

European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System 2.0



Majella Wilderness, Italy



Let's get Wild!

2019

European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System 2.0

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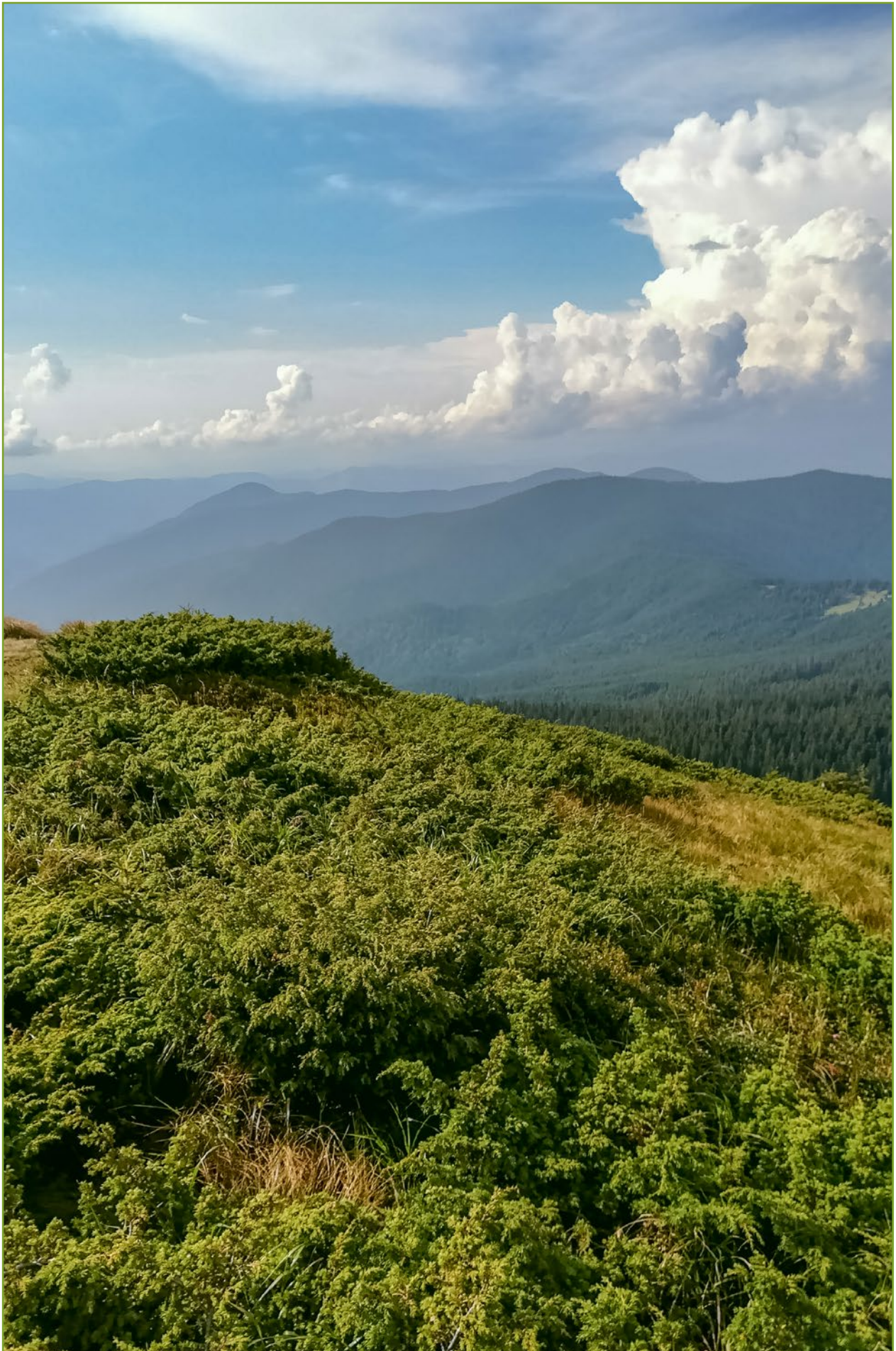
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European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System

1. Historic component of Wilderness

Start of the Wilderness movement in the USA

The United States was the first country to officially designate land as “Wilderness” through the Wilderness Act of 1964. The Wilderness Act thus entered the stage, to protect the most pristine and wildest of America’s land for future generations - land that still retained a “primeval character”. Today, more than 760 Wilderness areas are designated in the US, covering 43,5 million hectares, accounting for almost 5% of the country’s total land area.

Wilderness momentum in Europe

Europe followed the US approach to Wilderness. For many Europeans, Wilderness was associated with exotic locations like the Amazon or Yosemite. However over time, public opinions began to change that there is Wilderness in Europe, but it needs supporters and protectors.

The very first Wilderness definition and audit system was developed in 2000 as a part of the PAN Parks quality standard. In that time the Wilderness discussion focused on large contiguous areas with the objective to prove that Europe still has Wilderness left worthy of protection.

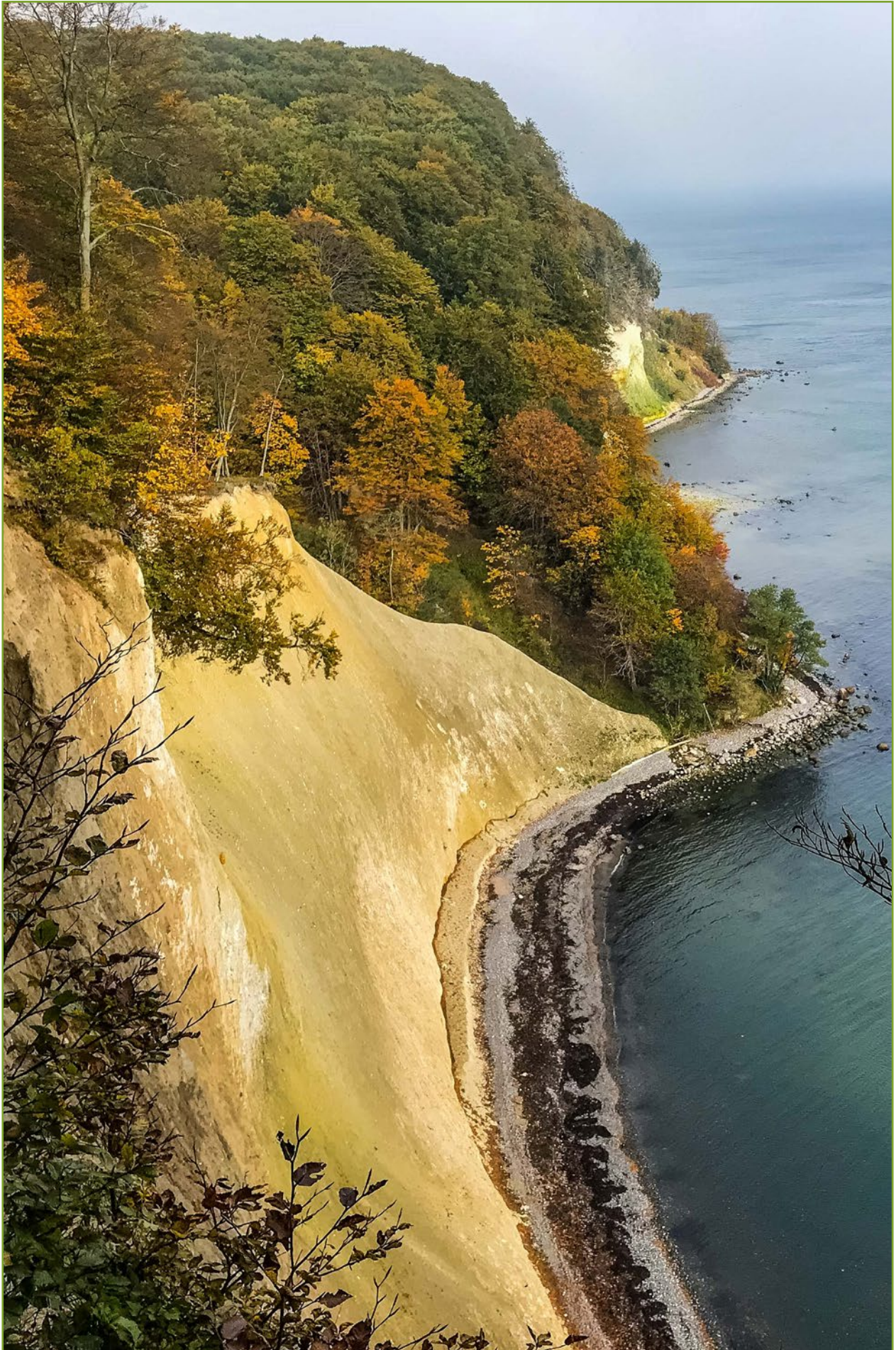
In 2009 the EU developed a Wilderness Resolution, creating a common vision for Europe and unifying the next steps for European Wilderness. In the same year the Wilderness Working Group published the definition of European Wilderness and Wild Areas.

European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System 1.0

In 2014, the European Wilderness Society was established, to take this vision and create a wilder Europe for all. In July 2014, the first European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System was published and has been gradually updated since then based on the experience gathered during its implementation.

European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System 2.0

The new and revised version 2.0 introduces four new categories to the European Wilderness Network, in addition to the category ‘Wilderness’. These are WILDIsland, WILDForest, WILDCoast and WILDRiver. Furthermore, the number of principles has been raised to ten, as the principle “Wilderness and Visitors” has been added to collect all visitor-related indicators under one specific principle.



Jasmund WILDcoast, Germany

2. What is Wilderness?

The Wilderness Working Group of the Wild Europe Initiative developed and generated the definition of European Wilderness and Wild Areas (Wild Europe Initiative, 2013¹), which builds upon the definition of the existing IUCN Category Ib. According to the definition, Wilderness and Wild Areas are defined as follows:

Wilderness

“Wilderness zones meeting the European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System ‘Gold- or Platinum Wilderness Category’ are governed by open ended undefined natural processes. They are composed of native habitats and species, and large enough for the effective ecological functioning of natural processes. They are unmodified or only slightly modified and without intrusive or extractive human activity, settlements, infrastructure or visual disturbance.”

Wild Area

“Wilderness zones meeting the European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System ‘Bronze- or Silver Categories’ are wild areas that have a high level of predominance of natural process and natural habitat. They tend to be individually smaller and more fragmented than the ‘Gold- or Platinum Category’ wilderness areas, although they often cover extensive tracts. The condition of their natural habitat, processes and relevant species is however often partially or substantially modified by past human activities such as livestock herding, hunting, fishing, and collecting berries and mushrooms.”

The European Wilderness Society applies these definitions to the European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System. According to these definitions, bronze and silver standard Wilderness are regarded ‘Wild Area’, and gold and platinum standard Wilderness are regarded ‘Wilderness’. A Wild Area can evolve into a Wilderness over a long-term restoration process, as considered in the Wilderness continuum (Rob Nash, 1985) (Figure 1). However, all areas in the European Wilderness Network are classified as ‘Wilderness’, and all potential Wilderness are assessed with the same European Wilderness Quality Standard by the European Wilderness Society.

¹Wild Europe (2013) A definition of European Wilderness and Wild Areas. Wild Europe Initiative. p19

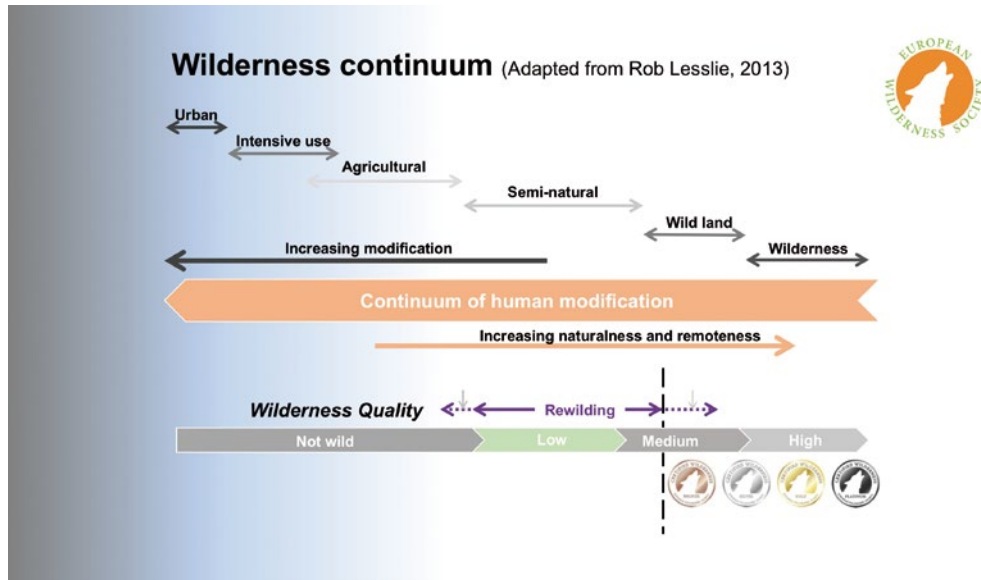


Figure 1: The Wilderness continuum (developed by Prof. Roderick Nash 1993) as a basis for the European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System.



Figure 2: Thaya WILDRiver, Austria. Bronze category - A river becoming wild

3. Development of European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System

European Wilderness Standard

The main reason for the absence of a coordinated strategy on Wilderness in Europe is the lack of a common, systematic European Wilderness Quality Standard. This is because there are many different words for 'Wilderness' and 'Wild'. It is impossible to adequately promote, protect, and restore an area if its standard remains unclear, or is understood differently according to its geographic location, individual perception or local culture. It is important that this standard can thus be applied in operational circumstances, in a socio-economic and geographical independent way.

European Wilderness Audit

An audit is an objective examination and evaluation to ensure that the stewardship plans follow the Wilderness principles in a fair and accurate way. The Wilderness audit assesses the quality of potential Wilderness in Europe.

To link the two lacking elements, i.e. the Wilderness standard and Wilderness audit, the European Wilderness Society developed the European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System, with support of several partners, in a solution-oriented process (European Wilderness Society, 2015²).

The European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System is currently the only system implementing these definitions for Wilderness and Wild Areas in Europe. According to these definitions, the European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System is based on the following key issues describing Wilderness:

- **Governed by natural processes:** This is considered a basic principle and is in line with the understanding of Wilderness as proposed by IUCN Category Ia or Ib, to a certain extent even with IUCN Category II National Parks, which have the priority objective to allow for dynamic processes on a large scale (Dudley, 2008). It is also congruent with the US definition of Wilderness.
- **The presence of native habitats and species:** This explicitly includes species and habitats that are native to a certain place, but does not explicitly exclude areas where there are non-native species or habitats.
- **Sufficient size to ensure the effective functioning of natural processes:** This acknowledges that a certain size is needed to allow for undisturbed and dynamic natural processes. However, minimum sizes are hard to define and depend on the type of habitats. The label assigned to the Wilderness (bronze, silver, etc.) is independent of the habitat type and size of the area.

²<http://wilderness-society.org/european-wilderness-quality-standard-audit-system-principles-criteria-indicators/>

- **Unmodified or slightly modified areas:** This focuses on areas, which have been mostly exempt from human modification in the past. This also means that heavily modified areas cannot be considered Wilderness, at least on a short term basis. The degree of past human modification is reflected in the quality standard of the Wilderness.
- **Exempt from intrusive or extractive human activity or impact:** This clearly defines Wilderness as areas, where no current human activity or impact occurs irrespective of the time since the area has been exempt from any use.
- **Visual disturbance:** This relates to a specific impact of humans by means of a built environment and infrastructure, which disturb the unspoilt character of a Wilderness. However, this closely relates to the recreational aspect of Wilderness, as it might be people who are considered a disturbance.



Figure 3: The stewards of a potential Wilderness propose a Wilderness with a clearly defined boundary. Kalkalpen Wilderness, Austria

Benefits of a uniform Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System

The implementation of the European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System provides the following benefits:

- **Improved compliance** – The European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System is compliant with all recent and existing Wilderness definitions currently applied in most European countries. This provides easy integration into national and regional policies.
- **Safety and reliability** – Adherence to the European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System helps to ensure visitor satisfaction, reliability and environmental care. As a result, visitors perceive Wilderness as more dependable – this in turn raises visitor confidence, increasing visits and financial support.
- **Improving effectiveness** - The European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System provides Wilderness managers with reliable third-party recommendations based upon a detailed SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) on the basis of a standard set of European-wide accepted principles, criteria and indicators.
- **Support from government policies and legislation** - Standards are frequently referenced by regulators and legislators to protect users and business interests, and to support government policies. Standards play a central role in the European Union's policy for a Single Market. Adherence to the European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System will show the commitment to a common set of European values.
- **Interoperability** – The ability of Wilderness stewards to work together, relies heavily on a generally accepted Wilderness standard.
- **Encourage research** – The European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System provides a solid foundation upon which scientists can base their research and can enhance monitoring.
- **Marketing possibilities** – As more and more Wilderness adhere to the European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System, more visitors and Wilderness advocates will support and promote Wilderness due to their increased awareness and confidence.
- **Cost reduction** – Potential Wilderness do not have to reinvent the wheel, because all the basic Wilderness criteria and indicators have already been thought through. This ensures that new Wilderness will support the same principles with the existing Wilderness network.
- **Wilderness benefits from Standards** – The European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System sets minimum levels that help classify Wilderness according to several principles, criteria and a multitude of indicators. They provide benchmarks against which Wilderness is audited. This gives the areas an incentive to improve their Wilderness to gain an advantage. In turn, this guarantees public access to more Wilderness for future generations.

4. European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System 2.0

The European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System is a habitat independent, solution oriented, European-wide basis for the identification and audit of Wilderness. It provides a common European Wilderness certification standard for existing and potential Wild Areas and Wilderness and follows the commonly accepted “Definition for European Wilderness and Wild Areas” developed by the Wild Europe Initiative (Wild Europe, 2013³).

New Developments for 2.0

The European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System 2.0 introduces four new categories to the European Wilderness Network, in addition to the category ‘Wilderness’, namely WILD Coast, WILD Forest, WILD Island, and WILD River. This extension is justified with the inclusion of particular ecosystems in which the previous version of European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System was not sufficiently applicable. Furthermore, the principle “Wilderness and Visitors” has been added to collect all visitor-related indicators under one specific principle. Further changes include the introduction of the “European Outdoor Ethics”⁴ and the specification of numerous criteria and indicators. In addition, the number of indicators was revised to be more concise and precise. The quality standard reflected in Platinum to Bronze is now decoupled from the pure size of the Wilderness zone to be a better reflection of the overall quality of the entire Wilderness.

Interpretation of the 10 European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System principles

The European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System is based on a system of principles, criteria and indicators. It understands principles as the fundamental statements about a desired outcome. Criteria are the conditions that need to be met in order to comply with a principle. Indicators are the measurable states, which signify during the assessment whether or not a particular criterion is met. An area is assigned one of the four Wilderness categories: bronze, silver, gold or platinum.

³ Wild Europe (2013) A working definition of European Wilderness and Wild Areas. Wild Europe Initiative. p19

⁴ <https://wilderness-society.org/camping-in-wilderness-with-the-european-outdoor-ethics/>

Ten Principles

The European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System 2.0 consists of 130 indicators, which are divided into 57 criteria and organised in 10 principles, which are:

- 1. Wilderness Size and Zoning** - Wilderness does not depend on a minimum size. Wilderness has a defined boundary and should have three zones: The Wilderness zone, the Restoration zone and the Transition zone.
- 2. Wilderness Stewardship** - Wilderness Stewardship is a holistic approach to Wilderness management, looking at the whole system rather than segments. Managers first determine whether there is the need for any management action before implementing an action plan.
- 3. Wilderness and Biodiversity** - Wilderness has a Wilderness zone, where dynamic open-ended natural processes can take place without human intervention. This helps contribute to the conservation of threatened species of that region and becomes a leading example of undisturbed habitats.
- 4. Wilderness and Restoration** - Wilderness restoration is an intentional activity that initiates or accelerates the recovery of a damaged ecosystem that has Wilderness potential. Wilderness restoration includes a wide range of activities, such as restoration of disturbed areas and the reintroduction of native species. If necessary, restoration activities should be implemented once and not continuously.
- 5. Wilderness and Extractive Uses** - The European Wilderness definition stipulates that the Wilderness zone is an area without extractive or intrusive uses.
- 6. Wilderness and Anthropogenic Disturbance** - This principle focuses on the removal of permanent and temporary infrastructure, creating well-planned tourism access with minimal impact and regulating and limiting road access to the Wilderness, in order to reduce the human impact in the Wilderness zones.
- 7. Wilderness and Natural Dynamic Processes** - Natural dynamic processes, such as windstorms, fire, disease outbreaks or avalanches, are a critical aspect of Wilderness and are important sculptors of landscapes and habitats. These processes should be given freedom in the Wilderness, without human influence.
- 8. Wilderness and Visitors** - Wilderness offers the opportunity to experience solitude and a sense of Wilderness, however a visitor and recreation plan is required in order to reduce human impact. Clear rules, incorporating the European Outdoor Ethics programme, should minimise human disturbance and modification to the Wilderness.
- 9. Wilderness Research and Monitoring** - Wilderness offers opportunities to study the unique attributes of nature and natural processes. Quality Wilderness research and monitoring allows managers to make appropriate decisions. Research and monitoring activities should never be invasive and should minimise impact on the Wilderness zone.
- 10. Wilderness and International Relevance** - A Wilderness is internationally recognised by the IUCN, UNESCO, and European Union, for example, as well as other important international organisations.

Wilderness Zonation

Wilderness is categorised into three 'zones': The Wilderness zone (where there is no human intervention and natural dynamic processes govern), the Restoration zone (where restoration and/or expansion is undertaken), and the Transition zone (which acts as a buffer between the Wilderness and surrounding areas). It is considered that this three-folded structure offers best protection of key Wilderness principles whilst allowing potential for future expansion and flexible interaction with protected area zoning or other land uses.

- **The Wilderness zone** has the 'highest' quality of Wilderness, with minimal impact of human activity (patrol, education, low impact tourism) or infrastructure (interpretive panels, orientation signs, inherited disused structures, such as abandoned shelters, roads or bridges) and a dominance of natural processes. Outward expansion should occur over time through restoration/rewilding into the Restoration zone – particularly if the Wilderness is initially not large enough to allow complete ecological processes.
- **The Restoration zone** has a relatively low impact of human presence and surrounds and protects the Wilderness zone. It is free of any extractive uses and unnecessary and uncontrolled motorised traffic (only for Stewardship purposes and with permits of the protected area management). The main emphasis here is the restoration/rewilding of natural habitats and processes, this means that any active restoration measures and the use of built structures (roads, bridges) and high impact activities (uncontrolled tourism) are phased out within the next 10 years. Over time the Restoration zone should be incorporated into the Wilderness zone and expanded outwards into the Transition zone.
- **The Transition zone** shows the same low impact of human presence as the Restoration zone and is free of any extractive human use. Active and passive restoration measures, inherited built structures as well as sustainable visitor management can be found there. The main emphasis of the Transition zone is to act as a buffer between the Wilderness and its surroundings. The distinctive factor between the Transition and the Restoration zone is the objective to phase out any active restoration measures in the Restoration zone, over a clearly defined period of time no longer than 10 years. Reasons for this missing objective in the Transition zone can be ownership structures, financial or structural issues.



Figure 4: Vilm WILDIsland, Germany

Wilderness Quality Labels

There are four labels for Wilderness quality. Depending on a number of factors (size, stewardship, research, etc.) the Wilderness is labelled with a bronze, silver, gold or platinum Wilderness Quality Diploma or Certificate.



Figure 5: Bronze-, Silver-, Gold and Platinum Wilderness-Categories

The European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System process

A Wilderness Audit is a step-wise approach and is implemented in stages along the Wilderness Continuum, from Pre-Audit to Quick-Audit to Full-Audit, from smaller to larger, from management to stewardship. Depending on the potential Wilderness and its management, as well as the available resources and the objective of the Wilderness stewards, the implementation of this step-wise approach can vary (Figures 6 and 7).

Elements of the European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System process:

- Quality standard (10 principles, 57 criteria, 130 indicators)
- Multi-day field audit
- Several months research and analysis of findings
- Detailed SWOT analysis
- Wilderness Audit Reports (Wilderness Brief, Quick-Audit Report, Executive summary including list of recommendations, Full-Audit Report)

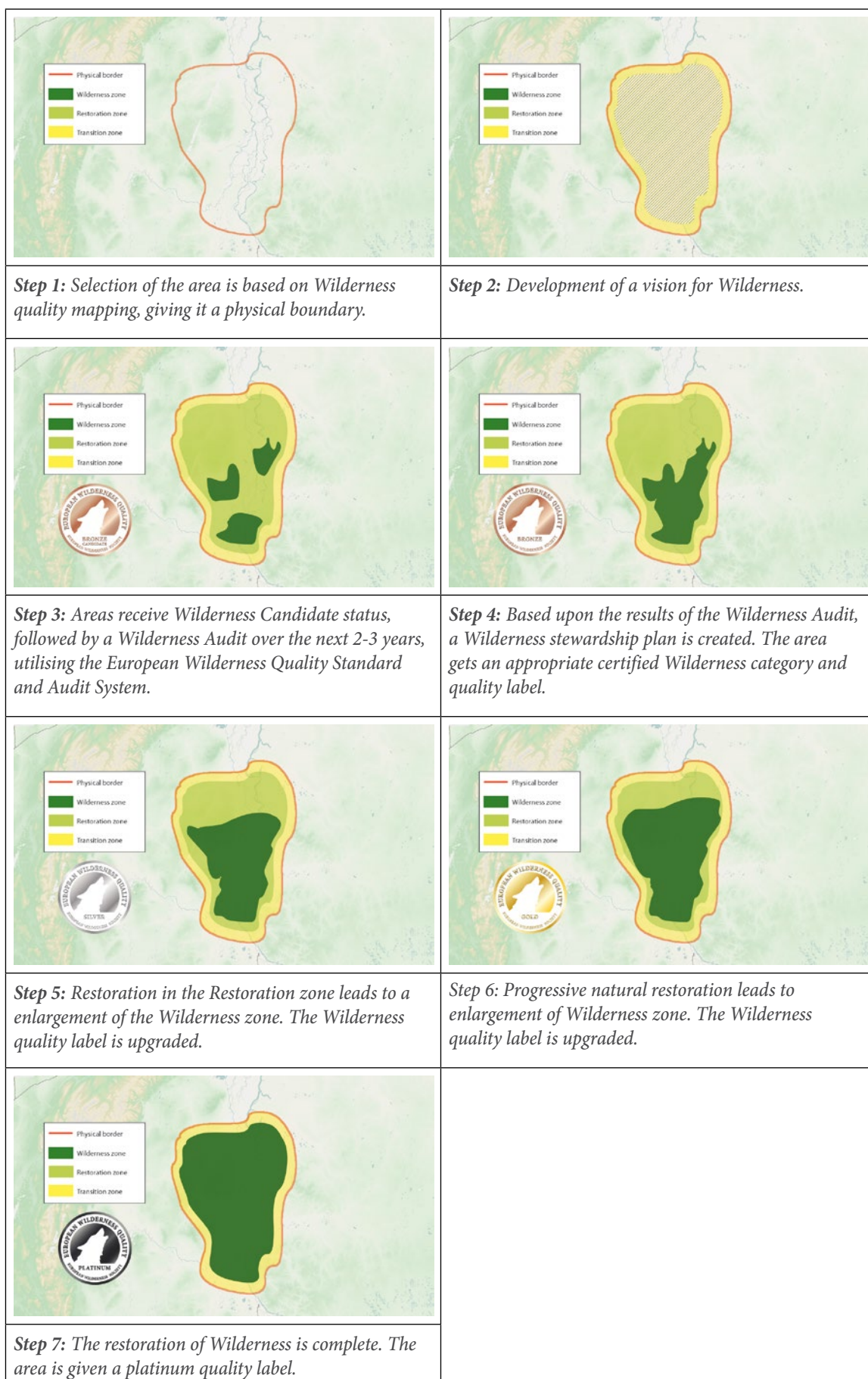


Figure 6: European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System process

The newly introduced categories to the European Wilderness Quality Standard 2.0 - WILDCoast, WILDForest, WILDIsland, and WILDRiver - follow a similar process, but are adopted to the particular habitat. This includes the following main steps: selection of the area, development of a vision, receiving candidate statute and the follow up Audit, creation of the stewardship plan, enlargement of the area via restoration, and final certification. Below is the final stage for WILDCoast, WILDForest, WILDIsland and WILDRiver.

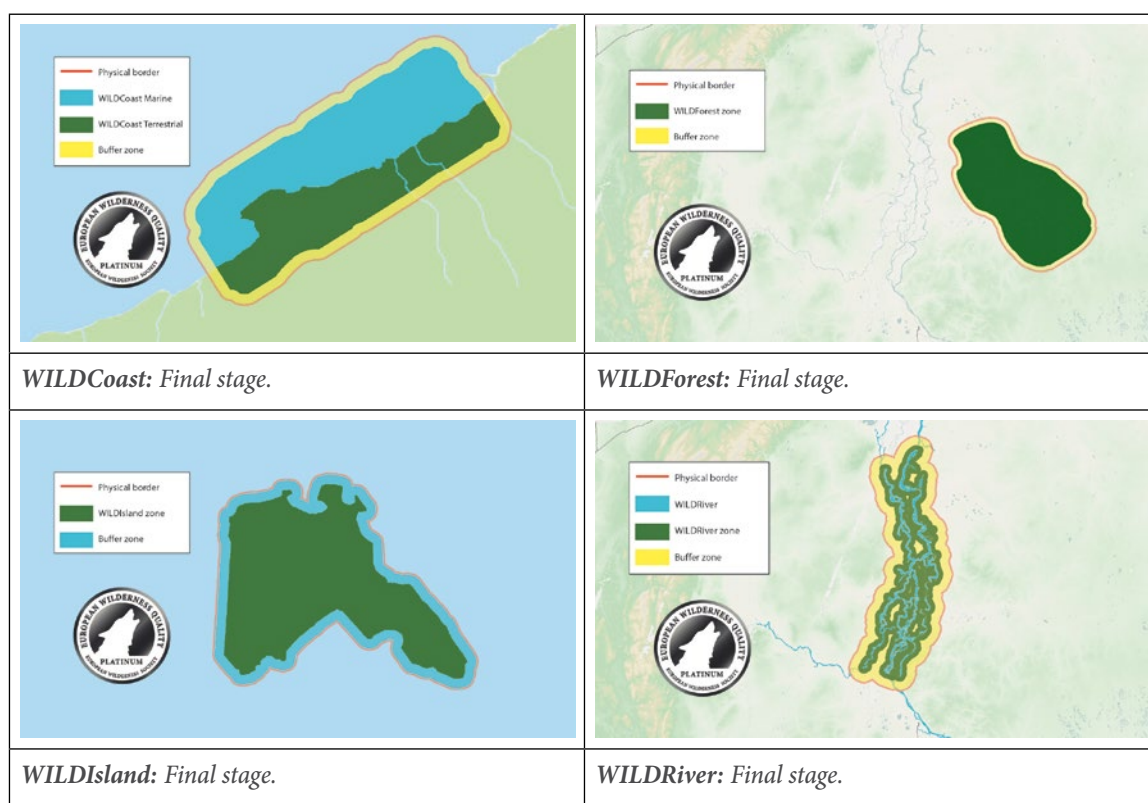


Figure 7: European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System process - final step for WILD- categories (Coast, Forest, Island and River).



Figure 8: Čepkeliai Wilderness, Lithuania



Figure 9: Hohe Tauern Wilderness, Austria

European Wilderness Quality Standard Quick-Audit

For most larger areas the European Wilderness Quality Standard Quick-Audit is typically the first step in the Wilderness audit process. In addition, the European Wilderness Quality Standard Quick-Audit is the perfect tool for most smaller, Wild Areas with an exceptionally high quality Wilderness and limited budget, who are interested in joining the European Wilderness Network. The Quick-Audit can prepare the area for the Full-Audit and the implementation of the European Wilderness Quality Standard.

The European Wilderness Quality Standard Quick-Audit also provides an opportunity for the audited Wilderness to correct weaknesses before undergoing a full certification in accordance with the European Wilderness Quality Standard Full-Audit. During the Quick-Audit, the auditors will examine all relevant documents and cover the following topics:

- Examination of the maps of the proposed Wilderness,
- Development of a short analysis of the zoning system (particularly conditions of the Wilderness zone),
- Clarification of the compatibility and size differences between zoning of the audited protected area and the Wilderness zoning of the European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System,
- Examination of the Stewardship plan for the potential Wilderness,
- Examination of the potential Wilderness biodiversity and tourism value,
- Examination of the potential for enlargement of the proposed Wilderness,
- Development of a detailed itinerary of the Quick-Audit,
- Implementation of a 3-5 day field audit of the proposed Wilderness,
- Writing a European Wilderness Quality Standard Quick-Audit report
- Writing a short report of the main recommendations,
- Setting up a preliminary Wilderness Quality categorisation according to the European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System for a maximum of 5 years,
- Listing the audited Wilderness in the European Wilderness Network.



Figure 10: Planning a Quick- or Full-Audit requires detailed analysis of maps of the protected area.

European Wilderness Quality Standard Full-Audit

The European Wilderness Quality Standard Full-Audit is a systematic and professional examination for larger Wilderness focusing on a high quality of Wilderness and protected areas that are already dedicated to a Wilderness stewardship (management) approach.

A European Wilderness Quality Standard Full-Audit includes, in addition to the above mentioned Quick-Audit topics:

- Development of comprehensive maps and photos, depicting the visual highlights of the audited Wilderness,
- Development of a detailed scientific explanation of the European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System in the context of current Wilderness research,
- Development of the history of Wilderness protection in Europe,
- Development of the history of the audited Wilderness protection,
- Detailed explanation of the verification team and their itinerary,
- Development of a biodiversity description of the habitats of the audited Wilderness,
- Examination of the legal structure, the stewardship plan, the tourism and the educational programmes of the audited Wilderness,
- 6 months of research and desk work,
- A 12-14 day field audit of the potential Wilderness, including overnight stays in the area,
- Development of a 150-200 page Wilderness Audit Report, as a basis for a Wilderness Stewardship Plan, including a detailed SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) with site-specific recommendations for action,
- A Wilderness Quality categorisation according to the European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System valid for a period of 10 years,
- Comprehensive communication and marketing support with public relations, promotional material like flags, posters, brochures, etc.,
- Development of monitoring and evaluation plan,
- Certification and labelling valid for 10 years with a free monitoring audit after 5 years.



Figure 11: Wilderness Certificate.





5. European Wilderness Network

As of early 2019, the European Wilderness Network has grown to over 41 members in 16 countries, with more than 300 000 ha of audited Wilderness. This network represents the best Wilderness across Europe and continues to expand (Figure 12).

The European Wilderness Network categories:

- Wilderness – Wilderness with a mixed habitat
- WILDCoast – Wilderness combining terrestrial, coastal and marine habitats
- WILDForest – Wilderness with a predominant forest habitat
- WILDIsland – Island with terrestrial, coastal and surrounding marine habitats
- WILDRiver – Wilderness along rivers and riverbank habitats

All categories, i.e. Wilderness, WILDIsland, WILDForest, WILDCoast and WILDRiver, in the European Wilderness Network are unique and represent the best and wildest places in Europe. They cover a multitude of different habitats, all driven by natural processes and non-intervention stewardship techniques, following the principles of the European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System.

Wilderness

1. Borjomi-Kharagauli Wilderness, Georgia
2. Central Balkan Wilderness, Bulgaria
3. Čepkeliai Wilderness, Lithuania
4. Chornyy Dil Wilderness, Ukraine
5. Darvaika Wilderness, Ukraine
6. Fulufjället Wilderness, Sweden
7. Gorgany Wilderness, Ukraine
8. Hohe Tauern Wilderness, Austria
9. Hoverla Wilderness, Ukraine
10. Kalkalpen Wilderness, Austria
11. Königsbrücker Heide Wilderness, Germany
12. Küre Wilderness, Turkey
13. Majella Wilderness, Italy
14. Maramarosh Wilderness, Ukraine
15. Oulanka Wilderness, Finland
16. Paanajärvi Wilderness, Russia
17. Peneda-Gerês Wilderness, Portugal
18. Podyjí Wilderness, Czech Republic
19. Retezat Wilderness, Romania
20. Rila Wilderness, Bulgaria
21. Soomaa Wilderness, Estonia
22. Teiču Wilderness, Latvia
23. Uholka-Shyroky Luh Wilderness, Ukraine
24. Zacharovanyy Kray Wilderness, Ukraine

WILDCoast

25. Archipelago WILDCoast, Finland
26. Jasmund WILDCoast, Germany

WILDForest

27. Hainich WILDForest, Germany
28. Kalkalpen WILDForest, Austria
29. Kuziy-Trybushany WILDForest, Ukraine
30. Thayatal WILDForest, Austria
31. Uholka-Shyroky Luh WILDForest, Ukraine
32. Zacharovanyy Kray WILDForest, Ukraine

WILDIsland

33. Vilm WILDIsland, Germany

WILDRiver

34. Dyje WILDRiver, Czech Republic
35. Kitka WILDRiver, Finland
36. Mala Uholka WILDRiver, Ukraine
37. Olanga WILDRiver, Russia
38. Oulanka WILDRiver, Finland
39. Shyroky Luh WILDRiver, Ukraine
40. Thaya WILDRiver, Austria
41. Velyka Uholka WILDRiver, Ukraine

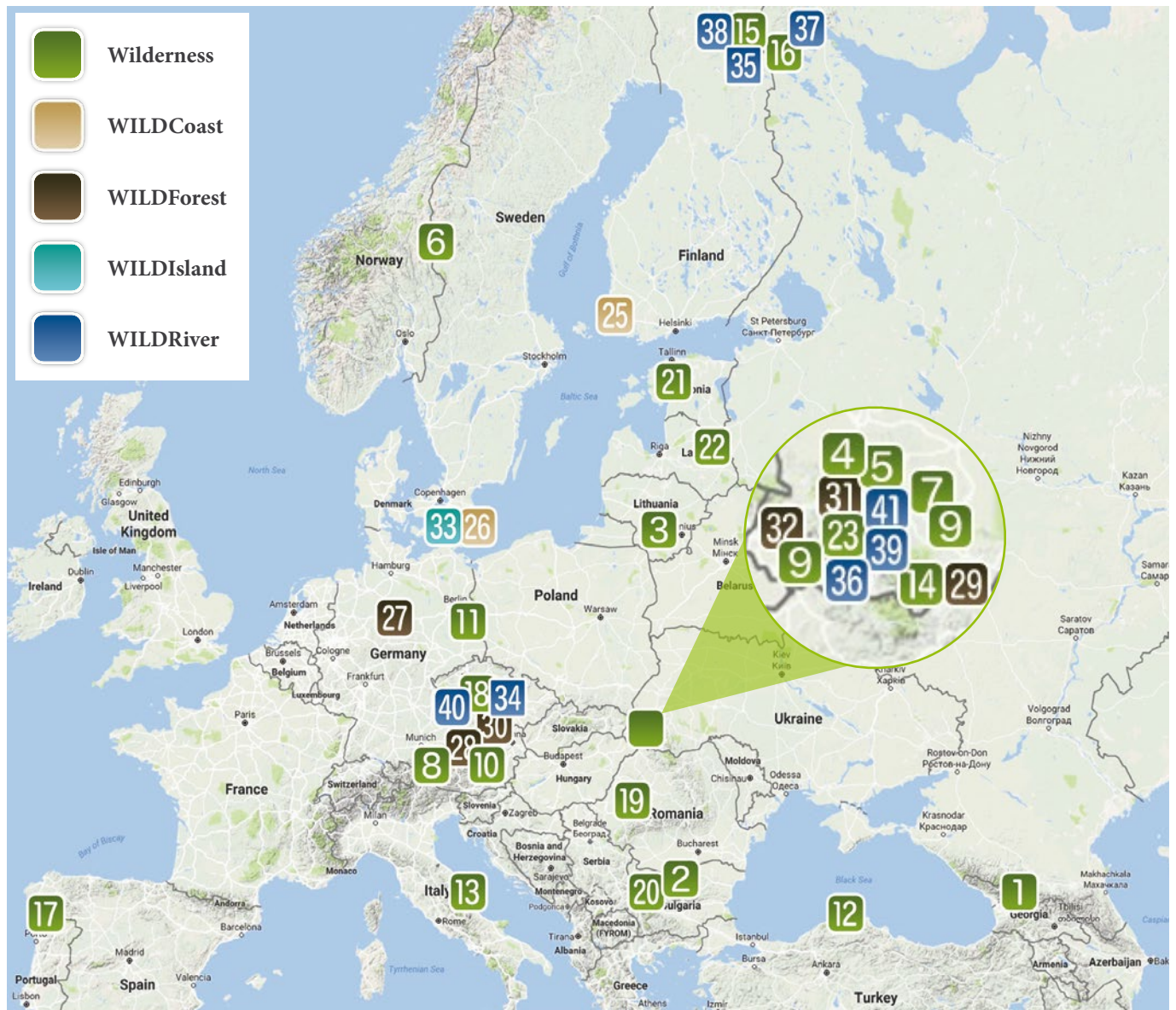


Figure 12: European Wilderness Network, March 2019.

www.european-wilderness.network



Hainich WILDForest, Germany

The European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System 2.0 - Principles and Criteria

The European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System 2.0 consists of 130 indicators, which are divided into 57 criteria and organised in 10 principles. See the principles and criteria below:

Principle 1: Wilderness Size and Zoning

- Criterion 1.1. Minimum size and length depends of Wilderness category (Wilderness, WILDIslands, WILDForests, WILDCoasts, WILDRivers). The category depends on the predominant habitat type
- Criterion 1.2. Wilderness and Wilderness zone have defined boundaries
- Criterion 1.3. Wilderness is marked in the official maps
- Criterion 1.4. Wilderness is zoned

Principle 2. Wilderness Stewardship

- Criterion 2.1. Wilderness is protected by law in accordance with national and/or international legislative frameworks for an indefinite period of time
- Criterion 2.2. Wilderness has a stewardship administration
- Criterion 2.3. Wilderness administration has a long-term Wilderness conservation strategy documented in a detailed Wilderness stewardship plan of at least 10 years
- Criterion 2.4. Wilderness has a sufficiently large and well-trained stewardship team
- Criterion 2.5. A training plan for the management team exists

3. Wilderness and Biodiversity

- Criterion 3.1. Wilderness is governed by natural dynamic processes to maintain natural dynamic development and biodiversity
- Criterion 3.2. Wilderness contributes to species and habitat conservation
- Criterion 3.3. Wilderness contains examples of undisturbed ecosystems
- Criterion 3.4. Wilderness provides favourable habitats for healthy populations of native species

Principle 4. Wilderness Restoration

- Criterion 4.1. Wilderness administration has a long-term vision to enlarge the Wilderness zone
- Criterion 4.2. Wilderness has a Wilderness restoration plan to restore natural dynamic processes in the Wilderness Restoration zone, which will lead to an enlargement of the Wilderness zone in the long-term

Principle 5. Wilderness and Extractive Uses

Criterion 5.1. Wilderness has no extractive uses
Criterion 5.2. Wilderness has no forestry operations
Criterion 5.3. Wilderness has no hunting and game management
Criterion 5.4. Wilderness has no extractive fishing, this includes catch and release, and no management intervention of fish populations
Criterion 5.5. Wilderness has no active mining or active mining claims
Criterion 5.6. Wilderness has no livestock grazing
Criterion 5.7. Wilderness has no agricultural activities
Criterion 5.8. Wilderness has no deadwood collection
Criterion 5.9. Wilderness has no commercial harvesting of berries, nuts, mushrooms or other forest products
Criterion 5.10. Wilderness has no commercial or extractive collection of minerals
Criterion 5.11. Wilderness is not used for commercial filmmaking

Principle 6. Wilderness and Anthropogenic Disturbance

Criterion 6.1. Wilderness has no permanent infrastructure
Criterion 6.2. Wilderness has no used roads
Criterion 6.3. Wilderness has no permanent settlements
Criterion 6.4. Wilderness administration has a plan how to deal with temporary structures
Criterion 6.5. Wilderness administration has a plan how to address and engage with inherited indigenous people living in the Wilderness
Criterion 6.6. Wilderness administration has a plan to address archaeological remains in the Wilderness
Criterion 6.7. Wilderness has no use of motorised transport
Criterion 6.8. Wilderness has free access on foot
Criterion 6.9. Wilderness has minimal noise pollution
Criterion 6.10. Wilderness has minimal light pollution
Criterion 6.11. Wilderness has no visual distractions in sight
Criterion 6.12. Wilderness has no garbage pollution
Criterion 6.13. Wilderness has a plan how to deal with contaminated ground
Criterion 6.14. Wilderness has no fencing
Criterion 6.15. There are rules for the use of horses in the Wilderness
Criterion 6.16. There are no recreational fire pits in the Wilderness
Criterion 6.17. Wilderness has rules on the permission of pets, particularly dogs

Principle 7. Wilderness and Natural Dynamic Processes

Criterion 7.1. Wilderness administration has a fire stewardship plan

Criterion 7.2. Wilderness administration has a disease stewardship plan

Criterion 7.3. Wilderness administration has an invasive alien species stewardship plan

Criterion 7.4. Wilderness administration has a stewardship plan for other natural events arising from natural dynamic processes (e.g. floods, avalanches, wind, permafrost)

Principle 8. Wilderness and Visitors

Criterion 8.1. Wilderness administration has a visitor and recreation plan to support the protection of the Wilderness

Criterion 8.2. Wilderness administration has a set of regulations for maintaining visitor structures in the Wilderness

Criterion 8.3. Wilderness offers possibilities to experience a sense of Wilderness and solitude

Criterion 8.4. Commercial Wilderness trips have to follow certain rules

Principle 9. Wilderness Research and Monitoring

Criterion 9.1. There is a Wilderness research and monitoring plan

Criterion 9.2. There is a monitoring system in place to document activities in the Wilderness

Criterion 9.3. Wilderness administration has a monitoring system in place to document indigenous people's life supporting activities and their impacts on the Wilderness

Criterion 9.4 Wilderness administration has a plan for the cooperation with scientific institutions and universities

Principle 10. Wilderness and International Relevance

Criterion 10.1. Wilderness should be internationally recognised (IUCN, Natura 2000, UNESCO, other certifications)

Criterion 10.2. Wilderness should support the protection of internationally threatened habitats and species



Figure 13: Full-Audit Report, containing recommendations based on principles, criteria and indicators of European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System.



Kalkalpen WILDForest, Austria



Let's get Wild!

European Wilderness Society

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