



# Towards a Wilder Europe

Managing wild areas: non-intervention  
management and restoration

# Wild Europe initiative



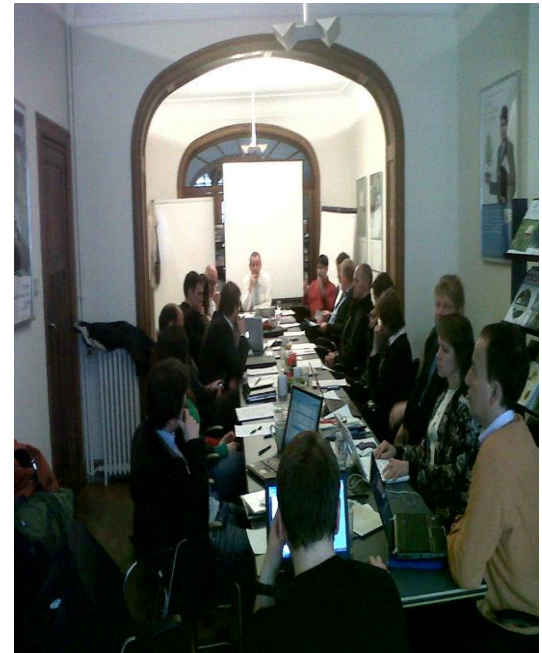
- Partnership since 2005
- Strategy for protection, restoration
- Non intervention management
- Socio-economic approach
- Local landholders & communities
- Recommended to EC by 2009  
EU Parliamentary Resolution



# Wild Europe: key activities



- Promoting policy instruments
- Advocacy eg *Fitness Check*
- Sector projects: forestry, CAP, PES
- Individual area campaigns
- Economic Benefits Group -ANEPP
- Social Benefits Forum
- Foundation status



# The momentum for wilderness and wild areas



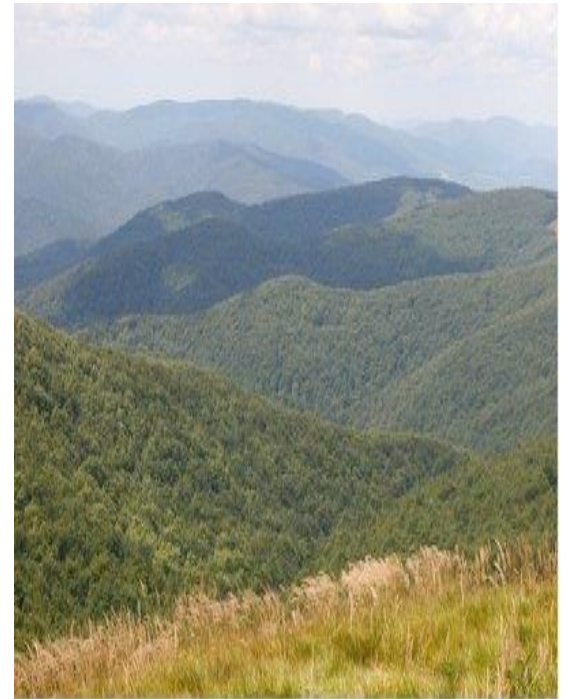
- 2008 Joint petition: improved protection
- 2009 European Parliament Resolution
- 2009 EC Presidency Prague conference
- 2010 EC Presidency Brussels conference on Restoration Strategy
- 2011 Wilderness cited in EU Biodiversity Strategy



# The momentum for wilderness and wild areas



- 2012 Consensus wilderness definition for EC, EWS, national strategies
- 2013 EC Guidelines: non-intervention management in N2000 network
- 2014 EC Wilderness Register
- 2015 Wild Europe Foundation with Endowment Fund



# Wilderness... Wild...

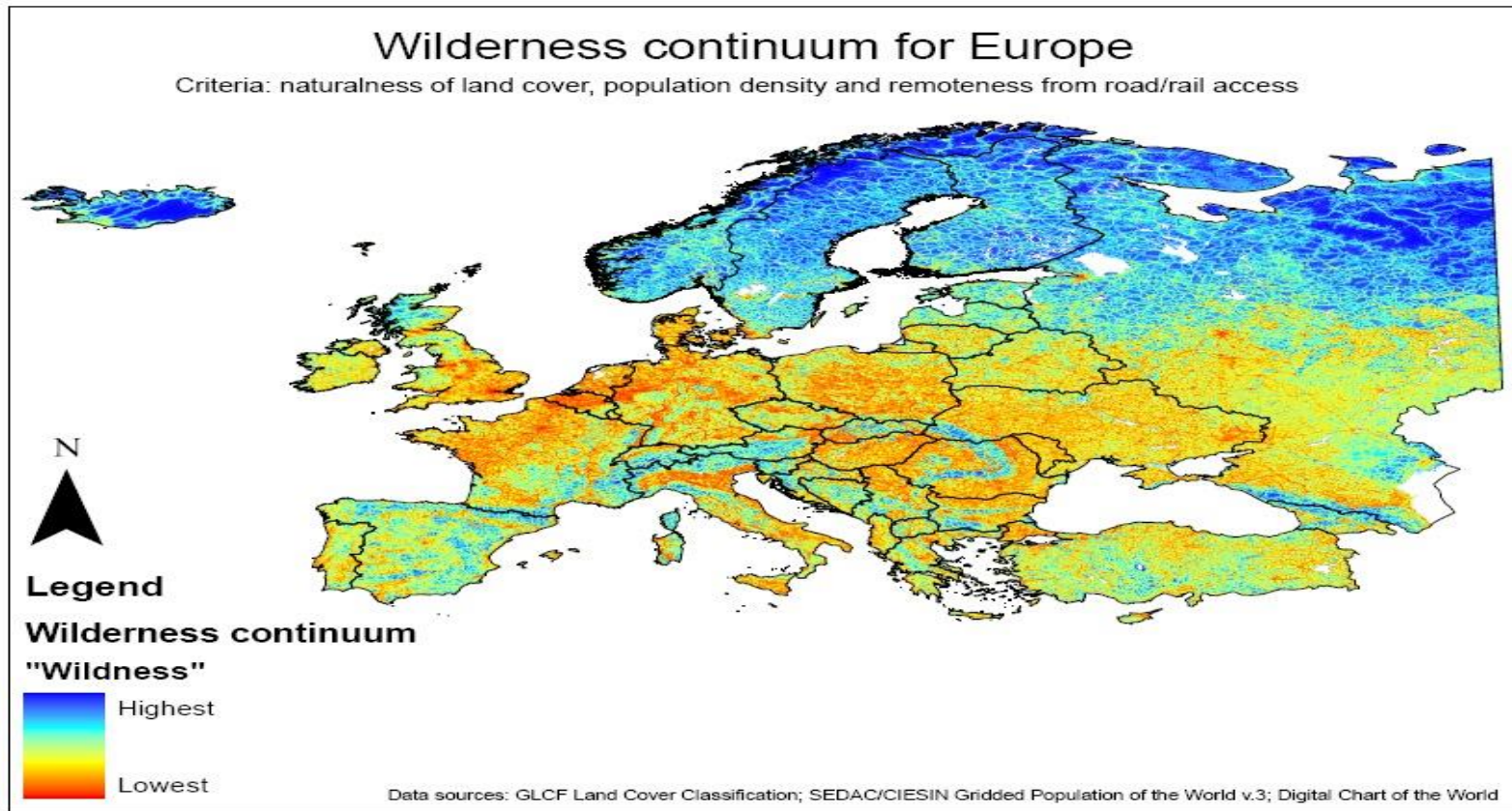
## What's in a word?



- Natural habitat areas
- Large and ideally connected
- Natural processes predominate
- Absence of human artifact
- No extractive activity in core areas
- Spiritual, aesthetic, environmental, biodiversity characteristics
- Strong socio-economic agenda



# A 'continuum' of wildness



# Non Intervention Management “Package”



- 1) Non intervention elements
- 2) Restoration or ‘re-wilding’
- 2) Socio-economic agenda
- 2) Communications





# 1) Non-intervention (NIM)



- Appropriate areas
- Ecosystem not species focus
- Allow natural succession
- Cost-effectiveness
- Ongoing management aspects
  - Protection, Visitor coordination
  - Research, Monitoring, PR, FR
- EC Management Guidelines



## 2) Restoration of NIM areas



- Spectrum of activity
- Initial human intervention
  - where no seed source
  - infrastructure removal
- Natural processes
- Species reintroductions
- Potential: CBD 2010 Report



# 3) Socio-economic capacity



- Attributes: size, naturalness, experiential quality
- Nature tourism
- Payment for Ecosystem Services
- Urban social projects
- Benefits for local communities, landholders, wider society
- The ANEEP appraisal



# 4) Communicating NIM



- Public Relations strategy
- Engage stakeholders upfront
- Maximise local benefits
- Addressing concerns – safety, pests, disease, prohibition of extraction



# Romania – Carpathia: “Europe’s Yellowstone”



- 50,000h non intervention area
- Adjacent 200,000h Natura 2000
- Industrialist philanthropy
- Restoration of degraded forest and fluvial ecosystems
- Socio-economic programme for local community
- Eventual National Park



# The 'Nephin Wilderness'



- Irish State Forest Agency 6,000h uneconomic commercial timber
- With Ballycroy National Park
- 15 years restoration, then a non-intervention area
- Nature tourism replaces logging
- Support of Prime Minister (EU President in 2013)
- European State Forest initiative



# Widening range of initiatives



- Austria
- Belarus
- Bulgaria
- France
- Germany
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom



# Contribution to Emerald Network?



- Best practice exchange – eg EC guidelines on NIM, socio-economic agenda
- Protection – eg extension of EC Wilderness Register
- Partnership matching, with capacity building
- Input to European Diploma?





# The wilderness agenda



A central element in European conservation