



Posoški razvojni center

AG7



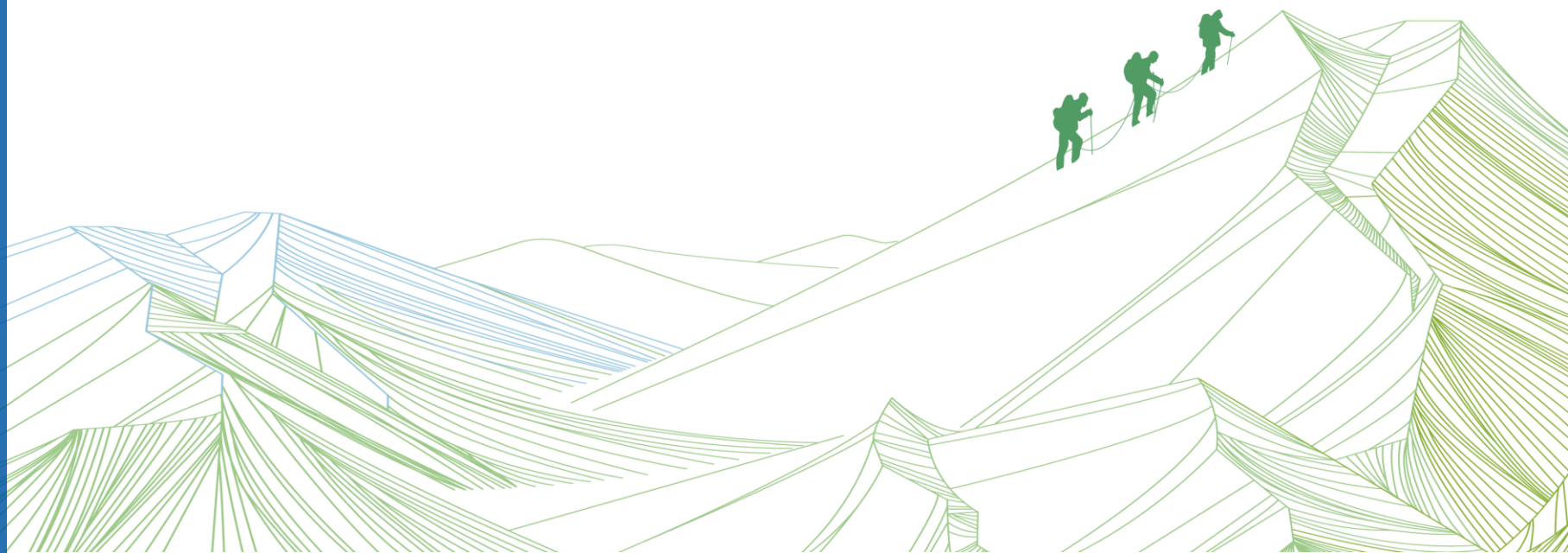
26. november 24
Miro Kristan

Interreg
Alpine Space



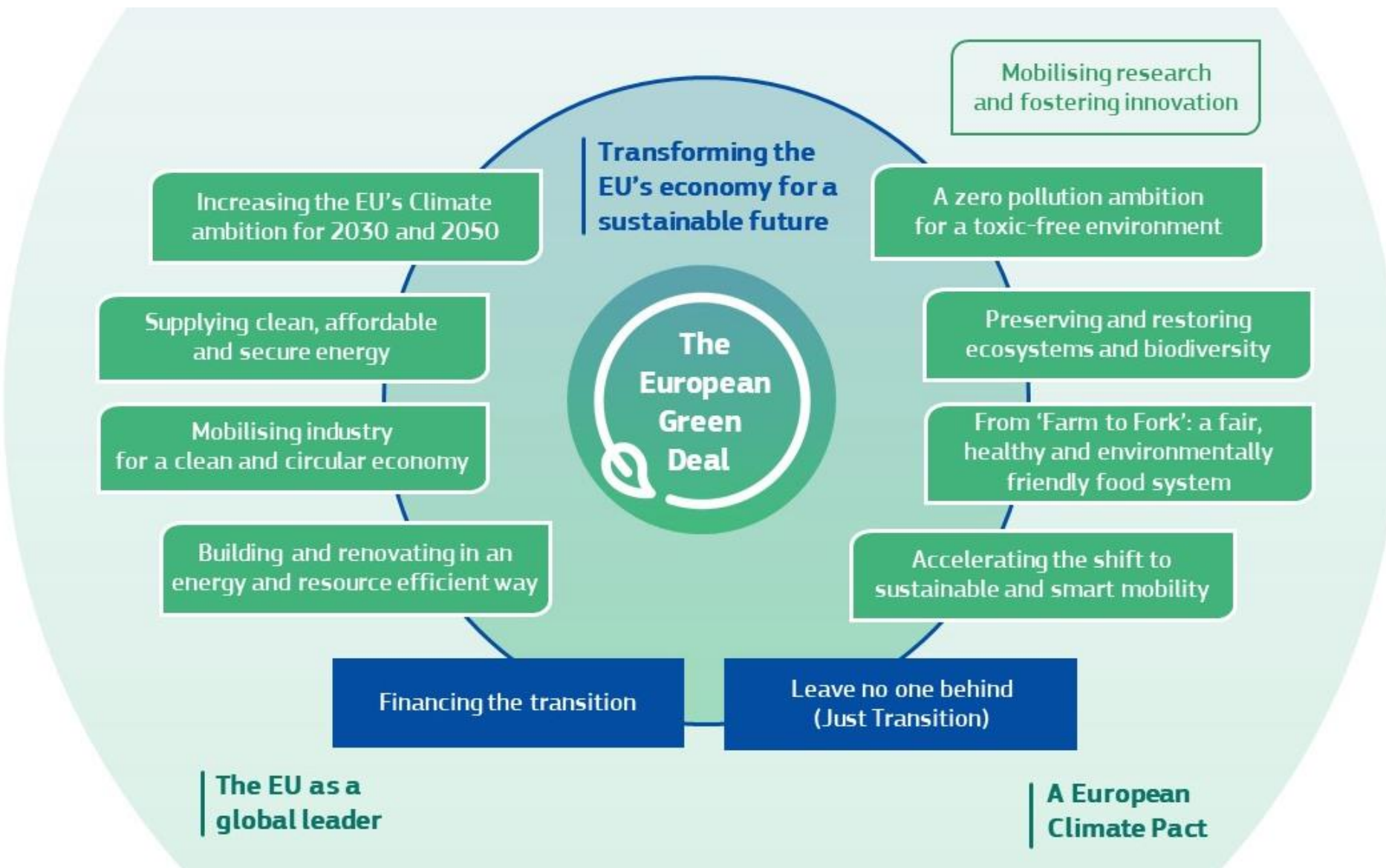
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Support EUSALP





Connectivity objectives at European level



EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing Nature Back Into Our Lives

The **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030** is a key element of the European Green Deal. It sets ambitious goals to **protect** and **restore biodiversity** across the European Union, aiming to **strengthen ecosystems, combat climate change, and enhance the well-being of people and nature.**

Despite a strong policy framework and significant efforts by Member States (MSs) to halt biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation in Europe, the **conservation status of protected species and habitats continues to decline along with the provision of ecosystem services**. The new EU biodiversity strategy to 2030 addresses this decline with a plan to ‘**build a truly coherent Trans-European Nature Network**’. This will be built on the existing Natura 2000 network by analysing the potential connectivity between Natura 2000 sites using green infrastructure (GI) landscape elements important for delivering ecosystem services.

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing Nature Back Into Our Lives

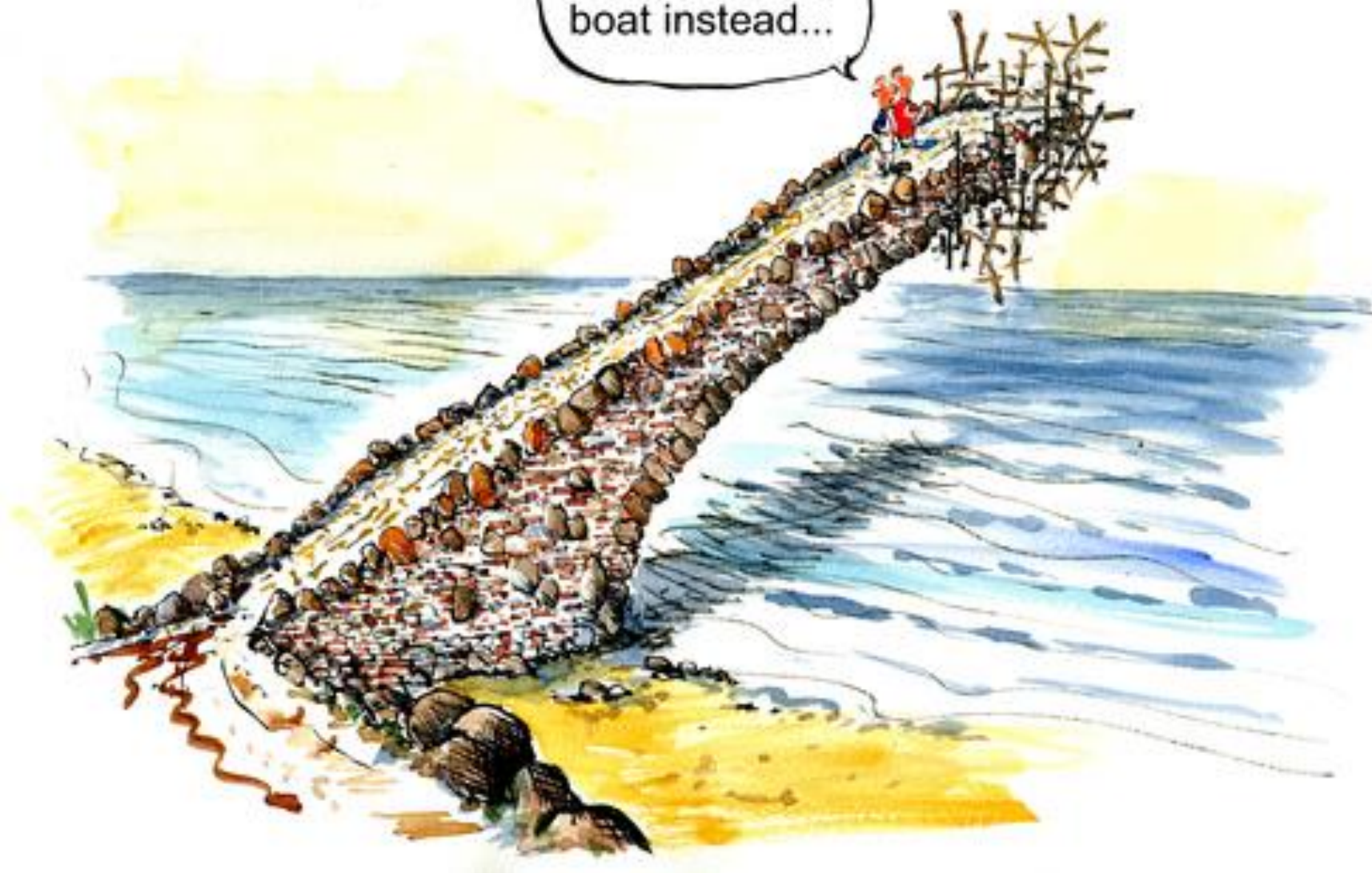
The biodiversity strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030 for the benefit of people, climate and the planet.

In the post-COVID-19 context, the strategy aims to build our societies' resilience to future threats such as

- the impacts of climate change
- forest fires
- food insecurity
- disease outbreaks - including by protecting wildlife and fighting illegal wildlife trade

- **Transforming at least 30% of Europe's lands and seas into effectively managed protected areas.** The goal is to build upon existing Natura 2000 areas, complementing them with nationally protected areas, while ensuring strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value.
- **Restoring degraded ecosystems across the EU that are in a poor state, as well as reducing pressures on biodiversity.** The Strategy proposes a **far-reaching EU Nature Restoration Plan.**
- **Enabling transformational change.** The Strategy sets in motion a new process to improve biodiversity governance, ensuring Member States integrate the commitments of the strategy into national policies.

Maybe we
should build a
boat instead...



Nature restoration law

The **EU Nature Restoration Law**, adopted in **2023**, is a key component of the **European Green Deal** and the **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030**. It aims to restore degraded ecosystems, enhance biodiversity, and mitigate climate change impacts across the European Union

Nature restoration law

Implementation

EU countries are expected to submit **National Restoration Plans** to the Commission within two years of the Regulation coming into force (**so by mid 2026**), showing how they will deliver on the targets. They will also be required to monitor and report on their progress. The European Environment Agency will draw up regular technical reports on progress towards the targets.

Restoring wetlands, rivers, forests, grasslands, marine ecosystems, and the species they host will help:



Increase biodiversity and **secure the things nature does for free**, like cleaning our water and air, pollinating crops, and protecting us from floods



Limit global warming to 1.5°C



Build up Europe's resilience and strategic autonomy, preventing natural disasters and reducing risks to food security

New binding targets suggested by the law:

- 🎯 restore habitats and species protected by the EU nature legislation
- 🎯 reverse the decline of pollinators by 2030
- 🎯 no net loss of green urban spaces by 2030 and a minimum of 10% tree canopy cover in European cities
- 🎯 improved biodiversity on farmland e.g. for grassland butterflies, farmland birds, high-diversity landscape features
- 🎯 restore drained peatlands
- 🎯 healthier forests with improved biodiversity
- 🎯 at least 25.000 km free-flowing rivers by 2030
- 🎯 restore seagrasses and sea bottoms

Environment

Nature restoration law

- **targets based on existing legislation** (for wetlands, forests, grasslands, river and lakes, heath & scrub, rocky habitats and dunes) - improving and re-establishing biodiverse habitats on a large scale, and bringing back species populations by improving and enlarging their habitats
- **pollinating insects** - reversing the decline of pollinator populations by 2030, and achieving an increasing trend for pollinator populations, with a methodology for regular monitoring of pollinators
- **forest ecosystems** - achieving an increasing trend for standing and lying deadwood, uneven aged forests, forest connectivity, abundance of common forest birds and stock of organic carbon
- **urban ecosystems** - no net loss of green urban space and tree cover by 2030, and a steady increase in their total area from 2030

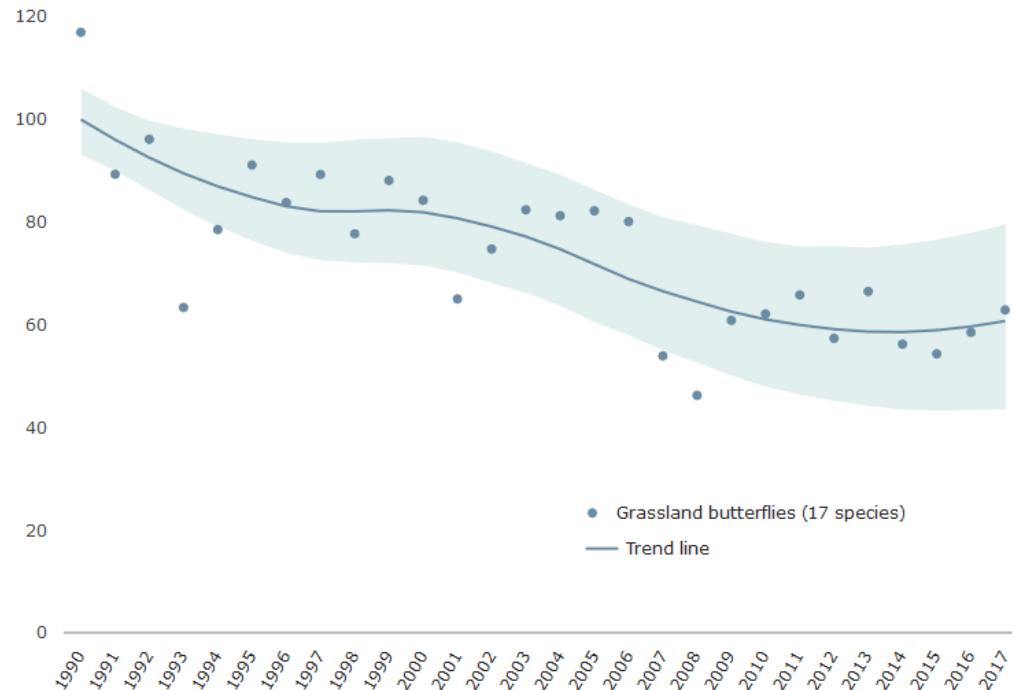
Nature restoration law

- **agricultural ecosystems** - increasing grassland butterflies and farmland birds, the stock of organic carbon in cropland mineral soils, and the share of agricultural land with high-diversity landscape features; restoring drained peatlands under agricultural use
- **marine ecosystems** - restoring marine habitats such as seagrass beds or sediment bottoms that deliver significant benefits, including for climate change mitigation, and restoring the habitats of iconic marine species such as dolphins and porpoises, sharks and seabirds.
- **river connectivity** - identifying and removing barriers that prevent the connectivity of surface waters, so that at least 25 000 km of rivers are restored to a free-flowing state by 2030

Abundance and distribution of relevant species

14

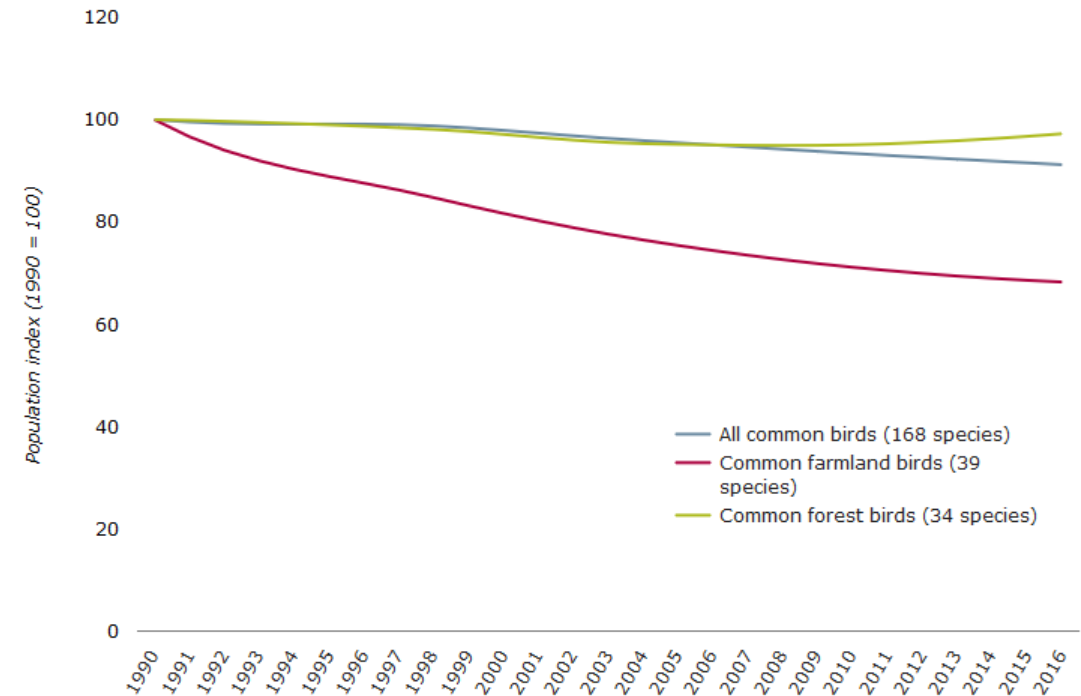
Grassland butterflies - population index, 1990-2017



Source: EEA, Butterfly Conservation Europe, European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme partnership, Assessing Butterflies in Europe (ABLE) project

Notes: Compiled by EEA refers to BE, EE, FI, FR, DE, IE, LT, LU, NL, PT, RO, SL, ES, SE, UK

Common birds - population index, 1990-2016



Source: European Bird Census Council, RSBP, BirdLife International, Czech Society for Ornithology

Notes: Compiled by EEA refers to EU-28 (except HR, MT) + Norway and Switzerland

-Alliance Environnement-

European Economic Interest Grouping



The European Biodiversity Partnership

supporting excellent biodiversity research with an impact
on policy and society.



+ **800** M€

Overall budget



165 M€

EU Contribution



83

Partners



41

Countries

Aspect	EUSALP	Alpine Convention
Established	2015	1991
Nature	EU Macro-regional strategy	International treaty
Geographical Scope	Broader Alpine region, including non-Alpine lowlands, urban areas	Core Alpine region
Countries Involved	alpine countries + regions + EU	alpine countries + EU
Focus Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic growth and innovation - Sustainable mobility and connectivity - Environment and energy - Social cohesion and quality of life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental protection - Sustainable development - Preservation of Alpine cultural heritage
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Voluntary collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legally binding agreement - Decisions implemented by member states
Legal Status	Non-binding strategic framework	Binding legal framework

Aspect	EUSALP	Alpine Convention
Key Outputs	- Action Groups addressing regional challenges	- Protocols, monitoring, reports
Funding	- EU programs and member state contributions	- Funded by member states
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flexible and adaptable - Inclusive of broader Alpine region - Encourages innovation and economic development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong legal framework - Focused on core Alpine sustainability - Long history of cooperation
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of binding obligations - Limited enforcement capabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited adaptability - Can be slow to respond to emerging issues

The new cooperation framework of the Alpine Convention until 2030 is based on three thematic priority areas: biodiversity and ecosystems, climate change and quality of life, which are mutually interdependent.

Priority area 1: Conserving and valuing Alpine biodiversity and ecosystems

Objectives:

- Contribute to the achievement of the European and international objectives to protect, preserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems in the Alps
- Strengthen the Alpine Convention's own biodiversity and ecosystem-related activities and integrate the topic into the work of all its bodies

Biodiversity in the Alps

policy brief - draft

Recommendations

- Based on existing analyses of protected areas, identify gaps in effective protection in the Alps and adopt coordinated improvement measures within protected areas and beyond, with particular attention on transboundary areas.
- Based on existing knowledge, agree on a list of priority Alpine biotopes and species for immediate conservation action.
- Recognise the importance of glaciers in the Alps and their crucial ecological services for downstream regions, strengthen scientific knowledge on glacial retreat and post-glacial ecosystems, and ensure the protection of post-glacial ecosystems.

Biodiversity in the Alps

policy brief - draft

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Recommendations

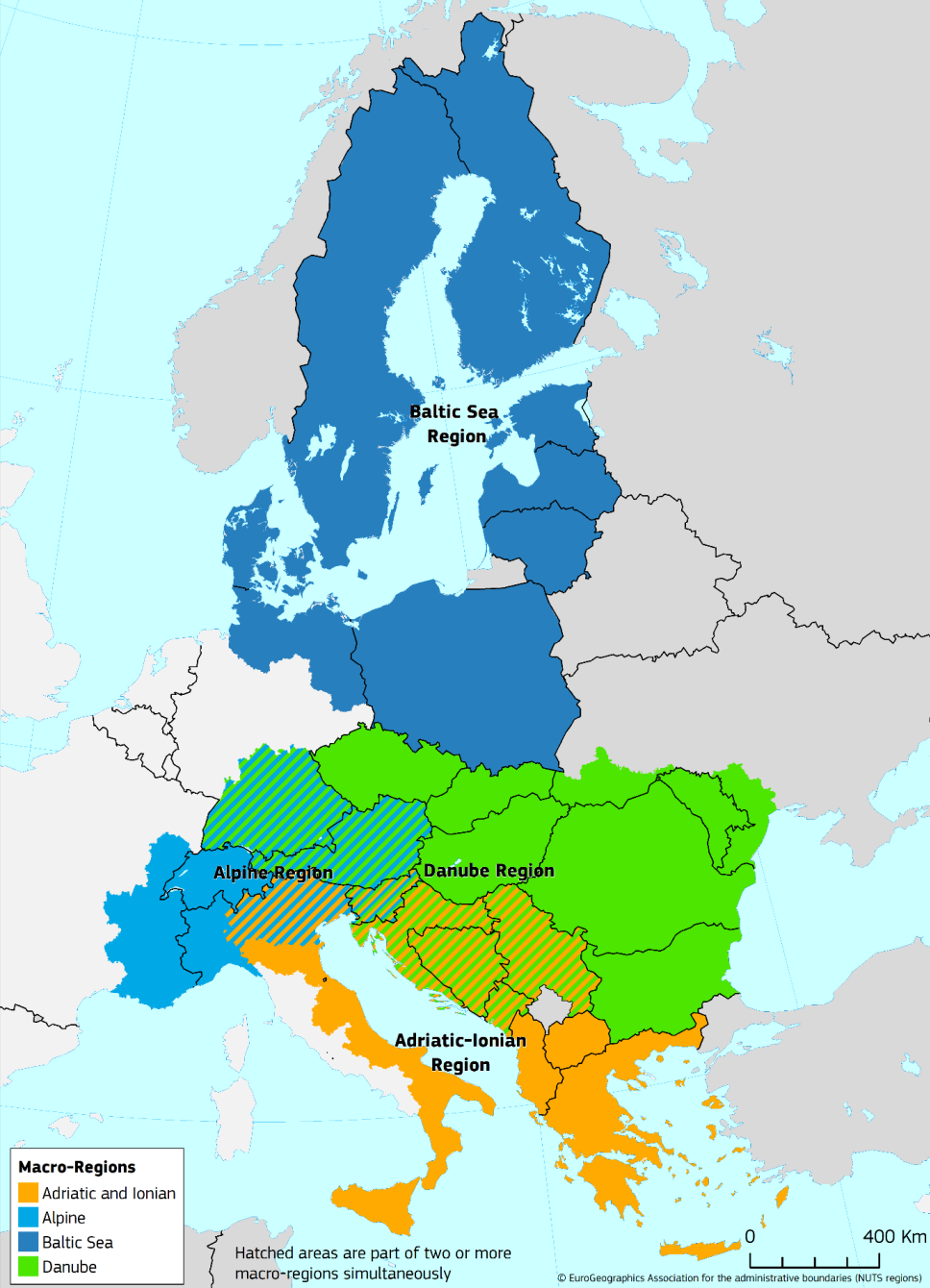
- Agree on strategic priority corridors that need to be preserved or restored at international level in the Alps and with areas beyond, with particular attention on transboundary areas.
- Include common connectivity objectives for the Alps in national and regional programmes and strategies and implement these objectives through planning instruments.
- Elaborate an Alpine Restoration Plan identifying strategic actions to restore priority habitats and areas at Alpine level.
- Develop a strong technical and cross-sectoral community to share knowledge and experiences to benefit new restoration projects and initiatives in the Alps.

Biodiversity in the Alps policy brief - draft

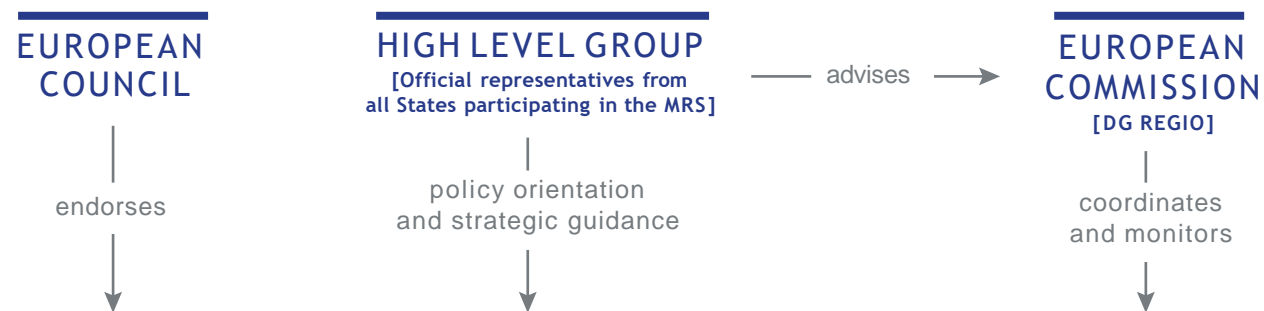
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Recommendations

- Improve the inter-operability of monitoring schemes across the Alps, aggregate and jointly analyze relevant monitoring data.
- Support long-term systematic basis monitoring of species and ecosystems, including Alpine soils, as well as monitoring of the effectiveness of conservation measures and of the threats and the impact of pressures on Alpine biodiversity, including an early warning system.



WHAT IS EUSALP, HOW IT WORKS?



4 EUROPEAN MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES

Policy framework allowing countries located in the same geographical area to jointly tackle and find solutions to challenges and better use the potential they have in common.



EU Strategy for the Baltic
and Sea Region – EUSBSR



EU Strategy for
the Danube Region – EUSDR



EU Strategy for the Adriatic
and Ionian Region – EUSAIR



EU Strategy for
the Alpine Region – EUSALP

support the implementation

EU Funds

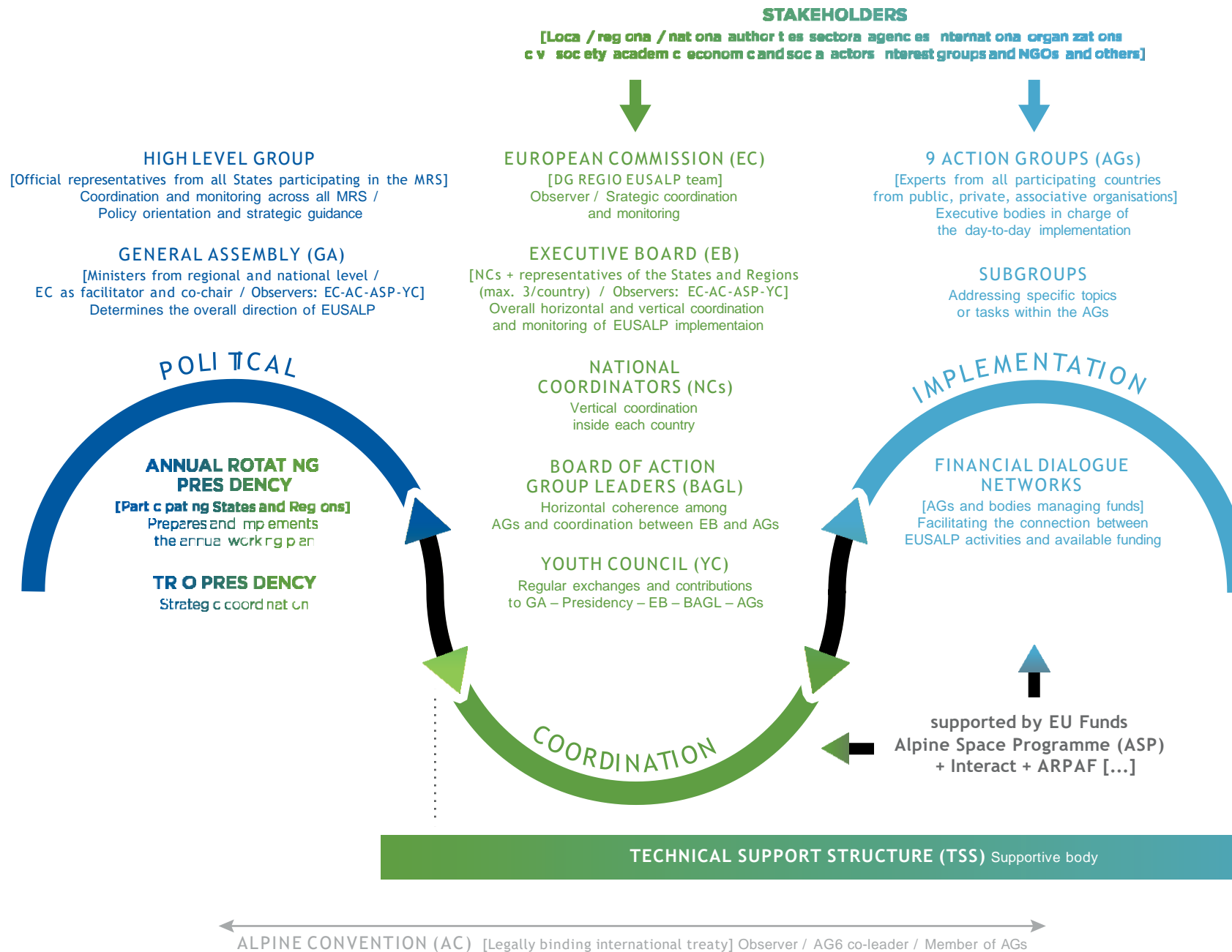


Interreg
Alpine Space



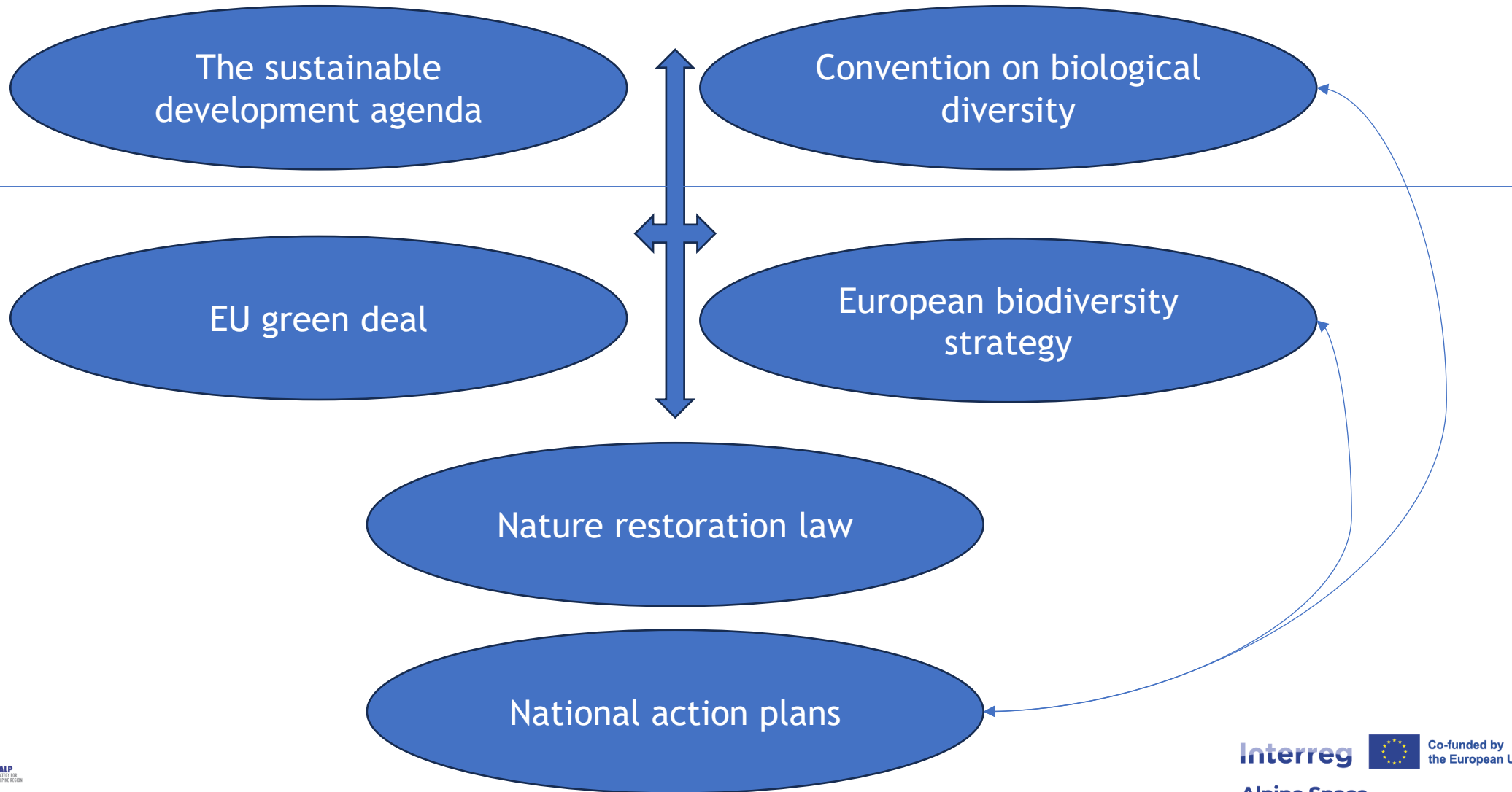
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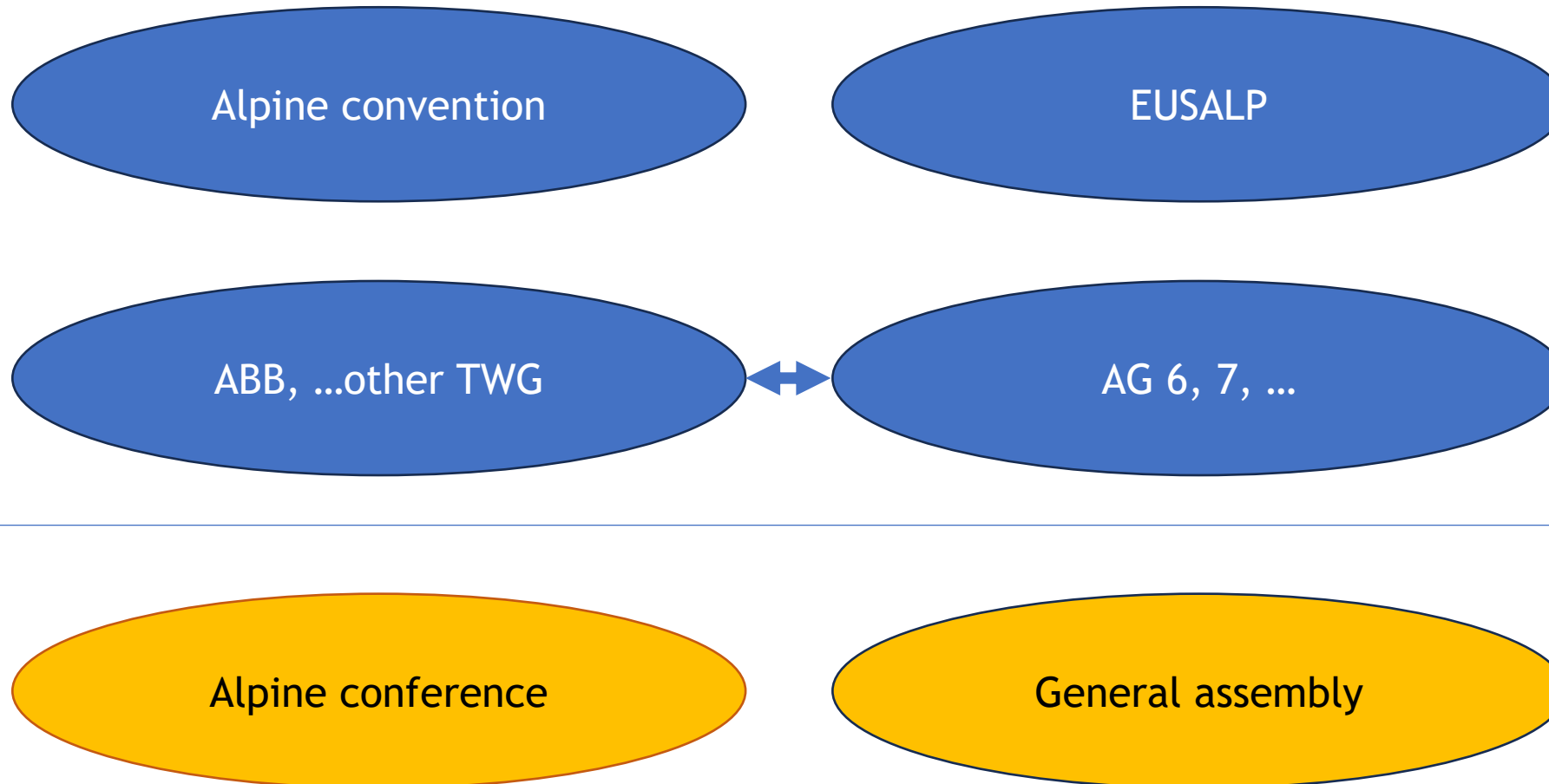
Support EUSALP



ACTION PLAN revision process







Action group 7 (current workplan till the end of 2025)

The main fields of interest of the different members are reflecting the specific objectives of the AG7.

- To identify Alpine GI elements of transnational relevance, improve planning instruments, governance approaches and explore funding opportunities.
- To promote the various benefits of GI as complementary solutions to Grey Infrastructure and bring GI onto the political agenda of the Alpine Region.
- To allow the benefits of ecological connectivity to emerge at ecosystem and societal dimensions, enhancing resilience to threats such as climate change.
- To contribute to better transboundary governance on the field of nature and GI.
- To facilitate ideas and bridge the gap between nature and economy by promoting green infrastructure as a tool towards green and circular economy

To halt biodiversity loss, develop and propose solutions and address challenges such as missing connections between natural areas and homogeneous and impoverished lowlands.



- Offer support/exchange to DG ENVIRONMENT
- Compilation/database of restoration practices
- Coworking with ABB
- Joint forces with other MRS
- Support to national coordinator at preparation of the action plans

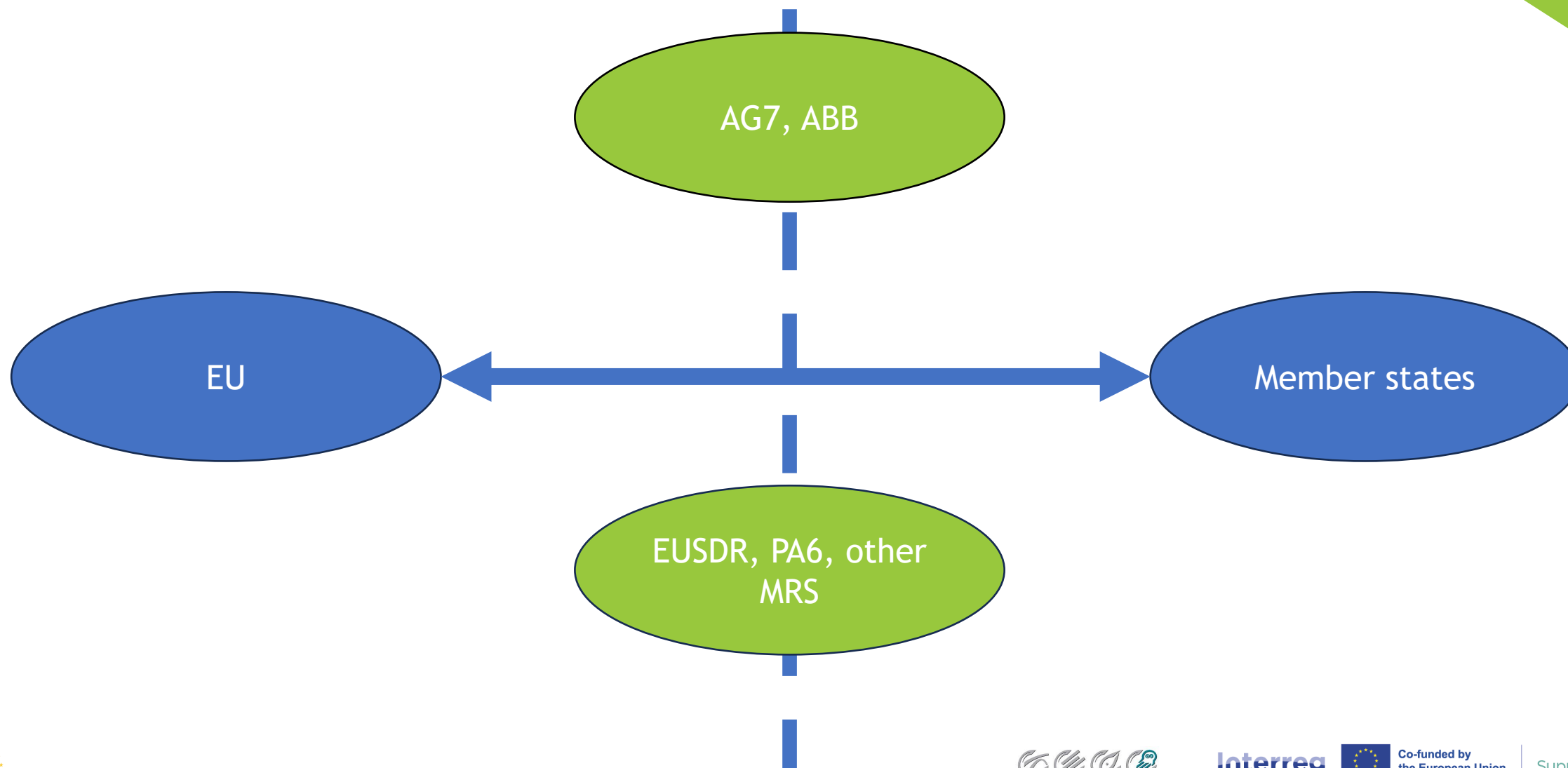
The ABB's 2023-24 mandate will continue working on these issues, as well as on new issues largely shaped by several recent global developments in the biodiversity domain:

- the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which aims at bringing about a transformation in society's relationship with biodiversity, ensuring that by 2050 the shared vision of 'living in harmony with nature' is fulfilled;
- the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 (UN DER), which aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide;
- at the EU-level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 which contains specific targets, actions and commitments to protect Europe's biodiversity and put its ecosystems on a path to recovery by 2030;
- the renewal of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Alpine Convention, the Carpathian Convention (CC) and the CBD.

- **Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan**
- **Alpine biodiversity monitoring (AlpsLife project)**
- **Restoration: Restore the ecological functionality within the Alps (NRL, crossborder)**
- **Connectivity: Enhance connectivity within the Alps and beyond**
- **Conservation: Improve status of conservation for priority species and habitats**

Nature restoration law

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**Why don't trees
use online dating?**
They're rooted in
old-fashioned
ways.



GI Goes Business Award



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Green Infrastructure
Goes Business
Award

2024



Winners

- [Optigrün Smart Flow Control \(Opti green\)](#)
- [Pocket Parks – blau-grüne Oasen \(Blue-green oases\)](#)
- [EauRoot \(Water root\)](#)
- [HydroMontania – Irrigation solutions for sustainable agriculture in mountain areas](#)
- [BORKY – battle bark beetles better](#)
- [Mirage Urbain \(Urban mirage\)](#)
- Natur ImPuls.e – Reconnect. Experience. Change.
- [Building material solutions from annual fibre sources](#)

Optigrün Smart Flow Control

City life faces weather extremes: heat and drought followed by heavy rain that floods streets and basements.

Optigrün's Smart Flow Control addresses this on green roofs with water storage. It keeps drains closed to store rainwater for plants and empties the tank before heavy rain to prevent overflow and prepare for dry periods.

[Website](#)



Pocket Parks – blau-grüne Oasen



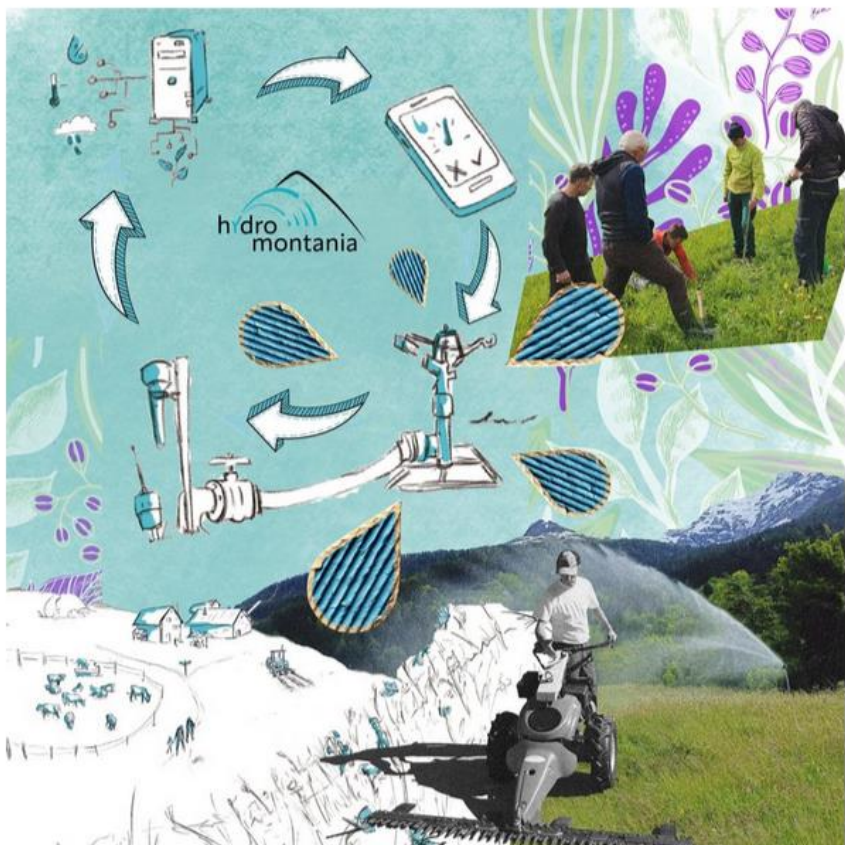
Pocket parks support urban climate protection by integrating into water management. With special soil modules, they absorb and store rainwater, reducing flooding and providing water during dry spells, thus minimizing the need for drinking water. They also filter pollutants, slow water runoff, and protect infrastructure during heavy rain.

[Website](#)

EauRoot

EauRoot argues that “drip irrigation” systems are inefficient for modern water and energy needs, as they irrigate the soil surface, losing millions of liters annually to evaporation and weed growth. EauRoot’s patented system embeds water capsules underground near trees, connecting them to a central tap. This automated, energy-free method efficiently delivers water directly to tree roots, saving at least 150,000 liters of water per hectare annually.





HydroMontania – Irrigation solutions for sustainable agriculture in mountain areas

Global warming and changing precipitation challenge mountain regions, causing water scarcity and conflicts. HydroMontania addresses this by providing model-based soil saturation data and water demand forecasts, allowing precise, resource-saving irrigation for plots or catchment areas. Remote-controlled valves reduce time, supporting sustainable water use for mountain farmers and communities.

BORKY – battle bark beetles better

Alpine forests face growing threats, especially from bark beetles damaging spruce trees. Infected trees must be identified and removed within four weeks to prevent spread. Traditional pheromone traps require weekly monitoring, a challenge in alpine areas. BORKY's add-on for pheromone traps enables near real-time data transmission, eliminating weekly checks and freeing time for control efforts. This patented solution also allows for prediction models of bark beetle activity, aiding in proactive management.





Mirage Urbain

The idea of Mirage Urbain is to provide training in the use of new techniques that have been developed to promote biodiversity in built-up areas. It also teaches methods to make areas more resilient to climate change. The workshops can be selected à la carte – flexible and adapted to the interests of the participants.

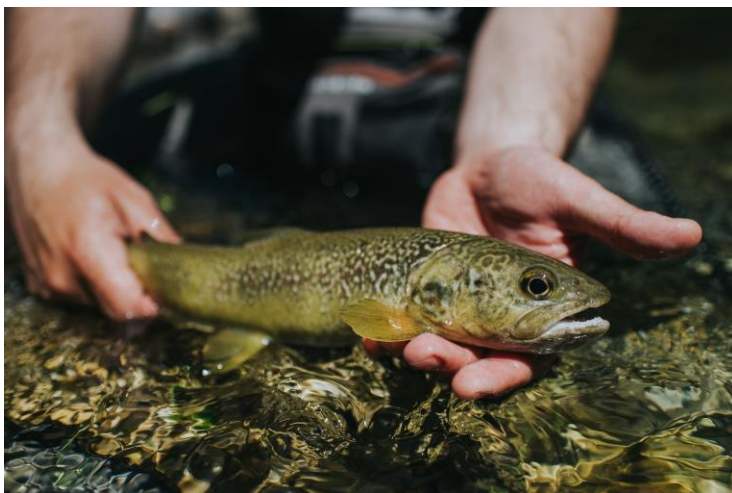
Natur ImPuls.e – Reconnect. Experience. Change.

Natur ImPuls.e is a unique farm: a sustainable living lab for mindfulness training (reconnect), hands-on sustainability education (experience), and project implementation in rural Bavaria (change).

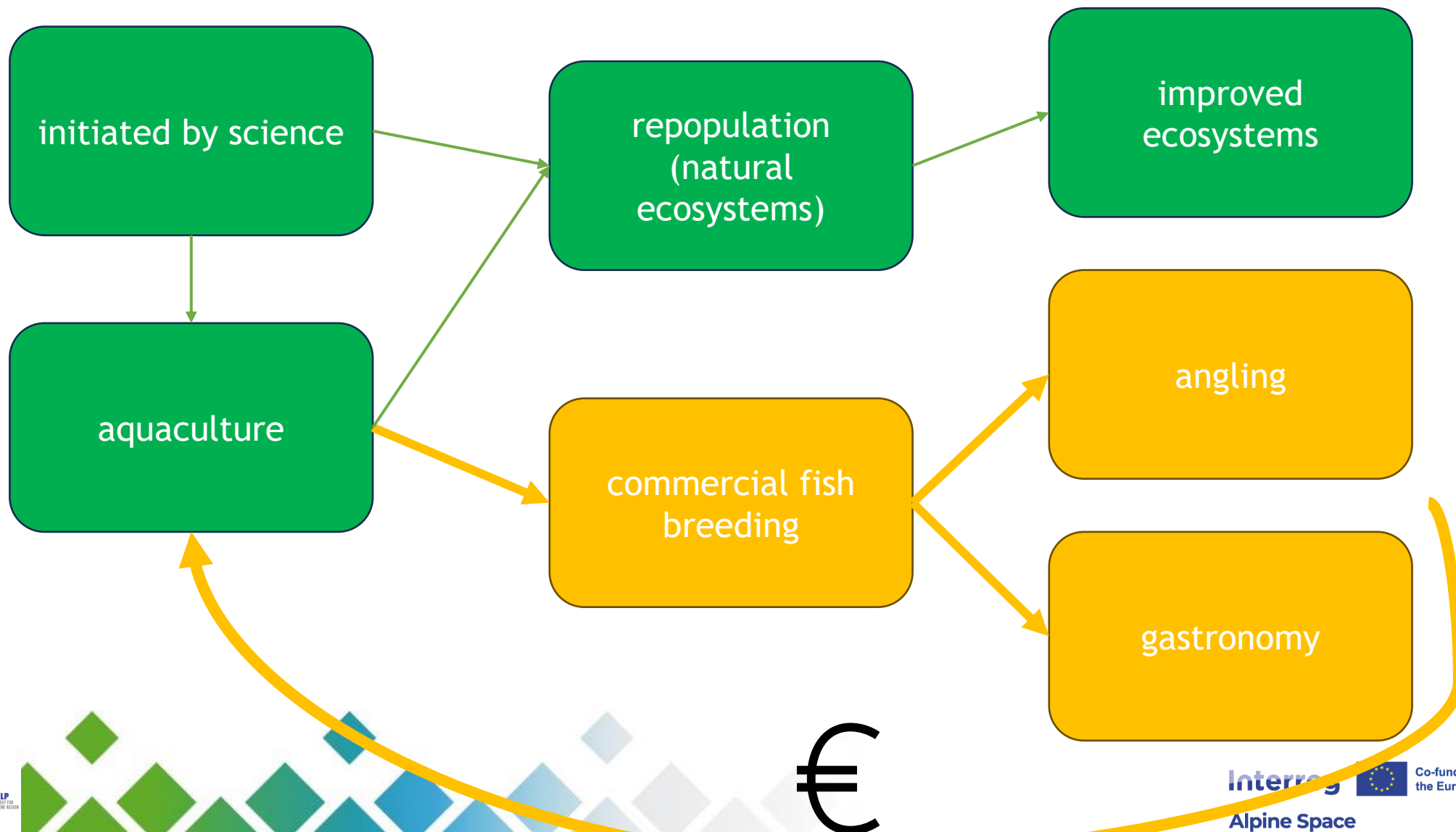
Workshops connect personal well-being, ecosystem health, and tech use in harmony with nature, while students and teachers explore sustainable solutions in a real-life setting.



Repopulation of marble trout (Soča valley)

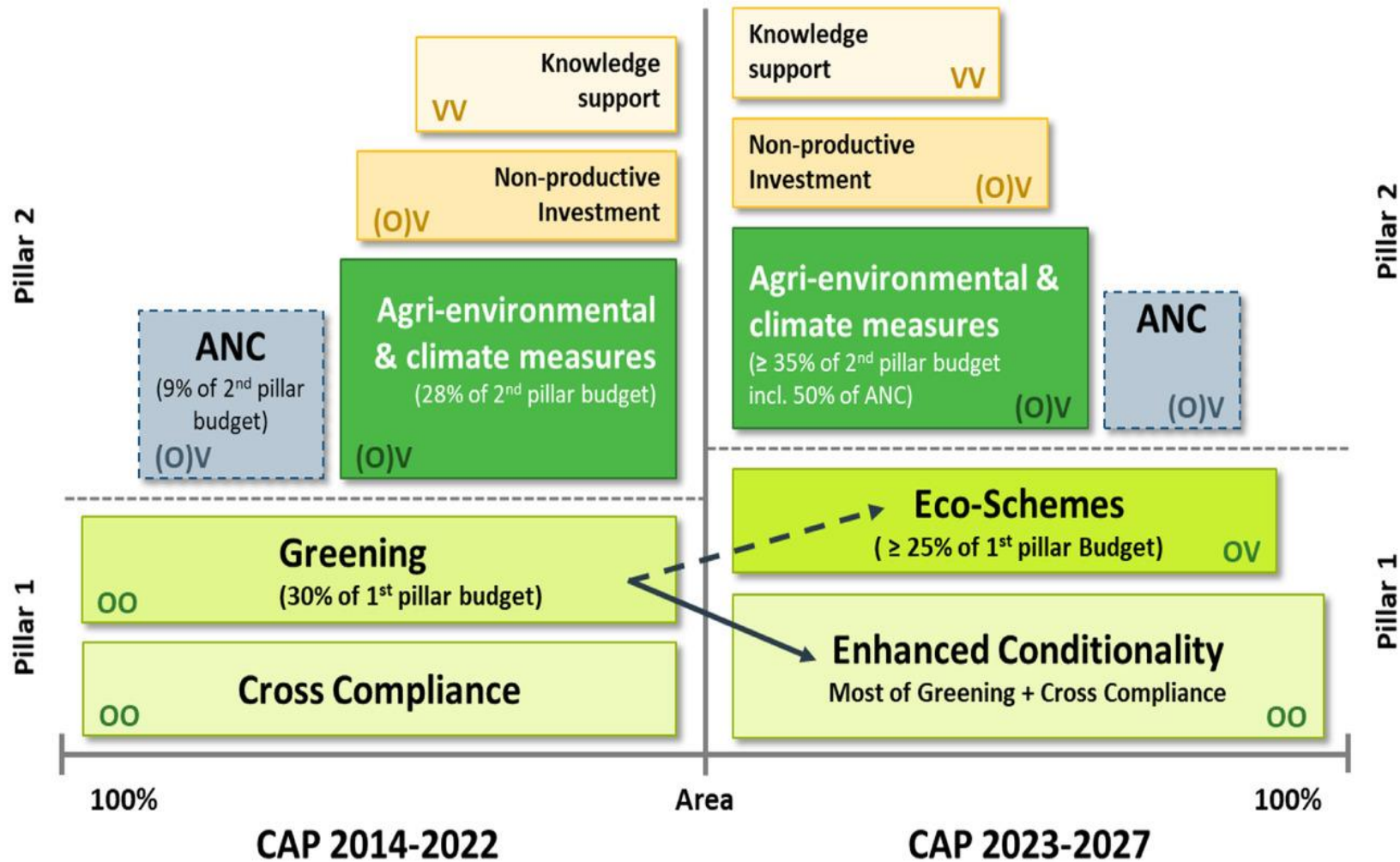


Repopulation of marble trout (Soča valley)



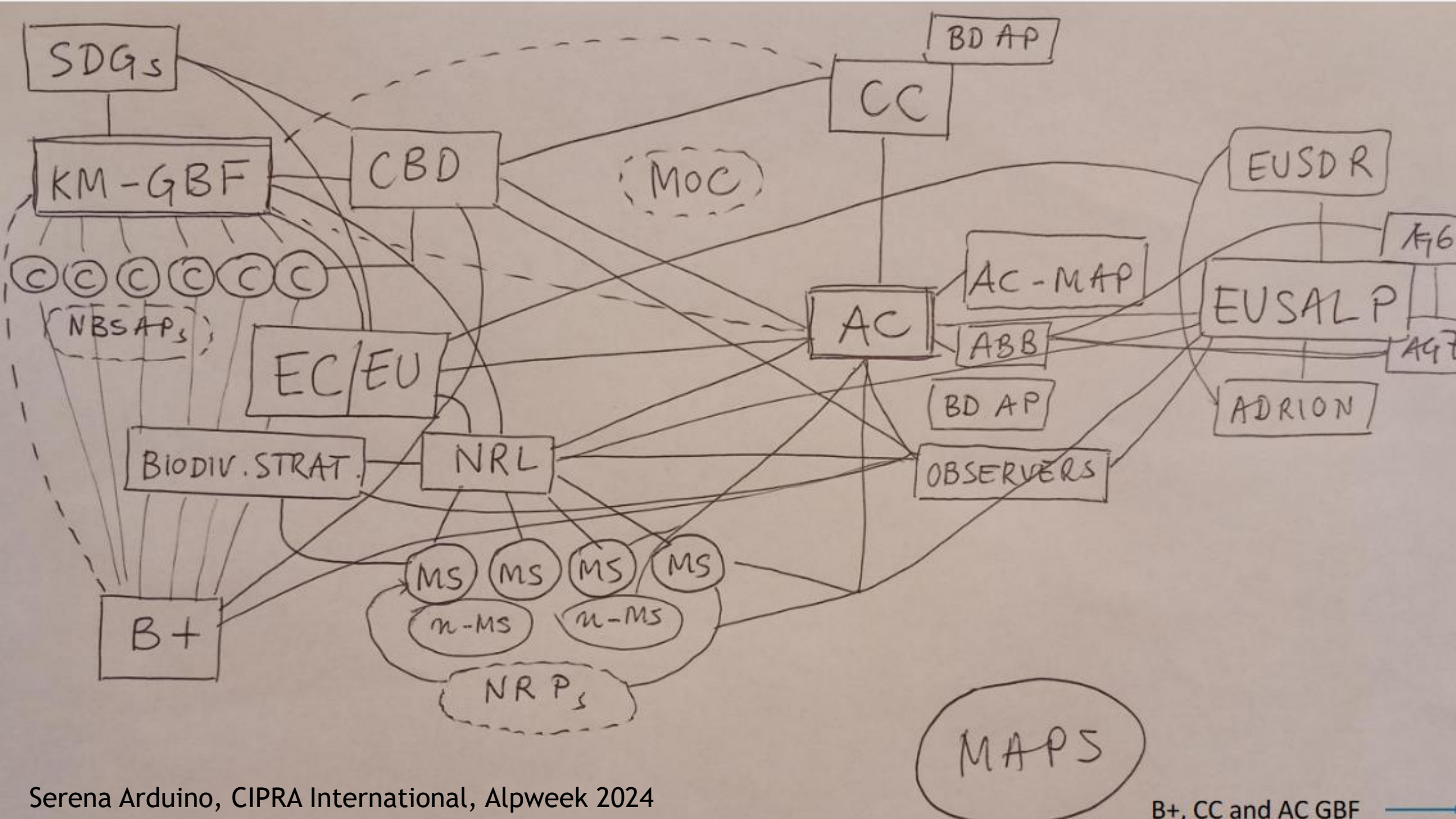
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- N2B - Nature to business (link to CAP)
 - R2P - Research to policy

- Protected areas are a must, but not sufficient
- From natural to semi-natural and urban areas
- CAP
- Spatial planning as a policy not a tool



Conservation Letters, Volume: 15, Issue: 6, First published: 30 June 2022, DOI: (10.1111/conl.12901)





Funding



“Enough with all the strategic planning.
Just get out there and kill something.”

CARTOONSTOCK.COM

Danke für Ihre
Aufmerksamkeit

Merci pour votre
attention

Grazie per
l'attenzione

Hvala za vašo
pozornost

Thank you for your
attention



OUR WAY FORWARD RELIES ON OUR CAPACITY

TO BE DOWN-TO-EARTH AND PRACTICAL