

Resolution on Wilderness Areas

We the undersigned organizations call upon the European Commission and EU Member States to take urgent action to protect Europe's remaining large areas of natural habitat with non-intervention management, also known as wilderness or wildland, which are threatened by inappropriately located logging and development.

In addition to containing an irreplaceable European natural heritage of biodiversity and habitats, these areas can offer stronger sustainable economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits - for local communities, landholders and society in general - if left intact.

Such benefits include addressing climate change through carbon sequestration and flood mitigation, fast-growing nature-based tourism opportunities of relevance to the rural development agenda, and potential to help tackle important inner city issues such as youth development and healthcare.

These areas represent a very small and shrinking proportion of the European region, and little time remains to secure their protection for future generations.

It would be highly beneficial if the European Commission were to develop appropriate recommendations that provide guidance to the EU Member States on the best ways of ensuring the protection of present and potential wilderness or wildland and their natural processes. We are convinced that this would be an important cornerstone in the endeavour of the European Union to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond.

Signatories to date:

Birdlife International	TBC	
Countdown 2010	Sebastian Winkler	Director
Europarc Federation	Erika Stanciu	President
Eurosite	Gernant Magnin	Director
PANParks Foundation	Zoltan Kun	Director
Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (UK)	TBC	
The International Union for Nature Conservation	Tamas Marghescu	Director (Europe)
Wild Europe		
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WCPA Europe	Roger Crofts	Vice Chairman

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