



## Landscapes without borders

Protected areas, like national parks, nature parks or biosphere reserves, are often isolated “islands” for the protection of the world’s biodiversity. They are separated by less or unprotected landscapes, traffic corridors or settlements. Often animal and plant species dispose of less space for migration, dispersion and reproduction than necessary. To preserve natural and cultural heritage in the long run, TransEcoNet strives therefore for a better connection of protected and less or unprotected landscapes across national borders.

## Sustainable development and management of transnational ecological networks

TransEcoNet elaborates strategies and gives recommendations how to develop and manage transnational ecological networks in Central Europe. In particular the focus is on less or unprotected landscapes, so-called gaps, between protected areas. The project study areas are situated within or between the wide-ranging ecological networks of the Alps, Carpathians and of the Green Belt. Thus TransEcoNet contributes to the pan-European interlinkage of these ecosystems and to their sustainable territorial development.

The project partners are working in the fields of remote sensing, geoinformatics, nature protection, landscape ecology, history of architecture and arts as well as regional and environmental sciences. They analyse and assess transboundary natural landscapes regarding their topology, history and their natural and cultural potentials.

Thereupon they give recommendations and elaborate strategies for a sustainable development of less or unprotected landscapes, for future land use and for the management of ecosystem services they provide. These recommendations and strategies should be adapted by regional planning authorities and protected area administrations in the long run. Additionally, TransEcoNet strengthens people’s awareness for the natural and cultural heritage of transboundary landscapes on local, regional and transnational level by communicating its results on exhibitions, excursions and workshops.

## Activities and Outputs

### Inventory of transnational ecological networks

- Analysis of their interconnection
- Spatial structure analysis
- Investigation of existing network cooperations and initiatives

Outputs: Recommendations for a sustainable management of less protected landscapes

### History of ecological networks

- Assessment of change of land cover, land use and vegetation
- Comparative analysis of historical maps
- Evaluation of non-cartographic documents (e.g. photos, postcards, artworks, legends and myths)

Outputs: Spatial database with information about the investigation areas; recommendations for future land use

### Protection of biodiversity

- Investigation of landscape fragmentation and of spatial dispersion of species
- Case studies for a sustainable management of ecosystem services

Outputs: Strategies for the development of transnational ecological networks and for a sustainable management of ecosystem services

### Awareness for natural and cultural heritage

- Communication of ecological networks as „living networks“ of biodiversity
- Strengthening the identification of local people with their natural and cultural environment
- Visualisation of landscape change through maps, photos, documentary films etc.

Outputs: International exhibitions and presentations, regional workshops and seminars, excursions, case studies



#### Project Partners

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2. Leibniz Institute for Ecological and Regional Development, Dresden (DE)
3. The Saxon Regional Conservation Foundation - NP Saxon Switzerland Information Centre, Bad Schandau (DE)
4. Vienna University of Technology, Institute of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Vienna (AT)
5. University of Vienna, Dep. of Conservation Biology, Vegetation and Landscape Ecology, Vienna (AT)
6. Austrian League for Nature Conservation Burgenland, Eisenstadt (AT)
7. Jan Evangelista Purkyně University, Faculty of the Environment, Ústí nad Labem (CZ)
8. The Karkonosze National Park, Jelenia Góra (PL)
9. University of West Hungary, Dep. of Surveying and Remote Sensing, Sopron (HU)
10. Geodetic Institute of Slovenia, Ljubljana (SI)
11. Vienna University of Technology, Institute for History of Architecture and Art, Building Research and Preservation, Vienna (AT)
12. The Silva Tarouca Research Institute for Landscape and Ornament Gardening, Pruhonice (CZ)
13. Public Benefit Corporation Bohemian Switzerland, Krásná Lípa (CZ)
14. University of Nova Gorica, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Nova Gorica (SI)
15. Regional Development Agency Mura Ltd., Murska Sobota (SI)
16. Provincial Administration Burgenland, Dept. 5/III Naturschutz (Biologische Station Neusiedler See), Eisenstadt (AT)

#### Associated Partner Institutions

Charles University Praha (CZ); Czech Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection (CZ); Poloniny National Park Admin. (SK); NP Admin. Sächsische Schweiz (DE); Università Politecnica delle Marche (IT); WOLF Forest Protection Movement (SK); National Aerospace Agency (AZ); Admin. of the Biosphere Reserve Oberlausitzer Heide-und Teichlandschaft (DE); Imagno Brandstätter Images (AT); Saxon Ministry of Environment and Forestry (DE); Office for Regional Planning Oberes Elbtal/Osterzgebirge (DE); Regional Association for Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development Bratislava (SK); NP Admin. Neusiedler See-Seewinkel (AT); NP Admin. České Svýcarsko (CZ); Admin. of Protected Landscape Area Labské pískovce (CZ); NP Admin. Krkonose (CZ); NP Admin. Fertő-Hanság (HU); University of Ljubljana (SI); Kozjanski Park Admin. (SI); Goricko Regional Park Admin. (SI); ECOVAST - European Council for the Village and Small Town (DE); The Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SI).

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