

European Wilderness Network

Retezat Wilderness



2018

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Let's get Wild!

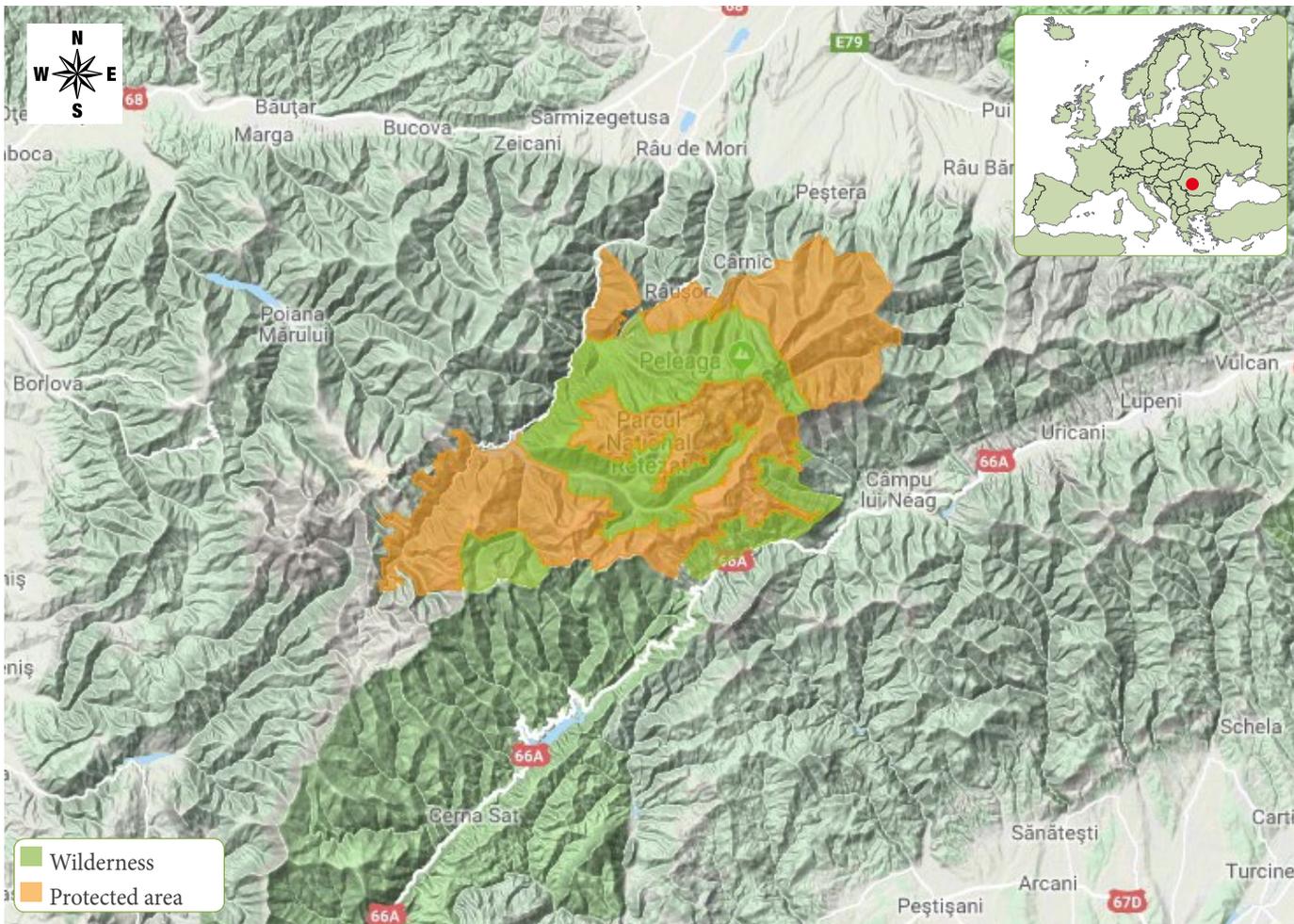
Retezat Wilderness, Romania

The 10 440 ha Retezat Wilderness is embedded in the Retezat National Park, the oldest national park in Romania. The park is located in the southwestern part of the Carpathian Mountains. It contains more than 30 peaks over 2 200 metres and 54 permanent lakes. The park was created in 1935, when the Romanian government set aside an area that was part of the Retezat Mountains and created the country's first National Park. The Retezat Wilderness protects one of the last remaining pristine areas of the Carpathian Mountains, and is also an important model to protect Wilderness all over the Carpathians. The Gemecele ("The Twins" in Romanian) is a scientific reserve which has been part of Retezat Wilderness for several decades. This Retezat Wilderness is protecting an intact primeval forest and a landscape shaped by glaciers in the past.

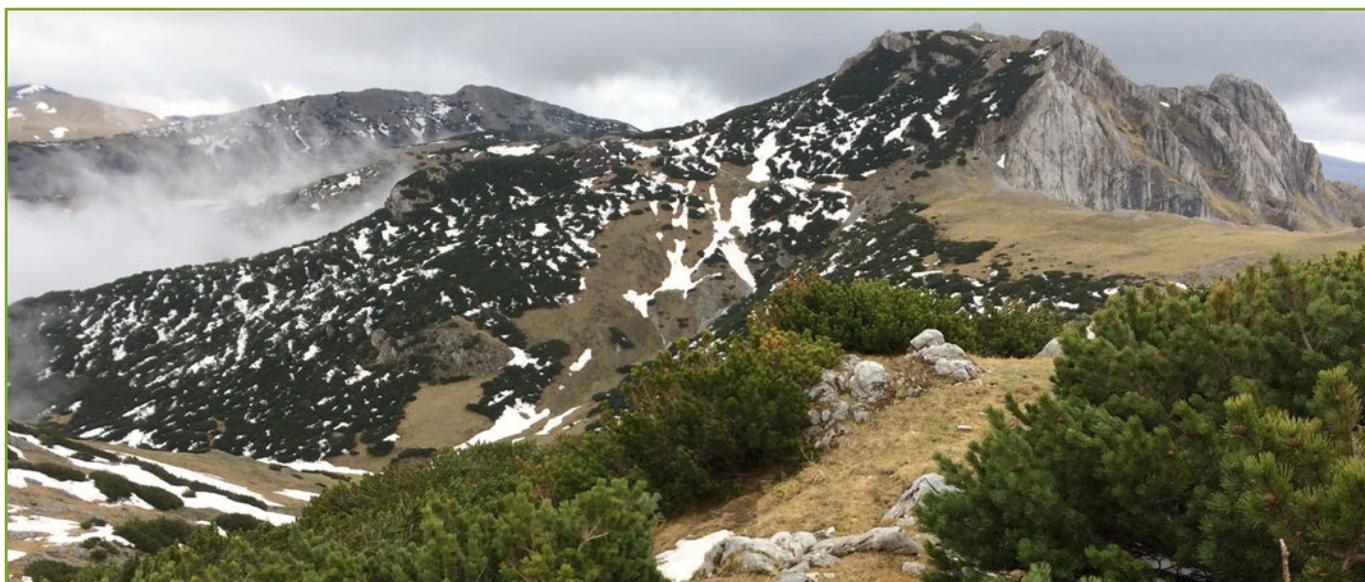
European Wilderness Quality Standard Audit System

The 10 440 ha Retezat Wilderness was audited in 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 and meets the Platinum Wilderness Quality Standard. The park was scrutinised due to several complaints of legal and illegal logging activities. Their certification and membership of the European Wilderness Network was reviewed in 2017. A European Wilderness Quality Standard Renewal-Audit is scheduled for 2020.

Wilderness information	
Protected area	Retezat National Park
Wilderness	Retezat Wilderness
Country	Romania
Size of the protected area	38 047 ha
Size of the Wilderness	10 440 ha
First Audit	2004
Most Recent Audit	2010
Wilderness Uniqueness	Old-growth conifer forest, steep granite and limestone mountains, wild mountain creeks, glacial lakes, favourable habitat for rare species such as bear, wolf, and eagles
Number of visitors per year to the protected area	approx. 20 000
Number of visitors per year to the Wilderness	approx. 18 000



Map scale 1 : 446 000



Biodiversity

Retezat Wilderness is a well preserved protected area that represents the natural values of the Southern Carpathian region. The environment has many high quality values, such as rich endemism, large size, well preserved forests, high number of endangered species, and species that play an important role for biodiversity conservation and the development of natural ecological processes.

The flora of Retezat Wilderness consists of approximately 1 190 plant species, of which 130 have the “endangered” or “vulnerable” status. In Retezat Wilderness, you will find one of the last remaining pristine forests in Europe, homeland for all Carpathian Wilderness iconic species. More precisely, 55 species of mammals can be found in Retezat, accounting for 23% of all European terrestrial mammals species.

Wolves, brown bear, wild boar, Eurasian lynx, wildcat, chamois, marmot, roe deer and red deer, as well as small carnivore species such as badger and otter find suitable habitats in the park. Eagles soar through the sky, on the hunt for a meal.

Wilderness Tourism Experience

Retezat National Park, and particularly Retezat Wilderness, are offering unique experiences in unspoiled Carpathian Wilderness. In the last years, many new tourism businesses developed around the park and several focus on providing experiences in the Retezat Wilderness. Hikers will find that they share trails with many of the big animals, including chamois, red and roe deer, wild boars, bear, wolves, and foxes, and may come across lynx tracks. Bird watchers will be treated with over 120 species of nesting birds in Retezat Wilderness.



Contact

Retezat Wilderness

Retezat National Park Administration

Salasu de Sus com

337420, Nucsoara nr. 284, Hunedoara County, Romania

Phone: +40 733 888586

Website: www.retezat.ro



Let's
Get
Wild!

European Wilderness Society

Founded on more than 20 years of Wilderness work by our members, the European Wilderness Society is the only Pan-European, Wilderness and environmental advocacy non-profit, non-government organisation.

It has a dedicated multi-cultural and experienced team of Wilderness and wildlife specialists, nature conservationists, researchers and scientists, tourism experts, marketing and business professionals, legal advisors and Wilderness advocates, whose mission is to:

- ▶ identify
- ▶ designate
- ▶ steward
- ▶ promote

Europe's last Wilderness, WILDCoasts, WILDForests, WILDIslands and WILDRivers. Here non-human intervention leads to open-ended, dynamic processes.

This is conveyed through a range of projects that facilitate Wilderness knowledge exchange, including education, culture and science, from local community through to scientific and governmental level.

European Wilderness Network

The European Wilderness Network connects Europe's wildest places. Certified by the European Wilderness Quality and Audit System, these unique areas host diverse wild ecosystems governed by dynamic open-ended processes, with no or minimum human-intervention. The Network includes, for example, Europe's last primeval beech forests, the arctic tundra, and mountain landscapes in different climate conditions. It aims to promote Europe's last Wilderness, WILDCoasts, WILDForests, WILDIslands and WILDRivers, with a comprehensive marketing strategy. The European Wilderness Network offers a platform to share Wilderness Stewardship best-practice examples and Wilderness research. It connects like-minded Wilderness managers and advocates and fosters the exchange of ideas and knowledge across Europe and the world through the European Wilderness Exchange Programme.

For more information please see <http://european-wilderness.network>

European Wilderness Society

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Dechant-Franz-Fuchs Str. 5 | A-5580 Tamsweg

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