



Society for Conservation Biology

Europe-Section - President

Marcin Korolec  
Minister of the Environment  
Wawelska 52/54  
PL-00-922 Warszawa  
Poland

27 December 2011

Dear Excellency Minister Korolec,

The Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) is an international organization of conservation professionals. Its ranks include scientists, resource managers and educators. The society is dedicated to preserving biological diversity through science and education. Worldwide, the society represents over 5,000 members from more than 60 countries. The SCB Europe Section membership extends to almost every country in Europe. In 2006 the Section has launched the first European Congresses of Conservation Biology (ECCB) and close to 1,500 conservation professionals attended the last ECCB held in Prague in 2009.

In 2003, and requested by our Polish colleagues, the SCB Europe Section forwarded the attached resolution concerning the preservation of the Białowieża Forest to the Polish Minister of the Environment. In 2008, Minister Nowicki was also informed about this initiative. We were satisfied to note that in 2010, important decisions were taken. Minister of the Environment Prof. Kraszewski imposed a restriction on logging in Białowieża Forest that set a limit to timber extraction of 48.000 m<sup>3</sup> per year. This quantity of timber was deemed sufficient to support local needs as well as sustainable in safeguarding both the ecological and cultural uniqueness of this Polish, European and World Heritage Site. Conservation experts in Europe applauded this decision. As the new Minister of the Environment in Poland, we encourage you to retain this limit and to avoid logging of the remaining old-growth.

Białowieża Forest is the last lowland primeval forest within the European Union. It is a unique biodiversity hotspot and a fascinating source of scientific knowledge. It represents a much needed ecological blue-print for the restoration of forests in Europe.

We would like to conclude wishing you a profitable term in office shaped by much needed successes in nature and biodiversity conservation. Thank you very much for your time and attention!

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Martin Dieterich  
President of the Europe Section of the Society for Conservation Biology

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