



## RESOLUTION #4

### TITLE:

### **Establishment of a European Landowners Alliance For Wildlands And Nature (Elawn)**



### WHEREAS

Today privately owned lands dominate the European countryside, based either on a historical situation or a more recent land restitution process, particularly in the eastern part of the continent. The majority of farmland is privately owned but also more than half of all forests.

The private landowners play a critical role inland use, with issues such as Natura 2000, business & biodiversity and hunting/wildlife management addressed in a collaborative way in the context of the European Union.

Several initiatives also exist where land owners collaborate more directly to promote conservation action on the ground, both at the regional, national as well as European level.

One of the key actions for the “A Vision for a Wilder Europe” concept launched at WILD10 addresses the need for establishing a new form of stewardship of land, water and sea, which embraces the concepts of natural processes, apex species, protecting existing wilderness and rewilding areas.

### THEREFORE

We recognise the value of established specific land trusts, such as the John Muir Trust, the Scottish and United Kingdoms’s Wildlife Trusts, the Conservatoire du Littoral or the Conservatoire d’espaces naturels de France (including different regional trusts such as in Languedoc-Roussillon or Midi-Pyrénées).

We acknowledge the successful efforts made in Spain, where La Fundación Biodiversidad is developing land owner agreements encompassing more than 346,000 ha, 2,027 sites, 7 regional networks and serving as a new Spanish coordinating organization.

We see interesting opportunities for involving the European Landowners’ Organization, ELO, as an important player, using their interest in promoting good stewardship of biodiversity, such as the specific “Wildlife Estates Label”.

We applaud the on-going work in the Carpathians Mountains to create a 50,000 ha private protected area consisting of old-growth forest in combination with restoration of degraded areas.

We recognise the initiative in Germany where a newly established network of conservation landowners – “Nationales Netzwerk Natur” - now represents about 50 member institutions owning and managing almost 230,000 ha of nature conservation land.

We see an opportunity to link up with “LandLife” (LIFE 10/INF/ES/540), consisting of a number of organizations in the Western Mediterranean who are promoting new land stewardship agreements for conservation together with Non Government Organisations, land owners, local and regional governments through training, studies, and disseminating the manual “Caring Together for Nature”.

We feel inspired by the experiences in Australia, North America and South Africa to harness new landowner networks to manage their lands to ensure recovery and maintenance of all native species (including top predators) and ecosystem function, establishing critical ecological corridors in between already protected public conservation land at the same time as creating economic “vitality” and providing social services.

## RESOLVED

- Call upon existing land owner trusts and private landowners (including communal lands) across Europe to participate in the formation of a European Landowners Alliance for Wildlands and Nature, ELAWN.
- Build on conclusions and outcomes of a specific workshop on October 10 as part of the 10<sup>th</sup> World Wilderness Congress Global Forum, in developing a Vision, Mission Statement and Principles for the land stewardship covering biological/ecological as well as economic/social issues.
- Invite the participants of the 10<sup>th</sup> World Wilderness Congress to express their support for the establishment of an ELAWN.

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