

Wildlife breeding and management



**Rewilding
Europe**
Capital



Rewilding Europe aims to create more space for wild nature in Europe, by allowing natural processes to shape our landscapes, promoting wildlife comeback and developing nature-based local economies. The organisation takes an entrepreneurial approach to conservation by helping to develop nature and wildlife tourism models that support, reinvigorate and conserve wild nature as 'natural capital' and contribute positively to the socio-economic environment of rural areas.

Rewilding Europe Capital provides business loans to wildlife breeding and management projects in Europe that generate positive rewilding and environmental impact.

Rewilding Europe Capital – Wildlife breeding and management



Interest in wildlife breeding and management

Healthy wildlife populations are key to Europe's nature, because:

- **Enabling ecological processes:** wildlife plays an important ecological role through its behaviour: grazing, browsing, predating, scavenging with a direct impact on vegetation and landscapes,
- **Facilitation and cascading:** Natural (native) species guilds foster important intra-specific relations between species, for instance through phenomena like tropical cascading, ecology of fear, cyclic forest regeneration, and acting as prey base for each other (including the entire range of small to medium to large carnivores and scavengers);
- **Natural asset:** wildlife species, in natural densities, in particular iconic species, can be draw cards for wildlife tourism which provides the key capital asset towards building wildlife-based economies;
- **Co-existence:** wildlife comeback in Europe can only continue and thrive if there are ways of co-existence, meaning people not only loose (e.g. because of livestock predation or damage) but also benefit (e.g. through income from wildlife watching businesses).

Rewilding enterprises

The following business activities may be developed to generate income from wildlife breeding and management, not limited to:

- **Wildlife breeding and re-introductions:** enterprises that can be developed related to wildlife breeding and reintroductions, as is the case in the safari-industry in South Africa. This could include back-breeding (e.g. Tauros), wildlife sales, translocation and transport activities, veterinary services, development of special equipment;
- **Transformation of hunting concessions:** business models can be deployed for transforming traditional hunting concessions into wildlife reserves, including creation of now hunting zones in combination with wildlife watching and wildlife breeding;
- **Wildlife research:** reintroductions of species and monitoring species populations requires research with associated equipment e.g. GPS and radio, collars, receivers, drones, camera traps and others.
- **Harvesting wildlife products:** both wild meat from Tauros and wild game can be harvested to satisfy growing demand for such products in Europe, and other wildlife products might be possible;
- **Natural grazing:** business models could be developed, in association with the European Wildlife Bank, for setting up and scaling up natural grazing initiatives;
- **Conflict mitigation:** innovative business models that help reducing human-wildlife conflict.

Finance conditions

REC issues finance loans on the following terms to businesses meeting the required investment and impact requirements:

Principal loan capital:	€25,000 to €600,000
Geographic focus:	EU-28 countries
Investment structure:	Debt only
Currency restrictions:	Euro (€) loans and repayments only
Loan terms:	6–8 years
Interest rate:	2.5%–6%

Wildlife breeding and management indicators

- Variety of key large herbivores, carnivores and scavengers present in natural densities;
- Existence of a 'code of conduct' for wildlife watching to avoid disturbances of wildlife;
- Number of professionally trained wildlife and nature tourism guides, and existence of a certification system;
- Availability of professionally designed and operated wildlife hides;
- Level of acceptance/tolerance of local communities to live with wildlife, in particular large carnivores and large herbivores;
- Number of jobs created and income generated from wildlife- and nature related tourism.