

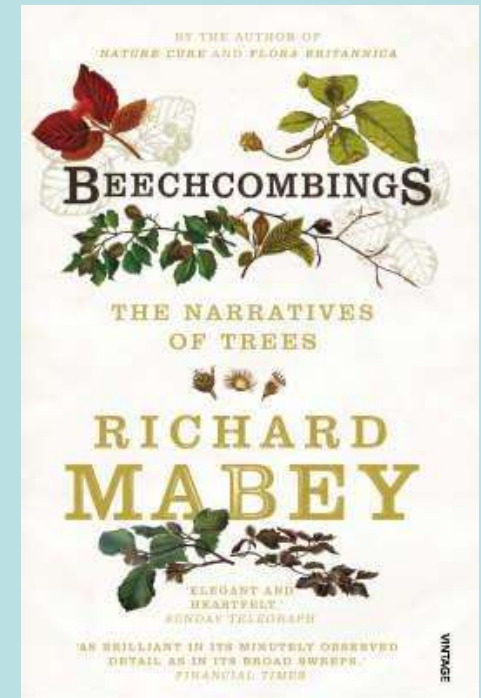
The background of the slide is a photograph of a dense forest. In the foreground, there is a lush green fern frond. The midground and background are filled with moss-covered tree trunks and dense foliage, creating a sense of a wild, undisturbed natural space.

WRI

**WILDLAND
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE**

WILD or NATURAL - the challenges Europe faces in setting aside wilderness

WILD? NATURAL? NATIVE?



“More and more I'm inclined to view 'naturalness' not as a state, a place in freeze frame, but as a **PROCESS**”

“Naturalness is whatever occurs *BETWEEN* human interventions”

“WILD, UNMANAGED, trees show us possibilities beyond our cultural tunnel-vision”



Castor Hanglands NNR

- managed for “nature”
- paths around rather than through

Native – yes

Natural – yes (“*between*”)

Wild – NO

“soulless”



Southey Wood



- not managed for “nature”
- recreational paths/area

Native – no/yes

Natural – yes

Wild – YES

The Warren Wood, Studland

Native - yes

Natural - NO

Wild – NO



will the Moshatel (AWI) survive?



Arne Hill, Dorset

Native – mostly

Natural - NO

Wild – DEFINITELY NO



is this really worth the destruction?



Undercliff woodland

- below Emmetts Hill, Chapman's Pool

Native - yes

Natural - yes

Wild – DEFINITELY YES



Irish State woodland reserves

Native – yes (mostly*)

Natural - yes

Wild – YES*

* the woodland interiors are really wild, but few informal paths (except *)





Brackloon Wood Forest Recreation Area

– restoring deciduous forest on a PAW

Native – increasingly

Natural – yes (natural regeneration)

Wild – YES (marshy woodland interiors)



Narrow-leaved Helleborine – last sighting 1982?



Irish woodland interiors – the common factor



HYPER-OCEANIC INFLUENCE

- mild winters, cool summers, and rain can fall throughout the year

take away the trees and you get bog!

Crawford, R. (2005) Trees by the sea: advantages and disadvantages of oceanic climates. *Proc. Royal Irish Acad.* 105B: 129-139



The problem for NATIVENESS in NW European woodland

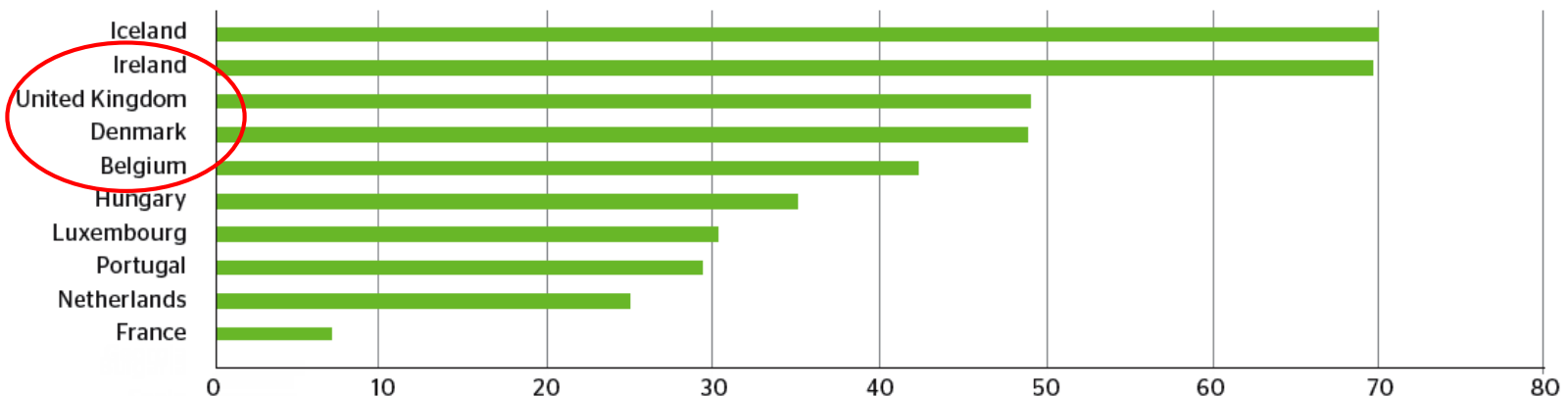
Figure 46: Share of the classes of naturalness (percent) of the forest area in Europe by countries, 2010

Forest (1000 ha)



- highest proportion of plantation forest and of non-native species

Figure 50: Share of forest area dominated by introduced tree species of the total forest area (percent) for countries in 2010



WILD? NATURAL? NATIVE?



Is there a place for introduced species in a wilderness-like area?



- gives us a potential example



Guagán Barra Forest Park

forests, rocks, torrents!



Broadleaves at the higher margins



Guagán Barra Forest Park

Native – no&yes (some natural regen)

Natural – yes (away from road)

Wild – YES





WILD? NATURAL? NATIVE or NATURALISED?



**WILD and UNMANAGED, a PLANTATION FOREST can be
the FUTURE WILDERNESS in NW Europe**

**ALL the elements for this wilderness exist at Nephin
Forest – including the HYPER-OCEANIC influence!**

Wild Nephin

– a landscape scale forest



Wild Nephin

– a forest of lakes and rivers



Wild Nephin

- tree growth in “wilderness”



does not have to be optimal!



Bog wood of Scots pine, Glenmore Forest Park



reminiscent of bog woodland?

Wild Nephin

– natural tree regeneration



non-native AND native



disappearing forest track!

"Naturalization": Plantation forests of exotics were man made, however, if subsequent rotations regenerated naturally it was debatable whether the forests were man made or natural. It was generally agreed that naturally regenerated crops of exotics be considered ~~man made forests~~ up to 250 years from the date of original introduction. Beyond 250 years, the forest was considered naturalized. Not clearly man made or natural forest.

NATURALIZATION?

Definitions Related to Planted Forests

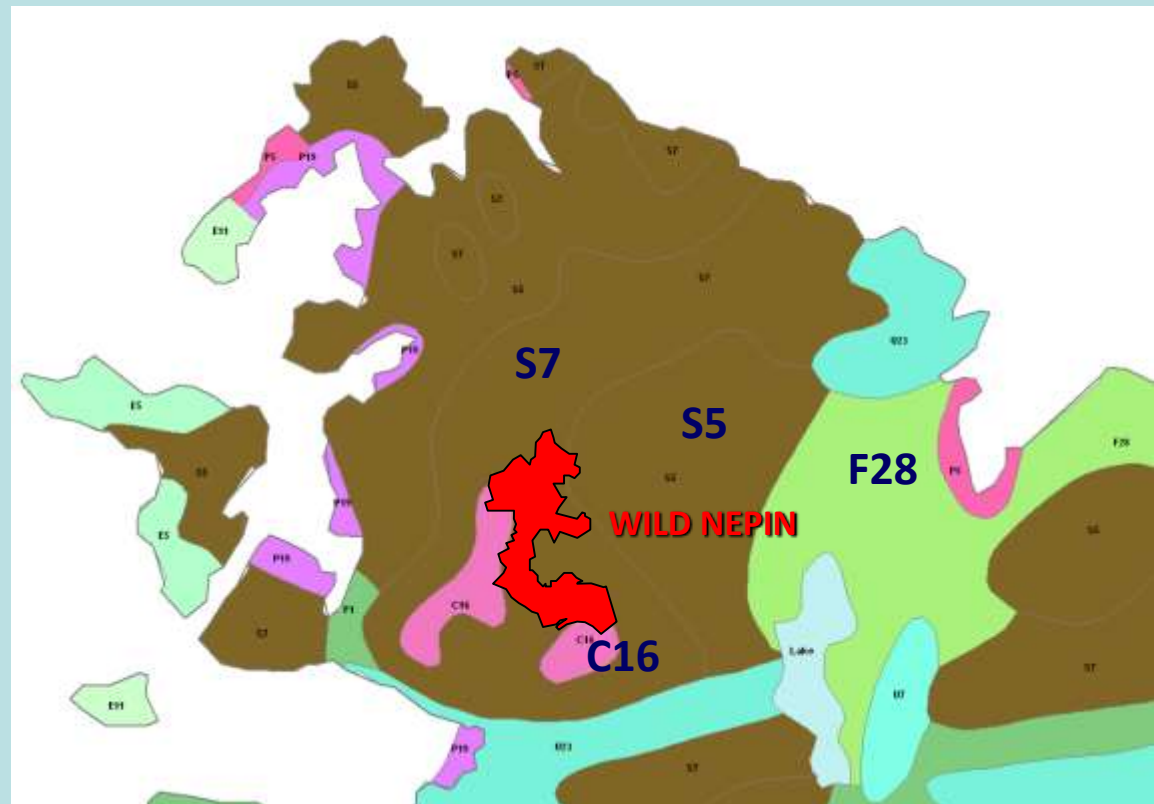
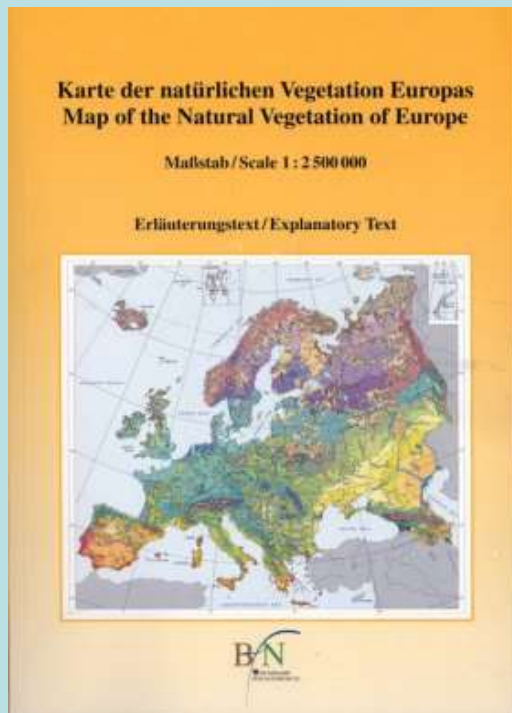


Forestry Department

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The natural vegetation of Mayo?

- generalised at scale
- unlikely to reflect the full range of vegetation potential of Wild Nephin



- S7 - Irish-British-west Norwegian montane blanket bogs
- S5 - Irish-British lowland blanket bogs
- C16 - British-Irish birch forests
- F28 - Irish pedunculate oak-ash forests

Wild Nephin

- a future view?



Soomaa National Park, Estonia



Fulufjället National Park, Sweden



Čepkeliai State Nature Reserve, Lithuania



Polistovsky State Nature Reserve, Russia