



# The World Heritage Convention as a Tool for Nature Conservation

Hans D. Knapp, Isle of Vilm  
May 22, 2014



# The World Heritage Convention

Hans D. Knapp, Isle of Vilm, May 22, 2014



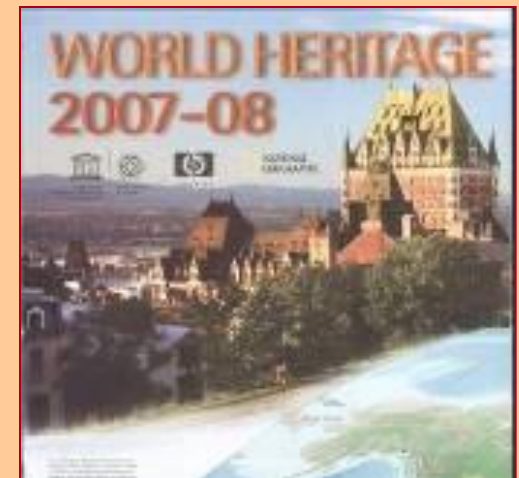
## 1 – The story - origin and history of the Convention

2 – The World Heritage List today

3 – The structure and bodies

4 – The OUV and the criteria

5 – The nomination process



# 1954 – Decision for construction of the Aswan High Dam in Egypt

The famous **Abu Simbel temples** of Pharaoh Ramses II. (13th century BC) were endangered by flooding

UNESCO started a worldwide safeguarding campaign  
the temples were moved to an other site  
(costs 80 Mio US\$, about 40 M io US\$ collected from 50 countries)



Foto: [http://www.302.schule.bremen.de/wasserprojekt/nil/Bilder/staudamm\\_2.jpg](http://www.302.schule.bremen.de/wasserprojekt/nil/Bilder/staudamm_2.jpg)

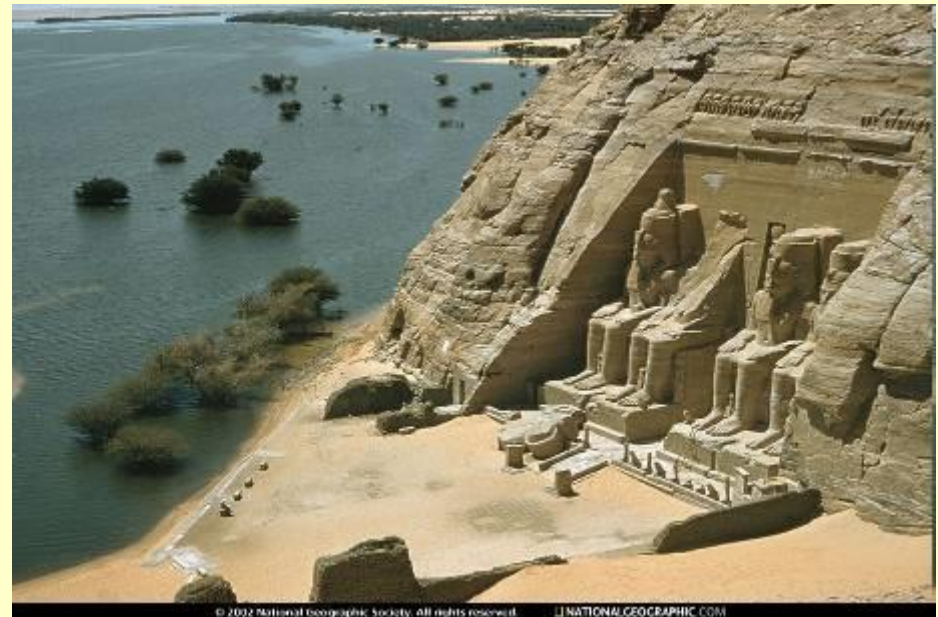


Foto: <http://pixdaus.com/single.php?id=42910>

# Steps towards the Convention

**1965** – USA initiated the idea of combining cultural conservation with nature conservation and called for a „World Heritage Trust“ to preserve

„the world's superb natural and scenic areas and historic sites for the present and the future of the entire world citizenry“

1968 – IUCN developed similar proposals, and  
1972 – they were presented to the UN Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm

# „Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage“

adopted by the 17th General Conference  
of UNESCO in Paris on 16 November **1972**

## **One of the first international conventions about nature conservation**

1970 – UNESCO Man&Biosphere Programme

1971 – Convention on Wetlands („Ramsar Convention“)

### **1972 – World Heritage Convention**

1973 – Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species  
of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES, „Washington Convention“)

1979 – Convention on Migratory Species (CMS, „Bonn Convention“)

1992 – Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

# UNESCO World Heritage Convention

38 Articles in VIII chapters

## I. DEFINITION OF THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

### Article 2

For the purposes of this Convention, the following shall be considered as „**natural heritage**“:

**Natural features** consisting of physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which are of **outstanding universal value** from the aesthetic or scientific point of view;

**Geological and physiographical formations** and precisely delineated areas which constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation;

**Natural sites** or precisely delineated natural areas of outstanding universal value from point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty.

# UNESCO World Heritage Convention

- II. NATIONAL PROTECTION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE (Art. 4-7)
- III. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE (Art. 8-14)
- IV. FUND FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE (Art. 15-18)
- V. CONDITIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE (Art. 19-26)
- VI. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES (27-28)
- VII. REPORTS (Art. 29)
- VIII. FINAL CLAUSES (Art. 30-38)



# The first State Parties (Europe)

Megalithic temples , Malta (1980)



Esfahan (1979), Iran



**1973 –** U.S.A.

**1974 –** Algeria  
Australia  
**Bulgaria**  
Congo  
Egypt  
Iraq  
Niger  
Nigeria  
Sudan

**1975 –** Cyprus  
Ecuador  
**France**  
Ghana  
Iran  
Jordania  
Morocco  
**Switzerland**  
Syrian  
Tunisia

**1976 –** Bolivia  
Canada  
**Germany**  
Pakistan  
**Poland**  
Senegal

**1977 –** Brazil  
Costa Rica  
Ethiopia  
Guyana  
India  
**Norway**

**1978 –** Tanzania  
Argentina  
**Italy**  
Libyan  
**Malta**  
**Monaco**  
Nepal  
Panama  
Saudi Arabia



# Early World Heritage Sites

	total	cultural	natural	mixed
1978	13	8	4	1
1979	44	34	8	2
1980	27	22	5	-

- 1978 – Aachen Cathedral, Cracow's Historic Centre  
Galapagos, Nahanni, Yellowstone, Ngorongoro
- 1979 – Abu Simbel, Persepolis, Old City of Dubrovnik  
Grand Canyon, Everglades, Plitvice Lakes, Beloveskaya  
Pushcha
- 1980 - City of Valetta, Historic Centre of Rome, ...of Warsaw,  
Megalithic Temples of Malta  
Durmitor National Park, , Redwood National and State  
Parks, Great Barrier Reef, Mammoth Cave National Park

# The World Heritage Convention

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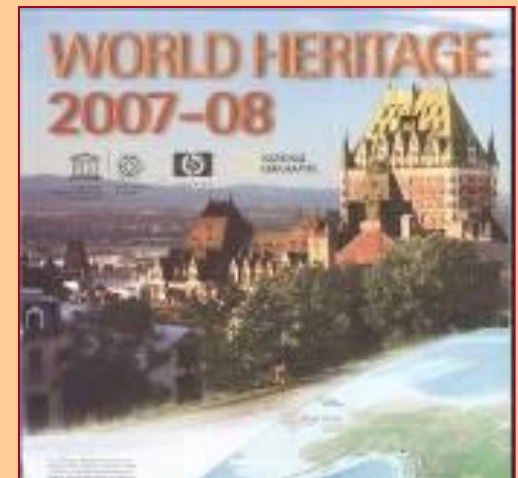
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## 2 – The World Heritage List today

3 – The structure and bodies

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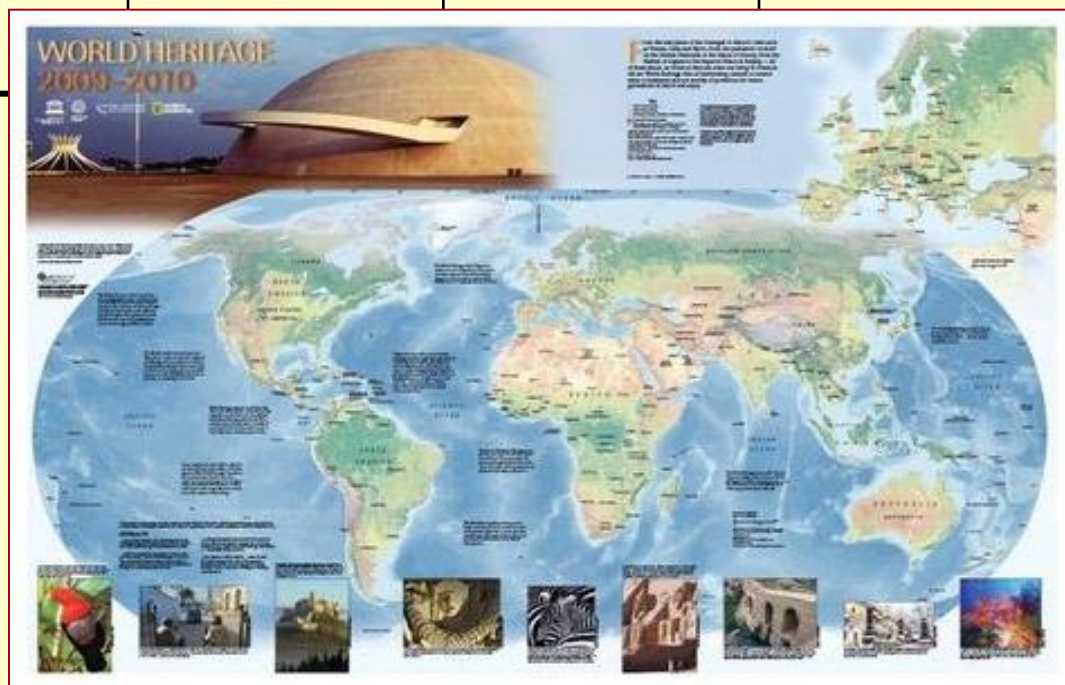
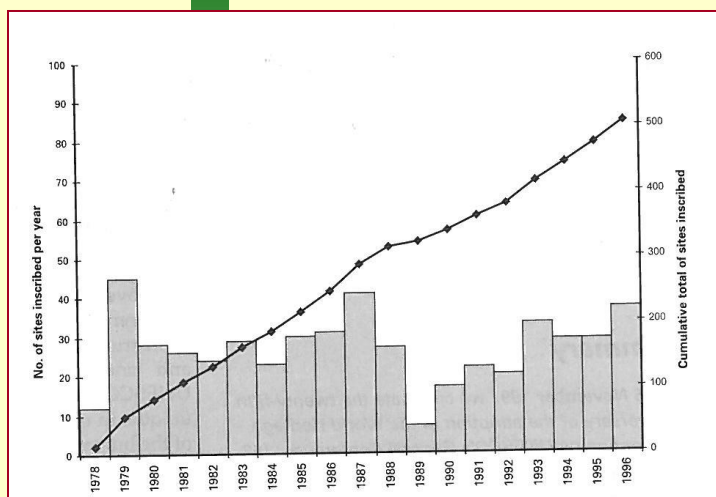
5 – The nomination process



# 981 World Heritage Sites in 160 State Parties

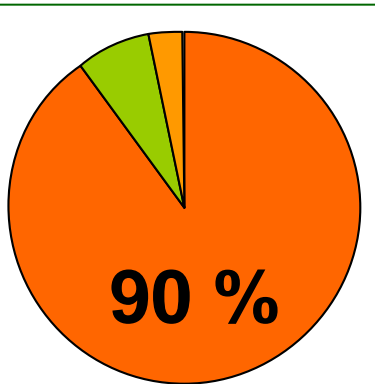


	total	cultural	natural	mixed
1980	84	64	17	3
1997	506	380	107	19
2013	981	759	193	29

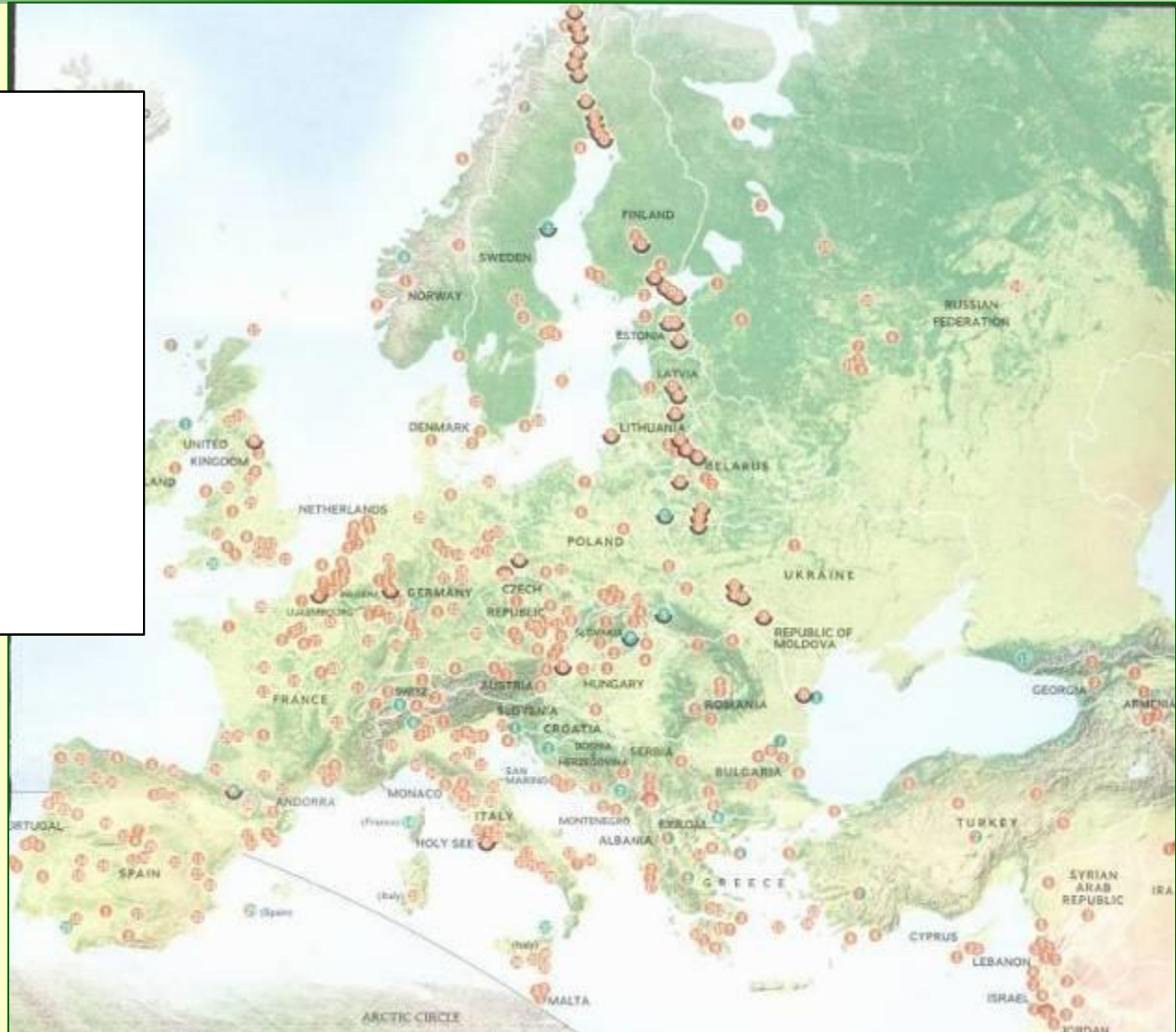


# Europe – Natural heritage underrepresented

Welterbe in Europa

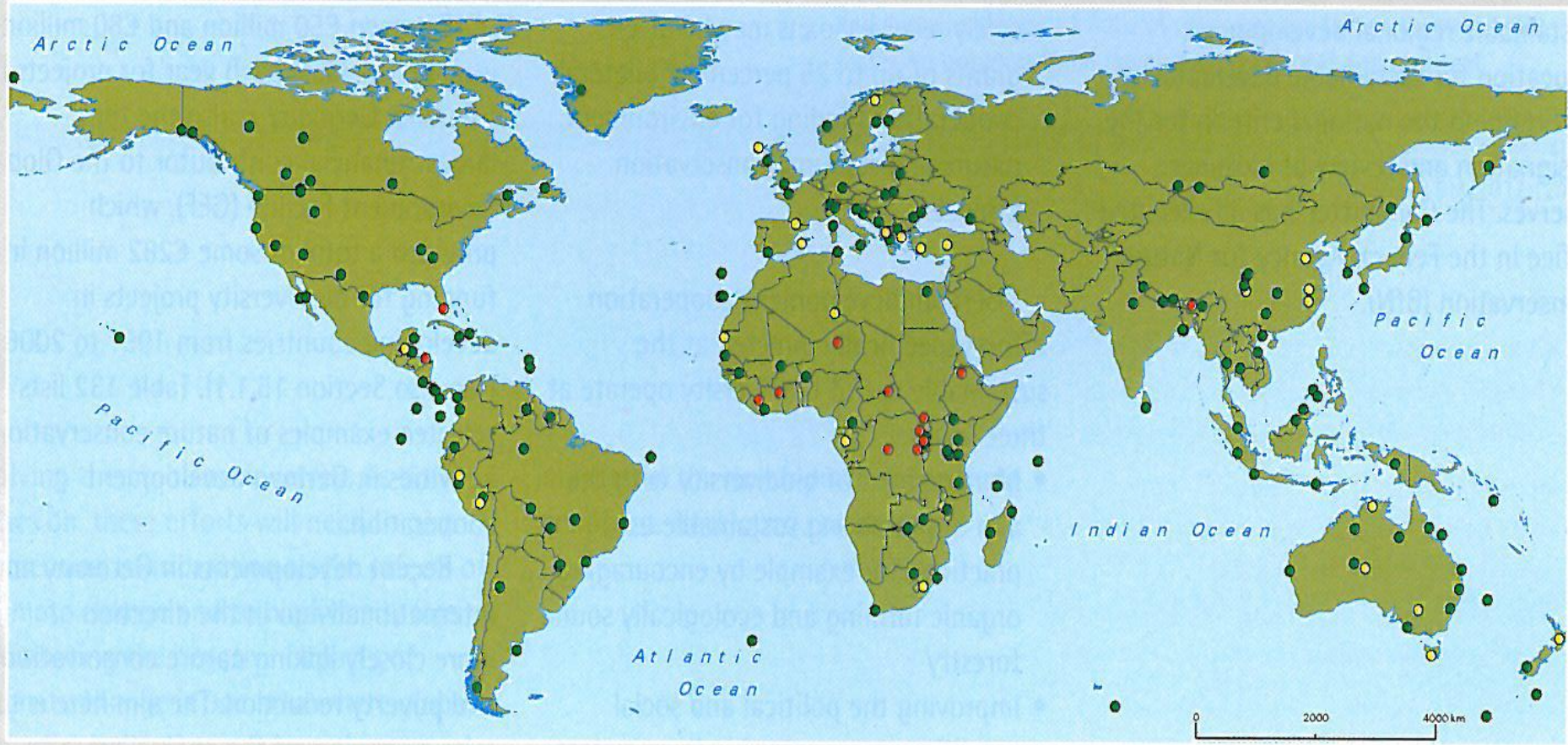


Cultural  
heritage





# World Natural Heritage and Mixed Sites



- World natural heritage sites
- World natural heritage sites in danger
- Mixed sites (meeting criteria for both world cultural and world natural heritage sites)

Sources: Unesco, 2007 (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>)  
Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), 2008

# The World Heritage Convention

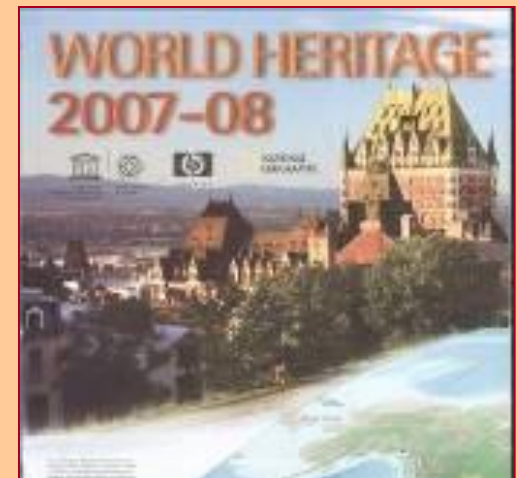
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# Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

**290 paragraphs  
in IX chapters**

## I. Introduction

I.C The State Parties to the World Heritage Convention

I.D The General Assembly of State Parties

I.E The **World Heritage Committee**

I.F The Secretariat to the World Heritage Committee  
(the **World Heritage Centre**)

I.G The **Advisory Bodies** to the World Heritage Committee:

ICCROM

ICOMOS

**IUCN**



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



World Heritage Convention



# Operational Guidelines

## for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

I. Introduction

## II. The World Heritage List

II.A Definition of World Heritage

II.B A Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List

II.C Tentative Lists

II.D Criteria for the assessment of outstanding universal value

II.E Integrity and/or authenticity

II.F Protection and management



# Operational Guidelines

## for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

### III. Process for the Inscription of Properties on the World Heritage List

III.A Preparation of Nominations

III.B Format and content of nominations

III.C Requirements for the nomination of different types of properties (**Transboundary properties, Serial properties**)

III.D Registration of nominations

III.E Evaluation of nominations by the **Advisory Bodies**

III.F Withdrawal of nominations

III.G Decision of the World Heritage Committee

- **Inscription**
- **Decision not to inscribe**
- **Referral of nominations**
- **Deferral of nominations**



# Operational Guidelines

## for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

- I. Introduction
- II. The World Heritage List
- III. Process for the Inscription of Properties on the World Heritage List
  
- IV. Process for Monitoring the State of Conservation of WHProperties
- V. Periodic Reporting on the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention
- VI. Encouraging Support for the World Heritage Convention
- VII. The World Heritage Fund and International Assistance
- VIII. The World Heritage Emblem
- IX. Information Sources

Annexes (9)



# The World Heritage Committee

The World Heritage Committee meets once a year, and consists of representatives from **21 of the States Parties** to the Convention elected by their General Assembly.

The Committee is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, defines the use of the World Heritage Fund and allocates financial assistance upon requests from States Parties.

It has the final say on whether a property is inscribed on the World Heritage List. The Committee can also defer its decision and request further information on properties from the States Parties.

It examines reports on the state of conservation of inscribed properties and asks States Parties to take action when properties are not being properly managed. It also decides on the inscription or deletion of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



World Heritage Convention



# The World Heritage Centre

Established in 1992, the World Heritage Centre is the focal point and coordinator within UNESCO for all matters related to World Heritage.

The Centre organizes the annual sessions of the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau, provides advice to States Parties in the preparation of site nominations, organizes international assistance from the World Heritage Fund upon request, and coordinates both the reporting on the condition of sites and the emergency action undertaken when a site is threatened.



## **World Heritage Centre UNESCO**

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75352 Paris 07 SP  
France

Tel.: +33 (0)1 45 68 24 96

Fax: +33 (0)1 45 68 55 70

E-mail: [wh-info@unesco.org](mailto:wh-info@unesco.org)

# The Advisory Bodies: ICOMOS, ICCROM, IUCN



International Council on  
Monuments and Sites  
-----  
Conseil International  
des Monuments et des Sites



The International Centre for the Study of  
the Preservation and Restoration of  
Cultural Property (ICCROM)



## **The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature is an international, non-governmental organization

that provides the World Heritage Committee with **technical evaluations of natural heritage properties** and, through its worldwide network of specialists, reports on the state of conservation of listed properties.

With more than 1000 members, IUCN was established in 1948 and is located in Gland, Switzerland.



# The World Heritage Convention

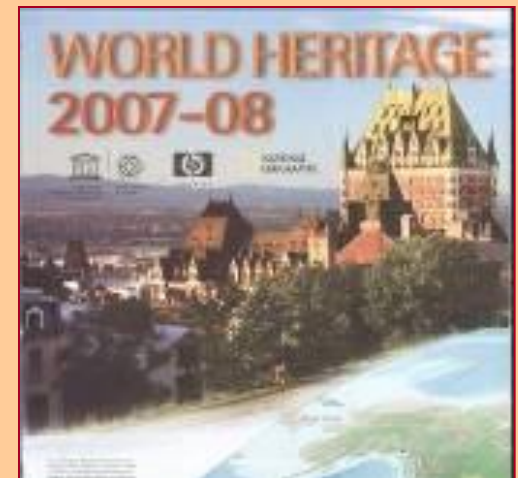
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# Definition of OUV

49. **Outstanding universal value** means cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity.

As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole. The Committee defines the criteria for the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List.



## WH Criteria: Natural sites

(vii) contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of **exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance**;

(viii) be outstanding examples **representing major stages of earth's history**, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;



## WH Criteria: Natural sites

- (ix) be outstanding examples representing significant **ongoing ecological and biological processes** in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
- (x) contain the most important and significant **natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity**, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.



# Integrity

**88.** Integrity is a measure of the **wholeness and intactness** of the natural and/or cultural heritage and its attributes. Examining the conditions of integrity, therefore requires assessing the extent to which the property:

- a) includes **all elements** necessary to express its outstanding universal value;
- b) is of **adequate size** to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property's significance;
- c) suffers from **adverse effects** of development and/or neglect.



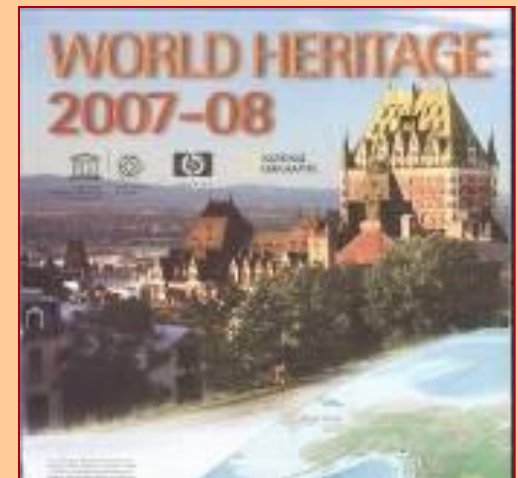
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# **“Ancient Beech Forests of Germany”**

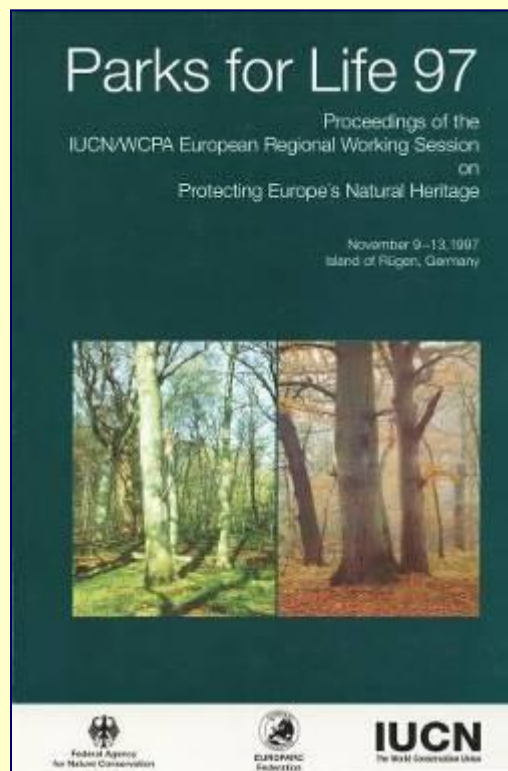
Nomination for the World Heritage List

Nationale  
Naturlandschaften

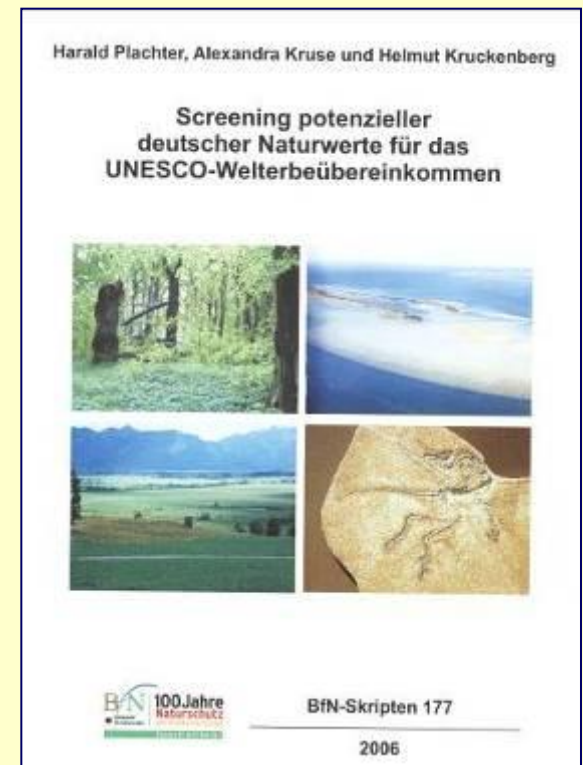


# Steps to nomination:

## 1996/1997 IUCN/WCPA European Regional Working Session

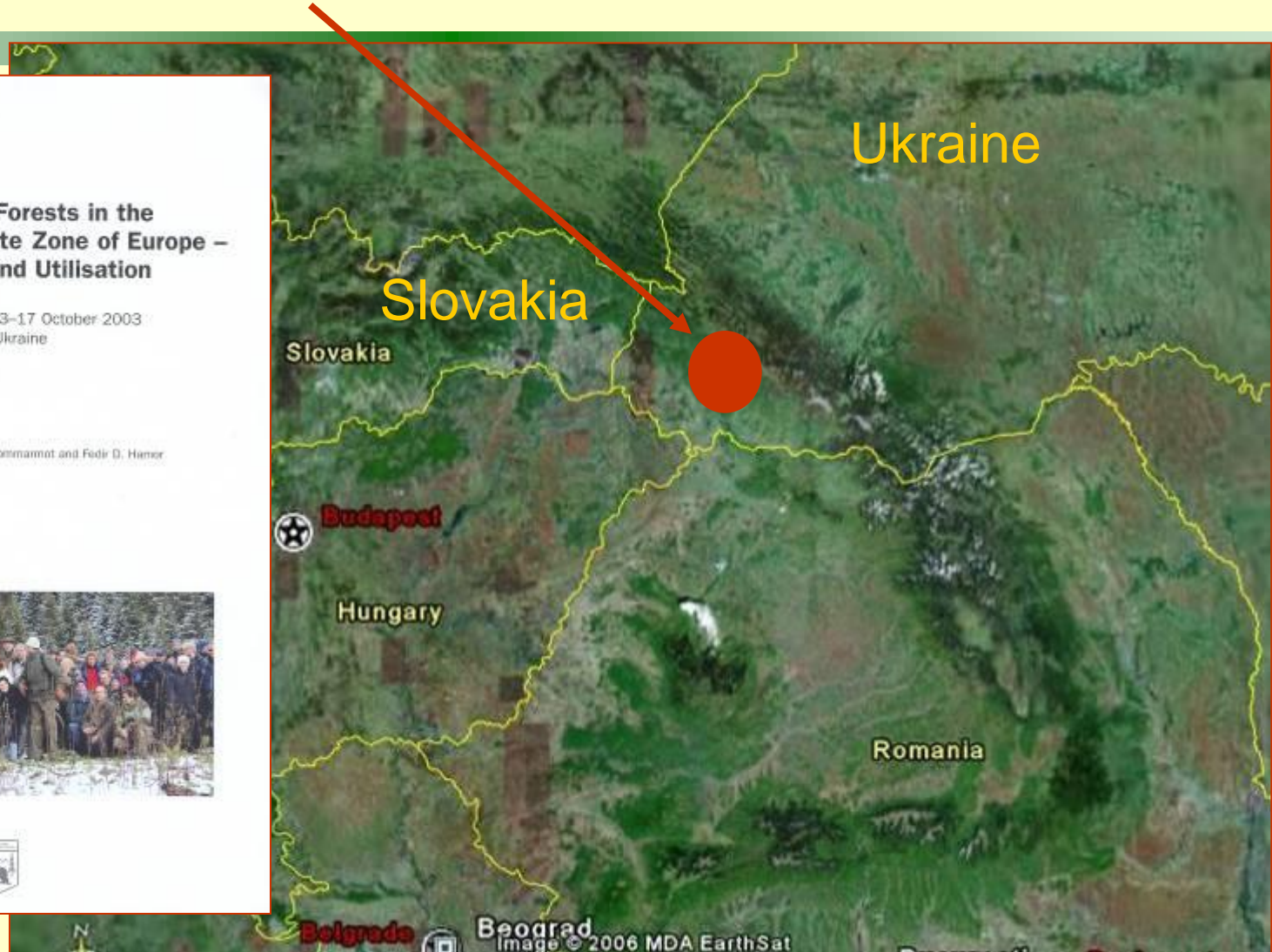
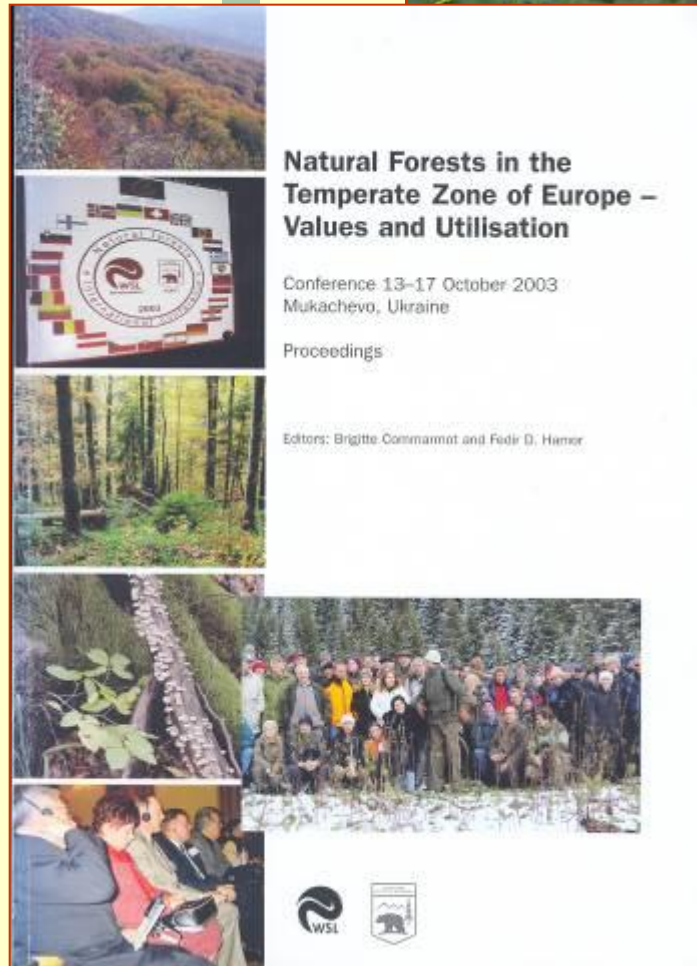


## 2004/2006 Screening of potential sites in Germany





# 2003 Internationale Conferenc on Natural Forests in the Temperate Zone of Europe, Mukachevo, Ukraine

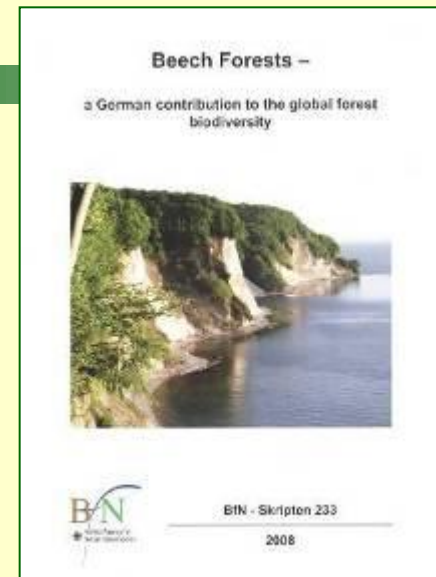
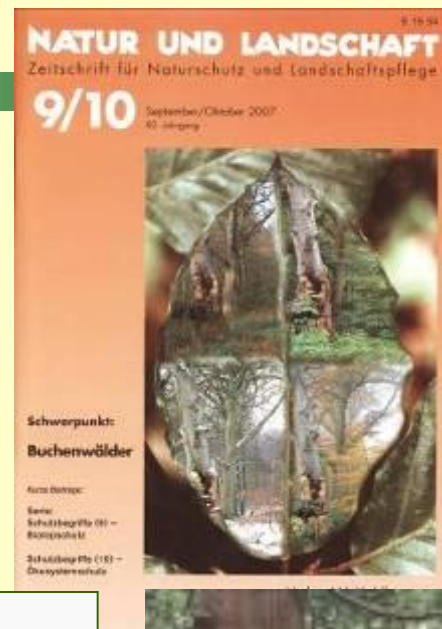


# 2007 Fasibility study on beech forests in Germany





# „Europäische Buchenwaldinitiative“ Workshops and publications



# Thesis & conclusions

- 1 – Beech forests are world wide a mainly European phenomenon
- 2 – Germany is located in the centre of beech forests distribution
- 3 – Germany has a special responsibility for the protection of beech forests



# Thesis & conclusions

- 4 – Plain land beech forests with high degree of naturalness remaining in Germany only
- 5 – The best remnants of ancient beech forests in Germany could be able to complete the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians







# Thesis & conclusions

The study also demonstrated,

- how very few ancient beech forests remaining, and
- the extraordinary ability of beech forests to regeneration.



The best of the remnants are the „top five“

○ Component parts of the German nomination





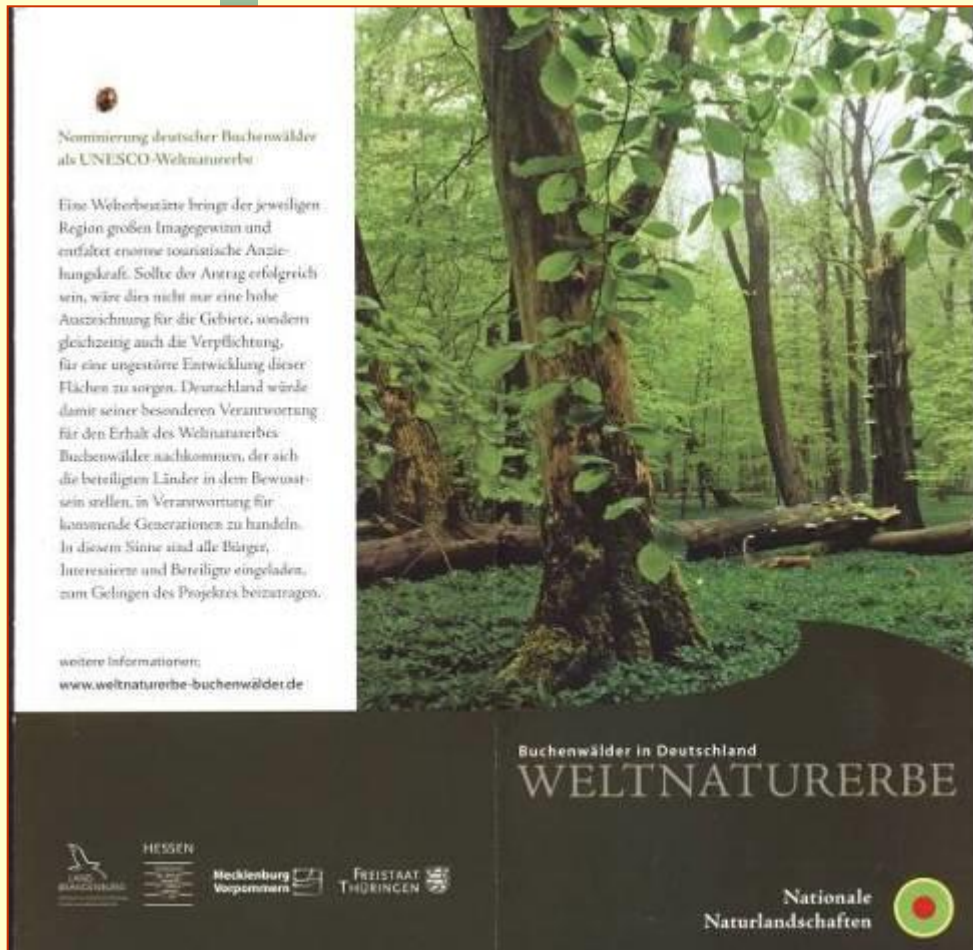


In consequence we decided:

**„Yes, we do !“**



# 2007 Nomination „Task force“ of four countries + the federal level



- \* Determination of the cluster
- \* Public relations and lobbying
- \* Trilateral cooperation with Ukraine and Slovakia
- \* Preparation of the nomination dossier

# Several years to work: regional...





...national...

## The Steering Group





# ...international





# Trilateral Meetings Germany – Slovakia – Ukraine



1. - May 2007, Isle of Vilm (Jasmund)
2. - November 2008, Isle of Vilm (Jasmund, Serrahn)
3. - May 2009, Rakhiv (Uholka, Havesova)
4. - November 2009, Bonn
5. - November 2011, Isle of Vilm

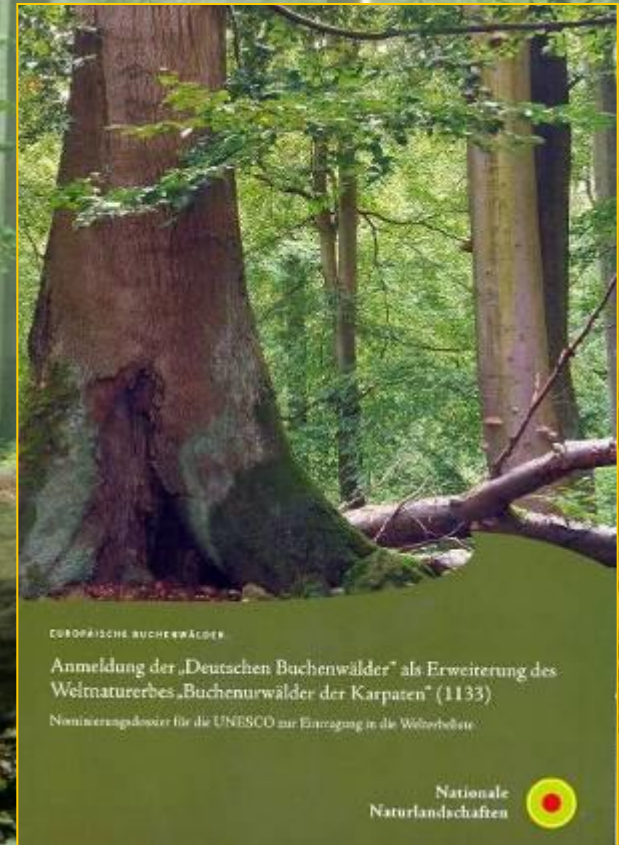




**CBD COP IX in Bonn, 2008**



**1. Februar 2010**



# **“Ancient Beech Forests of Germany”**

Nomination for the World Heritage List

Nationale  
Naturlandschaften











28/05/2008













# Additional value of the German component parts

- Completion of the history of post-glacial areal expansion
- Completion of the altitudinal gradient from the seashore to the submontane belt
- Addition of the best remaining examples in the geographical heartland of beech distribution
- Enlargement of the ecological spectrum with regional, biogeographical and ecological different beech forest types
- Involvement of specific compartments of typical landscape-ecological complexes, e.g. sea shore cliffs, mires, lakes, streams and rocks

# Evaluation by IUCN, September 2010





Paris, Saturday 25, June 2011



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization  
Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

## 35<sup>e</sup> Comité du Patrimoine Mondial 35th World Heritage Committee



World Heritage  
Committee  
Comité du  
patrimoine mondial

### 3. [Russian Federation] Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

*The Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (PBFC) and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (ABFG) are outstanding examples of undisturbed biological and ecological processes of the evolution and development of a terrestrial ecosystem that has shaped an entire continent in a unique way.*

*They are the last primeval beech forests and as the best remaining, least disturbed, and best conserved most natural beech forest examples of a variety of site conditions in the heartland of distribution. They represent all altitude zones from sea shore up to the*

### Projet de décision : 35 COM 8B.13

Le Comité du patrimoine mondial,

1. Ayant examiné les documents WHC-11/35.COM/8B et WHC-11/35.COM/INF.8B2,
2. [Fédération de Russie] Approuve l'extension des Forêts primaires de hêtres des Carpates (Slovaquie, Ukraine) en vue d'inclure les Forêts anciennes de hêtres d'Allemagne, Allemagne, qui deviennent les [Forêts primaires et anciennes de hêtres des Carpates et d'Allemagne (Allemagne, Slovaquie, Ukraine)], sur la base du critère (ix). Forêts





A photograph of a forest floor covered in brown leaves and moss. Several large, ancient-looking trees with thick trunks and sprawling, moss-covered roots are visible. The background is filled with green foliage and more trees.

**„We  
are  
World  
Heritage!“**

June 25. 2011,  
10:30 a.m.



# Beech Primeval Forests of the Carpathians (2007) and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (2011)



Ukraine

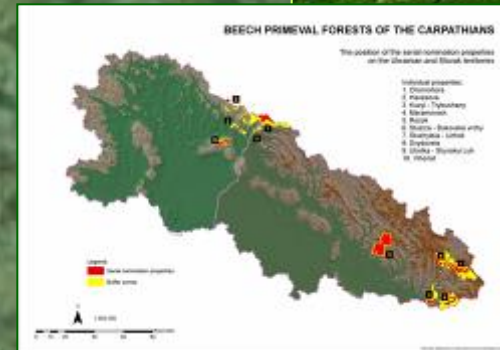
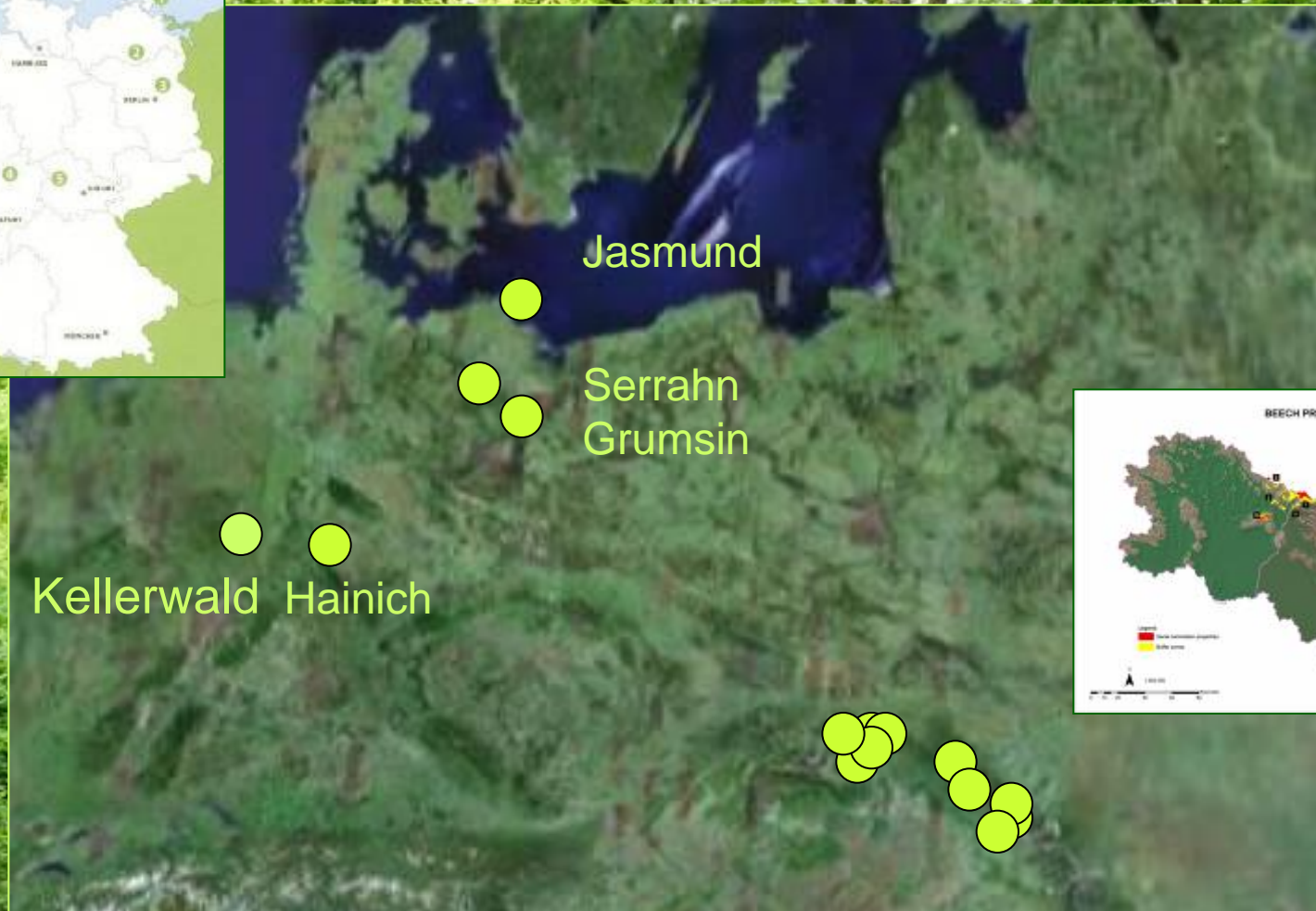


Slowakia



Germany





# Serial transnational World Heritage Site

## „Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany“



## 15 component parts in three State Parties

Nr.	Area	Size [ha]	Buffer zone
1	Cernohora	2.477	12.925
2	Uholka	11.860	3.301
3	Svydovets	3.030	5.639
4	Maramoros	2.243	6.230
5	Kuziy/Trybushani	1.370	3.163
6	Stuzhytsia/Ushok	2.532	3.615
7	Stuzica/Bukovske vrchy	2.950	11.300
8	Rozok	67	41
9	Vihorlat	2.578	2.413
10	Havesova	171	64
11	Jasmund	493	2.511
12	Serrahn	268	2.568
13	Grumsin	590	274
14	Hainich	1.573	4.085
15	Kellerwald	1.467	4.271

# November 16, 2011, Berlin

## Handout of the World Heritage Certificate







United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



World Heritage  
Convention

CONVENTION CONCERNING  
THE PROTECTION OF  
THE WORLD CULTURAL  
AND NATURAL HERITAGE

*The World Heritage Committee  
has inscribed*

*Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians  
and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany  
on the World Heritage List*

*Inscription on this List confirms the outstanding  
universal value of a cultural or  
natural property which requires protection for  
the benefit of all humanity*

DATE OF INSCRIPTION

28 June 2011

*/ Nina Bouvra*

DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
OF UNESCO

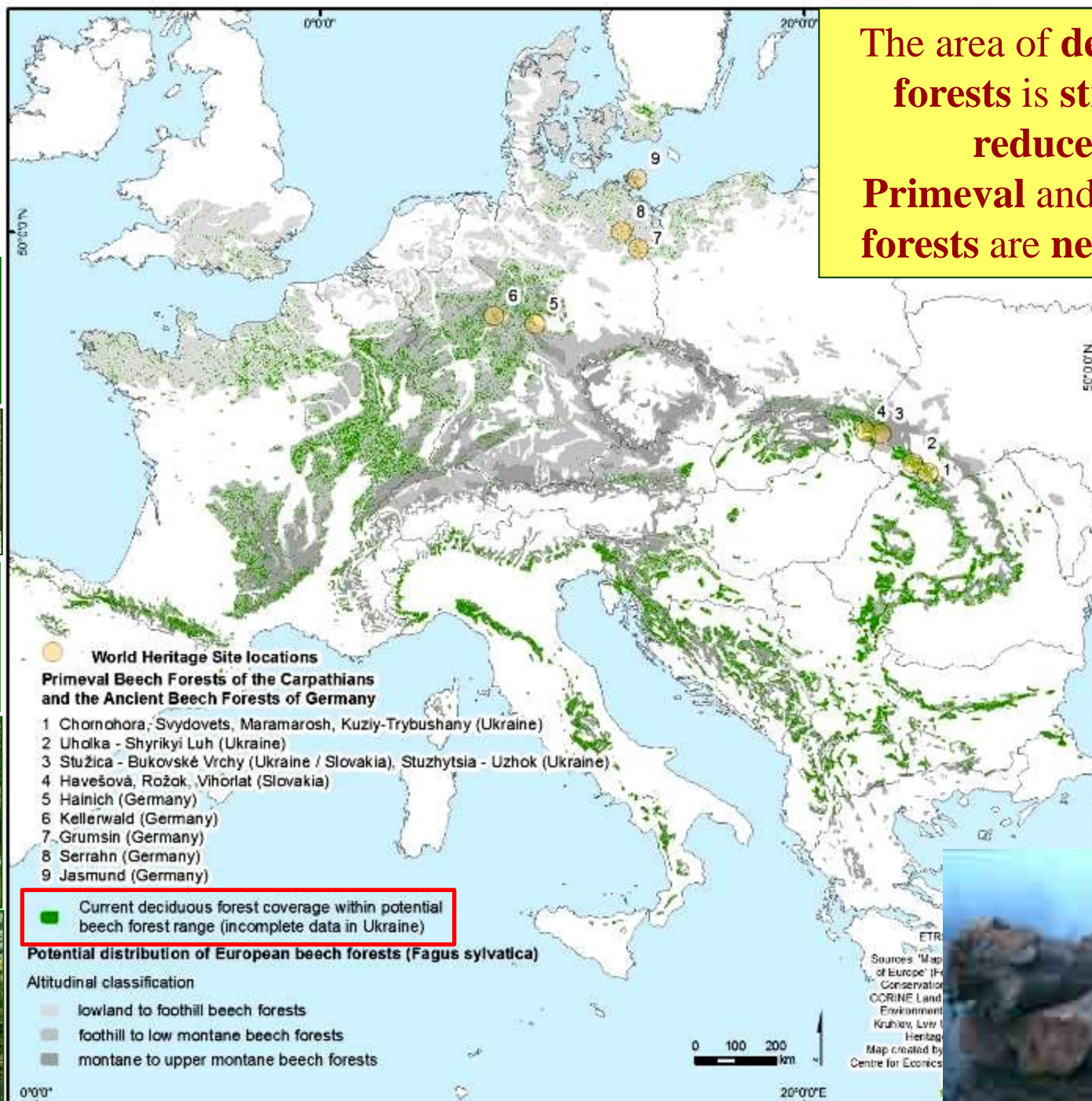


A photograph of a dense forest with tall, slender trees and a thick canopy of green leaves. In the foreground, there is a field of small, white, star-shaped flowers. The text is overlaid on a yellow rectangular background in the center of the image.

**Recommendation by IUCN and  
World Heritage Committee for  
a complete and finite serial  
transnational nomination of  
significant primeval and ancient  
beech forests in Europe**



The area of **deciduous forests** is **strongly reduced**,  
**Primeval and ancient forests** are **nearly lost**



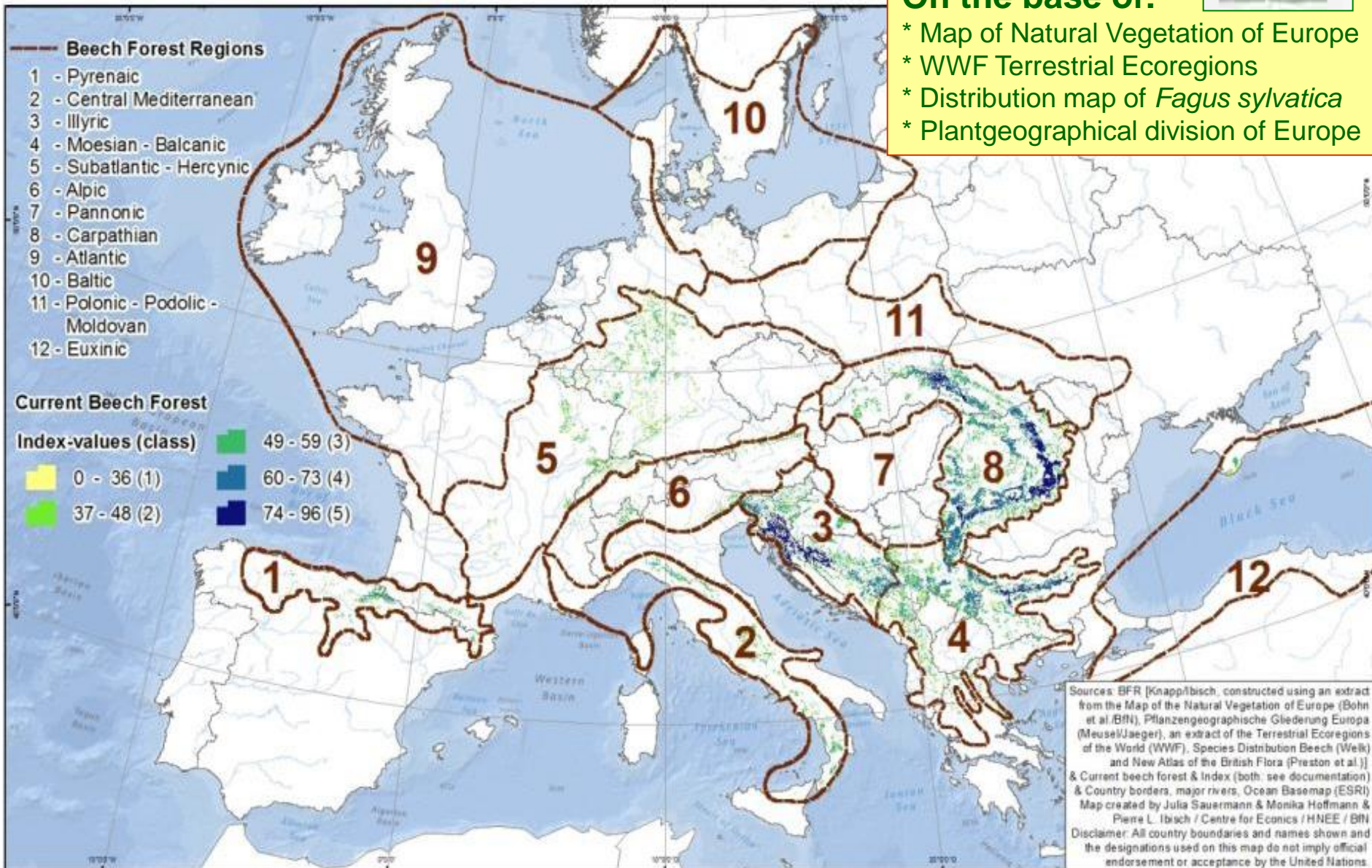


# The Beech Forest Regions of Europe



**On the base of:**

- \* Map of Natural Vegetation of Europe
- \* WWF Terrestrial Ecoregions
- \* Distribution map of *Fagus sylvatica*
- \* Plantgeographical division of Europe





## 1 Pyrenaic-Iberian BFR – Spain, Montejo de la Sierra







1 Pyrenaic-Iberian BFR – Spain, Tejera Negra





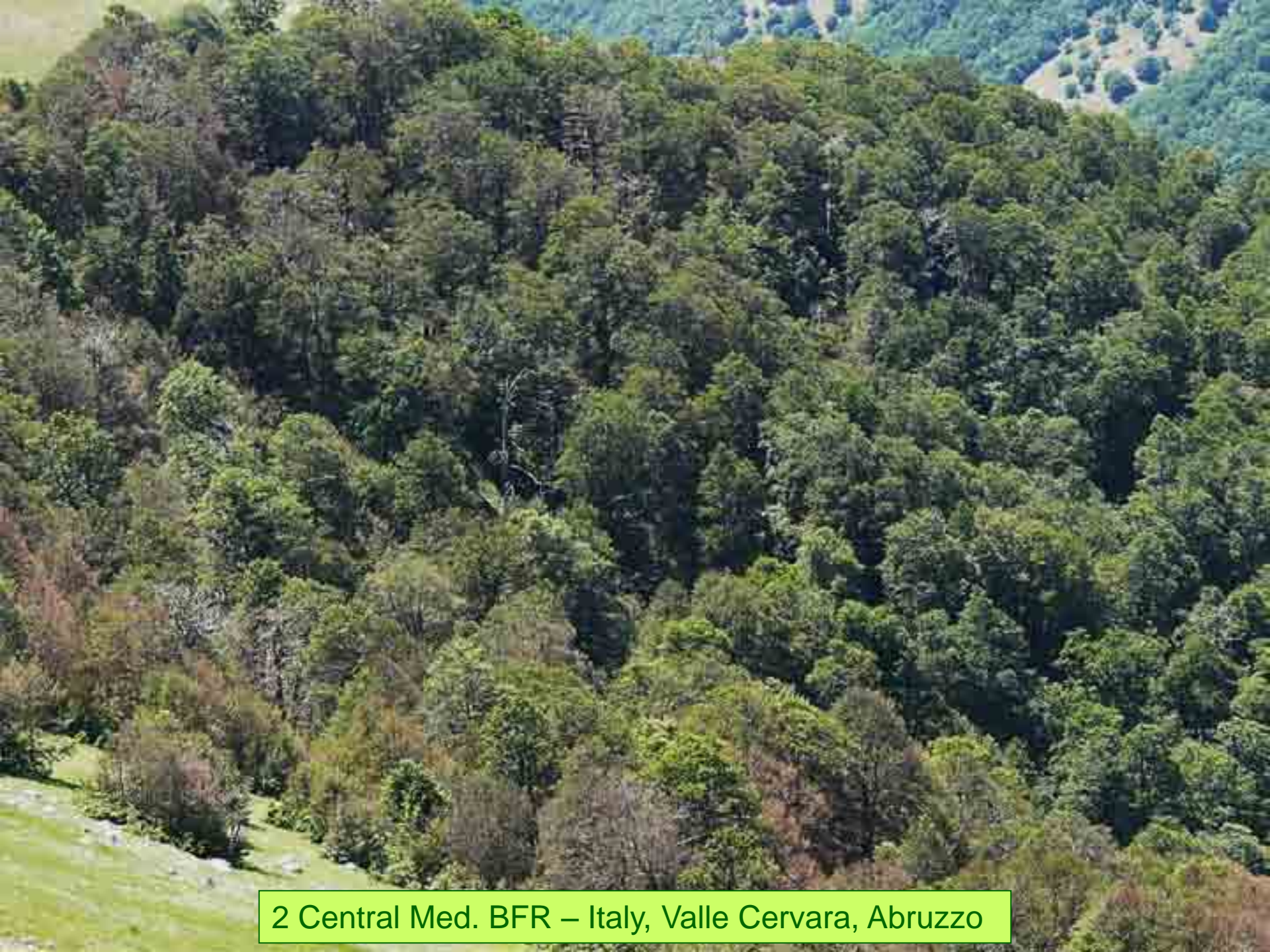
2 Central Med. BFR – Italy, Valle Cervara, Abruzzo





2 Central Med. BFR – Italy, Valle Cervara, Abruzzo





2 Central Med. BFR – Italy, Valle Cervera, Abruzzo



### 3 Illyric BFR – Slovenia, Krokav







4 Moesian-Balcanic BFR – Albania, Rajca





4 Moesian-Balcanic BFR – Macedonia, Dabloka Reka





4 Moesian-Balcanic BFR – Greece, Olympos





5 Subatlantic-Hercynic BFR – Germany, Kellerwald





6 Alpic BFR – Austria, Kalkalpen





6 Alpic BFR – Austria, Rothwald





8 Carpathian BFR – Slovakia, Havešova





8 Carpathian BFR – Ukraine, Uholka

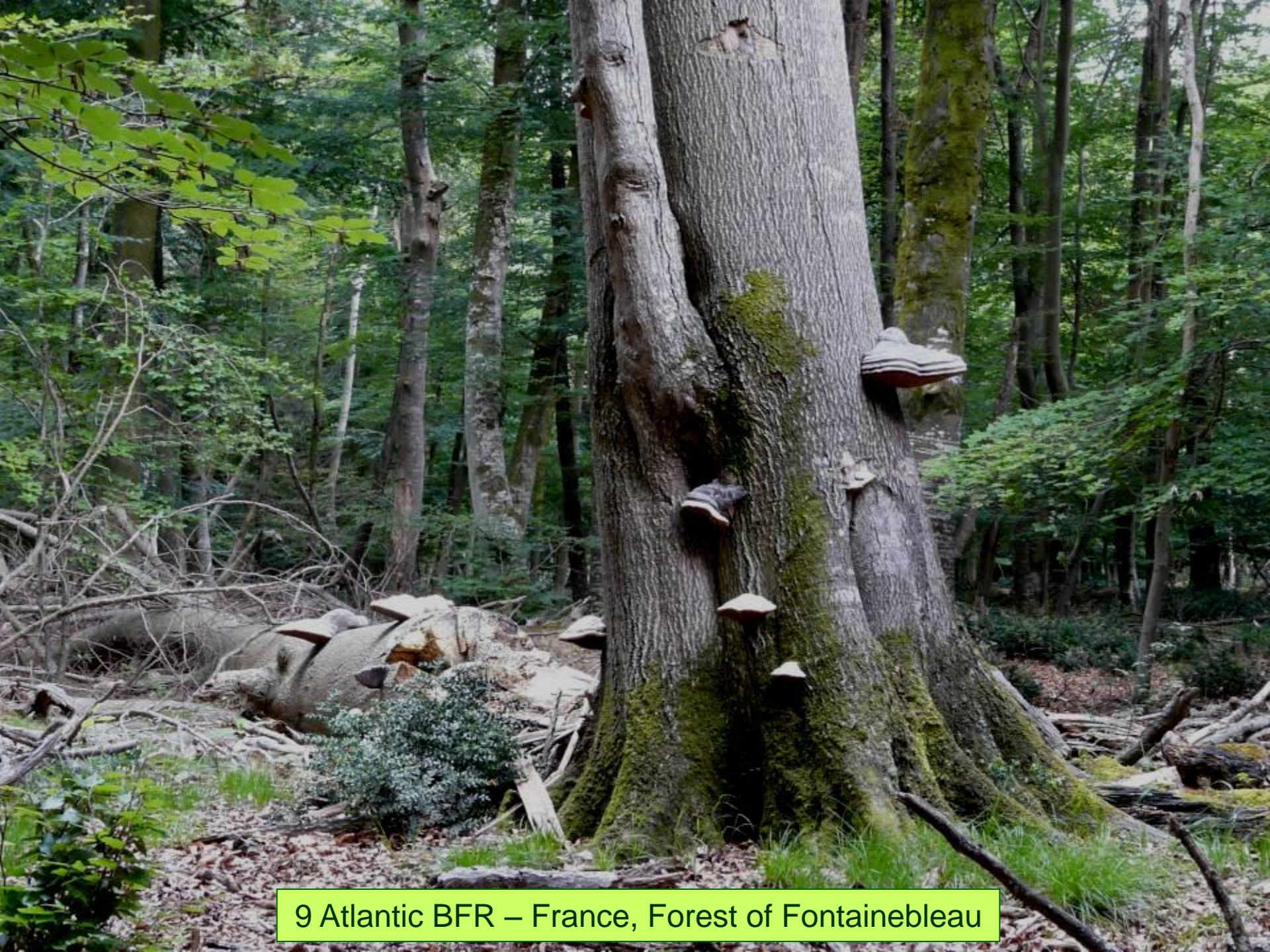


# SW-Carpathians in Romania great potential



March 12, 2014





9 Atlantic BFR – France, Forest of Fontainebleau





10 Baltic BFR – Sweden, Söderasen



10 Baltic BFR – Germany, Jasmund





**The ongoing  
process...**





# Decay and regeneration...





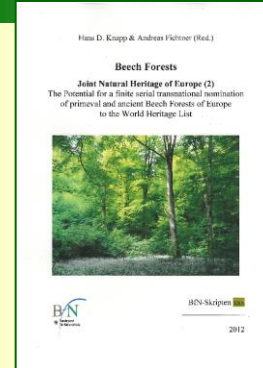
# Networking and cooperation





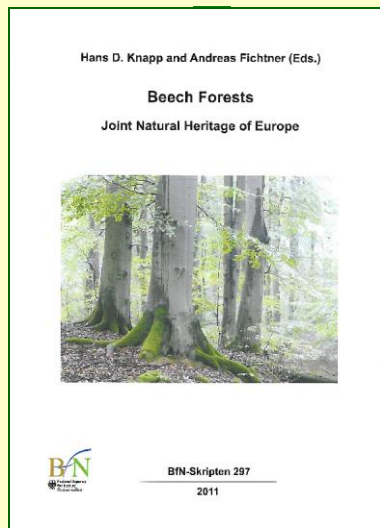
# Beech Forests – Joint Natural Heritage of Europe (1-4)

## Workshops „Towards the Nomination of European Beech Forests to the UNESCO World Heritage List“



1 – October 19-22, 2010, Isle of Vilm

2 – November 10-14, 2011, Isle of Vilm



3 – June 16-20, 2012,  
Italy

4 – October 3-6, 2012,  
Isle of Vilm



# Beech Forests – Joint Natural Heritage of Europe (5-6)

Workshops „Towards the Nomination of European Beech Forests  
to the UNESCO World Heritage List“



5 – September 19-20, 2013  
in Rakhiv, Ukraine



6 – April 2-3, 2014  
in Vienna, Austria

# Beech Forests – Joint Natural Heritage of Europe

**1st Meeting on Ministerial level** at invitation of the  
Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety  
in Bonn, November 5, 2013





# European identification




3. Trilateral meeting at the geographical centre of Europe, Rakhiv; May 2009



2. Trilateral meeting, Isle of Vilm, November 2008





The joint research project identified  
**100 ancient beech forests in Europe...**





# Identification of candidate areas

## Criteria:

- Size of the proposed candidate area (ha)
- Size of the possible buffer (ha)
- Vegetation types/tree species composition
- Altitude (m a.s.l.)
- Stand age (average in years)
- Time without forestry use (in years)
- Protection status, year of declaration, total size of the PA
- Justification for the suggestion / possible additional value

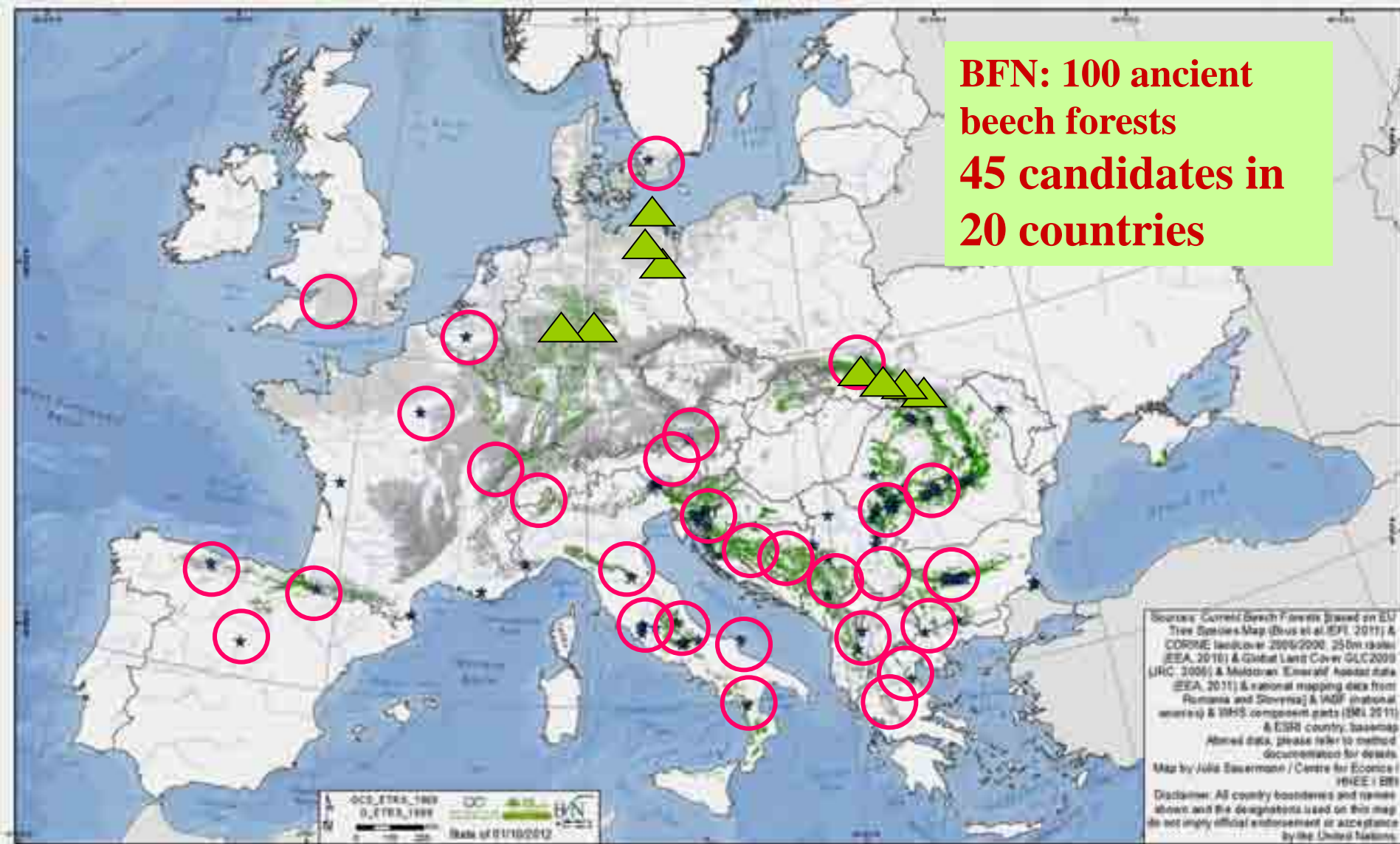
...and selected **45 areas in 20 countries**  
as potential sites for nomination





# The scope for a serial transnational nomination

**BFN: 100 ancient  
beech forests  
45 candidates in  
20 countries**



## Justification of „additional value“

1. Representation of on-going ecological processes (Glacial refuge area, post-glacial beech forest expansion in Europe)
2. Genetic diversity of *Fagus sylvatica*
3. Spectrum of climatic adaptation of *Fagus sylvatica*
4. Geo-graphical extremes of beech forest distribution in Europe
5. Diversity of site conditions and geomorphological characteristics of beech forest communities
6. Superlatives of beech forests



A photograph of a forest with large trees and green foliage, serving as the background for the slide.

## Further process

**2014** Expert meeting (6), April 1-2, Vienna

- Ministerial meeting at invitation of the German Federal Ministry (2), May 13, Bonn
- Decision about participating state parties
- Confirmation of the candidate areas
- Decision about a lead country

**2015** elaboration and agreement of the nomination dossier

**2016**, February 1, submission to UNESCO

**2017**, June, decision of the WH Committee



# Vision 2017

„A complete serial transnational WHS  
of Primeval/Ancient Beech Forests of Europe“  
and  
a network of serious protected areas  
without timber cutting,  
but space for wilderness in Europe, as well as  
for nature experience, research,  
and spiritual inspiration



*Thank you for your  
attention !*

