



AlpWeek

Grassau - D, 14 October 2016

Session 28 “Roaring deer, babbling brook”

Conserving open landscapes: concepts, strategies, experiences, visions, prejudices, and resistance

Patrizia Rossi (I)

Introduction: the Alps are in the centre of Europe



The importance of the Alps Range for biodiversity conservation and wilderness in Europe.

In the centre of Europe, rising from the sea level (Mediterranean sea) up to 4810 mt (Mont Blanc, highest elevation in Europe)

bridge linking Pyrenées (West) with Balkans and Carpathians (East)

refuge: for endemic species during glaciations, now for big carnivores

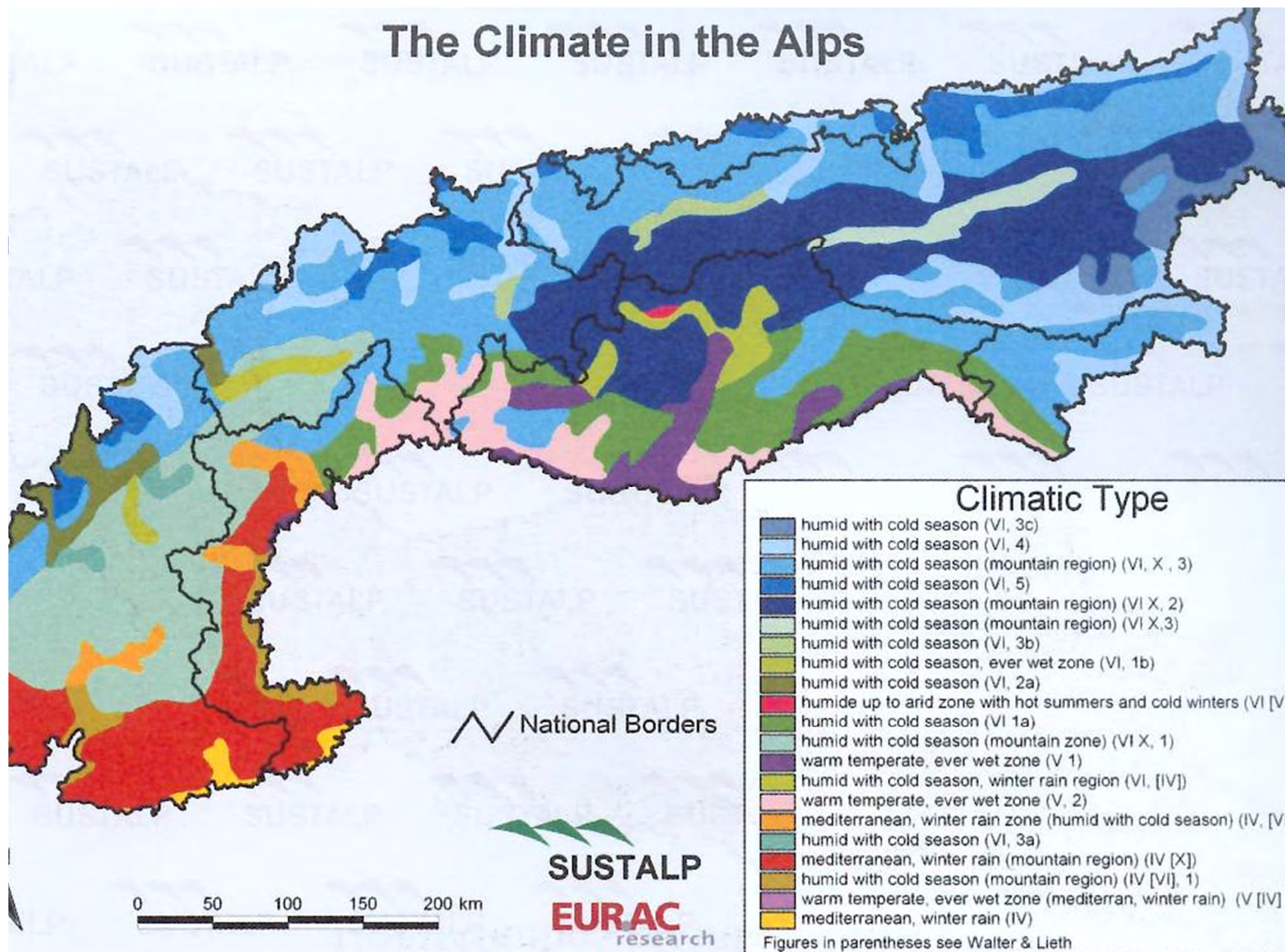
water reservoir for people

physic/cultural barrier and link at the same time, transit and exchange area

lower Alps: first areas inhabited in prehistory

conservation and people are strictly linked in the Alps

The Climate in the Alps



Prehistory:

130.000 years ago, Early Stone Age
mountains provided man with his
material needs (hunting, gathering,
wood, flints, minerals)
and **spiritual needs**
(holy places, ritual sites, home
of thunders and gods)

15.000 years ago, after the Ice Age:
explorative period

5.000 B.C.: first settlements

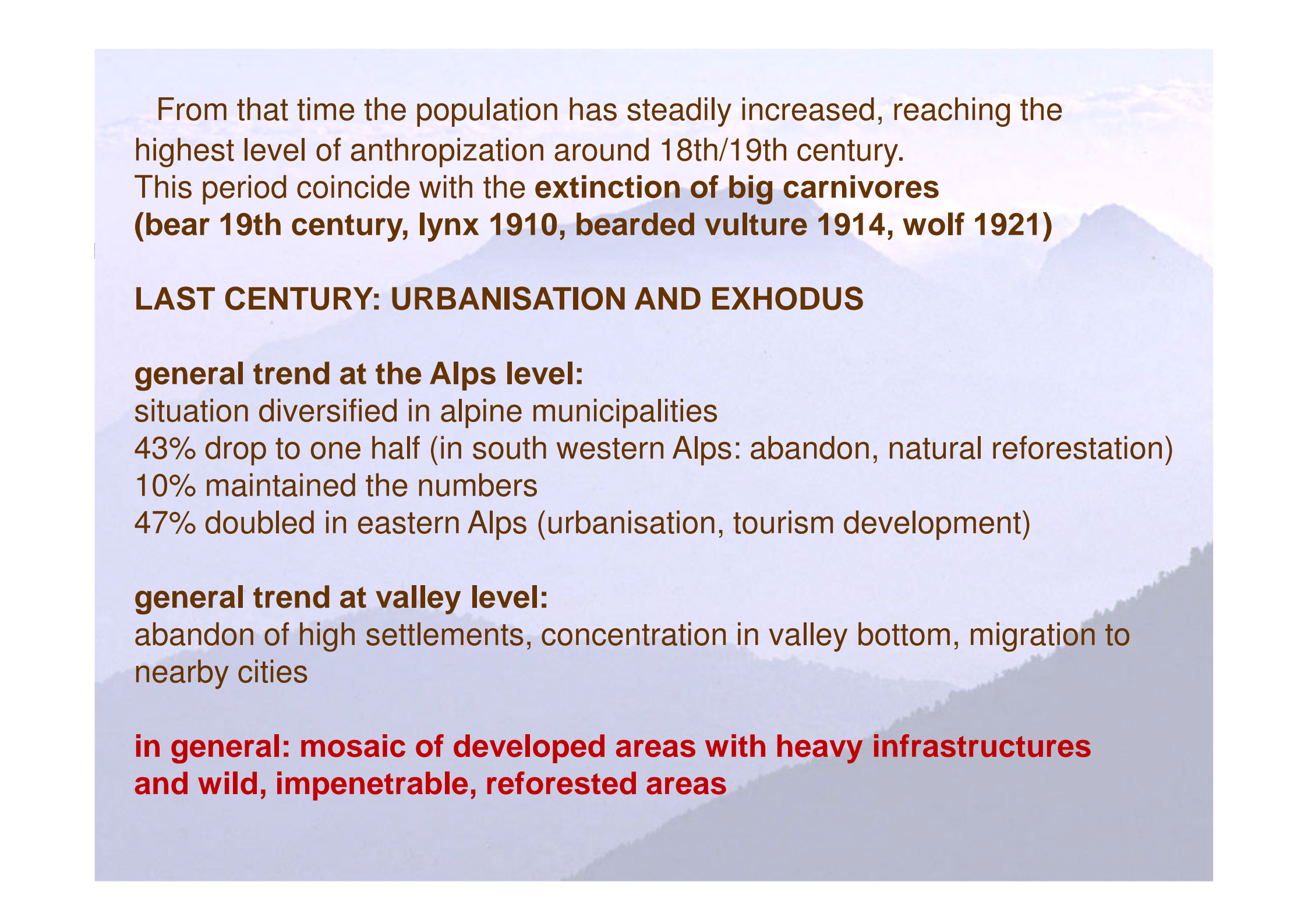
2.000 B.C.: Bronze Age first agriculture
and livestock breeding:
Valle delle Meraviglie,
Val Camonica, Otzi.



The Valley of Wonders, home of the Gods



Graffiti: plough/plow



From that time the population has steadily increased, reaching the highest level of anthropization around 18th/19th century.
This period coincide with the **extinction of big carnivores**
(bear 19th century, lynx 1910, bearded vulture 1914, wolf 1921)

LAST CENTURY: URBANISATION AND EXHODUS

general trend at the Alps level:

situation diversified in alpine municipalities

43% drop to one half (in south western Alps: abandon, natural reforestation)

10% maintained the numbers

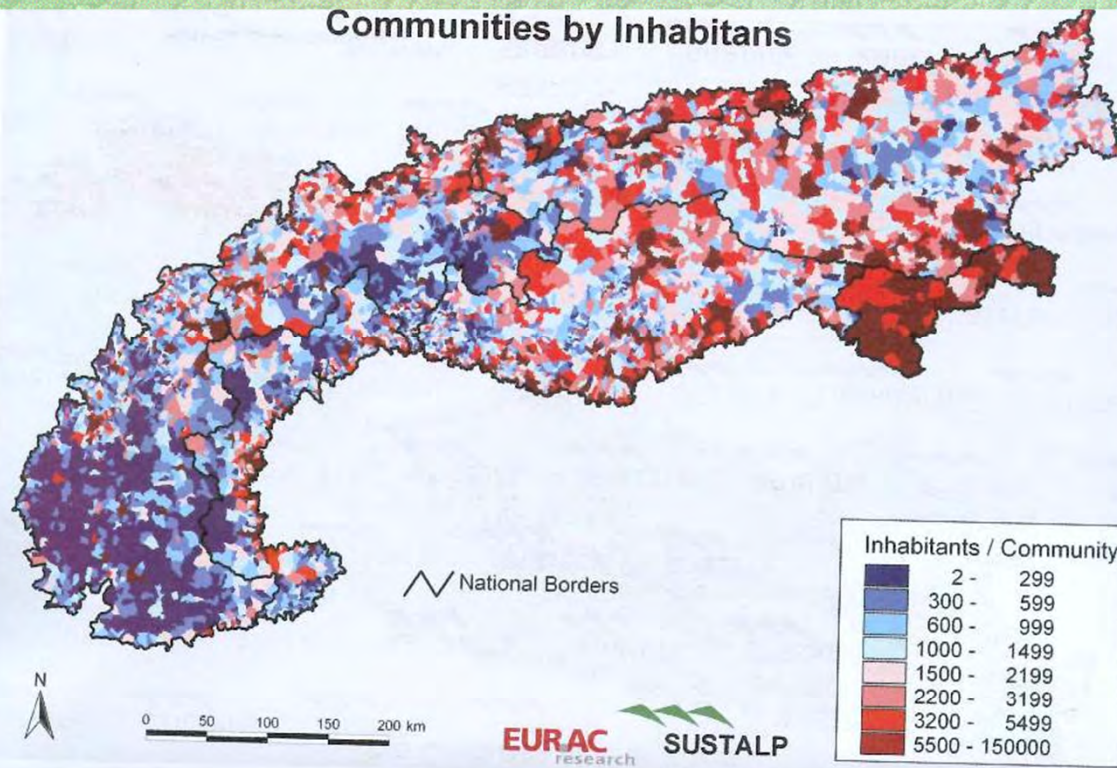
47% doubled in eastern Alps (urbanisation, tourism development)

general trend at valley level:

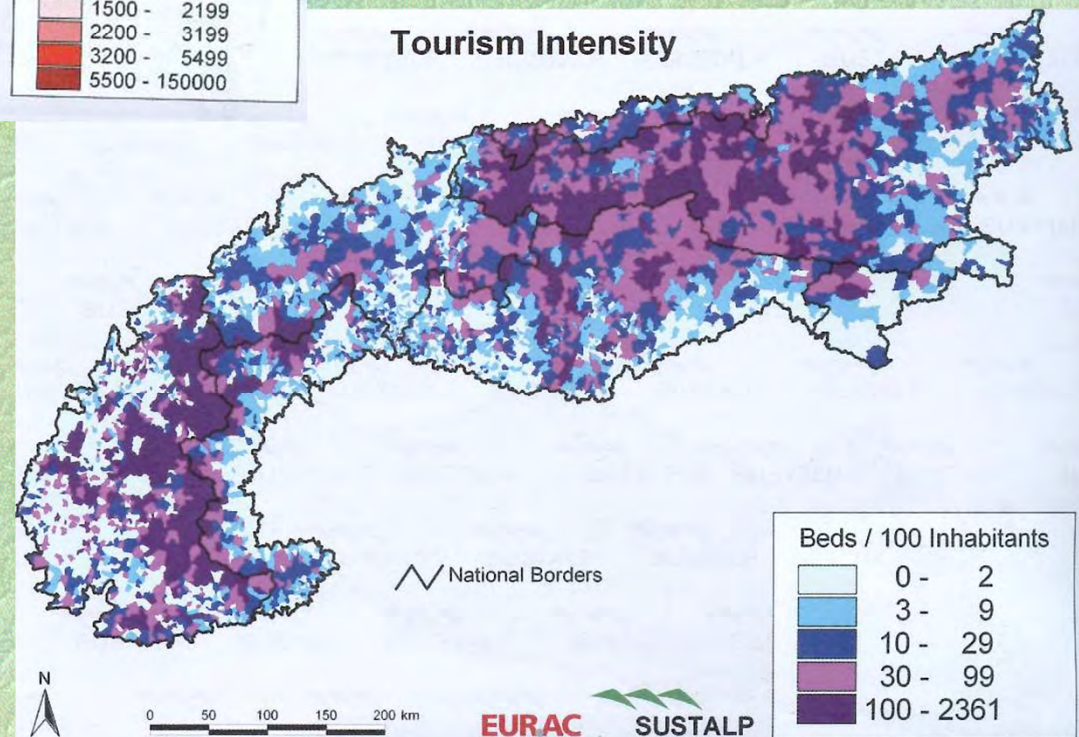
abandon of high settlements, concentration in valley bottom, migration to nearby cities

**in general: mosaic of developed areas with heavy infrastructures
and wild, impenetrable, reforested areas**

Communities by Inhabitans



Tourism Intensity



...big contrasts...



abandon of high settlements

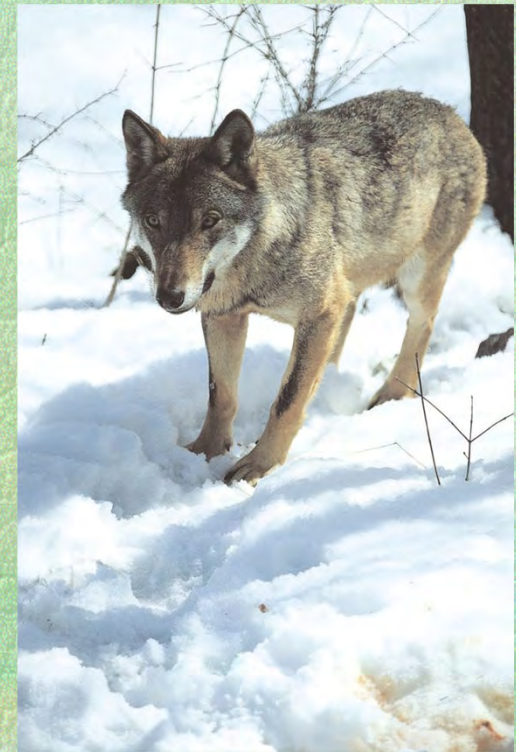
heavy tourism development



my 3 Thesis:

- 1- In order to promote wilderness in the Alps, is wise to use big animals as testimonials: wolf, bear, lynx, bearded vulture...
- 2- There is no wilderness without connectivity, because protected areas are never large enough
- 3- It seems to be a contradiction, but is not: to obtain wilderness you need management, at international and local level.
 - *importance of natural unexploited areas that don't necessarily fall under the denomination of wilderness*
 - *the issue of connectivity*
 - *the relation between nature and people*

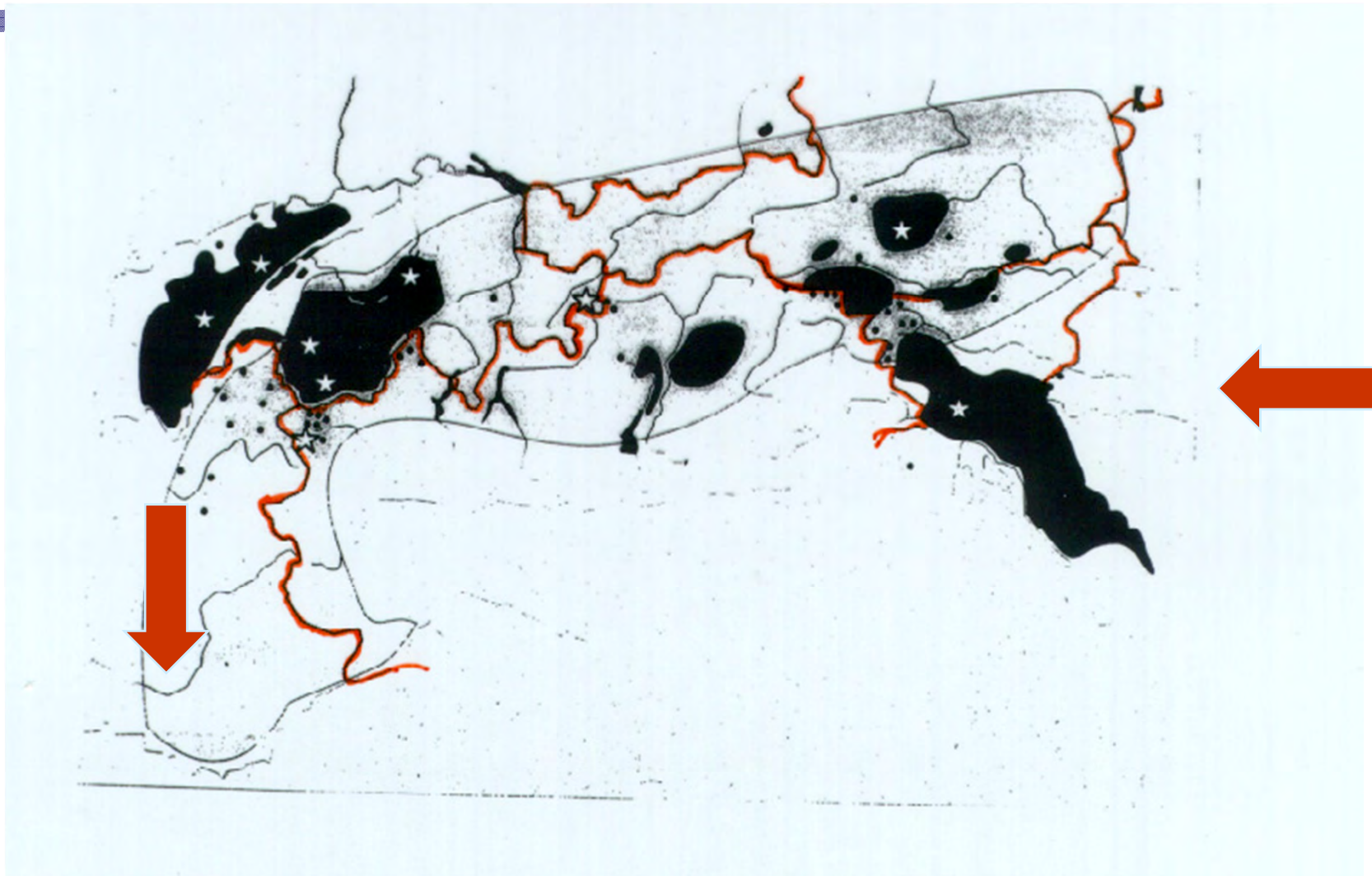
1st Thesis:
the rewilding of the Alps:
the story of the **big 4**
bearded vulture (1914)
lynx (1910)
bear (1800)
wolf (1934)



The bearded vulture reintroduction project: a scientific, conservationist approach



The lynx: present distribution in the Alps, after reintroduction in Juras and expansion from the East





The bear story: past... (extinct 19th century)

...and present!
reintroduction
in Parco
Adamello-Brenta
+ natural recolonisation
from Slovenia

Il ritorno dell'orso bruno

Grazie al progetto di reintroduzione promosso dal Parco Naturale Adamello Brenta in collaborazione con la Provincia di Trento e l'Istituto Nazionale per la Fauna Selvatica, la popolazione degli orsi bruni in quest'area del Trentino è in ripresa e riguarda almeno 11-12 esemplari. Le prospettive di questa significativa ricolonizzazione sono analizzate nel documento che pubblichiamo, a cura di F. Zibordi del Gruppo di Ricerca e Conservazione dell'Orso Bruno del Parco Naturale Adamello Brenta



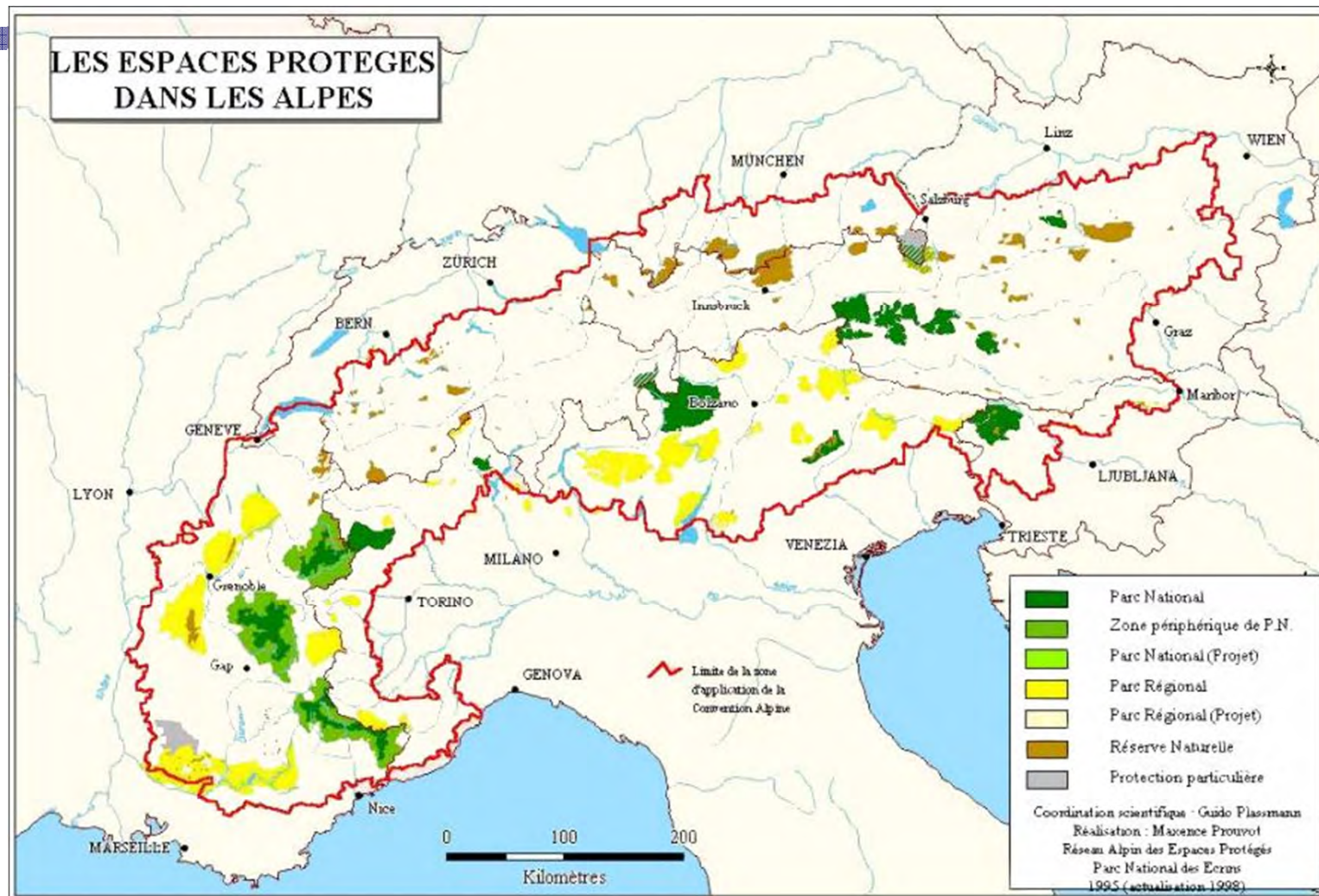
The wolf:

is the only case of totally natural recolonisation, without human intervention

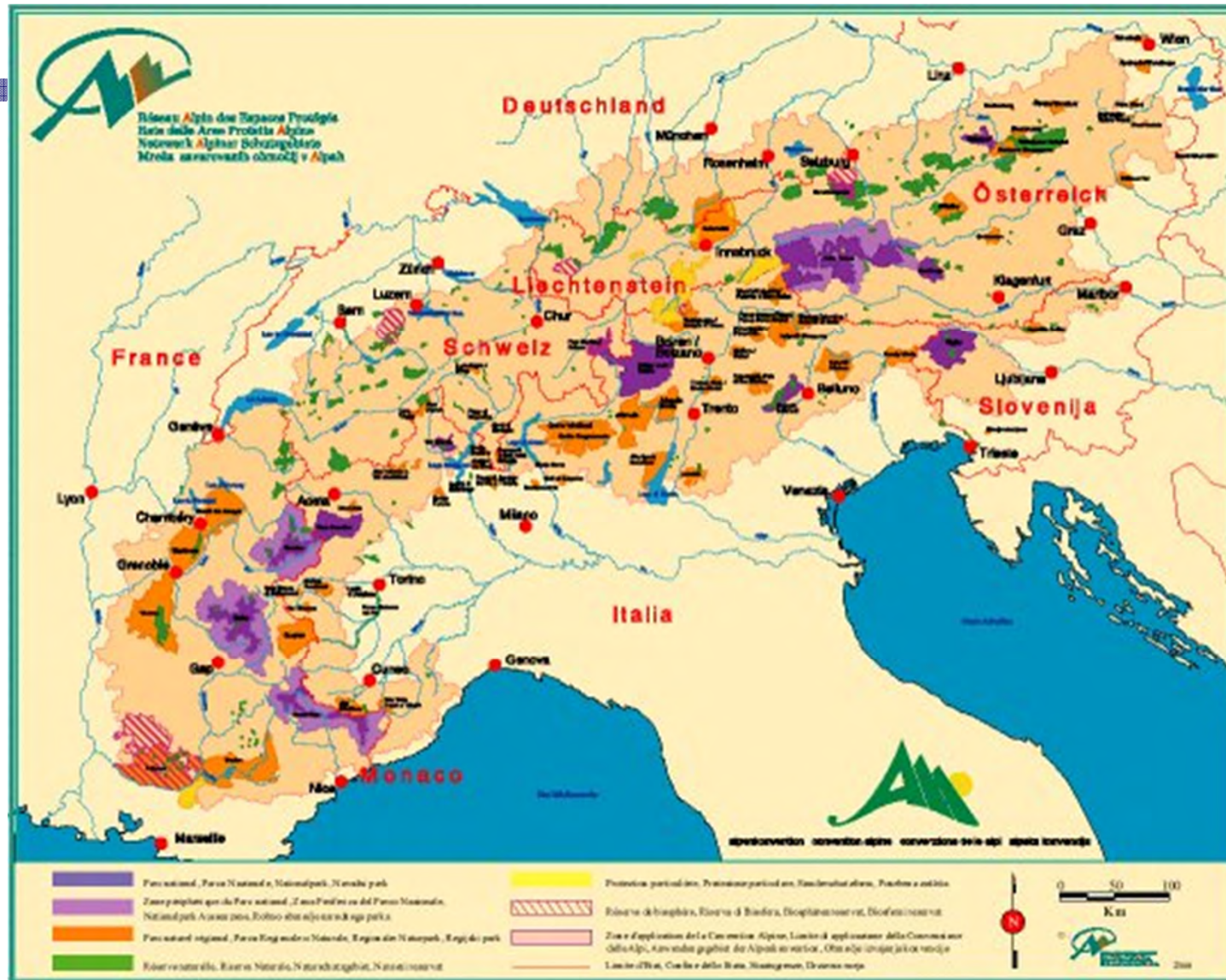
Only some 40 wolves remaining in central Italy (Parco d'Abruzzo) in the 70ies:
in 30 years they spread north and south
now they are about 800



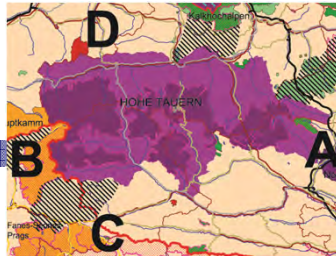
2nd Thesis: protected areas and connectivity in about 10 years: from 1995, 62 PAs, 18.300 hectares, 10% of the territory



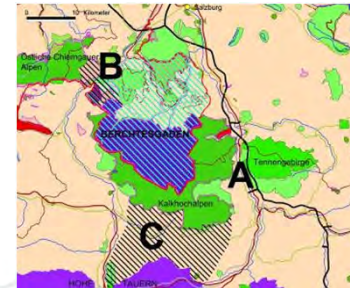
...to 2004, with the EU NATURA 2000 network:
300 large protected areas, 15% of the territory



ECONNECT Project

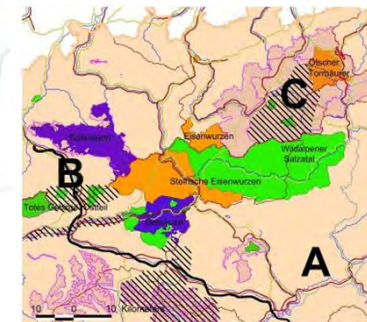
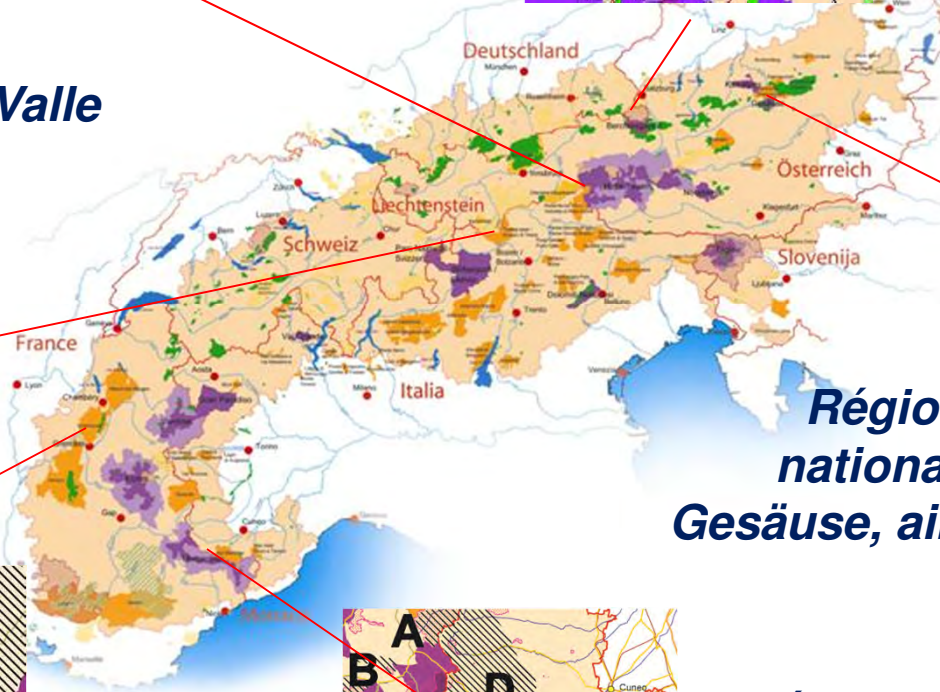
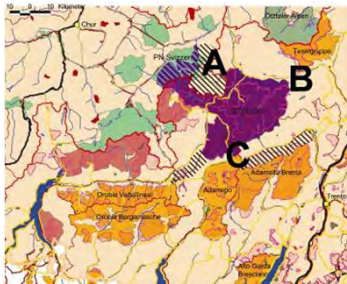


Parc national Hohe Tauern

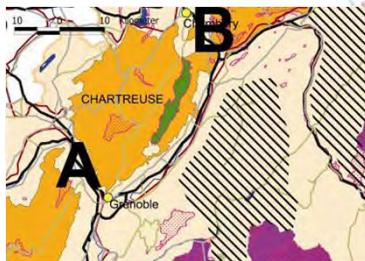


Région transfrontalière Berchtesgaden – Salzburg

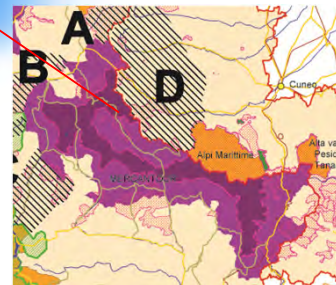
Engadin – Südtirol - Valle dell'Adige



Région autour des parcs nationaux de Kalkalpen et Gesäuse, aire de „Wilderness“ Dürrenstein

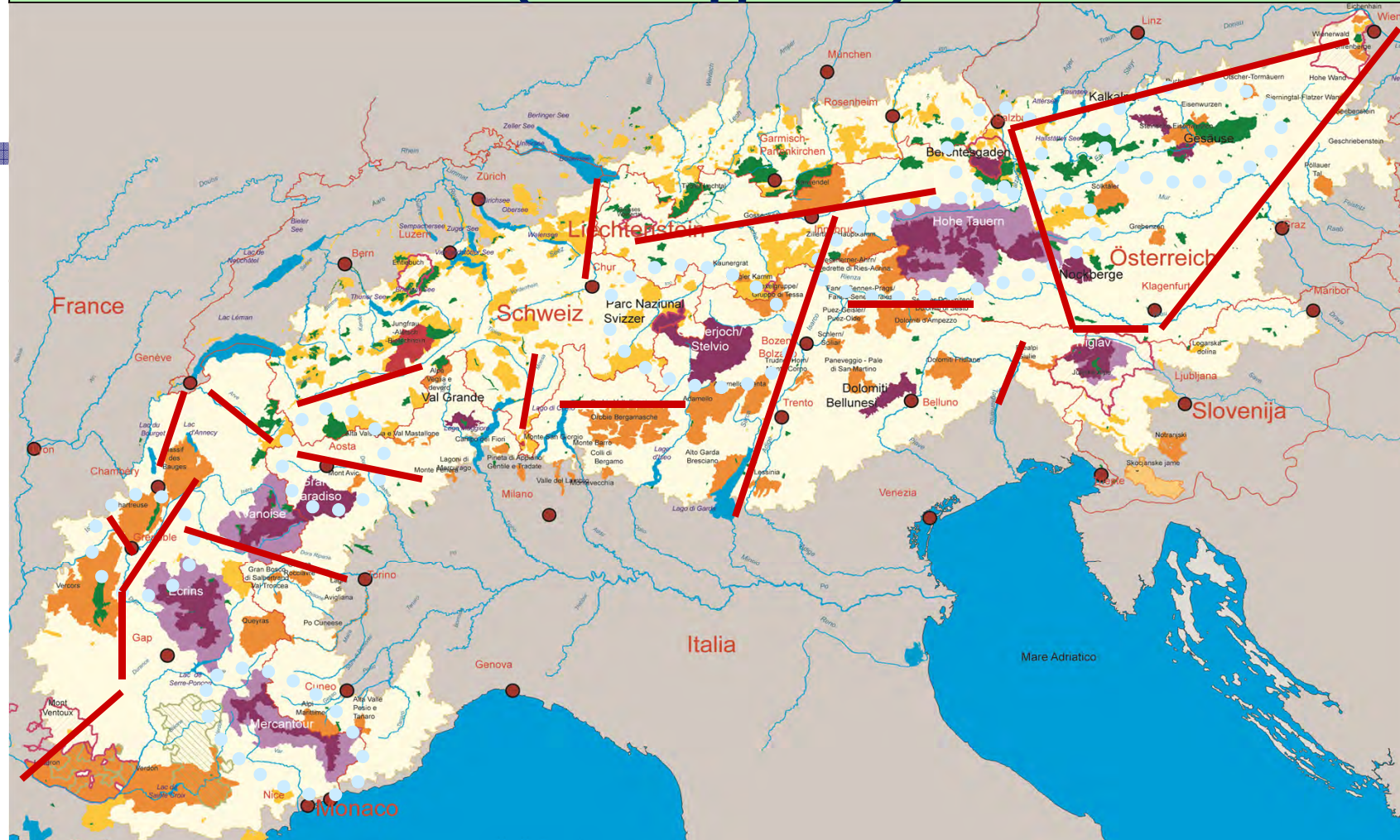


Département Isère



Région transfrontalière Region Alpi Marittime - Mercantour

Overcome barriers of Alps wide importance – (Macro approach)



- Identify the barriers and the existing projects or political initiatives to overcome them
- Identify the most important barriers for an alps wide approach and identify already existing projects
- Involve if necessary the PA in these projects

3rd thesis: management and communication infrastructures: bear bridge in Croatia

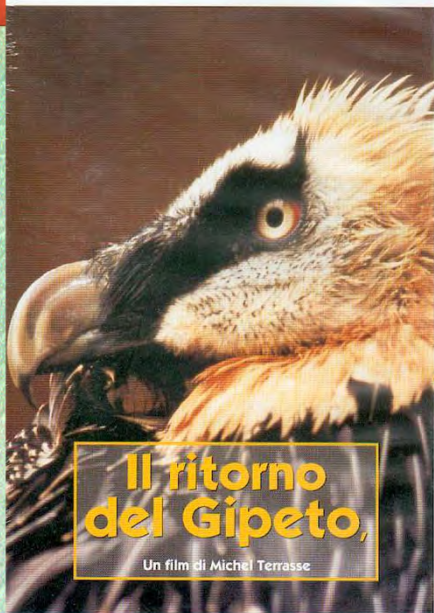


Photo by: Euronatur/Gabriel Schwaderer

People: agreements...



...education, communication and training



Big vision and trails: Y2Y Yellowstone to Yukon



GTA and Via Alpina





INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- CIPRA
- WWF
- Alparc
- ISCAR
- Alpine Convention

priority areas for
biodiversity
Conservation

