

Wildlife Estates (WE) Label



Thierry de l'Escaille, Secretary General ELO
FACE Hunting for Solutions Conference
13 Septembre 2013

Who is coordinating the WE Label ?

- ELO is an organization representing **64 national associations of private landowners, farmers and foresters** across the whole EU territory
- The central office is in Brussels at the heart of the European Institutions
- A team of 20 people with multiple backgrounds: legal, agriculture, forestry, economic, scientific, etc.
- Defending YOUR interests :
 - **Vertically** (At institutional level = meetings, field visits, lobbying, conferences, etc.)
 - **Horizontally** (Partnerships and collaboration with NGOs, companies and institutions involved in our field of interest)



Land managers can be the ones providing solutions:

- Concerning the regulation and valorization of natural resources
- Ensure land is maintained in good conditions (GAEC)
- Positively influence fauna, flora and its ecosystems
- Promote the rural economy and population (against desertification)
- Create added-value for the natural and cultural heritage

= Reducing conflicts amongst stakeholders

Background of the WE Label

KEY QUESTIONS AT THE START OF THE WILDLIFE ESTATES PROJECT:

- **How to balance hunting activities and biodiversity preservation in EU ?**
 - Hunting is a necessary tool for the management of wildlife
 - Often private land managers are implementing the best practices
- **How to respond to the challenges of Natura 2000 areas and biodiversity targets in general ?**
 - Is hunting allowed in Natura 2000 areas?
 - Do existing wildlife management practices enter in conflict with regulations?
- **How to raise awareness and educate society about hunting, fishing and land management ?**
 - Re-connect society with the countryside and its traditions?

Land managers are willing and able to manage nature sustainably and have the experience to provide good management

Background

There is increasing pressure in Europe to limit or even ban hunting on private estates

Why?

- People living in cities do not understand the role of hunting as a necessary tool for wildlife management;
- There is a general misconception that private owners are not willing or able to implement ecological and sustainable management practices;
- Some NGOs are usually more successful at getting the wrong message across to civil society.



Goal of the WE Label

« Wildlife Estates » is awarding a label which **identifies** and **rewards** those estates which offer the best examples of **land management, wildlife management, and biodiversity conservation**



« Wildlife Estates » provides land managers with a tool to gain support for what they do and recognition for sustainable land management



WE act for biodiversity

Why a LABEL?

The Label is not a binding certification

The Label is flexible and reproducible

A Label is easy to identify for people and media, allowing to better voice your opinions directly at EU and national level

To achieve the « WE Label »:

The estate/territory must complete the following **2 levels of assessment**:

Level I: Agree to follow 'The Charter' with 10 Commitments

Level II: Complete the 'Questionnaire and Evaluation Grid' and auditing



A scientific-based approach

To obtain the label, a territory or an estate must fulfill a set of **generic and specific criteria**.

A minimum score of 210/300 points must be obtained on the basis of **specific indicators** and assessed using an **evaluation grid**.

Specific indicators

1. Level of disturbance supervision & monitoring		/25
1.1	Human factors	
1.2	Demographic criteria	
1.3	Municipal waste	
1.4	Road infrastructure	
1.5	Surveillance and monitoring	
2 Sustainable balance between economic activities on the territory		/50
2.1	Agricultural activities	
2.2	Livestock activities	
2.3	Forestry activities	
2.4	Hunting and fishing activities	
3. Natural, semi-natural and intensive hunting and fishing grounds		/30
3.1	Small game hunting	
3.2	Big game hunting	
3.3	Fish species	
4. Conservation and restoration plans, projects and measures		/40
4.1	Re-vegetation or re-forestation	
4.2	Creation and maintenance of field margins	
4.3	Wetlands and river beds	
4.4	Measures that favour nest building	
4.5	Construction of shelters and refuge for wildlife	
4.6	Control of opportunistic predators with selective methods	
4.7	Food supply and others	
5. Biodiversity areas		/30
6. Food availability		/10
7. Water availability and quality		/10
8. Presence of prey species		/30
9. Presence of valuable species of wild fauna		/20
10 Wildlife balance		/30
11 Conservation of natural and cultural heritage		/10
12 Communication program		/15
TOTAL		/300

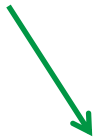
Delivering biodiversity targets

The label is supported by the EU DG ENVIRONMENT

- Influencing Habitats Enhancement
- Reaching Favorable Conservation Status (FCS) objectives
 - Prevention of Invasive Alien Species
 - Elaboration of Management Plans
 - Collection of data



NATURA 2000



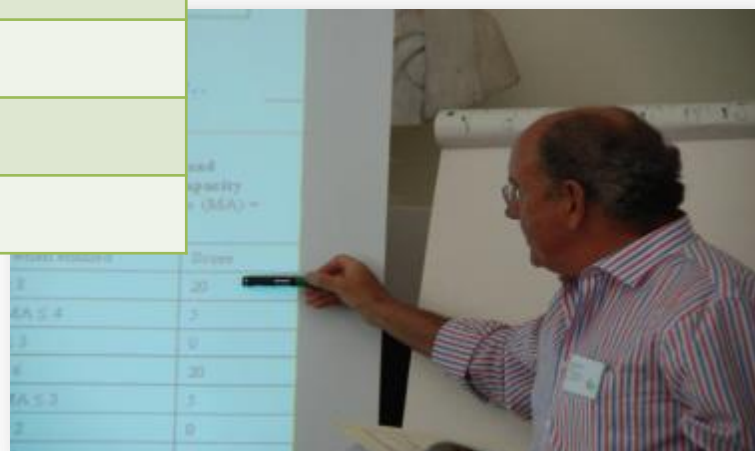
BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

1st International Scientific Committee Meeting

Fondation Maison de la Chasse et de la Nature, PARIS

19th of June 2013

Confirmed SC Members	Bioregion
Joao Bugalho	Mediterranean
Richard Potts	Atlantic
Åke Barklund	Boreal
Nirmala Séon-Massin	Continental
Torsten Mörner	Arctic
Klaus Hacklander	Alpine



A strong European Network



The network relies on **National Liaison Offices** in most EU countries.

Example: for **France**, the **ONCFS** is in charge of receiving and evaluating candidates.

Each country has its own organization or group of organizations

For example:

Metsähallitus: Finnish State body

SRPBA : Scottish Association of Private Landowners

More than 550 000 labeled ha in Europe

About 60% estimated to be Natura 2000 sites

Benefits of WE to the administration



- Private sector led
- Wide ranging support and participation
- Collection of pan reliable data
- Measurement of long term trends
- Establishment of biodiversity KPIs
- Helps deliver Government strategic goals on biodiversity and climate change
- Helps deliver Government goals on sustainable land use and delivery of multiple benefits
- Helps to create a culture of partnership and co-operation

Benefits of WE to Estates / Landowners



- Tourism / commercial benefits from “Wildlife Estates” label
- Removes threat of restrictive legislation / regulation
- Improved relationships / understanding of Government, NGOs and conservation organisations
- Potential long term funding for staff training on monitoring and other forms of best practice
- Potential funding support for preparation of wildlife management plans
- Potential route to securing SRDP funding for conservation projects
- Potential for opening meaningful discussions with Government on conflict management

Thank you for your attention!



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