

Identifying the PEEN in South-eastern Europe

Indicative map of the Pan- European Ecological Network

Introductory meeting of “The indicative map of
PEEN for SEE” 2-3 December 2003, Ljubljana



Aim of project

• to outline the contours of the Pan European Ecological Network in South Eastern Europe.

• to identify, for Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia-Montenegro, Bulgaria, the FYR of Macedonia, Turkey, Albania:

• the core nature areas of European importance;

• existing corridors between these areas;

• where new corridors could and should be established to meet the connectivity requirements of key species;

• the location of buffer zones and stepping stones, when and if required and possible.

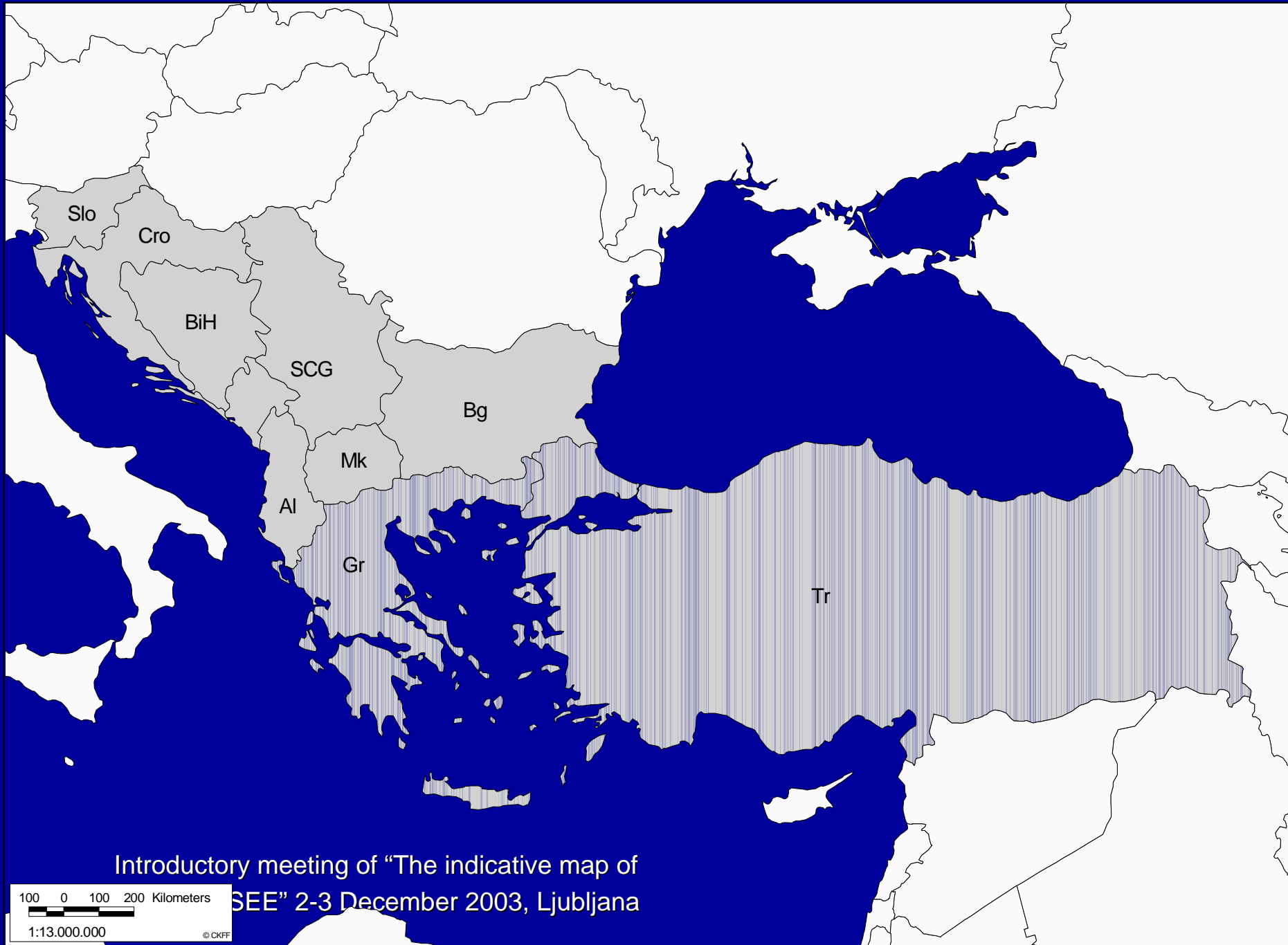
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- ŷ The map remains an indicative map, will only identify the *possible or likely* location of core areas, corridors, buffer zones and restoration areas of Pan-European importance.
- ŷ The exact boundaries of PEEN in South Eastern Europe can be identified only at the national and regional level.
- ŷ The project is not aimed at suggesting that the identified areas should be designated under international or national protection instruments, nor does it wish to interfere with the sovereign rights of national governments to designate areas for nature conservation purposes.

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Project structure

Funders: Dutch ministries of Foreign Affairs and Agriculture, Nature and Food safety

Project Team: Representatives of each organisation participating in the project chaired by ECNC's Head of Programme and Strategy Unit. The Project Team will meet 3 times during project implementation.

Advisory committee: It consists of scientists and senior policy makers with expertise in the field of developing and implementing (international) ecological networks. The responsibility is to guarantee that all activities under the project meet the highest standards of quality and relevance. The Advisory committee will be involved in consultation processes on all major deliverables of the project. The advisory committee will meet 2 times during the project.

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Project team

- ŷ Albania: Directorate of Nature Protection
- ŷ Bosnia and Herzegovina: Agricultural Institute
- ŷ Bulgaria: Wilderness fund
- ŷ Croatia: University of Zagreb
- ŷ Macedonia: Agency of Environment
- ŷ Serbia-Montenegro: Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia
- ŷ Slovenia: Center for Cartography of Fauna and Flora
- ŷ Turkey: WWF Turkey

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Organisations represented in Advisory Committee

- ŷ IUCN;
- ŷ UNEP-WCMC;
- ŷ REC;
- ŷ Committee of Experts for establishment of PEEN;
- ŷ Greek Biotope and Wetland Centre (EKBY);
- ŷ EUCC;
- ŷ Expertise Center of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Safety.

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Target groups

Primary target groups:

- ŷ National + regional authorities for nature conservation in participating countries;
- ŷ Research institutes in participating countries;
- ŷ Representatives of land use sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, water management, transport;
- ŷ Committee of Experts for PEEN.

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Secondary target groups:

- ŷ Researchers working in the field of international nature conservation and policy development;
- ŷ EEA + Topic Centre on Nature Protection and Biodiversity;
- ŷ International NGOs working in the field of nature conservation;
- ŷ European Commission;
- ŷ Stability Pact Secretariat;
- ŷ Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme;
- ŷ European financial institutes (EIB, EBRD).

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End products

- ŷ **Indicative map of PEEN for SEE;**
- ŷ **Technical background document;**
- ŷ **Final project leaflet;**
- ŷ **Web-site.**

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As an end product, the map itself will:

- ŷ illustrate the coherence of the region's natural heritage and its importance in a European context;**
- ŷ provide a framework for the development of national ecological networks and facilitate synergy between national or local initiatives;**
- ŷ be an instrument to communicate nature conservation to a wide target audience;**
- ŷ indicate where local developments could impact on the wider regions biodiversity, hence, be of relevance for land-use planning and infrastructure development in the region.**

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The process of map-making

- ŷ The process is considered as relevant as the end product. Developing the map will put the subject of ecological networks 'on the map' in SEE;
- ŷ It will increase awareness of the potential of this concept – for the entire region as well as for the individual countries;
- ŷ It will lead closer to cooperation and a better exchange of information between researchers and policy makers;
- ŷ It will strengthen international and region-wide approaches to resolving biodiversity issues;
- ŷ It will assist in enhancing the interregional cooperation within the SEE region;
- ŷ It will stimulate the linkages of the regional network with the overall Pan-European Ecological Network;
- ŷ and also it will assist in identifying ecological zones which need special attention from a region-wide perspective.

Most of these countries are in the process of EU accession or are moving towards this process; the experiences can be used during the designation of N2000 and Emerald sites under the Bern convention.

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Visit the web-site of the project for regular updates
and consultation:

<http://www.ecnc.nl/doc/projects/peensee/index.html>

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ECNC Project:

PEEN SEE: Indicative Map of Pan European Ecological Network in South-Eastern Europe

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The indicative map of the Pan-European Ecological Network in South-Eastern Europe is funded by PIN-MATRA Subsidy Scheme by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.

Introduction

Since its first appearance on the nature conservation scene in the early 80s, the concept of ecological networks has become increasingly important in European nature conservation.

The basic premise of the ecological network concept is straightforward: the fragmentation of habitats can be counteracted by creating buffer zones to protect the surviving natural areas, and connecting these core areas by stepping stones and corridors, which allow species to colonise new areas and to move freely in search of food or a mate.

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