

TAKING
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FORWARD



Nature and society facing the Anthropocene
challenges and perspectives
for landscape ecology



Italian National Agency for New Technologies,
Energy and Sustainable Economic Development



Planning Green Infrastructure: strategies and action plans



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Stefania Grasso, Paola Vayr

What is a GI Strategy?

European Green Infrastructure Strategy aims to ensure that the protection, restoration, creation and enhancement of green infrastructure become an integral part of spatial planning and territorial development whenever it offers a better alternative, or is complementary, to standard grey choices.



Brussels, 6.5.2013
SWD(2013) 155 final

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Technical information on Green Infrastructure (GI)

Accompanying the document

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

Green Infrastructure (GI) — Enhancing Europe's Natural Capital

{COM(2013) 249 final}



What is a GI Strategy?

Green infrastructure strategies

Policies and decisions on development proposals should conserve and enhance valued environmental assets by seeking first to avoid loss or harm before considering the need for mitigation or compensatory measures. A green infrastructure strategy can provide the basis on which to make such decisions.

Green infrastructure strategies are much more than a strategy for the provision of the traditional 'green space' of parks and gardens. Strategies should also:

- provide off road and green routes that allow walkers and cyclists to travel to work and local services;
- consider the role of privately owned and inaccessible 'green spaces' including gardens that provide havens and interconnecting corridors for wildlife, contribute to the quality and character of the local environment;
- consider how some land can help alleviate flooding by providing storage areas at times of flood or heavy rainfall;
- consider where shade and cooler conditions can be provided in anticipation of hotter summers resulting from predicted climate change impacts;
- consider the role of trees and woodlands, and opportunities for renewable energy generation;
- consider how new development should be designed, where it should be located in the context of local landscape character, and how it can contribute to the wider green infrastructure network;
- consider how the overall allocation of land for biodiversity functions can contribute to wider ambitions for biodiversity conservation, such as the West Midlands Landscapes for Living Project;
- provide a strategic framework for identifying and protecting those brownfield sites that represent important habitats or very valuable social spaces; and
- seek physical and functional connectivity between sites at all levels and right across a town, city or sub-region, shaped by local character and distinctiveness in terms of species, habitats, landscape and townscape.

A well produced green infrastructure strategy should provide the framework for an exemplar of environmentally sustainable development, where all the green spaces of a town or city, both public and private, connect with each other and with the wider countryside.

From: Green infrastructure Strategies. An introduction for local authorities and their partners. NaturalEngland



6 Branton Quarry

7

What is a GI Strategy?

In MaGICLandscapes, we chose Case Study Areas that aren't towns or cities, but pieces of territory that include natural areas, agricultural areas and urbanized areas.

In several cases, the study areas correspond with National or Regional Parks.



What is a GI Strategy?

Our strategies, consequently, have to consider the GI in the wider meaning:

A strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services such as water purification, air quality, space for recreation and climate mitigation and adaptation



This network of green (land) and blue (water) spaces can improve environmental conditions and therefore citizens' health and quality of life. It also supports a green economy, creates job opportunities and enhances biodiversity.

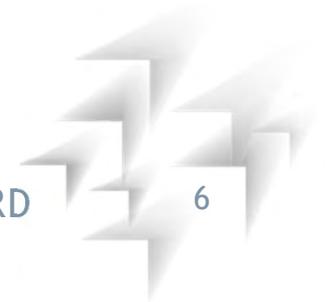
The Natura 2000 network constitutes the backbone of the EU green infrastructure



Strategy structure

Each strategy must refer to all the results of the previous phases:

- [Transnational mapping](#)
- [National](#) and [Regional](#) mapping
- Naturalness, [connectedness](#) and functionality assessment
- [Field mapping](#)
- [Public Benefit Assessment](#)



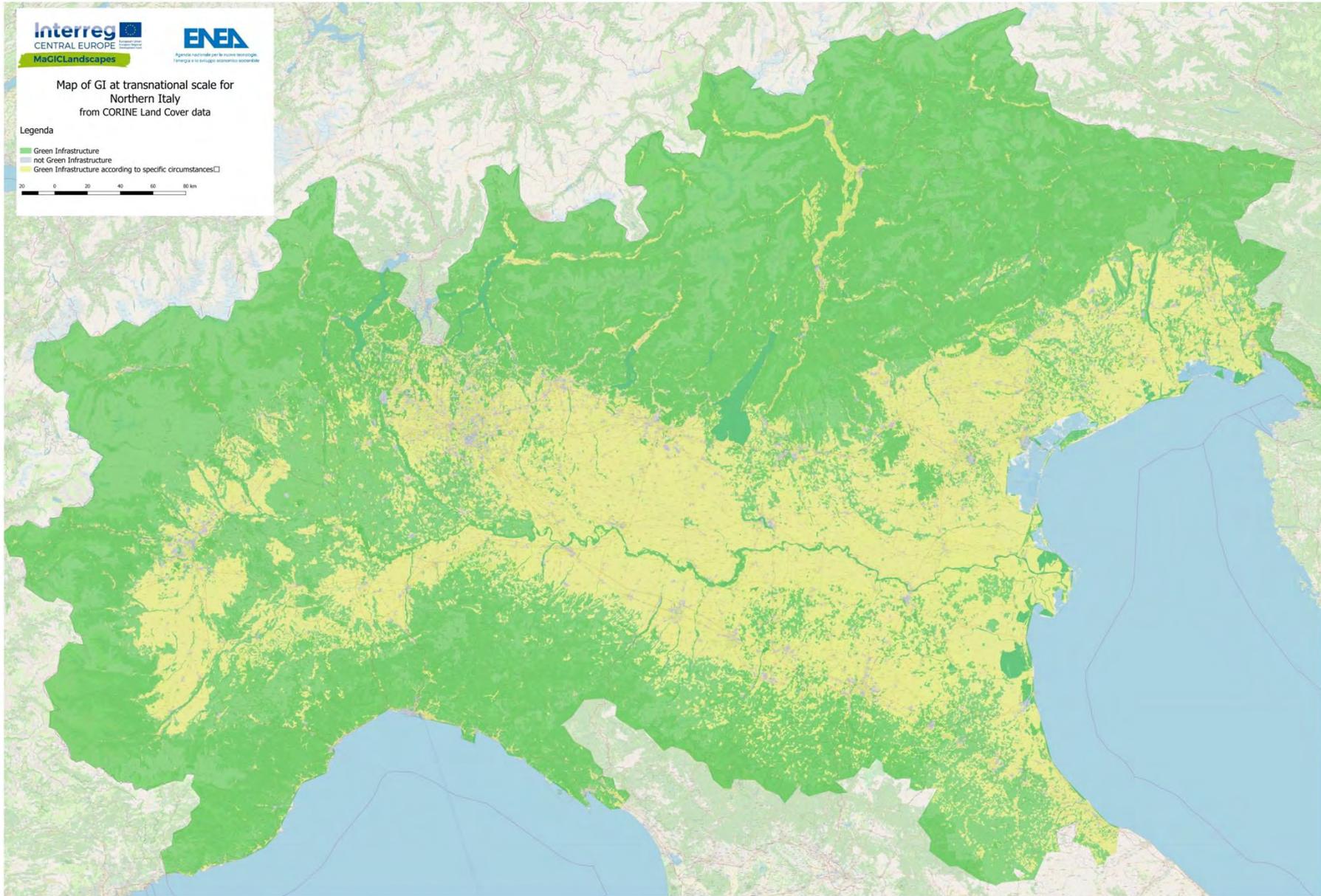


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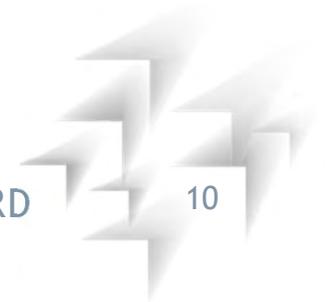


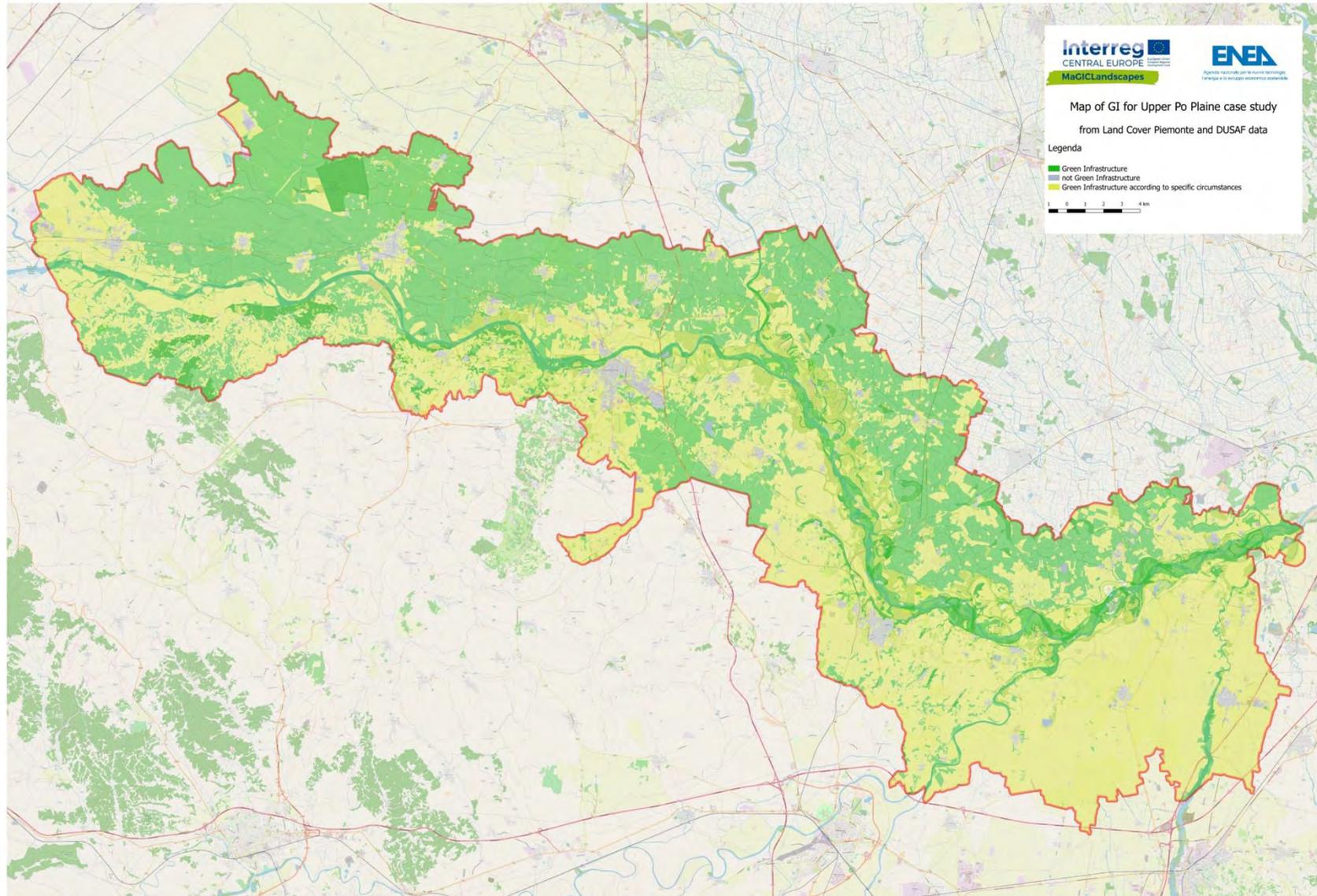


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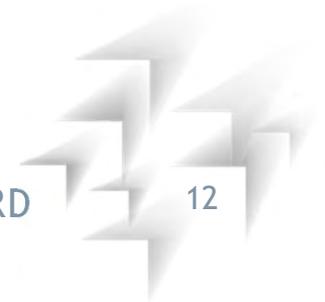


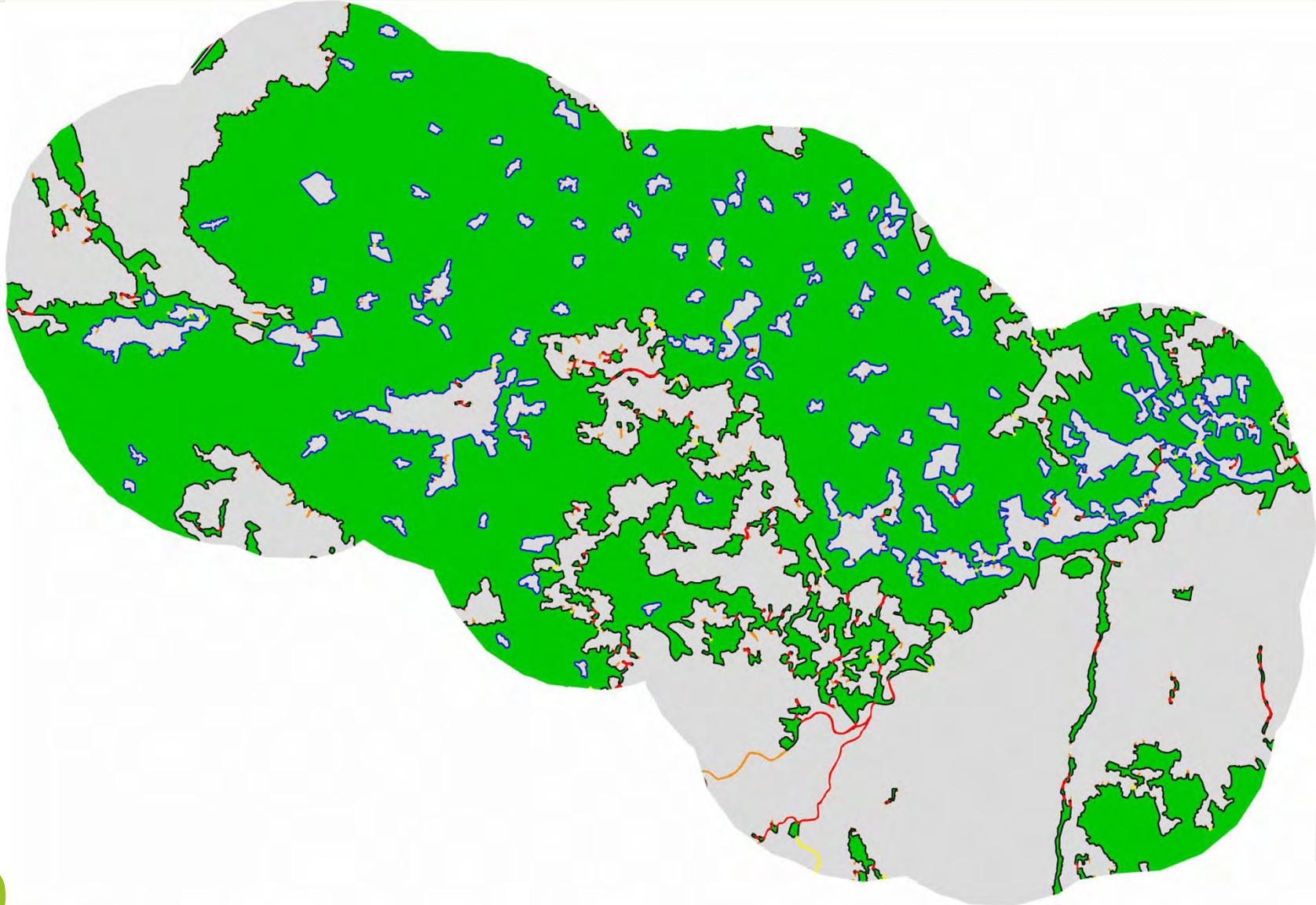


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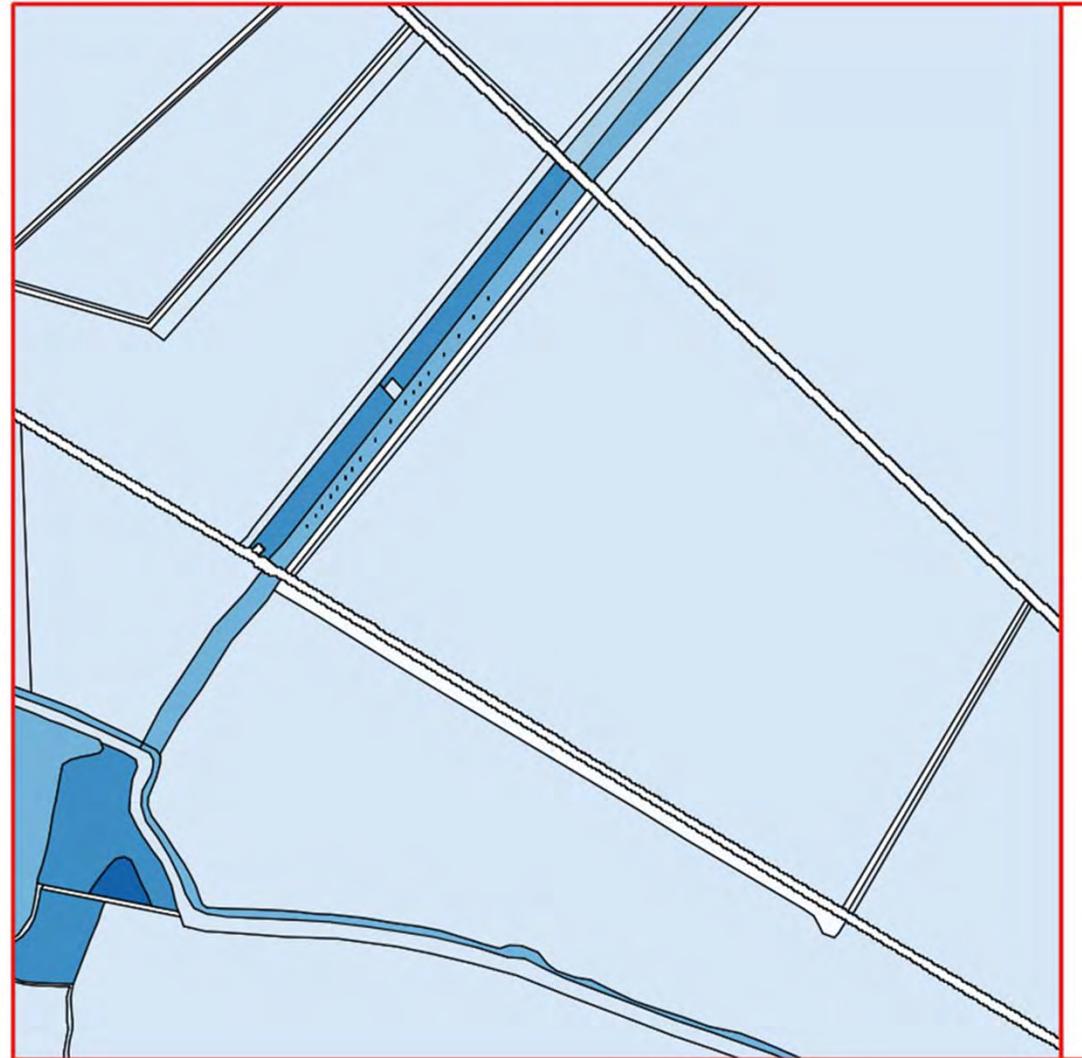
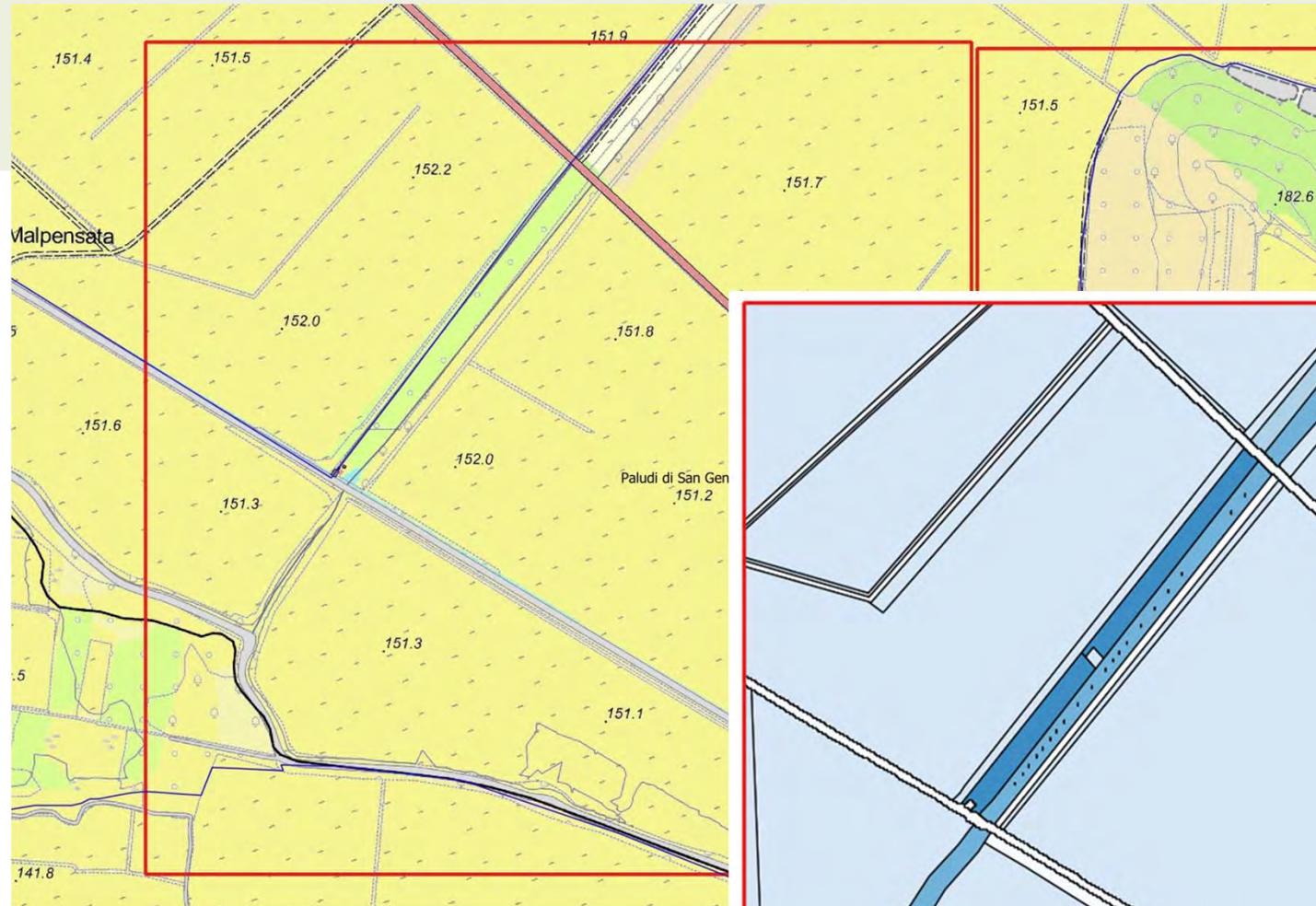


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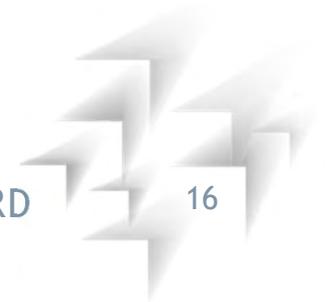




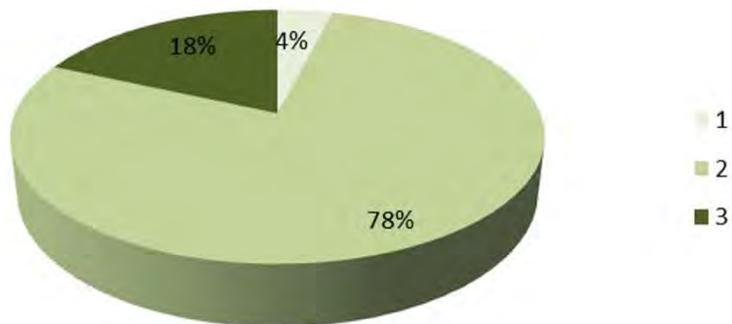
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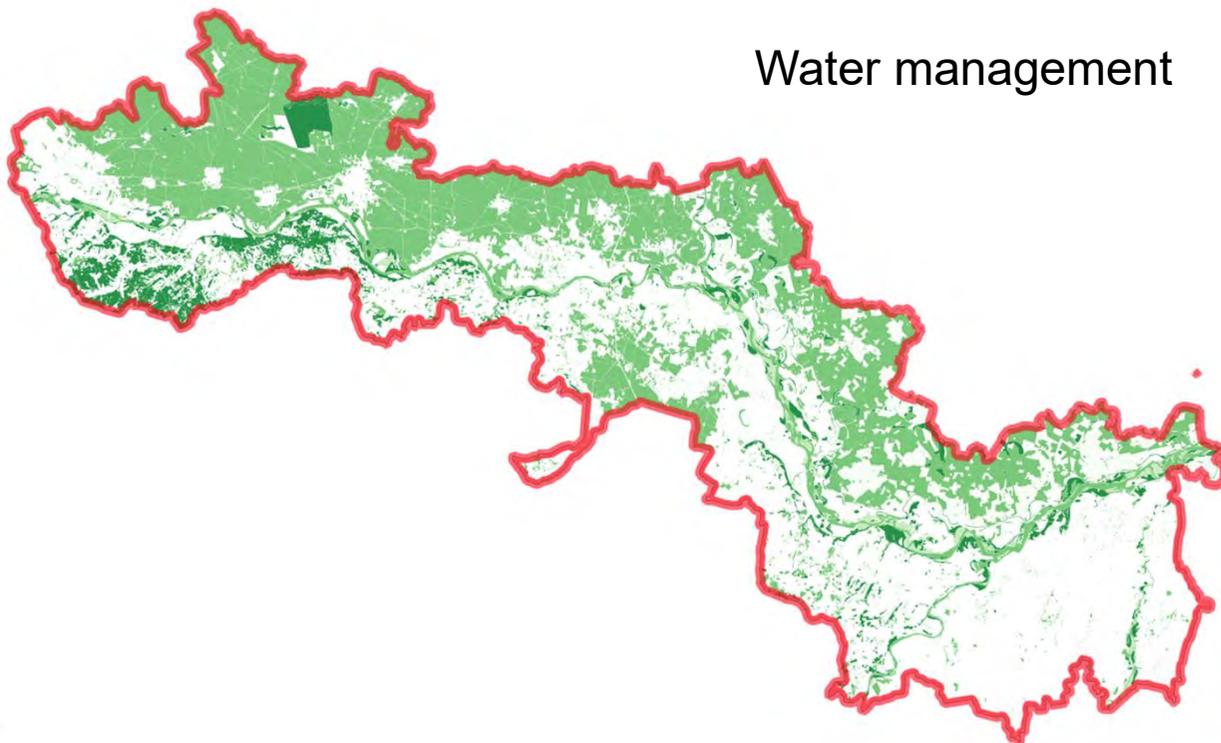
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Enhanced efficiency of natural resources



Water management



Strategy structure

The benefit priorities identified through the consultation activities with the stakeholders must also be taken into consideration.

Similarly, information on the location and quantification of actual benefits must be taken into account

	Conservation benefits
	Maintaining/enhancing existence value of habitat, species and genetic diversity
	Maintaining/enhancing bequest and altruist value of habitat, species and genetic diversity for future generations
	Disaster prevention
	Enhancing erosion control capacity
	Reduction of the risk of forest fires
	Flood hazard reduction
	Climate change mitigation and adaptation
	Increase in carbon storage and sequestration
	Improvement of temperature control
	Improvement of storm damage control
Conservation benefits	Agriculture and forestry
Existence value of habitat, s	Enhancing multifunctionality and resilience of agriculture and forestry
Bequest and altruist value of	Enhancing pollination
Water management	Enhancing pest control
Regulation of water flows	Water management
Water purification	Improvement of regulation of water flows
Water provisioning	Improvement of water purification
Disaster prevention	Improvement of water provisioning
Erosion control capacity	Tourism and recreation
Ability to prevent the risk of	Increase in tourist attractiveness of the territory
Flood risk prevention capaci	Expansion of range and capacity for recreational opportunities
Agriculture and forestry	
Multifunctionality and resilience of agriculture and forestry	
Pollination	
Resistance to the invasion of pest	
Adaptability to climate change	
Carbon storage and sequestration	
Temperature control	
Storm damage control	
Health and well-being	
Air and sound environment quality	
Accessibility for exercise and amenity	
Health and social conditions	

Strategy structure

The strategy will be hierarchically organized in general objectives, detailed objectives and targets, eventually differentiated for specific areas (if necessary).

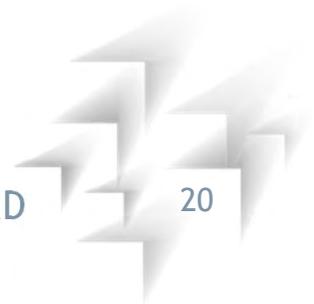
General objectives will be directly linked with the benefit identified as priorities.

For each general objective, one or more detailed objectives will be defined. The detailed objectives will be localized in specific portions of the Case study areas and will be described in detail.



Strategy structure

General objective A  **Benefit 1**



Strategy structure

General objective A  **Benefit 1**

General objective B  **Benefit 2**



Strategy structure

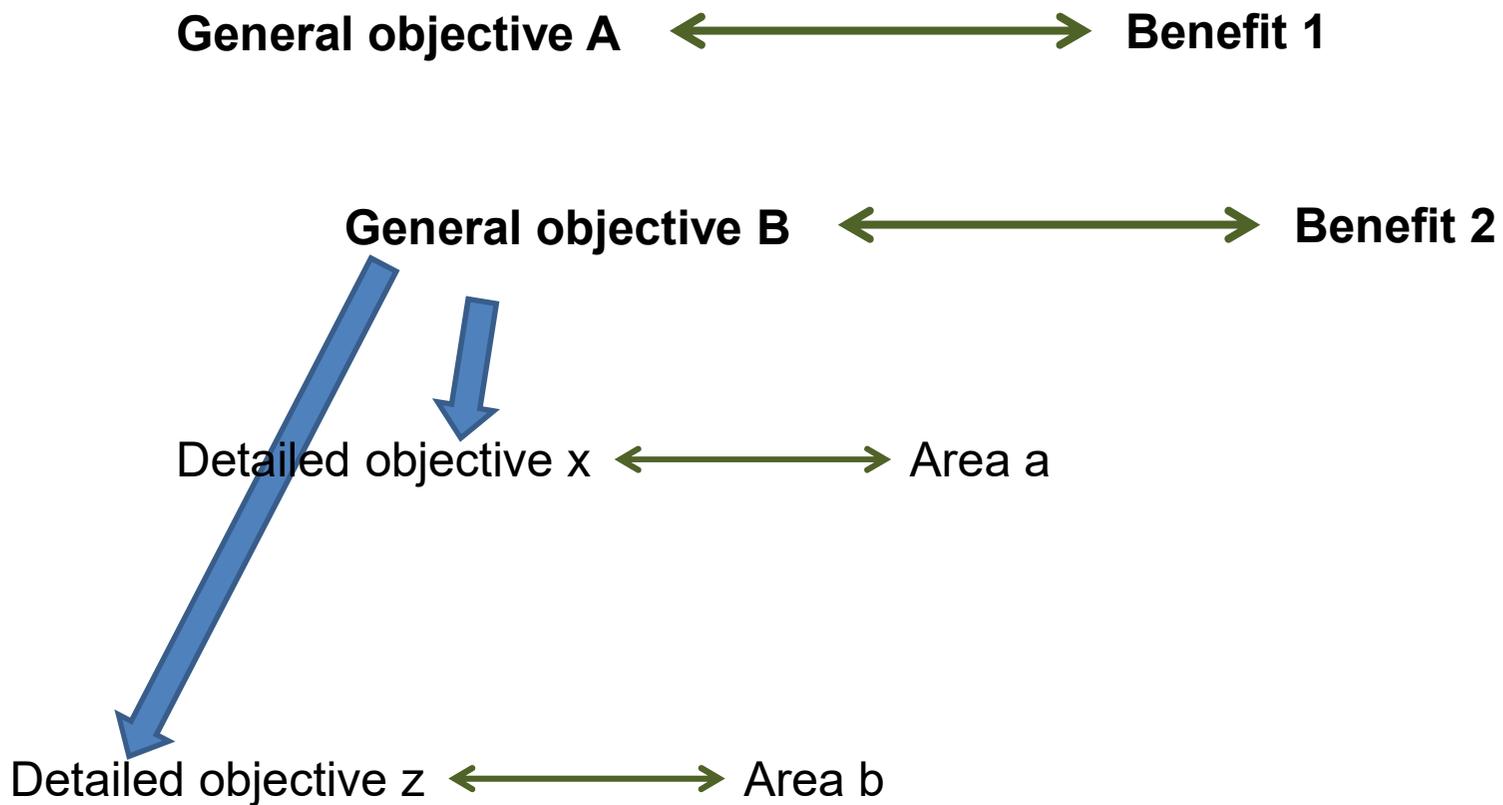
General objective A ↔ **Benefit 1**

General objective B ↔ **Benefit 2**

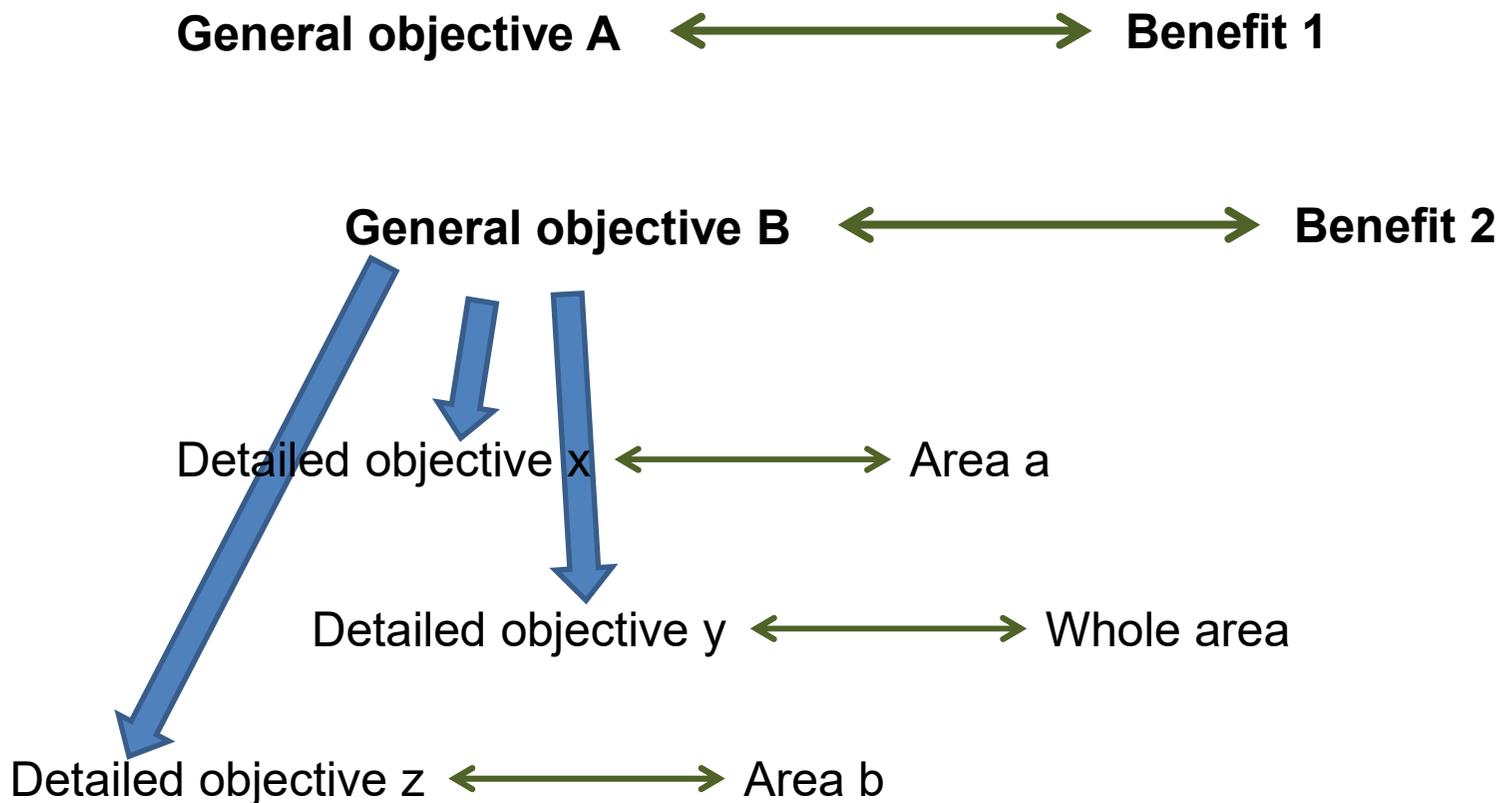

Detailed objective x ↔ **Area a**



Strategy structure



Strategy structure



Strategy structure

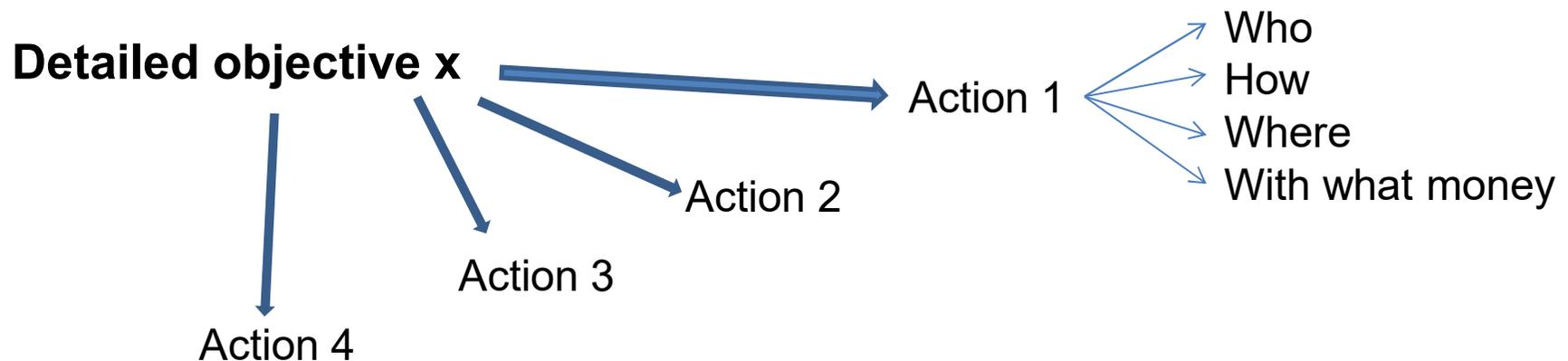
The choice of the general objectives is guided by the needs, the threats, the strengths, the weaknesses and the opportunities defined within the Public Benefit Assessment.

The localization of the detailed objectives is guided by the geographical information previously collected.



Action Plan

The Action Plan is the implementation of the Strategy:
the way to concretize the objectives identified in it.



Action Plan

To draft the Action Plan we can define a list of types of action that have a correlation with a specific benefit.

Whenever possible, we will prioritize win-win actions: actions that respond to different objectives (and are finalized to different benefits).



Action Plan

In the Action plan we can insert only the action for which we can define who is the principal actor, in which way it can be realized, where is the best localization and what could be the sources of funding.

This means that we probably can't insert in the Action Plan all the objectives defined in the Strategy. But the Action Plan can be implemented when some action may become feasible.





In conclusion:

The Strategy can be also a book of dream

but

The Action Plan is a work agenda





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