6. Renewable energy potential
 7. Questionnaire for experts and stakeholder – results, considerations & questions
 8. Needs of the pilot area
 9. The Biosphere
 10. Some questions
- **Engagement, evaluation and conclusions:** proposals for improvement

Ecological Connectivity:

Figure 7.2 Model of an ecological network with protected areas, buffer areas and different types of ecological corridors between protected areas. Source: Mackey *et al.* 2010, adapted from Bennett 2004



The components of ecological networks



individuals between patches. This takes into account the fact that individuals born at different sites, their and mortality of

Ecosystem Services:

	Description	Possible indicators
Provision of forest- and agricultural production	Products obtained directly from ecosystems such as agricultural products, forest products and aquaculture products. If relevant, could also include extractable products (e.g. mushrooms, natural medicines, peat, ...)	Agricultural and forestry production based on inventories and/or statistics
Provision of fresh- or potable water	Provided fresh- or potable water including water filter function of soils	Water runoff, water statistics, landcover map, soil map (if available)
Carbon sequestration in vegetation and soil	Amount of carbon sequestered by the ecosystem for regulating the global atmospheric composition	Vegetation map, land cover map, soil map (if available) in combination with statistical values regarding land cover changes
Air quality regulation	Mediation of toxics and other nuisances in the air (e.g. dust) by the ecosystem (this category could also include micro climate regulation and/or abatement of noise pollution)	Land cover map, forest type map, leave area index, air pollutant measurement station data (?)
Protection against natural hazards	Mediation/Buffering of flows (mass, liquid, gaseous) for avoiding extreme events (such as floods, soil erosions, landslides, avalanches, storms, rock falls, ...)	Geological map (if available), risk zone plans, slope derived from digital elevation model, Land cover, natural hazard statistics
Ecological habitat quality	This can be regarded as the overall habitat quality for wild plant and animal species and is necessary for the function of ecosystem services mentioned above. Habitat quality is (mutually) dependent on nutrient cycling, seed dispersal and pollination. Also, the long term ecosystem stability (=resilience) and resistance against pests affecting human health and forest- or agricultural production are an expression of high ecological habitat quality.	biodiversity (?) & indicator species, degree of anthropogenic influence (?), land fragmentation
Aesthetical value	Viewing experience of the natural world (through different media), landscapes as source of inspiration or cultural values and the "sense of place" in general associated with recognized environmental features	number of uploaded photos in google earth (which are georeferenced) (?); photo search on location names in google (?)
Recreational value	Value for recreationg (such as walking, hiking, skiing, climbing, boating, leisure fishing and leisure hunting), possibility for relaxation and silence in general	accommodation numbers, earnings by tourism, total length of hike trails and bicycle ways (?), number of fishing & hunting permissions (?), accessibility of (local) recreation areas
Intrinsic value	Value of ensuring the particular character of an ecosystem for future generations	number of endangered, protected or rare species / habitats???

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) gives the comprehensive definition of a **transboundary protected area (TBPA)** as:

an area of land and/or sea that **straddles one or more borders** between states, sub-national units such as provinces and regions, autonomous areas and/or areas **beyond the limit of national sovereignty** or jurisdiction, whose constituent parts are **especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity**, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and **managed cooperatively through legal or other effective means**.

What are its aims?

helping to overcome boundaries, improving management of Europe's natural and cultural heritage, enhancing opportunities to promote sustainable development and the economic well-being of local communities, as well as reducing political tensions and promoting peace.

Cooperation between two protected areas in the Julian Alps – the Triglav National Park and the Prealpi Giulie Nature Park – grew from an idea and enthusiasm of several individuals who welcomed the challenge and opportunity they saw in the cooperation of both parks. The collaboration started out on a human, cultural level (Martin Solar – EUROPARK 2010 workshop)

Milestones in the development of the cooperation

- 1996 – unofficial start of cooperation based on personal interest of “key players”
- 2004 – Slovenia joins European union
- 2007 – application for transboundary certification
- 2009 – Europarc transboundary certificate

Both parks are members of EUROPARC Federation and both parks are part of ALPINE PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK.

Natural park Prealpi Giulie and Triglav national park are first transboundary parks with Europarc certification among protected areas in the Alps!

Fields of cooperation

- **Administration and management** – project application, common international designation and certification
- **Conservation** – habitats, biodiversity, ecological monitoring
- **Education and Communication** – environmental education, junior ranger programme, common information materials, common media presentations
- **Recreation and tourism** – visitor management, tourism development, monitoring
→ application for the European Charter of Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas ??
- **Society and Economy** – local culture, sustainable economic activities, traditional handicrafts

- The only National Park in Slovenia (4% of the State's territory) - More than 2.5 million of visitors per year.
- The annual programs of work and the TNP Management Plan (which is to be adopted in 2014) of the public body concerned are approved by the Slovenian Government.
- Local communities and the park's board are directly linked and both involved in the park's management
- Transboundary activities with Prealpi Giulie
- Educational activities and actions for tourism to improve the relation with local communities

Basic funding : provided by the State

Self-financing:

- Development of a TNP quality brand
- Transformation of old mines in touristic attractions (mine tunnel Cave del Predil – Log pod Mangrtom)
- Commercial activities
- Support from local population

- **PHARE project (late 90's)**

Mainly based on rangers training and the education of farmers to start environmental programs.

- **LIFE 2001-2003 – first one for the NP**

The project was based on the creation of information trails close to peat bogs

- **Interreg IT-SL with Regional Park Prealpi Giulie**

3 interreg cross borders with Prealpi Giulie

- **ERA** - Ecoregional cooperation on sustainable agricult and tourism – connection of tourism
- **PALPIS** - Management of Natura 2000 sites
- **Climaparks** (Triglav was LP)

ERA

Eco Region Interreg programme

- Topic and aims: tourism and interpretation, common programmes in tourism, encourage transboundary cooperation, reducing language barriers, photo competition and exhibition, issue of joint publications



PALPIS

PALPIS - cross-border cooperation and cross-border management plans for conservation important areas in the southern Julian Alps (Interreg IIIA Slovenia-Italy)

- Establishing a management plan for the cross-border areas important for nature conservation.
- Topic and aims: Management planning for Natura 2000 sites, broaden stakeholders involvement and raising public awareness for Natura 2000



Climaparks

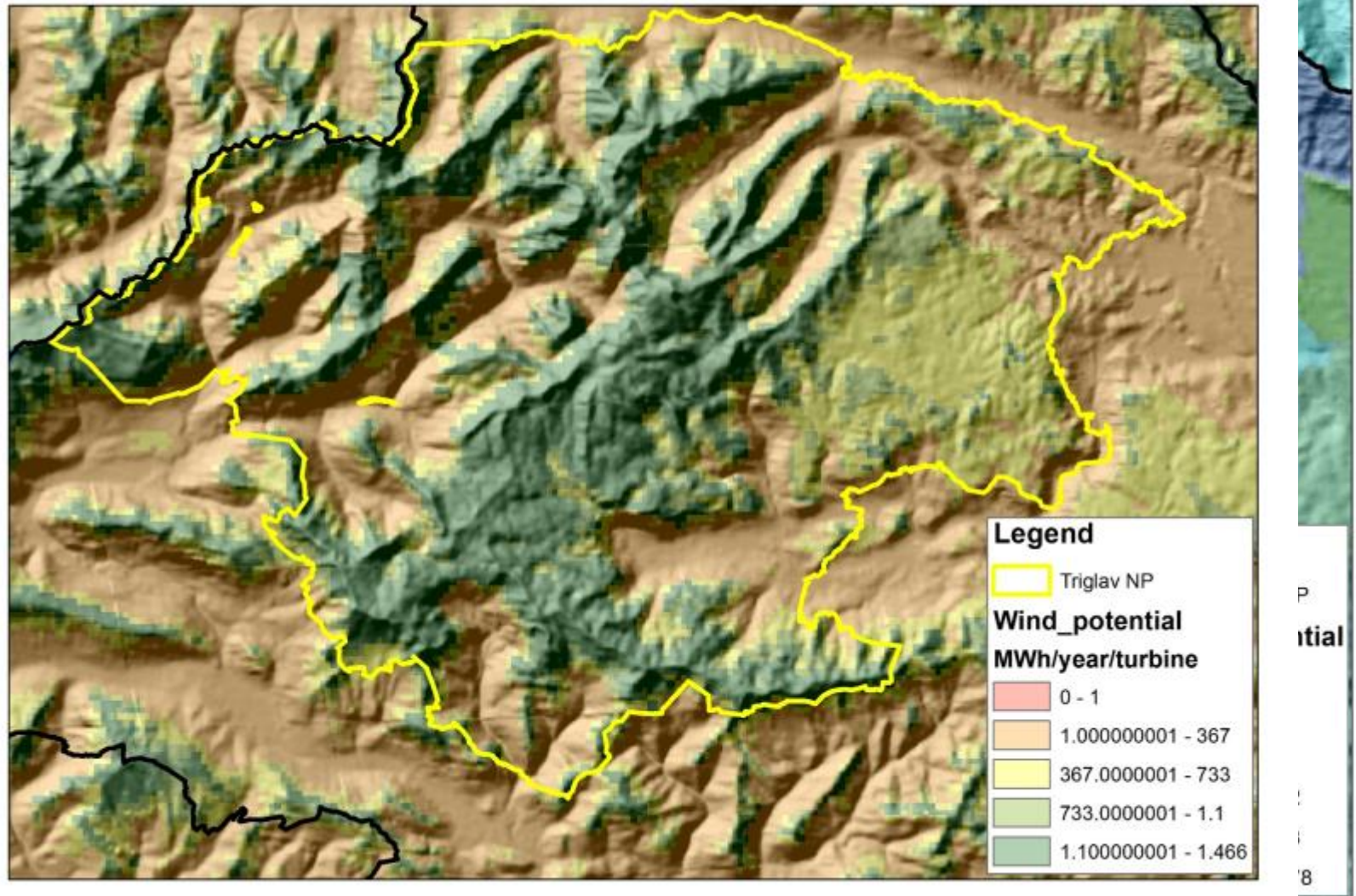
- Research and raising public awareness of climate change, conservation of biodiversity, and sustainable attitude towards the environment in these protected areas and on a global scale.



There is a **great involvement** of local people in the park's offices and this promotes the protection of the environment and the collaboration among the local communities.

Local people, in the majority of the cases, **recognize the value of the park**, the **assistance provided** by the government through it and its role in the protection of the Ecosystem Services

- **Provisioning**/ producing (raw material, fresh water)
- **Regulating** (habitat and gene pool protection, soil formation and composition, water retention, natural hazard retention, nutrient regulation),
- **Supporting** (habitats for species, habitats for genetic diversity)
- **Cultural** (spiritual/symbolic, intrinsic value)
- The park promotes the **ecological connectivity** through local actions for connectivity and its active involvement in the Platform for Ecological Connectivity of the Alpine Convention
-



MAIN RESULTS

- Questionnaires have involved experts from different areas of work, the majority coming from the Academic world, Local Government and from the protected area administration
- **Lack of knowledge** about the concept of “**Ecological Connectivity**”
- Does not exist a deep knowledge of **Ecosystem Services (ESS)**
- All the ESS are considered very important, primarily the **Habitat for flora and fauna** and the **Recreation Value**.
- **EU policies and strategies**, concerning biodiversity and ecological connectivity, **are not consistently implemented** by different Countries

- **Lobbies of industries**, tourist operators, etc., slow down the application of the legal instruments.
- The majority of replies (50% c.a.) state that to **all ESS** should be assigned a **market value**.
- **Key stakeholder** at National level: Ministries, Politicians, Experts on the topic.
- **Key stakeholder** at local level: private land owners, Provincial Governor, energy operators, farmer associations and the local spatial planning authority.
- Interviewed persons are **rarely in contact** with Ministries, National Associations (Farmers/Hunters) and National Tourism Associations.
- Economic operators are **out of conservation projects**.
- Connectivity is still seen at a **too large scale**. In fact, other sectorial objectives override nature conservation objectives

1. Change the mentality “the park has to do something for the people” with a **bilateral cooperation** park \leftrightarrow people
2. **GIS platform** for exchanging data
3. **Payment for ESS** and new strategies for self-financing
4. Conflicts between national management forest plans and the TNP Act (TNP protection zone 2 should gradually reach the same protection standards as prescribed in for the protection zone 1)
5. Creation of a **consortium of small forest owners** to sell wood
6. **Compensation systems** for wildlife conflicts
7. **New programs between the two sides of the park** – absence of exchange during winter
8. **High prices** of houses inside of the park \rightarrow limits the development of local communities

Challenge	Possible Solution
Increase cooperation with local communities	
GIS platform	
Self-financing	
ESS payment	
Creation of consortium for small land owners	
Enhance cooperation among the 2 sides of the park	
Wildlife Damages/compensation	

Triglav National Park + surrounding region. 25 settlements with some 2000 inhabitants. The transition area comes under three main municipalities (Kobarid, Bled, Bohinj) and has 33,700 permanent inhabitants.



- Role: **reconcile the protection** of biodiversity **with sustainable uses** (agriculture, forestry, dairy farming, fishing, water management, cheese production, tourism).
- The development role is **implemented with local communities, associations and clubs: new jobs** for local inhabitants, **organic farming**, sustainable forms of **tourism**, production and processing of **typical foods and crafts**, establishing **local associations** to carry out programmes in forestry, wood processing, transport, tourism, special crafts and organic farming.
- Management through an **agreement** between the authorities of Triglav National Park and the surrounding municipalities.

1. What do you know about **Ecological Connectivity**? Have you ever been involved in concrete actions for connectivity?
2. Which **Ecosystem Service (ESS)** do you consider most important in Triglav?
3. What do you think about the “*payment-for-ESS*”?
4. Which were/are the **benefits** coming from the UNESCO Biosphere since 2003?
5. Are you familiar with the presence of **renewable energies** anywhere near?
6. How would you evaluate the **relation** park-local communities-stakeholders?
7. Do you know what an **EGTC** is? Is there a **legal framework** regulating the “Europarc cooperation”? If yes, do you know it?
8. What do you think the **park can do** for local communities & stakeholders to enhance transboundary cooperation?
9. What **can local communities & stakeholders do** for the park to enhance transboundary cooperation?

Reg. (CE) n. 1082/2006 / «EGTC»: *coming changes.*

- ❖ *One of the most significant improvements in the draft report refers to the authorisation process of an EGTC, which **will be tacitly approved after a limited time of six months given to national competent authorities for examination.** This change brings legal certainty for applicants, who have frequently been facing serious disruptions and unjustified delays in the procedure. A Joint Declaration of the Parliament, the Council and the Commission, which will be added after end of discussions, is calling on the Member States to ensure a clear, efficient and transparent authorization of new EGTCs within the time limit.*
- ❖ *In addition, the new regulation will clearly distinguish between the statutes and the convention. Only the latter (and not the statutes) will be subject to formal approval, reducing administrative burden for members by facilitating and fast-tracking the authorisation process. There will be transitional dispositions for the EGTCs in process of approval in between the adoption of the new Regulation.*
- ❖ ***The EGTCs will be open to all public undertakings providing public services** (Economic Services of General Interest) including those who are ruled by private law. The respective amendments were accepted by the Council and will facilitate and incentivize territorial cooperation in areas as public transport, energy or water supply as well as health, education and vocational training.*
- ❖ ***A clear, precise and more comprehensive definition for the participation of third countries was proposed and agreed.** Third countries neighbouring the EU will be able to become members of EGTCs, including neighbours of outermost regions and overseas territories, irrespective of whether partners from one or more Member States are involved (1-1 EGTCs).*
- ❖ *Coordinated efforts for awareness rising among the institutions, the Member States and the regions with regard to the potentials that the EGTCs present as tools for territorial cooperation will be undertaken, in order to improve the visibility of the various possibilities of an EGTC.*

Filippo Favilli

Serena Frittoli

Isidoro De Bortoli

EURAC Research

Institute for Regional Development and Location Management

filippo.favilli@eurac.edu

serena.frittoli@eurac.edu

isidoro.debortoli@eurac.edu



info@greenalps-project.eu

www.greenalps-project.eu

