

LIFE+ T.E.N. PROJECT

Moving towards a Trentino Ecological Network

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LIFE+ T.E.N. PROJECT

A TOOL FOR INTEGRATING NATURE CONSERVATION IN DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

The T.E.N. (Trentino Ecological Network) Project, which started in 2012 and lasting 4 years, is part of the LIFE+ Program, the European Commission's financial instrument which contributes to the development and implementation of environmental policy, and within a more general framework, sustainable development.

The ultimate purpose of T.E.N. is the planning for an ecological network in Trentino with the goal of integrating nature conservation in economic policies (especially those policies that are oriented towards agriculture and tourism) in order to foster a balanced social-economic development in our territory.

THE EVOLUTION OF NATURE CONSERVATION IN TRENTINO

	1986	➔	PROTECTION
	2000	➔	PROTECTION + ACTIVE CONSERVATION
	2007	➔	PROTECTION ACTIVE CONSERVATION + LOCAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
	2012	➔	PROTECTION ACTIVE CONSERVATION LOCAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT + RESTORATION OF ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY

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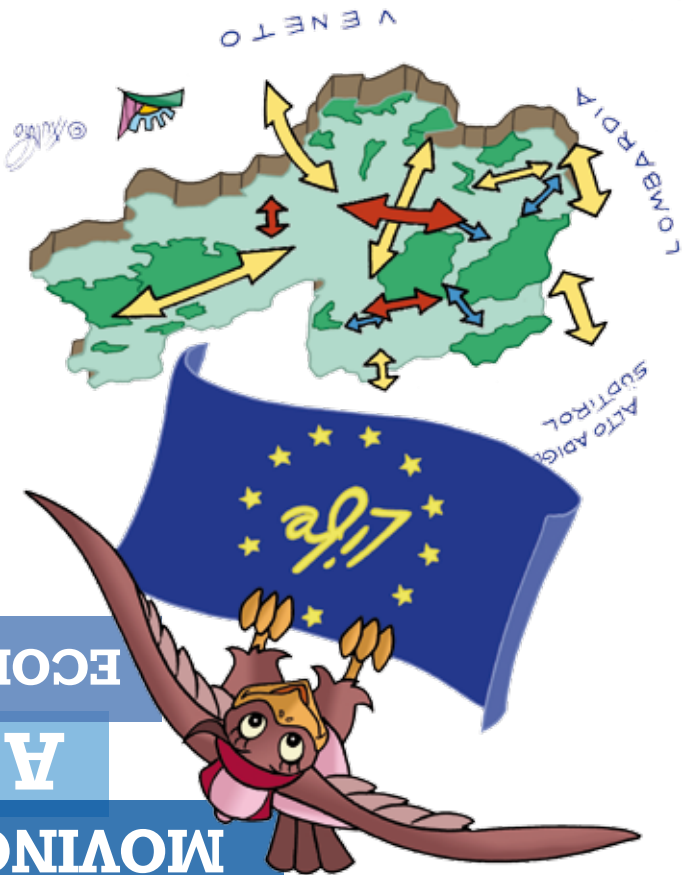
Project LIFE+ T.E.N. *(Trentino Ecological Network)*
AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF TRENTO
Executive assignment for the Enhancement of the Network of Protected Areas
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MOVING TOWARDS A PROVINCIAL ECOLOGICAL NETWORK...

Fortunately, the natural areas in Trentino benefit from a good level of conservation: it can be noted that 30% of the territory is designated as a protected area and 60% is covered by forests.

Thanks to the Life+ T.E.N. project it will be possible to take concrete steps towards defining a Provincial Ecological Network. This is a necessary step for guaranteeing that nature conservation and social-economic development is enhanced to an even greater extent.



The project calls for an intense period of dialogue and interaction with the inhabitants and those territorial associations. This will lay the groundwork for stimulating and providing input to the local and provincial authorities regarding on how to optimally manage the protected areas, as well as providing concrete support for locally based sustainable development projects.

NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS

...UTILIZING A

To implement the Provincial Ecological Network, the T.E.N. project calls for the founding of new **Networks of Protected Areas** in Trentino. This is an innovative model for managing the small existing protected areas (protected areas and sites Natura 2000) that were provided for by the provincial law 11/2007.

Via delegation to the local municipalities, the concept of an "institutional multipurpose Ecological Network", represented by the Network of Protected Areas, facilitates the active protection and enhancement of the protected areas managed "in network". This does not create new obligations for the territory but rather initiates a voluntary and shared process with the local authorities for the integrated management of their natural, historical-cultural and landscape heritage, while fostering the adoption of these principles in territorial and urban planning and zoning.

HERE ARE SOME ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF AN ECOLOGICAL NETWORK



- Core areas
- Buffer areas
- Ecological corridors

ECOLOGICAL NETWORKS

What is an Ecological Network?

It is the sum of interconnected natural areas that contain valuable habitats that are important for the reproduction and survival of animal and plant species, which are at risk from extinction. These natural areas are connected by "ecological corridors", i.e. tracts of land that allow, above all animals to relocate. The gradual anthropization of the territory often results in the fragmentation and isolation of the habitat, thus decreasing its ecological value. By safeguarding the so-called "ecological connectivity of the territory" a large number of species can indirectly be protected. **Humans** are part of this network, which is an important tool for management and protection.

It is important not to underestimate the value of an ecological network that is "multifunctional" by nature because it is advantageous not only to nature but also produces benefits for human communities, for **ecosystem services**, in terms of landscape, purification of water, control of hydrogeological risk etc. A well run ecological network has wide implications on the quality and length of life.



The Natura 2000 network is the sum of more than 25.000 protected natural areas that cover nearly 20% of the European territory. In this context, the Alps represent an ecological corridor of European importance. Trentino region is exactly in the middle of this important geographical area and plays a strategic role within the Alpine Ecological Network.

NATURA 2000 NETWORK: INTEGRATING CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

The **Natura 2000 Network** is the sum of the areas that are protected thanks to two specific European Directives (“Habitat” directive 92/43/CE and the “Birds” directive 2009/147/CE). The purpose of the Network is to preserve nature in general, and more specifically to preserve biodiversity, without excluding human presence in these areas. Actually, mankind (with its economic, social and cultural needs) is considered to be an integral part of the protective system. In fact, increasingly **nature conservation is linked to the protection of the landscape** and ecosystems that man himself helped to create over the centuries due to his presence in the territory and that would be doomed to vanish should those human activities be excluded.

Therefore, managing the Natura 2000 Network also includes **formulating development strategies** for these areas that allow the people who live there to continue to work and remain within the area and thus protect all of its beauty.

The LIFE+ T.E.N. project, with its concrete and demonstrative actions interprets the management of the Natura 2000 areas in a new light, aiming to define a strategy that reconstructs the provincial Ecological Network and collocates it within of the mosaic of the wider Rete Ecologica Alpina (Alpine Ecological Network).

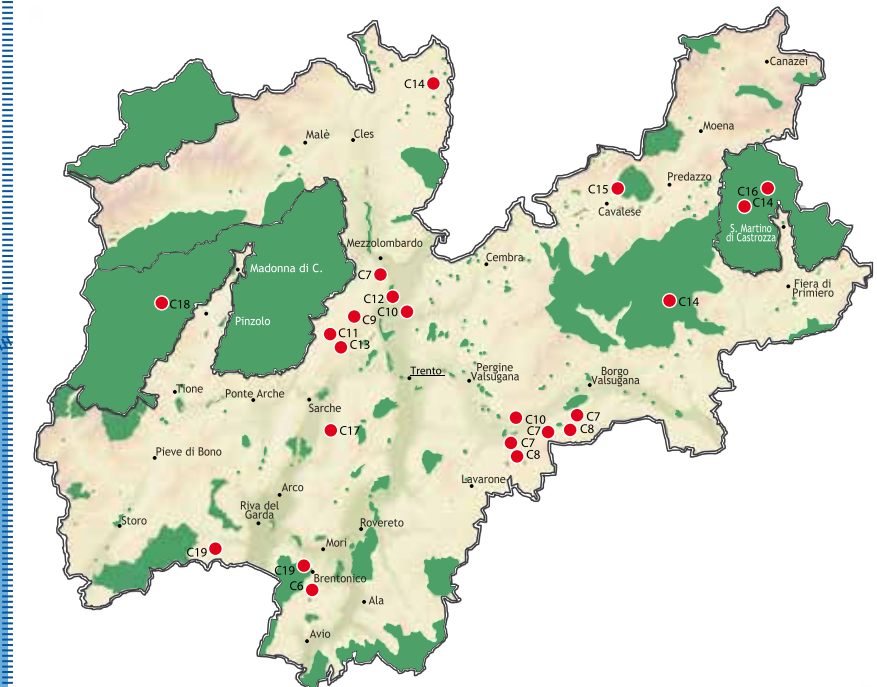


Green spots show the sites of the Natura 2000 network

CONCRETE ACTIONS FOR CONSERVATION

The T.E.N. project calls for the implementation of numerous actions, in particular 8 preparatory actions (including compiling a biodiversity database, drawing up guidelines for managing the habitats) and 20 concrete Actions for conserving biodiversity.

Among these are a series of demonstrative actions that will test out certain practical examples of implementing measures for actively protecting species and habitat as well as actions to increase the ecological permeability of the provincial territory, which will benefit the entire Alpine region.



LIFE+ TEN PROJECT: MAP OF THE DEMONSTRATIVE ACTIONS

DEMONSTRATIVE ACTIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF HABITAT & SPECIES

- C6 Activities aimed at the restoration of dry grassland (habitat 6210*) and hay meadows (habitat 6510, 6520)
- C7 Activities aimed at the restoration of alluvial forests (91E0) in wet lentic and lotic zones
- C8 Recovery of molinia meadows (6410) and peat bogs
- C9 Improve the ecological corridors of the Valle Dell’Adige
- C10 Safeguard the native river shrimp populations
- C11 Safeguard the marble trout populations
- C12 Safeguard the yellow-bellied toad populations
- C13 Protecting birds of prey from electrocution
- C14 Promote safeguarding of corncrake populations
- C15 Promote safeguarding of red-backed Shrike populations
- C16 Safeguard the Rock Partridge populations
- C17 Safeguard black grouse populations
- C18 Controlling an invasive species: eradicating Japanese knotweed
- C19 Integrated projects for socio-economic development