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22nd September 2026 | Brussels
NATURACONNECT FINAL STAKEHOLDER EVENT
Pathways to a Trans-European Nature Network



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We are delighted to invite you to the final event of the Horizon Europe NaturaConnect project.

At a time when we need to strengthen EU prosperity while safeguarding Europe's biodiversity and climate resilience, practical and evidence-based conservation approaches are gaining more importance. How can we improve our existing protected area network, increasing its coherence, effectiveness, and resilience, while taking economic factors and different land use and climate scenarios into account?

This event offers a unique platform to explore how scientific insights can shape national and European policies, while enabling participants to leverage key project outputs for prioritising protected area expansion, restoration, and ecological connectivity for conservation planning in the EU in a cost-efficient way.

Join us to:

- Explore the project's scientific outputs, innovative decision-support tools, and policy recommendations, all aligned with the area-based conservation targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the EU Nature Restoration Regulation.
- Engage with policymakers, government authorities, conservation managers, and researchers to drive concrete commitments for the Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N).
- Explore different TEN-N configurations, climate change and land-use scenarios, and key ecological corridors, among other key findings from the project.
- Learn key insights from the NaturaConnect's case study representatives: Danube-Carpathian Region, Finland, France, Portugal, Doñana and Halle-Leipzig as they share their regional, national and local work.

Through dynamic panel sessions and keynote speeches, we will collectively chart a path forward, ensuring the long-term uptake of NaturaConnect's tools, datasets, and guidelines beyond the project's lifetime to support the objectives of the:

- Birds and Habitat Directives,
- Area-based biodiversity conservation targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030,
- Nature Restoration Regulation.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Brussels!

AGENDA

9:30 – 10:00		Registration and coffee	
10:00 – 11:00	Welcome remarks • Directorate General for the Environment (speaker tbc) Dr. Piero Visconti (IIASA)		
	Introductory keynotes • EU Biodiversity Strategy, TEN-N and their role in the EU policy agenda (speaker tbc) • Scientific support to the European Biodiversity Targets Dr. Néstor Fernández (iDiv/MLU)		
11:00 – 12:30	Towards a TEN-N. Key findings from the NaturaConnect project The NaturaConnect Consortium		
Joint lunch			
13:45 – 14:45	From European level planning to transboundary, national and local implementation. Inputs from the NaturaConnect case study areas. • Introductory presentation Dr. Henrique Pereira and Martina Viti (iDiv/MLU) • Panel session with the NaturaConnect case study representatives: Danube-Carpathian Region, Finland, France, Portugal, Doñana and Halle-Leipzig		
14:45 – 15:15	A Strategy for TEN-N. Key recommendations from NaturaConnect Dr. Piero Visconti (IIASA)		
15:15 – 16:00	How do NaturaConnect findings translate into EU and national policy processes? Panel sessions with insights from different stakeholder groups.		
Coffee break			
16:30 – 17:10	What comes after NaturaConnect? Perspectives from sectoral entities on how to take the TEN-N from blueprint to reality.		
17:10 – 17:40	Interactive exercise		
17:40 – 18:00	Closing remarks		
18:00 - 20:00		Joint networking aperitive in the Dinosaur Gallery Mezzanine	

The agenda is subject to change. The final version will be confirmed closer to the event date.