

Southeast Europe's Renewable Energy Transition

Go Smart to Go Fast

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SEE Renewable Energy Program
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Global Crisis

Biodiversity
Loss

Renewable
Energy
Transition

Climate
Change

Our Priority Conservation Strategies in Europe



**Transformative Protection
& Management**






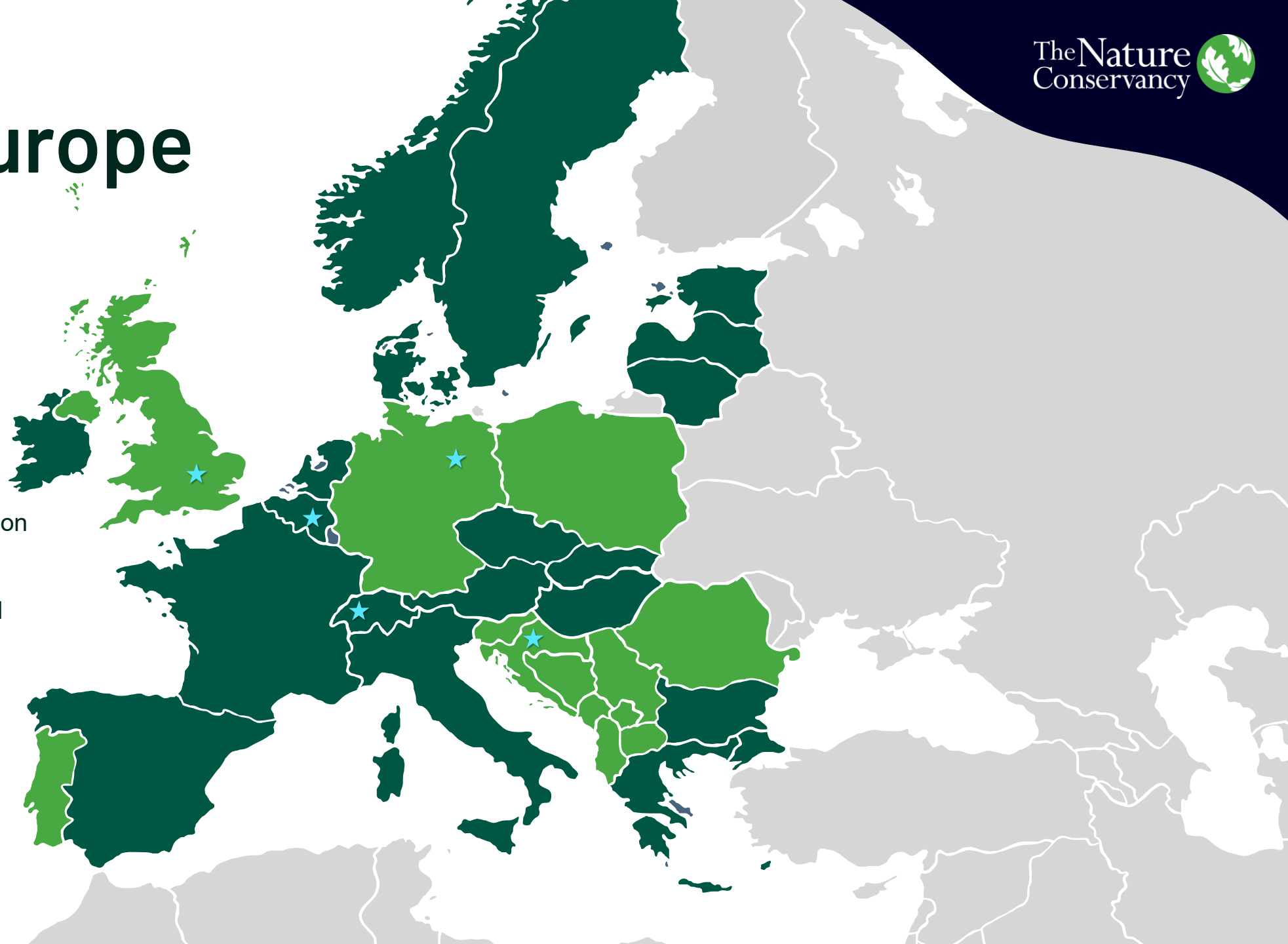
**Resilient
Freshwater**



**Clean Energy
Transition**

TNC in Europe

-  On-the-ground conservation (directly and via partners)
-  Impact through policy and institutional engagement
-  TNC operational hub



The Buildout Challenge



3x global increase in renewable energy needed by 2030 to stay on track for climate goals



Wind and solar require a lot of land and sea



Potential for widespread buildout conflicts due to environmental and community concerns



This could slow progress toward a net zero future

Solar Panels and turbines in California.
April, 2021 Stuart Palley/TNC

Why are we working on low-conflict areas - Environmental considerations

Challenges:

- Nearly half of Europe's wind and solar projects are built on high-biodiversity land
- Creates conflicts with nature conservation efforts

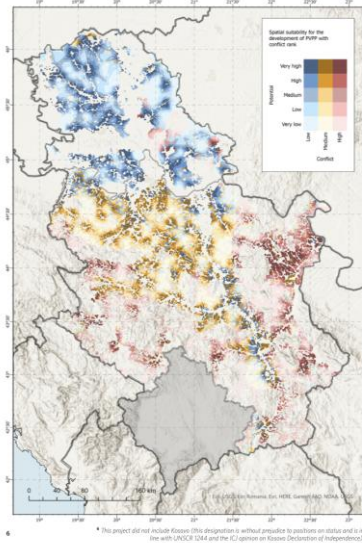
Solution:

- Prioritize low-conflict areas for renewable development
- Avoiding hydro on the last European free-flowing rivers
- Focus on preserving Southeast Europe's unique biodiversity hotspots



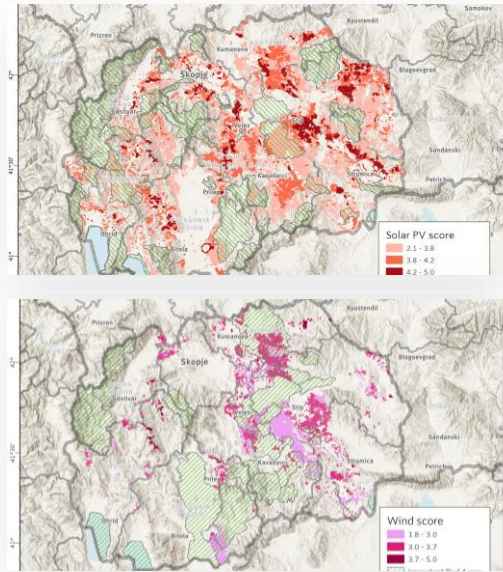
Siting exercises conducted

Results Map 1: Suitability for PV Solar in Serbia (Development potential vs Conflict potential)²



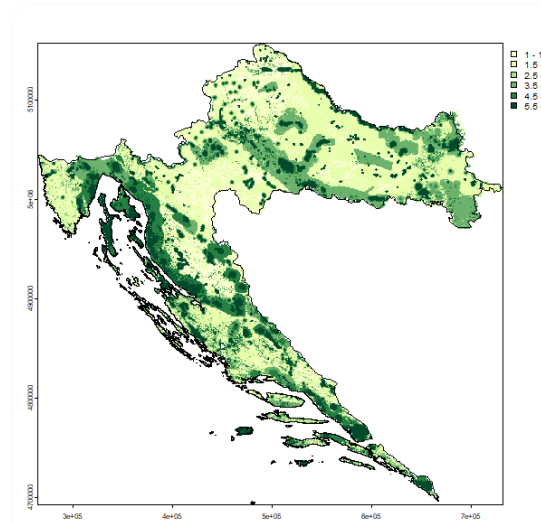
Serbia

- 100 solar locations, 1 GW total capacity



North Macedonia

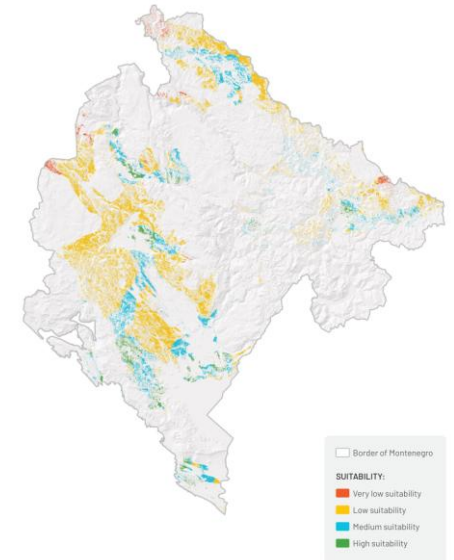
- Focus on **degraded & barren** lands



Croatia

- Focus on **species sensitivity**

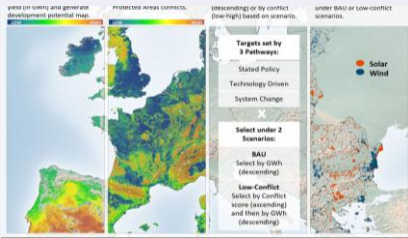
Low-conflict map: Solar powerplant development for connection to the distribution grid



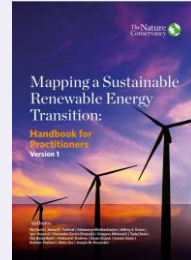
Montenegro

- National-level RE priority areas
- Includes detailed **grid capacity analysis**

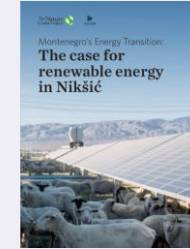
Resources



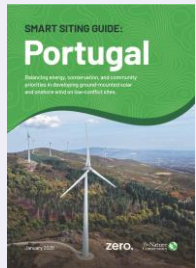
Land use and Europe's renewable energy transition: identifying low-conflict areas for wind and solar development



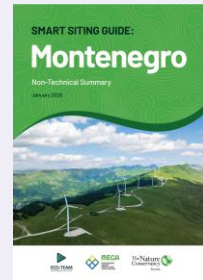
Mapping a Sustainable Renewable Energy Transition: handbook for practitioners



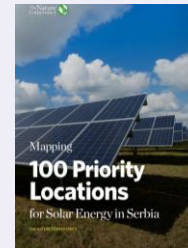
Montenegro's Energy Transition: The case for renewable energy in Nikšić



Portugal Smart Siting Guide



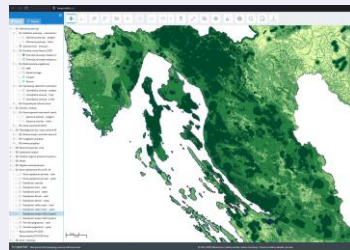
Montenegro Smart Siting Guide



100 Priority Locations for Solar Energy in Serbia



A blueprint for North Macedonia to accelerate its energy transition



Croatian Species Sensitivity maps – integrated into Bioportal



Integrated Renewable Energy Planning in Southeast Europe Pilot project: Integrated Wind and Solar Planning in Zadar County

