

WILDLIFE ESTATES LABEL

WE act for biodiversity



Wildlife Estates honors the first label in Argentina

The WE team visited Argentina, Catamarca Region in January 2016 in order to better understand the local challenges in wildlife management and to meet local champions who are taking up voluntarily the issue of sustainable management in the country.

In a previous newsletter it was already reported that the project has the ambition to expand and find synergies in other continents. Since 2010, the Wildlife Estates Label project is being developed experimentally in the Neotropical region of Argentina by Prof. Carlos Otero's team.

Over the past two decades, deforestation of the native forest has been the main environmental negative development in the North West region of Argentina. Thousands of hectares of landscape and natural habitats have been deteriorated in areas where unique species are living such as the Condor, Ocelote and Puma.

Until now there are four territories "Estancias Faunísticas" that successfully passed the committee's evaluation for the WE label in the Catamarca and Santiago del Estero provinces at the Northwest region.



Konstantin Kostopoulos hands over the WE Label to Mr Lami

During this field trip the WE team awarded the first WE Label to Mr Ramon C. J. Lami Hernandez and his son in Argentina for their unique achievements on the Estancia Guillermina.

So far, the "Estancia Faunística" Project, has raised a lot of interest from the Provincial Government of Santiago del Estero and Catamarca as a result of its remarkable success among landowners and land managers that chose conservation of the Argentinean natural heritage as a management tool.

New wildlife estates in Spain and Finland

In the last 6 months, 17 new estates (15 from Spain and 2 from Finland) complied with the WE criteria and were therefore rewarded with the Wildlife Estate Label. These new estates extended the area covered by the Label by more than 45.000 ha.

Intergroup “Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside” – Mid-Term Review



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27th January 2016

MEP **Karl-Heinz Florenz**, President of the Parliamentary Intergroup Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside, chaired the meeting “The Mid-Term Review: The Role of Hunters and Rural Stakeholders in Financing Biodiversity Conservation”, organised with the support of **FACE** (the European Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation).


The purpose of the meeting was to better understand which policies can contribute to halting the ongoing loss of biodiversity within the EU in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020. The conference highlighted the role that hunters and other rural stakeholders play in biodiversity conservation when faced with the appropriate instruments and incentives.

Among the speakers were Dr **Justin Irvine** from the James Hutton Institute in Scotland, **Konstantin Kostopoulos**, Advisor at ELO, Dr **David Scallan**, Wildlife Policy Officer at FACE and Dr **Norbert Lins**, German MEP and Shadow Rapporteur for the Report on the Mid-Term review of the Biodiversity Strategy 2020.

Particular focus was set on the financing of biodiversity with regard to the targets set out in the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020. Several research projects, including the HUNT (Hunting for Sustainability) project and the FACE Biodiversity Manifesto (BDM), were discussed, demonstrating the commitment of European hunters in biodiversity conservation. The high number of best-practice examples gathered in the BDM Report present a clear overview of the hunters’ role in conservation within protected areas, for species, habitats, green infrastructure and ecosystem services.



New French WE Website
Label • Territoires de faune sauvage



The French Wildlife Estates website has been launched in order to make the project more accessible for local stakeholders. The French WE national delegation hopes that this will generate more interest and will facilitate the application of interested estates.

Visit the website [HERE](#)

The complexity of NATURA 2000 Network in forests of the Czech Republic

17th March 2016

An expert's seminar organized by the Czech Forest Management Institute (UHUL) and supported by the Czech Ministry of Agriculture and the Military forests and estates, was held in Hotel Obora Kinský in Kněžičky on 17th March 2016. The seminar was divided into two parts: the morning session focused on providing specific information about the implementation of NATURA 2000, explaining specific conceptual documents (SDO) and applying for subsidies. During the afternoon session the experiences of different organizations present, including the Czech State Forests, the Association of Municipal and Private forests, and Military forests and estates with regards to the implementation of NATURA 2000 were shared and debated. The event ended with a field trip on the Kinský dal Borgo Estate (WE-labeled estate).

Francesco Kinský dal Borgo opened the seminar by welcoming the 70 participants and acknowledging the overall importance of the principles behind the NATURA 2000 project. He also highlighted two important steps for a much needed reconciliation and cooperation between land managers and the state environmental agencies. The first is for both sides to accept that each have their own objectives, but are working in different ways towards a common goal. The other is to recognize that neither side holds the only truth or solution to the issue of nature conservation and management.

Part of this seminar was dedicated to explaining how the company Kinský dal Borgo



a. s. was able to reach a successful and long term partnership agreement with the State Agency for Nature Conservation (AOPK) concerning the areas it owns which are part of NATURA 2000. This cooperation has culminated with the signing of a 5-year, legally binding management plan which is the first of its kind in the Czech Republic and is a practical example of how to ensure proper participation (and compensation) of private land owners within the NATURA 2000 project.

Alena Kubánková, from the Czech [Ministry of the Environment](#) indicated that NATURA 2000 covers 18 % of the EU land area and 6 % of water bodies.

Markéta Černíková from the State [Agency of Nature and Landscape Protection](#) (AOPK) explained the comprehensive recommended measures (SDO) for Special Areas of Conservation. These documents provide optimal recommendations for the protection of designated areas and serve as planning material for their management.

Šárka Mazánková, also from AOPK, presented the financial tools available for the support of forest ecosystems within NATURA 2000 and explained that one of the problems is that “more than 50 % of applicants were not successful in receiving the grant”.

Experience of the State Forest Company has proven that the process of designating protected areas in the Czech Republic is complicated and not finished yet. On this matter people in the audience expressed that the NATURA 2000 designation brought several restrictions concerning normal forest management operations and that the existing overlaps of NATURA 2000 areas with Protected Landscape Areas (CHKO) or Specially Protected Areas (EVL) create unreasonable restrictions in the management. Another point mentioned was that the forest owners are not motivated to implement changes in their management because the current legislation does not respect them as a partner, but forces them to implement measures.

There is still work to do in improving the relationship between forest and land managers and the nature protection agencies, but the example of Kinský dal Borgo a.s. shows that the way for both sides to move forward is through a clearly-defined, legally binding, multiannual management plan.

Intergroup “Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside” - Is Greening the Way Forward?



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The ELO organised a meeting of the Intergroup “Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside” chaired by MEP Karl-Heinz Florenz in the European Parliament in Brussels on the 5th of April to discuss the way forward for the greening of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the practical ways it can work for Europe’s biodiversity and land managers. Among the speakers were **Joost Korte**, Deputy Director-General at DG Agriculture and Rural Development, **Christopher Price**, Director of Policy and Advice at CLA, **Faustine Bas-Defosse**, Senior Policy Officer for Agriculture and Bioenergy at EEB and **Andrei Popescu**, representative from the Romanian Farmer Association (LAPAR). At the conference, first insights from the ground were presented in a discussion towards the future with different stakeholders.

Participants, speakers and delegates recognized that there are still steps to be taken in order to ensure that the greening does not fail. For farmers, this means ensuring that the greening is integrated properly with the business side of farming and allows a certain amount of flexibility. For nature protection NGOs, there are still questions of viability and implementation of greening measures when it comes to the translation of European rules into national policies. What is needed now is more reliable data that can be trusted by all stakeholders, so that the greening can work efficiently and produce the needed results, both for farmers’ businesses and the environment.

[More >>](#)



The 2016 finalists have been announced!

Vote for your favourite now!

WE Scientific Committee meeting took place on March 10th in Paris, Fondation Sommer

The Scientific Committee experts met to discuss the Wildlife Estates methodology and its adaptation to the various biogeographical regions in Europe. A special focus was given to the new UK methodology and the specific criteria chosen for the evaluation, in particular the level of disturbance, extreme event conditions and the assessment of present prey species on a territory. It was decided that the methodology will be further developed and tested by the English partners in the months to come.



WE Steering Committee met on March 23rd in Brussels

The WE Steering Committee, chaired by Konstantin Kostopoulos COO of the project, gathered together to discuss current developments of the WE project in the different countries. Members reported on positive progress at national level including several newly evaluated estates. Participants were also debriefed on the Nature Directors meeting in Luxembourg. Also discussed extensively were issues of WE financing mechanisms, and communication. Distinguished guests from the Czech National delegation joined the meeting in order to better understand the structure and philosophy of the project. The next WE meeting will take place between 27-29th September 2016 in Denmark.

Upcoming events

- **20/04/2016 - Tree of the Year Award Ceremony, Brussels**
- **21/05/2016 - Hercules workshop: Potential of landscape labelling as innovative governance**
- **01/06/2016 - Green Week 2016 - High level conference in Brussels**
- **30/05/2016 – Intergroup Meeting « follow-up fitness check », Brussels**

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