



RESOLUTION #22

TITLE:

Tree cutting and development in Sumava National Park, the Czech Republic



WHEREAS

Sumava National Park is one of the key biodiversity and wilderness refuges in Central Europe, a vital habitat for endangered species including capercaillie, lynx, elk and Ural owl, and its peatbogs and waterlogged forests are a wetland of international importance;

Sumava National park is not only about national pride, but also of European and World pride as an internationally recognised area of important wildlife and unique natural treasure;

The Czech Republic has been recognised by the international community for its strong commitment to conservation of the country's unique natural heritage, beginning with the creation of some of the Europe's oldest ancient forest reserves in mid-19th century;

Wilderness is increasingly a major opportunity for nature tourism and other services that do not damage local ecosystems but can contribute to sustainable rural development in European countries, as experienced by small businesses and local communities in the continent's national parks. This includes neighbouring Bayerischer Wald National Park which focuses on wilderness conservation and attracts 750,000 visitors per year;

Disturbances such as bark beetle outbreaks and windstorms have been a natural aspect of European forest ecosystems for millennia, and are considered an integral part of wilderness in national parks across the continent.

THEREFORE

We are concerned that a proposed new legislation would open large areas of Sumava National Park to logging and development;

We recognise that the proposed law is a major threat to the wilderness values of Sumava National Park, its wildlife, tourism opportunities and international recognition;

It should be noted that upon removal from the IUCN protected area Category II designation, Sumava National Park, or its parts, would not be recognised as a national park internationally, and will be removed from the relevant international lists, with a corresponding impact on its profile as a tourist destination.

RESOLVED TO

Call upon the Czech government, Sumava National Park Administration and legislators of the Czech Republic to ensure that any new legislation, management plan and zoning will protect at least 30% of Sumava National Park as a non-intervention zone following the IUCN recommendation from 2003, and

develop a timetable to increase the area of protection to at least 50% by 2030, as it is in the existing approved management plan;

Urge the Czech government and legislators of the Czech Republic to ensure that the new law will limit the zones open to development and construction to the current size;

Recommend the Czech government to work with PAN Parks and other international bodies to develop Sumava National Park's opportunities for wilderness tourism;

Propose to the Czech government to develop a multi-stakeholder solution on bark beetle management to protect not only the wilderness zones with all the free flowing natural processes, but also to protect the adjacent economic forests against spreading bark beetle outside the national park;

Propose that the Sumava National Park's IUCN Category II status is maintained and the core area is afforded greater protection;

Request that these messages be conveyed to and taken up for long term monitoring by the IUCN World Parks Congress in 2014, via the WCPA office.

PROPOSER

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