

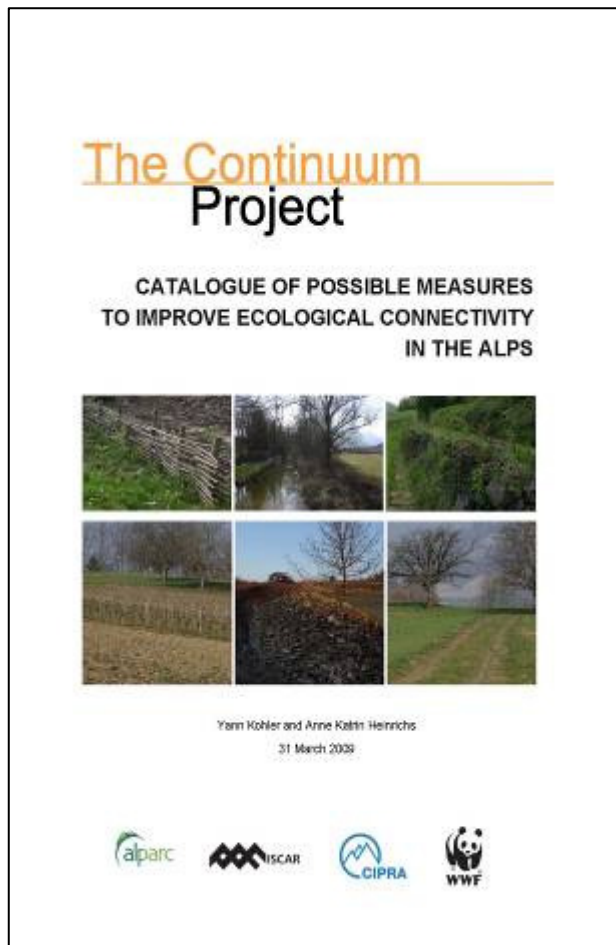
Legal aspects of exemplary measures for the improvement of ecological connectivity in the Alps



The catalogue of possible measures to improve ecological connectivity in the Alps

- Overview about different measures from the sectors : agriculture, forestry, landscape planning, nature protection, infrastructures, education, tourism, ...
- Description of these measures and their possible application in future ecological network projects
- Excel table: Possibility of specific requests by criteria
- Bibliography, information, contacts, ...

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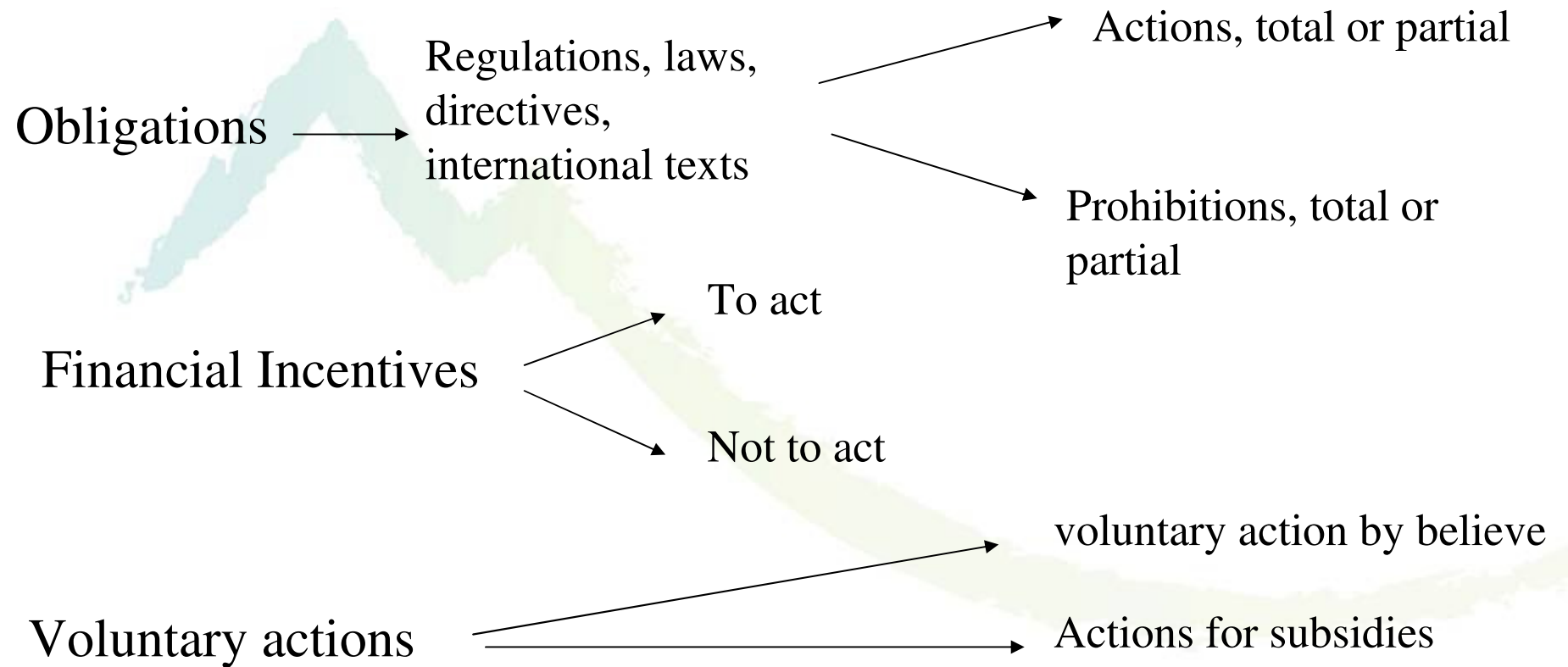




Aim of our presentation

- 1) Brief view and analyse of the type of measures presented in the catalogue
- 2) Presentation of some examples of concrete measures
- 3) Conclusions

Measures based on



Legal Type of instruments

Regulation, law, directive,
international texts

→ For all



Contract

→ Bi-/multilateral

Important sector : nature conservation

In general, all nature conservation measures can be deployed in the context of ecological network projects - it is nevertheless of particular importance to include them in a overall concept/project.

9 measures described in two main categories: species conservation and biotope protection

Legal situation:

-Framework: many nature conservation issues are regulated in international treaties or European, national, local legislations

For example: the management of invasive species is regulated in the Convention on Biological Diversity (international level), Habitat Directive (European level), German nature conservation Act (national level), Bavarian nature conservation Act (local level)...

Tools for application: management contracts, programmes...

Some examples

- Intervention by regulation/law: creation of **quiet zones** for example for breeding birds (area with specific regulations: access restriction in certain periods of the year, prohibition of certain activities)



- Incentive measure: to maintain and connect habitats of relevance to bats. **Guideline** for the restoration of bat roosts, ad hoc measures and permissions required.

- Financial support for the restoration of wetlands foreseen in various **landscape programmes**



Other important sector : agriculture



The legal situation and available tools can be compared to those of nature conservation

Some examples:

- **Fallow grounds:** Relevant measures are subsidised through various countryside management and cultural landscape programmes
- **Species-rich seeding on agriculture fields:** Species-rich seeding can form part of countryside management/cultural landscape programmes
- **Reduction of targeted use of fertiliser, pesticides and herbicides in agriculture:** The use of fertiliser, pesticides and herbicides in agriculture is regulated by legislation pertaining to agriculture and nature conservation

Examples of measures in other sectors:

Forestry: creation of forest reserves (in most cases a representative network of natural forest reserves are protected by individual legislation applicable to forests). Forest reserves are usually established on the base of contracts and with voluntary participation

Landscape planning: taking account of the elements of ecological networks in planning tools (land use plans, landscape development strategies ...). Local, regional, state planning instruments

Tourism: flight bans over sensitive areas, voluntary agreement with sport associations

Some particular cases:

Example 1: innovation

Species-rich grassland programme

A project started in the Regional Natural Park « Massif des Bauges » and currently extended to several other protected areas in France. The concept of this programme is the switch of the roles of the actors: subsidies are given to farmers for a specified result, protected area managers can be asked for expertise/help as no particular proceedings are imposed to archive the requested result. The participation is on a voluntary basis.

Assessment: this new form of cooperation welcomed by the farmers with enthusiasm

Example 2: particularly adapted to the topic

«Corridors contracts »

In 2008, the French Region of Rhône-Alpes (France) completed the mapping of its regional ecological network.

In order to support projects and initiatives which contribute to maintaining or improving ecological connectivity, the region developed so-called « corridors contracts ». The contracts are awarded for a period of 5 years between one or several local authorities and the region. The aim is to conserve the elements of the ecological network in the long term via planning tool, environmental education and public relation work.

A guide has been produced for stakeholders which contains detailed information on the RERA and the contractual process.

Conclusions

- The protection of ecological connectivity by implementation of ecological networks illustrates a new dynamic as well in the nature conservation sector as in the legal sector.
- There is no unique legal technique to realise ecological networks, these networks can be implemented a large number of very different instruments listed partly in the catalogue.
- Landscape planning taking into account ecological connectivity has to be strongly supported by political will and the social acceptance

- Cooperation between private and public stakeholders are requested = governance for the negotiation of standards relating to the protection of the territory
- Protection by law is not enough; further mechanisms (for example aids, grants) are necessary in order to guaranty ecological connectivity
- Contracts are necessary to support the partnerships and the other forms of action
- At the local level, the networks must be based on the existing international and national tools, the is often noneed to create new tools

Perspectives

Consider some **fundamental** aspects when selecting and planning measures for connectivity

- All measures and activities have to fit in primary well defined overall project
- Regional legal, historical and cultural characteristics have to be taken into account,
- Synergies and interrelations between the different measures have to be evaluated
- The measures should be designed in order to meet the requests of local funding tools

A new and central challenge for a future territorial governance

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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