

Taking connectivity conservation to scale: strengthening resilience at landscape and seascapes levels

Project Summary

Objective: The overarching goal is to strengthen the protection of biodiversity, enhance the provision of ecosystem services, and increase resilience to climate change at the land and seascapes level through better connected land and seascapes.

Connectivity addresses the increasing isolation of large natural areas, which currently sit within a matrix of human-dominated landscapes and seascapes. This isolation affects the movement of species across the land or seascapes. It also affects the flow of ecological processes necessary for the provision of ecosystem services which in turn improve well-being for people. Connectivity is a concept that recognizes that habitats and species function as part of a large, interconnected network of land and seascapes. It recognises that conservation depends not only on protection but also on connection. Connectivity conservation areas are an essential feature to protected areas as they link protected areas and integrate them into the wider land and seascapes.

Addressing the challenge: A Global Connectivity Conservation Strategy

A new UNEP initiative aims to tackle the problem of increasing habitat fragmentation through the development of a global connectivity conservation strategy. This strategy will assist countries and regions to integrate connectivity conservation into their national land use and seascapes planning. To achieve this, the initiative seeks to build on on-going connectivity conservation work to promote an understanding of the priorities for connectivity and provide guidance to scale-up the use of connectivity as a conservation tool.

Relevant to UNEP's Programme of Work, CBD Strategic Plan & Sustainable Development Goals

The initiative contributes to achieving of the objectives of the Ecosystem Management sub-programme in the UNEP Programme of Work. It is also relevant to the Convention on Biological Diversities' Strategic Plan. In particular the Aichi Targets 11, 12, 14, and 15, and a range of targets within the Sustainable Development Goals



OUR PARTNERS

This initiative will be implemented by UNEP-WCMC in collaboration with key partners.



Project scope

Biodiversity and ecosystem services are distributed globally and extend beyond geopolitical boundaries. However, connectivity conservation areas that help conserve nature and maintain ecosystem functions can be very country/region specific. Furthermore, these areas can vary greatly depending on spatial scale, the target species, habitat or ecosystem service. The scope of this initiative is therefore global in the sense that it raises the prominence of connectivity conservation on the global agenda. This project considers the landscape, seascapes and migratory routes in which a 'connectivity conservation area' has been delineated.

Phase 1: Develop Tool

Creation of global information hub

The project will collate information on existing connectivity conservation areas at varying scales into a global information hub containing:

Database of Connectivity Conservation Areas, comprising of basic attributes including spatial information on known connectivity initiatives and will be linked to the World Database on Protected Areas.

Resource library holding information on methods for modelling connectivity; case studies and best practice in connectivity conservation management; and policy and legal instruments

Phase 2: Deploy Tool

Inform analysis & develop practical guidelines

The global information hub will be used to:

Mapping of Connectivity conservation areas to inform a global analysis of potential areas for scaling up connectivity conservation at the landscape and seascapes scale

Practical guidance material development to support the implementation and establishment of connectivity conservation in to the wider landscape and seascapes

Phase 3: Share Tool

Capacity building & technical support

Working in collaboration and building on existing efforts, this initiative will provide:

Technical support and capacity building among decision-makers and other stakeholders in priority areas to expand connectivity conservation work on a global scale.

Next STEPS

A long-term Global Connectivity Strategy will be based on the results from this initial project.



UNEP

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

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GLOBAL

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