

# „Alpine Open Spaces - options between ecology and land-use for generations to come“

Considerations for the future evolution of the alpine space

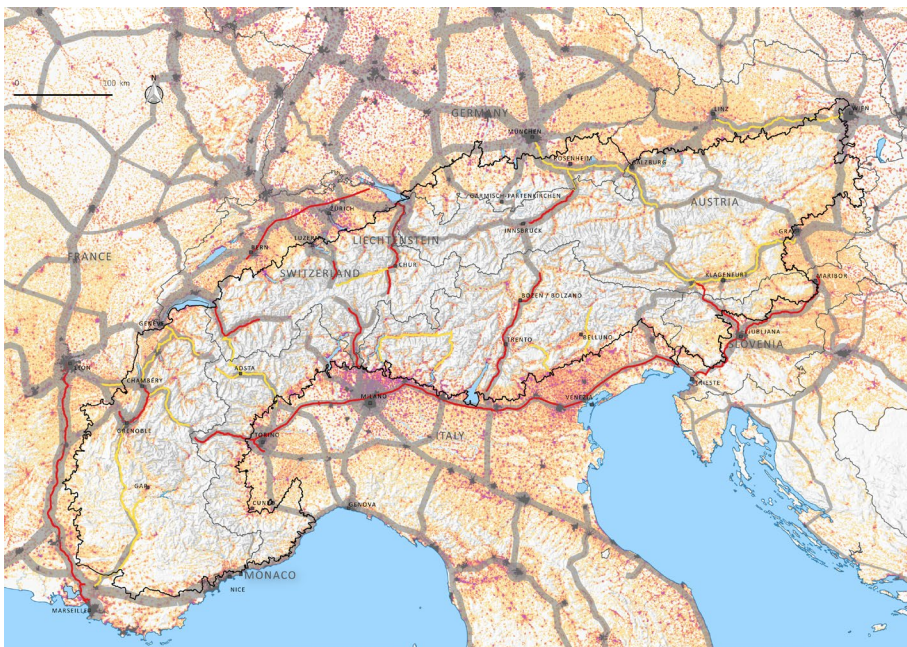
# Open space – sealed space – fragmentation – ecological connectivity – green infrastructure...

## A definition:

Open spaces comprise areas that are kept free from building developments of any kind, which are not predominantly developed (punctual, linear or planar infrastructure) and widely free of soil sealing, ideally free of traffic or largely reserved for non-motorised traffic and thus 'noise-free'. Technical infrastructures not belonging to the landscape structure are either non-existent or hardly available.

## An illustration ...

## Alpine space and population



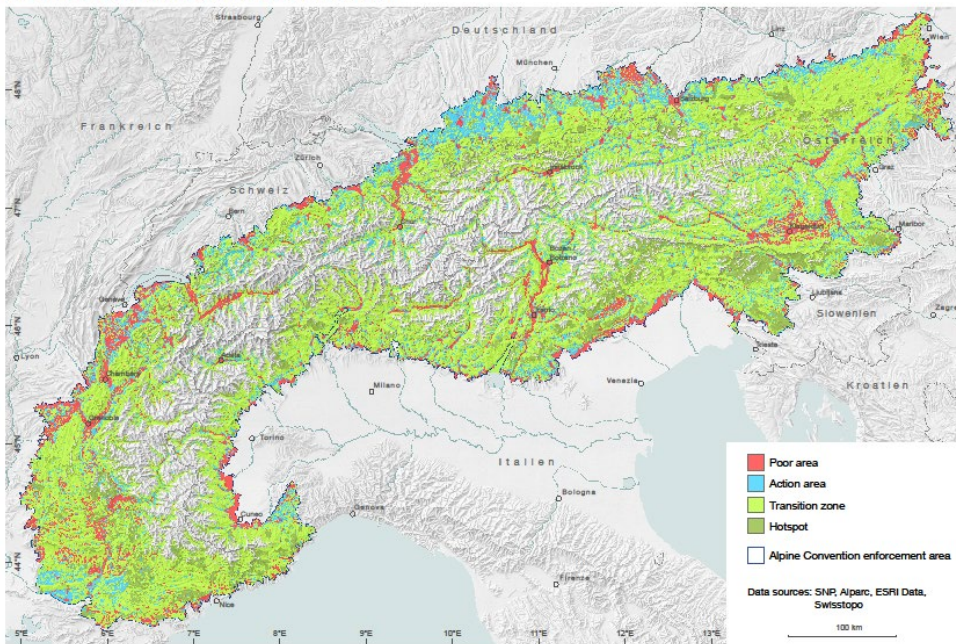
- Very important agglomerations around the Alps often isolating the Alps from its surroundings and the neighbour mountain massifs (Carpathians, Jura, Apennine...)
- Alpine towns and agglomerations mainly in 10 inner-alpine valleys
- Concentration of soil sealing and fragmentation of natural or semi natural areas in the alpine valleys
- Intensive agriculture in the lower altitudes of the alpine territory
- Pressure and impacts of leisure activities in mid- and high altitudinal levels

## Overall objectives of OpenSpaceAlps

- Fostering sustainable development of the alpine space by maintaining open spaces...
- Integration of ecosystem functions and needs into policies...
- Improve the capacities of spatial and sectoral land planners for balancing different land uses...
- Integrate nature conservation needs into spatial planning approaches such as protected areas, ecological connectivity and ... open spaces allowing options for generations to come.
- Providing perspectives for spaces to be kept « open »

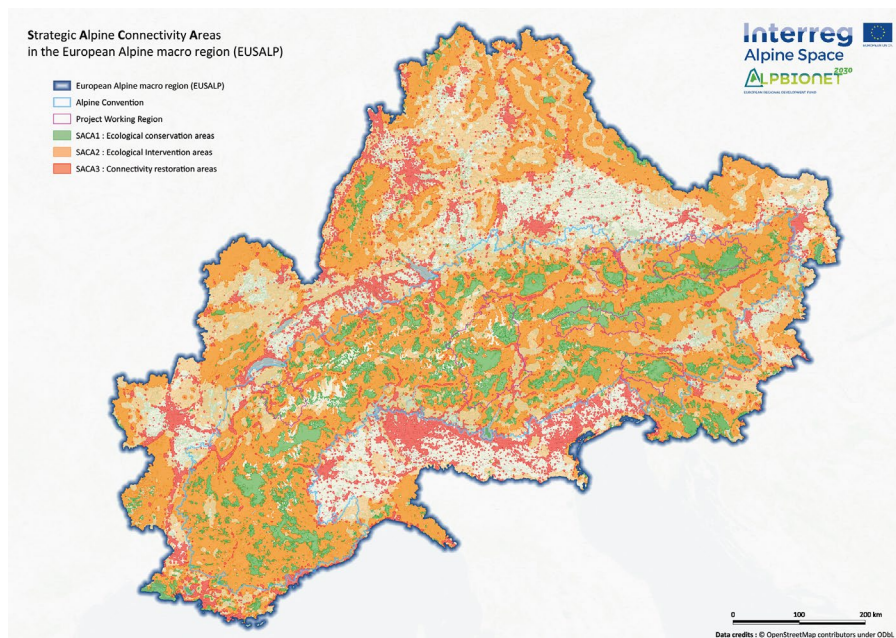
# Alps – areas to act to keep spaces open (under 1800 m)

## 2. Categorized CSI alps on areas below 1800 m.a.s.l.



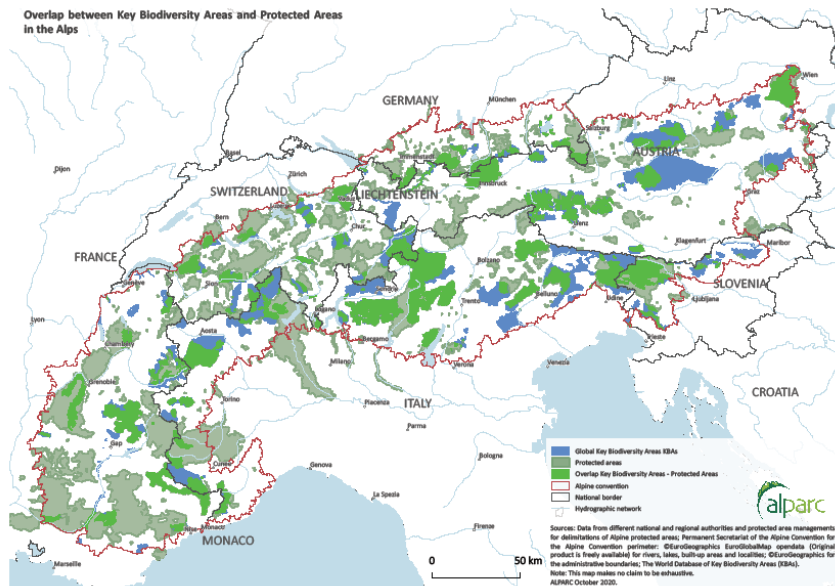
- Blue: Areas threatened by fragmentation or closing landscapes with strategic interest
- Bright green: Transition areas mostly used by agriculture
- Dark green: open natural spaces with high ecological interest
- Red: « occupied » space

## Situation of ecologically 'open' spaces today



- SACA1 – areas with high ecological interest and functioning connectivity
- SACA2 – areas where intervention is of high interest for OpenSpaceAlps
- SACA3 – Areas not anymore 'open'

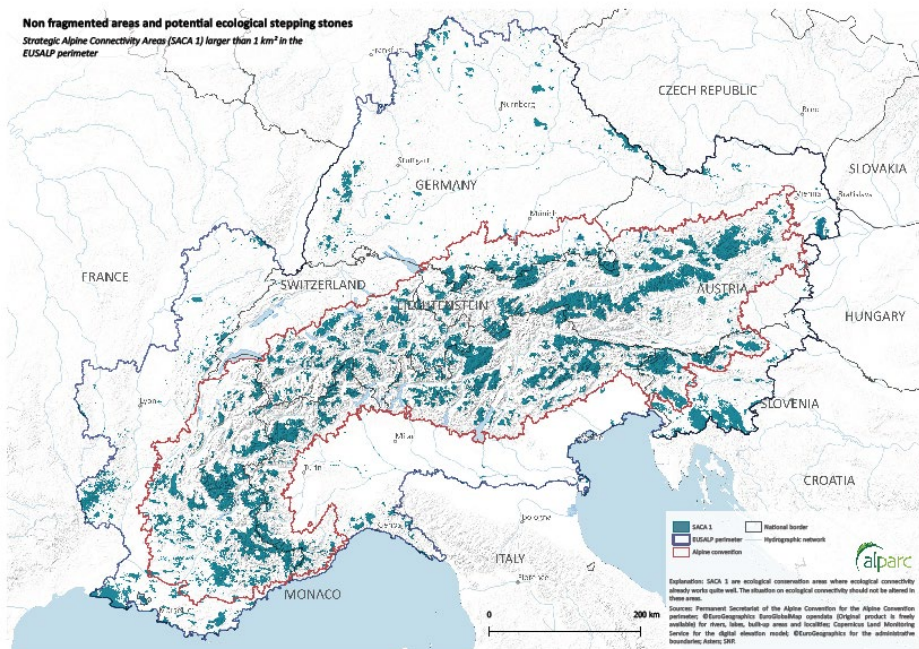
# Open spaces and biodiversity



Coloured areas should be kept 'open' as a result of protected and key biodiversity areas – and they should have a protection status as well in the future!



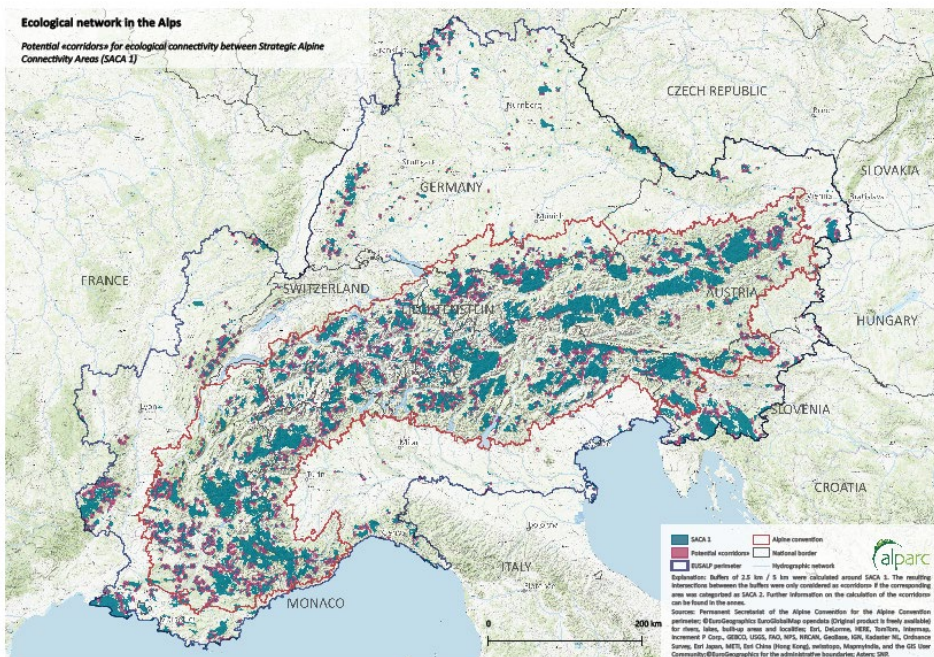
# Open spaces – which use of the alpine space?



- Settlement
- Agriculture
- Tourism
- Natural spaces
- Recreation zone for close agglomerations
- Traffic and Transit
- Energy production
- Typical landscapes
- ...
- **Open space for futur activities to be decided by generations to come!**



# Potential of open spaces according to SACA1



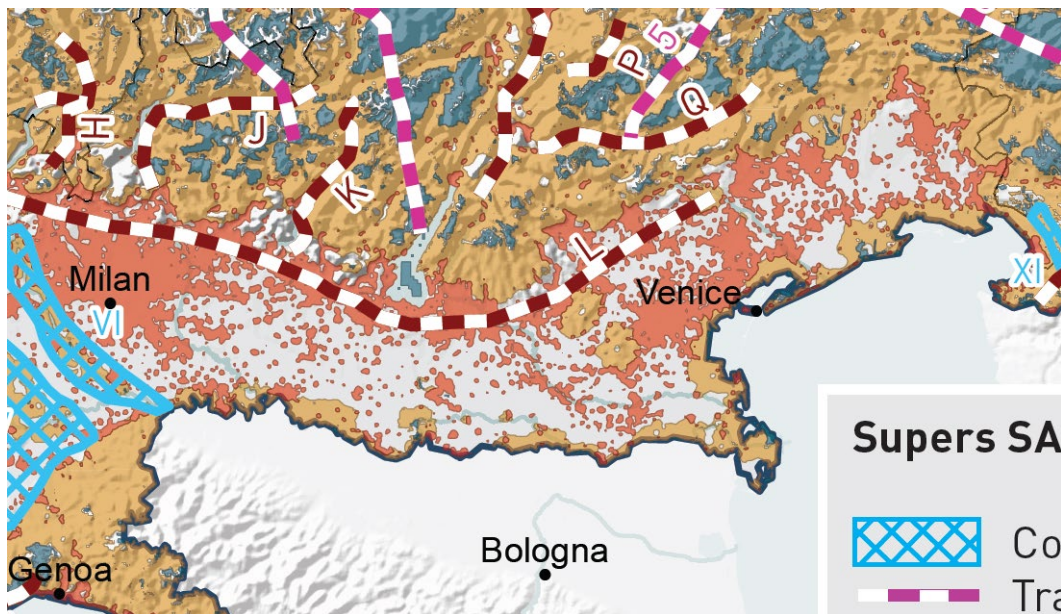
Calculation of open spaces by buffering (e.g. open areas for corridors between SACA1 to create larger areas with high potential for ecological processes)

But in the same way it is possible to calculate open spaces for « so far non defined use » according to adapted indicators

## Different options for future use ... at least options!

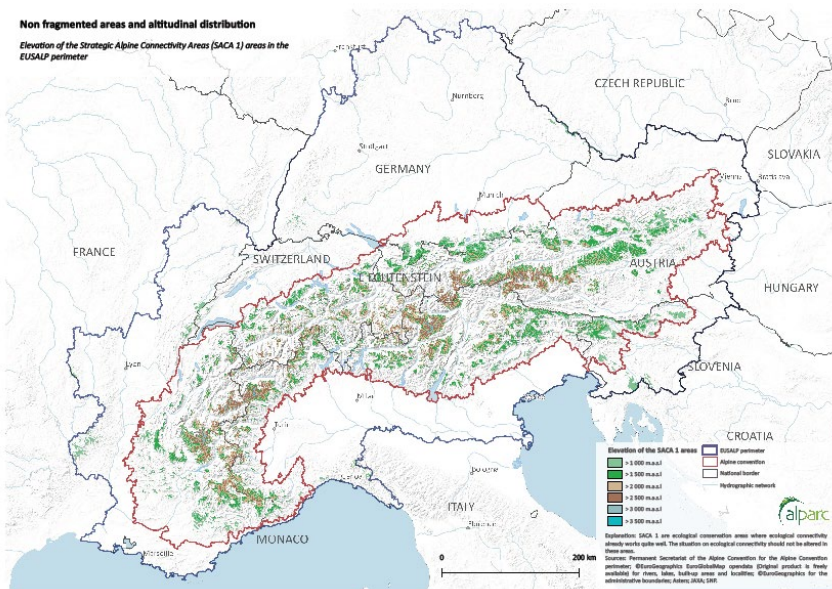


# Keep open spaces in or between major agglomerations



Adapted policies for open spaces in some regions of the Alps and especially in its periphery – in some areas it is the “last” chance!

# Where are the ‘open spaces’ and where should they be?



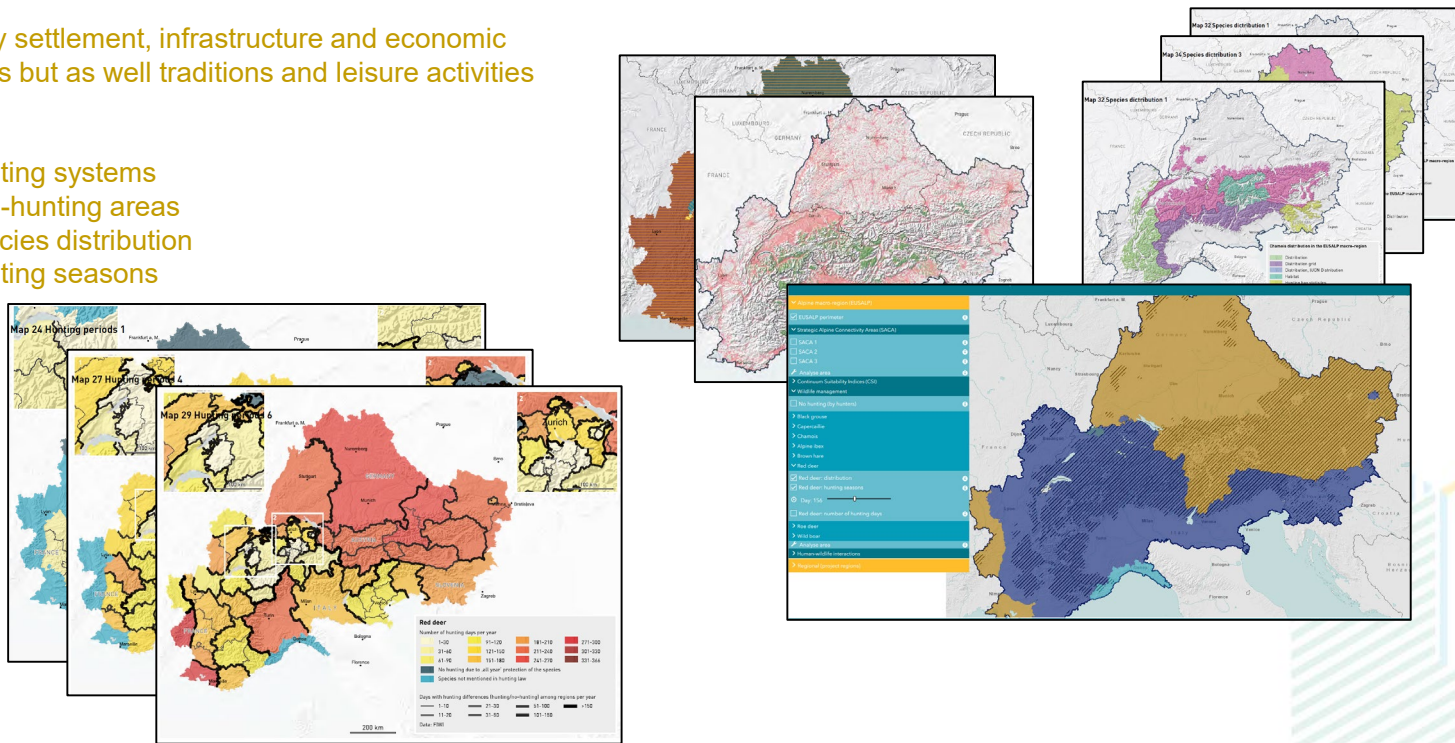
- The localisation of ‘open spaces’ is not indifferent – it has a signification for future generations!
- Not all options exists at all altitudinal levels but today open spaces (with protection status and with high biological « value ») are often in relatively high altitudes.
- Take open spaces in consideration within planning in the lowlands and economically interesting areas of the Alps!

Different factors are impacting 'open spaces'

Not only settlement, infrastructure and economic activities but as well traditions and leisure activities e.g.:

- Hunting systems
- Non-hunting areas
- Species distribution
- Hunting seasons

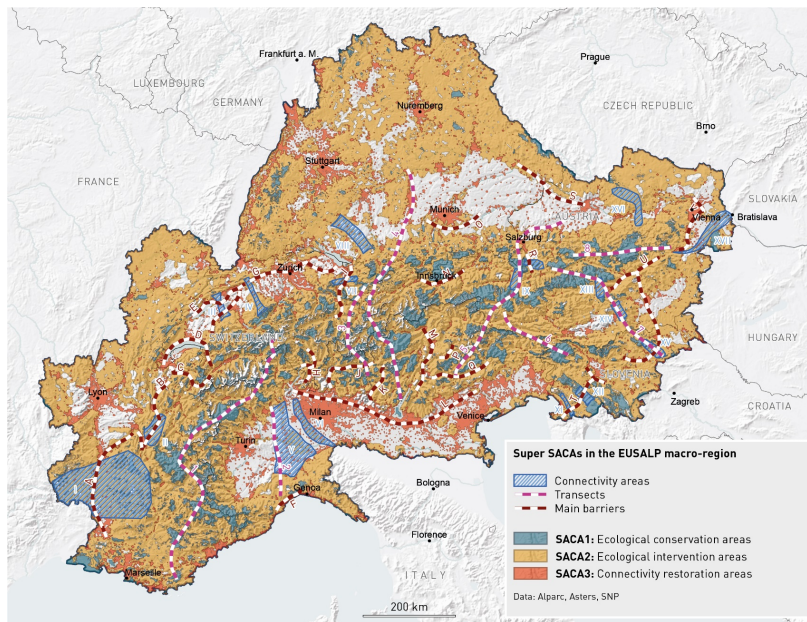
## Wildlife management



# Results from former projects exists – we can build on experiences – let’s complete the “picture”

Definition of areas with “high challenges”

The differentiation of SACA 2 areas are probably the challenge of OpenSpaceAlps



## VISION

# What would be the mid- and long-term vision of an alpine “OpenSpace”

- A **harmonised landscape vision** between the Alpine countries with common goals?
  - A clear definition of the importance and position of agriculture, tourism, industry, nature protection (parks) within a more **sustainable alpine planning policy** (“Where do we want to stay in 20 years – which Alps?”)
  - A **precise zoning** like e.g. in the Bavarian Alpine Plan or more flexible tools (and less binding)?
- ➔ **In any case – keep options open for generations to come !**

Thank you – Merci – Grazie – Hvala lepa - Danke!



alpine protected areas