

Conclusions from the Workshop on Ecological Networks, Oisterwijk (NL) 1-2 October 2008

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Structure of the presentation

- Objectives of the Oisterwijk meeting
- Conclusions and vision on ecological networks and greenways
- The knowledge agenda

The aims of the workshop

- Discuss and conclude the results of two projects on European ecological networks for the Ministry of ANF: planning frameworks and implementation through stakeholder involvement
- Discuss and conclude on a knowledge agenda to direct the science needed for implementation.

Recommendations

- Vision is needed on the role of biodiversity in society and why ecological networks are the approach for the 21st Century
- This includes integration of ecological networks in:
 - CAP and agricultural management

Disappearing traditional systems, disappearing transport mechanisms?



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Policy Frameworks

- Vision is needed on the role of biodiversity in society and why ecological networks as the approach for the 21st Century
- This includes integration of ecological networks in:
 - CAP and agricultural management
 - Infrastructure: water, road and rail planning and management

Also species need infrastructure



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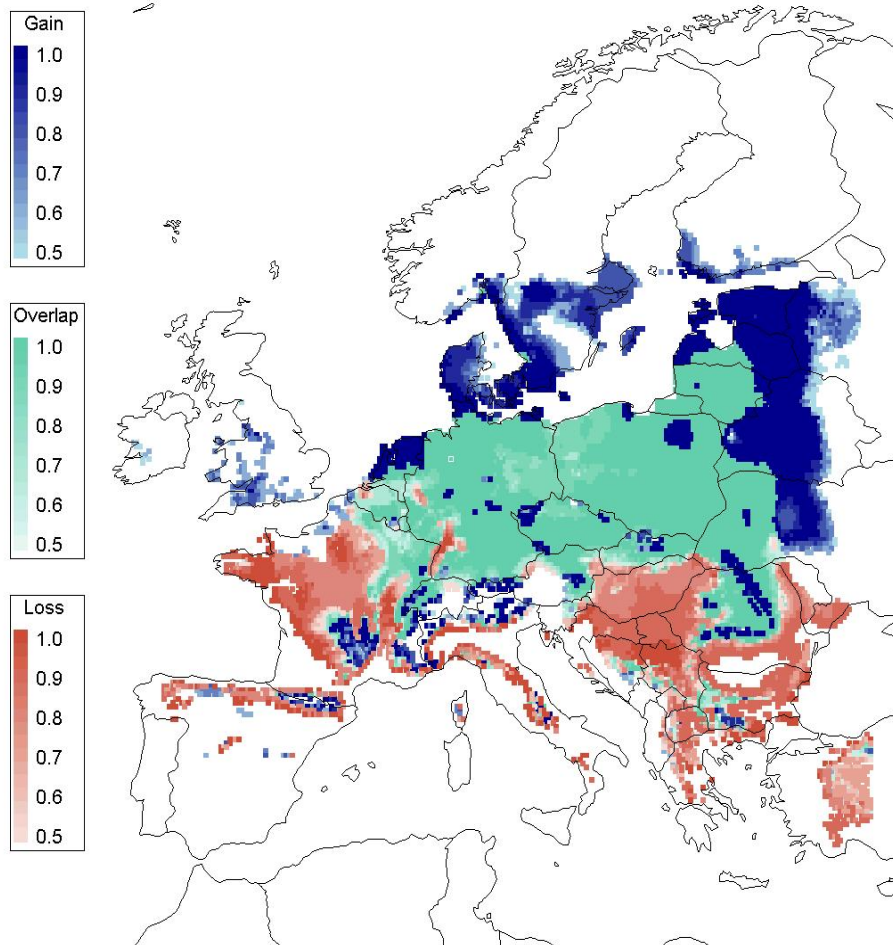
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Policy Frameworks

- Vision is needed on the role of biodiversity in society and why ecological networks as the approach for the 21st Century
- This includes integration of ecological networks in:
 - CAP and agricultural management
 - Infrastructure: road planning and management
 - Climate change measures: adaptation and connectivity

The climate window is moving

Projected Change in Simulated Climate Space



Green – remains appropriate

Red – will be inappropriate

Blue – will be appropriate



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Practical Biodiversity Conservation

- Involve stakeholders in an ecological and cultural setting that fits the region;
- Integrate conservation in multifunctional landscape approaches;
- Make benefits and costs explicit;
- Make targeted European, national and regional/local communication plans.

Costs and Benefits

- Develop better understanding of costs and benefits to society for decision making
- Invest in quantification of costs and benefits
- Make monitoring programmes SMART (Simple, Manageable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely)

Ecological Networks and Landscapes

- Land use and species in the landscape are both dynamic, but have different levels and cycles;
- Landscape planning and management must compensate disappearance of traditional practices and the loss in ecological connectivity caused by fragmentation;
- Innovative farmers and entrepreneurs are needed.

The Knowledge Agenda

- Ecological networks require integration of targeted ecological, societal, economic knowledge;

But also:

- Communication between science and society;
- Facilities for research and long term experiments.

Landscape Ecological Research

- Species/species group/guild approach in modelling the dynamics of landscape-ecological patterns and processes;
- Focus on the dynamics of land use and land cover as driver of fragmentation and disturbance patterns;

Social and Economic Research

- Focus on the impact of farmers decisions and national and EU and global policies;
- Investigate the impact of market developments and its diversification;
- Develop valuation of ecosystems through ecosystem services;
- Innovative approaches for planning and management (top-down and bottom-up).

Science-Society Interface

- Develop scenarios for interaction between agriculture and biodiversity outside reserves
- Research to support policy making requires a joint agenda and interaction
- Communicate the message of benefits and costs between land managers, policy and science

Facilities

- Develop Communities of Practice (CoP) on Ecological Networks and Green Veining
- Training of scientists in cross-sectoral communication
- The use of LTER sites and LTSER regions to carry out population dynamics research in relation to land use policy.

Thank you for your attention