



WILD EUROPE

DRAFT PROPOSAL

WILDERNESS WORKING GROUP

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Wilderness Working Group Draft proposal

Considering the very good progress made by the Wild Europe Initiative due to the enthusiastic and motivated leadership of its Coordinator, and acknowledging the growing need for involvement from organizations that have the expertise and the willingness to contribute to it, WWF, PAN Parks and EUROPARC Federation would like to offer technical expertise to the Initiative and its coordinator.

All these organizations have staff or members who can significantly contribute with their expertise to developing technical advice and guidance on relevant issues at the European level and for wilderness managers. A Working Group involving representatives of the above mentioned organizations might be the best platform to build on a wealth of knowledge across Europe.

The Wilderness Working Group would involve as much as possible wilderness experts with practical (field) experience in the work that is being carried out to take forward this initiative.

The WWG will support the Wild Europe Initiative with technical expertise in wilderness management related activities / projects, including a coherent proposal for definitions and categories (if appropriate), criteria for registering an area on the Wilderness Register, management recommendations.

The group can help develop the Wilderness Register, advising on criteria and functions of the software that will be developed for the Register or, if funding is identified and expert group hired, the WWG can represent the Wild Europe Initiative and supervise the work done by the experts.

The WWG could be set up in partnership by **WWF, PAN Parks and EUROPARC Federation**. If other organizations would be interested to have representatives in this group, that should be indicated by 26th March.

The WWG should not have more than 12 members, to allow efficient cooperation. Proposals of the WWG can and should be sent for consultation to all organizations represented in the Wild Europe Initiative.

The minimum criteria for the members of the group would be practical experience in protected area management and policy /advocacy – preferably IUCN Category I and Category II Protected Areas, with core areas that qualify as wilderness – of at least 3 years, requirement that should ensure that members have the same level of knowledge and understanding of practicalities related to wilderness and wilderness management.

WWF DCP is looking for resources to cover part of the costs for an initial meeting. Would be desirable to have the first meeting in early April to start discussions on the definition and criteria for mapping Europe's last wilderness areas.

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