The Wildlife Estates Label (WE)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword 2

I. INTRODUCTION 3

II. THE WILDLIFE ESTATES PROJECT 4
- A. Aims 4
- B. Impacts/Benefits 4
  - 1. socio-cultural aspects 5
  - 2. socio-economic aspects 5
- C. Advantages of the Wildlife Estates Initiatives 6

III. THE WILDLIFE ESTATES LABEL PROCEDURE 7
- A. Level 1 - The Wildlife Estates Charter 7
  - 1. Biogeographical map of Europe 8
  - 2. The 10 commitments 9
- B. Level 2 -The Wildlife Estates Label 10
  - 1. Generic Requirements 11
  - 2. Specific Indicator Evaluation Grids 11
- C. Renewal 12
- D. Summary 13

IV. THE FUTURE 14
- A. What are the next stages? 14
- B. Wildlife Estates' online Network 14

V. CONCLUSION 15

VI. ANNEXES 16
- A. Pilot Estates 16
  - 1. Pilot Estate example 1 – Crown Hunting Grounds Belgium 16
  - 2. Pilot Estate example 2 – Chambord Estate, France 17
  - 3. Pilot Estate example 3 – La Garganta, Spain 18
  - 4. Pilot Estate example 4 – Herdade da Raposa, Portugal 19
- B. Specific Indicator Evaluation Grids 20
  - 1. Continental & Atlantic 20
  - 2. Mediterranean 22
  - 3. Boreal 26

FOREWORD

The main challenge we are faced with is that biodiversity has been declining at an alarming rate, mainly as a result of human activity. Biodiversity is crucial to life as we know it. In 2001, the European Union set itself the ambitious goal of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010. Important progress has been made and there are signs that the rates of loss are beginning to slow down. However, we also now have evidence that the 2010 target will not be achieved. This is a clear indication that more must be done.

The EU Birds and Habitats Directives and the resulting Natura 2000 network are the key tools for halting biodiversity loss in Europe. They provide the legal framework regarding the preservation of endangered habitats and species of Community interest. The Birds Directive is providing for a general protection of all European Bird species, whilst the Habitats Directive is aimed at ensuring a favourable conservation status of specific habitats, and flora and fauna species. One key provision of these 2 directives is to establish a network of protected areas, called Natura 2000. The designation of Natura 2000 is now nearly completed, covering close to 17% of the EU territory and around 25.000 sites, the biggest protected area in the world.

But achieving full implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives alone will not be sufficient to halt biodiversity loss in Europe. Biodiversity concerns need to be fully integrated into all policies affecting the wider countryside, such as agriculture, regional and rural development and fisheries.

The Birds and Habitats Directives and Natura 2000 are not only about preserving Europe's natural heritage but also about encouraging sustainable socio-economic development which benefits from – and is done in harmony with - biodiversity. Achieving enhanced biodiversity requires the right balance of nature protection measures and sustainable human activities on the land. There are many wildlife and hunting estates across Europe that are part of the Natura 2000 network. Integrated and effective management of these locations can deliver mutual benefits both in terms of the hunting and the overall protection of biodiversity. The future of biodiversity lies therefore, to a large extent, in the hands of land managers across Europe. Hunting can play a crucial role in this as it is in every wildlife territory manager and hunters' interest to protect the habitats and diversity of species living on their territories.

I very much welcome independent initiatives such as ELO's Wildlife Estate Initiative which promote such synergies between conservation and sustainable use and I hope that many wildlife and hunting estates will join the initiative.

Stavros Dimas
Commissioner for the Environment

I. INTRODUCTION

In 2003, at La Converserie in Belgium, Claude DELBEUCK (Director General, Natural Resources and the Environment for Wallonia, the Crown Hunting Grounds (BE)), Francis FORGET (National Estate of Chambord (FR), and Michel Reffay (National Office for Hunting and Wildlife, (FR)) formed a think-tank on how to balance hunting and civilian activities. A second meeting followed in 2004 in Chambord (France). In 2005 the European Landowners' Organization (ELO) with the support of DG Environment was invited to become the organisational body of the project. As a result, the Pilot Wildlife Estates Initiative (PWEi) was born.

Between 2005 and 2008, twelve workshop meetings were organised throughout Europe (Brussels, Estremoz, Spa, Saint Benoist, Copenhagen, Santiago, Hoge Veluwe and Tor). Little by little, the initial vision evolved towards the more precise and much more ambitious purpose of defining the PWEi. Many other organizations and individuals were incorporated along the way (including: ANPC of Portugal, IIMA and APROCA of Spain, the UK Crown Hunting Grounds, the French National Hunting and Wildlife Agency (ONCFS), Ady Krier of the Luxemburg Forest and Water Authority; Slefringe Manor, the Crown Hunting Estate of Sweden; André Fougeroux of the Syngenta research unit, Metsähallitus Estate of Finland and Hoge Veluwe National Park in the Netherlands).

This new management and communication scheme set up a network of hunting territories which were considered to be exemplary and hoped to act as a catalyst for initiatives which are designed to lead to new management formulae.

In 2008, the PWEi officially became the **Wildlife Estates Initiative (WE)** with a new Logo as the experimental phase of the project came to an end. As a result of the Helsinki meeting in March 2009, the Boreal biogeographical region was finally incorporated into the project and marked the start of the experimental evaluation of the initial 69 Estates from various EU countries.

Wildlife estate management is one of the many uses of the Natura 2000 initiative and it is of notable economic significance to many rural communities. Many believe that the 'Wildlife Estates' scheme is a natural development for hunting, fishing, and even bird watching grounds, and that it undoubtedly enhances one of the most important aspects of what we mean by sustainable management.

A number of pilot territories, thanks to their exemplary management were the first to receive WE Labels and will serve as models for many other areas. They include; The Crown Hunting Grounds in Belgium for the Continental region, La Garganta in Spain and Herdade da Raposa in Portugal for the Mediterranean region, and the Chambord Estate in France for the Atlantic region.

II. THE WILDLIFE ESTATES PROJECT

A. Aims

The WE aims to establish a **network of exemplary estates**. These estates/territories will showcase the simple principles of good management and conservation of wildlife estates all over Europe and are adapted according to the different types of hunting management in the various regions of the EU. Apart from a highly beneficial exchange of experience, the initiative has established simple but precise principles for the good territorial management and conservation of 'wildlife' territories throughout Europe, divided up according to the different biogeographical regions of the European Union.

B. Impacts/Benefits

This initiative is supported by a philosophy which emerged from several Working Group meetings and enriching discussions which have been organized on a regular basis in recent years. The Wildlife Estates is one more stage in the natural development of hunting and fishing grounds and enhances one of the most important aspects of what we mean by sustainable management. Europe's hunting and fishing grounds have – over time – been transformed into real producers of wild fauna thanks to the introduction of both simple and practical management techniques. In fact, traditional Hunting or Fishing Estates have been evolving to the point of becoming, incredibly abundant wildlife territories.

In a hunting and fishing area it is usual for between 6 and 12 species to be hunted and fished (note that in some cases only 1 or 2 species are hunted). The most important feature of this management is its respect for habitats and landscapes. WE's aim is to create the peaceful and tranquil conditions that flora and fauna require, which in turn improves the natural conditions for other vertebrates which are not hunted (often between 60 and 120 species). These species are also protected and in many cases vulnerable or endangered.

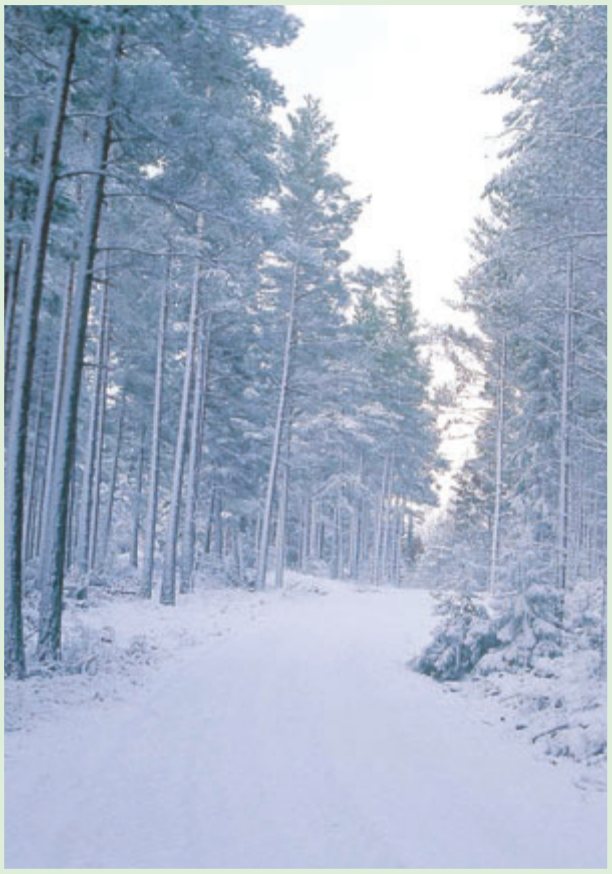
Sustainability is very important because of budgetary restrictions linked to CAP reform, the lack of environmental funding which doesn't reward ecosystem services, and also because climate change is making it necessary to develop much more sustainable behaviours.

However, it must be noted though that the WE does not solely focus on the protection of biodiversity; it incorporates social and economic benefits as well.

Wild habitats, which are usually valuable ecosystems, possess considerable potential for society, in part due to the showcase effect they have in raising awareness about the quality and variety of wildlife and its habitats.

1. Socio-cultural aspects

Sustainable hunting/fishing and the appropriate management of wildlife territories provide undeniable added value to our common heritage and, thus, the Initiative has considerable potential for society. It will **raise public awareness** about the quality of wildlife populations, the **necessary management**, and crucially, it will be an **educational** tool for future generations. However, these truths must be explained to society which all too often is unaware of these processes, and as a result, sometimes misunderstands their vital functions. Communication therefore is an essential part of conservation; the lack of it often leads to paralysis and even hostility. A constructive dialogue between wildlife managers and the different rural stakeholders is therefore fundamental, requiring honesty and transparency. Sterile battles where both sides lose out are pointless, not to mention harmful to biodiversity.



2. Socio-economic aspects

The WE will also bring some **added value** to the common good of society, not only in terms of environmental protection, but also in socio-economic terms. In particular it allows **diversification of income** in the countryside by creating a 'wildlife products' economy such as hunting/fishing, bird watching, marketing local produce or flora/fauna and landscape conservation. This is crucial at a time when cuts to the Community budget will inevitably affect farming and the financing of rural development. The WE will have a positive impact on the involvement of the local community as well as creating jobs in the management of wildlife.

C. Advantages of the Wildlife Estates Initiatives

- *The idea is to anticipate the implementation of new Natura 2000 biodiversity strategies.* DG Environment is moving towards a more species based approach, focused on management of territory. The initiative should avoid new European legislation on this theme and provide solutions, aiming to work in line with the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive which make up Natura 2000.

- *WE aids identification and communication on the activities of Wildlife Estate managers.* The activities of land managers, hunters and fishermen are under pressure. The initiative endeavours to have a global agreement between managers of Wildlife Estates and to identify good practices.

- *WE creates a new network promoting innovate activities and innovative techniques.*

III. THE WILDLIFE ESTATES LABEL PROCEDURE

The WE label has been developed to recognize and admit good and exemplary management of territories where there are hunting and fishing activities within the European Union. It creates a system which ensures and demonstrates that the management and the use of natural resources on relevant estates comply with biodiversity and nature conservation principles and aims to be flexible and reproducible. This label is not a binding certification however; on the first level it is a voluntary commitment to the 10 wildlife estate management principles of the WE Charter, and on the second level, a territory manager must fulfil the requirements of the WE Questionnaire.

Until now the assessment methods for candidate properties have been supported by special questionnaires for the, **Atlantic**, **Continental**, **Boreal and Mediterranean** biogeographical regions. There are also 3 other major biogeographical regions in the European Union: **Macaronesian**, **Alpine** and **Pannonian**. The questionnaires were issued through Working Groups and a Plenary Session which have been organised on a yearly basis since the initiative's inception in 2005. In the European Union, most of the hunting and fishing areas are located in the above-mentioned biogeographical regions, as well as in the Boreal zone.

To receive a **WE Label**, an estate or territory must complete **two levels** of assessment. **However, a candidate can choose to only make a commitment to The WE Charter at Level 1, though if this is the case, they will not obtain a WE label**.

An estate must lie within a certain European biogeographical region to be eligible for the WE label.

A. Level 1 - The Wildlife Estates Charter

The territory owner/manager must make a commitment to observe the principles defined and enumerated in the **WE Charter**, which consists of **10 Commitments** that the territory owner/manager must fulfil.

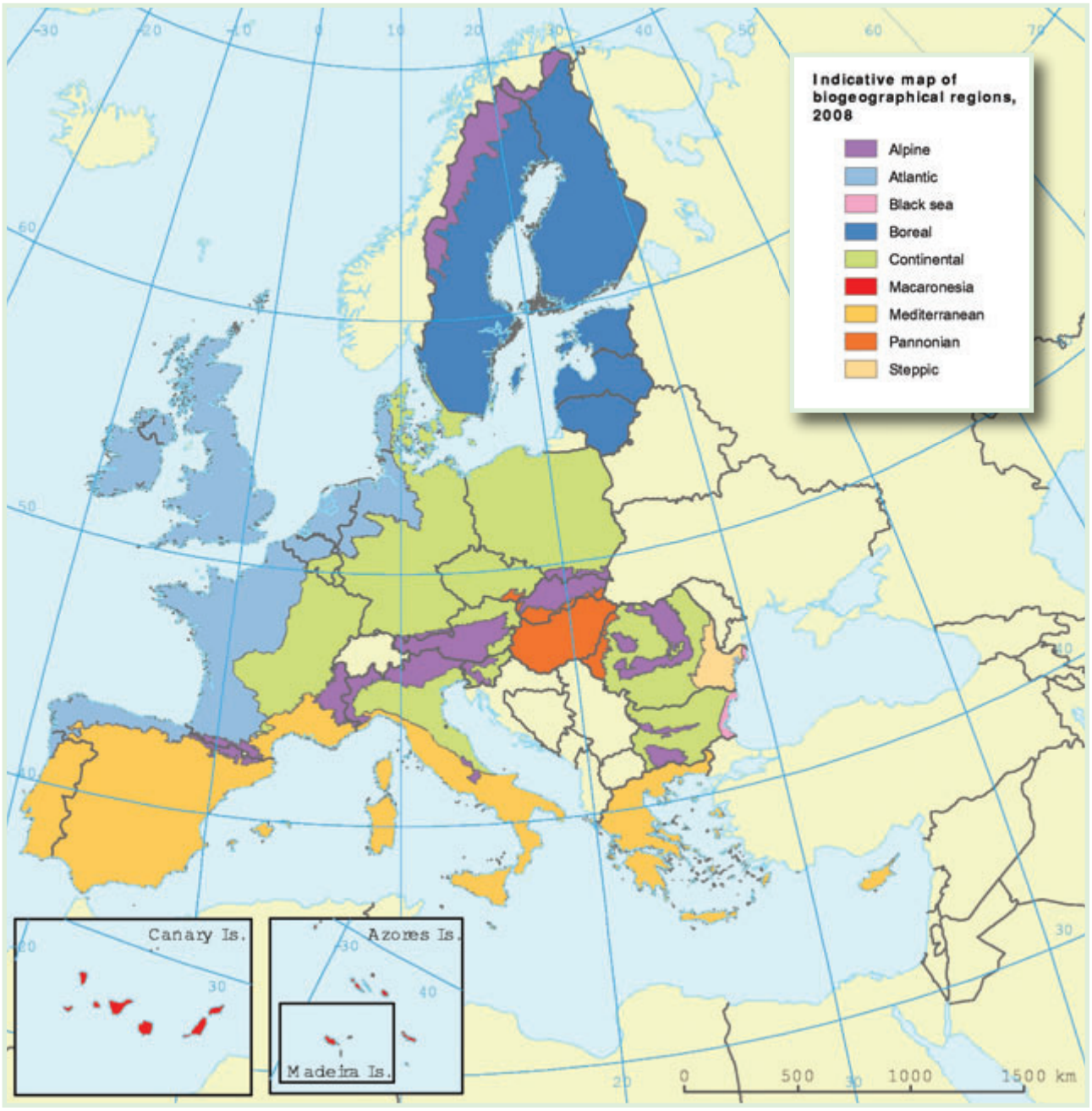
Firstly, the estate or territory must be located in a Member State of the European Union and belong to one of the following biogeographic regions *(See the map page 8)*:

- ✔ Atlantic
- ✔ Mediterranean
- ✔ Boreal
- ✔ Continental
- ✔ Macaronesian
- ✔ Alpine
- ✔ Pannonian

The estate must also belong to at least one of the following categories:

- ✔ Mountains
- ✔ Wetlands
- ✔ Woodlands
- ✔ Farmlands
- ✔ Coastlands

1. The biogeographical map



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2. The TEN commitments

THE WE CHARTER

1. *Identification of a head site manager*
2. *Respecting the requirements of the Agreement between BirdLife International and FACE on Directive 79/409/EEC, the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity and the EU Commission's Guide on Hunting under the Birds Directive*
3. *Existence of a multi annual integrated management plan (MAIMP) including objectives, actions, monitoring and annual report of the good conservation of landscape, habitat and wildlife species*
4. *Existence of active wildlife management practices*
5. *Existence of sustainable shooting and/or angling activities*
6. *Planning and implementing Public Relation/ education activities.*
7. *Respecting ecological and legal requirements. E.g. Natura 2000, Natura 2000 Management Plan*
8. *Respecting IUCN guidelines while reintroducing indigenous game species*
9. *Ensuring a balance between all species living in the estate*
10. *Applying annual culling/bags to the dynamic of the existing natural population*

B. Level 2 - The Wildlife Estates Label

This level is **optional**, though compulsory for any candidate wishing to receive a WE Label. Having fulfilled the commitments of the **WE Charter** the territory owner/manager can progress to level 2. They must complete a **WE Questionnaire** which includes:

(1.) The Generic Requirements (the same for all regions)

General site information

(2.) An Evaluation Grid of Specific Indicators

The Evaluation Grid is specific to the biogeographical region which the estate belongs to. A candidate should choose the evaluation grid relevant to their biogeographical region, be it; Atlantic, Continental, Mediterranean or Boreal (if an estate is in the Boreal region, the owner/manager must choose the relevant form for whether the territory is Agricultural or Forestry). The grid has a maximum score of 300 points and a candidate must obtain a **minimum score of at least 210 points** in order to qualify for the label.

The Questionnaire also includes annexes which include; an abstract of the Questionnaire, a set of photos showing the territory and the management plan (**MAIMP**, see box). The assessment is then completed by a visit to the applicant's territory by experts designated by the **Evaluation Committee** in order to verify on the spot the accuracy of the information given in the questionnaire. **The questionnaire can be completed in 5 different working languages: English, French, German, Italian and Spanish and will be found online**.

*The **MAIMP (Multi Annual Integrated Management Plan)** is the compilation or sum of the management documents of an estate (for example: Agricultural plan, Forestry Plan, Hunting technical plan, etc.). This document can have been drafted either by the owner or by an external organization, but it should include management aspects of the candidate territory (for example: Endangered species conservation scheme, Management of Natura 2000 areas scheme and other similar schemes).*

To apply for a WE Label an applicant should send their completed questionnaire to the relevant **National Office** when possible, or to the WE liaison office based in Brussels, and applicants will be able to also complete their application online using the **WE Online Network**.

Register at: **www.wildlife-estates.eu** *(Septembre 2009)*
WE Evaluation Committee
European Landowners' Organization - asbl
Rue de Trèves 67
BE-1040 Bruxelles
Belgium
E-mail: nature@elo.org and legalaffairs@elo.org

1. Generic requirements: for all regions

- Geographical information
- Legal and ecological constraints i.e. Natura 2000
- Historic and cultural values (list and location)
- List of emblematic and protected species
- List of game and fish species
- Game and fish population census
- List of conservation and/or management actions for endangered and emblematic species.
- List of conservation and/or management actions for game and fish species
- Annual shooting and/or angling plan

2. Specific Indicators Evaluation Grids *(See annexe VI B)*

A candidate should choose **one** of the following evaluation grids, found on the following pages *(to find out which region you belong to see the map on page 7):*

- The Continental Biogeographical Region *(See page 20-21)*
- Atlantic Biogeographical Region *(See page 20-21)*
- The Boreal biogeographical region *(See page 22-25)*
  - Agricultural Estates
  - Forest Estates
- The Mediterranean biogeographical region *(See page 26-27)*
- The Alpine biogeographical region [1]
- The Pannonian biogeographical region [2]

[1] *To be developed by the beginning of 2010*
[2] *To be developed by 2011*

Comparison between regional specific indicators

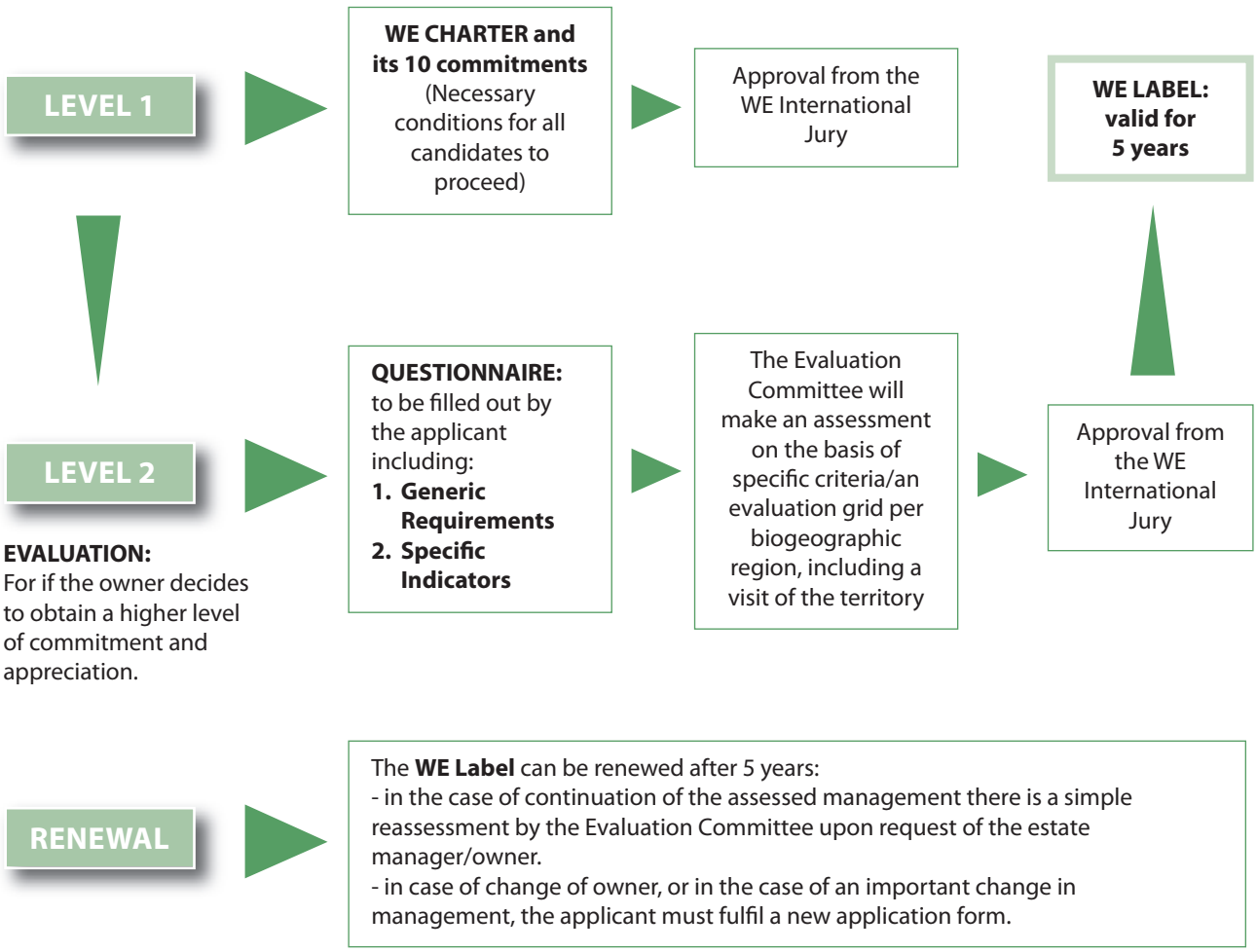
	MEDIT.	ATLANT./CONT.	BOREAL (Agri)	BOREAL (Forest)
Tranquility	Score / 30		Score / 20	
Food availability	Crops, grasslands & open areas			Game habitatas in forest planning
Offsetting extreme events	Firte prevention measures	Extended: fire, droughts, floods & winter cover		
Wetlands or Water availabilty	1 water point / 50 ha Score / 10		1 water point / 500 ha Score / 20	Quality & quantity of wetlands Score / 20
Abundance of prey sp.				
Biodiversity areas	3 thresholds		6 thresholds	
High value fauna sp.				
Conservation plans (soil, landscape, etc.)	Score / 30		Score / 20	
Communication program				
Conservation of heritage	Cultural & historical heritage		Natural, cultural & historical heritage	Promoting youth education and hunting traditions
Hunted fauna balance				
Habitat's carrying capacity				
Agri-sylvi-game balance				Special attention to connectivity between forests

C. Renewal

If after assessment of the application with the specific indicators, an applicant does not achieve the minimum necessary points, the WE Evaluation Committee will set out and detail the points where improvement could make it possible to present the candidature again.

Once awarded by the International Jury, the WE label is valid for 5 years and is renewable. In the case of a change of owner or an important change in management the applicant must fulfil a new application form.

D. Summary



*The **WE International Jury** will comprise of members from each national organization in Europe that participated in the creation of the project.*

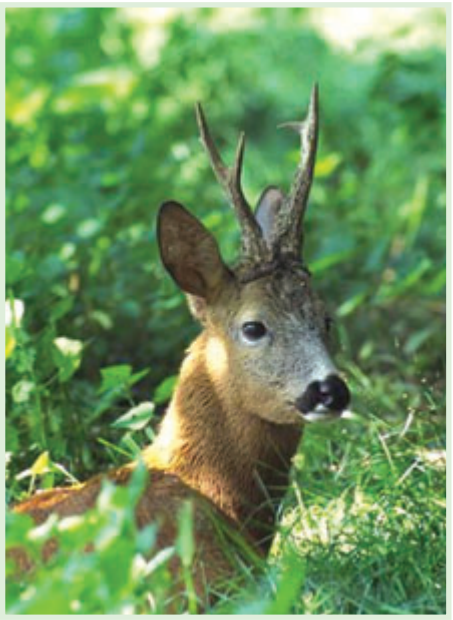
*The **WE Evaluation Committee** will be composed of experts chosen because of their expertise in the field of biodiversity, wildlife and land management.*

IV. THE FUTURE

The Wildlife Estates philosophy was adjusted to that of the Natura 2000 network and the upcoming strategy on biodiversity. The idea for the future is to make the goals even more compatible in order to combine the responsibilities and management of protected zones throughout the European network.

A. What are the next stages?

- Consideration should be given to the inclusion of at least one other biogeographical region, such as the Alpine one, in which there are many hunting and fishing areas.
- The WE assessment panel which was set up in Brussels in 2008 should be enlarged to include new technicians, scientists and managers of hunting and fishing areas throughout the European Union. With the right number of members to allow it to remain operational, the panel will award final status to the hunting and fishing grounds applying to become Wildlife Estates. The analysis will be carried out – as it is already – by the technicians at the panel's request.
- Candidate assessment must continue throughout 2009 and 2010 by completing the analysis of the 69 properties which have applied. These are located in the Mediterranean, Atlantic, Continental and Boreal biogeographical regions.



B. The Wildlife Estates' online network (www.wildlife-estates.eu)

The website allows owners/managers to register online through the creation of a estate profile. Each territory manager will then have access to relevant and up-to-date articles and documents, details of up and coming events, an up-to-date address book and have the opportunity to see other estate profiles, which can serve as models. The WE online network is open to all territories with the WE Label or any territory interested in obtaining the label.

V. CONCLUSION

The Wildlife Estates initiative is a logical progression for wildlife estate management. Its aim is to work within Natura 2000 and to pre-empt the upcoming strategy on biodiversity, as well as enhancing the biodiversity or our natural environment. It will also give managers the opportunity to communicate with each other and to learn from the experiences of others who find themselves in similar positions. As well as providing a platform for communication, it will also aid the creation of 'wildlife economies', based on rural activities such as hunting, fishing or bird watching for example. In tern, WE will add valuable socio-cultural and socio-economic benefits not only to private territories but for public ones as well. Communication with the public is also important because it will help educate and build awareness by helping people to understand the importance of good wildlife management, to the promotion of biodiversity. Whether a territory only makes a commitment to the WE Charter, or completes the second stage as well - by completing a WE Questionnaire - they are making a valuable contribution to biodiversity.

VI. ANNEXES

A. Pilote Estates

1. Pilot Estate Example 1 - Continental Region

The Crown Hunting Grounds, Belgium

Since 1982, under the reign of King Baudouin, the King has wished to directly and personally exercise his right to hunt the territories of the Hertogenwald (6,350ha within a forest of over 50,000ha located along eastern Belgium) and Saint-Michel Freyr (4,100ha located in the heart of the forest of Saint-Hubert), the exercise of that right being reserved to him under of Article 13 of the Hunting Act of 28 February 1882.

King Baudouin vowed to confer to the Crown Hunting Grounds a triple mission:
- Organize an exemplary hunting territory
- Develop an experimental site for applied scientific research
- Create a place where socio-educational potential is evident

To meet these three missions, the game management of these two territories was entrusted to the local Council working closely with administrative and scientific management. In July 1995, King Albert confirmed this threefold purpose, involving more explicitly the Regional Administration, namely the Directorate-General of Natural Resources and Environment (DGRNE) and, more specifically, the Division of Nature and Forests (DNF).

Since then, the Crown Hunting Grounds have become one of the first areas to receive a WE Label, which was approved in full by the European working party during the plenary in Spa at the end of August 2007. The Crown Hunting Grounds are therefore a place of privilege where the Region of Wallonia can introduce both senior European civil servants and hunting managers from neighbouring countries to their countryside and forests.

2. Pilot Estate Example 2 - Atlantic Region

The Chambord Estate, France

The park has an area of 5,339ha, surrounded by a 32km long wall, making it the largest enclosed forest park in Europe. The construction of the wall began at the end of the reign of Francis I in 1542, and ended with Gaston d'Orleans, Louis XIII's brother in 1642. Perfectly maintained today, it provides an effective enclosure for big game.

Following a ministerial decree in January 1998 the forest of Chambord became primarily concerned with; the protection of the landscape, habitats, species and hunting activities. It is also a public home and produces hardwood lumber and softwood and hardwood firewood.

Classified as a National Hunting and Wildlife Reserve in 1947, the estate houses numerous examples of flora and fauna, including deer and wild boar; the flagship species of Chambord.

The wildlife management goal is to keep large numbers of wildlife for public viewing and for hunting. Deer, wild boar, bighorn sheep, foxes and other species are regulated when the need arises. Species for which the wall is not an obstacle are not hunted or regulated by man: goose and duck for example greatly appreciate the area as a refuge.

Chambord is host to numerous natural habitats: wetlands, bogs, heather moorland and old oak and justifies its classification as a special area of conservation. Its attainment of the WE Label is testament to the exemplary management that is undertaken at the Chambord Estate.

3. Pilot Estate Example 3 - Mediterranean Region

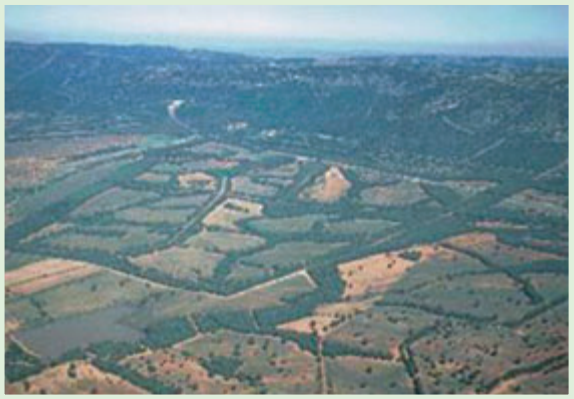
La Garganta Estate, Spain

The name, meaning throat, is that given to an estate of approximately some 15,000 ha in the Castilla La Mancha region of central southern Spain. The Grosvenor Estate added it to its portfolio in 2001, in which time it has been awarded the Belleuropa Award for excellence in environmental management.

The landscape is hilly, ranging in altitude from 585 metres to 1,266 metres above sea level and contains rich and diverse flora and fauna. Indeed, La Garganta is one of only very few places in Europe where a large number of rare species can be found, including the Black Stork.

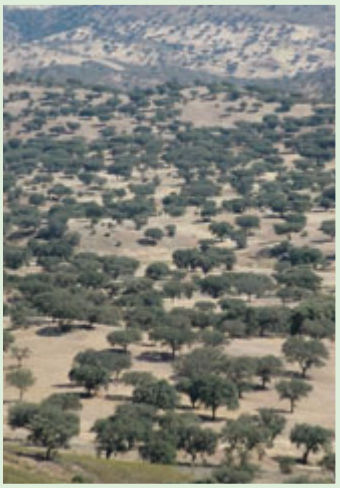
La Garganta's principal activities are hunting and conservation. All other activities; agriculture, cattle and forestry, submit to those main objectives. The 3,900 ha of cereals (wheat and barley) are cultivated on rotation (one year out of three), and in addition, produce about 600,000 kg of organic olives.

There is an extraordinary diversity of wildlife at La Garganta, and conservation of many different species is now at the forefront of the estate's overall management plan. They manage, by means of sustainable hunting, 400 Spanish ibex, 3,000 red deer and 300 roe deer and 2,500 wild boar; which feast on the acorns of the Evergreen Oak as well as crops, grass and grubs.



The birdlife at La Garganta ranges from songbirds to waders and birds of prey; the most commonly seen large birds bring Griffon, Black and Egyptian Vultures. Spanish Imperial and Golden eagles can also be found; hare, red legged partridge and rabbit populations have been allowed to develop in order to maintain a healthy food supply for these important protected species. The summer population of wild rabbits has been estimated to be in excess of half a million in recent years.

4. Pilot Estate Example 4 - Mediterranean region



Herdade da Raposa, Portugal

The estate is 2,492 ha, of which 12km stretches along the Guadiana River, the biggest watercourse in southern Portugal and lies within the Vale do Guadiana Natural Park (PNVG), the Guadiana Special Protection Area (Birds Directive) and partially inside the Guadiana Special Area for Conservation (Habitats Directive). The estate includes 3 types of habitat categories:

- Forested areas
- Farmlands
- Wetlands

125 species of bird and 24 species of mammal are resident in Herdade da Raposa, and it also boasts the highest concentration of wildcat in Portugal. There is a high concentration of carnivores due to habitat quality, tranquillity and density of prey. Only 14 of the 32 huntable species are actually hunted though, the most important of these being red legged partridge and wild boar. The shooting is made accordingly to a 12 year game management plan and all game species are wild and no re-stocking takes place.

Herdade da Raposa aims to:

- Create a top quality wild partridge shooting estate based on sustainable hunting
- Ensure economic sustainability together with environmental sustainability
- Restore habitats and implement carrying capacity for both game and non-game species
- Protect endangered species and natural habitats
- Increase the number of endangered species within the estate
- Preserve archaeology and patrimonial heritage
- Communicate with the public and local populations
- Participate in research and/or educational projects

B. Specific Indicators Evaluation Grids

1. CONTINENTAL & ATLANTIC biogeographical regions

Specific indicators evaluation grid for the CONTINENTAL and ATLANTIC Biogeographical Regions.

INDICATOR	SCORE
1. Level of stillness/tranquillity	
Efficient services of gamekeeper/watch and direct and indirect methods of access and monitoring control	30
Gamekeeper/vigilance/watch inefficient or could be improved	10
There's no gamekeeper/watch/monitoring control	0
2. Biodiversity surface (area of territory dedicated to hedges, field borders, ponds, permanent environmental areas, etc. Set out in the WE Questionnaire)	
More than 5% of the total surfaces considered have biodiversity	30
Between 1% and 4.99%	20
Between 0.00% and 0.99%	10
3. Prevention and accompanying measures offsetting extreme events (including forest fires, drought, floods, etc. according to the region) and seasonal events such as winter cover	
Effective	10
Ineffective or could be improved	5
None	0
4. Feed availability (herbivore)	
Crops surface, grassland or open areas are ≥10% of the estate area	10
Less than 9,99%	5
None/bare soil/no intercrops	0
5. Water availability	
At least one or more permanent water points to each 50 hectares of the territory	10
Less than one permanent water point to each 50 hectares	5
None	0
6. Presence of prey-species (expressed in biomass)	
More than 22.5kg of biomass per hectare	30
Between 4.5 and 22.49kg of biomass per hectare	10
Less than 4.49kg of biomass per hectare	0
7. Presence of valuable species of fauna	
The estate has more than 10 valuable species	20
Between 5 and 9 species	10
Between 2 and 4 species	5
One species or does not have it	0

8. Fauna/wildlife balance	
Quotient between the number of vertebrates present in the studied estate and number of hunted species ≥ 5.0	30
Quotient between 4.9 and 3.00	15
Quotient between 1.0 and 2.9	5
Quotient less to 0.99	0
9. Specific conservation plans (on soil, landscape, flora, fauna, etc)	
Yes, one or more efficient conservation plans	30
Yes but they are insufficient, inefficient or could be improved	10
None	0
10. Communication program	
It has an efficient communication program	10
Program inefficient or could be improved	5
None	0
11. Conservation of cultural and historic heritage	
It conserves the heritage that it owns	10
Conservation inefficient or could be improved	5
None	0
12. Existence of measures for the improvement, the restoration or the rebuilding of the welcome capacity of the wildlife's habitat	
Efficient	20
Insufficient or inefficient	5
None	0
13. Existence of measures that help the sustainable balance between agriculture-silviculture – cynegetic-pisciculture/fishing	
Efficient	20
Insufficient or inefficient	5
None	0
14. Natural Hunting or fishing, semi natural or intensive	
Only presence of natural hunting or/and fishing	40
Sustainable release*	10
Only presence of intensive hunting/fishing	-20

** When allowed by the national legislation/codes of practice.*

2. BOREAL biogeographical region

Due to its nature the Boreal biogeographical region is divided into two categories; **AGRICULTURAL and FOREST**. Use the grid most appropriate for your territory.

Specific indicators evaluation grid for AGRICULTURAL estates in the BOREAL region.

INDICATOR	SCORE
1. Level of stillness/tranquillity	
Existence of an efficient survey/watch of the estate	30
Inefficient survey (gamekeeper) or likely to improve	10
No survey/watch	0
2. Prevention and accompanying measures offsetting extreme events (including forest fires, drought, floods, etc. according to the region) and seasonal events such as winter cover	
Efficient	10
Inefficient or likely to improve	5
None	0
3. Feed Availability	
Crops, grassland, open areas on 10 % or more of the estate's area	10
Crops, grassland, open areas on less than 10 %	5
None/bare soil/no intercrops	0
4. Abundance of wetlands (incl. natural, restored or re-created)	
At least one small wetland or pond/500 ha	20
Less than one wetland or pond/500 ha	10
None	0
5. Abundance of prey species (in biomass)	
More than 22.5kg of prey species transformable in biomass/ha	30
Between 4.5 and 22.49kg of prey species transformable in biomass/ ha	10
Less than 4.99kg of prey species transformable in biomass/ha	0
6. Biodiversity areas	
+5%	30
4-5%	20
3-4%	15
2-3%	10
1-2%	5
0-1%	0

7. Presence of high value fauna species	
Lists of valuable species of Wildlife in boreal regions:	
- council directive of wild birds (79/409/EEC)	
- reference list of habitat types and species of Boreal region (2008/24/EC)	
The estate has more than 10 high value species	20
Between 5 and 9 high value species	15
Between 2 and 4 high value species	10
None or one high value species	0
8. Specific conservation plans (on soil, landscape, fauna , flora, etc.)	
Existence of conservation plan or plans	20
Plans are insufficient or likely to improve	10
No plans	0
9. Communication Programme	
Development/existence of an efficient communication programme	10
Programme is insufficient or likely to improve	5
No programme	0
10. Conservation of natural, cultural and historic heritage	
Development/existence of conservation plans	10
Plans are insufficient or likely to improve	5
No plans	0
11. Fauna Balance	
No. of species present on the estate /no. of huntable/hunted species ≥5.0	30
No. of species present on the estate /no. of huntable/hunted species between 3 and 4.9	15
No. of species present on the estate /no. of huntable/hunted species between 1 and 2.9	5
No. of species present on the estate /no. of huntable/hunted species ≤1	0
12. Existence of measures for the improvement, the restoration or the rebuilding of the welcome capacity of the wildlife habitat	
Efficient	20
Not sufficient or inefficient	5
No measure	0
13. Existence of measures enhancing the "agri-sylvi-game" balance	
Efficient	20
Not sufficient or inefficient	5
No measure	0
14. Hunting/fishing, natural, semi natural or intensive	
Only natural hunting and/or fishing	40
Sustainable releases*	10
Only intensive hunting/fishing	-20

** When allowed by the national legislation/codes of practice.*

Specific indicators evaluation grid for FOREST estates in the BOREAL region.

INDICATOR	SCORE
1. Level of stillness/tranquillity	
Existence of an efficient survey/watch of the estate	30
Inefficient survey (gamekeeper) or likely to improve	10
No survey/watch	0
2. Prevention and accompanying measures offsetting extreme events (including forest fires, drought, floods, etc. according to the region) and seasonal events such as winter cover	
Efficient	10
Inefficient or likely to improve	5
None	0
3. Game and valuable habitats in forest planning	
Efficient	10
Inefficient or likely to improve	5
None	0
4. Quality and quantity of wetlands	
Sufficient and good quality	20
Insufficient or poor quality	10
None	0
5. Abundance of prey species (in biomass)	
More than 22.5kg of prey species transformable in biomass/ha	30
Between 4.5 and 22.49kg of prey species transformable in biomass/ ha	10
Less than 4.99kg of prey species transformable in biomass/ha	0
6. Biodiversity areas	
+5%	30
4-5%	20
3-4%	15
2-3%	10
1-2%	5
0-1%	0
7. Presence of high value fauna species	
Lists of valuable species of Wildlife in boreal regions:	
- council directive of wild birds (79/409/EEC)	
- reference list of habitat types and species of Boreal region (2008/24/EC)	
The estate has more than 10 high value species	20
Between 5 and 9 high value species	15
Between 2 and 4 high value species	10
None or one high value species	0

8. Specific conservation plans (on soil, landscape, fauna , flora, etc.)	
Existence of conservation plan or plans	20
Plans are insufficient or likely to improve	10
No plans	0
9. Communication Programme	
Development/existence of an efficient communication programme	10
Programme is insufficient or likely to improve	5
No programme	0
10. Promoting youth education and traditional way of hunting	
Efficient	10
Inefficient or likely to improve	5
None	0
11. Fauna Balance	
No. of species present on the estate /no. of huntable/hunted species ≥5.0	30
No. of species present on the estate /no. of huntable/hunted species between 3 and 4.9	15
No. of species present on the estate /no. of huntable/hunted species between 1 and 2.9	5
No. of species present on the estate /no. of huntable/hunted species ≤1	0
12. Existence of measures for the improvement, the restoration or the rebuilding of the welcome capacity of the wildlife habitat	
Efficient	20
Not sufficient or inefficient	5
No measure	0
13. Existence of measures enhancing the "sylvi-game" balance with a special attention to connectivity between forest habitats.	
Efficient	20
Not sufficient or inefficient	5
No measure	0
14. Hunting/fishing, natural, semi natural or intensive	
Only natural hunting and/or fishing	40
Sustainable releases*	10
Only intensive hunting/fishing	-20

** When allowed by the national legislation/codes of practice.*

3. MEDITERRANEAN biogeographical region

Specific indicators evaluation grid for the MEDITERRANEAN biogeographical region.

INDICATOR	SCORE
1. Level of stillness/tranquillity	
Efficient services of gamekeeper/watch/vigilance and direct and indirect methods of access and monitoring control	30
Gamekeeper/watch/vigilance services are inefficient or could be improved	10
There's no gamekeeper/watch/monitoring and control	0
2. Biodiversity surface (area of territory dedicated to hedges, field borders, ponds, permanent environmental areas, etc. Set out fully in the WE Questionnaire)	
More than 5% of the total surface considered have biodiversity	30
Between 1% and 4.99%	20
Between 0.00% and 0.99%	10
3. Fire prevention measures	
Efficient	10
Inefficient or could be improved	5
None	0
4. Food availability (herbivore)	
With crops surface, grasslands or open zones same ≥10%.	10
Less than 9.99%	5
None	0
5. Water availability	
With at least one or more permanent water points each 50 hectares of the territory	10
Less than one permanent water point each 50 hectares	5
None	0
6. Presence of prey-species (expressed as biomass)	
More than 22.5kg of biomass per hectare	30
Between 4.5 and 22.49kg of biomass per hectare	10
Less than 4.49kg of biomass per hectare	0
7. Presence of valuable species of fauna	
The estate has more than 10 valuable species	20
Between 5 and 9 species	10
Between 2 and 4 species	5
One species or less	0

8. Fauna/wildlife balance	
Quotient between the number of vertebrates present in the studied estate and number of hunted species ≥ 5.0	30
Quotient between 3.00 and 4.9	15
Quotient between 1.0 and 2.9	5
Quotient ≤ 1	0
9. Conservation plans	
Yes, one or more efficient conservation plans	30
Yes but they are insufficient or inefficient or could be improved	10
None	0
10. Communication program	
It has an efficient communication program	10
Program inefficient or could be improved	5
None	0
11. Conservation of cultural and historic heritage	
It conserves the heritage that it owns	10
Conservation inefficient or could be improved	5
None	0
12. Existence of restoration measures and improvements of habitat holding/welcoming capacity for wildlife	
Efficient	20
Insufficient or inefficient	5
None	0
13. Existence of measures that help the sustainable balance between agriculture-silviculture – cynegetic-pisciculture/fishing	
Efficient	20
Insufficient and inefficient	5
None	0
14. Natural hunting or fishing, semi natural or intensive	
Only presence of natural hunting or/and fishing	40
Sustainable release*	10
Only presence of intensive hunting/fishing	-20

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