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Edited By Kees Bastmeijer

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## WILDERNESS PROTECTION IN EUROPE

Europe still retains large areas which play host to numerous native and free-functioning ecosystems and lack roads, buildings, bridges, cables and other permanent manifestations of modern society. In the past, such areas were considered wastelands, whose value lay only in their potential for cultivation and economic exploitation. Today, these wilderness areas are increasingly cherished as places for rest and recreation and as important areas for scientific research, biodiversity conservation and the mitigation of and adaptation to certain climate change effects. This book provides the first major appraisal of the role of international, European and domestic law in protecting the remaining wilderness areas and their distinguishing qualities in Europe. It also highlights the lessons that can be learned from the various international, regional and national approaches, identifies obstacles to wilderness protection in Europe and considers whether and how the legal protection of wilderness can be further advanced.

KEES BASTMEIJER is Professor of Nature Conservation and Water Law at Tilburg University, The Netherlands, and a visiting professor at the School of Business, Economics and Law at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. His research focuses on the role of international, European and domestic law in protecting nature, with a particular interest in nature conservation in the polar regions, relationships between law and philosophical human-nature attitudes, property rights and nature and the role of law in protecting wilderness.

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Edited by

KEES BASTMEIJER

*Tilburg University, The Netherlands*



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This book aims to contribute to the broader inter-disciplinary debate on nature protection in Europe by providing a comprehensive appraisal of the role of international, European and domestic law in protecting wilderness areas and their distinguishing qualities. As the wilderness concept has received relatively little attention in legal circles in Europe, the thirty experts involved in this project had to undertake extensive and innovative research in order to develop their chapters. As editor, I am deeply impressed by the willingness of each of the contributors to invest a substantial amount of time and effort in their research for this book. I am most grateful for the strong collaboration with and between all of these contributors, which has ensured that this book has become far more than a mere collection of chapters. These joint efforts made it possible to develop comprehensive and insightful answers to the central questions posed in this book.

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*Kees Bastmeijer*