



## WE act for Biodiversity



### What

The Wildlife Estates Label is a network of exemplary estates that voluntarily agree to adhere to the philosophy of wildlife management and sustainable land use.

### Why

Land management practices should be enhanced and recognised for their contribution to biodiversity. A label is the best way to promote exemplary wildlife management and sustainable management of land, which shall be environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable.

### Who

The Wildlife Estates Label is awarded to territories which are exemplary regarding wildlife and land management, maintaining a close collaboration with local authorities, associations and volunteers, in order to improve the rural landscape, enhance biodiversity, offering sustainable rural development for the benefit of the society at large.

### Where

Currently, the Wildlife Estates Label has 16 National Delegations in the EU 28 and 134 labelled estates covering more than 600,000 hectares in varying biogeographic regions. The sizes of labelled estates vary, ranging from a 55 hectares family holding to a 58,960 hectares estate. Nevertheless, they are all fundamentally united in their goals to preserve and enhance their natural, cultural and social environment.

### 2013

The Wildlife Estates Secretariat submitted a concept paper on Creating Favorable Conditions for Private Initiatives to Manage Biodiversity to the Directorate General of Environment, underlining the fact that by incentivizing the adoption of both the Commission's and Member States' goals on biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable land use, the Wildlife Estates Label is able to deliver public goods through the private sector, while creating a culture of multidisciplinary partnerships and co-operation.

The ELO was invited by the Lithuanian Presidency to present the Wildlife Estates Label to the Nature Directors meeting.

The first meeting of the Wildlife Estates Scientific Committee took place in Paris on the 19th of June 2013. The general aim of the Scientific Committee is to create and cross-check an objective methodology for the label in the different biogeographical regions.

2013's Wildlife Estates Plenary Session took place in Prague, Czech Republic on the 3rd to the 5th of September to enable the development of a Czech Wildlife Estates National Delegation.

The Wildlife Estates Secretariat has published the new WE brochure at the European Biodiversity Conference on the 12th of November 2013. The brochure is available for download at the Wildlife Estates website: [www.wildlife-estates.eu](http://www.wildlife-estates.eu)

The Wildlife Estates expands into Poland: in 2013, the first pilot estate is the Babinek Estate, situated in the West Pomerania region.

### What's next

Next Wildlife Estates Plenary Session will take place in the United Kingdom at the Holkham Estate on from the 2nd to the 4th of September 2014. The Wildlife Estates Label should expand in Bulgaria and Hungary.

### Who can apply

All estates are welcome to apply. There are no restrictions in term of hectares, location and activity. The only expectation is that applicant estates must have a uniformed management on their territory.

### For more information

Visit the website [www.wildlife-estates.eu](http://www.wildlife-estates.eu) or contact [delphine.dupeux@elo.org](mailto:delphine.dupeux@elo.org)



## Belleuropa rewards the best Wildlife Estate of the Year



### What

The Belleuropa Award honours a Wildlife Estate Label territory that has realized an important step forward to maintain, protect or improve land for the benefit of biodiversity, using agri-environmental measures and achieving significant results from an environmental point of view.

### Why

The Belleuropa® project aims to improve the environmental quality of the European territory.

### Who

Belleuropa® was born in Italy in the late 1990's thanks to the initiative of Giuseppe NATTA, a leading environmental figure. It was spear-headed by Gruppo Ecodeco®, a leading Italian firm in the environmental sector. The European Landowners Organisation (ELO), EU secretariat for the "Wildlife Estates (WE)", together with its supporting organisations, are dedicated to the development of initiatives by private land managers, companies or institutions for the protection, conservation of wildlife and sustainable land use.

### When and where

It has become a tradition that the ELO presents the Belleuropa Award on the occasion of the European Biodiversity Conference, which takes place in the European Parliament every year.

### 2013 WINNER: The Babinek Estate

Created in 1870 by the family von SETHE, the Babinek estate has been going through several wars until 2001, when Stéphane GERARD decided to give a second chance to the territory. Situated in the picturesque West Pomerania region, close to the Baltic sea and Oder river, mainly made out of forest and arable land, the current agricultural estate of 1050 ha produces sugar beets, potatoes, oil seed rape, maize and wheat, but at the same time has been establishing and maintaining woods, marshland and water bodies, as well as supporting the conservation of partridges in order to maintain a vital part of its environment and allow nature to find its balance between agriculture productivity and the beauty of its biodiversity-rich heritage.

The estate is being part of the agro-environmental plan concerning the protection of soil and water; which creates perfect habitat for i.e. grey partridges, hares, cervidae or goose. Yearly counting on the territory identified also eagles and storks.

To better communicate with surrounding urban population and to maintain links with neighbouring rural population the estate opens its doors also to pupils and students. It is also the perfect occasion to increase exchange of best practices between Polish and French farmers, hunters and scientists enhancing European share of knowledge.

