Designing a resilient and coherent Trans-European conservation Network for Nature and People

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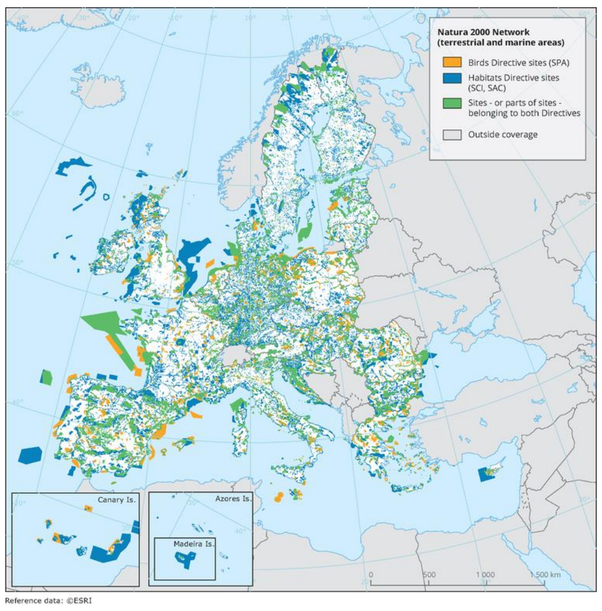
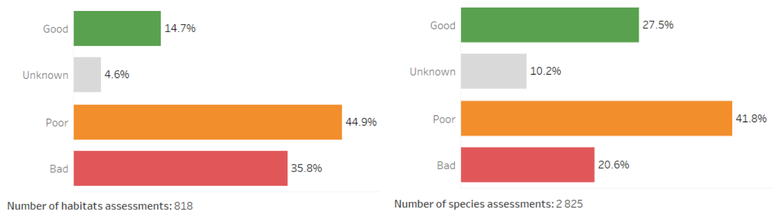
Why

To stop biodiversity decline in Europe, new policies have been introduced to protect 30% of EU terrestrial area by 2030 including 10% under strict protection. This network of conserved areas will expand on existing Natura 2000 sites and other conservation areas, as well as blue and green infrastructure. This Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N) will be the main EU conservation instrument to afford sufficient protection to species and ecosystems of conservation concern. This project has been funded by the EU Horizon Program (~10 M €) to support Member States in their planning and implementation of TEN-N.



Current extent of Natura 2000 sites in Europe, covering ~18% of terrestrial area. When accounting for other national or international designation 26% of EU land and freshwater areas are under some form of protection



The current network is insufficient to reverse biodiversity declines

What

Tools and frameworks to support decision-makers
- Scenario framework for TEN-N, translation of storylines into indicators and scenario settings (mid 2023)
- NaturaConnect Moodle with all capacity building and training materials (early 2024)
- Policy support tools for TEN-N planning and implementation (end 2025)

Reports

Guidelines for connectivity conservation and planning (end 2023)
- Review and synthesis of best practices in governance and land-use policies to implement TEN-N (mid 2024)
- Factsheets on public, private, and blended financial support options for TEN-N (end 2024)
- Report on TEN-N implementation strategies across 6 case studies and the EU (mid 2026)

Spatial products
- Maps of conservation and restoration value for corridors connectivity under different scenarios (mid 2026)
- Variants of spatial configurations of a potential TEN-N (end of 2026)
- Land-use use scenarios implementing TEN-N

Who & How

The project will address six complementary objectives:

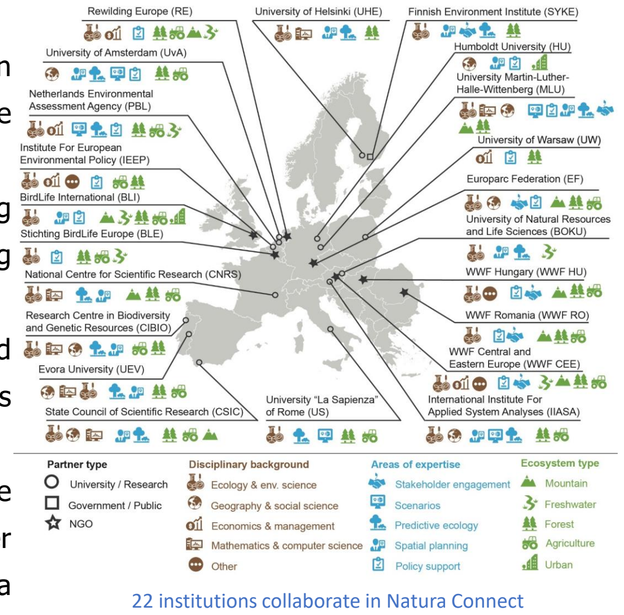
O1: Define a blueprint for TEN-N that addresses gaps in coherence and ecological representativeness of the Natura 2000 network and other protected areas.

O2: Define a blueprint for protecting and restoring multifunctional corridors across spatial scales, enhancing connectivity in TEN-N.

O3: Engage stakeholders involved in the design and implementation of TEN-N across administrative levels and sectors, co-designing tools and guidelines.

O4: Develop scenarios, incorporating existing climate and land-use projections with participatory stakeholder visions for the future of nature in Europe, to design a multifunctional and resilient TEN-N that addresses societal values and needs for nature.

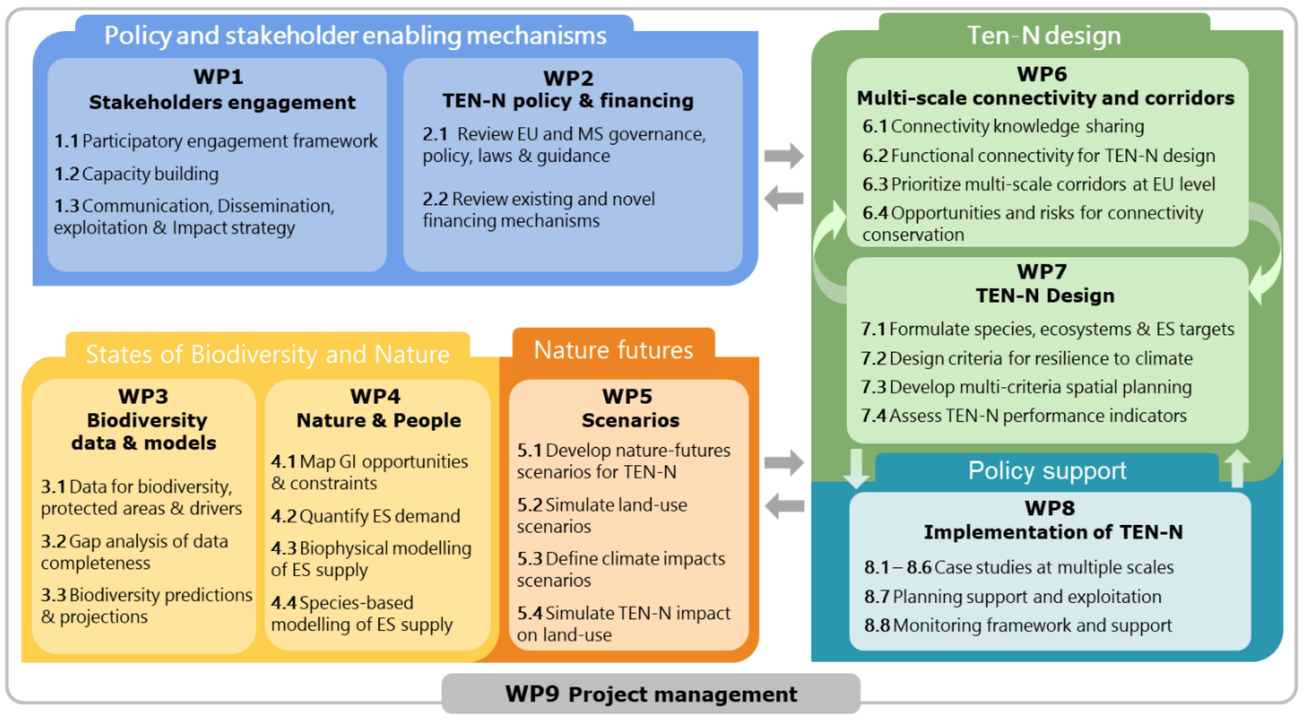
O5: Review and disseminate best spatial planning practices and funding mechanisms, demonstrating in selected case studies how NaturaConnect's planning tools can be applied at different spatial scales and different geographic and administrative contexts.



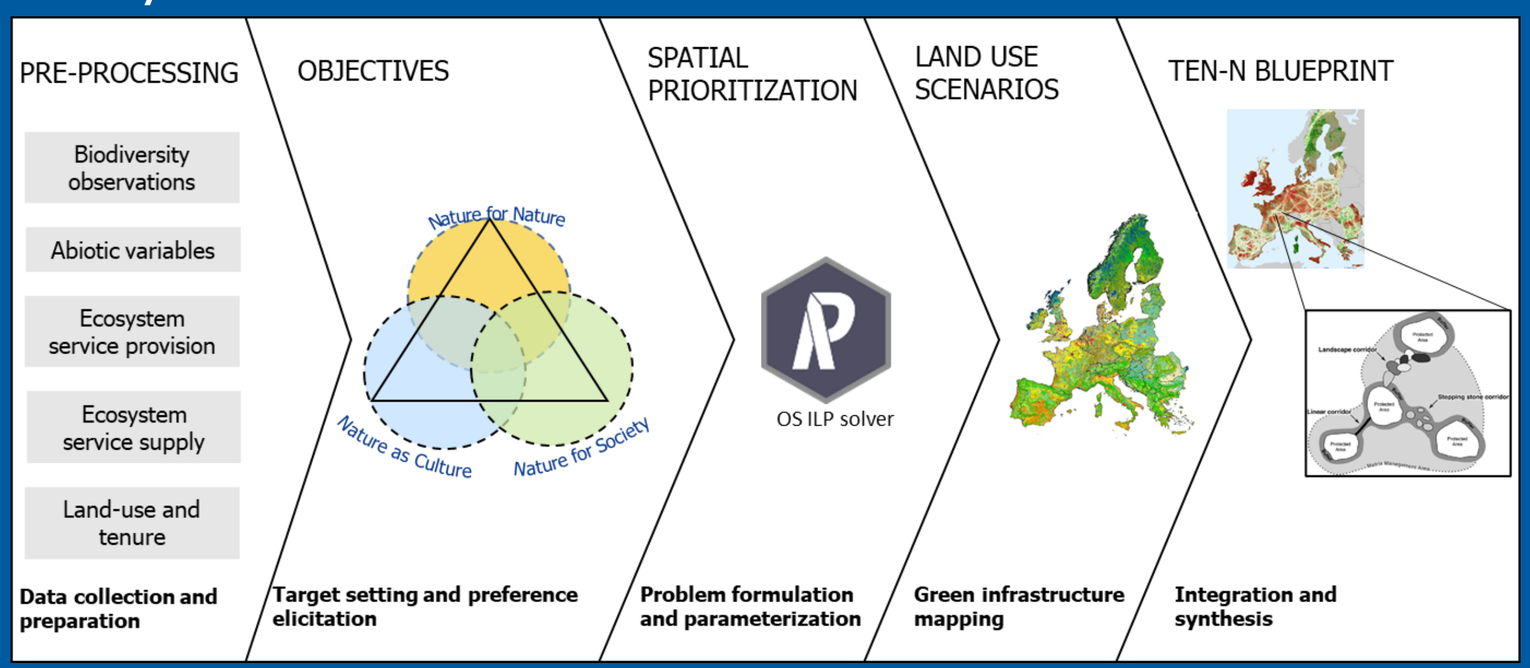
22 institutions collaborate in Natura Connect

O6: Bring together biodiversity and ecosystem service data and predictive models in Europe, to support the design of TEN-N, contribute to European processes, and the design of a monitoring system.

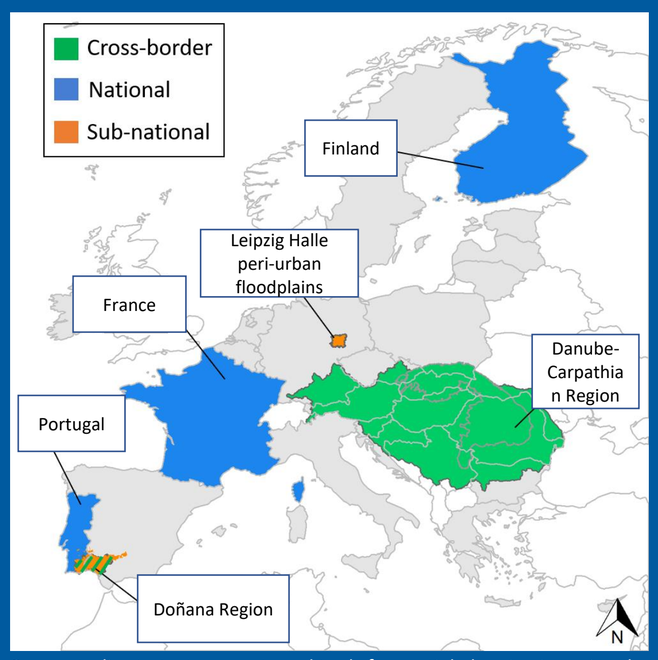
The work is split up into 8 thematic work packages



Analytical framework



Cross-scale implementation



6 case studies to test concepts and tools for spatial planning in regional, national and international contexts, in collaboration with key stakeholders

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