

Land estates

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 land estate management 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 land estate owners and in Europe that generate positive rewilding and environmental impact.

Rewilding Europe Capital – Land estates



Interest in land estates

Rewilding Europe is interested in developing partnerships with land owners to:

- **Generate income:** Through an entrepreneurial approach on private land estates generating meaningful income for landowners from nature-based businesses which support rewilding;
 - **New rewilding areas:** Targeting a minimum of 3,000 hectares of private land on either single or multiple connected estates, increasing to a contiguous rewilded landscape exceeding 10,000 hectares within three to five years;
 - **Zonation:** Design specific land use zones including:
 - **Core:** Natural rewilding areas restricted for the recovery and protection of nature and wildlife
 - **Buffer:** Zones of more commercial land use, such as non-timber forest product harvesting, together with traditional activities including wild meat management and sustainable, species-specific hunting;
 - **Tourism:** Forming part of the buffer zone, these areas are dedicated to tourism activities.
 - **Enabling natural processes:** Natural processes such as natural grazing, forest regeneration, predation, scavenging and wildlife comeback will take place throughout the estate;
 - **Stimulating natural grazing and prey:** Natural grazing will focus on free-living social herds of large herbivores such as red deer, Tauros and wild horse, all facilitating natural habitat and prey for the keystone species mentioned above;
 - **Building scale:** Creating connected habitat where large herbivores can roam; which might include the removal of international fences;
- **A natural aesthetic:** Fences and unattractive infrastructure will be removed to create a feeling of wide open nature with beautiful scenery for visitors. Exotic tree species will be removed, together with domesticated, non-indigenous cattle.

Rewilding enterprises

The following business activities may be developed to generate income from the rewilding landscape and its wildlife. This income will support payments for the landowner and businesses concerned, and contribute to the estate's operating costs:

- **Wildlife watching and nature based tourism:** Organised and managed by professional operators, including state-of-the-art infrastructure and experiences such as wildlife photography hides and guided trails;
- **Accommodation:** Lodges and seasonal tented / star camps will create new countryside experiences, e.g. safari-style. They will complement the natural aesthetic and feeling of the estate, and the tourism experiences offered;
- **Local products:** There are a great variety of traditional and wild products that can be branded to reflect the high quality and provenance of the reserve. Products such as olives, almonds, wild beef and honey can promote the “rewilding” concept and reserve itself;
- **Wild meat:** Both wild meat from Tauros and wild game can be harvested to satisfy growing demand for such products in Europe;
- **Wildlife breeding:** Potential for breeding wildlife for the reintroduction of natural grazers into the surrounding landscape to increase regional populations;
- **Non-timber forest products:** Non-timber based forest

products such as wild berries, herbs and mushrooms will be harvested to be sold either as fresh or processed products;

- **Alternative tourism:** Other immersive tourism experiences involving health and well-being, cooking, horse riding, bike riding and bush dining will be explored.
- **CO₂ offsetting**

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%

Land estates impact indicators

- Extension of the area with spontaneous native forests and natural tree regeneration;
- Extension of the area without hunting (no-take or breeding zones for wildlife);
- Number of jobs created and income generated from rewilding enterprises;
- Extension of natural marshlands (where relevant);
- Extension of areas interconnected by removing/bridging barriers in between;
- Variety of key large herbivores, carnivores and scavengers present in natural densities
- Area under new formal protection