Conference for protection of old growth forest in Europe

13/14th September 2017
HOSTED BY THE EU COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS
101 RUE BELLIARD, BRUSSELS

HOSTED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS
Conference schedule

DAY ONE

0800
Registration opens

0900 – 0945
SESSION 1
Setting the scene
Session Chair Toby Aykroyd, Wild Europe

- Welcome from our hosts, the Committee of the Regions
  Roby Biever, Rapporteur of the European Committee of the Regions on the fitness check of the Nature Directives

- Welcome from the Director General of DG Environment EC
  Daniel Calleja – by video (he is in Beijing)

- Old growth forest – An EC perspective on Europe’s precious natural heritage
  Humberto Delgado-Rosa, Head of Natural Capital, European Commission

- Old growth forest protection, a united European endeavour for global benefit
  Isabelle Anatole-Gabriel, Head of Unit, Europe & North America, UNESCO World Heritage Centre

0945 – 1035
SESSION 2
The current situation with old growth forest
Session Chair – Eladio Fernandez-Galliano, Head of Biodiversity and Heritage, Council of Europe

- What is old growth forest – a definition structure
  Ana Marin, Malaga University

- Where is it located – how much is left, mapping for protection
  Francesco Sabatini, Humboldt University, Berlin
  Steffen Fritz, International Institute for Applied Statistical Analysis (IIASA) Vienna

- Levels of protection (policy and legal): filling the gaps
  Catherine Weller, Senior Lawyer, ClientEarth

1035 – 1105
Coffee Break
1105 – 1210
SESSION 3
The values of old growth forest
Session Chair – Luc Bas, Director IUCN Regional Office for Europe

- The ecological value of old growth forests
  Daniel Vallauri, WWF France
- Old growth forests and climate change
  – the PES agenda
  Steve Prior, Director Forest Carbon
- The non-extractive socio-economic value
  Neil Birnie, Managing Director, Conservation Capital

1210 – 1255
SESSION 4
Threats to old growth forest
Erika Stanciu, Chair ProParks Foundation
Former Secretary of State for Forests, Ministry of Environment, Romania

- General threats
  Hanna Aho, FERN
- Illegal logging
  David Gehl, Environmental Investigation Agency
- Bio energy
  Sini Eräjä, Birdlife International

1255
Workshop briefing

1300 – 1400
Lunch

1400 – 1600
SESSION 5
Workshops to develop key elements of the Protection Strategy

- Policy and legislation: what’s needed
  Coordinators: Catherine Weller, Senior Lawyer, ClientEarth / Kees Bastmeijer, University of Tilburg
- Devising an Early Warning System, with interactive map
  Coordinators: Bernhard Kohler, WWF Austria / Steffen Fritz, IIASA
- Management: best practice & training for protection
  Coordinator: Erika Stanciu, Chair ProParks Foundation, Former Secretary of State for Forests, Ministry of Environment, Romania
- Funding sources
  Coordinator: Ben Delbaere, Delbaere Consultancy
- Addressing illegal logging
  Coordinator: David Gehl, Environmental Investigation Agency

1600 – 1630
Tea Break
1630 – 1720

SESSION 6

Presentation of Results by five workshop leaders
Session Chair – Zoltan Kun, Wild Europe

1720 – 1730

Wrap Up – developing the Strategy
Ladislav Miko, Chairman Wild Europe
Former Director, Natural Environment (DGE) European Commission

EVENING EVENT

1900 – 2300

Visions for ancient forest in Europe
Ladislav Miko, Chairman Wild Europe
Former Director of Natural Environment, European Commission
Christoph Promberger, Director Fundatia Conservation Carpathia

A presentation on the remarkable Conservation Carpathia Foundation (Romania) initiative, now becoming Europe’s largest non-state funded purchase and protection programme for old growth forests and their unique wildlife; how this benefits local communities and landholders. With award winning ancient forest films.

Reception and seated dinner in the Dinosaur Gallery at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences.
DAY TWO

0900 – 0905
Introduction – the day ahead

0905 – 1000
SESSION 1
The Importance of partnerships – presentation and panel discussion
Session Chair - Jürgen Tack, Science Director, European Landowners Organisation

- A key state forest agency initiative
  Nikolay Vassilev, Bulgarian Executive Forest Agency
- Incentives to private landholders
  Matt McLuckie, Conservation Capital
- A perspective from forest research
  Theresa Frei, European Forest Institute
- Corporate responsibility
  Katarina Schabasser CCA Administrator JAF International Corporation

1000 – 1130
SESSION 2
Workshops to develop key elements of the Protection Strategy

- Incentivising the private sector in practice
  Coordinator: Matt McLuckie, Conservation Capital
- Ecosystem services and bio energy
  Coordinators: Steve Prior, Forest Carbon
- Mapping and research requirements
  Coordinators: Francesco Sabatini, Humboldt University, Berlin / Bart Steen, Joint Research Centre, EC
- New approaches to long-term protection
  Coordinator: Andras Krolopp, The Nature Conservancy TBC
- Communication and representation
  Coordinator: Matthias Schickhofer, Founder Supporting Change Consultancy

1130 – 1200
Coffee Break

1200 – 1245
SESSION 3
Presentation of Results by five workshop leaders
Session Chair – Anne-Marie Bastrup-Birk, European Environment Agency (EEA)

1245 – 1300
SESSION 4
Global conservation perspective
A new initiative, and why old growth forest protection strategy in Europe will have wider impact
Virginia Young, InTact Primary Forest Network (Global)
1300 – 1400
Lunch

1400 – 1515
SESSION 5
Highlighting existing initiatives in the field – case studies with panel discussion
Session Chair - Bernhard Kohler, WWF Austria

**Carpathian Convention**
Miroslava Plassman, WWF Danube Carpathian Programme

**Progress in Belarus**
Viktar Fenchuk, APB-BirdLife Belarus

**Romanian situation**
Erika Stanciu, Chair ProParks Foundation
Former Secretary of State for Forests
Environment Ministry, Romania

**Austrian initiatives**
Erik Mayrhofer, Director Kalkalpen National Park – TBC

**Advancing the Beech Forest Network**
Marcus Waldherr, Coordinator European Beech Forest Network

**Protection in Ukraine**
Michael Brombacher, Director Europe Frankfurt Zoological Society

**Nephin – a vision from Ireland**
Bill Murphy, former Head of Environment & Recreation, Coillte Irish Forestry Agency

1515 – 1545
SESSION 6
Presentation and discussion of a Protection Strategy
Toby Aykroyd and Zoltan Kun

Key elements for development:
- Definition structure
- Mapping framework
- Practical protection: Early Warning System
- Enhancing the policy and legal framework
- Funding and incentives
- Securing long-term protection
- Communication & representation
- Setting objectives: short, medium, long-term
- Action Plan and next steps Q&A

1545 – 1615
Coffee break, including votes into boxes

1615 – 1645
SESSION 7
Closing keynotes: a call to action

CLOSE