



LANDSCAPE CONNECTIVITY AS AN OPOSITE PROCESS TO THE LANDSCAPE FRAGMENTATION- THE CATALONIA'S NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS

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Landscape connectivity has become an important component in landscape conservation and land management planning. The constant increment of human activities reduce the size of natural areas and isolate them. The most visible consequences of those activities are isolation of populations of native species and disruption of their natural movements, dispersal patterns, and gene flows. Generally, the connectivity is the measure of how connected or spatially continuous a corridor, network, or matrix (Forman 1995). That's why loss of landscape connectivity, commonly known as landscape fragmentation, is among the most severe threats to the survival of many wildlife species.

The network of natural protected areas is developed in Catalonia and represented by the National and Natural Parks, Protected Landscapes, Special Areas of Conservation, PEIN (Protection of Natural Areas), Nature Reserves etc. The variety of this areas, depend on its particular geographical location and its orography or its degradation caused by human activity. That's why for the conservation of biological diversity its is strongly recommended preserved landscape connections between this protected areas.