



Job Description

Rewilding Officer (1.0 fte)

Velebit Rewilding Area, Croatia

Role

The Rewilding Officer is co-responsible for the implementation of Rewilding Europe's main strategy and objectives for the Velebit rewilding area (based on the 10-year vision for the area), focusing on the following key components:

1. To help creating the Velebit rewilding area as a showcase for rewilding in Croatia and as part of the wider Dinaric Arc landscape, through active rewilding work on the ground showing concrete steps towards realizing the 10-year vision,
2. To work and ensure a (further) wildlife comeback in Velebit, through supporting existing species populations and through re-stocking or re-introduction of missing key species, to establish viable populations of an original, native species composition,
3. To ensure that key natural processes are identified and given priority in the management of Velebit Nature Park, North Velebit and Paklenica National Parks, within a zonation plan for the larger rewilding area.

The Rewilding Officer reports to the Team Leader of the Velebit rewilding area; he/she works closely and ensures synergies with the Communications Officer of the Velebit rewilding team and with the rewilding colleagues in the other rewilding areas. The position is very operational and results oriented.

Main responsibilities

Strategic

- To identify, secure and implement rewilding opportunities in Velebit (related to the promotion of natural processes), in close cooperation with key partners, stakeholders and authorities in Croatia, and Velebit in particular,
- To work pro-actively to identify and secure rewilding opportunities in Velebit, in particular related to creating wildlife-breeding zones, re-stocking and reintroductions of wildlife species, natural grazing projects, rewilding forests, and promotion of other natural processes.
- To work very closely with the enterprise component (both at local and central level) to support the development of nature and wildlife-based tourism businesses in and around Velebit.
- Timely and adequate planning, budgeting and reporting for the rewilding component in the

Velebit rewilding area, according to 5-year Action Plans and yearly work plans;

Operational

- Ensure key natural processes are identified, described and accepted as critical for rewilding in the priority areas and outside, by the key stakeholders and authorities,
- Work in identified priority areas within the Velebit rewilding area on rewilding activities and make them happen on the ground, in close cooperation with key partners and stakeholders (in particular with conservation and hunting organisations),
- Identify and negotiate breeding areas (no-take zones) for wildlife in Velebit, in collaboration with hunting associations with the objective to increase natural wildlife numbers,
- Identify and make operational at least three breeding facilities/enclosures for wildlife to increase numbers of keystone species, for release into the wild (various species under consideration),
- Coordinate and work on feasibility studies for wildlife re-stocking or re-introductions where needed, and work with authorities to ensure approval of such plans,
- Ensure natural grazing is taking place or restored in considerable areas in Velebit, involving semi-wild living horses and bovines, to maintain open- or semi-open landscapes and grasslands (including the Tauros Programme),
- Monitoring and reporting of results on rewilding actions, in close cooperation with local stakeholders, authorities and/or scientific institutions,
- Assist in identifying local entrepreneurs that are interested in wildlife- or nature based tourism activities, and work closely with the central enterprise team to support the incubation and development of such rewilding enterprises,
- Ensure effective anti-poisoning strategy is developed and implemented, to enable the comeback of carnivores and scavengers, and work that human-wildlife conflicts are effectively addressed and mitigated,
- Work with Rewilding Europe Central Team to maximize their input, use lesson learned and ensure linkages with local activities,
- Assist and lead event management and provide logistical support for the organization of meetings, workshops, campaigns and publishing documents,
- Assist the Team leader on the development of project proposals, strategies, objectives, activities, work-plans and budgets,
- Ensuring provisions of regular updates on subjects of importance for Rewilding Europe and its work in the area (e.g. news, stories, development/infrastructure and management plans & strategies, public tenders, changes in laws, public reactions, etc.),
- Assist in making local arrangements for field trips, photo mission, media trips, local meetings, workshops and seminars as well as other necessary administrative arrangements.

Key qualifications

- At least 5 years working experience in projects related to biodiversity conservation and wildlife management, protected area management, ecological processes,
- Good knowledge of the Velebit area, local stakeholders and good contacts in conservation, hunting and scientific networks in Croatia,
- Well connected and respected in conservation field in Croatia, based on reputation and expertise in nature conservation and a keen interest in wildlife and field ecology,
- Personal field passion and experience of nature, interest in the wild and a (very) good knowledge of wildlife species in Croatia and wildlife management (both theoretical and practical),
- Creative and very pro-active attitude and entrepreneurial personality with an ability to work

independently,

- Good team player, a pro-active attitude and personality with an ability to work independently in a multi-cultural environment with sensitivity and respect for team & stakeholder diversity,
- A pro-active attitude and problem solving abilities; strong organizational capacities, hands-on attitude and result oriented,
- Excellent social skills, experience communication at various levels (national and local) and to various audiences (environmental, business, tourism, general),
- Ability to write in a clear and concise manner and communicate effectively orally; both fluent in English and Croatian language,
- Ability to manage him- or herself from his/her home office, good organizational skills and problem solving abilities,
- Based in or very close to the Velebit rewilding area,
- Driving licence at least B category, preferably boat driving licence,
- Experience in working in an international team setting, and passionate about Rewilding Europe's mission, vision and objectives!