

# *European Wilderness Network*

## *Uholka-Shyrokyy Luh WILDForest*



2018

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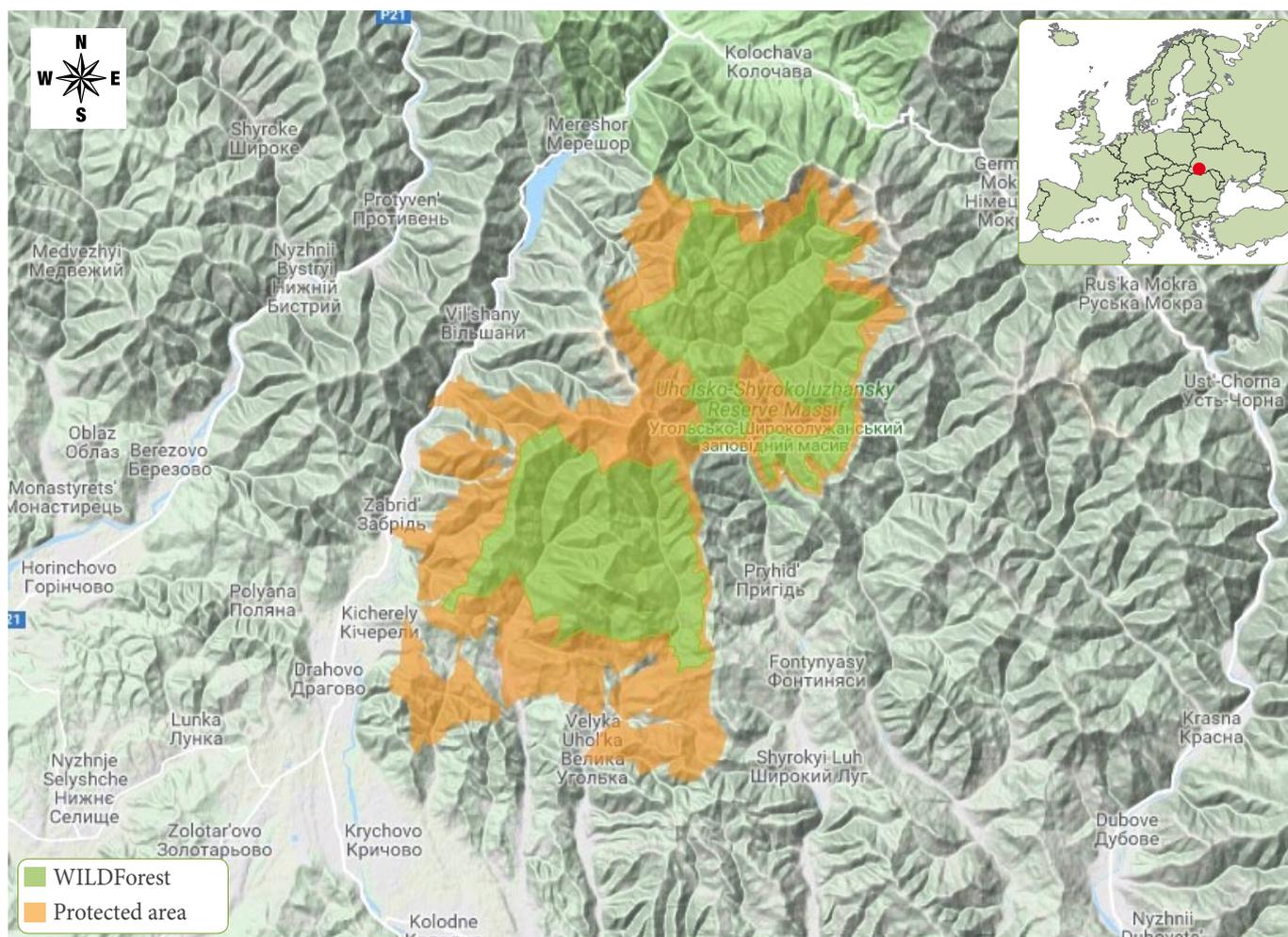
*Let's get Wild!*

# Uholka-Shyrokyy Luh WILDForest, Ukraine

The 7 117 ha Uholka-Shyrokyy Luh WILDForest is embedded in the Uholka-Shyrokyy Luh Wilderness, in the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, located in western Ukraine. The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve also includes Kuziy-Trybushany WILDForest and Maramarosh Wilderness, and two additional large areas with Wilderness and WILDForest potential: Svydovec, and Chornohora.

The Uholka-Shyrokyy Luh WILDForest is a hotspot for biodiversity, depending on spontaneous natural processes and ecosystem dynamics. The old-growth forests of Uholka-Shyrokyy Luh WILDForest is an important reference area for comparisons with managed forest. Data from this forest provide an important basis for the evaluation and improvement of nature conservation and the forest management concept all over Europe. Uholka-Shyrokyy Luh WILDForest is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site – Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe.

Wilderness information	
Protected area	Carpathian Biosphere Reserve
Wilderness	Uholka-Shyrokyy Luh WILDForest
Country	Ukraine
Size of the protected area	57 880 ha
Size of the WILDForest	7 117 ha
First Audit	2017
Most Recent Audit	2017
Wilderness Uniqueness	Large contiguous area of old-growth beech and mixed forest, favourable habitat for wolf, bear and many other rare species
Number of visitors per year to the protected area	approx. 20 000
Number of visitors per year to the WILDForest	approx. 1 000



Map scale 1 : 249 000



### European Wilderness Quality Standard Audit System

The 7 117 ha Uholka-Shyroky Luh WILDForest was audited in 2017 and meets the Platinum Wilderness Quality Standard. The Uholka-Shyroky Luh WILDForest also includes three WILDRivers– upper watersheds of Mala Uholka River (7 km), Velyka Uholka River (8 km) and Shyroky Luh River (9 km) and Uholka-Shyroky Luh Wilderness. A European Wilderness Quality Standard Renewal-Audit is scheduled for 2027.

### Biodiversity

The Uholka-Shyroky Luh WILDForest is the largest area with contiguous, old-growth beech forests in Europe. It is an area of great international importance and a local hotspot for biodiversity depending on spontaneous natural processes and ecosystem dynamics. It contains representatives of flora and fauna typical for old-growth Carpathian beech forests. The most striking and impressive features of this forest are the trees, including the broken tree stems covered with a variety of fungi and the deadwood trunks of fallen trees. The area has a permanent population of brown bears, wolves and lynxes. Typical bird dwellers are the black stork and eagle-owl. A rich variety of life can be found in the deadwood trunks, including the protected alpine longicorn Rosalia beetle.

### Wilderness Tourism Experience

Access to Uholka-Shyroky Luh Wilderness is permitted only for guided tours and for participants of workshops. The Uholka-Shyroky Luh Wilderness is located approx. 90 km from Uzhhorod and approx. 60 km from Ivano Frankivsk. The Uholka-Shyroky Luh Wilderness is accessible for cars and buses. Two nature trails, in Mala Uholka and Velyka Uholka, provide a unique experience in Uholka-Shyroky Luh WILDForest. The trails lead through primeval beech forest, passing the caves in the limestone massive, and the Karst Bridge.



### **Contact**

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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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