



**Adapting new conservation tools to engage private landowners in national and regional conservation efforts in EU Member States**

# Private Land Conservation

The overall purpose of this project is to create a network of European private landowners that are involved in nature conservation, to expand the use of private land conservation methods and approaches in the EU through dialogue with these landowners and their representatives.

Expand the use of private land conservation methods in the EU

Develop recommendations for more effective private land conservation policies

Publish recommendations on how to roll out these policies effectively on a larger scale

Promote nature conservation as a valuable type of land management

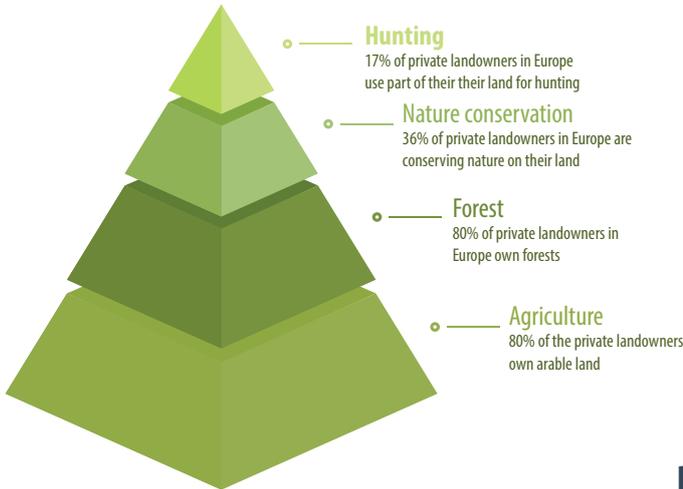
The graphs in this brochure are based on a report prepared by K&DM International analysing the results of a survey conducted by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), in consultation with Lori Weigel (Principal, New Bridge Strategy) in the period 27 May 2019 – 29 June 2019. The online survey was conducted among landowners and managers in the 28 EU European Member States and was available in eleven languages and was distributed by mail and social media. 747 respondents completed the survey.

# PRIVATE LANDOWNERSHIP

## in Europe



### Land use



Most private landowners combine multiple land uses in function of soil, environment and climate related variables.

### Ownership

A large majority of private landowners in Europe manages the land they own themselves.



### PEFC/FSC Forestry label

Forestry labels are quite common among forest owners. The label is directly linked to the product.



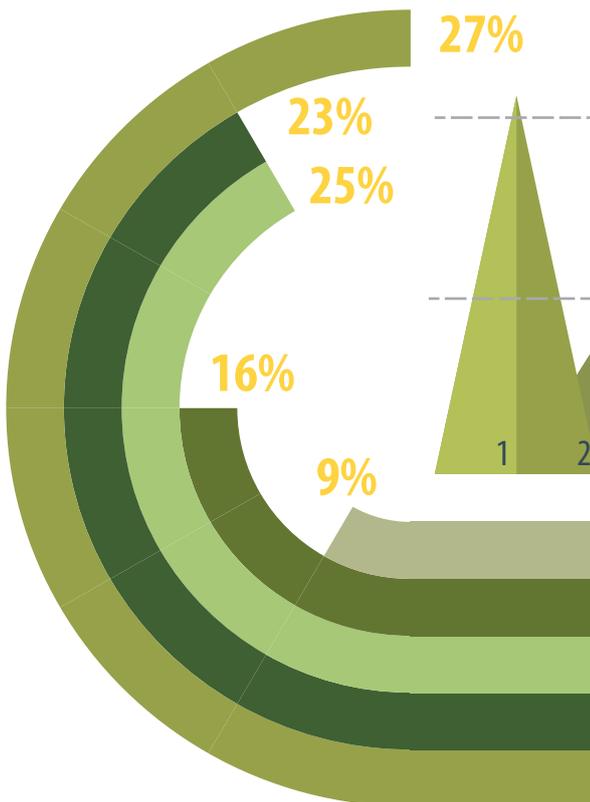
### Wildlife Estates Label

The Wildlife Estates Label is a management label well known among owners with an interest in nature conservation and/or hunting



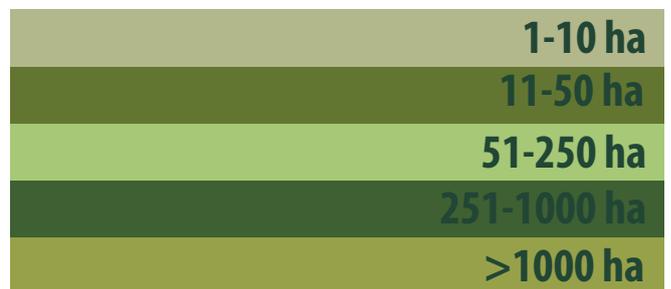
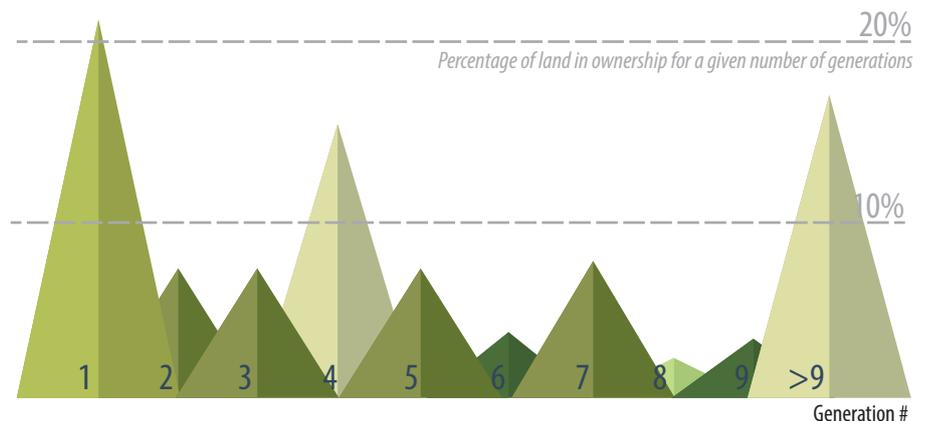
### Size of the land

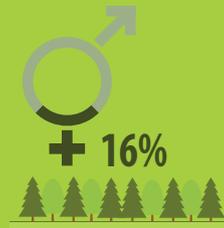
Respondents often own/manage larger estates with a large majority owning more than 51 ha. Western Europe and the Mediterranean/South area has a significant larger number of respondents owning smaller plots under 50 ha. Here we see a clear influence of the Code Napoleon



### Family property

Private land is often in the family for several generations. The involvement of the next generation is an important aspect of the durable management of the property.



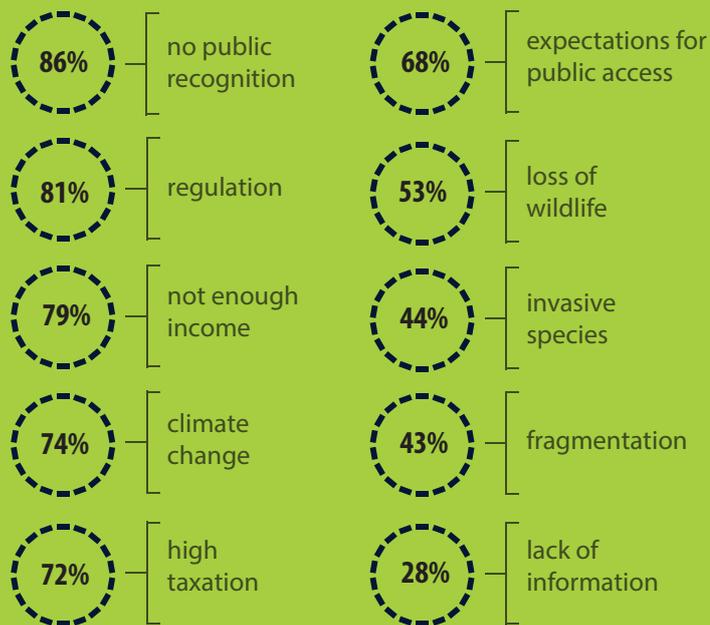


## Female landowners

An increasing number of landowners and landmanagers are female. Their approaches to land management are often different from their male counterparts

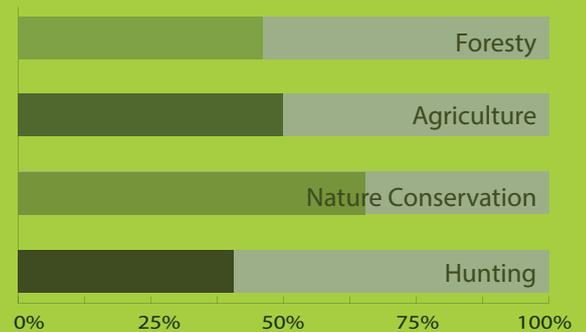
## Nature conservation: issues related to private landownership

The following issues are seen as very important to private landowners (percentage of total of respondents)



## Female landowners and land management

Female landowners show a much larger interest in nature conservation compared with their male counterparts. The opposite is the case for hunting.



# POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

60% of the Natura 2000 network is owned by private landowners. So private land conservation is an important tool to halt biodiversity loss in Europe. One out of three respondents indicate they already use their private land for nature conservation. This makes private landowners an important target group to realise biodiversity related objectives within Europe.

02

The certification of products (FSC and PEFC are the most used labels for forestry products) and estate management (the Wildlife Estates Label is the most important wildlife management label among individual private landowners) are major incentives for private landowners in Europe to participate in private land conservation. Getting public recognition is extremely important for individual private landowners.

01

Private landowners have a strong preference for voluntary programmes. Due to the diversity of habitats, species, landscapes, cultural and economic use of private land and the diversity of landowners, private landowners and managers need to have a choice between different tools to implement private land conservation.

03

Private landowners and managers prefer financial incentives for a service (annual payments) or on a product basis (carbon credits, payments for ecosystem services, ...).

04

Tax benefits for income, property or land taxes or taxes related to the transfer or sale of land are welcome incentives to individual private landowners actively involved in nature conservation.

05

Most landowners are prepared to conserve a part of their land as wildlife habitat or as natural area.

06

For many private landowners public access remains a major concern and a reason not to participate in private land conservation programmes. There is a need to develop a specific set of tools to tackle this problem.



The project 'Land Is For Ever' has received funding from the LIFE Programme of the European Union under the grant agreement LIFE17PREBE001.

