



RESOLUTION #3



TITLE:

**A Vision for a Wilder Europe:
Saving our wilderness, Rewilding nature, and
letting wildlife come back. For all.**

WHEREAS

Europe, the world's most densely populated continent, has long been a region of many borders, jurisdictions, and cultures, and this political reality has also affected nature conservation thinking and planning. It is also a continent that for a very long time sought to subdue wild nature and heavily manage those remaining areas containing natural character and qualities. While it is also a continent whose Natura 2000 system of protected areas encompassing 27 countries is the largest such system in the world, whose conservation policies over the past 50 years together with the Emerald Network of protected areas for the 15 countries outside the European Union have created some significant success stories, it also faces a growing budgetary reality that does not allow sufficient attention, such as enforcement of nature conservation regulations, in all these areas;

Over the preceding 30 years numerous factors have been at work; successful conservation programs, better legal protection, habitat/site protection, favorable land use changes, and reduction in hunting pressure, to name a few. The results of these factors have created conditions in which selected species of wildlife are staging a remarkable comeback, ecological corridors are re-emerging, and human populations in rural areas are declining. Because of this, a multi-sectoral group of experts has worked for two years leading up to the 10th World Wilderness Congress to craft a vision document with strong and clear recommended actions that will create a wilder Europe to benefit nature and human society.

THEREFORE

RECOGNIZING that there is a unique window of nature conservation opportunity caused by the above mentioned conditions;

UNDERSTANDING that such an opportunity will not exist in perpetuity;

APPLAUDING the European Commission and the Council of Europe for some of the successes brought about by their policies, legal instruments and initiatives;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the expanding and more technically skilled and competent conservation NGO sector is increasingly an effective initiator and collaborator of effective conservation of wild nature, and that the increasing interest and engagement by the private sector, including private land owners, is creating new conservation opportunities;

CONFIRMING that enlarged, landscape scale thinking, including significant transboundary collaboration, is necessary to expand and make more effective conservation decisions, and

FURTHER CONFIRMING that a new vision, thinking, planning and actions to capitalize on all these conditions can create a European society with new and significantly enhanced aspects of life quality, health and prosperity in both rural and urban areas.

Delegates to the 10th World Wilderness Congress therefore.

RESOLVED

ADOPT the policy document “A Vision for a Wilder Europe” (attached), and CALL UPON government and civil society at all levels to implement the recommended actions in this Vision document for the future well-being of wild nature and human society across the European continent.

PROPOSERS

Name: Dr Magnus Sylvén
Position/title: Co-Chair, WILD10
Country: Switzerland
Email: syiven@bluewin.ch

Name: Dr Christof Schenck
Position/title: Managing Director, Frankfurt
Zoological Society
Country: Germany
Email: schenck@zgf.de

SECONDERS

Name: Joanne Roberts
Position/title: CEO, Wilderness Foundation
Country: UK
Email: jo@wildernessfoundation.org.uk

Name: Zoltan Kun
Position/title: Director, PAN Parks
Country: Hungary
Email: zkun@panparks.org