

5th EUSAIR Forum

“Strengthening the Resilience of the Adriatic and Ionian Region through Cooperation”

28-29th January
EUSAIR PILLAR 3 – Environmental Quality

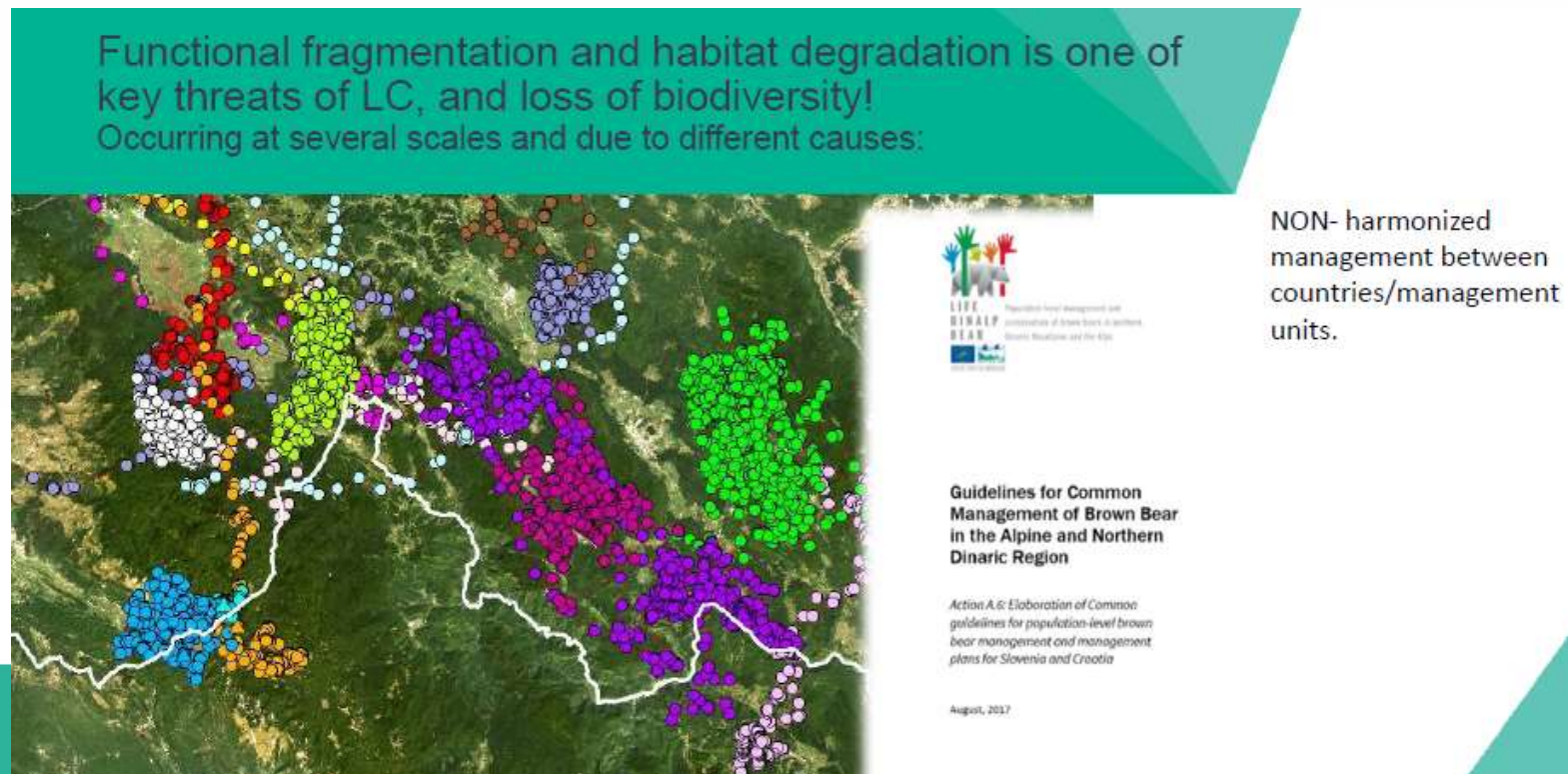
Izola, 29 March 2021

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Importance of blue and green infrastructure in a light of the new EU Post 2020 biodiversity framework: *How to enhance the delivery of essential ecosystem services throughout the Adriatic – Ionian Region?*

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- **Dusan Ognjanovic**, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Serbia
- **Mitja Bricelj**, EUSAIR Pillar 3 Coordinator, Slovenia
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Key messages

- **Europe's large carnivores** (such as grey wolf, Eurasian Lynx and brown bear) require extensive well-connected habitats to sustain viable populations and can be thus considered also as convenient umbrella species for conservation of significant proportion of biodiversity in the region and wider. On this note **green infrastructure** is very important in the Adriatic-Ionian region as their landscape provide important habitats for large carnivores, due to its favourable natural predispositions and strategic geographic position.
- Special attention must be given to **the alignment of policies and approaches** across the Adriatic-Ionian region in order to establish the joint management and the **investments in the landscape infrastructure** to support green/blue corridors. This will contribute to the effective management of shared natural resources.
- **Macro-regional strategies should translate the EU policies** in order to mobilize local institutions, cities, agencies, universities, private sectors and civil society towards better implementation of green infrastructure to **foster green and blue corridors**. This will at the same time **halt habitat degradation**, including habitat fragmentation, and with it **the loss of biodiversity** and ecosystem services.



EUSAIR Facility Point Project Partner

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For a Prosperous and Integrated Adriatic and Ionian Region