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Proceedings of the Conference on Wilderness and Large Natural Habitat Areas



Proceedings of the Conference on Wilderness and Large Natural Habitat Areas

EU Presidency and European Commission Conference



About this publication

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Foreword

There are few truly wild areas remaining in our highly developed continent, yet they represent an invaluable part of Europe's natural heritage.

In addition to their intrinsic spiritual and landscape qualities, and their important contribution to biodiversity, such areas can offer significant economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits to local communities, landholders and society in general. However, they are increasingly under threat from inappropriately located logging, agricultural intensification and development of infrastructure - and from the pressure of climate change.

For these reasons preventing further loss of wilderness is an important challenge. There are also great opportunities across Europe for restoration of large wild areas and their natural processes - creating a network of habitats linked by ecological corridors, not least to help address the impact of climate change.

However we do not yet have a common vision for these vital areas and for their place in the broader objective of halting biodiversity decline.

So this Conference on the protection and restoration of wilderness and large natural habitat areas, jointly hosted by the Czech EU Presidency and the European Commission together with the Wild Europe initiative, provided a critical platform to advance Europe's wilderness agenda.

More than 230 participants from 35 countries represented government ministries, conservation agencies, NGOs and academic institutions, as well as a wide range of interests from landowning, agriculture, forestry, business and other sectors, for the first time joined efforts to focus action on the wild areas of Europe.

A key outcome from the Conference is the development of the 'Message (Poselstvi) from Prague', which contains 24 recommendations from the participants on policy, research, awareness raising and partnerships.

Implementation of these recommendations would create a Europe richer in wildlife, with wild areas where natural processes predominate, maintaining and reinstating the natural identity of our continent for the profound benefit of future generations.



Ladislav Miko

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1

Overview

Part 1

Overview

1.1 Background

In February 2009 the European Parliament passed a Resolution calling for increased protection of wilderness areas (see Appendix VIII), with 538 votes in favour and only 19 votes against.

This overwhelming cross-party support reflects growing realization of the value of Europe's remaining wilderness and wild areas, and of the need to protect and restore these. As such it represents a solid mandate for action, shadowing many of the recommendations proposed by the Prague conference.

This Conference has been developed by the Wild Europe partnership in tandem with the Czech EU Presidency and European Commission, as part of a wider aim by the partnership over the last four years to promote a coordinated strategy to protect and restore Europe's wilderness and wild areas.

A key objective here is to encourage development of a consensus approach between all interests including conservation, forestry, farming, business, local communities, government and other relevant parties.

1.2 Support for EU biodiversity programmes

The protection of biodiversity is one of the EU's main environmental priorities. The EU is committed to halting biodiversity loss in the EU by 2010 and the Natura 2000 network is its key instrument in achieving conservation objectives. The Network has its legal basis in the Birds and Habitats Directives and is the biggest ecological entity of its type in the world, containing around 25,000 sites, and covering an area of approximately 1 million square kilometres.

Despite the progress that has been made in recent years, Europe's biodiversity is under continued pressure linked principally to habitat destruction, pollution and climate change as well as the impact of invasive alien species.

However, protecting the last remaining wilderness areas, together with appropriate restoration, can make a key contribution to achieving the EU targets. These areas are important for a wide variety of reasons, including their ability to preserve species and habitats unable to survive elsewhere as they are dependent on natural processes.

It should be feasible to achieve this protection and restoration very substantially within the structure of Natura 2000 where spatial overlap occurs, by incorporation of management regimes (non intervention and restoration) for Natura 2000 sites that contain wilderness and wild areas.

Outside the EU, in adjacent countries where very important areas of wilderness still remain, alternative approaches by their governments and stakeholders will be required – but the benefits for biodiversity could be just as significant.

At regional level in the EU, and in neighbouring countries, a common vision regarding the issue of wilderness and wild areas and their place in the broader objective of halting biodiversity decline has not previously been developed.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of this conference on Wilderness and Large Natural Habitat Areas in Europe were three fold:

- To raise the profile of such areas with the many stakeholders who are connected to this issue.
- To recommend a unified strategy for the protection and restoration of these areas throughout Europe.
- To build a partnership between sectors based on a consensus for implementation of this strategy.

1.4 Expected Outcomes

The strategy for protection and restoration of Europe's Wilderness, includes the following elements:

- Agreeing the definition and location of wild and nearly wild areas;
- Determining the contribution that such areas can make to halting biodiversity loss and supporting Natura 2000;
- Recommendations for improved protection of such areas, within the existing legal framework;
- Review of opportunities for restoration of large natural habitat areas;
- Proposals for more effective support for such restoration;
- Identifying best practice examples for non intervention and restoration management; and,
- Defining the value of low impact economic, social and environmental benefits from wild areas.

1.5 Message from Prague

In the words of Ladislav Miko, Environment Minister in the Czech Republic and former Director of Natural Environment at the European Commission "The remaining pristine areas in Europe should be regarded as a unique asset and benefit from the highest level of protection. They should not be diminished or degraded."

Equally, opportunities for restoration of a linked network of new wild natural habitat areas should be pursued, bringing prospective economic, social and environmental benefits for local communities, landholders and society in general – as well as conservation interests.

The following four sets of recommendations, produced in the Message from Prague (Poselstvi), call for action by the European Commission and EU Member States with the support of other stakeholders:

A. Policy development

- Provide guidance on how wilderness qualities could receive legal protection both under the Natura 2000 regime and outside the EU, without compromising concrete protection of species and habitats in Europe.

- The management of the Natura 2000 network should take account of the need to protect ecological processes as well as habitats and species.
- Guidance should be developed concerning the protection of wilderness areas in the context of the EU nature legislation, addressing issues such as natural changes to sites, response to climate change, the maintenance of specific succession states and non-intervention.
- Assessment and implementation of means by which links with neighbouring countries can more effectively support protection of wilderness and wildland areas outside EU boundaries.
- In the light of a clearer definition of wilderness and wild land in different parts of Europe, and the extent to which this is protected by existing legislation and policy, consider and promote the action needed to ensure existing legislation protecting wilderness and wildlands is monitored and enforced effectively by all responsible authorities and steps are taken to fill the gaps in protective cover that are identified.
- Promote connectivity of existing protected areas, restoration of degraded areas, and the setting up of corridors and ecological networks.
- To identify and promote opportunities within the 2012 Common Agricultural Policy review that can benefit protection and restoration of wilderness and wildlands, especially in relation to abandoned agricultural land and ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change.

B. Awareness building

- In the short run, to incorporate recommendations from the Conference into relevant reports (including TEEB), government meetings (upcoming EU Presidencies), international conferences (CBD/Nagoya, UNFCCC/Copenhagen) and other events – facilitated by compilation of a relevant schedule and production of appropriate policy documents.
- To further develop awareness in the conservation sector of the contribution wilderness and wildland areas can make to halting biodiversity loss and supporting Natura 2000 and the Emerald Network.
- To develop a programme promoting the values of wilderness and wildlands to organizations and decision-makers in all relevant sectors, including landholding, agriculture, forestry, business, local and national government, health, institutions, media and education, so as to ensure that these values are reflected in appropriate sectoral plans, including the EU Forestry Action Plan, EU Fisheries policy, EU Agricultural policy. Differences in natural biogeographical regions should be taken into consideration.
- To invest in mass communication to the wide European audience about wilderness and wild values.

C. Further work and information needs

- Finalisation of a definition of wilderness and wild areas, taking into account the globally agreed definitions, criteria and characteristics and the continuum of natural habitats and ecological processes, the range of ecological and cultural interpretations of these terms and their application in different parts of Europe.
- Compilation of a Register of Wilderness using existing databases, such as the EEA and WDPA, identifying in tandem with appropriate interested parties the remaining areas of wilderness and wildlands, the threats and opportunities related to these, and their economic values, with practical recommendations for action.

- Completion of mapping wilderness and wildland areas in Europe, involving appropriate definitional and habitat criteria and level of scale to effectively support plans for protecting and monitoring such areas.
- Identification of key opportunities for prospective restoration of wild natural habitats and processes, involving mapping, biodiversity design and benefit assessment for relevant parties including local landholders and communities.
- Further investigation into the scientific rationale underpinning the linkage between wilderness, wildlands and delivery of societal benefits in support of social programmes – e.g. for youth development, youth at risk, conflict reconciliation and healthcare.
- Quantification of the value of non-extractive economic, social and environmental benefits of wilderness and wildland, identifying key beneficiaries.
- Identification and promotion of how ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, flood mitigation, water purification, erosion control, and pollution alleviation can be linked to specific payment mechanisms, via landholders, communities and other beneficiaries, for protection and restoration of wilderness and wildland. The public goods benefits of wilderness will require public funding.
- Review of how to secure opportunities for gaining of value from social benefits (e.g. healthcare, youth development, youth at risk, conflict resolution) – linked to proactive development of new markets (e.g. probationary and health services) and delivery infrastructure.

D. Supporting capacity

- Further development of the Wildland Support Network, especially to support implementation of recommendations from the conference.
- Establish a website and network based Wildland Information Exchange to collate and disseminate good practice and model projects to demonstrate the value of wilderness benefits, link initiatives and enable coordinated response to threats and opportunities.
- Develop examples, based on best practice, of how local communities and landholders can secure value from recreation, tourism and other initiatives.
- Undertake a full assessment of government, institutional and private sector funding opportunities for protection and restoration, as part of broader conservation programmes.
- Build inter-sector consensus and support by developing initiatives for joint approaches based on common ground with other sectors including: landholders, forestry, agriculture, business.

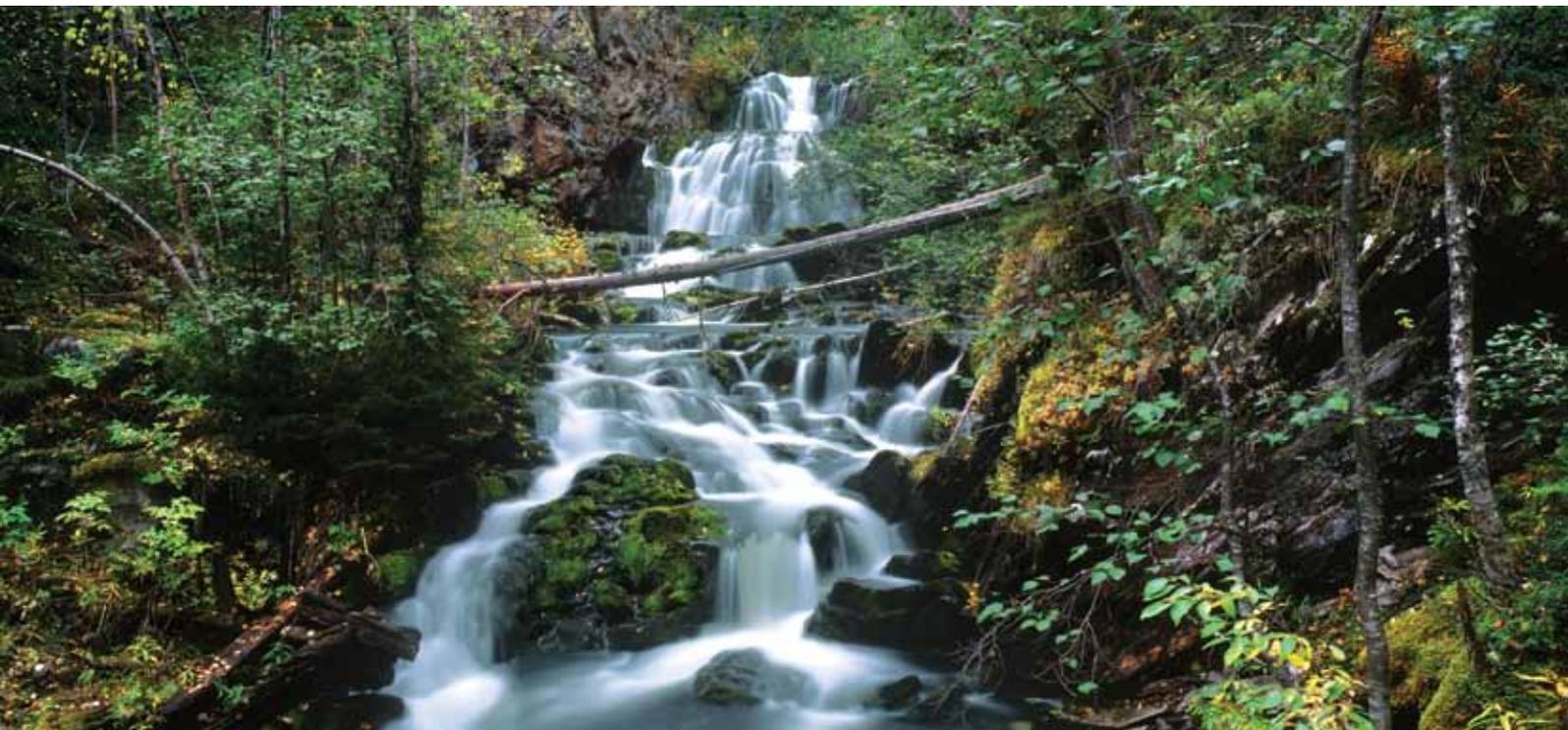
1.6 Implementing the Recommendations

Following the conference, the intention is to develop an Action Plan to carry forward implementation of the above recommendations over the next few years, with development of a Wildland Support Network to help coordinate this process being a key proposal from participants.

In addition, the consortium partners will ensure that the outcomes of this conference are carried beyond Europe by profiling them at a series of international meetings, including the World Wilderness Congress <http://www.wild.org/WWC/wild9.htm> which will be organised in Mexico in November 2009.

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2

Setting the Scene

Part 2

Setting the Scene

2.1 Introduction

Many wild areas in Europe are increasingly under threat of destruction, degradation and fragmentation from forestry activities, intensification of agriculture, mining, development of infrastructure - and from the pressure of climate change.

Alongside the need for improved protection of existing areas is both a requirement, and an opportunity, for large-scale restoration of a network of substantial natural habitats linked by ecological corridors into a functioning ecosystem.

Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in 2012, together with pressure for “fair trade” through the World Trade Organisation (WTO), could offer substantial potential for reallocation of resources and changes in land use – especially of more marginal areas of farmland and forestry.

Equally, in addition to their landscape and biodiversity values, there is growing appreciation of the wider economic, social and environmental benefits of wild lands for local communities and landholders – particularly in remoter rural areas where alternative sources of income and employment are scarce.

2.1.1 Limited window of opportunity

The opportunities for large-scale protection and restoration may be of limited duration in some areas at least.

This is not simply because of the urgency of threats from modernisation of agriculture or programmes for new infrastructure. In Central and Eastern Europe, substantial amounts of unallocated or abandoned land still remain. However where allocation has occurred, the land market is actively consolidating, in part responding to “value” signals.

Hence the importance of identifying, and where possible quantifying (valuing), the full set of benefits applicable to large natural habitat areas - either to protect existing areas or promote the case for restoration of new ones.

2.1.2 Substantial potential

This conference provided an excellent opportunity to develop a coordinated approach to the protection and restoration of wild and nearly wild areas across Europe, determining and developing policy options and thus potentially providing a key stepping stone towards implementation.

The Conference’s place on the formal agenda for the Czech Republic’s EU Presidency could also potentially facilitate incorporation of outputs into high-level policy programmes.

For further reference see the welcome addresses of the Conference on Wilderness and Large Natural Habitats by: Ladislav Miko, Minister, Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic; Vaclav Havel, Former President, Czech Republic; Michael Hamell, Acting Director, European Commission, DG Environment; and, Luc Marie Gnacadja, Executive Secretary, United Nations CCD.

2.2 Definitions

The concept of wilderness began in Neolithic times with the emergence of human settlements, when the cultivated environment started to differ from “wild” nature. From the beginning the connotation has been negative with “wild” associated with dangerous, dark and threatening elements. It is only in the last century that humans started positively thinking about and protecting wilderness.

In the US by 1924 the first Wilderness Area was protected (Gila Wilderness, New Mexico) and by 1964 the US Wilderness Act was signed by an American president. Changing attitudes toward nature and civilization show that appreciation is increasing. From being very negative it has become increasingly positive. Now wilderness has become a place for inspiration, wilderness recreation is a favourite pastime, and there is a growing awareness of its wider environmental, social and even economic benefits – it has a relevance to modern contemporary society.

However, there is a lack of a common working description for “wilderness” and this in turn has led to an absence of a co-ordinated conservation strategy for wilderness and large natural habitat areas. There are many different words for ‘wilderness’ and ‘wild’ and it is impossible to adequately promote, protect or restore an area if the qualities one is focusing on remain unclear, or are understood differently according to geographic location, individual perception or local culture.

Equally, if inappropriate definitions are employed, this can in itself create an obstacle to achieving conservation objectives. Whilst the words ‘wilderness’ or ‘wild’ can evoke strong support in some quarters, they can lead to confusion and provoke a negative reaction from landholding or farming interests whose work has produced a well tended landscape which they do not wish to see ‘reverting to scrub’.

2.2.1 What is wilderness?

Any definition of wilderness should involve a multi-angled consideration: of scale, landscape impact, prevalence of natural process, relative lack of intervention management, an ability to deliver significant ecological services (most notably in addressing climate change), as well as host a range of wild and related recreational and social activities. It is further determined by subjective opinion: the spirit of wildland that enables solitude, sense of wholeness, belonging, healing, awareness and self-development.

Wilderness areas are generally large and hardly modified by human activity. Championed since 1977 by the World Wilderness Congress, international recognition of wilderness as a distinct protected area classification was greatly aided by its inclusion as a specific Category 1(b) protected area in the Framework for Protected Areas (1992), developed by the World Commission on Protected Areas:

A large area of unmodified or slightly modified land, and/or sea, retaining its natural character and influence, without permanent or significant habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural condition.

For calculation of total wilderness areas, to this Category 1b should be added Category 1a, ‘strict nature reserve managed mainly for scientific research’, containing the intact and functioning natural habitats and processes that characterise wilderness but not labelled as such nor open to public access. Further hitherto unrecorded areas of wilderness lie within the boundaries of Category II designations.

In a protected area context, an increasing number of professionals now accept wilderness as a distinct category, requiring specialized management.

By contrast smaller wild or nearly wild areas can be said to cover a range of intermediate landscapes – referring to smaller and often fragmented pieces of land, where the condition of natural habitat and relevant species is either partially or substantially modified by grazing, forestry, sporting activity or general imprint of human artefact. These areas are numerous and scattered across the continent.

Finally, there is the issue of zonation, where identification of core, buffer and transition areas – each with different types and levels of intervention - can assist in articulation of ‘wildness’ and address the issue of spatial development over time. The inner “core zone” would have no extractive activity or human impact. The “buffer zone” around the core would have minimal impact activities only. In the “transition zone”, outside the buffer zone, the emphasis would be on maintaining a stable landscape.

2.2.2 The ‘continuum of wildness’

In this ‘wild area’ context, there is recognition of the desirability of progressing over time through increased stages of naturalness – via restoration of habitat, wildlife and natural processes - and towards natural instead of built infrastructure. Attainment of “wilderness” status is the ultimate goal in this process wherever scale, biodiversity needs and geography permit.

Wildness can thus be measured along a ‘continuum’ with wilderness at one end and marginal farmland and forestry at the other.

For further reference see the presentation by Wolfgang Schroeder, Professor, Center for Life Sciences, Technische Universitaet München, Germany and Background Document 1 ‘Definition’ by Wolfgang Schroeder and Toby Aykroyd, Director of Wild Europe initiative.

2.3 Spatial locations

There are a few parts of Europe where large truly wild or ‘wilderness’ areas can currently be found in the sense of the IUCN Classification, referring to very substantial regions that are largely untouched by the hand of man where natural processes predominate.

These occur in parts of Finland, Sweden, Norway, Ukraine and Western Russia together with bordering states; there are also elements in Central and Southern Europe and the Caucasus. The strategy focus here is on the protection of existing heritage.

In contrast smaller wild areas are scattered across the continent sometimes located within protected areas that are not classified as wilderness, including many areas in the Carpathians, Pyrenees and Alps as well as parts of the Balkans.

A series of maps, scaled according to operational requirement and supported by a Register of European Wilderness, would correct this lack of knowledge. We need to know where in Europe these areas are distributed if we want to protect them more effectively – particularly priority habitat types such as old growth forest.

Currently there are several maps on potential wilderness in Europe. For example the Pan European Ecological Network (PEEN) is a mapping work that shows areas with some potential for wilderness in Europe.

Natura 2000 protected sites are a good starting point for mapping European wilderness. When you compare Natura 2000 sites with Category 1a and 1b IUCN sites there is a very high level of overlap.

The size of the wilderness or wild area is an important factor, along with the issue of connectivity. Fragmentation damages wilderness areas so the distribution of wild and wilderness areas is important. We need to build ecological corridors between these separated areas to decrease their isolation.

Information provided by a Wilderness Register will be a key factor in conservation projects, therefore validity and accuracy of the data should be as precise as possible. A European Wilderness Register would also help with policy development and protect against the further loss of biodiversity.

For further reference see the presentation "Where is wild? Mapping results, EC and adjacent countries" by Steve Carver, Senior Lecturer, School of Geography, University of Leeds, UK.

2.4 Current situation in conservation

The threat to wilderness and wild areas in Europe is very real and imminent, but there are numerous organizations working to save these last remaining areas and restore new ones.

For instance PAN Parks among many other organizations has created a network of certified wilderness protected areas that covers 236,490 ha. The experience of building the PAN Parks network can provide a lot of inspiration and lessons to others.

Restoration is occurring both naturally and with human assistance in many areas across Europe, bringing a range of attractive advantages such as enriched biodiversity, improved ecosystem services, and socio economic benefits. Natural re-wilding often follows land abandonment for instance in Peneda Geres National Park, where the protected area staff compiled a complete map of wilderness areas within the Park. The best known example of human assistance in wild area creation is Oostvaardersplassen in The Netherlands. Konik horses, red deer and heck cattle were introduced and are kept wild in this polder area.

Such restoration can enable upgrade and enlargement of existing wild areas, and bring opportunity for linkage into a network – connecting biodiversity islands, facilitating longer distance migration and sharing of gene pools.

2.4.1 Addressing conflict issues

Overall wilderness occupies between 1 and 2% of Europe's area, according to minimum size defined, and even at their maximum extent, current and restored wild areas would still only occupy a very small area. So on that basis alone there should be reassurance for concerns on the part of farming, forestry or other sectors or even the more traditional conservationists.

The issue of conflict between conservation management and principles of wildness can be addressed effectively since the area of common ground and benefit is much greater than allowed for in the current debate:

- Many species and habitats thrive where natural processes predominate – and integrity of process is itself a key element of biodiversity richness;
- Concerns that 'wilding' an area previously heavily managed for agricultural grazing or other purposes can be substantially mitigated by extensive management techniques (e.g. grazing: by ungulates, beaver – even semi-feral cattle where relevant);
- Allowance can still be made for localized management related to specific species, whilst retaining an overall wild ethos; and,

- Smaller scale high intensity biodiversity can be balanced out by much larger scale lower intensity, with different species benefiting according to stages reached in the natural succession process.

Equally, conflicts with forestry can also be addressed on a consensus basis: identifying areas of common benefit for biodiversity and landholders and developing a closer evidence-based rapport between parties in tackling problematic issues such as bark beetle and fire risk.

A number of key recommendations for the future of wilderness in Europe can be made:

- Develop guidance for non-intervention management of wilderness within the frame of Natura 2000;
- Develop a wilderness register – mapping existing wilderness as a basis for tailored protection plans; and,
- Develop funding instruments to protect wilderness in Europe.

For further reference see the presentation “What is happening with wilderness in Europe currently?” by Vlado Vancura, Conservation Manager, PAN Parks Foundation, Slovakia.

2.5 External Perspective on Europe

Many people when they think about wilderness and wild areas refer to the Amazonian rain forests or the Serengeti in Africa.

The fact that Europe too has wilderness is often overlooked. Yet the remaining areas are of global importance, scientifically, biologically, culturally and for climate change mitigation and adaptation and they need to be protected.

Wilderness is not just an American concept, wilderness is an ancient European word meaning “will of the land” (J Handsford Vest) or “place of wild beasts” (Rod Nash). Wilderness and wildness are essentially European and they have played a profound part in European culture from the Mediterranean to the North Sea.

Population growth in Europe, increased intensification of agriculture, deforestation and general development of industry and infrastructure have severely contracted the size of wilderness areas in Europe over time. The last remaining wilderness and wild areas have become cut off from each other, fragmented and isolated.

The return of wildness in Europe is healthy and a tremendous opportunity for wilderness conservation. As will be shown in the following sections, restoration of wild areas has the potential to protect and restore species and provide ecosystem services and to enable other socio-economic benefits – of value to local communities and landholders and society as a whole.

We need to restore wilderness in the world as a whole, it is a global challenge – but an exciting one. Europe can be a leader in the area of restoration and responsibility, whilst conserving its remaining wilderness.

There is an important message here in support of global conservation. If we in Europe are seen to be protecting and restoring large areas of our own wild natural heritage, and doing so moreover for economic and social as well as conservation motives, that sends a powerful signal to countries elsewhere in the world who are currently determining future land use options for their own often much larger and comparatively pristine ecosystems.

For further reference see the presentation “European wilderness in the global context” by Harvey Locke, Wild Foundation, Canada.

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3

Benefits of Wilderness and Wildlands

Part 3

Benefits of Wilderness and Wildlands

3.1 Introduction

As well as being an irreplaceable component of Europe's natural heritage, wild areas can also offer substantial economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits for local communities, landholders and society in general - particularly in remote rural areas where alternative sources of income and employment are scarce.

Nature tourism already contributes substantially to many local economies, and a range of newer ventures associated with such areas is emerging - many of which address important inner urban issues such as youth at risk, rehabilitation and healthcare.

There is also a growing recognition that larger natural areas provide further essential ecological and ultimately valuable economic services to society, such as alleviation of soil and water pollution, flood mitigation and carbon sequestration – all of which are important benefits in tackling the impacts of climate change.

3.2 Biodiversity / Natura 2000 benefits

People have inhabited Europe for over half a million years since the last retreat of the ice sheets, and today much of Europe's most spectacular biodiversity is gone and what remains is under threat. One out of every six remaining mammals in Europe is on the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

Wilderness and wild areas can help to protect biodiversity, and the rewilding of areas opens up new opportunities for biodiversity conservation. In Europe we already have a good framework under Natura 2000 including approximately 200 habitats and 1000 species. A large proportion of the wilderness and wild areas of Europe falls within these protected areas.

Protecting and increasing the size of wilderness and wild areas and connecting them through corridors provides many benefits for biodiversity including:

- Species for instance in old-growth forests which are dependent on the healthy functioning of natural processes and hence need non intervention management for their survival;
- Species which need large and or relatively isolated areas for maintaining healthy, sustainable populations;
- A larger gene pool for species survival and long term sustainability;
- Opportunity for adaptation and migration in response to climate change;
- Potential to encompass whole ecosystems;
- Lower management cost per unit area;
- Increased size can provide larger scale in provision of ecosystem services, particularly carbon sequestration, with better profile for seeking funding opportunities; and,
- Larger size can also facilitate nature tourism and social activities that can bring income and employment to local interests without compromising biodiversity as might occur in smaller areas.

There are a number of challenges ahead for biodiversity in Europe.

1. Climate change.

This will be a crucial factor, with warmer temperatures and more erratic rainfall patterns forcing changes in human land use as well as distribution of habitats and species. A key aspect of successful human adjustment to climate change will involve planning resilience into the ecosystems that underpin much of human health and livelihood.

Wild areas have a crucial role to play here, in both enabling adaptation and helping mitigate and address the impact of global warming.

2. Protection of threatened species and habitats

There is no appetite for legislative changes within the EU, so protection must occur through improved monitoring and enforcement of existing law, particularly for illegal logging and development. At the same time positive policies are required to incentivise protection – either through provision of subsidies or enabling local stakeholders to directly benefit from non extractive activities such as tourism, ecosystem or social services; education and targeted awareness programmes will also have a crucial role.

Outside the EU, in neighbouring countries where there are very important wilderness areas remaining, appropriate parties will need encouragement to promote similar packages.

3. Restoring species and habitats.

Experience shows that many habitats can quickly recover their ecosystem functions once human impacts are reduced; reintroductions can help to give nature a boost. For example bison to the Rothaargebirge region (Germany, federal state of North-Rhine-Westphalia) or beaver to Galloway in West Scotland. Reintroductions can be controversial and require sensitive handling, but they can help restore more balanced natural processes and ecosystems.

4. Global trade.

Trade provides a big threat to nature and wild areas, through facilitating the spread of invasive alien species. These can upset the delicate balance of indigenous ecosystems, alter the natural characteristics of the landscape and affect marine as well as terrestrial wilderness. The World Trade Organisation needs to adopt a more systematic strategy towards this issue, recognising that natural habitats can be more resilient to invasive species than more managed habitats.

5. Global footprint

Finally we must reduce the global footprint of Europe on the environment. Through our consumption patterns we have a profound impact on the rest of the world as our demand grows for importing the natural resources on which we depend come from elsewhere in the world. Any program here in Europe should also take into account our impact elsewhere.

For further reference see the presentation: "The role of wild lands in halting biodiversity loss" by Jeff McNeely, Chief Scientist, IUCN, Switzerland; and, "Wild areas in the context of Natura 2000" by Alberto Arroyo, Natura 2000 Officer, WWF, Hungary, and Background Document 2 'The Role of Wildlands in Halting Biodiversity Loss' by Jeff McNeely.

3.3 Environmental benefits

Wilderness and wildlands offer a substantial range of environmental benefits ranging from the traditional ones such as increased biodiversity to the more topical such as climate change mitigation. Environmental benefits include:

- Enrichment of biodiversity by providing large scale habitat and enabling ecosystems to function on an integrated basis;
- Opportunity for species to adapt and migrate in response to climate change;
- Substantial potential for carbon sequestration through large scale restoration of woodland and marsh;
- Flood mitigation and water storage. Growing recognition that investment in restoration of natural habitat in water catchment areas and lowland “sink areas” can bring commercial returns in the form of downstream flood mitigation and balancing of water tables in areas of more erratic rainfall;
- Enhanced water and soil quality, mitigating impact of pollution and improving productivity of fisheries; and,
- Scope for developing sea defence alignments with rising sea levels, involving managed coastal retreat and creation of new coastal wildland areas, for which there are also strong economic arguments.

Climate change, along with population growth, is without doubt the most pressing environmental topic on the global agenda today, and a serious threat to biodiversity and wilderness.

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However it can also be seen as a potential opportunity. There is the potential for protection and restoration funding to be gained from engagement with carbon markets and energy users. Great opportunity for example lies in exploiting existing market based mitigation mechanisms – either through compliance or voluntary procedures where carbon credits are bought and sold or offsets are obtained for PR or Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) objectives. The markets themselves work either by cap and trade or are project based.

Whilst research has previously focused more on tropical rainforests, there is growing evidence that old growth temperate and boreal forests, with a high build up of dead wood stock, provide a much higher level of carbon storage than managed forests.

While opportunities lie with voluntary markets, joint implementation projects, greened Assigned Amount Units (AAUs), EU Emission Trading System (ETS) (linking directive) and biodiversity banking, there are problems too. Some of these include: ensuring permanence of arrangements, monitoring difficulties, challenges with securing legal and carbon title, and deploying practical and successful methodology (baselines definitions, measuring carbon). Above all, voluntary markets may provide the best opportunity, but do they supply what voluntary carbon credit buyers want?

However these problems are not insurmountable and have already been successfully addressed in voluntary markets by Forest Carbon and others.

Another source of income for wild area restoration and local benefit involves participation by insurance companies, water utilities, local authorities and other organizations in funding of restoration or protection schemes on upland watersheds and lowland sinks that can assist with downstream flood mitigation or pollution alleviation. Just a small proportion of capital costs saved on investment in flood prevention or water treatment has the potential to protect and restore large areas. Above all, new corporate and institutional sectors are becoming engaged in support for conservation.

For further reference see the presentation "Environmental benefits - utilising the Climate Change Challenge" by Steve Prior, Director, Forest Carbon Ltd, UK and Background Document 9 'Reuniting Climate Change with Wilderness Protection and Biodiversity' by Harvey Locke of WILD Foundation, Canada.

3.4 Social benefits

How can members of the general public understand wilderness and the need to conserve it when they have never been there, when they have never even seen it or experienced it? A connection needs to be made between wilderness and people to ensure proper wilderness conservation.

Increased urbanisation and over population are key problems affecting wilderness as it reduces the amount of wild land. However urbanization and over population are also affecting human well being too.

With wild landscapes under increasing threat, there is a growing opportunity to underwrite protection policies by demonstrating the multifunctional use of such areas, including evidence of how wilderness and natural habitats can deliver sound social benefits and aid health and well being.

Social benefits from wild areas can include:

- Income and employment gains could provide opportunity to stem the decline of rural communities as well as bringing support to local landholders, particularly in more remote areas.
- Opportunity for sustainable development within local communities that can also help articulate and maintain local and traditional culture and lifestyles.
- An effective environment for youth development and rehabilitation initiatives, offering substantial benefit to participants from all backgrounds - particularly inner city areas.
- Opportunity to promote and accommodate a wide range of school and adult education programmes – thus reinforcing the role of conservation and sustainable development in school curricula.
- Considerable scope for adopting international best practice in more recently developed therapeutic treatment initiatives – e.g. for youth at risk, substance abuse treatment, probationary and reconciliation programmes.
- Use of wild areas for physiological, recuperation and trauma therapy is increasingly recognized as a cost-effective form of healthcare, again with useful opportunity to adopt overseas best practice.
- Wildland as a backdrop for activities involving negotiation, training and team-building by participants from business and other organizations.
- Recreational and spiritual benefits of being amid landscape-scale wild nature are no less important for being difficult to quantify.

3.4.1 Wild area therapy initiatives

For many years wilderness experiences have been anecdotally and qualitatively recognised as being beneficial for personal and social skills development. This has led to therapeutic interventions for a variety of client groups which are based on facilitated wilderness experiences, including wilderness therapy, outdoor behavioural therapy and adventure therapy.

Reasons for positive physical and psychological impacts can be explained in part by the Biophilia

Hypothesis of EO Wilson of Harvard University, an evolutionary theory that explains humanity having a deep affinity to nature, linked to 99% of our evolutionary traits.

Social benefits fall into three main categories: healthcare, youth at risk and conflict resolution.

1. Healthcare

In the UK alone an estimated one in six people have mental health problems, this costs the NHS £77 billion per annum. Health benefits as a result of contact with wild nature include reduced stress levels, improved mood, enhanced psychological wellbeing, and improved attention and concentration. Natural places facilitate stress recovery, encourage participation in exercise, stimulate development in children and provide opportunities for personal growth and a sense of purpose in adults.

2. Youth at Risk

A disproportionate number of young people aged 15-24 in England alone live in deprived, urban areas. The prevalence of adolescent problem behaviour is steadily increasing and many youth are deemed "at risk". Statistics in the UK report that youth violence costs the country at least £20 billion per annum, children in care costs £2 billion and a child with conduct disorder costs the Government £70,000 per annum. The Wilderness Foundation UK runs the Turn Around Project which has shown that problem youth on their programmes show a significant increase in self esteem, mood changes and behaviour change linked to a positive connection with Nature. 80% of young people are engaged in full time work or education at the end of the program

3. Peace and Reconciliation

Research shows that experience of wild nature in remote areas helps participants to find a shared and common sense of humanity. This is fundamental to the reconciliation process and development of empathy for other people's life experiences and perspectives. The Sustainable Peace Network has been in existence since 2001 and includes victims, ex prisoners and ex combatants from Northern Ireland as well as civic society members such as politicians, business people and NGO representatives.

Current research provides a strong argument for the value in preserving wilderness areas as repositories for healing, and social and personal change. It is equally evident that the need for meaning, reflection and spirituality continue to be important factors in creating not only a good quality of life but psychological and physical health.

These social attributes can be valued – in terms of the financial benefit to society of lower criminal re-offending rates, improved physiological health or more effective, and also through the income and employment benefits they can bring for local communities and landholders.

Above all, they provide a link between wild area and biodiversity interests and the social concerns of mainline urban politicians, in a way very few areas of the 'traditional' conservation agenda are as capable of achieving. This is vital for helping to raise the budget and policy profile of conservation.

For further reference see the presentation "Social and cultural benefits - linking the urban agenda" by Jo Roberts, Director, Wilderness Foundation, UK and Background Document 8 'Study of Social Benefits of Wildlands for Youth at Risk, Healthcare and Conflict' by Jo Roberts.

3.5 Economic benefits

Estimated global spending on nature conservation globally is around US\$10 billion a year of which US\$6 billion is spent on protected areas. Goods and services provided by protected areas are estimated to be worth US\$4400 – 5200 billion per annum. Yet ecosystems around the world continue to be degraded.

In order to attract appropriate policy and budgetary support from government and other sectors, we need to fully promote the substantial economic benefit potential of wild areas, for example:

- Direct income and employment generation – in contrast with likely diminution in subsidy for traditional farming in more marginal, particularly upland, areas;
- Interest in the eco-tourism sector, recreation, specialist sporting, corporate incentive and leisure fields. Scope for marketing joint packages, enhancing existing regional attractions ;
- This would be paralleled by income from a range of ancillary local commercial activities: accommodation, retail, transport, distribution and craft businesses – generating a local multiplier effect;
- Payments for ecosystem and social services;
- Use of “Wild” and related brands and logos in marketing promotions for local and regional agricultural produce, and other goods and services;
- Opportunity to include support programmes for small local businesses and community-based ventures using wildland benefits: including enterprise planning, marketing, fundraising;
- Evidence of taxpayers ascribing priority to vulnerable species when surveyed about expenditure of incremental tax resources; and,
- Possible increases in land values of properties within and alongside natural habitat wildland areas.

So how can cash flow be created from the billions of Euro that is given to nature conservation? We need to design investment scenarios where we turn nature into an investment asset.

One innovative way under consideration for increasing cash flow is through landscape auctions. The Triple E consultancy developed the concept to tackle the discrepancy between a shortage of capital to sufficiently protect our landscape on the one hand, and the willingness of others to contribute to safeguarding our natural environment. At a Landscape Auction you make a bid for biodiversity and landscape elements on offer. As such, Landscape Auctions provide a marketplace for multinationals, conservation organizations, farmers, individuals and other businesses to either offer landscape or biodiversity elements to be put up for auction because they can pinpoint a shortage of capital to safeguard them, or because they are interested to financially support the conservation, restoration and/or sustainable use of particular landscape elements.

Although still not used on a widespread basis, the Auctions have been heralded as they bring ‘buyers’ closer with the people and organizations which take care of our landscape, and protect biodiversity. Furthermore the concept does not compete with other sources of finance for conservation, but focuses on ‘buyers’ that have previously been difficult to reach, generating an additional stream of revenue. This includes local companies that operate in the vicinity of the landscape on offer, or citizens that recreate in the area. This is the main benefit of the concept: linking people and businesses to their landscape where they live and work.

For further reference see the presentation "Economics of wild areas – nature tourism and beyond" by Jacqueline Baar, Senior Advisor, TripleEE Consultancy, Netherlands.

3.6 Valuing the benefits

Many elements of wilderness and wild lands including their intrinsic spiritual, landscape, and biodiversity values are literally priceless. Quantification of values is thus intended to supplement and not supplant traditional approaches to assessment of wildland.

However it is increasingly feasible and useful to quantify the benefits of wilderness, wildlands and large natural habitat areas, both in monetary terms and for wider societal gain including:

- As a cost: benefit argument against threats and alternative land uses;
- To advance the case for land purchase for restoration or protection;
- For policy formulation, particularly in competition with other sectors;
- Fund raising and development of incentives; and,
- Promoting the worth of wild areas to politicians, media, landholders etc.

Currently GDP (Gross Domestic Product) as a measure of societal performance does not include natural capital or social capital.

3.6.1 The TEEB Report

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) Report commissioned by the European Commission launched is preliminary findings during the CBD CoP9 in 2008.

In the coming months it will launch the following targeted reports:

- D0 – Science and Economics, Foundations, Policy Costs and Costs of inaction;
- D1 – Policy Evaluation for Policy Makers;
- D2 – Decision Supports for Administrators;
- D3 – Business Risks and Opportunities; and,
- D4 – Consumer Ownership.

TEEB addresses all ecosystems and types of biodiversity, but wild areas are of specific importance both globally and in Europe with a multiple range of benefits that are quantifiable and provide an ideal showcase for the economic relevance of nature.

Wilderness and wild areas may provide direct economic benefits, such as goods and services providing income and employment and indirect benefits, such as non-market values human spiritual and cultural links with nature.

1. Valuation of direct benefits

- Income flows, costs savings, employment creation;
- Additional benefits from ancillary activities (accommodation and branding opportunities, possible increases in land values) assess the multiplier effect; and,

- Use sensitivity analysis to factor in alternative assumptions about subsidy levels, income and
- employment potential from benefits etc.

2. Valuation of indirect benefits

- Environmental benefits – e.g. carbon sequestration from existing, or new, woodland and wetland habitat areas, and flood mitigation: examples of savings in downstream capital expenditure, running costs and insurance claims as the result of natural habitat restoration in catchment areas and lowland flood sinks reducing run-off variability or pollution; and,
- Social benefits of wild areas: e.g. youth at risk - costs saved through reduced re-offence rates or non-custodial sentencing. medial or palliative healthcare – e.g. fewer working days lost from stress or; shorter and thus cheaper psychotherapy courses.

3. Opportunity for use of econometric measures

- Contingent Valuation and Willingness to Pay (WTP) methods can help assess the value of landscape and species conservation benefits as quantified by consumer, taxpayer and general public surveys; and,
- Internal Rates of Return (IRR) can articulate net gains from investment in protection or restoration of wild area ecosystems.

4. Reviewing the overall cost-benefit of restoration

- Assessment of the aggregate “net value”. Taking into account value, income, employment and costs - including direct land cost, opportunity cost, restoration costs (through natural and assisted regeneration);
- Comparison of cost-benefits – as against alternative land use: both current and projected under alternative scenarios. Factor in the subsidy issue and the future impact of CAP and WTO, forestry markets, cost/benefits of existing land uses etc.;
- Drawing conclusions on the quantifiable rationale for protecting or restoring a wild area; and,
- The same process could in theory be applied to protection, but here ‘non economic’ issues are usually of overwhelming importance and valuation techniques can be a distraction.

For further reference see the presentation “The importance of valuing wild areas” by Pavan Sukhdev, Study Leader – TEEB and Project Leader, UNEP Green Economy Initiative, UK.

3.7 Using the benefits

There is a substantial opportunity to assess and disseminate best practice for translating the identified benefits from wild lands into specific light impact ventures – the aim being to maximize their worth for local communities, landholders and other relevant parties.

Careful attention should be paid to ensure an appropriate balance between benefit-related activities and the need for strict maintenance of “wildland” principles and negligible disturbance of wildlife. For example, only those activities with negligible environmental impact would be suitable in core wilderness areas, whilst a broader range of undertakings could apply to land undergoing substantial restoration.

Relevant sectors for utilizing economic benefits include:

- Nature tourism;
- Combined packages (agri-tourism, culture, history);
- Recreational, general sporting;
- Specialist sporting;
- Corporate events, training, incentives and relationship building;
- Healthcare, physiology, eco/psychology;
- Youth development;
- Youth at risk;
- Reconciliation and conflict mitigation;
- Education (child, adult), research;
- Ancillary activities (accommodation, retail, transport, distribution, handicraft and general production); and,
- Branding & logo opportunities – specific goods and services, “umbrella effect”.

The following aspects can be applied to the above sectors:

- Identification and quantification of specific business and/or general opportunities;
- Assessment of how best to develop ‘markets’ especially for newer opportunities (e.g. social, probationary, healthcare);
- Overview of best practice for development of specific initiatives or ventures: whether private sector, community, NGO and public or local authority; and,
- Creation of mechanisms for ensuring linkage between ecosystem and social services provided by wild areas and payments for this that can reach local communities and landholders – thus tying their interests with those of long term wild area protection.

3.7.1 Assessing requirements for venture support

Where relevant, areas of advice, training and other forms of support required for successful establishment and management can be assessed:

- Identify support requirements for start-up businesses/activities;
- Identify support requirements for established businesses/activities;
- Tailor to enterprise type: private, community, NGO, public/local authority;
- Identify best practice in key support areas: enterprise planning, marketing, accounting, law, logistics, property issues, fund-raising;
- Assess sources of training and funding for capacity building, by type and country;
- Propose appropriate monitoring and measurement systems; and,
- Ensure maximum benefit for local communities from business and related activities.

The above approach mainly applies to utilization of economic and social benefits.

However, it is also feasible to collate and implement best practice in identification and usage of ecosystem services, for example:

- Linking carbon markets to landowner ecosystem services – ensuring appropriate compensation for existing landholders, or sufficient funding for buy-outs of land where restoration of natural wild land vegetation (woodland or marshland) has an appreciable impact on carbon sequestration; and,
- Engaging utility & insurance funding in flood mitigation – through quantifying the savings that upstream watershed habitat creation with lowland habitat sinks can produce through slowing and diminishing the volume and variance in discharge and thus enabling downstream savings in flood insurance and capital expenditure on flood defences; and,
- Similarly, through pollution mitigation effects reducing downstream water treatment costs.

3.7.2 Representation of wilderness and wild area benefits

Wilderness needs to be the responsibility of government in the first instance. Any case for appropriate funding and policy support can draw on a range of approaches, including identification and valuation of the full range of biodiversity, environmental and social benefits.

This will also involve development of a wide range of measurement tools for carbon, water, climate change mitigation and social benefit projects such as youth, reconciliation etc.

There needs to be demonstration of different projects to governments and local communities to highlight their benefits.

A set of communication tools and strategies for highlighting the benefits of wilderness protection to tax payers with a focus on those rural communities surrounding protected areas is also worth expanding.

Finally a zoning approach to wilderness/protected areas needs to be developed to maximise land use for tourism and other wider benefits without affecting the protection status of wilderness core areas.

Section 3.7.2 is based on the workshop “Wild area benefits: utilising their value for key beneficiaries” chaired by Steve Prior, Director, Forest Carbon Ltd, UK. For further reference see Background Document 7 ‘Checklist of Wilderness Benefits’ by the Wild Europe team.



4

The Requirement for Protection

Part 4

The Requirement for Protection

4.1 Introduction: overall policy options

Successful protection of the remaining wilderness areas in Europe is dependent on their being well integrated into protected area systems and particularly into the Natura 2000 network.

An Action Plan is to be developed which will prioritise policy recommendations contained in the Message from Prague.

The immediate focus will be on ensuring appropriate and effective protection of remaining wilderness areas. Alongside this will be development of a number of instruments to facilitate better funding and policy support for a network of restoration schemes

A few key aspects of the forthcoming Action Plan are cited below.

Section 4.1 is based on the workshop "Policy options for the EC and beyond" chaired by Patrick Murphy, Desk Officer, European Commission DG Environment, Brussels, and input by other participants.

4.2 Rationale and components of a Wilderness Register

There is a need for a Wilderness Register in Europe. A baseline survey is required to ensure that the remaining areas of wilderness are not damaged or degraded. The Register would also provide a basis for a protection and restoration strategy.

The process of developing the specification for a Register has been started.

- Categories of Register cannot be based only on IUCN categories because:
 - wilderness areas are not only located within IUCN 1a and 1b categories
 - Category II areas should also be investigated to assess whether they contain unrecorded wilderness areas
 - IUCN categorisation is more about current status and less about potential
- The Register should include information on location, geography, species, threats, opportunities (to include expansion) and interested parties related to the relevant areas;
- Sufficient information should be provided to form the basis for subsequent development by others of tailored protection plans;
- Participation will not be limited only to EU countries. There are very important places outside the EU. In each case, national and local interests must be engaged in assessing the area concerned, to ensure accurate information and promote local buy-in for future protection policies;
- Sequence of development for the Register will start with the most important areas requiring protection, and then work through the priority order – developing datasets in parallel;
- There are many various data resources (databases, mapping, research projects) and various other mechanisms and fora (UNESCO, Ramsar, Carpathian and Alpine Conventions), which could be linked with the register and use it as a tool for biodiversity conservation;

- The Register should, in the second phase of its development, also include the restoration opportunities; and,
- Attention should also be paid to future means of monitoring and enforcing desirable status for the wilderness areas, including assessment of techniques that combine remote sensing with on-the-ground surveys.

Section 4.2 is based on Background Document 5 'Proposal for a European Wilderness Register' by the Wild Europe team.

4.3 Best practice in habitat management

We have to make best use of experience in managing wilderness (pristine), non intervention areas and those that are nearly wild where some restoration is required. We need to develop a compendium of best practice.

To ensure good habitat management wilderness related language should be clear and simple and communication and training strategies should be developed.

Non-intervention management has to become more acceptable. This could be achieved through the development of clear guidance for Member States on non-intervention management of Natura 2000 sites by the European Commission.

Given successful promotion and implementation of these guidelines, wilderness areas have the strong potential to become a well integrated and important component of European protected areas network and to be integral for climate change adaptation.

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Achievement of wilderness management objectives requires the consideration of: restoration potential, ownership, zoning, ecosystem services, appropriate scientific information, etc.

Mechanisms need to be established for sharing best practice.

Section 4.3 is based on the workshop "Best practice in habitat management for different wild areas" chaired by Rauno Väisänen, Head of Natural Heritage Service, Metsähallitus, Finland. For further reference see Background Document 3 'Key Aspects and Benefits of Management Practice' by Vlado Vancura, conservation Manager, PANParks Foundation, Slovakia.

4.4 Key protective actions

All National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans should include reference to wilderness and measures for protection of these wild areas.

Research requirements should be assessed for the natural dynamics of ecosystems in undisturbed forests, with the aim being:

- To provide information for sustainable non-extractive uses;
- To learn about the effects of climate change and possible solutions for managed forests (by studying natural adaptation); and,
- To learn about adaptation to "catastrophes" – including for example fire, disease, wind throw and any combination of these.

The EU should:

- Include wilderness in the European Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan;
- Include wilderness in the Forestry Action Plan; and,
- Develop guidelines on the Habitat Directive to indicate that where non-intervention management is practiced it would allow natural succession to occur – e.g. changes from one habitat type to another due to natural processes becomes one of the acceptable management approaches in Natura 2000 sites rather than freezing the focus on maintenance of one particular habitat or species type

The value of the cultural landscapes should also be recognized and careful consideration should be given, where appropriate to relevant priorities, to extending existing wilderness areas without affecting valuable cultural land (for e.g. High Nature Value Farmlands), but bearing in mind that wilderness areas both now and in the foreseeable future will comprise a very small proportion of land area – including that devoted to ‘traditional’ conservation targets and practice. Stakeholders understanding and involvement are key for the maintenance of the wilderness areas in the European landscape.

Identification and mapping should be coordinated throughout Europe to have comparable results as a basis for further support for protection.

Special attention should be given to the new EU Member States where fast economic changes are threatening to a very large degree some of the last large undisturbed forests and wilderness areas of Europe. Non-EU countries must also be taken into account.

Section 4.4 is based on the workshop “The State of play for undisturbed forests in EU” chaired by Erika Stanciu, President, Europarc Federation, Romania.

4.5 Law and policy issues for protection

It is a challenge for lawyers to precisely define the term wilderness, due in part to cultural and language differences. Therefore, it is important that definitions at the national or (bio) regional level are tested and if necessary their wording adapted to ensure that they mean what was originally intended in drafting standardized wording at European level.

Current Natura 2000 objectives and practices may have limitations in respect of wilderness protection. Wilderness appears more process oriented, while the Natura 2000 definition is more object oriented. This raises the question what do we want to protect. Again, clear upfront interpretation is required to assess and ensure fullest commonality of interests.

The key discussion is to what extent wilderness protection could or should be ensured through Natura 2000: should we include wilderness qualities in the conservation targets for those areas where that is relevant? Or should we take a separate approach and develop specific tools for wilderness protection? A consensus regarding this question is required, perhaps as part of the background preparation for development of non intervention management guidance by the EC.

There might be also other options for providing wilderness qualities with legal protection. Examples include instruments in the framework of spatial planning.

It would be very valuable to receive concrete guidance on the issue of protection of wilderness and Natura 2000 from the European Commission and to collect experiences and best practices of European countries regarding legal protection of wilderness.

Further guidelines clarifying specific aspects of existing legislation might be helpful. For example appropriate qualification and amendment of 'good agricultural and environmental condition' as a stipulation for subsidy under the Common Agricultural Policy could help promote a substantial element of natural regeneration for habitat restoration; the objectives and structure of incentives in this respect would benefit from reassessment.

Section 4.5 is largely based on the workshop "Law and policy for protection – guidelines for management" and, chaired by Cees Bastmeijer, Senior Researcher, Tilburg University, Netherlands. For further reference see Document 6 'An Overview of Wilderness and Wildland Law' by Cees Bastmeijer.

4.6 Wilderness and sustainable development

Five key points emerged from the discussion:

- Strong emphasis was placed by conference participants on facilitating local involvement within all aspects of enterprise planning; dialogue, training and capacity building
- The need to address challenges relating to high transaction costs and information availability within ecosystem services sector as a whole
- Opportunities for utilising wilderness as a mechanism for reduction of risk; example of insurance industry and reduction of risk from flood events
- The benefits from strong involvement in review of CAP; within this greater definition of the zoning of wilderness areas and wild land as relates to business
- The importance of the formation of a Business and Wilderness Forum in order to provide structured input into all of the above in the future

Section 4.6 is based on the workshop "Wilderness and sustainable development" chaired by Neil Birnie, Director, Conservation Capital, UK. For further reference see Background Document 7 'Checklist of Wilderness Benefits' by the Wild Europe team, and Background Document 10 'Assessment of the Multiple roles of Business in Supporting Wildland Strategy' by TriplEEE Consulting.

4.7 Communication: promoting wilderness

Effective communication is an essential requirement for wilderness protection.

A strong communication strategy will look at all the different audiences for wilderness and these will include: EU (European Commission, different DGs (environment, agriculture, energy, regional development, transport), Cabinet, Parliament, Presidency), local, national government (including planning, development, energy, finance ministries), local government, local communities, landholders, forestry authorities and owners, conservation NGOs, tourism, business, development agencies, media, education, general public

Each of these audiences speaks a different language. And within some of these groups there may be even further sub-divisions: such as with the general public which could be divided into local partners, young people, nature lovers etc. For the development of any wilderness communication strategy it is crucial to keep in mind who the core audience is - in this case people with an interest in nature. Although it may seem to be preaching to the converted by keeping this key audience informed you could hope to turn them into Ambassadors for wilderness conservation.

A 'European communication strategy' is needed along with local communication strategies to support wilderness and wild areas. It is important to have a combination of both but where one common message is spread. These communication plans have to have a long term focus.

The wish to preserve wilderness and wild areas can have a number of different motivators and these can be used as the basis for communication. Motivators can include:

- Fear, the fear of losing 'the wild', its species etc;
- Values such as cultural beliefs etc;
- Emotions, joy of nature, new experiences;
- Beauty, aesthetics of landscape, associated plant and animal appeal;
- Recreation opportunities in special surroundings;
- Climate change, the opportunity to adapt to climate change; and,
- Rationales such as economic benefits, health, well being etc.

Wilderness communication strategies could include different types of "symbols" to get their message across including:

- Art, pictures which recall or create deep feelings in people;
- Art galleries, exhibitions; and,
- Wild animals, brown bear, wolf.

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To package wilderness it is essential to speak honestly. Communicators should not be afraid to say what they feel - as this can give the message more power.

Section 4.7 is based on the workshop "Promoting wilderness: tailoring the messages" chaired by Harvey Locke, Wild Foundation, Canada.

4.8 Funding wild area objectives

Funding for wilderness protection and restoration is clearly required. Additional sources must be developed and unused opportunities must be tapped into. Existing sources have to be used to their full advantage including (inter)national, EU and government funding. The private sector, especially the tourism industry should be looked at along with lotteries, Foundations and Trusts.

There are many further potential sources of funding which should be explored including:

- Landscape auctions as demonstrated by the experiences in the Netherlands;
- Sustainable harvesting and marketing of natural products for consumer use;
- Setting up new conservation funds;
- Unexplored EU funding;
- Health funds/ health insurance companies;
- Offset schemes for compensating habitat loss elsewhere;
- Biodiversity banking;

- Payment for ecosystem services;
- Use of logos of wilderness areas;
- Development of tax reductions/breaks;
- Military support – much land is de facto protected and can contribute to protection and restoration objectives;
- Mining/quarrying companies – these can contribute greatly to the furthering of the restoration agenda, particularly if site restoration is guided by principles promoting the restoration of landscapes at a broad scale;
- Private users – numerous possibilities exist;
- Pharmaceutical/cosmetics companies – the link between biodiversity conservation and their products could be utilized; and,
- Trust funds/investment funds – these are growing in number as a mechanism for attracting funding for conservation.

There are a number of ways to develop funding for wilderness:

- Exploring innovative approaches;
- One window approach – this would bring “products” and potential buyers or donors closer by simplifying the available options and presenting them as alternatives;
- Better distribution of funding possibilities to increase effectiveness of use;
- Persuasion of governments to develop tax reduction/breaks; and
- Simplification of verification procedures for carbon credits.

Additional recommendations:

- More research and monitoring of linkages between wilderness conservation and development;
- More information on the development of the use of ecosystem services; and,
- The outcomes of the TEEB study will provide a solid foundation for going forward in developing alternative funding sources and mechanisms.

Section 4.8 is based on the workshop “Funding wild land objectives” chaired by Paul Grigoriev, Regional Programme Coordinator, IUCN ROfE, Belgium.

Proceedings of the
Conference on
Wilderness and Large
Natural Habitat Areas

EU Presidency and European Commission Conference



5

Opportunity for Restoration

Part 5

Opportunity for Restoration

5.1 Introduction

There are many opportunities for restoration in Europe. These are driven partly by growing appreciation of the benefits of new natural habitat areas outlined in Part 3 above, supported by proactive strategy, such as the Ennerdale Valley project in England, or the famous Oostvaardersplassen initiative in Holland.

Local depopulation and land abandonment caused by changes in agricultural practice and urban development is also a major and increasingly significant driver, particularly in mountain areas.

Climate change has provided yet further potential, principally by facilitating payments for carbon sequestration from new or restored forests and wetlands. There is further potential from natural habitat restoration in upland watersheds and lowland sink areas to mitigate flooding and water treatment requirements further downstream. It has also enabled development of littoral wild areas where managed coastal retreat is occurring in the face of rising sea levels.

Demilitarisation in the wake of glasnost has provided another impetus, with rewilding of decommissioned military bases in Germany and creation of the huge Green Belt corridor network along the former Iron Curtain frontier zones between East and West.

Taking advantage of different combinations of these opportunities in different areas, and building political and public support for such endeavours represents the nexus of an emerging Europe-wide approach towards restoration.

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5.2 What and where?

There are three aspects to landscape “restoration”:

- Health – related to ecological processes, scale;
- Integrity - species composition and community structure;
- Sustainability - the resilience of the landscape, species.

The overall aim of restoration is to input natural habitat, reinstate natural processes and in some cases reintroduce species of fauna. In all core areas of wildland, and where wilderness is concerned, extractive activities including farming, forestry etc would be excluded.

There are three dimensions to restoration opportunities:

- Spatial perspective;
- Ecological perspective; and,
- Socio economic perspective.

1. Spatial perspective

If one analysis the changes in land use between 1990 and 2000 in Europe it can be noted that there has been a big increase in both forest cover and infrastructure development and a simultaneous decrease in semi-natural vegetation, wetland etc. Projecting land use into the future in Europe by 2035

at least five possible scenarios can be identified with some common themes. Land abandonment will continue on a large scale in Europe. Up to 17 million ha of land could be abandoned (about the same size of all the protected areas under Natura 2000). Land ownership will change too in the future and this opens a window of opportunity for conservation.

2. Ecological Perspective

Climate change can be turned from a threat into an opportunity when it comes to land restoration. For example sea level rise is an opportunity for restoration since there will be a need to mobilise the natural sedimentation process (growing with the sea) and for realignment of coastal defences along more natural and sustainable structures. Increasingly erratic rainfall patterns will lead to growing frequency of both drought impact and flooding; this in turn can lead to more space for restoration on flood plains as well as opportunities to create natural habitat areas in upland watersheds and lowland sinks where these can be highly cost-effective as elements in broader flood mitigation planning. Above all, there could be substantial funding for carbon sequestration services provided by new forests and wetlands.

In addition to restoration of habitat areas, there is a range of species reinstatement initiatives in Europe, including beaver, large herbivores, carnivores and raptors to name but a few.

3. Socio-economic perspective

Opportunities include in rural areas moving from extractive to non-extractive resource use and income sources and payment for ecosystem services

In conclusion there are many opportunities for restoration in the EU that could benefit networks of wilderness and wild area. We have the knowledge base and different funding opportunities are ready to be developed.

Section 5.2 is based on the presentation "What and where are the opportunities for restoration? Components, future trends (CAP 2012) and mapping" by Magnus Sylven, International Projects and Buro Stroming, former Director of WWF European Programme, Switzerland.

5.3 Connectivity: making it work

The aim of wilderness and wildland strategy is not merely to protect and restore large areas of natural habitat, but to ensure that these are linked into a functioning and sustainable ecosystem.

5.3.1 Building connectivity

Obtaining the right answers starts with posing the right questions. This is particularly important for the issue of connectivity. So what questions should we be asking when it comes to connectivity? These should include: (1) where do ecological processes need to be maintained and strengthened; and, (2) what conditions need to be met to ensure that ecosystem linkages can function effectively.

Connectivity, the linking of habitats, can increase the viability of species populations through a number of ways. Linking allows species access to a larger habitat area, and permits migration between different areas. It facilitates genetic exchange between different populations which increases species sustainability.

More topically, linking also helps a population to move from a degraded habitat (which will become more important as the effects of climate change are felt), and linking can also secure the integrity of environmental processes in an area.

Connectivity allows four types of movement among species namely: local movement or foraging; dispersal; nomadism; and seasonal migration.

Movement across the landscape can take place at all scales, from local to regional through to continental. Landscape linkages can take three forms, a linear corridor, stepping stones or a permeable landscape matrix.

Determining the way in which linkages function raises many difficulties, including:

- Would individuals cross the barrier even without the linkage?;
- Does the presence of the species in the linkage indicate movement between habitat patches?;
- Has monitoring extended over a long enough time?;
- Can other hypotheses explain movement between habitat patches?;
- Does the linkage have negative effects?; and,
- Is the linkage the most cost-effective way of achieving the conservation objective?

Although there is a growing body of knowledge and experience which shows that well designed connectivity offers substantial benefits, it is not easy to show scientific results. Due to the complexity of factors generalisation should be avoided - each species and location is specific. A greater understanding of the issue of connectivity can help to prevent damaging fragmentation and maximise the overall biodiversity value of wild land in a scattered network.

Connectivity can help to recreate large functioning eco-systems and also increase socio-economic and cultural benefits that are generated by wilderness.

Section 5.3 is based on the presentation "Advancing a connectivity agenda" by Graham Bennett, Director, Syzygy Consulting, Netherlands.

5.4 Examples of restoration

There are a number of restoration examples across Europe including:

1. National Park Peneda Gerês Portugal

There is a demographic challenge occurring in this area, the average age of the population is 70 years old. There is also a female bias to the population. This kind of challenge brings problems for the social system but is an opportunity for nature conservation as large areas of land are being abandoned.

The land is being abandoned because life here is very difficult with minimal returns from agriculture, the younger population leaves to work in the cities and other urban areas.

There are a number of big challenges to re-wilding these areas. Wildfires are one of the biggest of these, and once the land is abandoned then there is often a potential increase in occurrences. Fires prevent the ecological succession of scrub land to forest. However it is a complex problem controlling them. There are also human dangers in controlling the wild fires. If the fires can be controlled then there is huge potential for restoration in the area. While fires might be a challenge in the South, a challenge in the North could in some areas be seen as the lack of fires and participants noted that in managing wilderness it is important not to develop principles which are out of touch of local realities.

2. Italian Alps – Cortina D'Ampezo.

There has been increased forest cover in the Italian Alps over the last decades. This initially had a negative response by local farmers worried about wolf returning to the area and preying on their livestock. However they have now realised they can make more money from large carnivore tourism than was provided by their previous livelihood. So there are opportunities for socio-development with restoration in the area.

Over the next 50 years land use change will open up many new opportunities for wilderness restoration. At the local scale some species will benefit from this restoration but some species will lose out. But at the regional scale there will be an overall increase in biodiversity. It is important that we start planning for these societal impacts.

Section 5.4 is based on the presentation "Restoration examples throughout Europe" by Henrique Miguel Perreira, Senior Researcher, University of Lisbon, Portugal.

5.5 Overall policy options

There needs to be further development of the EU Biodiversity policy to support management focused on the integrity, resilience, and vitality of ecosystems in the context of multifunctional landscapes.

Adaptation to climate change is a strong argument for protection, but restoration of wild areas should also be included in climate change discussions and related funding opportunities.

There is a need for a common interpretation of the EC Nature Directives in relation to natural processes with specific attention on non-intervention management, which can lead to biodiversity changes. There needs to be a focus on management of the network and ecological processes together with species and habitats.

There should be appropriate funding from and integration into other policies – Common Agricultural Policy, European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), LIFE+, Transport, Energy, and External Policy etc.

There is a need to raise the awareness of wild and wilderness issues, to do this there has to be co-operation between scientists, NGOs and governments.

Section 5.5 is based on the workshop "Policy options for the EC and beyond" chaired by Patrick Murphy, Desk Officer, European Commission DG Environment, Belgium

5.6 Key ingredients for restoration

The starting point for restoration of existing land use may not necessarily conform with existing wilderness criteria, often involving a considerable degree of direct intervention and management if for example appropriate seed sources are absent or ground is heavily compacted. However as natural habitat and processes become increasingly established, the longer term objective should meet 'wilderness' aspirations. All opportunities for restoration should be explored and exploited and lessons should be learned from all previous experiences.

An ultimate vision of wilderness should be used to kick start the restoration process, but the beginning of the process may require a more pragmatic approach. Adaptation measures for climate change emphasise the need to focus on natural processes and building ecosystem resilience and services.

CAP reform: Participants noted that there are many opportunities to provide future subsidies in support of the process to restore wilderness and any CAP reform should also consider including support for adaptation measures to climate change (e.g. abandoned land)

One likely problem arising from such measures generally could be competition for land use from wind farms and biofuels, which some view as creating problems for conservation and using scarce resources without tackling the causal issues behind global warming in a cost-effective or even carbon effective manner.

Section 5.6 is largely based on the workshop "Restoration and connectivity – making it work" chaired by Stig Johansson, European Chair, WCPA, Finland.

5.7 Best practice in restoration

Wilderness areas can be, and should be, part of bigger ecological networks and function as core areas to support natural processes at a larger scale. Biological corridors should be used to link protected / wild areas to create a network across Europe.

The word restoration can be misleading because it refers to the old landscape (copying from the past). However bringing back ecological processes in modern times will bring new wilderness areas.

Abiotic conditions have to be provided to kick start the natural processes needed for restoration. Biotic processes are then key, once basic conditions have been provided, to trigger ecological processes (from small insects to big grazers including herbivorous impacts by large mammals. Threats to restoration such as fires, flooding, climate change etc have to be managed carefully and in some instances they can even be seen as opportunities.

Restoration has to be learnt by doing, it is very important to learn from natural processes because we lack knowledge about a lot of these any more due to shifting baselines. We also have to be careful not to set strict targets.

Land use planning is needed for the whole of Europe to support a formalised strategy for restoration of wild landscapes.

In principle all natural processes are cost-effective, however initial investments often need to be made such as buying land, re-introducing species, removing infrastructure etc to provide the correct conditions. Therefore subsidies and donor money are required and the pay back period (write off) may be much longer than in an ordinary business.

Although not at this stage included in the recommendations of the Message from Prague a similar

compendium will be required for management of more 'comprehensive' restoration – for example if areas of former agriculture or forestry where substantial overhaul and reinstatement of natural habitat and natural processes is required.

Section 5.7 is largely based on the workshop "Learning from best practice in restoration" chaired by Hans Kampf, Director, Large Herbivore Foundation, Netherlands.



6

Beyond conservation – partnership building

Part 6

Beyond conservation – partnership building

6.1 Local communities

A number of examples exist within Europe in relation to engaging local communities to the concept of wilderness. This is still a very new field of experience and more exchange of good practice has to be collected and shared. The conference only had the time to discuss a few examples, one of which is captured in this section.

For instance, the Bavarian National Park is located in the centre of Europe and is closely connected to the Czech Republic. There has been a great change in the landscape of this area over time, with the spruce forests in the highlands changed by the bark beetle. There is a very different view of these issues between the people who visit the park and the local communities. We have to react and engage with these two stakeholders in very different ways.

In 2007 a study was done on the regional economic effects of the national park looking at: visitor interviews and impressions; economic effects of tourism in the region; and, stakeholders involved in tourism enterprises in the region. In total there were 10,000 interviews. The report showed that there are 760,000 visitors a year and that visitor numbers are seasonal with the summer being the most popular time. Visitors come from all over the world but the vast majority are German.

10% more tourists who visit the region for the national park stay over night than other tourists to the region. The economic value for the region can be seen in that that the national park creates 456 full time jobs in the region and if you look at all tourists the number of jobs goes up to 939. There are no other industry opportunities for employment in the region. Tourists who visit the national park spend more than double compared to other tourists who visit the region for other reasons such as skiing for example.

The national park costs €12million but more than €13.5million flows back into the economy.

Time is an important factor when dealing with the local community. They have to understand what a national park is, the benefits, if it will damage their region, what it means for the future of the region. So the better results we have for older national parks will provide improved information and lessons learned that can be used as case studies when communicating with local stakeholders in the establishment of new wilderness areas.

Section 6.1 is based on the presentation "Value added for local communities: the rural development agenda Case Study Bayerischer Wald" by Karl Friedrich Sinner, Director, Bayerischer Wald National Park, Germany.

6.2 Forestry

Forests in Europe have been altered over time; they have become fragmented due to agricultural use, infrastructure, urbanisation etc. The recent trend is however an increase in forest coverage in Europe. The ownership structure of forests in Europe has also changed with most now privately owned. Most important to wilderness and restoration are those forests that are currently already in protected areas.

The first systematic analysis of protected forest areas in Europe showed that in 1998 there were 3 million ha of natural forests which were left for "free" development, representing 1.6% of the total forest

area (source: COST Action E4 – Forest Reserves Research Network 1996 – 1998). In total 90 different categories of protected forests were observed in this project.

The largest natural forests in strictly protected reserves are in Scandinavia and the remote areas of Central and Eastern Europe. Large original forests can be found only in the boreal zone of Russia; while scattered relicts of native forests still exist in the Alps, Balkan and Carpathian regions. Protected forested areas are often small, located mostly on land owned by the State and their management is linked with the aims of multiple forest use.

There are problems with the definition and interpretation of protected forest areas. The terms “protected”, “unprotected” and “protection” tend to be inexact and lack consistency in interpretation among countries and organisations. Even the interpretation of “strict forest reserves” varies from country to country (the common denominator being no silvicultural management). Even if you use the terms prescribed you get different reports from different countries. So in 2002 a set of criteria and categories were designed to support the decision makers along with some tools for their use: 1 – no intervention; 2 – minimal intervention; and, 3 – conservation through active management. Minor differences in interpretation can lead to large differences in results. The results of this study are now being analysed by the EC through a tender on undisturbed forests in Europe

Section 6.2 is based on the presentation “Wilderness as seen from the forest sector” by Georg Frank, Senior Researcher, BFW, Austria

6.3 Landholders

Land management has multiple outputs including:

- Food and fibre;
- Flora and fauna: habitats and species, biodiversity;
- Forest products;
- Fixing carbon: sequestration of CO₂ in soils and trees;
- Farm buildings and property;
- Fuels: biogas, biomass, biofuels;
- Fun: tourism, culture, heritage, recreation;
- Farmed landscapes; and,
- Flood protection and water management /filtration and storage.

Four fifths of EU land territory is rural and privately owned. Land managers are aware of the natural cycles: the seasons, water, carbon, nitrogen, other nutrients associated with crop growth and soil fertility. For centuries agricultural land and forests have provided numerous products and services to society including the essentials of life – the production of public goods by private land.

Natura 2000 sites are a recognition of good past management and potential future management, Natura 2000 can be a really effective tool for managing biodiversity. However some participants noted that there are some challenges with Natura 2000 when it comes to sufficient funding. There have to be new funding opportunities possibly through CAP reform or alternative financing and a framework for implementation that would assist Natura 2000 being easily implemented.

Europe, and the world, are now facing new challenges relating to food, environmental security and the delivery of public goods.

To ensure sustainable land management we have to focus on public goods produced by land managers: ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and the preservation of less favoured areas. New policy measures can provide the incentives for delivery of the services.

One issue that landowners may otherwise have with the notion of wilderness is “no go areas” which it will be difficult to finance. Not all areas will be suitable for tourism and the tourism economy can be complicated and might require up-front investments that are often lacking.

Biodiversity enhancement is a challenge for land managers and co-operation between the private sector, environmental NGOs, and government support to deliver biodiversity & wilderness is needed.

Section 6.3 is based on the presentation “Incentives for landholders. Examples from across Europe” by Marie-Alice Budniok, Director of Legal & Administrative Affairs, European Landowners’ Organisation, Belgium, and Charles Burrell, landowner and farmer, Sussex, UK.

6.4 Business

Corporate social responsibility has been high on the business agenda for quite some time. When companies want to become more “greener” they first look at their production processes and how these can be made more environmentally sound. The subsequent step is that they look at their products perhaps introducing a new “green” product range. Finally they look for new ways of how they can integrate their green vision into other areas of the company.

‘Generation Y’ is behind this push for CSR, they are a very loyal group and have high environmental and social awareness. So how can wilderness and wild areas be of use to CSR programmes?

Wild areas and wilderness can offer a unique experience to corporate clients looking for new venues for staff retreats, a way of rewarding their top earners or to show that they have vision and heart. Finally wilderness areas can be relatively cheap locations, which is important in these difficult financial times. This generation Y is keen to experience authenticity, to see and meet real people, real environments – eco-tourism is an attractive option.

Although some people may view businesses using wild areas to entertain corporate clients and staff as a potential threat to these areas, it can also be an opportunity to combine environmental objectives with business objectives. The key to ensuring that environmental objectives are met is to ensure that “wilderness” is not just used as décor for the trip. The events must also include education aspects; they must look at the needs of the park and also the needs of the local economy.

The current challenge lies in how to approach using wilderness, and wild areas. There are often no green products available yet in these areas. There are no local suppliers and there is no knowledge about how to cater for corporate clients or what their needs are.

Section 6.4 is based on the presentation “The business contribution to wild area” by Ingrid Valks, Director, Performance Improvement, Netherlands.

6.5 Multiple roles of business

As mentioned in section 3.5 there are no reliable estimates of current spending on nature conservation globally, estimates point in the direction of around US\$10 billion per year, of which about US\$

6 billion is spent on protected areas. From literature we know that ecosystems provide goods and services that are worth much more (e.g. Balmford et al (2002) estimated that protected areas could produce an aggregated value of US\$4,400 – 5,200 billion per annum).

We need to better visualise the economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services in such a way as to better convince policy makers and governments about the importance of conservation and sustainable use of wildlands, from an economic perspective, rather than stimulate short-term unsustainable use. We also need to better 'package' biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services in such a way to create additional interest from consumers and businesses to tailor more capital towards conserving nature (whether for-profit or not for-profit). In other words: a business case for wilderness is needed.

Motivations for corporate support include:

- Public relations;
- The Corporate Social Responsibility agenda;
- Marketing advantage;
- Profit from tangible goods and services; and,
- Profit from intangible services.

6.5.1 Investing in biodiversity conservation

Investment to conserve nature, including wildlands, can have both commercial and not-for profit reasons. In the first case, investments can be tailored towards so-called biodiversity-based businesses, which can be defined by "commercial enterprises that generate profits through production processes which conserve biodiversity, and share the benefits arising out of this use equitably". Investments can also take place in the not-for profit sphere. In this case, companies support conservation work for 'soft-business' reasons, including bolstering a company's green reputation, making Corporate Social Responsibility commitments tangible, or aiming to improve staff morale.

6.5.2 Raising awareness and marketing

Another role that businesses can take up, which is not often highlighted, concerns raising awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation with its clients and commercial relations.

Impacts on biodiversity often take place through value and supply chains. This will raise awareness about the importance of pursuing a strategy to avoid, minimise, and mitigate impacts on ecosystems (and possibly offset residual harm) to its suppliers, as well as companies earlier in the chain. In this way companies can contribute to lower overall impacts on near pristine environments such as wildlands. But, more importantly, by marketing non extractive products from wildland areas the value of these areas is made clear to all stakeholders. This helps build the business case for wildlands and nature in general.

Section 6.5 is based on the background document "Assessment of the multiple roles of business in supporting a wildland strategy" by Ivo Mulder, Jacqueline Bar, Daan Wensing and Tom Bade of TriplEEE Consulting, The Netherlands.

6.6 Infrastructure

Why is it that ecosystems around the world continue to be degraded, further reducing global biological diversity?

There are many reasons, but the fact that we perceive ecosystem goods and services as 'common goods' is an important reason as it stimulates a process that leads to the well-known tragedy of the commons. In addition, because we find it difficult to economically value biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services, these are often regarded as 'externalities' and hence only part of them are reflected in the real economy. But there are other issues, such as often preferred short term private gain versus long term societal gain by conserving and sustainably using ecosystem services.

This situation has affected wildlands in a negative way as wilderness areas have been converted to, for example, agricultural land to 'increase' economic potential. A new approach to wilderness is needed to stop the loss of these areas which are often valuable in terms of their biological diversity and intrinsic wildness, but which also constitute a commercially attractive asset.

This private sector, which includes consumers and the business sector, can help. Funding from governments and private philanthropy, the main sources of funding for conservation to date, is insufficient. So, the private sector needs to be made receptive to invest in ecosystems, whether from a for-profit and non for-profit perspective. In addition, it is important to guide the private sector with tools they can use to reduce their corporate impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as raising awareness about the importance of biodiversity and wildland conservation to its relations and clients. There are various reasons for business to combat biodiversity loss (Millennium Assessment, 2005) and protect wildlands.

The extent and type of corporate involvement in wilderness and wildlands also needs to be related to principles of zonation, involving 'core', 'buffer' and 'transition' areas – explained in more detail elsewhere in the conference documentation. Core zones should contain no extractive activities nor buildings or other infrastructure. Buffer zones should allow only very limited extractive activity, generally for use of the local community and individual artisans, and contain no permanent structures. Only in transition areas would a broader range of extractive uses be potentially operable.

6.7 Business for Wilderness Forum

A unique opportunity currently exists to create large natural habitats and wild areas throughout Europe. There is political will, societies have greater consciousness, businesses have increasing awareness of the importance of sustainability and their roles, now is the time to take advantage of these situations, although this might be temporarily limited due to the current financial and economic crisis.

Thus a momentum for wilderness and wild areas has to be created that outweighs the impact of the global economic crisis. A great opportunity lies in harnessing the business community – by creating a Business for Wilderness Forum. This Forum would allow individuals or representatives to commit to communicating and raising the profile of wilderness with individual business people. The prime motive of such a forum would not be to fundraise but would be to strengthen the relationship between business and conservation.

Businesses are now realising that environmental conservation is not just an activity to be checked off, but that resources are decreasing and need to be preserved. Businesses want to change their negative impact; they know they cannot continue the way they are. Change is needed and they are ready for this change. Businesses are looking for partnerships with NGOs who can help them; but are the NGOs ready to take up this challenge? A concerted effort is required to be able to capitalize on the opportunities that are out there.

Section 6.7 is based on the presentation "Announcing a Business for Wilderness Forum" by Derek Jacobs, Chairman Elstat Electronics Group

6.8 PAN Parks Wilderness Club

PAN (Protected Area Network) Parks Foundation is the only organisation that exists to focus solely on practical wilderness conservation, including wilderness forests, in Europe.. PAN Parks Foundation will guarantee the long term protection of Europe's wilderness by creating and managing a network of role model wilderness protected areas – PAN Parks. There are currently 11 certified PAN Parks throughout Europe in countries including Italy, Finland, Sweden, Bulgaria, Portugal, Romania and Russia. The target is to have 14 by 2011 and 25 by 2015. New areas for PAN Parks are likely to include Austria and Germany.

The aim of PAN Parks is also to ensure the protection of 1 million hectares of wilderness in Europe, which will help iconic European species to recover. It will do this by not allowing any activities such as hunting, culling, fishing, mining, logging, grazing, grass cutting, road or building construction within the wilderness area of a certified PAN Park.

PAN Parks will encourage people to enjoy PAN Parks wilderness without any special equipment – in a non-harmful and sustainable way. This will be achieved by working closely with tour operators and local business partners, thus also contributing to the local economy surrounding each protected area, as well as developing the eco-tourism model as a whole.

In addition, the organisation will also create a model for the effective management of wilderness areas which will encourage governments and private land owners to create more wilderness in other areas throughout Europe. PAN Parks Foundation will set up a panel of wilderness experts (conservationists and scientists) to support wilderness conservation in Europe, whilst ensuring developments are carried out in existing PAN Parks which serve the visitors of those areas.

Supported and developed and endorsed initially by WWF Netherlands and now celebrating its 10th anniversary, PAN Parks Foundation must become financially self sufficient by 2011 and is in real need of funds to continue.

Current partners include WWF Netherlands and the European Commission. As a key European corporate citizen, will you join us in our mission to re-wild Europe - to preserve our wild land and countryside for our children and future generations to come? We believe it is our responsibility to take action now before it is too late.

Section 6.8 is based on the presentation "Announcing a PAN Parks Wilderness Club" by Hajnalka Schmidt, Business Development Manager, PAN Parks Foundation, Hungary

6.9 Wildland Support Network

There are very substantial opportunities and threats facing wild areas in Europe, and a need for coordinated action if these are to be adequately addressed.

An effective coalition approach has already been developed under the Wild Europe umbrella, and the Network would seek to build on momentum from the Prague conference.

Objectives of the Network include:

- To support implementation of recommendations on wild area protection and restoration determined by the Prague conference;
- To promote co-ordinated representation on reforms to the Common Agricultural Policy and forestry subsidy system, so as to maximise benefits for wild land protection and restoration;
- To enable exchange of best practice in wildland protection, restoration and management of sustainable tourism and other low-impact activities involving use of wild land benefits. Development and maintenance of website – based Information Exchange;
- Where specific wild lands are under threat, to provide an “early warning system” and help promote action, including local capacity building;
- To communicate the concept and value of wild lands in Europe;
- To catalyze research into wild land benefits, their valuation and translation into specific activities;
- To promote specific projects for protection and restoration of wilderness, wildlands and a network of large natural habitat areas; and,
- To promote closer ties with related sectors: e.g. business, agriculture, forestry, landowning, urban social interest groups via specific initiatives – including development of the Business for Wilderness Forum and liaison already established on joint approach with European Landowners Organisation and representatives of other sectors.

Operating Areas of the Network

The Network would be run through a very small secretariat that combined policy, communication and practical ‘field’ project specialisms. The emphasis would be on co-ordination of existing initiatives, rather than creation of a new organisation.

The Network would build on co-operation already achieved through the Wild Europe Steering Group to gain operational leverage via its members, seeking to promote projects rather than necessarily undertake them directly.

More information on the structure and composition of the Network can be found in Appendix V1.

Section 6.9 is based on the presentation “Components of Wildland Support Network” by Toby Aykroyd, Director, Wild Europe Initiative.

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EU Presidency and European Commission Conference



7

Next Steps: Field Initiatives

Part 7

Next Steps: Field Initiatives

7.1 Introduction

The conference provided a forum for various organisations to introduce their initiatives to a wider audience. The initiatives are concrete enough for implementation and are clearly wilderness related.

Six initiatives were included in the programme. These covered both governmental and NGOs projects, from improving conservation to restoration.

A crucial element of the presentations was the further co-ordination of wilderness movement in Europe. Therefore a presentation was made on one of the workshops covering the issue of Wildland Support Network. It is hoped that the initiatives will all be implemented in the near future.

7.2 Protection: Carpathian Mountains

The Carpathians are not just one of Europe's largest mountain ranges, a unique natural treasure of great beauty and ecological value, and home of the headwaters of major rivers. They also constitute a major ecological, economic, cultural, recreational and living environment in the heart of Europe, shared by numerous peoples and countries.

The Carpathians are an important reservoir for biodiversity, and Europe's last refuge for large mammals - brown bear, wolf, and lynx, home to populations of European bison, moose, wildcat, chamois, golden eagle, eagle owl, black grouse, plus many unique insect species.

The transition to a market economy, increasing and integrating role of civil society and dynamic economic development imply profound changes and challenges. The Carpathians are shared by seven Central and Eastern European Countries, four of which have already joined the European Union. This increases the possibilities of sustainable development based on the rich natural, environmental, cultural and human resources of the region, and for preserving its natural and cultural heritage for future generations.

On 22 May 2003 in Kiyv, Ukraine, the Ministers of the Environment of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovak Republic and Ukraine signed the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians.

The Carpathian Convention provides the framework for co-operation and multi-sectoral policy co-ordination, a platform for joint strategies for sustainable development, and a forum for dialogue between all stakeholders involved.

The Carpathian convention is an integrated tool that helps to promote not only sustainable development but also wilderness in the region. It is only the second environmental mountain convention to exist in Europe (the other is the alpine convention). The Carpathians have a unique heritage with some small areas of virgin forest that are under threat. They need to be properly mapped and recorded to ensure proper protection.

Many areas of the region are being destroyed because of new ski resorts and illegal logging in the region. Many of these new ski resorts are being built within Natura 2000 sites, and in some instances even inside national parks. Many of them are illegal and are even below certain heights which make them unsustainable in the face of climate change.

Carpathian Governments must protect the last of the old growth forests in the region, which are essential for providing a range of environmental services, including not least carbon sequestration.

Section 7.2 is based on the presentation "The Carpathian Forests: a Wilderness opportunity in the Heart of Europe" by Harald Egerer, UNEP and Andreas Beckmann, WWF DCP, Austria.

7.3 Protection: Białowieża, Poland

Puszcza Białowieska in Poland is an ancient woodland straddling the border between Belarus and Poland. It is one of the last and largest remaining parts of the immense primeval forest which once spread across the European Plain.

The natural values of Białowieska are well known, with over 1000 species of fauna and flora living there, it has a beautiful landscape that has generally escaped intervention. After the Second World War the ministry of agriculture in Poland decided to create the first forest reserve there and the national park was established. It is now a bio reserve. In 1996 the national park was enlarged and since 2008 more land has been added.

In the national park there are 2 main categories of regional forest: one area has multiple uses and sustainable management takes place; in the second area, the forest is strictly protected and no management is applied.

In 2009 the Ministry of the Environment has spread the will to enlarge the park but local people are not yet convinced for a number of reasons. We have to take into account it is a poor part of Poland and a lot of jobs are related to forestry. Enlargement can only happen with the agreement of the local communities.

To ensure that this project can go ahead we have to present it to the communities in the region and offer them support for sustainable development

Section 7.3 is based on the presentation "Białowieża, Expanding Protection of Europe's Primeval Forest" by Janusz Zaleski, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Poland.

7.4 Restoration: Oostvaardersplassen, Holland

This area is very close to Amsterdam and is located between two new towns. The land was reclaimed from the sea in 1968. The park covers 6,000 ha of which 3600 ha is marsh land and 2500 is dry land.

In this region Greylag Geese come to do their moulting. Here they have protection against predators which is important as they cannot fly when they are moulting. Grazing in this area by the geese opened up the reed beds and created new habitats for many other bird species (including the bearded tit and great white egret). The water table in the region is constantly fluctuating through precipitation and permeation.

However it is not just the marsh areas that are used so too are the dry areas. Although many of the original species of grazers in Europe are now extinct (such as Tarpan and Aurochs) proxies were introduced to the area – Heck cattle and Koniks. These grazers created grasslands which are favourable for many species of geese - where they graze with their young.

The population of grazers is regulated through natural means (a number die through the winter period). The carcasses of the dead cattle and deer are good for large predators such as white tailed eagles. In 2005 the first breeding pair of white tailed eagles since the Middle Ages nested in the area.

Herbivores have steered the succession in this area to create biomes. Parts of the land have become out of phase, so some areas are only used during the winter so grass grows higher which results in more birds and plants. Some plant species can only harden their spines during their first growing season so winter habitats are important. Ungulates have different feeding strategies. Every species has a special effect on the vegetation. So to have the wilderness you have to have the whole range of herbivores.

Large herbivores are a keystone species but we have lost them all over Europe. So now we have shifted baselines.

The reserve is going to be enlarged with a connection to the south so finally it will be a reserve of 13000 hectares. The plan is to re-introduce further species such as bison and wild boar to the area.

Main conclusions:

- The restoration of the food web with large, indigenous ungulates, results in a favourable conservation status of plant- and animal species, including those that disappeared and return as a result of restoration;
- This restoration results in natural processes that create naturally functioning ecosystems that makes it possible to apply a non-intervention management. These nature areas are modern analogues of wilderness;
- Modern analogues of wilderness are in agreement with Natura 2000, because destroyed natural biotopes that correspond to the ecological requirements of species are re-established (Art. 6 HD and Art. 3 BD); and,
- Modern analogues of wilderness are set according to the Convention of Biological Diversity, that states that the fundamental requirement for the conservation of biological diversity is conservation in natural ecosystems, and degraded natural ecosystems should be rehabilitated and restored (Preamble and Art.8, in-situ conservation).

Section 7.4 is based on the presentation "If they can do it....." Enlarging the Dutch restoration: Oostvaardersplassen and beyond" by Frans Vera, Fellow Researcher, Wageningen University c/o Staatsbosbeheer, Netherlands.

7.5 Restoration: Wild Europe Field Programme

WWF has launched an ambitious new field programme for creating large-scale natural areas in Europe. The initiative, by WWF-Netherlands in co-operation with Free Nature, Ark and Eurosite, seeks to restore over the next decade at least 100,000 ha in each of 10 areas across the continent, taking advantage of the gradual abandonment of many of the continent's rural areas.

The ongoing depopulation of entire regions creates a huge opportunity for large-scale natural areas. It offers unique opportunities for the present generation to start developing complete ecosystems on the foundation of new rural economies, where nature itself is the driving force.

The Wild Europe Field Programme invites park managers, authorities, local NGOs and communities, private land owners and other stakeholders to nominate areas that might qualify to become part of the field programme.

One focus for the initiative could be the southern Carpathians, which represent one of Europe's very few remaining relative larger-scale wilderness areas. The area, stretching from Djerdap National Park in Serbia, across the Danube and up through the Retezat Park and the Fagaras Mountains in Romania,

totals over 1 million ha and includes the last 'intact forest landscape' in continental Europe. It is home to abundant wildlife, including brown bears, lynx and wolves as well as chamoix.

Most of the area is already under some form of protection. Thirteen national or nature parks together cover some 625,000 ha; this together with another five areas to be designated as specially protected sites under the EU's Natura 2000 network brings the total protection to over 1 million ha.

Given the existing extent of protection, establishing the area as Europe's largest-scale wild landscape requires relatively little change for people living in and around the area. The main challenge lies in co-ordinating management of the existing protected areas as well as promoting the region world-wide.

Section 7.5 is based on the presentation "From Unspoilt to Untamed – a field programme for creating European wilderness" by Johan van de Gronden, CEO, WWF Netherlands.



8

Next Steps: The Wild Area Agenda

Part 8

Next Steps: The Wild Area Agenda

8.1 The message

Ladislav Miko

Protection of wilderness areas requires co-ordination at a Pan-European scale in order to be effective, especially for transboundary areas.

Protection of wilderness areas is very strongly linked to the implementation of policies concerning agriculture, fisheries, regional development, forestry, research, energy, trade and external relations;

The remaining pristine areas in Europe should be regarded as a unique asset and benefit from the highest level of protection. They should not be diminished or degraded.

Guidance should be developed concerning the protection of wilderness areas in the context of the EU nature legislation, addressing issues such as natural changes to sites, response to climate change, the maintenance of specific succession states and non-intervention.

There is a need to identify and promote opportunities within the 2012 Common Agricultural Policy review that can benefit protection and restoration of wilderness and wildlands, especially in relation to abandoned agricultural land and ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change.

In the short run, recommendations from the Conference should be incorporated into relevant reports (including TEEB), government meetings (upcoming EU Presidencies), international conferences and other events – facilitated by compilation of a relevant schedule and production of appropriate policy documents.

In summarising the message from Prague the following areas were highlighted:

- To invest in mass communication to the wide European audience about wilderness and wild values;
- Finalisation of a definition of wilderness and wild areas, taking into account the range of ecological and cultural interpretations of these terms and their application in different parts of Europe;
- Compilation of a Register of Wilderness, identifying the remaining areas of wilderness and wildlands, the threats and opportunities related to these;
- Completion of mapping wilderness and wildland areas in Europe;
- Quantification of the value of non-extractive economic, social and environmental benefits of wilderness and wildland, identifying key beneficiaries;
- Further development of the Wildland Support Network, especially to support implementation of recommendations from the conference; and,
- Undertake a full assessment of government, institutional and private sector funding opportunities for protection and restoration.

Michael Hamell

The key outcomes of this conference have several recommendations related to the Commission and we take note of these.

He also informed participants that the Commission has no plans to change the Natura 2000 network, but in light of the outcomes of the conference he is willing to work on the implementation of the conference outcomes and consider how improvements can be made to Natura 2000.

He noted that the EC is interested in continuing to reflect on wilderness and non intervention management as part of Natura 2000

Section 8.1 is based on the closing speeches by Ladislav Miko Minister, Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic and Michael Hamell – Acting Director, European Commission, DG Environment.

8.2 Political perspective

There is an increasing scarcity of untouched nature in the developed world, which led to the recognition of the need for wilderness in Europe. A debate is needed on the values of the still remaining, relatively untouched natural areas in Europe and the possibilities to restore ('re-wild') further natural areas. The next step is to discuss how such values could receive adequate protection.

Having the Natura 2000 regime itself does not guarantee wilderness protection, at least not without explicit policy choices. In implementing the European Natura 2000 network – particularly in formulating the conservation targets - there may be a tendency to focus quite strictly on the protection of specific species and habitat types.

On the one hand this specific attention is necessary from the perspective of biodiversity conservation; however, on the other hand this focus may have a narrowing effect on nature protection law and may exclude wilderness qualities from legal protection in Europe.

Lawyers might be tempted to start a debate on the development of a new law for strengthening wilderness protection (e.g. new Directives); however, there are good reasons for focussing attention on the question of how the implementation of Natura 2000 can contribute in strengthening wilderness protection.

The first argument would be the strong interrelationship between biodiversity conservation and wilderness protection. Ecological research clearly indicates that 'robust nature' (large natural areas that are interconnected by ecological corridors) are of great importance for many species to adapt to climate change.

Secondly, wilderness protection does not exclude humans from nature and leaves space for the social dimension that is so important in the Natura 2000 system as well.

Thirdly, the Natura 2000 regime is very well fitted to protect both biodiversity and wilderness qualities. One way to ensure this is to provide wilderness qualities explicit attention when selecting areas and when formulating and applying the conservation objectives of areas. In the Netherlands, for instance, it was decided that the conservation objectives for the Wadden Sea Natura 2000 area should also relate to the relatively untouched character of that area and associated values such as silence, nighttime darkness and open space.

A recent court decision underlined this approach: the Natura 2000 regime was fully applied to all components of the conservation targets, including those wilderness-related qualities of the area. Another option could be to give certain areas a double status (Natura 2000 area and wilderness area) under domestic law. Finland provides an interesting example of this approach. Further research on these more explicit wilderness laws in various countries as well as private initiatives related to wilderness protection in Europe could provide valuable best practices and 'lessons learnt'.

Section 8.2 is based on the presentation "Wild areas in Europe – a political perspective" by Joel Giraud, Member of the French Parliament, France

8.3 EC Presidency - carrying it forward

Do we want to be remembered as the race with bad taste?? No we want to be remembered as the life form who kept it's wits long enough to preserve the life-support system that they all depended on – Nature!

We can not eat computer components nor can we survive on a forest turned into pulp and paper alone. We need more. We need to understand our role in the system, the whole system – the ecosystem to be more precise.

So nature is at the essence of this conference, regardless of whether we call it "nature", "wilderness" or "untouched areas or "ecosystems", it creates the basis for life.

We have deliberated over different issues under the label "wilderness", and the definition of management, restoration and sustainability, and future landscapes have been discussed.

It may not be wise at this point in history to re-introduce old knowledge and raise awareness using the word - "wilderness". We need to rebuild our connection to nature. Generation after generation needs to be introduced to and reminded of the values of nature and the basic needs for the survival of mankind. And for some reason a "new word" is often regarded as better than an old one. All of us probably wish that we would be more "wild" at heart than tame.

Wilderness is local and the call that we hear is therefore different depending on in what part of the world or part of Europe we live. Any new approach should therefore build on the local and regional aspects. And as a basis the established definitions by IUCN are in most cases a good starting point.

Wilderness and nature is being brought back to the top of the EU-policy agenda. Harm to nature is harm everywhere, and to future generations and there is no one solution to the problem. There are very many different approaches and there is no right way forward.

We need to use and continue to build on the three principles that are clearly identified in the Convention for Biological Diversity. We need to conserve biodiversity, use it sustainably and share the benefits from it.

In this context it is of interest to stress the fact that the program of work for protected areas conservation stipulates that Parties to the CBD should take action to establish or expand protected areas in any large, intact or relatively unfragmented or highly irreplaceable natural areas – in the context of national priorities.

100th anniversary of national parks foundation

The protection of "wilderness-areas" was the focus of many early nature protection initiatives over the world. And this conference on wilderness-areas fits very well within the 100 year anniversary of

the creation of the first National Parks in Europe. The initiative definitively had wilderness in focus. These parks - it was nine of them - were actually decided by the Swedish government in 1909. The legislative body at that time gave the main reason: It was obvious to them that the natural landscape already at this time was under severe threat by exploitation and that something had to be done!

In the 1970`s the Swedish parliament stated that seven "unbroken" areas should be protected, within the planning system, from human large scale interference such as roads or hydropower, and in 1982 the government decided on the borders for these areas, each one of them covering at least 10 000 km². All this to protect the ecosystem.

In total about 110 areas comprising of about 3.3 million hectares have been designated as category 1b in the IUCN system and adding category II National Parks it amounts to about 3.7 million hectare. This means that more than 80 % of the protected area in Sweden could be regarded as natural or near natural. These areas are left untouched and in most cases "unmanaged". And most of these areas are part of the Natura 2000 network which shows clearly that "non intervention" is one very important aspect of management.

Management is the central issue that the results from this conference will bring most value to. Management and the creation of networks and enhancement of the connectivity are all imperative measures to master if we want to uphold the life sustaining function of nature.

The goal of management should therefore be resilience and adaptation. The environment is constantly changing and always will change regardless of human impacts and not just on account of climate change. Adaptation to all drivers of change is crucial. That is what evolution is about. That is also what the "Millennium Ecosystem Assessment" (MEA) tells us.

Wilderness within future conservation strategy

Developing and spreading knowledge of biodiversity and ecosystem services is of great strategic importance. We want to ensure that the EU has a well founded conception of an effective strategic plan for the CBD and a long-term vision for continued work on biodiversity ahead of the negotiations in 2010. A global policy for biodiversity post-2010 should be implementable in EU policy and involve individual actors and stakeholders. Sweden will point to the challenge of sustainably managing ecosystems and meeting the need to support a growing world population. Synergies with climate efforts and other environmental and development issues are therefore the key theme during the Swedish EU Presidency in the later part of 2009.

The protection of large wilderness areas and other large areas of natural or semi-natural habitats is one important tool in preserving biodiversity and ecosystem services. Ecological networks of a wide range of protected habitat types and species, like Natura 2000, is another important tool in which many of the wilderness areas can be a part. But in most parts of Europe this is not enough. The use of more sustainable and environmentally friendly methods in forestry and agriculture are crucial for halting the loss of biodiversity and to retaining important ecological functions. As important and combined with sustainable land-use methods are the creation of different types of green infrastructure, like the preservation of small habitats, linear elements, ecological corridors etc within the wider landscape – allowing connectivity and migration of species – issues that are even more important in the light of climate change.

Section 8.3 is based on the Closing presentation by Åsa Norrman Director of Nature of the Ministry of Environment, Sweden.



Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements

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The Conference Organising Committee included the following:

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*Director
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The conference organisers would also like to thank the following:

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Representatives of the following organizations, also partners in the Wild Europe initiative, provided further input for the Conference which is gratefully acknowledged:

Council of Europe

IUCN GLOBAL

Eladio Fernandez Galiano
Head of Biodiversity

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IUCN Wilderness Task Force

Natuurmonumenten (Holland)

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UNESCO

Tony Whitbread
Wildland Policy Advisor

Natarajan Ishwaran
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10

Appendencies

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Prague 27-28 May 2009

Tuesday 26th May

18.00 – 19.00 **Early Registration in Crowne Plaza Prague at Reception Desk**

DAY 1, Wednesday 27th May

08.00 – 08.45 **Registration in Crowne Plaza Prague at Reception Desk**

09.00 – 09.45 **Session: Welcome and setting the Scene**

Chair: Toby Aykroyd, Director, Wild Europe initiative, UK

Ladislav Miko, Minister, Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic
Vaclav Havel, Former President, Czech Republic
Michael Hamell, Acting Director, European Commission, DG Environment
Luc Marie Gnacadja, Executive Secretary, United Nations CCD

10.00..... **Press Conference** (parallel with the next session)

09.45 – 10.40 **Session: Protecting wilderness & wild areas**

Chair: Petr Roth, Ministry of Environment, Czech Republic

Session Aim: To provide definitional and spatial context for the Conference and define the nature of threats and challenges

Wild, what's in a word? Practical definition, Wolfgang Schroeder, Professor, Center for Life Sciences, Technische Universitaet München, Germany
Where is wild? Mapping results, EC and adjacent countries, Steve Carver, Senior Lecturer, School of Geography, University of Leeds, UK
What is happening with wilderness in Europe currently?, Vlado Vancura, Conservation Manager, PAN Parks Foundation, Slovakia

10.40 – 11.10 **Coffee Break**

11.10 – 11.55 **Session: Wild areas & nature**

Chair: Martin Solar, Deputy Director, Triglav National Park, Slovenia

Session Aim: To demonstrate the biodiversity benefits of wilderness and large natural habitat areas, and reconcile dis-benefits

The role of wild lands in halting biodiversity loss, Jeff McNeely, Chief Scientist, IUCN, Switzerland
Wild areas in the context of Natura 2000, Alberto Arroyo, Natura 2000 Officer, WWF, Hungary
European wilderness in the Global context, Harvey Locke, Wild Foundation, Canada

11.55 -12.55 **Session: Realizing the values of wild areas**

Chair: Guido Plassmann, director, ALPARC, France

Session Aim: The intrinsic values of wilderness and wild landscapes are literally priceless, and safeguards are needed to protect the natural qualities of the areas concerned. But alongside appreciation of their intrinsic and biodiversity qualities, there is need to demonstrate the scope for valuing the full range of their benefits

Environmental benefits - utilising the Climate Change Challenge, Steve Prior, Director, Forest Carbon Ltd, UK

Social and cultural benefits - linking the urban agenda, Jo Roberts, Director, Wilderness Foundation, UK

Economics of wild areas – nature tourism and beyond, Jacqueline Baar, Senior Advisor, TripleEE Consultancy, Netherlands

The importance of valuing wild areas, Pavan Sukhdev, Study Leader – TEEB & Project Leader, UNEP Green Economy Initiative, UK

12.55 – 13.00 **Introduction to Workshop Session I**

13.00 – 14.00 **Lunch break**

14.00 – 15.30 **Workshops Session I**

Protecting wildlands. Rationale and components of a Wilderness Register

Location: Conference Hall

Aim: To show why this is required and to determine the components for it

Chair: Jana Vavrinova, Ministry of Environment, Czech Republic

Wild area benefits: utilising their value for key beneficiaries

Location: Neklan + Vasta rooms (2nd floor)

Aim: To assess how to translate benefits into initiatives

Chair: Steve Prior, Director, Forest Carbon Ltd, UK

Best practice in habitat management for different wild areas

Location: Bivoj room (2nd floor)

Aim: Making best use of experience in managing wilderness (pristine), non intervention areas and those that are nearly wild where some restoration is required. Developing a Compendium of best practice.

Chair: Rauno Väisänen, Head of Natural Heritage Service, Metsähallitus, Finland

The State of play for undisturbed forests in EU

Location: Premysl room (2nd floor)

Aim: To identify key actions needed for improved protection

Chair: Erika Stanciu, President, Europarc Federation, Romania

Law and policy for protection – guidelines for management

Location: Bruncvik room (2nd floor)

Aim: Assessment of existing provision and identification of gaps

Chair: Cees Bastmeijer, Senior Researcher, Tilburg University, Netherlands

Wilderness and sustainable development

Location: Libuse room (2nd floor)

Aim: To assess how low impact non-extractive enterprise can best benefit local landholders and

communities

Chair: Neil Birnie, Director, Conservation Capital, UK

15.30 – 16.00 **Coffee Break**

Video from Swarovski Optik

16.00 – 17.00 **Plenary - Workshops I feedback**

Chair: Zoltan Kun, Director, PAN Parks Foundation, Hungary

The Chairs of various workshops report back to the plenary

Aim: To report back to the plenary from each workshop

17.00 – 18.00 **Building partnerships**

Chair: Toby Aykroyd, Director, Wild Europe Initiative, UK

Session Aim: Investigate the opportunities to build partnership with non conservation sector partners for the benefits of wilderness

Value added for local communities: the rural development agenda, Case Study Bayerischer Wald, Karl Friedrich Sinner, Director, Bayerischer Wald National Park, Germany

Wilderness as seen from the forest sector, Georg Frank, Senior Researcher, BFW, Austria

The business contribution to wild areas, Ingrid Valks, Director, Performance Improvement, Netherlands

Incentives for landholders. Examples from across Europe, Marie-Alice Budniok, Director of Legal & Administrative Affairs, European Landowners' Organisation, Belgium Charles Burrell, landowner and farmer, Sussex, UK

Close of Day 1 - Summary and looking to Day 2

19.00 – 21.00 **Conference Banquet, Crowne Plaza Prague**

Libuse+Bruncvik+Premysl room (2nd floor)

During this banquet there will be a slide show:

“What We’re Campaigning For - The Wild Wonders of Europe”

21.30..... **Optional - films:**

BBC Film “Alladale, Monarch of the Glen” (Habitat restoration and species reintroduction on a private estate in the Scottish Highlands)

“The Wild Wonders of Europe” longer version, introduction by Staffan Widstrand, WWE Founder, Sweden

Ballet in the Wilderness – a film of the Bayerischer Ballet, Germany

Day 2, Thursday 28th May

09.00 – 09.50**Session: Opportunities for restoration**

Chair: Eladio Fernandez Galiano, Director of Biodiversity, Council of Europe, France

Session Aim: to look at restoration opportunities within the framework of current legislation within and outside the European Union.

What and where are the opportunities for restoration? Components, future trends (CAP 2012) and mapping, Magnus Sylven, International Projects, Buro Stroming (former Director of WWF European Programme), Switzerland

Advancing a connectivity agenda, Graham Bennett, Director, Syzygy Consulting, Netherlands
Restoration examples throughout Europe, Henrique Miguel Perreira, Senior Researcher, University of Lisbon, Portugal

09.50 – 10.00**Introduction to Workshop Session II**

Aim: Workshops will be practical with output incorporated into recommendations

10.00 – 10.30**Coffee Break**

10.30 – 12.00**Workshop Session II**

Restoration and connectivity – making it work

Location: Conference Hall

Aim: To identify what ingredients are required for successful restoration initiatives

Chair: Stig Johansson, European Chair, WCPA, Finland

Learning from best practice in restoration

Location: Neklan + Vasta rooms (2nd floor)

Aim: Best practice in practical restoration management, developing a Compendium

Chair: Hans Kampf, Director, Large Herbivore Foundation, Netherlands

Promoting wilderness: tailoring the messages

Location: Bivoj room (2nd floor)

Aim: To define a communication strategy, showing the need for clear messages, targeted and tailored

Chair: Harvey Locke, Wild Foundation, Canada

Funding wild land objectives

Location: Premysl room (2nd floor)

Aim: To identify key current and future sources, how to access them and what reforms might be helpful

Chair: Paul Grigoriev, Regional Programme Coordinator, IUCN ROfE, Belgium

Components of a Wildland Support Network

Location: Bruncvik room (2nd floor)

Aim: To assess requirement for a simple infrastructure that can support implementation of a coordinated strategy for wilderness and large natural habitat areas

Chair: Toby Aykroyd, Director, Wild Europe Initiative, UK

Policy options for the EC and beyond

Location: Libuse room (2nd floor)

Aim: to define outline policy recommendations for protection and restoration of wilderness and large natural habitat areas

Chair: Patrick Murphy, Desk Officer, European Commission DG Environment, Belgium

12.00 – 13.00 **Plenary - Workshops II feedback**

Chair: Zoltan Kun, Director, PAN Parks Foundation, Hungary

The Chairs of various workshops report back to the plenary

Aim: To report back to the plenary from each workshop

(Preparation of Message from Prague)

13.00 – 14.00 **Lunch break**

14.00 – 15.40 **Session: Action – Announcing New Initiatives**

Chair: Chris Mahon, Chair, IUCN National Committee, UK

Session Aim: To announce or trial new initiatives

From Unspoilt to Untamed – a field programme for creating European wilderness, presented by Johan van de Gronden, CEO, WWF Netherlands

The Carpathian Forests: a Wilderness opportunity in the Heart of Europe, presented by Harald Egerer, UNEP and Andreas Beckmann, WWF DCP, Austria

Bialowieza, Expanding Protection of Europe’s Primeval Forest, presented by Janusz Zaleski, Under-secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Poland

“If they can do it.....” Enlarging the Dutch restoration: Oostvaardersplassen and beyond, presented by Frans Vera, Fellow Researcher, Wageningen University c/o Staatsbosbeheer, Netherlands

Components of Wildland Support Network (Workshop 5 of Day 2), presented by Toby Aykroyd, Director, Wild Europe Initiative

Announcing a Business for Wilderness Forum and PAN Parks Wilderness Club, presented by Derek Jacobs, Chairman Elstat Electronics Group, Hajnalka Schmidt, Business Development Manager, PAN Parks Foundation, Hungary

15.40 – 16.10 **Coffee break**

16.10 – 17.30 **Keynote presentations**

Chair: Erika Stanciu, President, Europarc Federation, Romania

Session Aim: closing the conference with providing the message and broader political context

Wild areas in Europe – a political perspective, Joel Giraud, Member of the French Parliament, France

Message from the Conference, Ladislav Miko, Minister of Environment, Czech Republic

Michael Hamell, Acting Director, European Commission, DG Environment

Closing presentation, Åsa Norrman, Director Of Nature of Ministry of Environment, Sweden

CONFERENCE CLOSES

17.45..... **Press conference**

Accreditation can be gained through the Press Contact provided by the Czech Ministry of Environment (see the press contact at <http://www.wildeurope.org/index.php/contact/media>)

A full version of this agenda, with detailed content for each session, can be obtained from the conference organizers via email: info@wildeurope.org

biographies

BIOGRAPHY LIST

Alberto Arroyo Schnell

Alberto Arroyo Schnell has worked as Natura 2000 Coordinator for WWF since 2005, responsible for the coordination of the work related with the implementation of the Habitats Directive within WWF and partner organizations. He is a Forestry Engineer, specialized in Protected Areas Management and Implementation.

He has worked for different rural development programmes in Spain and Italy, and has several years of experience providing technical assistance to the public administration on protected areas related issues, especially for the Natura 2000 network. His work as international free-lance consultant includes His experience includes support to WWF International on Natura 2000 and EU accession activities. His experience related with protected areas, Natura 2000 and rural development varies from the daily conservation local challenges to international policy issues.

Toby Aykroyd

It is five years since Toby Aykroyd first developed the concept of this conference and started the Wild Europe Initiative, a partnership of organizations seeking to promote a coordinated strategy for the protection and restoration of wilderness and wild areas across Europe.

With a background in development economics, business management and political representation, he is also trustee and chair of the Funding Support Group for the BBC Wildlife Fund, chair of the Population and Sustainability Network, and trustee of the European Nature Trust and London Wildlife Trust. He studied economics and geography at Cambridge University and has a Master of Business Administration from Cranfield Institute of Technology.

Jacqueline Baar

Dr. Ir. Jacqueline Baar is a biologist specialized in system ecology employed at the knowledge centre Triple E in The Netherlands.

Jacqueline develops innovative concepts and profitable products for increasing biodiversity in rural and natural areas in a pragmatic way. Therefore, she takes a bottom-up approach because soil forms the basis for all our activities. Jacqueline has a wide knowledge of soil ecology which she makes use for increasing biodiversity and sustainability.

Currently, Jacqueline is chair of the European network COST Action 870 for increasing application of soil biology for more sustainable activities.

Graham Bennett

Graham Bennett has been actively involved in the development and analysis of international environmental policy for over 30 years. His main areas of work are biodiversity conservation and the implementation of EU environmental policies.

In particular he has actively promoted, developed and evaluated the ecological network model. In 1991 he published the first proposal for a European Ecological Network – “EECONET”. This concept

evolved in 1995 into the Pan-European Ecological Network that formed the main component of the Council of Europe/UNEP's Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy. In recent years he has focused on reviewing experience with ecological networks worldwide.

He also conceived and developed, together with IUCN's Regional Office for Europe, the Countdown 2010 initiative. Countdown 2010 is a civil-society programme that promotes action to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target. It is currently supported by over 800 partners worldwide.

Graham is Director of Syzygy, an expert centre in the Netherlands that works internationally to advance the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. He is also focal point for IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas in the Netherlands and a board member of IUCN's Dutch National Committee.

Charlie Burrell

Charlie Burrell studied Agriculture and Advanced Farm Management at The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester (1982-85). In 1985 he took over the Knepp Castle Estate - a family inheritance of 1,400 ha in West Sussex. For 15 years he continued running the traditional property and farming business but in 2000, following a highly successful restoration of the original 18th century Repton park around the castle, and inspired by the theories of Frans Vera, he embarked on what has become known as the Knepp Wildland Project - a naturalistic grazing project that he extended onto land that was once intensively farmed for dairy and arable. The Knepp Wildland Project is sponsored by Natural England and receives technical support from the British Trust for Ornithology, Sussex Wildlife Trust, The Forestry Commission, The National Trust, The Large Herbivore Foundation, and The Centre for Hydrology and Ecology. Over the past few years the Knepp Wildland Project has excited interest from all over the world, especially in Europe and the UK, as a radical experiment in the restoration of ecosystems on a large landscape scale.

Steve Carver

Dr Steve Carver is a Geographer based at the University of Leeds where he is Director of the Wildland Research Institute. He has specialised in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and their application to wilderness and wildland mapping and analysis for the past 15 years. He has worked on various projects around the world including Alaska, Montana, Greenland, Siberia, northern Sweden as well as in the UK. He has recently finished a project to map and assess the potential for wildland quality in the Cairngorm National Park, producing some of the most detailed maps of their kind to date.

He collaborates regularly with Alan Watson and colleagues at the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute in Missoula, Montana, most recently on a joint project looking at mapping the values and meanings tribal and non-tribal residents place on wilderness landscapes. He regularly enjoys back-country skiing and mountaineering in wild places. In November he will be riding 2500 miles with a bunch of friends on motorbikes to the WILD9 conference in Merida, Mexico.

Dr Georg Frank

Born in Villach, Austria, Georg Frank completed his studies at the University of Agricultural Sciences in Vienna in 1991 with a doctoral degree in silviculture and vegetation science.

Head of the unit Research on Natural Forests and Nature Conservation, Federal Office and Research Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW), Austria. Since 1994 Dr Frank is the coordi-

nator of the Austrian Natural Forest Reserves Project and responsible for the development and management of a representative network of strictly protected forest reserves covering all forest types of Austria. He has undertaken research on natural forests, specifically forest stand dynamics, forest vegetation ecology.

Dr. Frank is president of PRO SILVA AUSTRIA and Chairman of the Committee of Experts for Silviculture and Nature Protection of the Austrian Foresters Association.

Michael Hamell

Michael Hamell has worked for the European Commission since 1983 and is currently Head of the Unit "Agriculture, Forests and Soil" within the Directorate General responsible for the Environment. This unit is responsible for environmental integration issues with respect to both the first and second pillars of the CAP, for the implementation of the Nitrates Directive, for EU internal environmental policy related to forestry and for the EU's soil strategy presented to the European Parliament and Council in 2006.

Michael worked in DG Agriculture during the period 1983-1997 in the "Beef and Sheep" Markets division with responsibilities for sheep policy and trade issues and for technical aspects of beef production. Prior to this, he worked for ten years as a farm manager, lecturer and specialist agricultural adviser with the Irish Department of Agriculture. He holds a Master's Degree in Agriculture from University College Dublin.

Zoltan Kun

Attained a forestry technician diploma at the secondary school in Sopron, Hungary in 1990. Although the diploma was not specifically focused on conservation, it did display his interest in nature. He graduated with an MSc in landscape architecture in Hungary at University of Horticulture and Food Industry in 1996. His final thesis was on flood-plain restoration written in the Netherlands at the Wageningen Agriculture University in the framework of TEMPUS ICER programme.

Since childhood Zoltan's dream has been to work with WWF and in 1996 this became a reality when he began working with WWF Hungary as coordinator of the Gemenc Foodplain restoration project. He joined the PAN Parks Initiative in August 1997. He was appointed Executive Director in March 2002 after working with PAN Parks for five years as Conservation Manager.

He has the overall responsibility for the operation of the Foundation, represents PAN Parks towards WWF and other international organisations and is also involved in fundraising activities.

Harvey Locke

Harvey Locke is internationally known for his work on wilderness, national parks and large landscape conservation from Yellowstone to Yukon and beyond. Named by Time magazine as one of Canada's leaders for the 21st century, his resume is filled with premier publications, keynote speaking engagements and leadership and advisory roles for some of the most well-known North American organizations in the conservation field.

Harvey has lived and travelled widely in Europe and is a member of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. A passionate advocate for wild nature, he joined WILD Foundation as Vice President for Conservation Strategy in January, 2009. He will be relocating from his native Canada to WILD's Boulder, Colorado, USA office in June.

Jeffrey A. McNeely

Jeffrey A. McNeely is Chief Scientist at IUCN, where he has worked since 1980. Before joining IUCN, he spent twelve years in Thailand, Indonesia, and Nepal, conducting research and practical application of resource management activities. As IUCN's Chief Scientist, he is responsible for overseeing the work of the world's largest conservation network, with over 1,000 institutional members and 10,000 scientists and other specialists working in biological conservation. He has written or edited over 40 books and 500 popular and technical articles on a wide range of environmental topics, as well as serving on the editorial board of 14 international journals. He is currently working to link biodiversity to sustainable agriculture, human health, biotechnology, climate change, energy, and more traditional fields of IUCN interest such as species, protected areas, ecosystems, and economics. He is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform, Chairman of the Board of Ecoagriculture Partners, President of the Asia Section of the Society for Conservation Biology, a member of the Scientific and Technical Council of the International Risk Governance Council, and an Andrew D. White Professor-at-Large at Cornell University.

Ladislav Miko

Doc. RNDr. Ladislav Miko, PhD. was born on April 9, 1961 in Košice. In 1984, he graduated from the Faculty of Science of Charles University in Prague (general biology and cytology). In 1996, he obtained his PhD. at the same faculty in the field of systematic zoology and ecology. This year, he became assistant professor (docent) at the Faculty of Environmental Science of the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague.

He began his professional career at the Institute Landscape Ecology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. In 1992 – 2001, he was employed by the Czech Environmental Inspectorate and worked for some time as the Deputy Director. In 2001, he assessed EU projects as an independent consultant within the PHARE program. From 2002 to 2005, he was the Deputy Minister of the Environment for nature conservation and landscape protection. After being chosen in a demanding international selection procedure, he was appointed as the Director of the Protecting the Natural Environment Directorate of the EU Commission (DG Environment).

In 1989, he was one of the leaders of the Verejnost proti násiliu movement in Košice; he took part in the founding of the Green Party in Slovakia, of which he was a member until 1993. He has not been a member of any political party for the past 16 years.

His interests include photography, tourism, literature and the theatre. Ladislav Miko is married and has two children (16 and 21 years of age).

Henrique Miguel Pereira

Henrique Miguel Pereira is a Ciência 2007 Researcher at the Center for Environmental Biology of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon.

He is one of the lead authors preparing the Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 and a member of the steering committee of the Biodiversity Observation Network of the Group on Earth Observations. Prof. Pereira received his PhD in Biological Sciences from Stanford University in 2002. From 2003 to 2005 he coordinated the Portugal Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

From 2006 to 2009 he was the Director of Peneda-Gerês National Park in Northern Portugal. His research interests revolve around global biodiversity change, including monitoring schemes for biodi-

iversity, spatially explicit and species-area models for biodiversity scenarios, and empirical studies of the consequences of farmland abandonment for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Stephen Prior

Having graduated from Sheffield University sixteen years ago Stephen Prior travelled to southern Africa and was for several years Head of an independent day and boarding school in Zimbabwe. He and his wife also ran a small farm there until its forced 'acquisition' by the government.

It was at Durham University's Business School in 2004 that Stephen developed his interest in the role of forestry in global carbon markets. Recognising that here was a chance for Nature to exploit Industry for a change, he set about designing a forestry credit that would be readily tradeable. Graduating at the top of his MBA class Stephen presented his findings later that year to a small audience at the UN Conference on Climate Change in Montreal.

Stephen then went on to set up Forest Carbon Limited with his business partner, a Scottish farmer, forester and tree nursery director. Essentially the company acts as a matchmaker for businesses and landowners whose mutual desire is to establish trees in areas previously denuded of their natural woodland.

Forest Carbon's technical consultancy work is informed by the solid set of standards they have developed as their own benchmark for voluntary credits. The company is also working with the UK Forestry Commission on the design of a government-recognised standard for UK voluntary forestry offsets; this process is now in its final stages.

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Encouragingly, the company has noticed a significant increase in the willingness of businesses to participate in woodland regeneration initiatives. Stephen sees this trend as a welcome challenge to the cynicism that persists in some quarters regarding forestry's role in the compliance carbon market."

Jo Roberts

Jo Roberts has been Chief Executive of the Wilderness Foundation since 2004 but has been working for them since 1998 when her family moved to the UK after seven years living in Luxembourg.

South African by birth, Jo has enjoyed a rich life, spending much of it in wild places in many parts of Africa as she grew up. She trained and worked as a Social Anthropologist during the time of Apartheid, working mainly with rural communities. Her main interest in life is the vital connection between humanity and nature, and the value that experiential learning and outdoor education brings to social and personal change.

Jo focuses her attention on linking wilderness trails to peace and reconciliation and the effects of wilderness on developing sound youth leadership built on environmental awareness and ethics, and the personal and behavioural change that wild places offer youth who are vulnerable or at risk. Using the extensive wilderness network and her close links to South Africa, she merges best practice from around the world into creative programmes that suit a more European climate and culture.

Jo is married with two teenagers and lives in Essex with her family.

Wolfgang ('Wolf') Schroeder

Wolfgang Schroeder is professor for Wildlife & Protected Area Management at the Center for Life Sciences, Technische Universitaet Muenchen, Germany. He is teaching students from around the world at the International Master of Science Program "Sustainable Resource Management". As a consultant he has worked with national parks and on conservation projects for GO's and NGO's in Germany, Austria, Italy, Romania and the Balkan Countries.

As a visiting scientist he has spent time in Mexico, the USA, the Northwest Territories and in the Yukon, where he has also worked with native people. He is chairman of the advisory board of the Large Herbivore Foundation for Europe, Russia, Mongolia and Central Asia.

Wolfgang Schroeder has an MSc from New York State College of Forestry and from Syracuse University and a PhD from the University of Goettingen, Germany. He got post graduate training in Management at the University of Vienna.

He grew up in the Austrian Alps, climbing and skiing, and he is an avid horseman. His interest in wilderness recreation and wilderness conservation goes back to when he was a student in the USA.

Pavan Sukhdev

Pavan Sukhdev is the Project Leader for UNEP's "Green Economy" initiative, a major UNEP project to demonstrate that the greening of economies is not a burden on growth but rather a new engine for growth, employment, and the reduction of persistent poverty.

Pavan is also Study Leader for the G8+5 commissioned report on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity ("TEEB"), a project he was appointed to lead in March 2008 by the EU Commission and Germany whilst still working full time at Deutsche Bank. TEEB's Interim Report was welcomed globally for its fresh economic outlook, showing the economic significance of the loss of nature's services, and connecting biodiversity and ecosystems with ethics, equity, and the alleviation of poverty.

As a career banker, Pavan Sukhdev continues to be Chairman of Deutsche Bank's Global Markets Centre Mumbai ("GMC Mumbai"), whilst on sabbatical from the Bank for two years to conduct his environmental projects "TEEB" and "Green Economy". GMC Mumbai is the division's dedicated global hub for "front-office off-shoring", a market first of its kind which he had founded in February 2006.

Pavan pursues long-standing interests in environmental economics and in nature conservation through his work with the Green Indian States Trust (GIST) and other NGO's. GIST has researched, developed and published methodology & empirical work on preparing comprehensive 'Green Accounts' for India and its States, a first among developing countries.

Magnus Sylven

Career: PhD in Animal Ecology 1982, Research fellow at the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency 1979-1987, Director of Conservation, WWF Sweden, 1987-1991, Director of WWF Europe/Middle East Programme 1991-2007 at WWF International, and as of 2007 Independent Consultant (partly in association with the Stroming Bureau, the Netherlands).

During the period 1987-2007, the multi-functional tasks included (1) designing and setting-up national (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Latvia, Mongolia, Poland, Romania & Russia) and transboundary programmes and institutions (Arctic, Baltic, Caucasus, Danube-Carpathian, European Policy & Mediterranean), (2) facilitating the establishment of pan-European initiatives on large carnivores and large herbivores, (3) super-

vision of regional WWF programme activities (e.g. Natura 2000, reform of the Common Fisheries Policy, reform of the EU chemicals legislation, REACH), and (4) fundraising from private (foundations, corporate & individuals) and public sector (mainly from bilateral aid agencies) generating more than CHF 40 million.

Since 2007, the work has included supervision of establishment of new protected areas (Lake Arpi National Park in Armenia & Javakheti National Park in Georgia), topic studies (Climate Change impacts in Southern Caucasus, WWF Global Policy Review, Future Vision for the Sustainable Development of the Yangtze Estuary/Delta, A CEMEX European Conservation Initiative), development of institutional business plans (PAN Parks, Large Herbivore Foundation, WWF International "One Planet Living", and WWF-Turkey), project/programme evaluations (TACIS capacity building in Russian Caucasus, rapid assessments of more than twenty WWF International programmes covering Arctic, Amazon, Amur Heilong, Borneo, Congo, Himalayas, Coral triangle, Danube-Carpathian, Mekong, Tiger, Asian Rhinos & Elephants, African Elephant & Rhinos, African Great Apes, Global Forest Trade Network, Climate Adaptation, Freshwater, Forests, Marine, and Species), fundraising (from the International Climate Protection Initiative of the Federal Ministry of Environment, Germany, and private foundations), and campaign development ("A One Planet Future Campaign for Turkey" addressing CBD, UNFCCC, energy, climate adaptation, food security, water, fisheries, Ecological Credit Crunch/Footprint, etc).

Ingrid Valks

Ingrid Valks (1965) is director and owner of Performance Improvement, a company for event & travel marketing. Performance Improvement designs and produces worldwide high quality incentive travel, meetings and events for corporate clients, associations and public authorities to realize business objectives such as rewarding top performers, launch of new products or strategy, creating employee engagement and building sustainable business relations. Ingrid is also partner in the online incentive company Incentive Direct as she truly believes that through extraordinary experiences business leaders are able to unlock human potential and increase the engagement of its stakeholders. In 2007 and 2008 she was president of SITE NL, the Dutch chapter of the global network of travel and event professionals committed to motivational experiences that deliver business results. When she finished her presidency of SITE she accepted the invitation to become member of the board of Advisory for City Marketing Haarlem in the Netherlands.

Ingrid studied marketing and started her career with Transavia Airlines as Assistant Marketing Manager and later Sales Manager. After four years and a one-year trip around the world she continued her career as Business Unit Manager Incentives & Events with one of the big Dutch tour operators. During that time she was a regular guest speaker at Hotel Management Schools. To live to the max she decided to travel for a couple of months through Dubai, Oman and Iran and back home she started her own company Performance Improvement with the slogan Passion for People! In the past 10 years they designed and produced over 500 events, meetings, incentive programs and incentive trips all over the world for well known brands such as BP Oil, Delta Lloyd, ING Bank, Novartis, Sharp, UPC, Kia, Toyota, Nike etc. From Amsterdam to New York City, from Kuala Lumpur to Vienna and from Lapland to Tanzania. Ingrid is married and has two sons of 9 years old

Vlado Vancura

Attained a forestry university diploma at the Forestry University in Zvolen, Slovakia in 1981 and finished postgraduate study "Management of natural resources" in 1986. Between 1982 and 1996 Vlado worked for the Bureau of Protected Areas, Slovakia. To learn about management of protected areas he ended up spending 24 months working as a volunteer for the National Park Service, USA and 6 months as a volunteer for Parks Canada.

After 1996 Vlado worked for the Slovak NGO, A-project and in 2000 he was appointed PAN Parks Regional Coordinator for Central and Eastern Europe. In October 2002 he was appointed Conservation Manager. In his current position he is responsible for conservation element of PAN Parks concept, e.g. build up network of well managed wilderness protected areas, the independent audit, implementation of PAN Parks quality standard, etc.

Vlado is married and he is living with his family in small town at the edge of Tatra National Park in northern part of Slovakia. He is dedicated to protection of European Wilderness.

Frans Vera

Frans Vera was born on the 4th of June in 1949. He completed his studies in Biology at the Free University in Amsterdam in 1978, and started his career as a civil servant at Staatsbosbeheer (the National Agency for Nature Management and Forestry). Later he went to the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, and then moved to the Agricultural University at Wageningen. Back at the Ministry he finished in 1997 his PhD thesis at the Agricultural University. This thesis has been published in 2000 by CABI Publishing, Wallingford, in an extended version as the book *Grazing Ecology and Forest History*.

The inspiration for his thesis came from the developments in the nature reserve the Oostvaardersplassen, in which he has involved since 1979. These developments made him question the classical paradigm that the baseline for nature in Europe in places where trees can grow is a closed canopy forest, and that the indigenous large ungulates such as Tarpan, Aurochs, Wisent, Moose, Red Deer, Roe Deer and Wild Boar did not influence this vegetation structure. He challenged this view and presented the theory that these ungulates steered the succession, creating a park-like landscape consisting of a kaleidoscope of grassland, shrubs, scrubs, trees and groves, a landscape of which the wood pasture is the closest modern analogue. His book has caused a lot of debate among nature conservationists, forest ecologists, palaeoecologists and historians. The Oostvaardersplassen is one of the areas where the steering role of the indigenous large ungulates is tested.

Janusz Zaleski

56 years old, Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of the Environment, Chief Nature Conservation; responsible for forestry issues, national parks, genetically modified organisms and implementation of international conventions.

Mr. Janusz Zaleski graduated in forestry from the SGGW Warsaw University of Life Science and in economics from the SGH Warsaw School of Economics. For 20 years he has been working on various positions in The State Forests National Forest Holding; in years 2001-2006 as Deputy Director General of The State Forests National Forest Holding, in years 2006-2007 as director of the institution implementing European funds for environmental protection.

From 2007 – Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of the Environment. A member of the State Council for Nature Conservation. He was responsible for organizational preparations of the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP14), held in Poznań in December 2008 and he was the head of Polish delegation to that meeting

list of
participants

Name	Surname	Organisation	Country
Zoran	Acimov	Retezat National Park	Romania
Robert	Aitken	John Muir Trust	UK
Svetlana	Aladjem	Ecologic Consultancy	Bulgaria
Neli	Alexova	Ministry of Agriculture and Food	Bulgaria
Börje	Alriksson	Ministry of The Environment	Sweden
Libor	Ambrozek	Parliament of the Czech Republic	Czech Republic
Vladimír	Antal	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic Tajovskeho 28 B	Slovakia
Sigurdur	Armann Thrainsson	Ministry for the Environment	Iceland
Alberto	Arroyo	WWF International	Hungary
Rolands	Auzins	Nature Protection Board	Latvia
Stefan	Avramov	Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation	Bulgaria
Toby	Aykroyd	Wild Europe Initiative	UK
Jacqueline	Baar	Triple EEE	Netherlands
Rovshan	Babayev	Ministry of Agriculture	Azerbaijan
Fred	Baerselman	Large Herbivore Foundation, Netherlands	Netherlands
Erik	Balaz	Wolf Foundation	Slovakia
Dr. Sandra	Balzer	Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)	Germany
Martin	Baranyai	Czech Environmental Inspectorate	Czech Republic
Charlotte	Baron	Fulcrum Publishing	US
Boris	Barov	Birdlife International	Belgium
Christian	Barthod	Direction Générale de l'Aménagement, du Logement et de la Nature	France
Cees	Bastmeijer	Tilburg University	Netherlands
Agnès	Baule	ACT Consultants	France
Andreas	BECKMANN	WWF DCP	Austria
Alexander	Belokurov	WWF International	Switzerland
Miroslav	Benko	Forest Research Institute Jastrebarsko, Croatia	Croatia
Dr. Graham	Bennett	Syzygy Consulting	Netherlands
Mladen	Berginc	Environment Directorate	Slovenia
Niek	Beunders	NHTV	Netherlands
Iovu-Adrian	Biris	Forest Research & Management Institute	Romania
Neil	Birnie	Wilderness Scotland	UK
Richard	Blackman	Europarc Federation	Belgium
Dr. Jaromír	Bláha	Hnutí Duha, Friends of the Earth	Czech Republic
Andrzej	Bobiec	BLI Poland	Poland
Piotr	Borkowski	DG Agriculture and Rural Development	Belgium
Edit	Borza	PAN Parks Foundation	Hungary
Peter	Bos	International Nature Management, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries	Netherlands
Robertina	Brajanoska	Macedonian Ecological Society	Macedonia
Dr. Anita	Breyer		Germany
Mikhail N.	Brynskikh	Prioksko-Terrasny Biosphere Reserve	Russia
Michael	Bucki	DG Environment B1 Unit	Belgium
Marie-Alice	Budniok	European Landowners Organisation	Belgium

Name	Surname	Organisation	Country
Charles	Burrell	Knepp Castle Estate	UK
Dr. Steve	Carver	Leeds University	UK
Martin	Cerny	IFER	Czech Republic
Dr. Nicola	Cimini	Majella National Park	Italy
Kristijan	Civic	ECNC-European Centre for Nature Conservation	Netherlands
Alison	Coleman	IUCN Regional Office for Europe	Belgium
Jordanka	Dineva	For the Nature Coalition of 30 Bulgarian nature protection NGOs and civil groups	Bulgaria
Neli	Doncheva	Association of Parks in Bulgaria - umbrella organization of the Bulgarian Nature Parks	Bulgaria
Dalibor	Dostál	Denik	Czech Republic
Alena	Dostalova	Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection	Czech Republic
Jana	Durkošová	Ministry of Environment	Slovakia
Harald	Egerer	UNEP Liaison Office in Vienna	Austria
Boris	Erg	IUCN	Serbia
Josef	Fanta	Wageningen University / University of South Bohemia	Netherlands
Hermann	Fercher	SWAROVSKI OPTIK KG	Austria
Eladio	Fernandez-Galiano	Council of Europe	France
Martin	Fiedler	Charles University	Czech Republic
Duarte	Figueiredo	Departamento de Gestão Áreas Classificadas Norte	Portugal
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Dr. Horst	Freiberg		Germany
Martin	Fueden		UK
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Marta	Gaworska	CEPF - Confédération Européenne des Propriétaires Forestiers Rue du	Belgium
Joel	Giraud	Conseil Régional Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur	France
Jean-Luc	Gnacadja	United Nations CCD	Canada
Dr. Michael	Gödde	Nature, landscape planning and Forestry	Germany
Genoveva	Gospodinova	Ministry of Environment and Water	Bulgaria
Dr. Paul	Grigoriev	IUCN Regional Office for Europe	Belgium
Dr. Michael	Gruschwitz	Saechsische Staatskanzlei (State Chancellery of Saxony)	Germany
Elinor	Gwynn	Countryside Council for Wales	UK
Dr. Bozena	Haczek	Department of Nature Protection, Ministry of the Environment	Poland
Michael	HAMELL	DG Natural Environment, EC / Protecting the Natural Environment +	
Head of Unit B.1	Belgium		
Dr. Petu	Hancrend		Austria
Dr. Peter	Hancvencl	Austrian Embassy in Prague	Czech Republic
Handrij	Härtel	National Park Ceske Svycarsko Authority	Czech Republic
Viktoria	Hasler	Environment Ministry.	Austria
Vaclav	Havel		Czech Republic
Ilkka	Heikkinen	Ministry of the Environment	Finland

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Dr. Wouter	Helmer	Stichting Ark	Netherlands
Rolf	Hogan	WWF International	Switzerland
Aina	Holst	Nature Directorate	Norway
Jan	Hrebacka	The Krkonose Mts. National Park	Czech Republic
Hendrik	Hunschede	PAN Parks Foundation	Hungary
VESELKA	Ignatova	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD	Bulgaria
Byliana	Ilieva	Ministry of Environment and Water	Bulgaria
Derek Arnold	Jacobs	Wilderness Foundation UK	South Africa
Mavram	Jacobs		South Africa
Rastislav	Jakus	Slovak Academy of Sciences	Slovakia
Dr. Stig	Johansson	WCPA Europe	Finland
Nathan	Johnson	Green Horizon magazin c/o REC	Hungary
Sally	Johnson	SNH	UK
Dr. Rob	Jongman	Alterra Consultancy	Netherlands
Dr. Jan	KADLECIK	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic	Slovakia
Marek	Kajs		Poland
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Keith	Kirby	Natural England	UK
Mónika	Kiss	PAN Parks Foundation	Hungary
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Tomas	Krejzar	Czech Environmental Inspectorate	Czech Republic
Dr. Zdenka	Krenova	Sumava National Park	Czech Republic
Vandekerkhove	Kris	INBO	Belgium
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Andrej	Langewski		Poland
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Martine	Lejeune	Communicatie en Ecologie	Belgium
Paul	Lister	The European Nature Trust	UK
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Dr. Joerg	Lohmann	Ministry of Tourism and Environment	Montenegro

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Frank	Maasland	Free Foundation	Netherlands
Chris	Mahon	IUCN UK National Committee	UK
Giuseppe	Marcantonio	Majella National Park	Italy
Miroslav	Mares	MZP	Czech Republic
Vance	Martin	IUCN Wilderness Task Force	US
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Dr. Erich	Mayrhofer	Kalkalpen National Park	Austria
Helen	McDade	John Muir Trust	UK
Jeff	McNeely	IUCN	Switzerland
Renee	Meissner	Herds and Homelands	Netherlands
Murel	Merivee	Ministry of Environment	Estonia
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Pierre	Meyer	ACT Consultants	France
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Olli	Ojala	European Commission DG Environment	Belgium
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Olimpia	Pabian	OTOP	Poland
Tamás	Papp	Milvus Group	Romania
Pawel	Pawlaczyk	Naturalsit Club Poland	Poland
Reinhard	Pekny	Wilderness Area Dürrenstein	Austria
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Dr. Henrique Miguel	Pereira	Lisbon University	Portugal
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Dr. Jan	Plesnik	Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection	Czech Republic
Frantisek	Pojer	Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection	Czech Republic
Gert	Polet	Wereld Natuur Fonds	Netherlands
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Dr. Deni	Porej	WWF Mediterranean Programme	Serbia
Marie	Prchalova	UNESCO	Czech Republic

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Robert	Rajchl	Wolf Foundation	Slovakia
Sylvia	Rangelova	Ministry of Environment and Water	Bulgaria
John	Rarola	UNCCD	UK
Michal	Rezek	ACT Consultants	Czech Republic
Petra	Riemann	Stiftung Naturlandschaften Brandenburg	Germany
Jo	Roberts	Wilderness Foundation UK	UK
Dr. Petr	Roth	Environment Ministry	Czech Republic
Tomáš	Rothröckl	Podyji NP Administration	Czech Republic
Peter	Rupitsch	Hohe Tauern National Park, Karinthian	Austria
Tomas	Ruzicka	Environmental Partnership	Czech Republic
Dr. Natallia	Rybianets	Belarus UNESCO-MAB National Committee	Belarus
Gábor	Salamon	Aggtelek National Park	Hungary
Dr. Christof	Schenck	Frankfurt Zoological Society	Germany
Frans	Schepers	WWF NL	Netherlands
Hajnalka	Schmidt	PAN Parks Foundation	Hungary
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Martin	Solar	Triglav National Park	Slovenia
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Andrea	Stefan	European Commission DG Environment	Belgium
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Jan	Stejskal	Ekolist.cz	Czech Republic
Jiří	Stonawski	Department of Conservation of Nature	Czech Republic
Jernej	Stritih	Stritih consulting and CIPRA	Slovenia
Pavan	Sukhdev	Green Economy Initiative (UNEP)	UK
Stig-Ake	Svensson	Fulufjället National Park	Sweden
Magnus	Syven	Buro Stroming	Switzerland
Jan	Symon	Sfotto - fotograficke prace	Czech Republic
Gábor Levente	Szilágyi	Hortobágy National Park	Hungary
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Levan	Tabunidze	Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park	Georgia
Ramona	Topić	State Institute for Nature Protection	Croatia
Sarolta	Tripolszky	CEEWEB	Hungary
Josef	Tuček	Centrum Holdings	Czech Republic
Wolfgang	Urban	Hohe Tauern National Park, Salzburg	Austria

Name	Surname	Organisation	Country
Dr. Rauno	Väisänen	Metsähallitus	Finland
Ingrid	Valks	Performance Improvement	Netherlands
Daniel	Vallauri	WWF France	France
Marie	Vallée	ACT Consultants	France
J.	van Bodegraven	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality Nature Department Staff	Netherlands
Johan	van de Gronden	WWF Netherlands	Netherlands
Rijk	van Oostenbrugge	Netherlands Environment Assessment Agency	Netherlands
Lieske	van Santen	Magazine 'New Wildernis'	Netherlands
Vlado	Vancura	PAN Parks Foundation	Slovakia
Jana	Vavrinova	Environment Ministry	Czech Republic
Dr. Peter	Veen	Veen Ecology	Netherlands
Frans	Vera	Forestry Service	Netherlands
Mircea	Verghelet	National Forestry Administration	Romania
Tamás	Visnyovszky	Aggtelek National Park	Hungary
Ondrej	Vitek	Agentura ochrany prírody a krajiny CR	Czech Republic
Libuše	Vlasáková	Ministry of the Environment	Czech Republic
Lila	Vlasalka		Czech Republic
Tomas	Vrska	The Silva Tarouca Research Institute for Landscape and Ornamental Gardening	Czech Republic
Jacqueline A. M.	Wagner	Organisation Elephant's Eye	Netherlands
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documentary materials

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1. Wilderness and large natural habitat areas: definition and background

The chapter is based on a script kindly provided by Professor Wolfgang Schroeder (Center for Life Sciences, Technische Universität München, Germany), and Toby Aykroyd (Director of the Wild Europe initiative which was modified based a consultation with the European Commission and the Czech Presidency.

Importance of Practical Definitions

One of the main reasons for the absence of a coordinated strategy on wilderness and large natural habitat areas in Europe is the lack of a common working definition.

There are many different words for 'wilderness' and 'wild' and it is impossible to adequately promote, protect or restore an area if the qualities one is focusing on remain unclear, or are understood differently according to geographic location, individual perception or local culture.

Equally, if inappropriate definitions are employed, this can itself create an obstacle to achieving conservation objectives. Whilst the words 'wilderness' or 'wild' can evoke strong support in some quarters, they can lead to confusion among traditional conservationists and provoke negative reaction from landholding or farming interests whose resource has produced a well tended landscape which they do not wish to see 'reverting to scrub'.

Wildness in Europe

There are a few parts of Europe where large truly wild or 'wilderness' areas can currently be found in the sense of the IUCN Classification, referring to very substantial regions that are largely untouched by the hand of man. They occur in parts of Finland, Sweden, Norway, Ukraine and Western Russia together with bordering states; there are also elements in Central and Southern Europe. The strategy focus here is on protection of existing heritage.

By contrast smaller wild or nearly wild areas can be said to cover a range of intermediate landscapes – referring to smaller scale and often fragmented areas, where the condition of natural habitat and relevant species is either partially or substantially modified by grazing, forestry, sporting activity or general imprint of human artifact. These areas are scattered across the continent.

Any definition involves a multi-angled consideration of scale, landscape impact, prevalence of natural process, relative lack of intervention management and ability to deliver significant ecological services (most notably in addressing climate change) as well as host a range of wild land related recreational and social activities. It is further determined by subjective opinion: the spirit of wild land that enables solitude, sense of wholeness, belonging, healing, awareness and self-development.

In this latter context, there is also the concept of "urban and neo-urban wildness" where issues of personal perception and values play as much of a role as geography.

Finally, there is the issue of zonation, where identification of core, buffer and transition areas – each with different types and levels of intervention - can assist in articulation of 'wildness' and address the issue of spatial development over time.

The Need for Practical Definition

However, it is important to remain focused on practical objectives, and not get overly enmeshed in academic debate.

Wilderness areas, as defined above, are generally large and hardly modified by human activity. Championed since 1977 by the world Wilderness Congress, international recognition of wilderness as a distinct protected area classification was greatly aided by its inclusion as a specific Category 1(b) protected area in the Framework for Protected Areas (1992), developed by the World Commission on Protected Areas: *A large area of unmodified or slightly modified land, and/or sea, retaining its natural character and influence, without permanent or significant habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural condition.*

In a protected area context, an increasing number of professionals now accept wilderness as a distinct category, requiring specialized management. For practical purposes of landscape planning and nature conservation wilderness is further operationally defined. An operational definition is a clear and understandable description of what is to be observed and measured, such that different people collecting, using and interpreting data will do so consistently.

Wild land, by contrast, refers generally to areas of existing or potential natural habitat, recognizing the desirability of progressing over time through increased stages of naturalness – via restoration of habitat, wildlife and natural processes - and towards natural instead of built infrastructure; attainment of “wilderness” status is the ultimate goal in this process wherever scale, biodiversity needs and geography permit.

Wildness can thus be measured along a ‘continuum’ with wilderness at one end and marginal farmland and forestry at the other.

Why a Practical Definition?

It is important that any definition can be applied in operational circumstances:

- For development of clear policy proposals that can be uniformly applied
- To promote wild land in the context of threats, opportunities as a form of land use
- To enable ready identification of its status and monitoring of its condition
- To calibrate the appropriate mix and level of intervention activity (if any)
- To provide a context for guidelines related to management, protection, restoration

A key guideline for definitional practicality is to refer to ‘generally large natural habitat areas’ with wilderness or wildland predominantly employed as promotional labels.

Origins of the awareness of ‘wilderness’

For most of their evolutionary timescale there was no wilderness for our ancestors. They lived as hunter – gatherers; there was only one kind of environment around them, in which they felt at home, they felt part of it. In the mind of early woman or man the idea of wilderness did not exist.

Change came about roughly 10.000 years ago with the Neolithic Revolution: people began to trans-

form some of their natural surroundings into fields and pastures for domesticated plants and animals. They created islands of civilization in a vast natural environment. Those islands were precious. In hard times nature would reclaim the works of man, would reclaim civilization. For the first time people experienced themselves as distinct from the rest of nature.

Now, with the fence around the fields the area outside became wilderness – a target for human projections: wilderness became synonym of disorderly, dark and threatening. Some wild animals were now seen as wicked and bloodthirsty. Wilderness was not only physically threatening; it was a sinister symbol of the uncontrolled wild in us.

The pioneers stepping off the boat on the American East Coast were re-experiencing the environmental situation of early farmers: with their European idea of civilization in mind they found only “hideous and desolate wilderness”.

Harvard historian David Blackbourn writes about the North German Plain in 1750: “Dark and waterlogged, filled with snaking channels, half hidden by overhanging lianas and navigable only in flat-bottomed boat, these dwelling places of mosquitoes, frogs, fish, wild boar, and wolves would not only have looked, but smelled and sounded quite different from the open landscape of windmills and manicured fields familiar to the twentieth-century Germans.”

Wilderness was there to be tamed, to be conquered. No wonder a negative connotation prevailed up through the Middle Ages and into the 19th century.

Wilderness appreciation

By then much of natural landscape was transformed into civilization. Wilderness was not threatening any more, wilderness itself became threatened. Now emotions and projections began to change. It changed first in the United States, where a sweeping colonisation had changed much of the land in so short a time. By 1924 the first Wilderness Area was protected (Gila Wilderness, New Mexico) and by 1964 the first Wilderness Law was signed by an American president: The US Wilderness Act.

Now wilderness became a place for inspiration, it was awesome. Wilderness recreation became a favourite pastime, and a growing awareness of its wider environmental, social and even economic benefits and their relevance to modern contemporary society has since emerged.

Editor's/Translator's Note

Whilst the above script conveys in English the meaning of appropriate key words with accuracy, it is recognized that translation into other languages and cultures must take account of the need to provide alternatives or explanatory notes where the same words have different meanings.

These words include for example: preservation, conservation, maintenance, restoration.

2. The role of wildlands in halting biodiversity loss

The chapter is based on a script kindly provided by Jeffrey A. McNeely, Chief Scientist, IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), which was modified based a consultation with the European Commission and the Czech Presidency.

Introduction

People have lived in Europe for as long as the land has been exposed. European fossils of our ancestors date from half a million years ago, and populations of *Homo erectus*, *Homo Neanderthalensis*, and *Homo sapiens* ebbed and flowed across the landscapes as the great ice sheets expanded and contracted. If we are seeking wild lands untouched by human feet, we will be searching Europe in vain. In fact, the periglacial areas often were a big game hunter's paradise, packed with large mammals such as woolly mammoths, woolly rhinoceros, cave bears, and so forth. Nor did mountains pose much of a barrier, judging from the mummy of Oetzi the iceman discovered in the Tyrolean Alps a few years ago.

Perhaps even worse, some parts of Europe seem to fear the wild, judging from the reception Bruno the Bear got when he wandered into Bavaria in 2006.

But human populations still ebb and flow, and it is heartening that opportunities may be opening up for a "re-wilding" of at least parts of Europe. After all, wolves and bears still survive in the mountains of Italy, the Pyrenees, Scandinavia and various parts of Central and Eastern Europe. These remnants, or reconstructions, of wilderness are critical in conserving biodiversity.

In many parts of the world, conservationists are working to expand wilderness areas, with some very ambitious schemes being undertaken, such as the Yellowstone to Yukon Corridor, the Meso-American Biodiversity Corridor, the Andean Corridor, the Terai Arc Corridor (which covers some 50,000 km² and supports tigers, elephants, rhinos, gaur, and even six million people) and Australia, where the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative is designed to provide a corridor 2800 kilometres long, running north-south along the Eastern flank of the country, from northern Queensland to the Australian Alps in Victoria.

Wilderness and wildland initiatives in Europe

Building on these global examples, Europe is also developing some significant landscape-level approaches to wilderness. In addition to individual wildland areas reported elsewhere in the conference literature, the connectivity agenda is gathering momentum. The European Green Belt is an ecological network from the Barents to the Black Sea, and Spain, Portugal, France, Andorra and Italy are working together to strengthen the Great Ecological Connectivity Corridor, involving the Cantabrian Range, the Pyrenees, the Massif Central, and the Western Alps. Some are even hoping that the Great Mountain Corridor, already conceived as a 1300-km corridor, can eventually extend into the Carpathian Mountains of Eastern Europe. While linking the Cantabrians to the Alps may seem a little bit of a stretch, a wolf from the Cantabrians was reportedly seen last year in the Pyrenees, close to a pack of wolves that arrived from the French Alps a decade ago, after having crossed the Rhone Valley.

Other more modest transboundary efforts are also notable, such as Bialowieza between Poland and Belarus, the last remaining habitat of the Wisant or European Bison and a World Heritage site. Europe has many other transboundary protected areas, either already functioning or available in potential, for expanding potential wilderness.

Wild area benefits for biodiversity

Judging from the ecological principle that larger areas are able to support more species, linking wild lands together to make extensive protected areas will conserve greater biodiversity than the smaller areas could. They will also enable species to adapt to climate change, by giving them room to move as habitats change along with the climate.

Many other benefits for biodiversity are increasingly cited:

- Higher ratio of core to margins, with less disturbance of inner area
- A larger gene pool for species survival
- Potential to encompass whole ecosystems, including water sources
- Scale enables significant sustainable nature tourism without the same compromise to biodiversity interest that can occur with smaller reserves
- Scale also enables appropriate scale for benefits from addressing climate change to be derived by landholders, local communities etc from prospective funding of ecosystem services: eg from carbon sequestration (carbon credits from energy users, polluters etc), flood mitigation (funding from government agencies, sponsorship from utility and insurance companies), pollution alleviation etc.
- Size can facilitate use of wild land areas for urban social projects (youth development, youth at risk, healthcare) of direct relevance to mainstream political agendas and offering future funding sources from 'social services' from currently small but well established budget holders (Interior Ministries, Health Services, Probationary services)
- The above attributes can enable cost-benefit calculations to promote protection, restoration or general funding of appropriate land use or biodiversity management

Restoration of wildland areas, bringing to bear the above arguments, can enable upgrading and enlargement of existing reserves, with linkage into a network – connecting biodiversity islands, enabling longer distance migration and sharing of gene pools

Addressing supposed conflict between biodiversity and wilderness principles

The issue of conflict between conservation management and principles of wildness should be addressed, since the area of common ground and benefit is much greater than allowed for in the current debate:

- Benefits from wildlands cited above generally outweigh concerns over diminution in richness of biodiversity
- Any concerns that 'wilding' an area previously heavily managed for agricultural grazing or other purposes can be substantially mitigated by extensive management techniques, including grazing: by ungulates, beaver – even semi-feral cattle where relevant
- Allowance can still be made for localized management related to specific species, whilst retaining an overall wildland landscape
- Smaller scale high intensity biodiversity can be balanced out by much larger scale lower intensity

Numerous organizations are working to identify places that are especially important for conserving biodiversity, and many of these are based on wilderness or wild lands that are found in Europe, in whole or in part. These include:

- Sites identified by the Alliance for Zero Extinction;
- Biodiversity Hotspots, identified by Conservation International;
- Key Biodiversity Areas designated by Birdlife International, Conservation International, and Plantlife International;
- High Conservation Value Forests identified by the Forest Stewardship Council;
- Intact Forest Landscapes, identified by Greenpeace and World Resources Institute as forest landscapes larger than 500 km² that are not fragmented by infrastructure;
- Natura 2000 sites, a network of Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation in the European Union;
- Last of the Wild, identified by the Wildlife Conservation Society; and
- The Global 200, identified by WWF as outstanding and representative eco-regions that harbour globally important biodiversity and ecological processes and represent the world's most outstanding examples within each major habitat type.

Impetus behind further re-wilding

So despite the profound human influences that have been felt by much of Europe, considerable enthusiasm for the wild still remains, and it is not difficult in many parts of Europe to get off the beaten path fairly quickly, and take advantage of at least a reasonable facsimile of the wild Europe that was home to our ancestors and whose biodiversity remains an important part of the cultural heritage of Europe's diverse peoples.

Land use in Europe is dynamic, with many areas once devoted to agriculture now being abandoned, especially as young people move to cities, more technology is applied to high-productivity lands, and areas of marginal agriculture often mimic nature. All of this facilitates a sort of "re-wilding" of at least certain parts of Europe. In Eastern Europe, especially, much farmland has been abandoned in recent years in recent years, especially in the Carpathian Mountains. Unfortunately, this abandonment of agriculture was compensated by increased harvesting of older forests, leading to forest fragmentation.

Geographical information systems (GIS) offer an important tool for promoting wild lands in Europe, both to promote the establishment of wild land corridors and to monitor land-use changes that may be impinging upon remaining wild lands. A Europe-wide monitoring system for biodiversity would be an extremely useful means of coordinating the disparate national biodiversity conservation efforts, thereby helping to promote conservation of biodiversity. The Natura2000 network provides a solid foundation upon which to build a wild lands network throughout Europe, and the establishment of such a network should be part of a 2020 biodiversity strategy throughout Europe. Remote sensing can enable wild areas, or areas with the potential to return to a wild status, to be identified and monitored at relatively modest cost.

The main challenges ahead

Three major challenges facing wild lands in Europe are now being reasonably well addressed by governments, though often without sufficient links to wild lands. These include:

- **Climate change.** While governments are investing billions of Euros in addressing climate change, the link between climate change and biodiversity is given insufficient attention. The impacts of climate change will be felt by humans primarily through impacts on ecosystems, forcing changes in land use and changing distributions of species of plants and animals. Incorporating wild lands, ecosystems, and biodiversity into climate change discussions will help ensure that Europe is able to both meet its treaty objectives and adapt to any climate change that may nonetheless occur.
- **Global trade.** This is not the place to discuss the full ramifications of global trade, but in terms of wild lands, a specific element needs to be addressed with much greater energy: the expansion of the impact of invasive alien species. The wild lands of Europe should support native European species and, to the extent possible, exclude non-native species. This may be too late for some wild lands that have been so successfully invaded that it has become difficult to distinguish native from non-native species. But even so, the success in preventing the spread of non-native harmful species, commonly known as “invasive alien species”, has demonstrated that the results are well worth the investment.
- **Restoring species and habitats.** Experience from many parts of the world, including East Europe, have shown that habitats can quickly recover their ecosystem functions once human impacts are reduced. But in other cases, it may be necessary to give nature a boost, for example by re-introducing species into their historical range (for example, beavers in Scotland and restoring peatlands and economically managed forests in Finland). Restoration will also involve political and social decisions, as some areas of apparent wilderness are in fact domestic habitats, such as the grouse moors of Scotland. Returning the grouse moors to the native forests that once covered much of Scotland is a highly controversial topic and will require sensitive handling. But incorporating wilderness values into the discussion may provide a basis for productive dialogue.

Yet another challenge should be added here, namely the importance to the rest of the world for Europe to reduce its global ecological footprint. Europe’s impact on wild lands throughout the tropics has significant implications for conservation in those countries. Therefore, as Europe develops a strategy for conserving biodiversity in the coming decade, a “foreign policy for biodiversity” should be included, and this element should incorporate wild land issues, drawing from the experience of Europe and expressing willingness to exchange expertise and experience with other countries. The prospects for wilderness will be greatly enhanced if wilderness is broadly accepted as a global value.

3. Key Aspects and Benefits of Management Practice

The chapter is based on a) inputs from Vlado Vancura (Conservation Manager, PAN Parks Foundation) and b) outcomes of a workshop organised by Europarc Federation in Srni, Sumava National Park on January 2009. The document was modified based a consultation with the European Commission and the Czech Presidency.

Context

This paper forms a discussion preamble to work to be done in the conference on compilation of a Compendium of Best Management Practice: including definition, rationale, content and application.

Background

Some of the best practice models have proven that visionary objectives concerning wilderness conservation have become a successful reality. There is potential as well as a wish to have more wilderness areas in Europe. Managers of protected areas have to pay heed to social and political demands when these crop up.

According to statistics, International Union Conservation of Nature, (IUCN) category Ia and Ib (relevant categories for wilderness) areas represent a maximum 1.7% and 4% respectively of total land in Europe. In comparison to the global percentage IUCN of (category Ia and Ib) – 23.4% and 12.7% respectively, this has shown us that the European figures are very low, even when account is taken of the high population density on the European continent.

Wilderness areas in Europe are thus rare, but together with wildland areas not as rare as many people think. Not only IUCN statistics, but also practical experience prove that they are scattered throughout Europe. There are only a few European countries completely without wilderness or wildland areas. We have to just learn to identify and appreciate them.

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Why a Wild and Wilderness Area Management?

It is important that any management model can be applied in operational circumstances:

- To provide a context for guidelines related to management, protection, restoration
- To clarify the relevance of wild and wilderness areas to Natura 2000
- To learn lessons from past experience and implemented management models
- To promote and provide support to management, protection, restoration

There are only a few parts of Europe where large truly wild or 'wilderness' areas can currently be found, yet there is a growing desire to create new areas of protection: maybe not "truly" wild and wilderness areas but at least to put wilderness in the main objective.

Recording and disseminating lessons learned from existing wild and wilderness area is therefore crucial.

Non Intervention Management as a Management Technique

Non intervention management is at present considered by a relatively small number of wild and wilderness area managers as the fundamental management tool, although the deeply rooted traditional practice of active management measures in every corner of the European continent at the moment makes implementation of the technique very difficult.

However, growing knowledge and usage of non intervention management, proves the feasibility and effectiveness of this approach. The challenge of this ongoing discussion regarding management techniques is for it to get wider support and understanding, particularly with respect to issues of biodiversity richness and ecosystem dynamics. Experience has proven that non intervention management is not only a legitimate approach, but it is also cheaper, to manage protected areas where the main objectives are ecosystem dynamics and wilderness.

Restoration as Practical Tool of Wilderness Management

Following IUCN policy, protected area category (and so wilderness) is applied primarily with respect to management objectives, it relates to the *aims* of management rather than the current *status*, so that several categories can be subject to wilderness restoration. However, in practice, active restoration is usually not suitable for every wild and wilderness area. For example, wilderness restoration is not usually appropriate for an area that will require indefinite active management interventions to maintain certain specifically defined biodiversity values.

In some situations, restoration in a wild and wilderness area can be a time-limited intervention to undo past damage while, in others, changes have been so profound that continued, long-term intervention will be needed: this is often true if some ecological components, such as important species, have disappeared. Some ongoing intervention such as control of invasive species and prescribed burning in certain habitats and conditions, may be necessary.

Rewilding Through Natural Process

Rewilding cannot only be considered as a threat but also has a huge opportunity, depending on perspective. See it as a threat if we want to protect the particular (present, frozen) succession stage, or opportunity, if we want to learn from the cycle of natural process to run the ecosystem.

What do we intend to do – do we fight to keep the present state universally unchanged, or do we want to secure at least a few protected areas in self-regulation mode? The question is whether we really want wild areas and if so, under which conditions.

Benefits and Challenges

There are more benefits than limits and obstacles from wilderness non intervention management.

Main benefits

a) Ecological values

- For millions of years, nature has developed independently from human influence, and exists today without being managed. Dynamic processes including evolutionary processes are constantly at work in natural ecosystems – and should be considered as a legitimate and important aspect of biodiversity in any conservation programme.
- Protected areas and Natura 2000 sites sufficient in size with non-intervention management, provide significantly improved habitat quality and living conditions for species depending on undisturbed dynamic processes (e. g. as found in all primary forest habitats in Central Europe) and therefore provide a decisive contribution to saving biodiversity.
- Non-intervention (passive) management including natural disturbances (e. g. high winds,

mass increase of insects, avalanches, wild fires) can be quite successful in restoring natural forest dynamics and meeting biodiversity conservation objectives.

- In the frame of a zoning system or management-plan guidelines, active management accelerates the development of forest structural diversity and other old-growth conditions which sometimes are needed to rescue declining populations of species that depend on such structures.
- A network of smaller strict protected forest reserves without extractive use can help safeguard the protection of Natura 2000 target species outside large protected areas, e.g. national parks.
- Protected areas and Natura 2000 sites with a non-intervention approach provide excellent reference areas for natural habitats and assessment of the consequences of climate change. They represent open air laboratories for natural dynamics.
- Non-intervention management in protected areas and Natura 2000 sites reduces the export of nutrients out of the ecosystems. Research-programs in unmanaged forests in the Czech Republic and the Black Forest show, that even after old spruce stands die-off after bark beetle infestation, the essential base cations for plant nutrition, which are mostly agglomerated in dead wood in this poor acidic soils, remain in the ecosystem. In contrast, forestry measures including the removal of bark beetle infested wood mean a loss of essential plant nutrients to the ecosystem and therefore in the long run affects the natural life-cycle in an unsustainable way.

b) Social and economic values

- Protected areas and Natura 2000 sites with non-intervention management (equivalent to wilderness areas) are a key ingredient in the sustainable livelihoods of local communities through a range of ecosystem services, for example, erosion control, reliable supplies of fresh water and clean air. And perhaps most importantly, they provide more widely important ecosystem services - such as carbon sequestration and flood mitigation for downstream areas - that benefit all of mankind.
- Protected areas and Natura 2000 sites with non-intervention management (equivalent to wilderness areas) are places highly appreciated for basic recreation, well-being, refuges to escape the stress of modern civilization and places where one can thrill and challenge to the meeting of wild nature on its own terms. They provide excellent opportunity for experiencing spiritual renewal.

c) Iconic values

- Protected areas and Natura 2000 sites with non-intervention management (equivalent to wilderness areas) account for the most biologically intact, undisturbed, wild, natural and beautiful landscapes left on earth - those last truly wild places that humans do not control and have not developed with roads or other industrial infrastructure. In recognition of this special significance, many areas with wilderness qualities are awarded special status - not only at a local or national level as protected areas, but also internationally, such as through UNESCO World Heritage status, European Diploma or through PAN Parks and Transboundary Park. These labels provide international reputation, enabling better connection and credibility with stakeholders – including tourists who can bring much needed income and employment.

Challenges

a) Ecological aspects

- A non-intervention approach will focus mainly on ecosystems and large areas with the capacity for self-restoration. Such areas are likely to contain within them the diversity and dynamics to maintain a full range of habitat conditions. Non-intervention management however is not compatible with every type of Natura 2000 site, especially secondary habitats or small and fragmented areas.. It can also cause conflicts with the conservation of species of outstanding national or international value which may now be linked to a particular management activity. It is necessary to balance and integrate the concepts. Such a balancing act can be established on a large geographical scale, such as within bio geographical regions where anthropogenic effects permit..
- Non-intervention is not possible in all cases and at all times. In areas with a strong human impact it is necessary to remove any trace of impact or at least to initiate a reversal process, before non-intervention management starts.
- Invasive (alien) species may threaten the natural protection goods (species and habitats) and disturb the natural process by driving out original species. Therefore non-native species are unwelcome in protected areas and Natura 2000 sites. Measures to eradicate them should be looked at (case by case) and the positive and negative effects must be carefully considered.
- b) Social and political aspects
 - Many local people are still wedded to the concepts of traditional management and a well-kept landscape.. In the absence of appropriate information, they lack the experience and understanding of wilderness to understand relatively scientific issues such as state versus processes. For that reason public perception of large disturbances from wind, bark beetle or fire is affected negatively.
 - In many EU member states national laws and regulations (e.g. forest laws) competing and overruling nature protection laws and Natura 2000 guidelines enforce the cutting of any deadwood in forests, hence the non alignment of the non-intervention management approach.

Conclusion

There is no need to create a new category of Protected Areas of non intervention wilderness. But there is a need to aim at:

- clarifying the terms used in accordance with wilderness: non-intervention management, passive management, non-extractive use, 'let nature be nature'.
- creating basic principles and criteria for new wilderness,
- finding an agreement on the main management objectives in the wilderness areas including allowed uses,
- setting a framework for further development of the European wilderness initiative,
- requesting EU member states to adapt national laws (e.g. Forest laws) and regulations in order not to compete with Natura 2000 demands and wilderness preservation requirements

Addressing conflict issues

There should in theory be a basis of harmony between Natura 2000, biodiversity conservation and the principle of non-intervention management, since biodiversity conservation also includes the

protection of natural processes.

There might be a dilemma between species conservation and a particular wilderness concept at a given site. It is necessary to find a balance between both concepts and to integrate them. Such a balance can be established only at a large geographical scale, such as within bio geographical regions. Many of the relevant balancing issues can be found in Paper 2 for the conference 'Halting Biodiversity Loss' on page 2 under heading 'wild area benefits for biodiversity'.

So far as any prospective conflicts with forestry are concerned, there is need for closer correlation to identify common ground, particularly where a joint approach on tourism and ecosystem benefits can be relevant, and identify where joint planning can mitigate fears of spread of birch bark beetle or fire from protected areas to adjacent commercial plantations.

Expert Task Group

There is a need to have an expert task group to develop basic principles and criteria for the implementation of the wilderness concept in Europe.

4. Maps and information for wilderness and wildland areas in Europe

The chapter is based on a script kindly provided by Dr. Steve Carver (Wildland Research Institute, University of Leeds, UK), which was modified based a consultation with the European Commission and the Czech Presidency.

This Chapter will be provided on the conference website due to the large size of pictures and maps

5. Proposal for a European Wilderness Register

The chapter is based on a script kindly provided by the Wild Europe Team, which was modified based a consultation with the European Commission and the Czech Presidency.

Background

Compact, un-fragmented and well-managed wild, wilderness and non intervention areas are very rare in Europe. Actually there are only a few parts of Europe where large truly wild or 'wilderness' areas can currently be found in the sense of the IUCN Classification which is referring to regions largely untouched by the hand of man. In contrast, smaller wild, wilderness and non intervention areas are scattered across the continent. Several wild and wilderness areas are already well known e.g. Swiss NP, Switzerland or Fulufjället NP, Sweden. Many others, in particularly smaller areas and or parks, are unknown. European Wilderness Register should change this.

What is the European Wilderness Register?

The European Wilderness Register is a list of European wilderness areas of a high quality and standard as described in IUCN category Ia and Ib.

The concept of European Wilderness Register was developed to:

- give precision to IUCN statistics
- support protection of wild and wilderness areas
- contribute to inventory of European wilderness
- link managers of European wild and wilderness areas

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Why do we need the European Wilderness Register

Systematic wilderness conservation in Europe is a relatively new issue. We need to know where in Europe these areas are distributed if we want to manage wild and wilderness areas more effectively.

Existing wild and wilderness area of are not only unique remnants of European wilderness heritage but they provide an exceptional opportunity to learn how to design and plan wilderness restoration projects.

What is it all about?

According to IUCN statistics, category Ia and Ib (relevant categories for wild and wilderness areas) represents in Europe 1.7% and 4% respectively (see table 1 below). Interpreting this statistic equates to the fact that wild and wilderness areas in Europe areas are rare but not as rare as would many people think.

However, practical experience proves that these figures don't reflect reality. Many areas included in the statistics do not meet wilderness quality standard as described in IUCN category Ia and Ib and there are many wild and wilderness areas not registered in the statistics - usually hidden as a core zone in protected areas IUCN category II and V. Without highlighting these hidden wild and wilderness areas they are threatened by encroaching active management measures often focusing on the protection of a single species or particular succession stage of ecosystem.

World Database on Protected Areas and European Wilderness Register

The World Database on Protected Areas is a foundation dataset for conservation decision making. It contains crucial information from national governments, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, international biodiversity conventions and many others. It is used for ecological gap analysis, environmental impact analysis and is increasingly used for private sector decision-making.

The European Wilderness Register should become an integral part of the World Database on Protected Areas (e.g. used as one of the additional [advanced search tool](#)). This information will assist all stakeholders and countries throughout Europe.

How to become registered in the European Wilderness Register

Registration in the European Wilderness Register shall be voluntary but it will require confirmation of the register administrator.

Critical Elements of European Wilderness Register

Information provided by the European Wilderness Register will be an important factor in conservation decision-making. Therefore validity and accuracy of the data should be as precise as possible.

The critical elements:

- Clear definition of European wild or wilderness areas - what distinguish these areas from others protected areas (or zones). The guidelines for this kind of definition can provide knowledge and experience which IUCN can utilise. See graph below
- consistent interpretation agreed definition
- careful verification of available data

6. An Overview of Wilderness and Wildland Law

The chapter is based on a script kindly provided by Kees Bastmeijer which was modified based a consultation with the European Commission and the Czech Presidency.

1. Increasing Pressure on Europe's Biodiversity: Central Role of the Natura 2000 Regime

Particularly during the last few centuries, an increasing percentage of Europe's land surface has been influenced by mankind. This process in 2009 is still continuing and in many parts of Europe natural areas have become 'green islands' in a man made landscape. This has resulted in a decrease of Europe's biological diversity and untouched nature.

In response to these developments nature protection has become the subject of comprehensive law and policy developments at the international, European and domestic level. The European Bird Directive (1979) and Habitat Directive (1992) are of crucial importance for biodiversity conservation in Europe. The directives are central instruments for the implementation of international nature protection conventions within the EU (The Bern Convention, Bonn Convention, Ramsar Convention) and to ensure a high level of legal protection of important natural areas throughout the European Union.

This paper discusses wilderness protection in Europe from a legal perspective. Section 2 introduces the concept of wilderness in a European context and the relationship between this concept and the Natura 2000 regime. Section 3 provides an overview of existing domestic wilderness legislation in Europe and discusses briefly the various ways in which wilderness protection receives attention in law. Section 4 discusses possible ways forward and particularly existing opportunities for ensuring that wilderness protection in Europe can operate effectively within the Natura 2000 structure.

2. Relationship between Natura 2000 and Wilderness Protection

Relevance of the Wilderness Concept for Europe

Particularly during the last centuries, the number of big natural areas in this world that are free from human made objects (e.g., buildings, roads, wind turbines), artefacts and disturbance (e.g., intensive use of motorised vehicles) – areas that may be referred to as 'wilderness areas' - has decreased substantially. Increasing scarcity of resources, such as mineral resources, wood, and space for recreation, in combination with other developments (e.g., new technological opportunities for exploitation) result in increasing human activities in the wilderness areas that are left. This development has received substantial attention in other parts of the world, particularly North America and Australia, but there are good reasons for a European wilderness debate as well. Europe there has big natural areas with relatively little human influence, such as Svalbard, northern parts of Scandinavia, the highlands of Iceland, mountain areas in Southern Europe and forest areas in Central and Eastern Europe. Furthermore, 'wilderness protection' may also have relevance in respect to other European regions, even for Western European countries, particularly if restoration of wilderness is acknowledged as a desirable approach (see the separate document on defining wilderness).

Many of these wilderness areas are important for biodiversity conservation (see below), but they may also represent important social and economic values. In the literature of North America, these values have been studied and identified in more detail. Wilderness is considered important as a place to experience solitude, as 'homeland' for indigenous people, as reference areas for scientific research, etc. Research indicates that these values are also relevant for Europe. In fact, the scarcity of wilderness in Europe may make these values even more important (see the separate document on benefits of wilderness).

Natura 2000 and Wilderness Protection

The European Bird Directive and Habitat Directive obliges the EU Member States to select and designate these important areas and these joint efforts should result in the establishment of the 'Natura 2000' network. Criteria for designating the areas relate to the importance of these areas for certain specific species of plants and animals and habitat types, all listed in annexes to the Directives. Article 6 of the Habitat Directive, which regime applies to all Natura 2000 areas, establishes a strict system of protection that also embodies the precautionary principle. Member States are making much effort to ensure an adequate implementation of this important regime. Many areas have been designated or are in the process of being designated and in certain Member States management plans are being developed, often in close cooperation with 'stakeholders'. For the purposes of the directive – halting biodiversity loss in Europe – the importance of this implementation process is evident.

It is clear that wilderness protection and biodiversity conservation may well go hand in hand. For instance, for the conservation and/or recovery of the populations of large mammals (e.g., wolves, bears) the protection of large undisturbed areas appear is important. Many of the 'distinguishing features' of wilderness identified by the IUCN will also have typical characteristics of the natural environment best suited for such large land mammals. Furthermore, increased attention for adaptation of protected area systems in light of climate change strengthens the interrelationship between biodiversity and wilderness protection. For instance, the protection of large natural areas and/or the improvement of interconnectivity of protected areas become more important, particularly to adapt to changing weather patterns and to enable animals to migrate in view of the shift of the 'climate space' of such species due to changing temperatures.

However, wilderness protection in itself is not a clear and explicit objective of most international nature protection conventions and the EC Directives. For two reasons the Natura 2000 regime does not automatically protect wilderness areas and/or wilderness qualities:

- Wilderness qualities are not among the selection criteria for Natura 2000 areas.
- If wilderness areas do receive the Natura 2000 status, the question is whether the scope of legal protection includes the wilderness qualities of the areas. When designating a Natura 2000 site, the Member State must formulate conservation objectives. In assessing the acceptability of human activities (existing activities as well as new plans and projects) the main question is whether these activities (taking into account possible cumulative impacts) may hamper the realisation of the conservation objectives. If these objectives are only related to the conservation of specific species and habitat types, this may have a narrowing effect on nature protection law. In such a situation a competent authority could conclude that (in a specific case) a particular activity does not cause significant effects in terms of the Natura 2000 regime (and therefore may proceed), while the 'wilderness' qualities of the area (e.g., untouched character, absence of human made objects and infrastructure, etc.) would clearly be affected.

This raises the question whether wilderness protection could receive more explicit attention within the Natura 2000 framework. Before discussing this question briefly in the last section of this paper, it appears worthwhile to have a look at existing wilderness laws in Europe.

3. Wilderness Law in Europe

Examples of wilderness legislation in Europe

In comparison to the international nature protection agreements, wilderness protection has received more attention at domestic law level. Various countries have developed legislation that aims or en-

ables the protection of wilderness. A recent publication, edited by Cyril Kormos, provides a valuable overview of this domestic wilderness legislation from different parts of the world. Based on this publication and further research, the following European domestic legislation with explicit attention for wilderness protection may be identified – albeit some of the legislation below permits multiple land use including timber extraction in some ‘wilderness’ areas (eg Finland) if undertaken by indigenous peoples:

- Finnish Act on Wilderness Reserves of 1991;
- Iceland’s Nature Conservation Act of 1999;
- Norwegian’s Svalbard Environmental Protection Act 2001;
- Russian’s Law on Specially Protected Natural Areas of 1995 (particularly the category of *zapovedniks*;

Most of these laws provide governments the option or obligation to identify and designate areas that qualify as wilderness, often based on a definition included in the legislation. Furthermore, the relevant legislation establishes a legal regime to prohibit or regulate human activities in and near the protected areas to protect the particular ‘wilderness qualities’ of those areas. It should be noted that also in other European countries wilderness areas may receive protection, for instance, under broader nature protection legislation, through spatial planning law or private initiatives. Italy is one of the examples.

Discussions on wilderness legislation often focuses on the designation of wilderness areas as protected areas. Also the IUCN Guidelines 2008 relate to wilderness areas as a category of protected areas (category Ib)). However, some of the mentioned domestic laws also aim to protect wilderness qualities outside designated and formally protected wilderness areas, for instance, through prohibitions of certain specific activities. An example is Article 17 of Iceland’s Nature Conservation Act of 1999, which contains a general prohibition of off-road driving with motorised vehicles for the whole territory of Iceland.

Furthermore, wilderness protection may also receive attention through environmental impact assessment (EIA) legislation. Again, Iceland provides an interesting example: In assessing the need to conduct an EIA for activities, Annex 3 of Iceland’s Environmental Impact Assessment Act of 2000 states that “the absorption capacity of the natural environment” should be taken into account and in making this assessment, particular attention must be taken of “(e) whole landscape areas, untouched wilderness, highland areas and glaciers.”

Wilderness law does not exclude humans from nature

It has often been stated that implementing Natura 2000 is not only about nature protection, but also about finding the right balance between social values and economic interests. It should be stressed that also wilderness protection does not exclude humans from nature. International literature makes it clear, that today, wilderness protection has ecological as well as social and economic dimensions. For instance, it is broadly accepted that wilderness protection and respect for the rights and interests of indigenous people should go hand in hand and that indigenous people may play a vital role in protecting wilderness areas around the world. The practice of implementation under certain wilderness acts also show that governments and indigenous people groups are cooperating in order to find a balance between wilderness protection and indigenous people’s rights. An example outside Europe is the agreement between the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Labrador Inuit Association, regarding the designation of ‘Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve’, a mountainous area of 10,000 km² in the North of Labrador.

Another component of the social dimension of wilderness relates to the recreational value of wilderness for people. Many domestic wilderness acts provide space for the conduct of recreational activities in wilderness areas, although restrictions may apply in respect of the types of activities that are allowed. With an increasing demand for 'wilderness tourism', these social values are becoming important sources of income for local communities in and near wilderness areas in Europe. With adequate legislation, management and supervision, it is possible to find the right balance between all these values and interests.

Conclusions on application of law

It should be noted that there is no willingness to enact new legislation within the EU, rather to rely on existing provisions – interpretation, guidance, enforcement is the way forward. Equally vital is to provide greater scope for positive influence through incentives to protect and restore together with appropriate awareness raising and education on benefits and values.

The next step in any assessment would be to overview existing legislation at all levels throughout Europe (both EU and non EU), identifying gaps in legislative protection and its enforcement in practice and recommending how these could best be addressed

7. A Checklist of Wilderness Benefits Identification, Valuation and Usage

The chapter is based on a script kindly provided by the Wild Europe team

Identifying benefits of wilderness and wildland areas

As well as containing an irreplaceable natural heritage for Europe's biodiversity and landscapes, wild areas can offer substantial economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits – for local communities, landholders and society in general, particularly in remoter rural areas where alternative sources of income and employment are scarce.

Nature tourism already contributes substantially to many local economies, and a range of newer ventures associated with such areas is emerging - many of which address important inner urban issues such as youth at risk, rehabilitation and healthcare.

There is also a growing recognition that larger natural areas provide further essential environmental services to society, such as carbon sequestration, flood mitigation, alleviation of soil and water pollution and biodiversity conservation – all of which are important benefits in tackling the issue of climate change.

Economic Benefits:

1. **Direct income and employment generation** – in contrast with likely diminution in subsidy for traditional farming in more marginal, particularly upland, areas.
2. **Interest in eco-tourism and other tertiary activities** - including agri-tourism (model farms), cultural and historic tourism, specialist sporting, corporate incentive and leisure fields. There is substantial scope for marketing joint packages, enhancing existing regional attractions.
3. **Ancillary local commercial activities provide additional income:** accommodation, retail, transport, distribution and craft businesses – generating a “multiplier effect” whereby wealth generated is recycled around the local economy.
4. **Use of “Wild” and related brands and logos** in marketing promotions for local and regional agricultural produce, and other goods and services.
5. **Possible increases in land values** of properties within and alongside natural habitat wildland areas, although this can create problems for local communities requiring special address.
6. **Evidence of taxpayers ascribing substantial value to species in wild areas** when questioned about allocation of their incremental levies between alternative uses. This can be used in representations to secure funding for protection or restoration.

Social Benefits:

1. **Income and employment gains**, particularly in more remote areas, could provide opportunity to stem the decline of rural communities and bring support to local landholders.
2. **Opportunity for sustainable development** within local communities that can also help

articulate and maintain traditional culture and lifestyles.

3. **An effective location for youth development, youth at risk and conflict resolution initiatives**, offering substantial benefit to participants from all backgrounds - particularly inner city areas.
4. **Use of wild areas for physiological, recuperation and trauma therapy** is also increasingly recognized as a cost-effective form of healthcare.
5. **Wildland as a backdrop for corporate activities** involving negotiation, training and team-building by participants from business and other organizations.
6. **Opportunity to accommodate a range of school and adult education programmes** – thus reinforcing the role of conservation and sustainable development in school curricula.
7. **Recreational and spiritual benefits** of being amid landscape-scale wild nature are no less important for being difficult to quantify.

Environmental Benefits:

1. **Enrichment of biodiversity** by providing large scale habitat and enabling eco-systems to function on an integrated basis
2. **Opportunity for species to adapt and migrate** in response to climate change
3. **Substantial potential for carbon sequestration** through large scale restoration of woodland and marsh
4. **Flood mitigation and water storage.** Growing recognition that investment in restoration of natural habitat in water catchment areas and lowland “sink areas” can bring commercial returns in the form of downstream flood mitigation and balancing of water tables in areas of more erratic rainfall.
5. **Enhanced water and soil quality**, mitigating impact of pollution and improving productivity of fisheries
6. **Scope for developing sea defence alignments** with rising sea levels, involving managed coastal retreat and creation of new coastal wildland areas, for which there are also strong economic arguments.

Utilising the Benefits of Wild Areas

There is substantial opportunity to assess and disseminate best practice for translating the identified benefits from wild lands into specific light impact ventures – the aim being to maximize their worth for local communities, landholders and other relevant parties.

Careful attention should be paid to ensure an appropriate balance between benefit-related activities and the need for strict maintenance of “wildland” principles and negligible disturbance for wildlife. For example, only those activities with negligible environmental impact would be suitable in core wilderness areas, whilst a broader range of undertakings could apply to land undergoing substantial restoration.

Relevant sectors for utilizing benefits:

- Nature tourism

- Combined packages (agri-tourism, culture, history)
- Recreational, general sporting
- Specialist sporting
- Corporate events, training, incentives and relationship building
- Healthcare, physiology, eco/psychology
- Youth development
- Youth at risk
- Reconciliation and conflict mitigation
- Education (child, adult), research
- Ancillary activities (accommodation, retail, transport, distribution, handicraft and general production).
- Branding & logo opportunities – specific goods and services, “umbrella effect”

The following assessments can be applied to the above sectors:

- a) Identification and quantification of specific business and/or general opportunities
- b) Analysis of how best to develop ‘markets’ especially for newer opportunities (eg social, probationary, healthcare)
- c) Overview of best practice for development of specific initiatives or ventures: whether private sector, community, NGO and public or local authority

Assessing requirements for venture support

Where relevant, in order to help local communities and landholders secure maximum worth from wilderness benefits, it is important to identify areas of advice, training and other forms of support required for successful establishment and management of appropriate initiatives:

- 1.1 Identify support requirements for start-up businesses/activities
- 1.2 Identify support requirements for established businesses/activities
- 1.3 Tailor to enterprise type: private, community, NGO, public/local authority
- 1.4 Identify best practice in key support areas: enterprise planning, marketing, accounting, law, logistics, property issues, fund-raising
- 1.5 Assess sources of training and funding for capacity building, by type and country
- 1.6 Propose appropriate monitoring and measurement systems
- 1.7 Ensure maximum benefit for local communities from business and related activities.

The above approach mainly applies to utilization of economic and social benefits.

However, it is also feasible to collate and implement best practice in identification and usage of ecosystem services –eg:

- Linking carbon markets to landowner ecosystem services – ensuring appropriate compensation for existing landholders, or sufficient funding for buy-outs of land where restoration of natural wild land vegetation (woodland or marshland) has an appreciable impact on carbon sequestration.
- Engaging utility & insurance funding in flood mitigation – through quantifying the savings that upstream watershed habitat creation with lowland habitat sinks can produce through slowing and diminishing the volume and variance in discharge and thus enabling downstream savings in flood insurance and capital expenditure on flood defences.
- Similarly, through pollution mitigation effects reducing downstream water treatment costs.

Valuing the Benefits of Wild Areas

Many elements of wilderness and wild lands, including their intrinsic spiritual, landscape and biodiversity values, are literally priceless. The quantification approach is thus intended to supplement and not supplant traditional approaches to assessment of wildland.

However it is increasingly feasible and useful to quantify the benefits of wilderness, wildlands and large natural habitat areas, both in monetary terms and for wider societal gain.

It is important to value and quantify the benefits of wildland and wilderness:

- As a cost:benefit argument against threats and alternative land uses
- To advance the case for land purchase for restoration or protection
- For policy formulation, particularly in competition with other sectors
- Fund raising and development of incentives
- Promoting the worth of wild areas to politicians, media, landholders etc

Quantifying the benefits - methodology:

1. Valuation of direct benefits

- Income flows, cost savings, employment creation
- Additional benefits from ancillary activities (accommodation and branding opportunities, possible increases in land values. Assess the multiplier effect.
- Use sensitivity analysis to factor in alternative assumptions about subsidy levels, income and employment potential from benefits etc

2. Valuation of indirect benefits

- Social benefits of wild areas: eg youth at risk – costs saved through reduced re-offence rates or non-custodial sentencing; remedial or palliative healthcare – eg less working days lost from stress or; shorter and thus cheaper psychotherapy courses
- Environmental benefits – eg flood mitigation: examples of savings in downstream capital

expenditure, running costs and insurance claims as the result of natural habitat restoration in catchment areas and lowland flood sinks reducing run-off variability or pollution

3. Opportunity for use of econometric measures

- Contingent Valuation and Willingness to Pay (WTP) methods can help assess the value of landscape and species conservation benefits as quantified by consumer, taxpayer and general public surveys.

4. Review the overall cost-benefit of restoration:

- Assessment of the aggregate “net value”. Take into account value, income, employment and costs - including direct land cost, opportunity cost, restoration costs (through natural and assisted regeneration).
- Comparison of cost:benefits – as against alternative land use: both current and projected under alternative scenarios. Factor in the subsidy issue and the future impact of CAP and WTO, forestry markets, cost/benefits of existing land uses etc.
- Draw conclusions on the quantifiable rationale for protecting or restoring a wild area
- The same process could in theory be applied to protection, but here ‘non economic’ issues are usually of overwhelming importance and valuation techniques can be a distraction

8. A study of the social benefits of wildlands for youth at risk, healthcare and conflict resolution

The chapter is based on a script kindly provided by Jo Roberts (CEO, The Wilderness Foundation UK), which was modified based a consultation with the European Commission and the Czech Presidency.

Introduction

With wild landscapes under increasing threat, there is a growing opportunity to underwrite protection policies by demonstrating the multifunctional use of such areas, including evidence of how wilderness and natural habitats can deliver sound social benefits and aid health and well being.

For many years wilderness experiences have been anecdotally and qualitatively recognised as being beneficial for personal and social skills development. This has led to therapeutic interventions for a variety of client groups which are based on facilitated wilderness experience, including wilderness therapy, outdoor behavioural therapy and adventure therapy.

The rationale behind wilderness benefits

Reasons for positive physical and psychological impacts can be explained in part by the Biophilia Hypothesis of EO Wilson of Harvard University (1), an evolutionary theory that explains humanity having a deep affinity to nature, linked to 99% of our evolutionary traits. The hypothesis proclaims a human dependence on nature that extends far beyond the simple issues of material and physical sustenance to encompass also the human craving for aesthetic, intellectual, cognitive, and even spiritual meaning and satisfaction. There are a number of challenging assertions. Among these is the suggestion that the human inclination to affiliate with life and lifelike process is:

- Inherent (biologically based) and part of our specie's evolutionary heritage.
- Associated with human competitive advantage and genetic fitness.
- Likely to increase the possibility for achieving individual meaning and personal fulfillment.
- The self-interested basis for a human ethic of care and conservation of nature, most especially the diversity of life. (1)

The Wilderness Foundation UK is an environmental education and conservation charity that has for many years been highlighting the social benefits of wildlands/wilderness to enhance understanding of the importance of its ongoing protection.

In conjunction with the Universities of Essex and Ulster, we have been quantifiably monitoring and evaluating factors on psychological health such as mood change, self esteem and behavioural change in adolescents and adults, and the impact of wilderness experience on the reconciliation process between former political adversaries in Northern Ireland.

In addition, a key literature review by the Foundation, in association with University of Essex, of six countries' known use of wilderness therapy has explored social and mental health outcomes directly linked to wilderness experience. (4) Outcomes for participants resulting from wilderness experiences as reported in the studies reviewed in this research, include those relating to : health and a sense of self, behaviour change, connection to nature, family and social aspects, educational aspects, spiritual aspects, cultural aspects and economic aspects. (p18, 3). Quantitative studes reported changes in participant health (86%) and behaviour (42%); qualitative studies saw changes in health (70%), connection to nature (65%) and social changes (56%). (p18,3)

Assessing the benefits of wilderness

Benefits arising fall into three main categories: healthcare, youth at risk and conflict resolution.

Healthcare

Health benefits as a result of contact with wild nature include reduced stress levels, improved mood, enhanced psychological wellbeing and improved attention and concentration (2). Natural places facilitate stress recovery, encourage exercise participation (3), stimulate development in children and provide opportunities for personal growth and a sense of purpose in adults.

Low levels of physical activity are linked to increased urbanisation and this is estimated to cost the British National Health Service about 2-3% of its total budget (Department of Environment 1993). (4)

Studies in Australia argue that by working in wild environments a socio-ecological approach to health can be developed. This approach encompasses all elements within human health (ie biological, mental, social, environmental, spiritual and economic) and takes into account broad ranging health determinants. (5) Perceptions of health have evolved to include a broader range of influencing factors and determinants than the actual health or ill health of the individual. This has been seen as critical in working with young people with substance abuse or behavioural issues.

The growing disconnection of people to wild nature is highlighted in a series of studies and books such as Richard Louv's 'Last Child in the Woods' (5a). This 'nature deficit disorder' is increasing with the growth of urbanisation being experienced across the world. There is the suggestion that this has concurrent links to both psychological and physical disease in human populations, which could have significant impact on the costs of mental health provision.

In the UK, mental ill health affects 1 in 6 of the population, and is strongly associated with life events, lower social class, being socially isolated, long term illnesses and financial and work problems. Anxiety with depression is the most common disorder. There are many symptoms of mental health and stress that are experienced by a large number of people particularly sleep problems (1). Currently the cost of dealing with mental health in England alone is around £77 billion, including the National Health Service, and the cost to the economy is approximately £41.8 billion.(4)

Working with 'Youth at Risk'

There are approximately 6.7 million young people aged 15-24 in England and a disproportionate number of these live in deprived, urban areas. The prevalence of adolescent problem behaviour has steadily increased with drug, tobacco and alcohol abuse, aggressive and anti-social behaviour, violence, teenage pregnancy and suicide rates becoming growing problems. Adolescents commonly face choices requiring pressurised decisions about gang involvement, violence, alcohol, drugs, sex and pregnancy, that potentially place them 'at risk'. This cohort of 'youth at risk' are also subjected to other interactive environmental stressors, such as domestic violence, parental drug and alcohol abuse, physical and sexual abuse, family stress/poorly parented, divorced/single parent families, neglect or school failure. (4a)

Statistics in the UK (2008) report that youth violence costs the country at least £20 billion per annum, Children in care costs £2 billion. A child with conduct disorder costs the Government £70,000 per annum, and social security benefits (including tax credits) increased by £35.5 billion to £142.7 billion in the 12 years to 2005/06. (6)

Founded by the Wilderness Foundation UK, The TurnAround Project in the UK is a medium-term intensive intervention which aims to address negative behaviour in youth at risk. Over the course of a twelve month period, project beneficiaries engage in wilderness trails, monthly nature based activity workshops, and regular mentoring sessions with community-based volunteers. Youth aim at a return to education or employment on an ongoing basis.

Youth behaviour at the outset of the pilot programme in 2007 was described as disruptive, challenging, disrespectful, obstructive and undisciplined. (4a) Many were involved in substance abuse. All young people at the start were excluded from school and were unemployed. Most were under supervision of the local probation teams linked to the courts.

Research shows that the TurnAround Project represented a personal growth process and the majority of participants learn how to manage their behaviour and express their emotions (ranging from anger to love and affection) constructively. As the programme progressed the frequency of negative events reduced, criminal activity declined, substance abuse improved and they displayed less anti-social behaviour. Thus, major differences in their behaviour were observed and comparisons were extreme between the beginning and end of the programme. (4a)

The project instigated positive change for all concerned and young people leave the programme with better self-esteem and communication skills, enhanced psychological health and wellbeing, a new set of coping skills, strengthened family relationships, greater awareness of personal behaviour patterns, a renewed interest in school and a set of future goals and challenges to address. (4a)

The project has had a success rate of 80% where success is measured by young people being engaged in full time education or work at the end of the programme. Graduates from the programme have returned as peer mentors and continue their own development through this engagement.

In exploring the link between mental health and wilderness experience, evidence from the wilderness trail elements of the programme show significant and measured shifts in mood and self esteem. This was measured in the adult mentors and youth alike. The youth found the remoteness and challenge of the wilderness experience life-changing and therapeutic support during this experience helped to gain life skills and self awareness that are still being used to moderate behaviour 18 months post programme. (4a)

This intervention creates youth who are self sustaining and not dependent on the state, have civic interest, improved family circumstances and a new interest in the environment. The savings to the state are immense, as by providing new opportunities to make positive change local communities benefit from lower crime and reduced anti-social behaviour, while wider society including taxpayers and government benefit from savings on police investigation, court appearances and custodial sentencing. The average cost of detaining a young person for a period of 12 months is approximately £47,000. A one year placement on the TurnAround costs just £7,500 per person.

In South Africa, Usiko, a partner wilderness intervention programme working with young offenders and vulnerable youth in the Western Cape reports up to 85% non re-offending behaviour and engagement in further education after taking part in their two year intervention programme.

Similar to TurnAround it engages volunteer mentors from the local community who also take part in wilderness programmes with the young people involved. The cost to society of violence and crime in South Africa is extremely high and fourteen years after the end of apartheid, the situation has not improved. Data compiled by the National Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders shows that in 1999 police arrested 36,700 children (defined as 19 and under) in the Western Cape alone. This points to the extent to which young people are increasingly being swept up in the criminal justice net, at a high cost to the integrity of community and economically to the State. (7)

With growing evidence from the US, Australia, UK, Japan and South Africa, it becomes very clear that wilderness intervention has a positive effect on vulnerable youth behaviour and health, making large savings to the benefit and criminal justice system. As these problems are exponentially increasing across the world, there is a measurable need for sustained interventions, and could justify the protection of wilderness areas to be earmarked for therapeutic intervention, in addition to its other uses such as eco-tourism.

Working for Peace and Reconciliation

The Sustainable Peace Network emerged from the Glenree Survivors and Former Combatants programme, which promoted dialogue and sustainable relationships between victims/survivors, former combatants and wider society in Ireland and Britain from 2002-2008. The programme hinges on wilderness experience in South Africa and the Scottish Highlands over an 18 month programme.

The overall goal of the programme is to cultivate a growing network of leaders in sustainable peace work, within and between the United Kingdom and Ireland. The specific aims are:

- To provide opportunities for personal growth for 100 potential leaders by 2010
- To promote sustainable relationships between victims/survivors, ex-combatants and members of the broader society on the islands of Ireland and Britain;
- To enhance appreciation for the roles of wilderness or nature-based activities in peace cultivation. (8)

The contribution of wilderness experience is currently being evaluated by the University of Ulster, with the aim to provide quantifiable outcomes in addition to a raft of qualitative and anecdotal outcomes.

The interim anecdotal measurements state that wilderness experience was key to the following outcomes:

- Less distractions so therefore able to concentrate fully on the programme
- Defusing of tensions by being in wild, open spaces
- Facing fears and having shared vulnerabilities enhanced by being in wild environments out of normal comfort zones
- Chances to connect meaningfully with others
- Chance to connect with self
- Chance to connect with nature and develop a better understanding of sustainability in the environment and socially
- An opportunity to broaden and deepen the understanding of peace/reconciliation by having to live side by side with others in a small group in wild nature. (9)

Participants reflect on having a better understanding of themselves as a result of the programme, having had time to reflect on themselves. A number also felt more spiritually in tune with themselves and achieved some sort of 'inner peace.' Some participants also mentioned being more confident in themselves, and being more comfortable with who they are or where they are in their lives.

The programme aims to have a positive influence on peacebuilding and encourage participants to engage in peacebuilding activities. (9)

The programme is now rolling out with a similar format to engage adults who have been through the reconciliation programme to work with young people from their communities, to start new programmes working with vulnerable youth in communities, talks and meetings with schools. Community groups, and public events and the development of a youth leadership project in Derry, Belfast.

Wilderness and reconciliation in other areas

Wilderness interventions for reconciliation have long been used by organisations such as the National Peace Accord Trust in South Africa working with former combatants from the Apartheid struggle. In 1996, NPAT launched the 'Katorus Wilderness Therapy Project', which dealt with the trauma experienced by the youth in areas of intense violence and aimed at reducing their participation in criminal activities.

Between 1996 and 1999 NPAT's trained guides ran eco-therapy wilderness trails in the Drakensberg Wilderness Areas for 125 traumatised youth leaders from East Rand townships. All were unemployed and 84% were engaged in serious criminal activities including murder, rape, armed robbery, bank heists, car hijacking and major drug dealing. "Eco-therapy trails and the support provided by our psychologists have had a profound impact on nearly all the participants," says the CEO Marilyn Seiler. "At the personal level, most have given up crime and drug abuse, although it is not clear whether their alcohol consumption has stabilised. Many are now involved in community work and some have made personal commitments to family, even taking on young children. She says that while these conclusions are tentative, she believes serious crime can be markedly reduced through the right interventions at community level. (10)

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Research findings share the findings that experience of wild nature in remote areas helps participants to find a shared and common sense of humanity. This is fundamental to the reconciliation process and development of empathy for other people's life experiences and perspectives.

Conclusion

Our experience and research highlights the social and health benefits of wilderness and wildlands, in reuniting communities torn apart by conflict, helping vulnerable young people – for who we all have a responsibility – to change the destructive course of their lives and become valued contributors to society. Current research provides a strong argument for the urgency in preserving wilderness areas as repositories for healing, and social and personal change.

It is equally evident that the need for meaning, reflection and spirituality continue to be important factors in creating not only a good quality of life but psychological and physical health.

Next steps required

Through our literature search (3) it is obvious that further robust and quantifiable research in these fields is needed. Currently, across the world, most analysis rests on anecdotal or qualitative research with little presence of control groups or comparative analysis. It is therefore essential that further funding be made available to access further quantifiable results regarding the value of wilderness experience in all these areas - before areas are lost to development.

Equally, it will be important to develop more widespread programmes to gain from such experience.

This underlines the need for improved promotion of wilderness benefits to budget holders in the healthcare, youth at risk and reconciliation fields, encouraging support for expansion of current initiatives on the basis of a cost-effective return on investment of taxpayers' money.

The links with lobbying for improved protection must also be fully established. From a policy making perspective wilderness areas in Europe deserve the highest level of protection, and the social and health benefits agenda as a key element of the multi-functional use of such areas needs urgent recognition, not least because it applies most clearly to contemporary urban issues and thus has the potential to enter the mainstream political arena

9. Re-uniting climate change mitigation efforts with wilderness protection and biodiversity conservation

The chapter is based on a script kindly provided by Harvey Locke (with inputs from Brendan Mackey and Cyril Kormos), which was modified based a consultation with the European Commission and the Czech Presidency.

The time has come for a major initiative to re-unite climate change mitigation efforts with wilderness protection and biodiversity conservation. Recent scientific research has shown clearly that the destruction of intact forested ecosystems (whether they be tropical, temperate or boreal) releases carbon to the atmosphere whereas leaving them intact keeps carbon from the atmosphere. This new understanding provides a way to make important advances to mitigate both climate change and the species extinction crisis.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity were both negotiated at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. They were designed to tackle the same problem- humanity's overuse of the Earth's natural resources and the atmosphere's ability to assimilate the resulting emissions. UNFCCC seeks to limit emissions of CO₂ that cause dangerous levels of climate change. The CBD seeks to halt the loss of biodiversity. Both conventions have also been charged with development goals for poorer countries. Their implementation phases are the Kyoto Protocol and the Programme of Work on Protected Areas respectively (there are also other programs under the CBD).

Sixteen years after they were developed together as complementary strategies to safeguard the future of life on Earth, a strange thing has happened. Many policy experts consider the two conventions to be very different. Some programs are being advanced under Kyoto that actually harm the goals of the CBD such as clearing natural forests to plant palm oil for bio fuels. And no credit is given under Kyoto for leaving wild nature intact. Further, many environmentalists working on climate change are fearful that any allowance for the protection of nature in Kyoto will undermine efforts at emissions reductions. Even at the implementation level, governments that are signatory to both conventions often assign responsibilities for the conventions to different departments. Since the US is not a signatory to the CBD many US NGOs simply ignore it. And both climate change and the extinction crisis are getting worse (IUCN Red List).

This separation is bad for the goals of both conventions as science has now made clear that the protection of nature will help climate change goals for both mitigation and adaptation. There is widespread myth that old growth forests are not helpful to mitigate climate change. This is false. Recent analysis by Luysaert et al states bluntly "We find that in forests between 15 and 800 years of age, net ecosystem productivity (the net carbon balance of the forest including soils) is usually positive. Our results demonstrate that old-growth forests can continue to accumulate carbon, contrary to the long-standing view that they are carbon neutral." And the only way to keep those benefits is to keep those forests intact. "Old-growth forests accumulate carbon for centuries and contain large quantities of it. We expect, however, that much of this carbon, even soil carbon, will move back to the atmosphere if these forests are disturbed."

It is important to note that in recent climate talks (Bali 2007) there is a fledgling effort to recognize carbon in tropical forests through Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation ("REDD") but the large amounts of carbon in temperate and boreal ecosystems are usually ignored (though recently announced Norwegian REDD funding may be more inclusive). This narrow focus on the tropics is partly because the science of the values of carbon in temperate and boreal ecosystems is not taken into account (see Global Carbon Budget), because there are no development goals met by protecting temperate and boreal ecosystems as they occur in wealthy countries, and

partly because some of the NGOs pushing REDD do not concern themselves with temperate or boreal ecosystems.

Organic carbon is stored in living and dead biomass and the soil. In the tropics, most of the organic carbon in a forest ecosystem is stored in the living trees. In boreal forests, there is proportionally more found below ground due to slow decomposition rates. Temperate forests store large amounts of carbon in both trees and the soil. Protected areas in all forested zones whether they be tropical, temperate or boreal are the best way to prevent this carbon from being released to the atmosphere. Mackey et al state "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) is important in all forest biomes-boreal tropical and temperate- and in economically developed as well as developing countries. From a scientific perspective, green carbon accounting and protection natural forests in all nations should become part of a comprehensive approach to solving the climate change problem". Simply put, all wilderness and biodiversity habitat conservation wherever they occur is good for the climate.

Land use disturbance, whether it be clearing forests, disturbing soils or burning vegetation was responsible for 25% of man made CO₂ emissions since the industrial revolution and the problem continues with estimates that it continues to contribute 20% of CO₂ to the atmosphere (Global Carbon Project), which could be too low an estimate.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Fischlin et al) said: "During the course of this century, the resilience of many ecosystems (their ability to adapt naturally) is likely to be exceeded by an unprecedented combination of change in climate, associated disturbances (e.g. flooding, drought, wildfire, insects, ocean acidification) and other global change drivers (especially land use change, pollution and over-exploitation of resources), if greenhouse gas emissions and other changes continue at or above current rates (high confidence)".

Without healthy functioning ecosystems freshwater will become scarce, air quality will diminish, the extinction crisis will accelerate and humanity will have a very difficult time adapting to climate change. Leaving wild areas intact helps ecosystems adapt to climate change (Fischlin et al). Vast systems of interconnected protected areas that span elevations and altitudes are the best mechanism to allow terrestrial species and ecosystems to adapt to climate change (World Conservation Congress). The Programme of Work on Protected Areas under the Convention on Biological Diversity already includes all these tools. Any post-Kyoto or REDD Framework should include protected areas in all biomes as a key climate change mitigation strategy.

Large scale nature conservation is a first order climate change strategy. It is time to take a holistic view of the CBD and UNFCCC by bringing them back together to ensure that actions under the one help the other, rather than cause harm.

The REDD effort initiated at Bali and the recently established Ad Hoc Technical Experts Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change which will explore bringing the two conventions together are useful efforts. But there is a need for senior levels in all countries to give explicit direction to recognize the integrated nature of climate change and nature conservation in order to move climate change mitigation efforts to a more holistic and effective level.

10. Assessment of the multiple roles of businesses in supporting wildland strategy

The chapter is based on a script kindly provided by Ivo Mulder, Jacqueline Baar, Daan Wensing and Tom Bade (TriplEEE), which was modified based a consultation with the European Commission and the Czech Presidency.

Background to business interest in conservation

Although there are no reliable estimates of current spending on nature conservation, estimates point in the direction of around US\$10 billion per year, of which about US\$ 6 billion is spent on protected areas. From literature we know that ecosystems provide goods and services that are worth much more (e.g. Balmford et al (2002) estimated that protected areas could produce an aggregated value of US\$4,400 – 5,200 billion per annum).

Why is it then that ecosystems around the world continue to be degraded, further reducing global biological diversity? There are many reasons, but the fact that we perceive ecosystem goods and services as 'common goods' is an important reason as it stimulates a process that leads to the well-known tragedy of the commons. In addition, because we find it difficult to economically value biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services, these are often regarded as 'externalities' and hence only part of it is reflected in the real economy. But there are other issues, such as often preferred short term private gain versus long term societal gain by conserving and sustainably using ecosystem services.

This situation has affected wildlands in a negative way as wilderness areas have been converted to, for example, agricultural land to 'increase' economic potential. A new approach to wilderness is needed to stop the loss of these areas which are often valuable in terms of its biological diversity, but which also constitute a commercially attractive assets.

So what do we need? Two things! We need to better visualize the economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services in such a way to better convince policy makers and governments about the importance of conservation and sustainable use of wildlands, from an economic perspective, rather than stimulate short-term unsustainable use. For this purpose Triple E Consultancy developed a tool called 'Financial and Economic Decision-making Support (FEDS) as a means for providing economic valuation of nature by treating nature areas and geographically definable ecosystems as 'firms' for which all economic costs and especially (hidden) benefits can be visualized. The FEDS model can be use to provide estimations of net economic costs and benefits for a given nature area or wildland. Second, we need to better 'package' biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services in such a way to create additional interest from consumers and businesses to tailor more capital towards conserving nature (whether for-profit or not for-profit). In other words: a business case for wilderness is needed.

This is where the private sector, which includes consumers and the business sector, comes in. Funding from governments and private philanthropy, the main sources of funding for conservation to date, is insufficient. Protected areas for example have a combined global budget deficit of US\$2.3 billion (James et al., 2001). So, the private sector needs to be made receptive to invest in ecosystems, whether from a for-profit and non for-profit perspective. In addition, it is important to guide the private sector with tools they can use to reduce their corporate impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as raising awareness about the importance of biodiversity and wildland conservation to its relations and clients. There are various reasons for business, alongside public ones, to combat biodiversity loss (Millennium Assessment, 2005) and protect wildlands.

The extent and type of corporate involvement in wilderness and wildlands needs to be related to principles of zonation, involving 'core', 'buffer' and 'transition' areas – explained in more detail elsewhere in the conference documentation. Core zones should contain no extractive activities nor buildings or other infrastructure. Buffer zones should allow only very limited extractive activity, generally for use of the local community and individual artisans, and contain no permanent structures. Only in transition areas would a broader range of extractive uses be potentially operable.

1. Motivations for corporate support

Subject to the above framework, motivations for corporate support for conservation of wilderness and wild areas can include:

- Public relations, as in item 2 below. Particularly important for corporations involved in business which could be seen as environmentally problematic – eg mining, oil and energy companies
- The Corporate Social Responsibility agenda, which presupposes a given element of corporate spending or corporate action that favours wild area conservation to build an appropriate image for shareholders, general public, consumers)
- Marketing advantage – specific appeal to customers, suppliers, funders and third parties who appreciate corporate involvement in such conservation which can be promoted as part of a business's PR strategy
- Profit from tangible goods and services, involving non extractive activities in core areas – such as nature tourism, corporate events, and the small but growing area of wildland social projects involving youth development, youth at risk, healthcare and education. There can be progressively greater elements of prospective raw material usage in buffer and transition zones.
- Profit from intangible services – eg from operation of ecosystem services initiatives (eg carbon offset, flood mitigation, pollution alleviation). Corporate benefits here can include payments received from carbon offset schemes. There can also be expense reductions where upstream habitat restoration reduced downstream flood prevention or water treatment costs for utilities; equally the insurance industry is a potential funder for such schemes as a means of reducing flood risk and thus payments for flood claims.
- Simply because a highly placed executive in a particular corporation personally supports the wilderness concept and works for this –eg organizing trails for colleagues, having wilderness project as recipient for company charity of the year etc

The following section looks at further opportunities for businesses to take up the multiple roles, including investing in biodiversity conservation, reducing corporate biodiversity impacts and raising awareness, in conserving wildland and other nature reserves.

2. Investing in biodiversity conservation

Investment to conserve nature, including wildlands, can have both commercial and not-for profit reasons. In the first case, investments can be tailored towards so-called biodiversity-based businesses, which can be defined by "commercial enterprises that generate profits through production processes which conserve biodiversity, and share the benefits arising out of this use equitably" (Bishop et al., 2008).

Sectors that could qualify for this include sustainable tourism, as well as land-based assets such as biocarbon or payments for watershed services. Motivations to invest in these sort of business can range from 'aiming for healthy investment returns while investing sustainably' to identifying alternative markets to diversify investments within a given portfolio, and which possibly function according to different investment-return cycles. This market, however, is still very much in its infancy.

Investments can also take place in the not-for profit sphere. In this case, companies support conservation work for 'soft-business' reasons, including bolstering a company's green reputation, making Corporate Responsibility commitments tangible, or aiming to improve staff morale. Below we provide two examples of both a commercial and non-commercial market for biodiversity which can also be applied to wildlands and their long-term conservation. Examples of both for-profit and non-profit investments are given below.

2.1 Biodiversity banking – Capitalizing on the 'nature' as a scarce asset

Biodiversity offsetting is a concept that implies supporting protection or restoration of wildland as a means of compensating for the negative impact a corporation, public or private, has on ecosystems as part of its global activity so as to achieve "no net loss" of biodiversity – eg mineral extraction or energy businesses. The benefits of this concept for companies are manifold, compared to general command and control policies by governments. These include among other securing a company's access to land and capital generally, increase investor confidence and loyalty, managing costs and liabilities, and securing a company's legal and social license to operate.

To date a few banks have been set up, both in the voluntary area, but especially within a regulated framework. Two sizeable markets have already been established in the United States: wetland mitigation banking (offsetting damage done to wetlands) and conservation banking (offsetting of land containing endangered species). These markets have been similarly established as those for carbon, namely by placing a gap or floor. Up to date figures are difficult to obtain, but these markets represent market volumes of over US\$290 (wetland mitigation banking) and US\$40 million (conservation banking). In addition, offset regulation and market implementation has started in Alberta (Canada) and New-South Wales (Australia). In Europe, the Natura 2000 areas are under strict protection, whereby any encroachment needs to be offset *in kind* (not financially).

Another landmark event happened in August last year when Eco Products Fund LP, a private equity fund managed by New Forests and Equator Environmental, raised US\$ 200 million and launched the Malua Wildlife Habitat Conservation Bank (Malua BioBank, www.maluabiobank.com). Sitting adjacent to the Danum Valley Conservation Area in Malaysia, one of the last pristine lowland tropical rainforests, the Malua BioBank will use a multimillion dollar investment from the Eco Products Fund to restore and protect 34,000 hectares (roughly 80,000 acres) of formerly logged forest. This area provides a crucial buffer between virgin lowland tropical rainforest and oil palm plantations and is home to one of the highest concentrations of orang-utans in the world. These kind of arrangements can also be applied to wilderness areas in other parts of the world – particularly Europe. Sometimes mandatory (due to legislation), sometime voluntary as a company realizes its impact on the environment it depends on.

2.2 Landscape Auctions - A non-profit investment tool for nature

Triple E developed the concept '*Landscape Auction*' to meet a current discrepancy between a shortage of capital to sufficiently protect our landscape on the one hand, and the willingness of others to contribute to safeguarding our natural environment. At a Landscape Auction you make a bid for biodiversity and landscape elements on offer. As such, Landscape Auctions provide a marketplace for multinationals, conservation organizations, farmers, individuals and other businesses to either offer

landscape or biodiversity elements to be put up for auction because they can pinpoint a shortage of capital to safeguard them, or because they are interested to financially support the conservation, restoration and/or sustainable use of particular landscape elements.

Since the first auction, in September 2007 in the Ooijpolder in the Netherlands, where €140,000 was raised in just over an hour, Landscape Auctions have been organised under different circumstances and for many different audiences.. A random impression: auctions have been held where families bid for the management of solitary trees, and a school supported the pruning and planting of an apple orchard, to business-to-business events where companies such as Lufthansa, Rabobank and TUI made successful bids. [is this, as explained. relevant to wilderness concepts?]

The Auctions have been heralded as they bring 'buyers' closer with the people and organizations which take care of our landscape, *and* protect biodiversity. Furthermore the concept does not compete with other sources of finance for conservation, but focuses on 'buyers' that have previously been difficult to reach, generating an additional stream of revenue. This includes local companies that operate in the vicinity of the landscape on offer, or citizens that recreate in the area. This is the main benefit of the concept: linking people and businesses to their landscape where they live and work. The multiple use of the concept is further amplified by the fact that the next auction on the agenda will focus on a timely issue; aiming to reduce deforestation in tropical countries, dubbed REDD. The REDD auction that Triple E organises to safeguard existing tropical dry forest in Belize will be the first of its kind. The next step is to apply this procedure to European temperate forest.

3. Raising awareness and marketing

Another role that businesses can take up, which is not often highlighted, concerns raising awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation with its clients and relations. Impacts on biodiversity often take place through value and supply chains. This will raise awareness about the importance of pursuing a strategy to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts on ecosystems (and possibly offset residual harm) to its suppliers, as well as companies earlier in the chain. In this way companies can contribute to lower overall impacts on pristine environments such as wildlands. But, more importantly, by marketing non extractive products from wildland areas the value of these areas is made clear to all stakeholders. This helps build the business case for wildlands and nature in general.

4. Conclusion

This paper addressed the multiple roles that companies can take up in addressing wildland conservation. These include, but are not limited to, investing in businesses or land-based assets that have a profound positive impact on the wildlands, develop tools for a wide range of businesses with which biodiversity footprints can be reduced, as well as develop a communication strategy by raising awareness about the importance of wilderness conservation.

The authors acknowledge that the list is not complete. The paper mainly serves as a way to explain that many businesses (should) have a vested interest in wilderness areas and their conservation. The authors believe that a strategy is needed in which smart-business solutions capture the interest of businesses to become involved in the preservation of wilderness areas. This can be done through innovative finance mechanisms, as explained above.

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summary
discussion draft
establishing the european
wildland support network

Rationale for the Prospective Network

There are very substantial opportunities and threats facing wild areas in Europe, and a need for coordinated action if these are to be adequately addressed.

An effective coalition approach has already been developed under the Wild Europe umbrella, and the Network would seek to build on momentum from the Prague conference.

Objectives of the Network

To be prioritized from among the following:

- To support implementation of recommendations on wild area protection and restoration determined by the Prague conference.
- To promote coordinated representation on reforms to the Common Agricultural Policy and forestry subsidy system, so as to maximize benefits for wild land protection and restoration.
- To enable exchange of best practice in wildland protection, restoration and management of sustainable tourism and other low-impact activities involving use of wild land benefits. Development and maintenance of website – based Information Exchange.
- Where specific wild lands are under threat, to provide an “early warning system” and help promote action, including local capacity building.
- To communicate the concept and value of wild lands in Europe
- To catalyze research into wild land benefits, their valuation and translation into specific activities.
- To promote specific projects for protection and restoration of wilderness, wildlands and a network of large natural habitat areas
- To promote closer ties with related sectors: eg business, agriculture, forestry, landowning, urban social interest groups via specific initiatives – including development of the Business for Wilderness Forum and liaison already established on joint approach with European Landowners Organization and representatives of other sectors.

Operating Areas of the Network

The Network would be run through a very small secretariat that combined policy, communication and practical 'field' project specialisms.

<i>Area of operation</i>	<i>Example Activity</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Policy	Support implementation of policy recommendations from Prague conference 2012 CAP reform strategy Multi-sectoral support programme Wildland Foundation (land acquisition)	Linkage with all Network partners. Focus on awareness raising not advocacy per se
Communication	Wildland Information Exchange website Best practice exchange for management Multi-sectoral representation of wildland benefits Promote the wilderness research agenda Develop Business for Wilderness Forum 'Early Warning' threat advice	Possible IUCN/WCPA global Wilderness Task Force unit to provide advice and research support, alongside Advisory Group and others
'Field' project specialisms (examples)	Forthcoming NGO wildland portfolio Bialowieza extension 'peace park' Slovakia/Poland/Ukraine mega wilderness Georgia/Azerbaijan 'peace park' Large restoration initiatives in Western Europe	WWF alliance a key player with others. Network emphasis on providing catalyst and support rather than direct development.

The emphasis would be on coordination of existing initiatives, rather than creation of a new organization. The Network would build on cooperation already achieved through the Wild Europe Steering Group to gain operational leverage via its members, seeking to promote projects rather than necessarily undertake them directly.

Whilst there would be capacity for representation in Brussels, with office premises already offered, the organization's geographic location could be footloose.

Its programme would include ongoing awareness raising on a five pronged basis:

- European Commission (multiple DG linkages)
- EC Cabinet
- European Parliament
- EC Presidency (initially Sweden, Belgium, Spain)
- National parliaments (where relevant)

It would also seek to consolidate links between wilderness and sustainable rural development and urban social needs agendas, with emphasis on benefits for local communities and landholders as well as other interested parties.

Composition of the Network

Participation could include:

- Representatives from NGOs and agencies
- Eco-tourism and other business sector operatives
- Professionals and academics
- Representation from associated interests including: landowning, farming, forestry and urban social projects

Structure of the Network

The Network would be run on a daily basis by a small secretariat comprising, ideally, one full time and two part time personnel with pro bono support.

Its activities would be overseen by an Executive Committee mainly comprised of those currently in the Steering Group for Wild Europe who agree to join.

There would also be an Advisory Group to provide technical support and act as a means of involving third parties. This would be used for ad hoc purposes and largely email driven.

It may be thought desirable to develop a more formal membership base, but this should be avoided in the initial stage at least, keeping the organization streamlined, cost-effective and output-oriented.

Communication would be mainly by phone and email, with meetings only as required. The Executive Committee could meet twice yearly, at a third party conference to avoid unnecessary resource outlay.

Membership of the Wild Europe Steering Group (per April 2009)

Ladislav Miko (Chair)	Former Director Natural Environment EC
Mike Baltzer	Director WWF Danube Carpathian Prog
Richard Blackman	Vice Director Europarc Federation
Eladio Fernandez Galiano	Head of Biodiversity Council of Europe
Natarajan Ishwaran	Head of Biodiversity UNESCO
Zoltan Kun	Director PANParks Foundation
Tamas Marghescu	Director IUCN Europe
Jeff McNeely	Chief Scientist, IUCN Global
Vance Martin	Chair IUCN Wilderness Task Force
Feiko Prins	Europe Coordinator Natuurmonumenten
Erika Stanciu	President Europarc Federation
Tony Whitbread	Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (UK)
Sebastian Winkler	Coordinator Countdown 2010

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wild europe initiative

protection and restoration
of large natural habitat areas –
a vision for people and nature
in the 21st century

Wild Europe Initiative

“Protection and Restoration of Large Natural Habitat Areas - A Vision for People and Nature in the 21st Century”

SUMMARY

This initiative seeks to promote a coordinated strategy for the protection and restoration of a network of wilderness and large natural habitat areas across Europe.

Many such areas are increasingly under threat from forestry, intensification of agriculture, mining, development of infrastructure - and climate change.

At the same time there are great opportunities for large-scale restoration, creating a network of natural habitats linked by ecological corridors. Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy in 2012, together with pressure for “fair trade” through the World Trade Organization, could offer substantial potential for reallocation of resources and change in land use – especially for more marginal areas of farmland and forestry.

The Benefits of Wild Areas

In addition to their landscape and biodiversity values, there is growing appreciation of the wider economic, social and environmental benefits of wild areas for local communities and landholders – particularly in remoter rural areas where alternative sources of income and employment are scarce.

Nature tourism already contributes substantially to many local economies, and a range of newer ventures associated with such areas is emerging - many of which address important inner urban issues such as youth at risk, rehabilitation and healthcare.

There is also a growing recognition that larger natural areas provide further essential environmental and economic services to society, such as alleviation of soil and water pollution, flood mitigation, carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation – all of which are important benefits in tackling the issue of climate change.

The Wild Europe Approach

Wild Europe proposes a programme based on partnerships to address this situation, involving governments, regional and local authorities, the EU, international organizations, NGOs and the private sector.

It seeks to identify, value and promote the benefits of large natural habitat areas, assessing how best to translate them into specific ventures bringing potential income and employment for local communities, farmers and landholders as well as society in general.

The initiative has gained support from a wide range of organizations, including the European Commission, Council of Europe, IUCN (with Countdown 2010), WWF, Europarc Federation, UNESCO, PAN-Parks Foundation and other NGOs and government departments. See Appendix VI for Steering Group membership.

It aims to support existing initiatives, building a practical consensus between conservation, recreation, landholding, farming, forestry, business, local community and urban social programme interests.

RATIONALE

Current Support for Wilderness and Wild Habitats in Europe

Support for wilderness and wild areas is presently characterized by the following issues:

- There are many excellent initiatives, but these often operate without linkage or sometimes even knowledge of each other
- Capacity of local organizations to combat threats and promote opportunities is often weak
- The full range of benefits from these areas, and how to value them, is not widely appreciated even among conservation organizations working in the field
- There is scope for more enhanced and targeted promotion of the benefits to policy makers, landholders, communities, media and other relevant interests
- Great potential exists for agreeing an integrated strategy to combat threats to and take fuller advantage of opportunities for protection and large-scale restoration of wild natural habitat areas.

Limited Window of Opportunity

The opportunities for large-scale protection and restoration of natural habitat may be of limited duration in some areas at least.

This is not simply because of the urgency of threats from modernization of agriculture or programmes for new infrastructure.

In Central and Eastern Europe, substantial amounts of unallocated or abandoned land still remain. However where allocation has occurred, the land market is actively consolidating, in part responding to “value” signals – hence the importance of identifying and where possible quantifying (valuing) the full set of benefits applicable to large natural habitat areas – either to protect existing areas or promote the case for restoration of new areas.

The recent increase in commodity prices, whilst providing a real opportunity for far-reaching reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy, will also raise land prices and may lead to higher intensity livestock farming in more marginal areas.

Providing Support for Existing Initiatives

It is widely considered that the Wild Europe initiative can provide valuable support for a range of existing programmes.

These include: Natura 2000 and the EU Biodiversity Strategy (Objective 2 of the Biodiversity Communication), the Biodiversity Action Plan and associated Countdown 2010 initiative, The Pan European Ecological Network and the Pan European Biodiversity and Landscape Diversity Strategy, the Rural Development agenda and a wide range of objectives relevant to urban issues and environmental challenges – most notably, climate change.

Within the above context, it is equally relevant to a variety of programmes organized by WWF, IUCN, UNESCO and other organizations - and even pertinent to the recently published UNICEF Report on child wellbeing in Europe.

The initiative also has wider implications. If Europe is seen to be restoring large areas of natural habitat, and doing so moreover for economic and social as well as environmental reasons, this sends a powerful message to countries elsewhere in the world which still have large expanses of intact, largely untouched wild ecosystems

WILD EUROPE PROGRAMME

A list of objectives for Wild Europe is outlined below. Each objective will be developed as a separately managed project.

Wild Europe comprises three phases:

- Preparation of information and infrastructure
- A Conference to determine strategy for protection & restoration
- Implementation of this strategy

The Conference, to be held in May 2009, will be planned and implemented in parallel with the objectives, with participants being able to take informed decisions on overall strategy and its component parts.

It will bring together relevant specialists and NGOs, EU and national government representatives, along with interested parties from the recreational, landholding, farming, forestry, business, local community and urban social programme sectors.

Objectives 2008/10

1. To produce a comprehensive overview of existing wilderness and wild areas and initiatives across Europe.

This can collate and build on work done so far eg by EEA, Altera, ECNC and would include:

- Practical definitions of wilderness and wildland areas
- Identification of main benefits
- Mapping of existing areas – to include identification of core “virgin” wilderness areas such as old growth forest
- Assessment of wilderness and wild area legal and policy status – adequacy of existing provision
- Compilation of a register of areas, with information on location, geography, species, threats, opportunities (to include expansion) and relevant interested parties.

The above information would be used in developing protection plans, at least some of which could be rapidly implemented.

2. To prepare outline plans for more effective protection - both overall and, where relevant, on an individual country basis:

- Identification of relevant organizations and initiatives
- Assessment of the main threats to habitat and species
- Addressing key solutions needed: legal, resource, land management and monitoring.
- Assessment of Europe wide protective legislation and policy - adequacy of existing provision, issues of funding, monitoring and enforcement.
- Recommendation of appropriate reforms
- Developing proposed plans and targets for each area
- Identification of relevant parties to be involved

3. To identify, develop and disseminate best practice for:

Protection, management and restoration of large natural habitat areas, wilderness and wild areas

- Identification, valuation, promotion of their benefits
- Implementation of such benefits - light impact initiatives (See Appendix III)

4. To develop and launch a website for collation and dissemination of information to promote wilderness, wild areas and large natural habitat areas.

Benefits would include:

- Linkage between wild areas initiatives
- Exchange and usage of best practice
- Opportunity for coordinated working
- Sourcing skills and advice for projects
- Promoting awareness among wider audience
- Catalysing growth of wild areas movement

5. To initiate the development of an overall Strategy and associated Business Plan for Wild Europe.

6. To review and map opportunities for restoration of new large-scale natural habitat areas, resulting from:

- Unviable agricultural and forestry on marginal land
- Managed coastal retreat
- Use of environmental services as benefits
- Socio-economic benefit potential

- Closures of military training and frontier areas
- Individual local opportunities

Where possible, benefits should be quantified (see Appendix IV)

The above areas could involve extensions of existing natural areas, many of which lie within the Natura 2000 programme, or of “corridor” lands linking existing protected areas, or totally new areas.

7. To promote a case study initiative that illustrates good practice for ensuring maximum value added from usage of large natural habitat areas and wild areas benefits accrues to local communities and landholders. [See Appendix III].

8. To develop a European Business for Wilderness Forum, aiming to encourage greater participation by the business sector in wilderness and wild area issues – involving key decision takers in experiential, leadership development and team building events.

The Forum would seek to devise new approaches for business engagement and promotion, linking with key initiatives such as the European Task Force on Banking, Business and Biodiversity, plus landholder and business associations.

There would also be a Nature Tourism Task Force aiming to identify and disseminate best practice in operations of that sector.

9. To assemble a Wildland Support Network, providing a coordinated approach to implementation of strategy (see Objective 12) and including the following elements:

- Coordinated negotiation on CAP reform
- Supporting exchange of best practice
- An “early warning” system highlighting threats
- Jointly promoting the value of wild areas
- Research into wild area benefits
- Promotion of the Wild Area Natural Habitat Strategy

The Network would encompass a range of interested parties - including conservation, government, landholding, farming, forestry, urban social programmes.

10. To develop and promote an outline education strategy whereby wild areas can help provide a location for experiential learning as a complement to classroom education, and an outward bound extension to the traditional school curriculum.

This can help promote the profile of environmental and sustainable development studies in the education agenda.

CONGRESS LOGISTICS

The following initial suggestions are proposed:

- **Date.** Late Spring 2009, allowing sufficient time for appropriate fund-raising and preparation, but enabling timely delivery of outcomes given the widely agreed need for the Conference.
- **Location.** Prague, seat of the EC Presidency, also with relative ease of access for less well endowed participants and establish a geographically central focus.
- **Numbers.** Around 200 - 250 which is felt to be sufficient to allow participation by a range of national and international interests, but small enough for management of working groups and practical debate.

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

The initiative will be run through a simple output oriented structure consisting of:

- A Steering Group comprising key organization representatives to support and oversee the initiative. Meet quarterly.
- An Executive Group comprising: project director, conference coordinator and small secretariat (see Appendix V for outline specifications).
- An ad hoc Advisory Group, split where relevant into specialist sub-groups: eg for advocacy, business (general), carbon trading, hydrology, legals, mapping, restoration, social issues, tourism etc. Continual input to initiative on an ad hoc basis.

The organizers of the Congress have direct access to advice from administrators of the World Wilderness Congress, European PAN Parks, IUCN and LHF Conferences.

It will be coordinated in close liaison with partner organizations in Europe.

APPENDIX I

Wilderness and Wildlands – What’s in a Word?

There are a few areas in Europe where wilderness can currently be found in the sense of the IUCN Classification, referring to very substantial regions that are largely untouched by the hand of man. It occurs in parts of Finland, Sweden, Norway, Ukraine and Western Russia together with bordering states. There are also elements in Central and Southern Europe.

By contrast “wildland” or “wild areas” can be said to cover a range of intermediate landscapes – referring to smaller and often fragmented areas, where the condition of natural habitat and relevant species is either partially or substantially modified by grazing, sporting activity, forestry or general imprint of human artifact. There are wild areas scattered across the continent.

Any definition involves a multi-angled consideration of scale, landscape impact, prevalence of natural process and ability to deliver significant ecological services (most notably in addressing climate change) as well as host a range of wild area related recreational or social activities. It is further determined by subjective opinion: the spirit of wild areas that enables solitude, sense of wholeness, belonging, healing, awareness and self-development.

In this latter context, there is also the concept of “urban and neo-urban wildness” where issues of personal perception and values play as much of a role as geography.

However, it is important to remain focused on practical objectives, and not get overly enmeshed in academic debate.

“Wild areas, in this context refer generally to large areas of existing or potential natural habitat, recognizing the desirability of progressing over time through increased stages of naturalness – via restoration of native vegetation and a moving towards natural rather than built infrastructure.

Attainment of “wilderness” status is the ultimate goal in this process wherever scale, biodiversity needs and geography permit.

A Note of Caution

There are many interests for whom the concept of “wilderness” or “wildland” carries negative connotations or is relatively unknown. It is thus probably most helpful to think in terms of large natural habitat areas, with “wild” as a promotional label.

APPENDIX II

The Benefits of Wilderness and Wildland

In addition to their intrinsic spiritual, landscape and biodiversity values, natural habitat wild areas can offer prospective benefits for a wide range of interested parties on a local and regional scale – including landholders, farmers, communities as well as users.

These benefits can be derived through traditional activities such as nature tourism. However there is also a range of recently emerging ventures - many of which address important inner urban issues such as education, youth development, youth at risk, rehabilitation and healthcare.

Environmental benefits are particularly valuable – notably in addressing the impact of climate change.

Economic Benefits:

- Direct income and employment generation – in contrast with likely diminution in subsidy for traditional farming in more marginal, particularly upland, areas.
- Interest in the eco-tourism sector, agri-tourism (model farms), cultural and historic tourism, specialist sporting, corporate incentive and leisure fields. Scope for marketing joint packages, enhancing existing regional attractions.
- This would be paralleled by income from a range of ancillary local commercial activities: accommodation, retail, transport, distribution and craft businesses – generating a multiplier effect.
- Use of “Wild” and related brands and logos in marketing promotions for local and regional agricultural produce, and other goods and services.
- Opportunity to include support programmes for small local businesses and community-based ventures using wild area benefits: including enterprise planning, marketing, fund-raising.
- Evidence of taxpayers ascribing priority to vulnerable species when surveyed about expenditure of incremental tax resources.
- Possible increases in land values of properties within and alongside natural habitat wild areas.
- Linkages to enhance and extend relevant existing programmes of countryside stewardship, conservation, and reforestation.

Social Benefits:

- Income and employment gains could provide opportunity to stem the decline of rural communities as well as bringing support to local landholders, particularly in more remote areas.
- Opportunity for sustainable development within local communities that can also help articulate and maintain local and traditional culture and lifestyles.
- An effective environment for youth development and rehabilitation initiatives, offering substantial benefit to participants from all backgrounds - particularly inner city areas.
- Opportunity to promote and accommodate a wide range of school and adult education programmes – thus reinforcing the role of conservation and sustainable development in school curricula.
- Considerable scope for adopting international best practice in recently developed fields – eg youth at risk, substance abuse treatment, probationary and reconciliation programmes.
- Use of wild areas for physiological, recuperation and trauma therapy is increasingly recognized as a cost-effective form of healthcare, again with useful opportunity to adopt overseas best practice.
- Wild areas as a backdrop for activities involving negotiation, training and team-building by participants from business and other organizations.

- Recreational and spiritual benefits of being amid landscape-scale wild nature are no less important for being difficult to quantify.

Environmental Benefits:

- Enrichment of biodiversity by providing large scale habitat and enabling eco-systems to function on an integrated basis
- Opportunity for species to adapt and migrate in response to climate change
- Substantial potential for carbon sequestration through large scale restoration of woodland and marsh
- Growing recognition that investment in restoration of natural habitat in water catchment areas and lowland “sink areas” can bring commercial returns in the form of downstream flood mitigation.
- Scope for developing sea defence alignments, for which there are also strong economic arguments, into lowland natural habitat zones.
- Enhanced water and soil quality, and improved productivity of fisheries

APPENDIX III

Utilising the Benefits

There is substantial opportunity to assess and disseminate best practice for translating the identified benefits from wild lands into specific light impact ventures – the aim being to maximize their worth for local communities, landholders and other relevant parties.

Careful attention should be paid to ensure an appropriate balance between benefit-related activities and the need for strict maintenance of “wild area” principles and negligible disturbance for wildlife. For example, only those activities with negligible environmental impact would be suitable in core wilderness areas, whilst a broader range of undertakings could apply to land undergoing substantial restoration.

Relevant sectors:

- Nature tourism
- Combined packages (agri-tourism, culture, history)
- Recreational, general sporting
- Specialist sporting
- Corporate events, training, incentives and relationship building
- Healthcare, physiology, eco/psychology
- Youth development
- Youth at risk

- Reconciliation and conflict mitigation
- Education (child, adult), research
- Ancillary activities (accommodation, retail, transport, distribution, handicraft and general production).
- Branding & logo opportunities – specific goods and services, “umbrella effect”

The following aspects can be applied to the above sectors:

- Identification and quantification of specific business and/or general opportunities
- Assessment of how best to develop ‘markets’ especially for newer opportunities (eg social, probationary, healthcare).
- Overview of best practice for development of specific initiatives or ventures: whether private sector, community, NGO and public or local authority

Assess requirements for venture support

Where relevant, identify areas of advice, training and other forms of support required for successful establishment and management:

- Identify support requirements for start-up businesses/activities
- Identify support requirements for established businesses/activities
- Tailor to enterprise type: private, community, NGO, public/local authority
- Identify best practice in key support areas: enterprise planning, marketing, accounting, law, logistics, property issues, fund-raising
- Assess sources of training and funding for capacity building, by type and country
- Propose appropriate monitoring and measurement systems
- Ensure maximum benefit for local communities from business and related activities.

The above approach mainly applies to utilization of economic and social benefits.

However, it is also feasible to collate and implement best practice in identification and usage of ecosystem services –eg:

Linking carbon markets to landowner ecosystem services – ensuring appropriate compensation for existing landholders, or sufficient funding for buy-outs of land where restoration of natural wild land vegetation (woodland or marshland) has an appreciable impact on carbon sequestration

Engaging utility & insurance funding in flood mitigation – through quantifying the savings that upstream watershed habitat creation with lowland habitat sinks can produce though slowing and diminishing the volume and variance in discharge and thus enabling downstream savings in flood insurance and capital expenditure on flood defences.

Similarly, through pollution mitigation effects reducing downstream water treatment costs.

APPENDIX IV

Valuing the Benefits

It is important to value and quantify the benefits of wild areas and wilderness:

- A cost:benefit argument against threats and alternative land uses
- Promoting the case for land purchase for restoration or protection
- Policy formulation, particularly in competition with other sectors
- Fund raising and development of incentives
- Promoting the worth of wild land areas to politicians, media, landholders etc

Many elements of wilderness and wild lands, including their intrinsic spiritual, landscape and biodiversity values, are literally priceless. The quantification approach is thus intended to supplement and not supplant traditional approaches to assessment of wild areas.

However it is increasingly feasible and useful to quantify the benefits of wilderness, wild areas and large natural habitat areas, both in monetary terms and for wider societal gain.

Above all, there is growing perception that the relevance of large natural habitat areas to urban populations can bring increased political support – with wild areas seen as an integral part of modern society.

Quantifying the benefits:

1. Direct benefit valuation

- income flows, cost savings, employment creation:
- calculate additional benefits from ancillary activities (accommodation and branding opportunities, possible increases in land values. Assess the multiplier effect.
- Use sensitivity analysis to factor in alternative assumptions about subsidy levels, income and employment potential from benefits etc.

2. Indirect benefit valuation

- social benefits of LNHA's. eg youth at risk – costs saved through reduced re-offence rates; healthcare – less working days lost from stress; shorter and thus cheaper psychotherapy courses
- environmental benefits – eg flood mitigation: examples of savings in downstream capital expenditure, running costs and insurance claims as the result of natural habitat restoration in catchment areas and lowland flood sinks reducing run-off variability or pollution.

3. Trial the use of Contingent Valuation and Willingness to Pay (WTP) methods

to assess the value of landscape and species conservation benefits.

4. Review the overall cost-benefit protection or restoration:

- Assessment of the aggregate “net value”. Take into account value, income, employment and costs - including direct land cost, opportunity cost, restoration costs (through natural and assisted regeneration).
- Comparison of cost:benefits – as against alternative land use: both current and projected under alternative scenarios. Factor in the subsidy issue and the future impact of CAP and WTO, forestry markets, cost/benefits of existing land uses etc.
- Conclusions on the quantifiable rationale for protecting or restoring a wild area

5. Indications of resource allocation merited for such a programme.

- Summarize funding source categories: subsidy (habitat restoration, enterprise support), income (activities), grants and sponsorship (especially where related to non-business benefits).
- Relate to likely timescales assessing different requirements at different stages of restoration and different landholding arrangements.

APPENDIX V**Wild Europe Website Information on Large Natural Habitat Areas**

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There are four main aims:

- To promote restoration and protection initiatives
- To facilitate a strategic vision
- To collate and disseminate good practice
- To provide a contact database

The site will be divided into twelve sections: Home, existing wild areas, restoration projects, news & events, campaigns, wild area benefits, business initiatives, people & organizations, policy & incentives, research and publications, key issues, open forum/contact point.

See separate document.

APPENDIX VI**Establishing a European Wildland Support Network****Rationale for the Prospective Network**

As outlined above, there are very substantial opportunities and threats facing wild areas over the next few years.

Support is, however, often fragmented, under resourced and lacking in organizational capacity.

There is a need for coordinated activity on a Europe-wide basis if these opportunities and threats are to be adequately addressed.

Objectives of the Prospective Network

- To be prioritized from among the following:
- To implement strategy on wild area protection and restoration determined by the Prague conference.
- To enable coordinated representation on reforms to the Common Agricultural Policy and forestry subsidy system, so as to maximize benefits for wild land protection and restoration.
- To support exchange of best practice in wild area protection, restoration and management of sustainable tourism and other low-impact activities involving use of wild land benefits.
- Where specific wild lands are under threat, to provide an “early warning system” and help coordinate action, including local capacity building.
- To communicate the concept and value of wild lands in Europe, not least for the benefit of local communities and landholders.
- To promote research into wild land benefits, their valuation and translation into specific activities.
- To promote specific projects for protection and restoration of wilderness, wild areas and a network of large natural habitat areas.

Structure of the Network

Run through a small secretariat that combined policy representation, project management and communication specialisms. Whilst there would be representation in Brussels, the organization’s geographic location could be footloose.

The Network would help coordinate, promote and catalyze initiatives, gaining operational leverage via its members.

Composition of the Network

The structure of the Network would depend on availability of funding.

Participation could include:

- Relevant representatives from NGOs and agencies
- Eco-tourism sector operatives
- Professionals and academics involved in wild land conservation and realization of economic, social and environmental benefits
- Representation from associated interests including: landowning, farming, forestry, business, urban social projects

APPENDIX VI

Steering Group for Wild Europe

Ladislav Miko (Chair)

Minister of Environment, Czech Republic, former
Director of Natural Environment European Com-
mission

Toby Aykroyd

Director Wild Europe Initiative

Boris Barov

European Policy, BLI

Andreas Beckmann

Director WWF Danube Carpathian Prog

Richard Blackman

Assistant Director Europarc Federation

Eladio Fernandez Galiano

Head of Biodiversity Council of Europe

Natarajan Ishwaran

Head of Biodiversity UNESCO

Zoltan Kun

Director PANParks Foundation

Tamas Marghescu

Director IUCN Europe

Jeff McNeely

Chief Scientist, IUCN Global

Vance Martin

Chair IUCN Wilderness Task Force

Feiko Prins

Europe Coordinator Natuurmonumenten

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May 2009

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report
on Wilderness in Europe (2008/2210(INI))
Committee on the Environment,
Public Health and Food Safety
Rapporteur: Gyula Hegyi

MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION on Wilderness in Europe (2008/2210(INI))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive)¹,
- having regard to Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive)²,
- having regard to the European Union's ecological network of special areas of conservation established by the two above-mentioned Directives, called the "Natura 2000" network,
- having regard to the outcome of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity,
- having regard to the report No 3/2008 of the European Environment Agency (EEA) "European forests - ecosystem conditions and sustainable use",
- having regard to Rule 45 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (A6-0478/2008),

A. Whereas the effective protection and, where necessary, restoration of Europe's last wilderness areas are vital to halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010,

B. Whereas the target to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 will not be achieved and the negative social and economic impact of biodiversity loss and declining ecosystem services are already being felt,

C. Whereas the European Union should build on current achievements such as Natura 2000 and develop a significantly strengthened and ambitious new policy framework for biodiversity after 2010,

D. Whereas the Birds and Habitats Directives provide a strong and workable framework for the protection of nature, including wilderness areas, from harmful developments,

E. Whereas the objectives of the European Union's biodiversity policy and of the Birds and Habitats Directives are still far from being properly integrated in sectoral policies, such as agriculture, regional development, energy or transport,

F. Whereas many wilderness areas provide important carbon stocks, whose protection is both important for biodiversity and for climate protection,

G. Whereas the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity constitute a particularly serious threat to wilderness areas, where early detection of invasive species may not be possible, and where significant ecological and economic damage may occur before action can be taken,

Definition and mapping

1. Calls on the Commission to define wilderness; the definition should address aspects such as ecosystem services, conservation value, climate change and sustainable use;

2. Calls on the Commission to mandate the EEA and other relevant European bodies to map Europe's last wilderness areas, in order to ascertain the current distribution, level of biodiversity and cover of still-untouched areas as well as areas where human activities are minimal (divided into major habitats types: forest, freshwater and marine wilderness areas);
3. Calls on the Commission to undertake a study on the value and benefits of wilderness protection; the study should particularly address the issues of ecosystem services, the level of biodiversity of wilderness areas, climate change adaptation and sustainable nature tourism;

Developing wilderness areas

4. Calls on the Commission to develop an EU wilderness strategy, coherent with the Birds and Habitats Directives, using an ecosystem approach, identifying threatened species and biotopes, and setting priorities;
5. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to develop wilderness areas; stresses the need for the provision of special funding for reducing fragmentation, careful management of re-wilding areas, development of compensation mechanisms and programmes, raising awareness, building understanding and introducing wilderness-related concepts such as the role of free natural processes and structural elements resulting from such processes into the monitoring and measurement of favourable conservation status; considers that this work should be carried out in cooperation with the local population and other stakeholders;

Promotion

6. Calls on the Commission and Member States to co-operate with local non-governmental organisations, stakeholders and the local population to promote the value of wilderness;
7. Calls on the Member States to launch and support information campaigns to raise awareness among the general public about wilderness and its significance and to cultivate the perception that biodiversity protection can be compatible with economic growth and jobs;
8. Calls on the Member States to exchange their experiences of best practices and lessons learned about wilderness areas by bringing together key European experts to examine the concept of wilderness in the European Union and place wilderness on the European agenda;
9. In view of the well-documented damage which tourism has inflicted, and continues to inflict, on a great deal of Europe's most precious natural heritage, calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure that tourism, even if focusing on introducing visitors to the habitats and wildlife of a wilderness area, is handled with extreme care, making full use of experience gained inside and outside Europe on how to minimise its impact, and with reference, where appropriate, to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. Models where wilderness areas are for the most part closed to access (outside of permitted scientific research), but where a limited part is opened to sustainable high quality tourism based on the wilderness experience and economically benefiting local communities, should be considered;

Better protection

10. Calls on the Commission and Member States to devote special attention to the effective protection of wilderness areas;

11. Calls on the Commission to detect immediate threats linked to wilderness areas;
12. Calls on the Commission to develop appropriate recommendations that provide guidance to the Member States on the best approaches for ensuring the protection of natural habitats;
13. Calls on the Commission and Member States to protect wilderness areas by implementing the Birds and Habitats Directives, the Water Framework Directive¹ and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive² in a more effective and more consistent way, with better financing, in order to avoid the destruction of these areas by harmful, non-sustainable development;
14. Welcomes the review of the Birds and Habitats Directives with a view, where necessary, to amending them to provide better protection for threatened species and biotopes;
15. Calls on the Commission to accept the Wild Europe Initiative, a partnership of several nature conservation organisations including IUCN, IUCN-WCPA, WWF, Birdlife International and PAN Parks, with a strong interest in wild lands or nearly wild areas;

Wilderness and Natura 2000

16. Calls on the Commission, in cooperation with stakeholders, to develop guidelines on how to protect, manage, use sustainably, monitor and finance wilderness areas under the Natura 2000 network, especially with regard to upcoming challenges such as climate change, illegal logging and increasing demand for goods;
 - 1 Directive 2000/60 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (OJ 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1).
 - 2 Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (OJ L 164, 25.6.2008, p. 19).
17. Expresses deep concerns for European biodiversity policy due to lack of funding for management of the Natura 2000 network; in this context, calls on the Commission to prepare, as foreseen in the Habitats Directive, Community co-funding for the management of sites in Member States;
18. Calls on the Commission to give a special status to and stricter protection for wilderness zones in the Natura 2000 network;
19. Considers that rural development policy and the integration of environmental protection into the EU agricultural sector must be reinforced; judges, however, the Rural Development Fund insufficient to finance biodiversity and wilderness conservation in terms of resources and its programming and expertise;
20. Calls on the Commission to ensure that the Natura 2000 network will be strengthened further to become a coherent and functioning ecological network in which wilderness areas have a central place; stresses the need for coherent policies, in particular in, the common agricultural policy, transport, energy and the budget in order not to undermine the conservation objectives of Natura 2000; Invasive alien species
21. Calls on the Commission and Member States to work together to develop a robust legislative framework on invasive alien species that tackles both ecological and economic impacts arising from such species and the particular vulnerability of wilderness areas to this threat;

Wilderness and climate change

22. Calls on the Commission to monitor and assess the impact of climate change on wilderness;
23. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to set wilderness conservation as a priority in their strategy to address climate change;
24. Calls on the Commission, in the context of climate change, to undertake research and provide guidance as to when and how human intervention can manage wilderness in order to preserve it;
25. Expresses its strong support for the strengthening of wilderness-related policies and measures;
26. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission, and to the governments and parliaments of the Member States.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The word Wilderness means the 'virgin' areas, a natural environment that has not been significantly modified by human activity. These areas are core areas for nature. Wilderness areas are places where nature processes and wildlife thrives. These areas are large areas of land or sea, which - together with its native plant and animal communities and the ecosystems of which they are a part - is in a natural state, and where major human interference needs to be avoided. Still some 46 % of the world's land mass is wilderness.

Wilderness has a double perception. On one hand it is viewed as a place to fear and avoid, where monsters and unknown dangers exist. On the other hand it seems as a place to enjoy and contemplate, as a place which gives us a temporary asylum from the stress of the urban industrial civilization. There are serious debate on the advantages and disadvantages of our Wilderness cult; some says for instance that it gives us permission to evade responsibility for the places where we actually live. There is also a distinction between the concept of conservation (proper use of nature) and of preservation (protection of nature from use). These philosophical debates are above of the level of a report like this. However your Rapporteur is on the conversation's side, at least here in Europe.

We have to protect the nature, but through human use. The territory of Europe is too small to have forbidden areas for its citizens. Forests today cover the 33% of the land area of the countries of the EEA region corresponding 185 million hectares (ha). Only about 9 million hectares of forests (5% of the total forest area) is considered as "wild". These areas together with its native plant and animal communities and the ecosystems of which they are a part, is in an essentially natural state. These wilderness areas should afford opportunity to ensure effective and special protection status. There are many reasons, why Europe should have closer look at wilderness areas. First of all, as a refuge many species and genetic reserve, which are unable to survive even in slightly altered conditions, especially large mammals, like brown bear, wolf and lynx. There are also many species which are waiting to be discovered and describe. Most of them live in the soil or in rotting timber and they are highly sensitive to changes. These undisturbed areas are perfect to examine the natural changes in nature, the evolution. Also the knowledge that these areas are ruled by nature, gives a special and unique tension, which can be used economically in developing new tourism products. At the same time these areas are extremely vulnerable to the impacts of man-made environmental changes occurring outside their boundaries, such as climate change, the introduction of invasive alien species and changes to river systems upstream of these areas. Finally there are also many purely ethical reasons to keep wilderness in Europe. We have moral obligation to ensure the future generation can enjoy and benefit from Europe's real wild areas. Sustainable tourism development is used as a means to give economic value to wilderness and to create support for conservation.

Sustainable tourism is an important part of the use of the Wilderness in Europe. Sustainable tourism encourages ordinary people to discover the hidden values of the nature without causing damage to it. Sustainable tourism strengthens the acceptance of the conservation policy, as the citizens understand the need for protection through their persona experience.

Sustainable tourism helps to economically maintain Wilderness, and provides job opportunities for the conservation experts. There is an interesting initiative for the combination of Wilderness programs and sustainable tourism in Europe, the PAN (Protected Area Network) Parks Foundation (PPF). PPF manages a network of protected areas that are still the last untouched lands in Europe. The aim of the already ten years old PPF is sustainable tourism in these areas. There are already ten PAN Parks throughout Europe from the Artic Circle to the Mediterranean. PPF stimulate tourism in order to create new supporters for conservation. There is a very strict threshold for the wilderness area. There must be at least 10.000 ha of the territory still in natural state, which excludes extractive human uses. PAN Parks wilderness zone standard:

It is required that there is an ecologically unfragmented core/wilderness zone of at least 10.000 ha where no extract uses are permitted and where the only management interventions are those aimed at maintaining or restoring natural ecological processes. The size of the core/wilderness zone has not been reduced in the past.

PAN Parks Wilderness Zones:

Wilderness conservation is the most significant achievements of the PAN Parks concept and part of PAN Parks Core Purpose. Here is short summary of this achievement:

- Archipelago National Park (Fi): 10.600 ha
- Bieszczady National Park (Pl): 18.425 ha
- Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park (Ge): 50.325 ha (non EU)
- Fulufjället National Park (Se): 22.140 ha
- Oulanka National Park (Fi): 12.924 ha
- Central Balkan National Park (Bg): 21.019 ha
- Majella National Park (I): 25.500 ha
- Paanajärvi National Park (Ru): 30.000 ha (non EU)
- Retezat National Park (Ro): 14.215 ha
- Rila National Park (Bg): 16.350 ha
- Total certified wilderness: 226. 498 ha
- European Union member states: 146.173ha

This approach create unique opportunity to least partially solve a problem with growing number of abundant areas throughout Europe and create small but vital network of wilderness protected areas.

There is a coalition of European NGOs such as the PAN Parks Foundation Europarc Federation, Euro-site, Wild Europe, Birdlife International and WWF, which support the improved protection of Europe’s wilderness heritage.

The European network of Natura 2000 already covers the most valuable and bio-diverse areas of the European Union. This means that at least a big part of European wilderness is protected under the Natura 2000. What we need to do is respond to this challenge. 13% of the forest zone of the 27 EU member states is designated as Natura 2000 sites, under EU Birds and Habitats directive. Natura 2000 provides a flexible framework which asks Member States to formulate conservation objectives, and protect and manage the sites in a way that restores or maintains the favourable conservation status of the species and habitats for which the sites are designated.

There is no need for a new legislation concerning Wilderness, but it is highly recommended to give a special role and extra protection for Wilderness zones inside Natura 2000. That’s why European Commission should develop appropriate recommendations that provide guidance to the EU Member States on best ways of ensuring the protection of present and potential wilderness or wildlands and their natural processes, which are likely covered by the Natura 2000. This should include: definition of wilderness for European Parliament, mapping of Europe’s last wilderness area, because we shall know the distribution and the current cover of still untouched area (divided in major habitats types: forest, freshwater and marine wilderness areas), establishment of a study on the value / benefits of wilderness protection, development of wilderness guidelines for the Natura 2000 network, including an European wilderness strategy. Funding should be allocated for reducing fragmentation, careful management of rewilding areas, development of compensation mechanism and programmes, awareness, building interpretation, tourism packages, measuring and improving management effectiveness.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	2.12.2008
Result of final vote	+: -: 0: 33 1 0
Members present for the final vote	Adamos Adamou, Georgs Andrejevs, Margrete Auken, Irena Belohorská, Johannes Blokland, John Bowis, Martin Callanan, Dorette Corbey, Magor Imre Csibi, Chris Davies, Avril Doyle, Mojca Drčar Murko, Jill Evans, Matthias Groote, Françoise Grossetête, Satu Hassi, Gyula Hegyi, Jens Holm, Marie Anne Isler Béguin, Holger Krahmer, Linda McAvan, Riitta Myller, Miroslav Ouzký, Vladko Todorov Panayotov, Vittorio Prodi, Frédérique Ries, Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, Guido Sacconi, Richard Seeber, Kathy Sinnott, Glenis Willmott

3. Wilderness in Europe

Report: Gyula HEGYI (A6-0478/2008)

Subject	RCV etc.	Vote	RCV/EV – remarks
Single vote	RCV	+	538,19,12

Requests for roll-call votes
 IND/DEM: final vote

PPE-DE: Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats

PSE: Socialist Group in the European Parliament
 ALDE: Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
 UEN: Union for Europe of the Nations Group
 Greens/ALE: Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance
 GUE/NGL: Confederal Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left
 IND/DEM: Independence and Democracy Group
 NI: Non-attached Members

3. Rapport HEGYI A6-0478/2008 - résolution

03/02/2009 12:04:37

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ALDE: Alvaro, Andrejevs, Attwooll, Beaupuy, Birutis, Budreikaitė, Buşoi, Cavada, Ciani, Cocilovo, Csibi, Dăianu, Davies, Degutis, Deprez, Dičkutė, Donnici, Drčar Murko, Ek, Ferrarì, Fourtou, Gibault, Guardans Cambó, Hall, Harkin, Hennis-Plasschaert, Hyusmenova, Jensen, Kazak, Klinz, Koch-Mehrin, Krahmer, Lambsdorff, Laperrouze, Lax, Lebech, Losco, Matsakis, Mohácsi, Mulder, Newton Dunn, Nicholson of Winterbourne, Onyszkiewicz, Oviir, Panayotov, Pannella, Prodi, Raeva, Resetarits, Ries, Schmidt Olle, Schuth, Staniszewska, Starkevičiūtė, Sterckx, Susta, Szent-Iványi, Vălean, Veraldi, Wallis, Watson, Weber Renate, Wielowieyski

GUE/NGL: Agnoletto, Aita, Brie, Catania, de Brún, Figueiredo, Flasarová, Guidoni, Hénin, Holm, Kaufmann, Kohlčiek, Liotard, McDonald, Maštálka, Meijer, Meyer Pleite, Morgantini, Musacchio, Papadimoulis, Ransdorf, Remek, Rizzo, Seppänen, Stróž, Svensson, Uca, Wagenknecht, Zimmer

IND/DEM: Belder, Blokland, Georgiou, Krupa, Tomczak

NI: Belohorská, Chukolov, Claeys, Fiore, Helmer, Lang, Le Pen Jean-Marie, Le Pen Marine, Martin Hans-Peter, Martinez, Mólzer, Rivera, Romagnoli, Stoyanov

PPE-DE: Albertini, Atkins, Audy, Ayuso, Barsi-Pataky, Bauer, Beazley, Belet, Berend, Bodu, Böge, Bradbourn, Braghetto, Brejč, Brepoels, Březina, Bulzesc, Burke, Bushill-Matthews, Busutil, Calia, Callanan, Carollo, Casa, del Castillo Vera, Chiriță, Chmielewski, Coelho, Daul, David, De Blasio, Dehaene, Demetriou, Descamps, Deß, Deva, De Veyrac, Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Dimitrakopoulos, Dombrovskis, Doorn, Dover, Doyle, Duchoň, Duka-Zólyomi, Dumitriu, Elles, Esteves, Evans Jonathan, Fernández Martín, Fontaine, Freitas, Friedrich, Funeriu, Gacek, Gahler, Gál, Gaľa, Galeote, García-Margallo y Marfil, Gardini, Gaubert, Gauzès, Gawronski, Gewalt, Gklavakis, Glatfelder, Goepel, Gomolka, Gräßle, Grosch, Grossetête, Guellec, Handzik, Hennicot-Schoepges, Herranz García, Herrero-Tejedor, Hieronymi, Higgins, Hołowczyc, Hoppenstedt, Hybášková, Itälä, Iturgaiz Angulo, Jałowiecki, Jarzembowski, Jeggler, Jordan Cizelj, Kaczmarek, Karas, Karim, Kasoulides, Kastler, Kirkhope, Klamt, Klauf, Koch, Kuşķis, Lamassoure, De Lange, Langen, Langendries, Lauk, Lechner, Lehne, Lewandowski, Liese, Lo Curto, Lulling, Luque Aguilar, McGuinness, Mann Thomas, Manole, Marinescu, Martens, Mathieu, Matula, Mauro, Mavrommatis, Mayer, Mayor Oreja, Méndez de Vigo, Millán Mon, Mitchell, Morin, Nassauer, Niculescu, van Nistelrooij, Novak, Olbrycht, Oomen-Ruijten, Óry, Pack, Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, Papastamkos, Petre, Pieper, Pietikäinen, Płks, Pinheiro, Pleštinská, Pomés Ruiz, Popa, Posdorf, Posselt, Protasiewicz, Purvis, Queiró, Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Rack, Reul, Roithová, Rovsing, Rübiger, Rus, Salafraña Sánchez-Neyra, Sanzarello, Sanz Palacio, Saryusz-Wolski, Schierhuber, Schinas, Schmitt, Schöpflin, Schröder, Seeber, Siekierski, Siitonen, Sommer, Sonik, Spautz, Šťastný, Stavreva, Stevenson, Stolojan, Sudre, Surján, Szájer, Tannock, Trakatellis, Ulmer, Urutchev, Vakalis, Varela Suanzes-Carpegna, Varvitsiotis, Ventre, Vernola, Weber Manfred, Wijkman, Winkler, von Wogau, Wortmann-Kool, Záborská, Zahradil, Zaleski, Zappalà, Zatloukal, Zdravkova, Zieleniec, Zlotea, Zvěřina, Zwiefka

PSE: Antinucci, Antochi, Arnaoutakis, Assis, Attard-Montalto, Ayala Sender, Badia i Cutchet, Barón Crespo, Batzeli, Bedingfield, Berés, Berger, Berlinguer, Berman, Bösch, Bono, Boştinaru, Botopoulos, Boursier, Bozkurt, Bulfon, Bullmann, van den Burg, Capoulas Santos, Carlotti, Carnero González, Casaca, Cercas, Chiesa, Christensen, Corbett, Corbey, Corda, Cottigny, Cremers, Creţu Corina, Creţu Gabriela, Dăncilă, De Keyser, Denanot, De Vits, Dobolyi, Douay, Dührkop Dührkop, El Khadraoui, Estrela, Ettl, Falbr, Fava, Fazakas, Fernandes, Ferreira Anne, Ferreira Elisa, França, Garcés Ramón, García Pérez, Gebhardt, Geringer de Oedenberg, Gierek, Gill, Giuntini, Glante, Goebbels, Golik, Gottardi, Grabowska, Grau i Segú, Grech, Gröner, Groote, Guy-Quint, Harangozó, Hasse Ferreira, Haug, Hegyi, Herczog, Hutchinson, Iotova, Jacobs, Jørgensen, Juri, Kindermann, Kinnock, Kirilov, Koppa, Koterec, Krehl, Kreißl-Dörfler, Kuhne, Lambrinidis, Le Foll, Lefrançois, Leichtfried, Leinen, Lévai, Liberadzki, Lienemann, Lyubcheva, McAvan, McCarthy, Madeira, Maňka, Marini, Martin David, Martínez Martínez, Masip Hidalgo, Matsouka, Medina Ortega, Menéndez del Valle, Miguélez Ramos, Moreno Sánchez, Morgan, Napolitano, Óger, Paasilinna, Panzeri, Papanizov, Paşcu, Patrie, Peillon, Pinior, Plumb, Prets, Pribetich, Rapkay, Riera Madurell, Rodust, Rosati, Rothe, Rouček, Roure, Sacconi, Sakalas, Saks, Salinas García, Sánchez Presedo, dos Santos, Sárbu, Savary, Schaldemose, Severin, Simpson, Siwiec, Skinner, Sornosa Martínez, Sousa Pinto, Stihler, Stockmann, Swoboda, Tabajdi, Teychené, Ťiča, Van Lancker, Vaugrenard, Vergnaud, Walter, Wiersma, Yañez-Barnuevo García, Zani

UEN: Angeilli, Aylward, Basile, Berlato, Borghezio, Boso, Camre, Chruszcz, Foltyn-Kubicka, Grabowski, Janowski, Krasts, Kristovskis, Kuc, Kuźmiuk, Libicki, Maldeikis, Masiel, Muscardini, Mussa, Pęk, Piotrowski, Podkański, Robusti, Rogalski, Roszkowski, Szymański, Tatarella, Tomaszewska, Vaidere, Wojciechowski Janusz, Zapalowski, Zile

Verts/ALE: Aubert, Auken, Beer, Bennahmias, Breyer, Buitenweg, Cohn-Bendit, Cramer, Evans Jill, Flautre, Frassoni, Graefe zu Baringdorf, de Groen-Kouwenhoven, Harms, Hassi, Horáček, Irujo Amezaga, Isler Béguin, Jonckheer, Kustatscher, Lagendijk, Lambert, Lipietz, Lucas, Onesta, Romeva i Rueda, Rühle, Schlyter, Schmidt Frithjof, Schroedter, Smith, Staes, Voggenhuber, Ždanoka

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PV

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PE 419.125

IND/DEM: Colman, Farage, Natrass, Whittaker, Železný

NI: Giertych, Knapman, Wise

PPE-DE: Cederschiöld, Hökmark, Ibrisagic, Niebler, Wohlin

PSE: Andersson, Färm, Hedh, Myller, Segelström, Tarand

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GUE/NGL: Adamou, Droutsas, Jouye de Grandmaison, Toussas, Triantaphyllides

IND/DEM: Louis

NI: Baco

PPE-DE: Fajmon, Garriga Polledo, Strejček, Weisgerber

UEN: Rutowicz

