



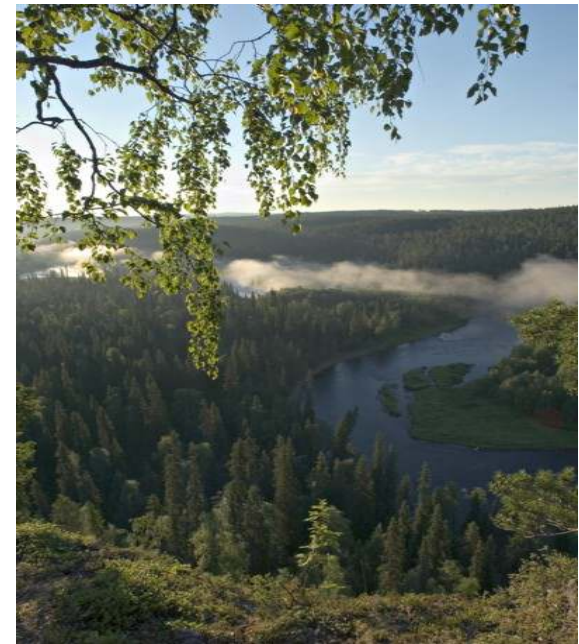
# Integrating wilderness into European protected areas

Toby Aykroyd, Wild Europe Initiative

# Wilderness...? Wild...? What's in a word?



- Natural habitat areas
- Absence of human artifact
- Ideally large and connected
- Natural processes predominate
- Spiritual, aesthetic, environmental, social and economic qualities



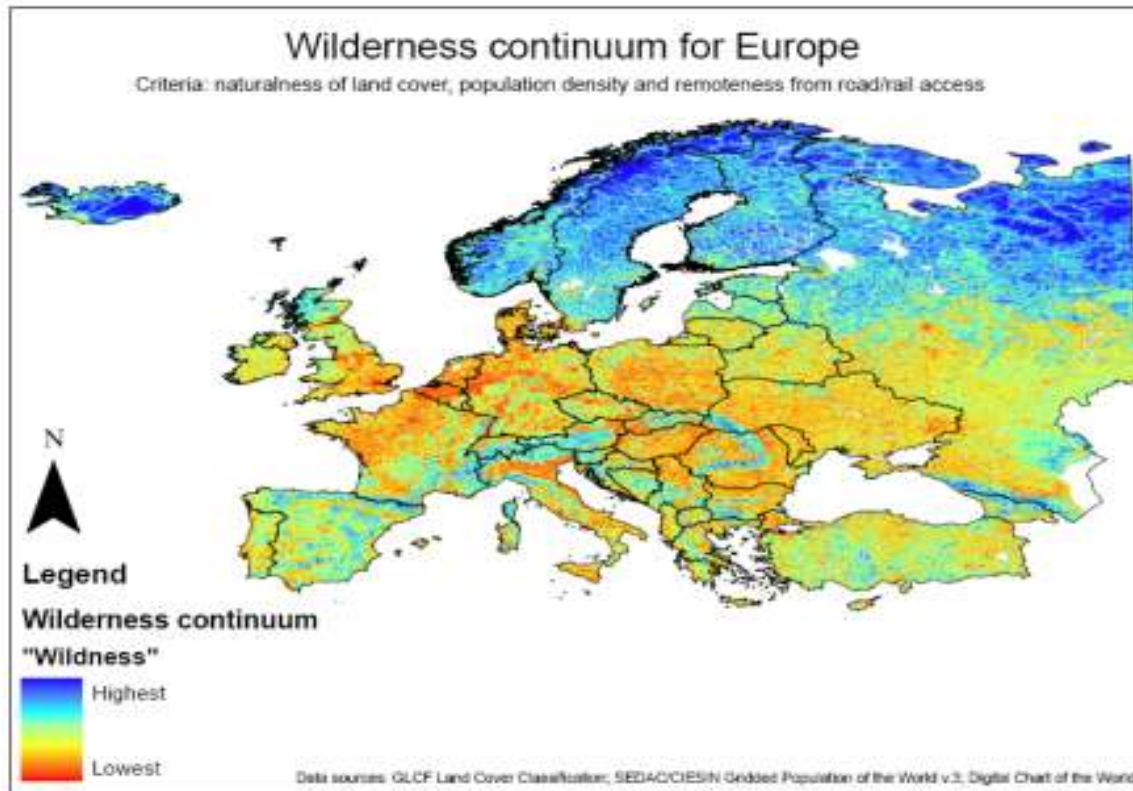
# Where is wild?

## Relation to protected areas



- ‘Wilderness’ under 2% of land area
- High proportion in N2000 network (EU)
- Variable protection outside EU
- ‘Wild’ areas - more widespread, fragmented
- A continuum with degrees of naturalness

# A wilderness 'continuum'



# The importance of integration into PA network



- 1) Protection for wild areas
- 2) Direct benefits to biodiversity
- 3) Benefits for the conservation agenda
- 4) Potential for restoration and connectivity



# 1) An effective agenda for protection



- Addressing a range of threats
- Wilderness Register
- Prioritise protection plans
- Legislative support
- Appropriate management



## 2) Direct benefits for biodiversity

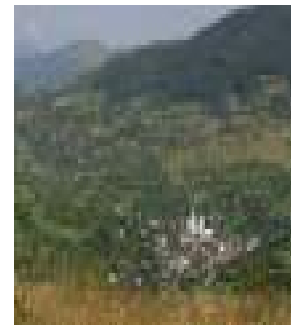
- Harbours key species
- A crucible for natural processes
- Climate change adaptation
- Mitigating climate change



### 3) Benefits for the protected area agenda



- 'Wilderness' tourism
- Ecosystem service funding
- Emerging social benefits
- Rural & urban agendas
- Private & corporate support  
Wild Europe Carpathia





## 4) Opportunities for large scale restoration



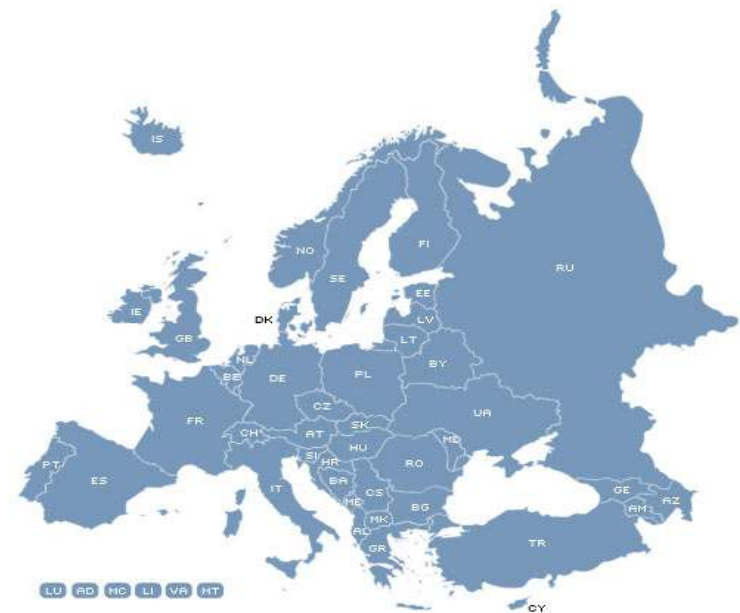
- Marginal farmland and forestry
- Valuing wild area benefits: TEEB
- Proactive CAP reform strategy
- Wild Europe Field Programme



# The way ahead - growing momentum



- Wild Europe initiative
- Resolution for protection
- EU Parliamentary vote
- The Prague conference  
'Action Plan'





A wider message for  
global biodiversity