



EUROPARC 2009

Workshop B11

**Wilderness – the Message from
Prague**

Strömstad, Sweden
12 September 2009

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Set Questions

What aspects of the wilderness theme should be the priority for EUROPARC to influence national and international policy-making? Please give three ideas.

What practical activities could be carried out, to enable protected areas to contribute to and develop the wilderness theme in the future?



Programme for Workshop i

- Icebreaker and Introductions, Rolands Auzins, EUROPARC Council Member
- Outline of Workshop
- Presentation of the Message from Prague, Richard Blackman, EUROPARC
- The Wilderness Approach in Sweden and a perspective from Russia, Olle Höjer, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
- The wilderness approach in the Wild Heart of Europe – Bavarian Forest and Šumava National Parks, Zdenka Křenová, Šumava National Park (CZ)
- A PAN Park Perspective, Gencho Iliev, Central Balkan National Park (BG)



Programme for Workshop ii

- Wilderness: What's happening in the EUROPARC network and how does this link to the Message from Prague?" (Summary of the morning)
- How EUROPARC Members can help to put the Message from Prague into practice?
- Conclusions: Formulation of response to set questions

12h00 Lunch

15h00 Latest finish

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The Message from Prague

Workshop B11 at EUROPARC 2009

Richard Blackman

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Prague Conference, May 2009

- European Commission and Czech EU Presidency Conference on Wilderness and Large Natural Habitat Areas;
- 220 delegates from 36 countries;
- 2 days in plenary sessions and workshops;
- Positive mood and enthusiasm;
- Main output: The Message from Prague.



Background i

- EU enlargement to central and eastern Europe;
- Decline in biodiversity: 2010 target to halt the loss of biodiversity unlikely to be reached;
- Imminent threats to many of the last remaining wilderness and wild areas in Europe;
- Economic and social as well as ecological benefits of nature – ecosystem services;
- Natural ecosystem processes;



Background ii

- Need to reflect on importance of wilderness areas;
- Raise the profile of wilderness and wild areas;
- Recommend an agenda for protection and restoration of such areas;
- Build a partnership between sectors for implementing the strategy.



Recommendations 1 - Policy Development

- Wilderness and Natura 2000

Need to protect ecological processes as well as habitats and species

Protection of wilderness areas in the context of EU nature legislation

- Definition of wilderness
- Promotion of connectivity
- 2012 CAP review

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Recommendations 2 – Awareness Building

- Awareness within the conservation sector;
- Promoting value of wilderness to decision-makers;
- Mass communication across Europe;



Recommendations 3 – Further work and information needs

- Finalisation of definition of wilderness and wild areas;
- Compilation of wilderness register;
- Mapping;
- Prospective restoration;
- Social programmes;
- Quantification of value of non-extractive economic, social and environmental benefits;

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Recommendations 3 – Further work and information needs cont..

- Ecosystem services;
- Development of Wildland Support Network to support implementation of Message from Prague;
- Establish website and network based Wildland Information Exchange – expertise exchange and best practice;
- Securing value from recreation and tourism;