



WILD EUROPE

Prague Forum 2000 - Vaclav Havel a living testament to a great European statesman

The sessions below echo two themes based on Vaclav Havel's philosophy and life's work as related to the value of wild nature and the need for its preservation.

Session 1) Caring for our heritage to reconnect society with nature

1730 – 1900 Monday 13th October, Goethe Institute

Time (mins)	Speaker	Topic
5	Professor Bedrich Moldan, former Environment Minister, Czech Republic. Moderator	<i>Introduction to the Programme and Session 1</i> Two key themes for Vaclav Havel on links between society and nature
5	His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales Video Message	<i>Caring for our heritage to reconnect society with nature</i> One of the greatest assets of Central and Eastern Europe is its massive wilderness areas. We need to protect a unique mosaic of land use where wild nature can play a full role. A continuum from agricultural landscapes to wild and wilderness habitats, bringing benefits that offer spiritual refreshment, enriched biodiversity - and sound economic value.
15	Christoph Promberger, Founder-Director of	<i>Wilderness and society in Romania</i>

	Fundatia Conservation Carpathia (FCC)	CCF's work in conserving landscape scale wilderness, with opportunity for establishing a network of initiatives across the Carpathians to benefit conservation, local communities, landholders and society in general.
15	Nat Page, Founder-Director, Fundatia ADEPT Transilvania, Romania	<i>Nature, farming and rural communities</i> Much of Europe's wildlife depends on farmland management, while sustainable production of food and other social benefits depend on keeping links with nature. ADEPT works in policy and projects where the interests of nature, rural communities and society overlap.
15	Thierry de l'Escaille, Secretary-General of European Landowners Organization	<i>Guardians of Europe's landscape for future generations</i> The landowner perspective on nature and sustainability
15	Richard Brabec, Minister of Environment	<i>Safeguarding nature for society in the Czech Republic</i> Steps being taken to protect natural areas for community and societal benefit
20	Audience participation	
90		

Session 2) Reaching across frontiers – the transformative power of wild nature

0930 – 1130

Tuesday 14th October, Goethe Institute

Timing	Speaker	Topic
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10	Ladislav Miko, former Director of Natural Environment at the EC and Environment Minister Czech Republic	<p><i>Introduction to Session</i></p> <p>Vaclav Havel well understood the transformative power of wild nature when he launched the European wilderness strategy at a 2009 EC Presidency Conference in Prague. His main theme was the importance of reconnecting society and nations with their fundamental values through nature.</p> <p>Likewise his Velvet Revolution epitomized the bridging of gaps between minds and ideologies. Conservation has played a major role in applying this principle internationally: able to strengthen the bonds between nations, their peoples and ideologies.</p> <p>First, an update on achievements over 5 years since the Conference</p>
20	Toby Aykroyd, Director Wild Europe initiative	<p><i>In the footsteps of a giant</i></p> <p>Establishing the strategy for protection and restoration of large scale natural ecosystems in Europe. Implementing the Message from Prague 2009 to 2014 - five years of challenge and progress. The organizations involved.</p>
10	Pavel Hubeny, Director Sumava National Park	<p><i>Sumava – an international opportunity?</i></p> <p>Possibilities for linking Sumava National Park (Czech Republic) with Bayerischerwald NP (Germany): historic opportunity for cooperation to create an internationally iconic area of wild nature, benefiting local communities and national conservation status.</p>
10	Jaromir Blaha, Hnutí DUHA, Friends of the Earth Czech Republic	<p><i>Creating space for wilderness</i></p> <p>Breaking barriers between people and nature, and those within ourselves. Šumava National Park as a symbol and a major step towards restoration of wild nature in the Czech Republic. The visions and role of civic society.</p>

20	Renata Krzysciak-Kosinska, Head of Information & Education Bialowieza National Park	<i>Bialowieza Primeval Forest: a world heritage to reach across frontiers</i> The recent massive expansion of the UNESCO Heritage Site protected area in the Polish part of the Bialowieza Forest, and prospects for bridging the new European Frontier with Belarus, to restore this internationally famous natural heritage to its full former ecological glory.
10	Ladislav Miko	Closing remarks. The importance of promoting protection and restoration of large European ecosystems: Vaclav Havel's vision and the Czech Republic as a world class example.
40	Audience participation	
120		

Wilderness and Society

1830 – 2000 Tuesday 14th October 2014, The Goethe Institute

90 minutes of film and slides with brief commentary

Time	Title/Introducer	Description
15 DVD film	<i>Brothers in Arms</i> Introduced by Toby Aykroyd, WFUK and Wild Europe	A remarkable testament to reconciliation between former paramilitary, police and army adversaries in the Northern Ireland conflict, in which wilderness has played a prominent role. www.beyondwalls.co.uk
15 Slideshow	<i>How environmental democracy came of age in the new Czech Republic</i> Presented by Dr. Jan Piňos, Hnutí DUHA: Friends of the Earth Czech Republic	A story of peaceful protest against tree felling in the wilds of Sumava National Park. The growing involvement of civic society in conservation.
10 DVD film	<i>"Silva Gabreta"</i> Introduced by Ladislav Miko, Deputy DG SANCO, and former Environment Minister,	Self-supporting ecosystems and natural processes in Sumava National Park. Why it is right to leave the most valuable parts without human intervention.

30 DVD film	<i>Wolf Mountains</i> Introduced by Erik Balaz Aevis Foundation	One of Europe's last and least known wildernesses, straddling the border between Slovakia, Poland and Ukraine in the Eastern Carpathians. A rich profusion of wildlife including bear, bison, wolf – and a vision for the future.
5.5 DVD film	<i>Caring for our heritage to reconnect society with nature</i> Video message from His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales	Maintaining a balance between society and nature in the rural landscape, for human wellbeing as well as environmental benefit.
15 minutes for questions		