



Project Name:	Ecological Thresholds for Reshaping Ecosystem Networks: Ameliorating landscapes Driven by Economic development (EcoTRADE)
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Duration:	1 st May 2006 – 30 th April 2009

Project Overview:

European landscapes are the product of highly specialized forms of land management that have resulted in their ability to support biodiversity and simultaneously offer socio-economic benefits to people. Despite their multifunctional character, recent trends suggest an increasing number of conflicts between the goals of biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development. It is widely accepted that measures to maintain biodiversity should be part of an adaptive decision-making process for land use allocation at various spatial scales. In this context, decision makers and land managers need to resolve the mismatch between ecological and socio-economic processes. This mismatch is caused by two conflicting strategies: conservation of locally protected isolated areas versus development across larger regions. This project explores strategies for solving this fundamental conflict in regional development. Recent work in metapopulation ecology and Landscape Ecology show that if an appropriate degree of spatial cohesion in a landscape is achieved, then species populations are capable of responding to spatial change, and these insights will be linked with an economic approach of habitat trading.

The role of CEM:

The overall aim for CEM in its role as associated partner is to develop a biodiversity conservation strategy and related methods and tools which are compatible with key principles of sustainable development of regions and with participative regional planning. This general aim can be broken down into three interacting modules (IPs): IP-1, '*Spatial conditions for resilient ecosystems under different levels of disturbance*'; IP-2, '*Economic processes and policy instruments*'; and, IP-3, '*Stakeholder participation, integration and planning*'.

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