Biodiversity and Conservation in the Alps

From survival to coexistence

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17th February 2021
How can we help the survival of species, including our own?
Alpine Biodiversity

Pilotto et al., 2020
Alpine Biodiversity

THE WOLF
Source: Province of BZ

THE ALPINE IBEX
Source: Eurac Research

THE BEAR
Source: Province of TN
Alpine Biodiversity THREATS

- Urbanization
- Habitat fragmentation
- Traffic
- Tourism
- Climate change
- Agriculture
- Freshwater

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Protected Areas

30% of Alpine Convention territory
Protected Areas

Super SACAs in the EUSALP macro-region
- Ecological macro corridors
- Main barriers
- Connectivity areas
- SACA 1: Ecological conservation areas
- SACA 2: Ecological intervention areas
- SACA 3: Connectivity restoration areas

Data: ALPARC, Asters, SNP
Ecological connectivity

populations in core and surrounding habitats are disconnected

introduced habitat corridors allow for connected habitats

www.socratic.org
Ecological connectivity

Source: Hoffmann, motorway, Zilina-Zvolen

Source: BioREGIO Carpathians
Ecological connectivity Projects
Human-Wildlife Conflicts

• Conflicts are a characteristic of human society

• Conservation conflicts = “…two or more parties with strongly held opinions clash over conservation objectives and when one party is perceived to assert its interests at the expense of another” (Young et al. 2010)

• Conflicts occur between humans

Wildlife species conscious human antagonists?

Human-Wildlife Conflicts

Cultural conflicts

Economic conflicts

Environmental conflicts
Human-Wildlife Conflicts have an impact on Ecological Connectivity

- Each (social) conflict in an ecologically valuable area has a potentially negative effect on ecological **connectivity** and wildlife management

- Connectivity is not only an environmental, but especially a social and economic issue
Human-Wildlife Conflicts have an impact on Ecological Connectivity
Human-Wildlife Conflicts have an impact on Ecological Connectivity
Which development model?

- Aut-Aut
- Humans and Wildlife
- Ex-clusive
  (Humans OR Nature)
- In-clusive
  (Humans AND Nature)
- Et-Et
Nature Conservation projects

• **Conservation projects**: protect biodiversity, wildlife, wild places or endangered species and promote their enhancement

• **Conservation activities are often in conflict with other human activities.**

• **Conservation needs to go together with local development**

• **Conservation - Connection - Support - Education**

[https://www.lifewolfalps.eu/](https://www.lifewolfalps.eu/)  [https://lifestockprotect.info/](https://lifestockprotect.info/)
Nature Conservation projects
Nature Conservation projects
Nature Conservation projects
Final Considerations

- There is **not a general model** for human-wildlife coexistence

- Wildlife species are **unpredictable and uncontrollable** - this is unacceptable for many people

- Promotion of **resilience** is more productive than looking for and/or imposing the TRUTH of a part

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**A species survives when, and only when, humans decide to value it, have positive attitudes toward it, and actively engage in doing something to conserve it (Bath, 2009)**

**The future of wild species depends as much on human attitudes, emotional responses and behaviours as it does on wildlife ecology (Enck et al., 2006)**
THANK YOU VERY MUCH

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