

Continuum Suitability Index CSI

Layer Description

The CSI is a combined analysis of structural landscape connectivity and landscape permeability. The landscape is considered as a Matrix where each part or patch promotes more or less the ecological connectivity. Within the CSI, Ecological connectivity comprises wildlife movement as well as ecological processes. The CSI-Tool is not thought as a planning tool. It rather gives you a first objective survey of the initial situation. The analysis results are a first base of discussion for further planning. For the thematic differentiation the index is structured in several indicators. Each indicator is based on a suitability analysis with one or more criteria. The target of the analysis is always the ecological connectivity which is considered from the topic of the indicator.

In the following table an overview of the CSI Indicators is given:

Type	Explication, Example
Ecological measures	Planned or realized measures
Fragmentation	Degree of fragmentation by human infrastructure
Landscape heterogeneity (Cohesion, Edge Density)	Capacity of stepstones for species migration
Environmental protection	Protected areas, based on legal status
Population	General human pressure, local people and tourists
Infrastructure	Impact of diverse infrastructure
Land use	Coherence of activities with landscape type
Land use planning	Future developments
Altitude and topography	Absolute altitude, energy and slope

There are varying concepts for the indicators. It is necessary to know the structure of each indicator, to understand and interpret the analysis results correctly. Most of the indicators are based on reviewed approaches. In any case you must take into account the quality values given out for each analysis. For the interpretation of the quality values it is essential to know how they are defined. It is recommended to study the further information about the CSI approach before using this tool online.

Layer Legend

