



connecting mountains people nature

## Thinking in a macroregional context – the ecological network in and beyond the Alpine Convention



Results from the greenAlps project –  
Gesäuse, Admont 11 December 2014

## **The Alpine Convention and the article 12 of the Nature protection protocol: establish a transnational network of protected areas**

Is the frame of the Convention coherent for ecological connectivity?

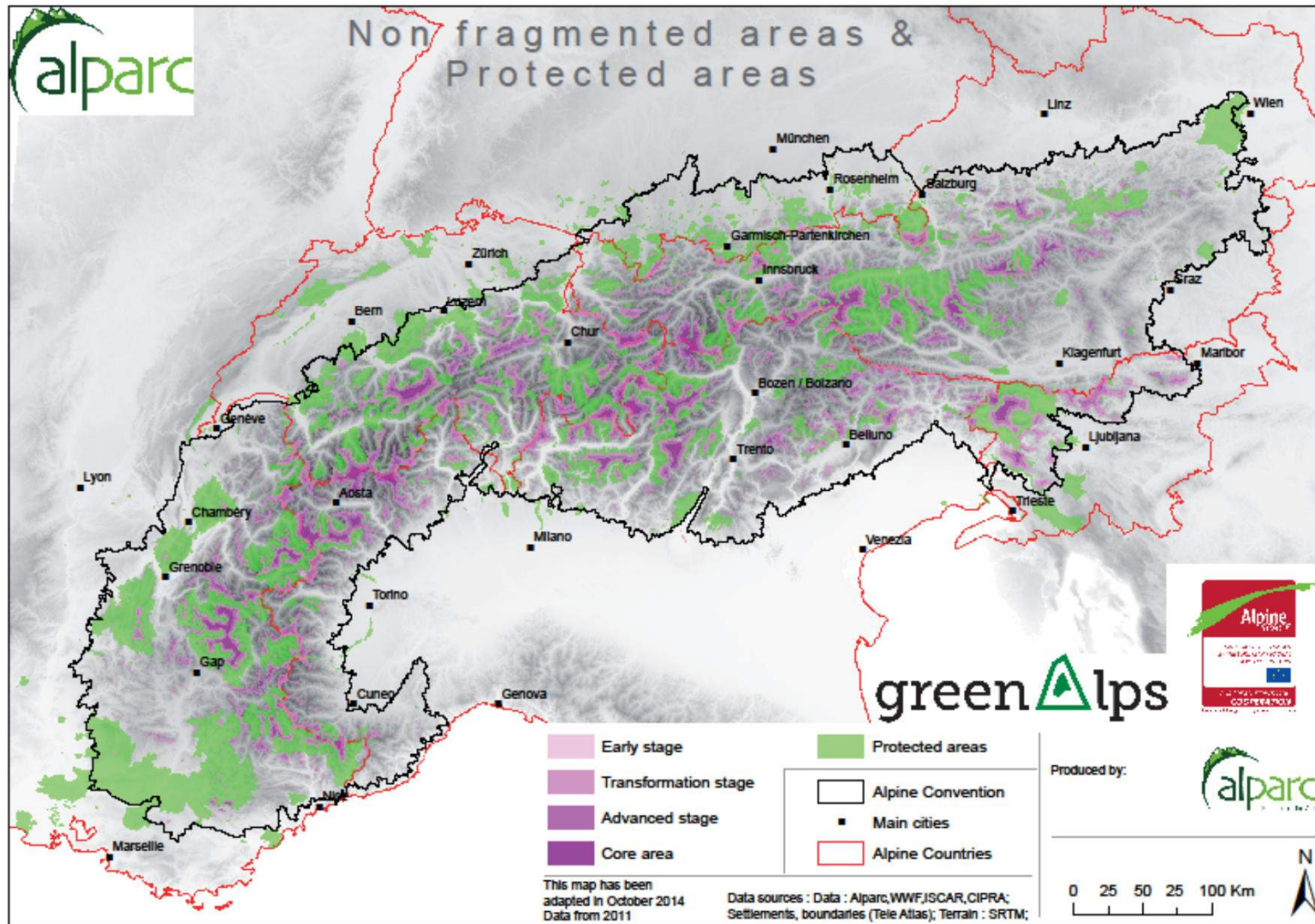
Who are the main stakeholders? Where alpine policy is made?

Is there an opportunity of **NATURA 2000** for ecological connectivity?

Where are the main barriers?

How cooperation with neighbours could look like (Carpathians, Apennines, Balkan, Central Massif,...)?





A high potential for ecological connectivity within the Alps...

Excepted:

## 1) Intensively used valleys

Areas where **fragmentation** has already progressed so far that interlinked habitats and a transparent landscape matrix are no longer a realistic option using reasonable, viable interventions.

This is the situation in some of the intensively used inner Alpine valleys. Here, it probably only makes sense to use one-off measures to permit species migration.

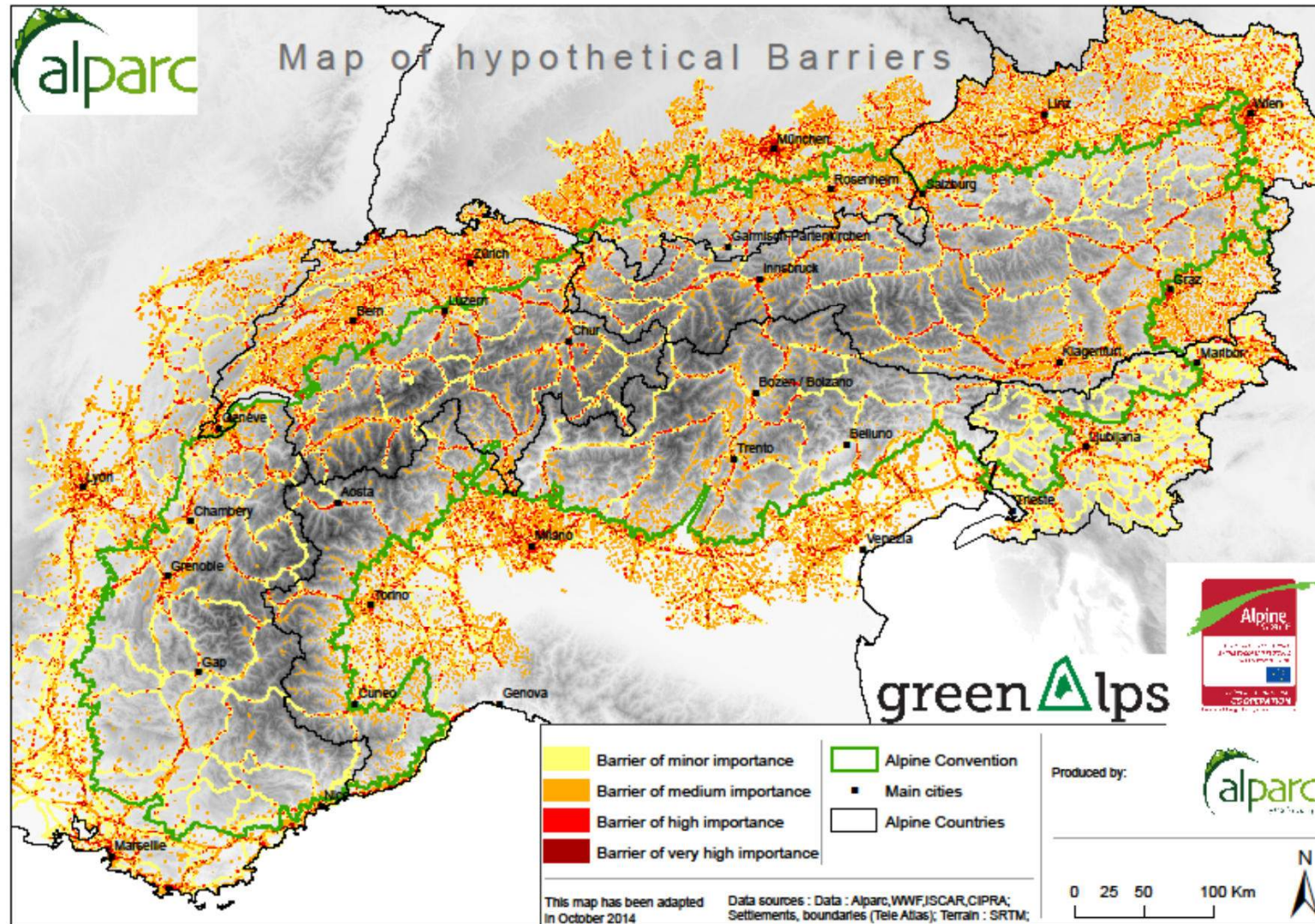












...improvement of connectivity could be achieved by:

## 2) Natural areas with low infrastructures

Areas that still have considerable potential for connectivity and where connectivity should be **conserved**. Such areas are characterised by a sparse infrastructure, dispersed settlements and large natural areas at mid-altitude.

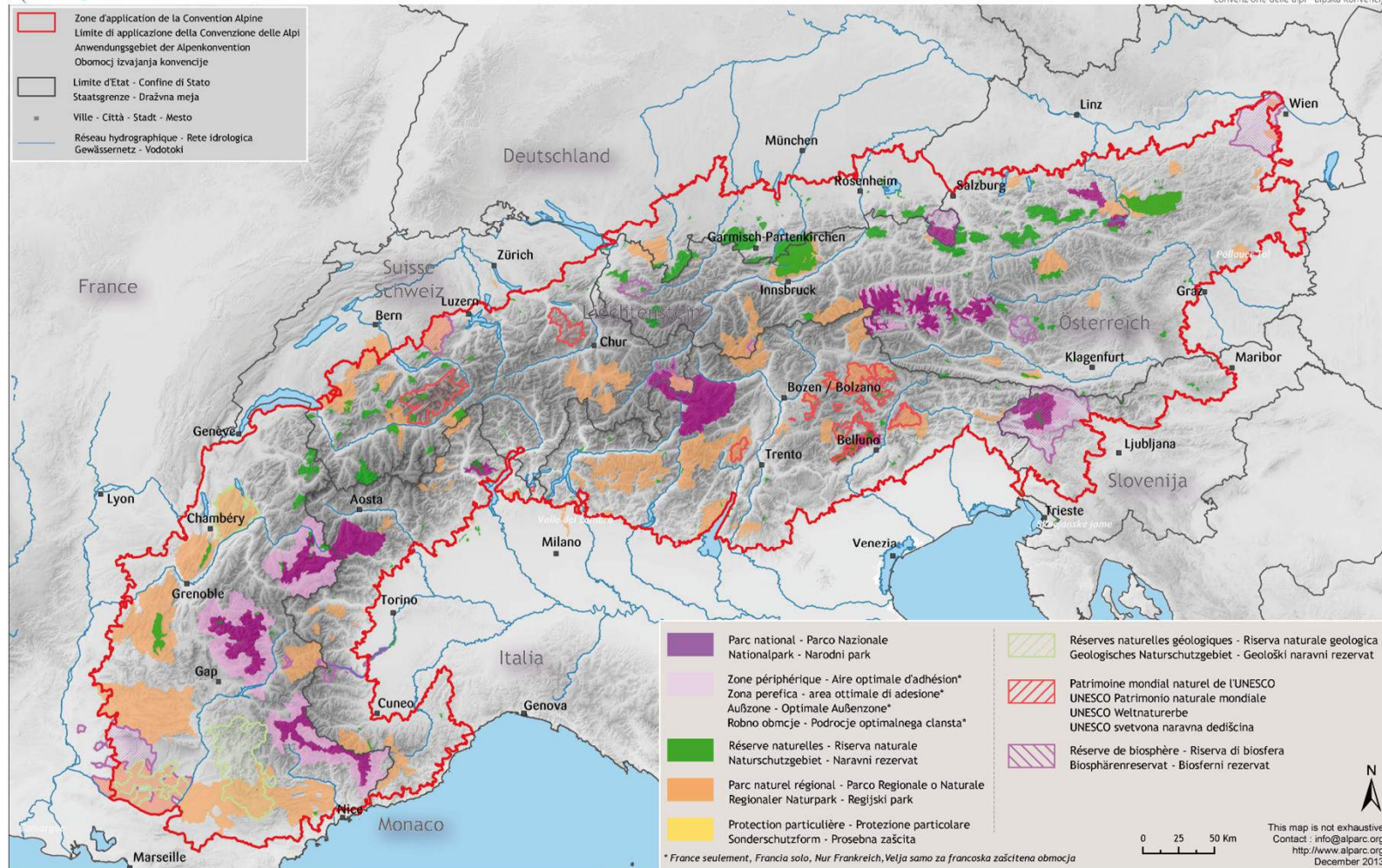
## 3) Regions with a high potential of Protected Areas

Areas in which larger, more or less natural non-fragmented zones could easily be created, especially by **connecting protected areas** and **NATURA 2000** sites. Another very important issue would be to connect protected areas in transboundary regions both physically and by coordinating and harmonising their management systems.





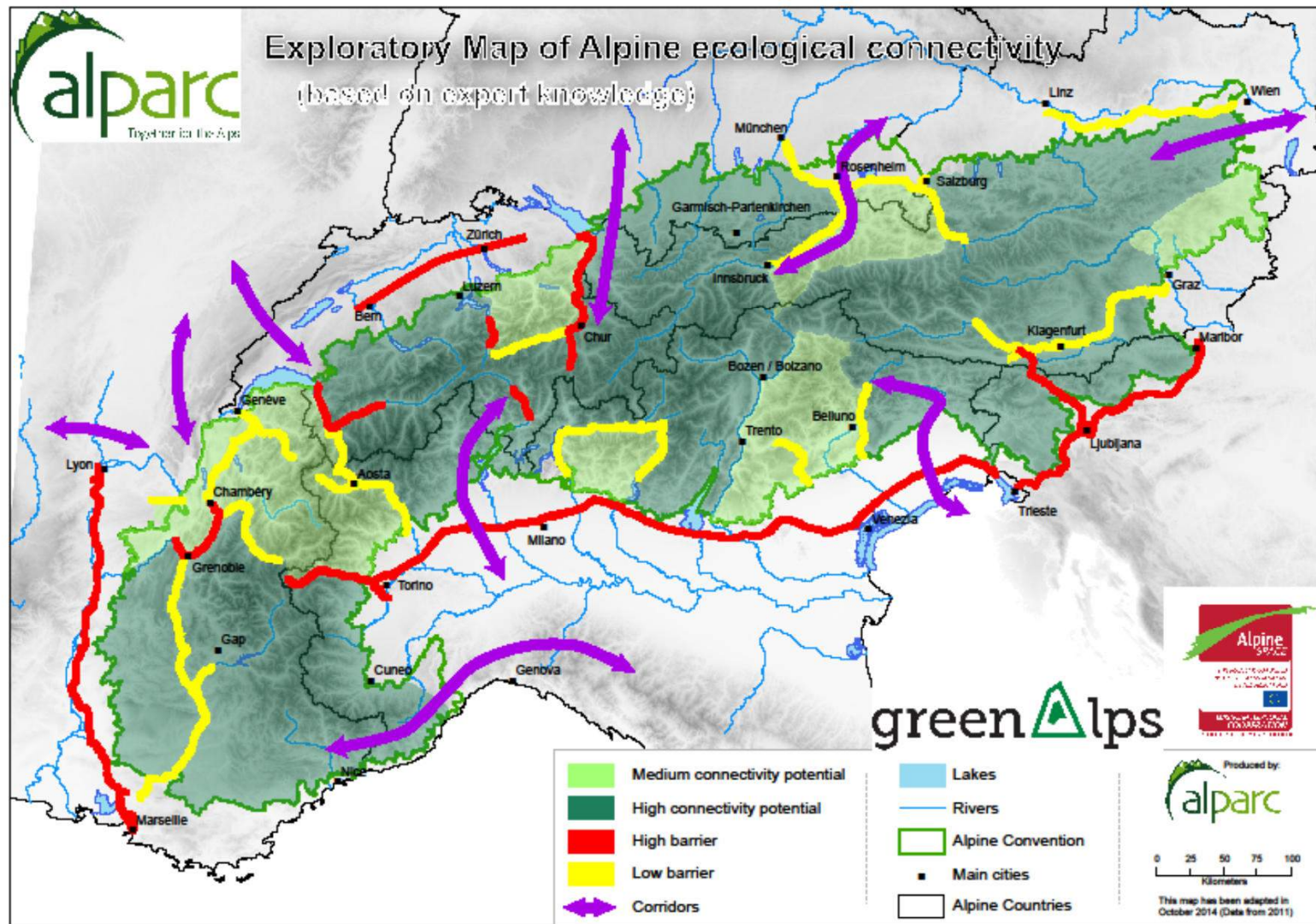
Grands espaces protégés des Alpes - Grandi aree protette delle Alpi  
Grossflächige Schutzgebiete der Alpen - Zavarovana območja z veliko površino v Alpah



But a very low potential for connectivity towards the Alps and between European mountain ranges:

The most important barriers are outside of the Alpine Arch!





## Valuation of eco-system services!

The rich biodiversity and ecological functions of the diverse ecosystems found in the Alps are of great benefit to the wellbeing of people within and beyond the Alpine region.

greenAlps recommends exploring ecosystem services based approaches to provide a new impetus for trans-sectoral and interregional collaboration. Outer alpine regions should participate maintaining eco-system services in the Alps and insuring its benefits beyond the alpine region.



THANK YOU

MERCI

DANKE

GRAZIE

HAVLA

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