



**The Wildland Research Institute**



## Review of status and conservation of wild land in Europe for the Scottish Government

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## Conclusions from the report findings

### Protection for wildland in Scotland?

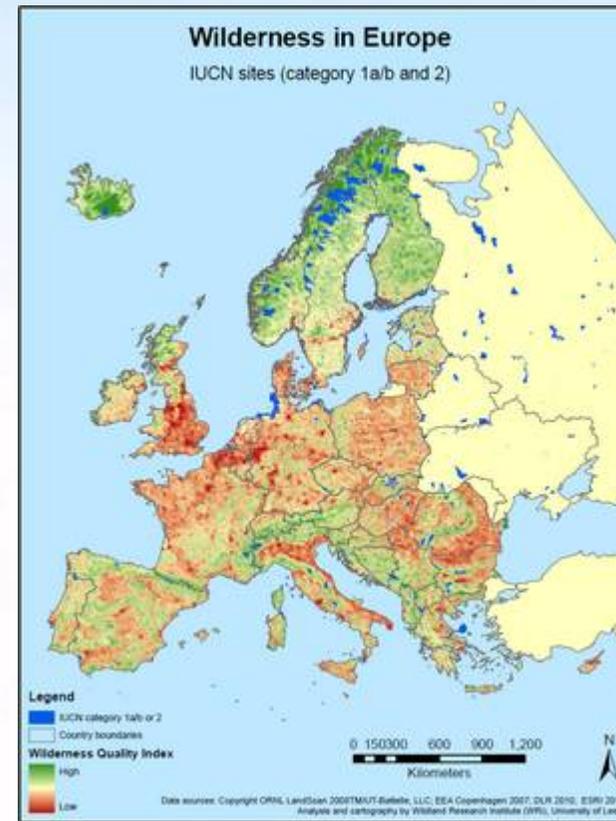
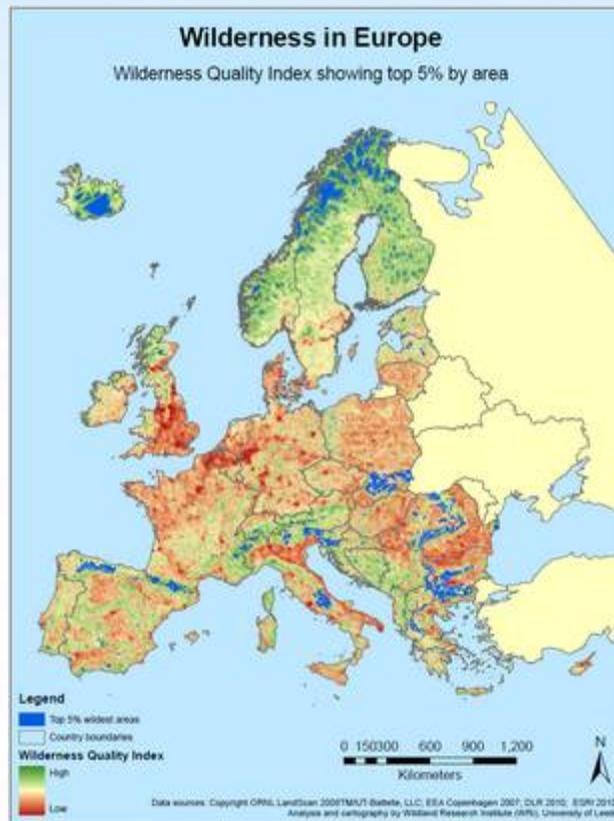
- National Scenic Areas
- An ideal for national protected area legislation in Scotland
- A zoning approach in Scotland
- IUCN Categories to demarcate wildland

### Ecological networks in Scotland

### Perception of wildland in Scotland

### A summit process for wildland

How is wildland protected in Europe?



Correlation between top 5% WQI and IUCN Category I and II protected areas



An ideal for a national protected area for wildland

Getting the right balance between natural values and cultural values

- the 75% rule
- separation so that they can then be spatially integrated i.e. natural zones, cultural zones

Clear aims and the means to bring them about

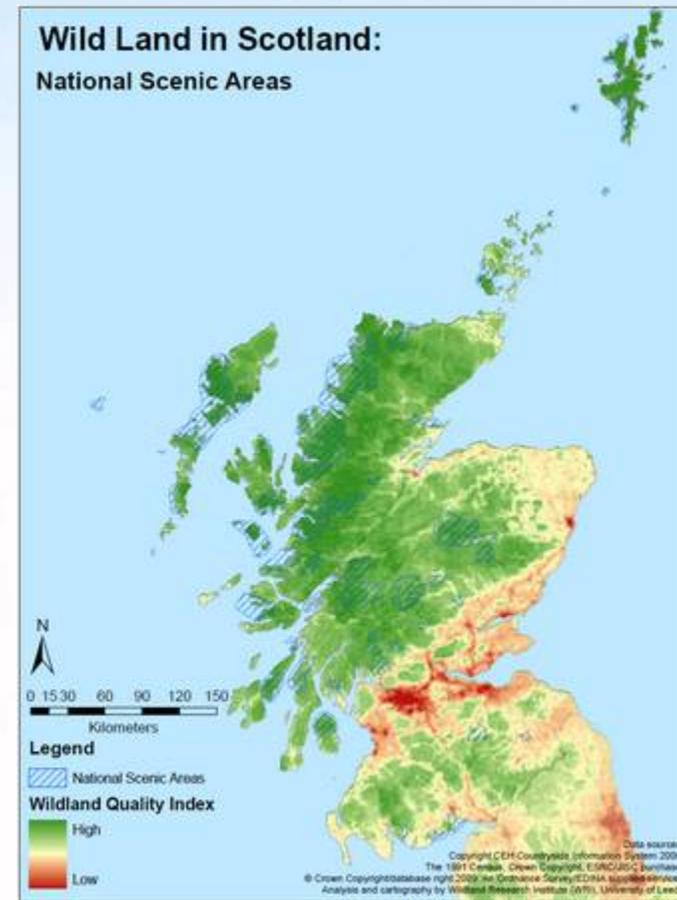
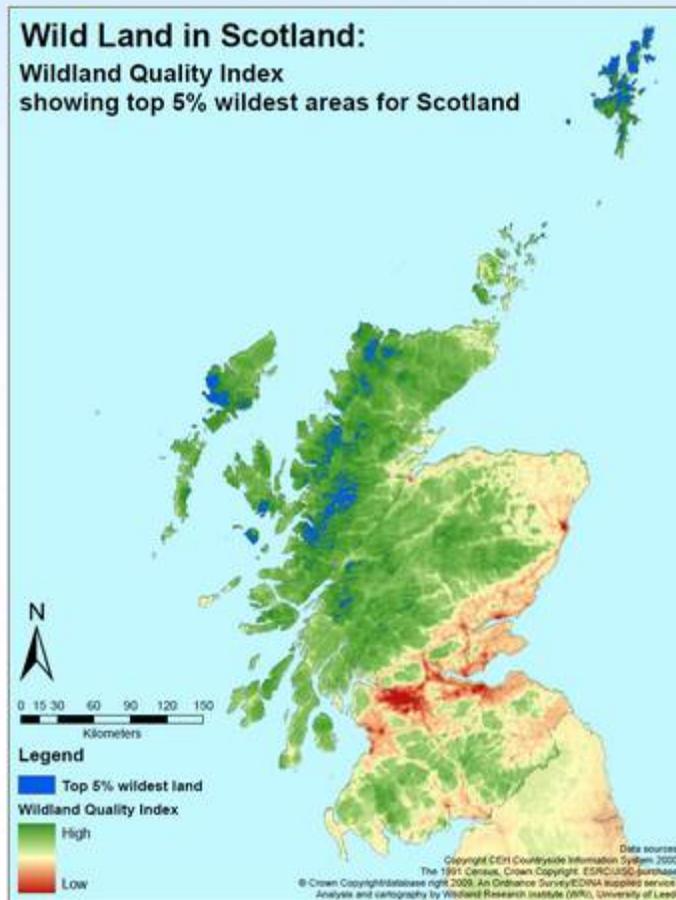
- legislation and a protection regime
- specialised regional or national administration authority acting within a national system of protected areas

A comprehensive management plan

- a fundamental understanding of the ecological processes in the protected area
- value given to the wider experience of successful protected areas, as well as to local knowledge and experience
- has a spatial approach for the protection regime, demarcating areas of different intensity of activity according to the degree of their preservation objective

The management plan should allocate staffing and funding resources, and be subsidised by funding through the support of a national protected areas system

What could protect wildland in Scotland?



National Scenic Areas next to and west of the Great Glen have the greatest fit

## What protection is afforded by NSAs?

Scottish Planning Policy 2010

Development that affects an NSA ...should only be permitted where:

- it will not adversely affect the integrity of the area or the qualities for which it has been designated, or
- any such adverse effects are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of national importance



- develop guidance to help local authorities and others to apply the new legislation (Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006)
- review the use of management plans for NSAs, and employment of NSA officers
- raise the profile of NSAs



Is wildness recognised in NSAs?

Special qualities of National Scenic Areas

Re-survey of the character of NSAs, with fieldworkers recording observations on visual experience and emotional response. Key words supplied as reference:

*“exhilarating, inspiring, exciting, awesome, challenging, surprising, spectacular, dramatic, turbulent, unsettling, uncomfortable, wild, remote, isolated, undiscovered, secret, mysterious, tranquil, peaceful, hidden, idyllic”*

Could the survey results be analysed to identify NSAs with high wildness characteristic?

NSAs could take on the role of promoting and perhaps protecting areas of land with a wildness characteristic, a point on the wildland continuum that still leaves scope for areas of greater wildness within

## An ideal for national protected area legislation in Scotland

The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 enables Scottish Ministers to:

- designate Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas (MPA)
- define the purpose of the MPA and list restrictions on activity through Marine Conservation Orders
- zone the MPA to demarcate areas of different restriction on activity
- enforce the restrictions through penalties

Example provisions for restricting activity given in the Act allow for the designation of Highly Protected Marine Reserves – “no-take zones”

A terrestrial no-take zone would be the equivalent of the “strict nature reserves” in the national legislation of European countries that designates for IUCN Category I protected areas



## A zoning approach in Scotland

Biosphere Reserves are divided into three zones:

- one or more core areas of minimally disturbed ecosystems;
- buffer zone of land use activities compatible with and do not harm the core area;
- flexible transition area, or area of co-operation of sustainable development

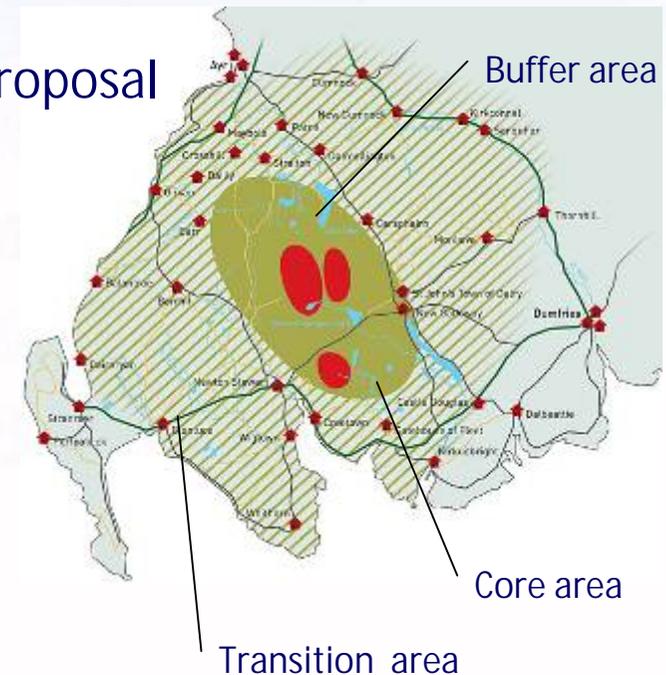
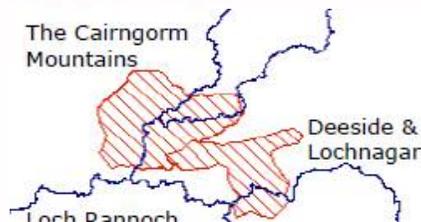
### Galloway and South Ayrshire Biosphere Reserve proposal

Core areas - Merrick Kells SSSI/SAC (including Silver Flowe NNR) and Cairnsmore of Fleet NNR/SSSI

Buffer area – Galloway Forest Park

Transition area – the Galloway and South Ayrshire hinterland

Cairngorms nesting  
SSSI/NNR – NSA - NP



## IUCN Categories to demarcate wildland

*“Putting Nature on the Map – a project to identify and categorise the places in the UK where the conservation of nature and landscape comes first”*

Nik Lopoukhine, Chair of IUCN’s World Commission on Protected Areas, asked the IUCN-UK to revise and expand the application of IUCN protected area categories in the UK

IUCN-UK has set up a Protected Areas Assignment Working Group to lead this process



*Putting Nature on the Map* will work with public, private and voluntary organisations in all parts of the UK to identify what ‘protected areas’ exist, classify them by the aims of their management, record this information, and make it freely available

How would you categorise these?



## Ecological Networking

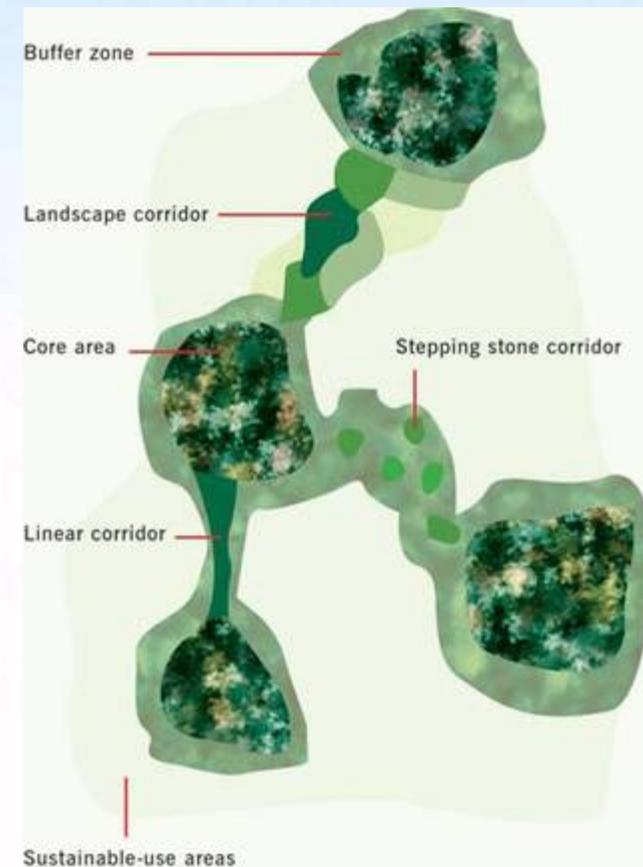
The spatial approach of the Pan European Ecological Network (PEEN)

Cores – primary function as a protected area

Corridors and stepping stones - functional linkages link between core areas, allowing migration and overcoming fragmentation

Buffers - allow for a smoother transition between core areas and surrounding land use

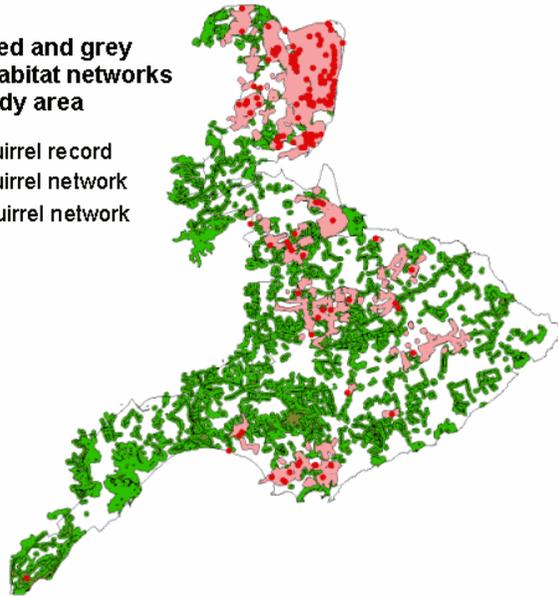
Sustainable use areas – the matrix within which the networks sits



## Ecological Networks in Scotland

### Existing red and grey squirrel habitat networks in Fife study area

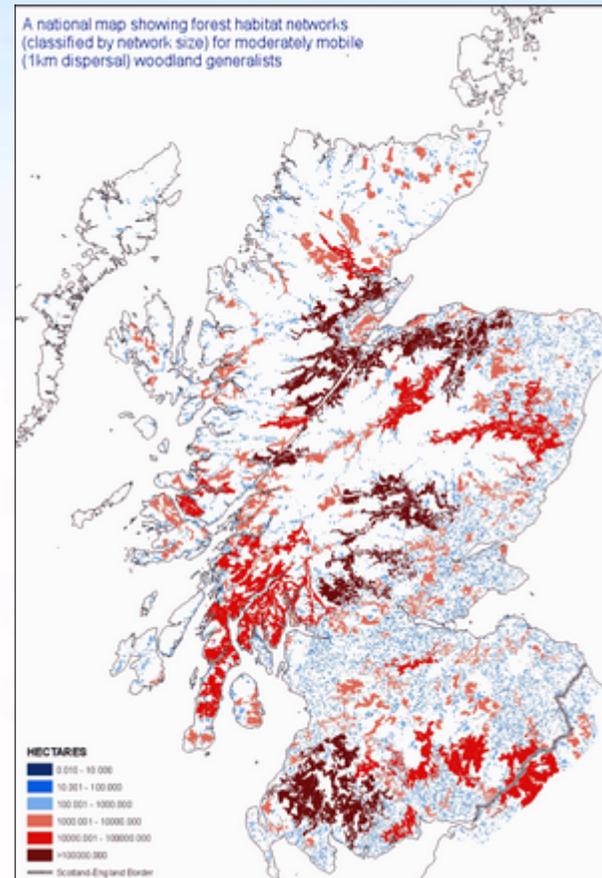
- Red squirrel record
- Red squirrel network
- Grey squirrel network



Lowland Habitat Network, Fyfe



Native Woodland Survey of Scotland



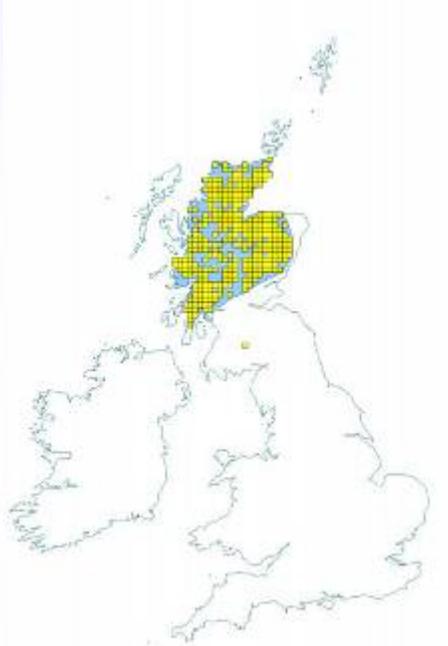
Forest Habitat Network mapping

## Ecological Networking in Scotland for wildcat

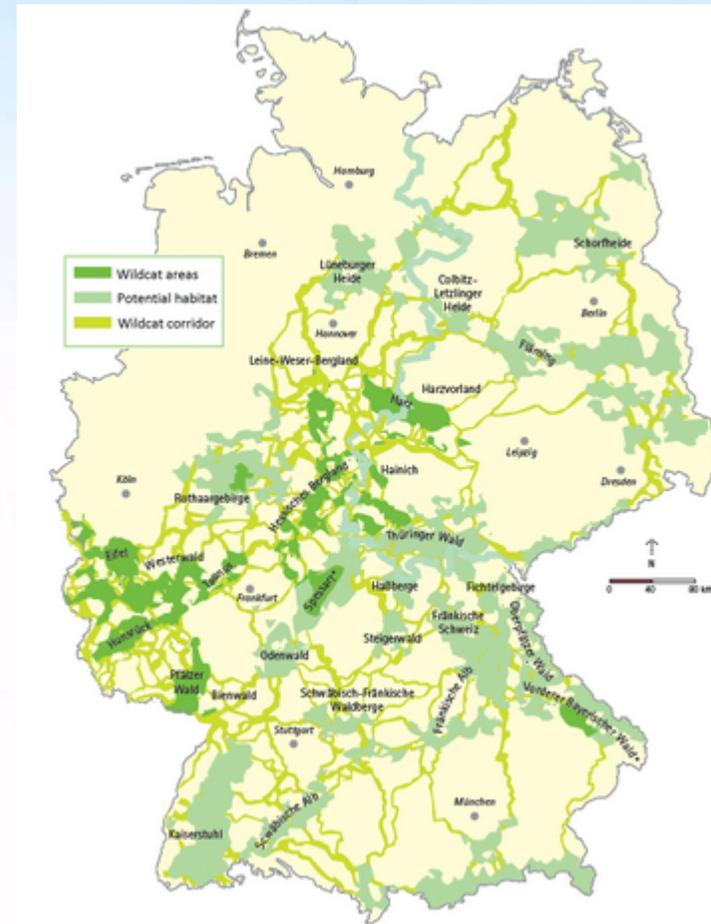
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Habitats Directive Annex IV

Overall assessment – **Bad and deteriorating**

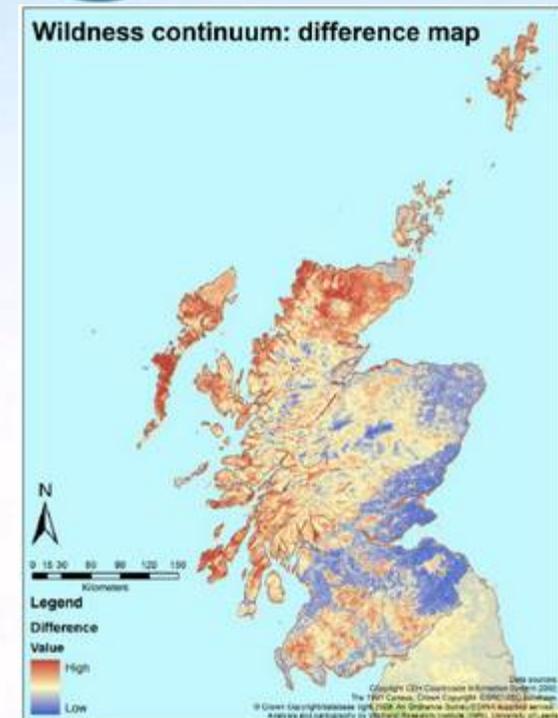
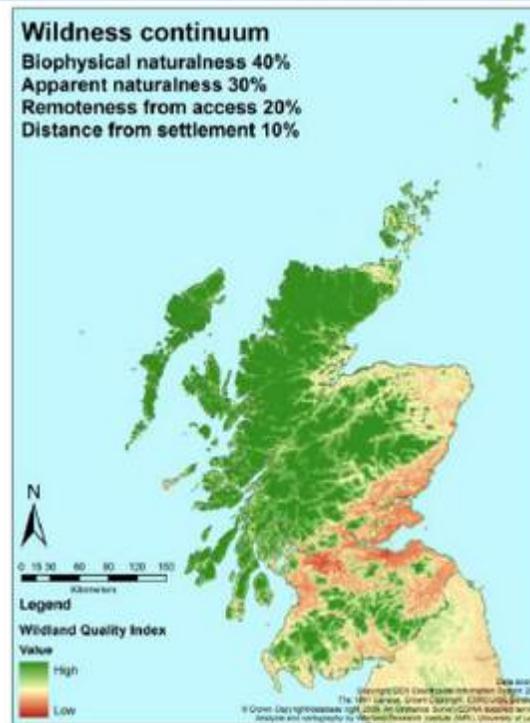
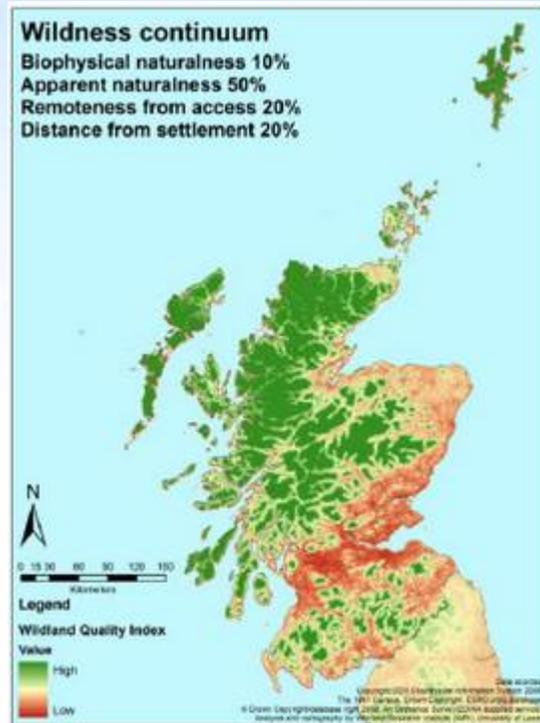


Distribution NBN Gateway  
(superseded by recent study)



Wildcat "rescue network" in Germany

## Spatial perceptions of wildland in Scotland



Examples of the choice of attributes and their relative weighting

Difference map for six groups

People are better at deciding where core areas of wildland are, and where non-wildland areas are. The rest of the continuum is less easily identified.

## Visual perceptions of wildland in Scotland



- lack of clarity or coherence in photo set
- no attempt to quantify occurrence of features
- uni-modal stimulus only – visual perception altered by soundscape

There is a need for an exemplary study of the perceptions and reality of wild land in Scotland, and with a rigorous and definitive public opinion survey that is spatially grounded



## Developing a view for wildland in Scotland as part of a national protected areas system

Joining state and civil society in a summit process in France – public debate, workshops and roundtable discussions to define the key points of public policy on ecology and sustainable development:

- Creating a green belt network (green corridors) and a blue belt network (waterways and bodies of water, together with surrounding areas of vegetation).
- Develop a national strategy on protected areas and open three new national parks.



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Natural Environment Framework (NEF) in Wales, drafted with input from a wide range of stakeholders. Focus will be on an ecosystems approach. Major public conference in September 2010 followed by consultation.

A Scottish summit process on wildland within a national strategy for protected areas in Scotland?

