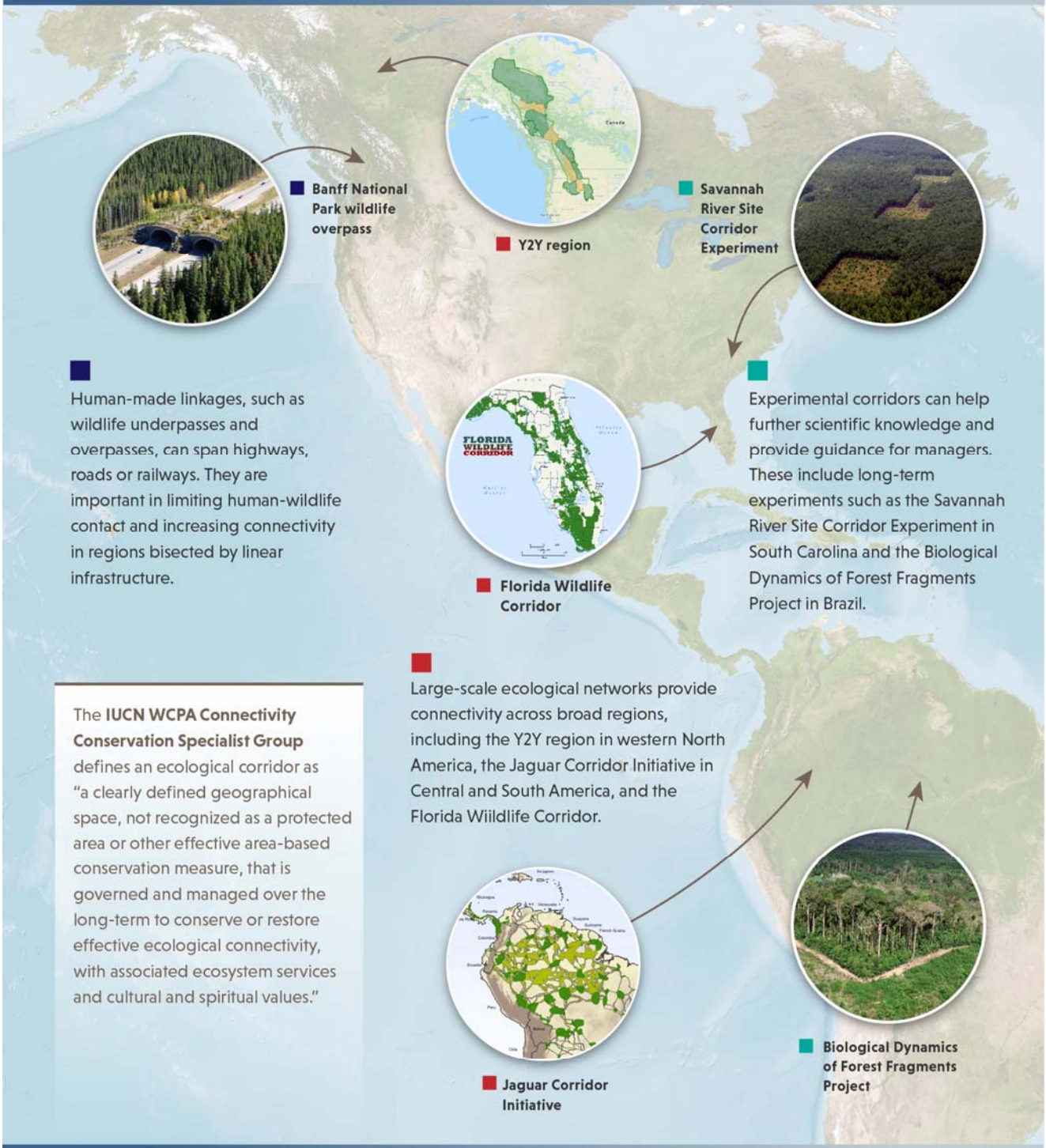


INTRODUCTION TO CONNECTIVITY #2



What is a corridor?

People use many different terms to describe areas that promote ecological connectivity, such as corridors, linkages, networks, crossings, or pathways. The use of one term or the other often depends on context and user preference.



Human-made linkages, such as wildlife underpasses and overpasses, can span highways, roads or railways. They are important in limiting human-wildlife contact and increasing connectivity in regions bisected by linear infrastructure.

Experimental corridors can help further scientific knowledge and provide guidance for managers. These include long-term experiments such as the Savannah River Site Corridor Experiment in South Carolina and the Biological Dynamics of Forest Fragments Project in Brazil.

The IUCN WCPA Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group defines an ecological corridor as "a clearly defined geographical space, not recognized as a protected area or other effective area-based conservation measure, that is governed and managed over the long-term to conserve or restore effective ecological connectivity, with associated ecosystem services and cultural and spiritual values."

Large-scale ecological networks provide connectivity across broad regions, including the Y2Y region in western North America, the Jaguar Corridor Initiative in Central and South America, and the Florida Wildlife Corridor.