



Central and East European Working Group
for the Enhancement of Biodiversity



The EU wilderness approach – Wilderness management in Military Training Areas

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MTA Workshop Passau, Germany

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“Wilderness conference”

27-28th May 2009, Pargue

EC Presidency Conference on Wilderness and Large
Natural Habitat Areas

Goals:

1. Protection of remaining wilderness areas in Europe
2. Discuss non-intervention management & the maintenance of ecological processes (e.g. succession) as a form of management



Wilderness benefits

- high intrinsic value (< 1% of EU)
- essential laboratories for research into biodiversity and natural processes (e.g. evolution, adaptation to climate change, natural disasters etc.)
- contribute to mitigation and adaptation to climate change
- provide a wide range of ecosystem services and socio-economic benefits



Non-intervention management

- PROs
 - ✓ closest to nature form of management
 - ✓ attractive for tourists, general public
 - ✓ reduces costs and resources of management
- CONs
 - ✓ Contradictory to active management
 - ✓ Contradictory with some Natura 2000 principles



Follow up of the Conference

- EC Guidance document on Natura 2000 and wilderness
- Analyse possibilities of legal protection of wilderness
- Mapping wilderness and wildland areas
- Valuation of economic, social and environmental benefits of wilderness
- Creation of a Wildland Support Network



Relevance for MTA

- **Forests in MTA buffer zones:** wilderness or close-to-wilderness areas?
- Non-intervention as a form of management in buffer zones?
- Managing part of MTAs actively, part inactively (non-intervention) an option?
- How would stakeholders react?
- Look for some few test areas? Which would suit?



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Thank you for your attention!

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