

RESOLUTION #: 10

TITLE: Establishment of a European Wildland Network

WHEREAS: Many good wildland-related initiatives are operating without linkage or sometimes even knowledge of each other;

In many areas, organizational capacity to promote opportunities and combat threats to wildland is weak;

The full range of wildland benefits, and how to value these, is not widely appreciated even among conservation organizations;

Wildland benefits are often not adequately promoted to policy makers, landholders, local communities or other relevant interests;

Much of the present conflict between wildland and biodiversity interests can be resolved with wider knowledge of large-scale natural habitat management techniques;

There is a requirement for coordinated development of a wildland strategy to address threats to wildlands and promote opportunities for their protection and large-scale restoration.

THEREFORE: A Europe-wide network should be established to promote knowledge sharing, strategy and general coordination between the various organizations involved in wildland protection, restoration, promotion and usage.

RESOLVED: The 8th World Wilderness Congress acknowledges the above position and calls for the establishment of such a network, to undertake the following activities:

1. Share best practice in a.) usage, valuation and promotion of the full range of economic, social & environmental benefits of wildland; b.) restoration and management of wildland; c.) organizational capacity building.
2. Represent wildland interests to policy makers at EU level.
3. Promote development of a proactive wildland strategy.
4. Offer an early warning facility to highlight specific threats.
5. Support development of a consensus on the value of wildlands among interested parties – including conservationists, landholders, farmers, eco-tourism interests and operators of inner urban social programmes .

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