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BISON IN THE WILD - SECOND BISON RELEASE IN THE SOUTHERN CARPATHIANS

June 12-13 2015, Armeniș Commune, Țarcu Mountains, Romania

Rewilding Europe and WWF Romania are thrilled to announce the second release of European bison, Europe's largest living land mammal, to take place in the Southern Carpathians rewilding area on 12 and 13 June this year.

This new release of 18 animals follows on the release one year ago, when a first herd of 17 bison from different breeding centres and zoos across Europe were brought to the Țarcu Mountains near Armeniș Municipality.

The event will take two days. On the first day, Friday 12 June, the new herd of 18 European bison, originating from six different wildlife centres in Switzerland, Germany, Belgium and France, will arrive and be released in an acclimatization area.

On Saturday 13 June, the bison herd that was relocated to the area last year and has since have adapted to the new climate, will be released into the wild to become the first bison to roam freely in the Southern Carpathians for over 200 years. These translocations are meant to build a truly wild population of European bison in this area, with the aim to have a population of at least 300 bison in the Southern Carpathians by 2024.

You are invited to attend this bison release, which will not only be a great local event but also a unique moment for conservation of the European bison. Be part of a flagship initiative that will help this charismatic species to get out of the danger zone, and making the value of wild nature and wilderness areas embraced by local communities.

About the initiative

Rewilding Europe and WWF Romania, together with national and international partners are working to create a sustainable development model in the Southern Carpathians by valueing one of the largest wilderness strongholds in Europe. With our rewilding approach, we envision that local communities' wellbeing can be sustained through nature-based enterprises connected to the largest national bison reintroduction plan in Europe.

The European bison is a charismatic animal with a longstanding heritage in Romanian history and culture, loved by the general public. There are fewer bison in the wild than there are black rhinos, so there is a true urgency to bring back this symbolic animal into its old habitats, to play its ecological role. In turn, this iconic wildlife species is a key species for rewilding and for preserving wilderness strongholds.

To make this initiative a success, Rewilding Europe and WWF-Romania are working very closely with the local community in Armenis, authorities at local, regional and national level, local entrepreneurs, hunting associations and tour-operators.

Please visit our websites for more information:

www.rewildingeurope.com

www.wwf.ro/rewilding



The bison reintroduction in the Southern Carpathians is made possible through the support of nature and zoological reserves throughout Europe, for which we are grateful.

Rewilding Europe is a European initiative founded by WWF-Netherlands, ARK NATURE, Conservation Capital and Wild Wonders of Europe.

The bison reintroduction and rewilding work in this area is made possible by the financial support of the Dutch and Swedish Postcode Lotteries, The European Nature Trust and Toyota Fund for Europe.