



# ANNUAL REVIEW 2013



**Rewilding Europe**  
 Making Europe a wilder place



# Rewilding Europe®

Making Europe a Wilder Place



Rewilding Europe is a proud beneficiary of the Dutch Postcode Lottery

## Initiating Partners



The Supervisory Board of Rewilding Europe formally approved this Annual Review 2013, in Geneva, Switzerland, on 25 March 2014

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Logo & Style: Plural design  
Graphic design: Kristjan Jung/Rewilding Europe  
Print: Ecoprint

Rewilding Europe

Toernooiveld 1  
6525 ED Nijmegen  
The Netherlands

info@rewildingeuropa.com  
www.rewildingeurope.com  
www.facebook.com/rewildingeuropa







MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR AND THE CHAIRMAN:

# “Making it Real”



Rewilding Europe is excited to present to you our second Annual Review, for the year 2013. During this year, we made considerable progress with this Europe-wide initiative, advocating our vision and working for a wilder Europe.

Although still a young initiative, we feel very encouraged with the enthusiasm, support and feedback we have been receiving from all strands of society. 'Making Europe a Wilder Place' generates a lot of interest: from local authorities to national governments, from students to scientists, from villagers and farmers to hunters, from wildlife photographers to TV broadcasting companies, from local politicians to members of the European Parliament, from local businessmen to capital investors, from wildlife lovers to city dwellers and from local newspapers to leading international magazines.

This overwhelming support has felt like a proper tailwind, while sailing across the waters, keeping us sharp on moving into the right direction.

This support also keeps us aware of the large responsibility we have to put our vision into reality. As Rewilding Europe has created a structure and proper platform to work from, we have now become fully focused on delivering results, both at the central and the rewilding area level.

In this Annual Review 2013 you will find a lot of information of what we achieved during this year. We follow a similar structure to that of our Annual Review 2012, where we report on both the central level and the rewilding area level. In particular we have included progress on the European Wildlife Bank, Rewilding Europe Capital and the European Rewilding Network, all centrally driven major initiatives that were started up in 2013.

Rewilding Europe is a unique initiative as it is set up as a European organisation with a strong central function connected with 10 rewilding areas that are working in a coherent way, based on an appealing joint vision, objectives, strategy and methodology. These are all built around three key components: rewilding, enterprise development and communication, forming the 'DNA' of our initiative.

We hope you enjoy reading this second Annual Review, and are looking forward to work with you over the years to come. We would like to use this opportunity to thank all our financial supporters and partners in taking on this challenging and exciting endeavour together with us. Making it real.



*Frans Schepers*

**Frans Schepers**  
Managing Director



*Wiet de Bruijn*

**Wiet de Bruijn**  
Chairman

# 2013 at a glance

**1 January**  
Nijmegen, The Netherlands

- › Liberty Wildlife Fund starts its support to Rewilding Europe, with a three-year grant covering 2013–2015.

**18-19 January**  
Noorderheide, The Netherlands

- › Rewilding Europe Retreat, with Special Advisors, Supervisory Board and Executive Board, addressing key strategic issues for the initiative.



**13 February**  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- › At the Goed Geld Gala, Rewilding Europe becomes a beneficiary of the Dutch Postcode Lottery, for a period of five years.



**3-5 June**  
Western Iberia, Portugal & Spain

- › Supervisory Board meeting and visit by the Adessium Foundation to Western Iberia. Tauros breeding programme officially started by signing an agreement with local partners.



**3 June**  
Campanarios de Azaba, Spain

- › Second draw of the Rewilding Europe Travel Club with six winners from different European countries.

**4 June**  
Western Iberia, Portugal & Spain

- › First Annual Review of Rewilding Europe presented and published.

**12-19 June**  
Tulcea, Romania

- › Underwater photo mission to the Danube Delta rewilding area, by Magnus Lundgren, providing great imagery.

**9 September**  
Millingen, The Netherlands

- › Gelderse Poort receives the first membership certificate of the European Rewilding Network, at the 20th anniversary of the Millingerwaard rewilding area.

**25 and 26 September**  
London, United Kingdom

- › The Wildlife Comeback report launched at London Zoo with a press conference and a seminar; first report handed over to Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Member of European Parliament.



**4 October**  
Salamanca, Spain

- › Rewilding Europe presented at WILD10 with a number of plenary presentations.

**5 October**  
Salamanca, Spain

- › 'Vision for a Wilder Europe' presented, signed by nine conservation organisations at WILD10.



**28 October**  
Nijmegen, The Netherlands

- › First loans provided by Rewilding Europe Capital to rewilding enterprises in Western Iberia and in Velebit.



**17 November**  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- › Hunting position statement agreed that will guide our work with the hunting sector on wildlife comeback and rewilding.

**11 December**  
Rome, Italy

- › 'Rewilding Apennines' officially registered as a legal entity in Italy.

**16 December**  
Nijmegen, The Netherlands

- › Formal changes in Rewilding Europe implemented, including change of statutes and Executive Board members.

**21 February**  
*photo.rewildingeurope.com*

- Rewilding Europe launches its photo archive, to show the high quality imagery from all rewilding areas to the public.

**16 April**  
*Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

- Rewilding Europe Capital internally launched with designed structure and operations.

**14-27 May**  
*Rhodope Mountains, Bulgaria*

- Photo mission carried out by Staffan Widstrand to the Rhodope Mountains, a possible new rewilding area, delivering great image material.



**31 May**  
*Brasov, Romania*

- Feasibility study finished and presented about reintroducing bison into the Southern Carpathians rewilding area.



**21 June**  
*Stockholm, Sweden*

- Official opening of the Wild Wonders of Europe Outdoor Exhibition, where Rewilding Europe was the main partner, together with the Swedish Postcode Lottery.



**1 July**  
*Rome, Italy*

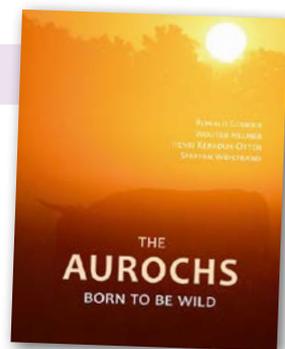
- Partnership with WWF Mediterranean Programme Office on rewilding Velebit formally expired.

**23 July**  
*Nijmegen, The Netherlands*

- ARK Nature and Rewilding Europe signed a renewed partnership agreement, embarking on a new 3-year cooperation.

**6 October**  
*Salamanca, Spain*

- The Aurochs Book and Rewilding Europe Capital officially launched at WILD10.



**7 October**  
*Campanarios de Azaba, Spain*

- Second herd of 24 Retuerta horses released in Western Iberia, during a WILD10 excursion, witnessed by many people from across the world.

**9 October**  
*Salamanca, Spain*

- A full-day rewilding seminar, during which the European Rewilding Network and European Wildlife Bank were officially launched, and the third draw of the Rewilding Europe Travel Club was held.



**20 December**  
*Geneva, Switzerland*

- Contract signed with Fondation Segré about a 2-year support to Rewilding Apennines.



FONDATION SEGRÉ

**20 December**  
*Arnhem, The Netherlands*

- Fourth draw of the Rewilding Europe Travel Club.

**31 December**  
*Nijmegen, The Netherlands*

- In total 19 rewilding initiatives in 10 different countries, covering 810,000 hectares, have become a member of the European Rewilding Network.



**31 December**  
*Nijmegen, The Netherlands*

- In total, 2,157 people have become members of the Rewilding Europe Travel Club.



REWILDING EUROPE – THE INITIATIVE

# Making Europe a Wilder Place



STAFFAN WIDSTRAND / REWILDING EUROPE  
> Griffon vulture.

### A new approach

Conservation in Europe has since long been a bit different to that in the rest of the world. Because most of the wilderness was lost a long time ago, nature conservation mainly focused on cultivated land, ancient farming systems and semi-natural, managed habitats, often depending on public subsidies and private engagement. This “compensatory habitat approach” has its value and has certainly rescued many species from extinction, but an important part for conservation and biodiversity protection was left out: the preservation of wild nature, wilderness

and natural processes.

Europe is highly diverse in its landscapes, habitats, cultures and development. While we are still rapidly losing species and natural ecosystems through urbanisation, infrastructure development, industrialisation of agriculture, forestry and fishery – new conservation opportunities are emerging. Additionally, there is a growing understanding of the imperative for protecting wilderness and the potential of rewilding.

We have, as a society, begun to recognise the need for wild land to provide ecosystem services

like clean water and air, as base-line scientific reference areas, for recreation and economic development... and indeed, to refresh our human spirit and wellbeing. People have begun to understand that this is at the core of sustainability – handing over a healthy environment to coming generations and not limiting their choices. The comeback of iconic wildlife species like wolves, beavers, vultures and white storks gives hope.

Initial approaches in rewilding have shown that European ecosystems have a high potential for regeneration, while existing wilderness benefits from strict protection. Europe now has the chance to catch up with the global approach, where conservation is intrinsically linked to wilderness protection and wild nature.

By changing our perspective from traditional nature conservation towards a more development oriented approach, the reference point for European nature changes too. A reference point that is no longer based in the past but in the future, towards landscapes that are governed by essential natural processes, which create the necessary space for all of our original animals and plants, including man. With species that survived in agricultural landscapes, reclaiming their place in a natural setting in a 21<sup>st</sup> century Europe.

Rewilding Europe aims for such a new approach to nature conservation in Europe, where the concept of wild nature and natural processes is accepted as one of the main management principles.

## Historic opportunity

Rewilding Europe is the first and only European-wide initiative that uses a unique and historical opportunity in Europe to advocate a vision for a wilder Europe, through creating large areas of wild nature and wilderness across Europe that become inspirational showcases of such a wilder Europe, in support of both Europe's nature and people. This historic opportunity is defined by:

- Large scale land abandonment in rural areas in Europe (both in agricultural and in forested areas), where these socio-economic problems can be turned into new opportunities,
- A substantial comeback of a number of iconic and keystone wildlife species, offering great opportunities for Europeans to enjoy and benefit from this wildlife comeback,
- An increasing demand – alongside increasing urbanisation – from urban people who want to go out and experience wild nature and see wildlife, combined with an increasing tolerance from society towards wild animals,
- A more favourable European policy towards wildlife, wilderness and rewilding, in particular related to a recently approved Wilderness Resolution and new biodiversity strategy for Europe, the existence of the Natura 2000 Network, the Emerald Network and the Habitat and Bird Directives,
- The opportunity rewilding provides as a cost-effective way to manage Natura 2000 areas – Europe's main network of protected areas.

## Our vision

Wild nature is recognised as an important and inherent aspect of Europe's natural and cultural heritage and is an essential element of a modern, prosperous, and healthy European society in the 21st century.

## Our mission

Rewilding Europe wants to *make Europe a wilder place, with much more space for wild-life, wilderness and natural processes*. Bringing back the variety of life for us all to enjoy and to explore new ways for people to earn a fair living from the wild.



➤ Abandoned house in Plevun, Eastern Rhodope mountains, Bulgaria.

## How do we achieve this?

Rewilding Europe brings *a new conservation vision for Europe*, with wild nature and natural processes as key elements, where rewilding is applicable to any type of landscape or level of protection. Treating nature as something that is fully capable of taking care of itself, if given the opportunity to do so. This concept could become the main management principle for many natural areas in the future. Just let nature take care of itself.

Rewilding Europe focuses on *turning the problems caused by the on-going, large-scale land abandonment into opportunities* for man and nature, providing a viable business case for wild nature in Europe. Several areas have the potential to become world-class nature tourism attractions, alongside the many other ways of reaping economic benefits from the wild.

Rewilding Europe aims to *rewild at least one million hectares of land by 2022*, creating ten

magnificent wildlife and wild areas of international quality, that work as the base for a new competitive, sustainable rural economy. Serving as inspirational examples for what can also be achieved elsewhere.

In these areas, Rewilding Europe wants to *allow natural processes to play a vital role* in shaping our landscapes and ecosystems. Among such natural processes are flooding (including erosion and sedimentation), weather conditions (like storms, avalanches and wind-shaped sand dunes), natural calamities (like natural fires and disease), natural grazing (the role of herbivores of all kinds in creating vegetation dynamics), predation (the impact of carnivores on their prey species and thereby the vegetation), the role of scavenging, and many others.

Rewilding Europe recognizes the *crucially important ecological role of the large carnivores*, as well as the smaller predators, the raptors and the



► A landscape grazed by wild fallow deer.



► Eurasian grey wolf at a vulture watching site in the Madzharovo valley, Eastern Rhodope mountains, Bulgaria.

scavengers. The brown bear, the wolf, the lynx, the Iberian lynx, the wolverine and many other carnivores are necessary for the natural functioning of the ecosystems they live in.

Rewilding Europe recognizes *natural grazing as one of the key ecological factors* for naturally open and half-open landscapes, upon which a large part of Europe's biodiversity is dependent. We want to allow our native herbivores to return again in significant, more natural numbers to the lands where they once belonged where they can play their ecological role.

Rewilding Europe *emphasizes the joy and the value of wildness*, and takes active part in a mass communication effort to stimulate a greater sense of pride in the wild and to spread a vision of a wilder continent. By using a broad range of media and partnerships to promote our natural heritage and showcase the opportunities for rewilding to many millions of Europeans.

## Making it real

### For nature

Referring to our vision on the role of natural processes, the crucial role of wildlife in that perspective and the need to cooperate with land-owners and land users, we are using a number of strategic initiatives and tools for rewilding:

- Securing land for rewilding, ranging from community conservancies, Natura 2000 management contracts, to agreements with hunting associations and cooperation with private landowners or even purchase of land or certain user rights connected to it;
- Setting up “best hunting practices” with the local hunting communities to improve wildlife populations, develop wildlife watching, create wildlife breeding zones, reduce or eliminate poaching and poisoning and ensure sustainable hunting;
- Developing a European Wildlife Bank, to provide rewilding areas with wildlife and grazing animals; where reproduction of animals serves as an “engine” for scaling up rewilding whereby receiving partners become more responsible for good wildlife management;
- Setting up a European Rewilding Network to exchange knowledge and experiences between existing and upcoming rewilding initiatives across Europe, to create and enhance a rewilding movement on our continent,
- Developing wildlife recovery plans and strategic partnerships with leading institutions on bison, vultures, aurochs, wild horses and large carnivores in Europe to support the recovery and comeback of these species in European ecosystems.

### For people

Referring to our vision on the benefit of rewilding for people, new nature-based economies and the involvement of citizens and entrepreneurs in the rewilding movement, we are developing a number of strategic initiatives and innovative tools on enterprise development and communications:

- Support the development of rewilding enterprises, that create incentives for local entrepreneurs and business people to generate income and create jobs based on rewilding;
- Setting up Rewilding Europe Capital, a new investment fund for rewilding enterprises that

- allows for attractive loans and a small grant system to support local entrepreneurship;
- Setting up Europe's first safari company, to support developing accommodation and create destinations for the rewilding areas;
- Working with the Wilderness Entrepreneurship Programme, to involve young people in the rewilding movement from all over Europe;
- Helping entrepreneurs to develop wildlife watching facilities and businesses and start developing wildlife watching as an important economic activity;
- Reaching the European audience by through various communications tools, and marketing the rewilding areas as attractive destinations to visit.

### Ten showcases

The 10 rewilding areas together reflect a wide selection of European regions and ecosystems, flora and fauna. These 10 areas are to serve as leading examples and inspirational benchmarks for a shift in land use across Europe towards wilder nature and new ways to use that resource for jobs and subsistence.

By the end of 2013, Rewilding Europe is working in six areas where we have started to put this vision into practice:

- Western Iberia (Portugal and Spain);
- Velebit Mountains (Croatia);
- Central Apennines (Italy);
- Eastern Carpathians (Slovakia and Poland);
- Southern Carpathians (Romania);
- Danube Delta (Romania).

Rewilding Europe's programme builds on three guiding principles:

- Every area should host complete and naturally functioning ecosystems specific to the region, with the full spectrum of native wildlife typical for the region present (“Planet”);
- The areas should be embedded within the social and cultural fabric of their respective region (“People”);
- The new land use should be based on what nature can offer, be economically viable and competitive with other alternatives (“Prosperity”).

## OPERATING MODEL – REWILDING EUROPE



### Our operating model

The Rewilding Europe operating model is centred around the rewilding areas, which have to become the showcases of how we put our vision into practice. There are three main components in our operating model, illustrated in the diagram:

1. The rewilding area itself, carefully selected and based on a number of criteria that together determine critical success factors. Each rewilding area works in an integrated way on the three components a) rewilding, b) enterprise development and c) communication. At the centre of this are our local rewilding partners, which are critically important for all our work in the rewilding areas, either existing NGO's or new specific legal entities.
2. A number of centrally led initiatives and activities, providing an enabling environment or very concrete support to each of the rewilding areas. These centrally led initiatives are linked to each of the three components:
  - Rewilding: Wildlife Recovery Programme, European Wildlife Bank, European Rewilding Network;

- Enterprise development: Rewilding Europe Capital, European Safari Company;
- Communication: outdoor exhibitions, photo missions, media outreach network and publications, website and social media, seminars and events, plus the Rewilding Europe Travel Club.
3. External partners and stakeholders that provide support in various ways, and which are critical for Rewilding Europe's success and delivery:
  - Strategic partners and allies including the initiating organizations, that provide strategic and technical support: ARK Nature, Conservation Capital, Wild Wonders of Europe, WILD Foundation, and others;
  - Financial partners and funding institutions (some of them are also strategic partners) providing finance, such as the Dutch and the Swedish Postcode Lotteries, Adessium Foundation, Liberty Wildlife Fund, WWF Netherlands, Fondation Segré and new, future target groups such as impact investors and (local) business partners;

- Local landholders and area managers. Local partners such as private landowners, park and reserve managers, hunting concession owners and other landholders that can provide land tenure, land access, management, grazing or concession rights;
- Scientific institutions and experts (both at central and local level) that provide scientific knowledge and background, do applied research and monitoring: the Wilderness Entrepreneurship Programme with Wageningen University, Zoological Society of London, BirdLife International, and other local experts that do feasibility studies and research work.

This operating model is still under development and might change due to new experiences and lessons learnt during the coming years, however, it provides a good overview of how the different activities and components are interlinked and centred around the rewilding areas.

# 10-year specific goals

Rewilding Europe has given itself 10 specific, 10-year objectives that are worked on both at the central level and at the rewilding area level. The rewilding area projects are designed in a way that all activities and results contribute to these European-wide 10 objectives.

1. A total of at least 1 million ha (10,000 km<sup>2</sup>) of land will be “rewilded” by the initiative and its partners, across 10 places covering different geographical regions of Europe, including different landscapes and habitats.

2. A substantial wildlife comeback (in particular for keystone or flagship species) will take place in the 10 rewilding areas, supported by re-introductions where appropriate or necessary, serving as the starting point for complete, functional ecosystems.

3. In each of the 10 rewilding areas, sufficient “in-situ” breeding facilities for wildlife will be established, for a variety of wildlife species that can be used for re-introductions or re-stocking of these areas.

4. Because of a growing demand for wildlife for these rewilding areas, European wildlife will develop a “market value”, providing new business opportunities – for management partners, landholders, hunting associations and the like.

5. In each of the 10 rewilding areas, “rewilding” will become a competitive form of land (and sea) use; through supporting and building of rewilding enterprises, the economic prospects of local people and/or communities will be improved.



› Red deer.



› Pristine beech-fir forest in Strâmba-Valley, Romania.



› Northern pike hiding in the shadow of water lily leaves.



› Rainbow on a grazed landscape, Eastern Rhodopes, Bulgaria.

6. Magnification of success: the 10 rewilding areas will serve as inspiring examples for other areas in Europe. This should ideally lead to up to 100 other “rewilding” initiatives being launched across Europe affecting a total of 10 million ha (100,000 km<sup>2</sup>).

7. “Wild nature and natural processes” will be accepted and adopted as one of the main management principles for nature conservation in Europe, in particular in the larger landscapes that have a conservation status (especially the wilder, large Natura 2000 areas).

8. Through the work of Rewilding Europe, and the communication and outreach thereof, a sense of “Pride of the Wild” will be created among a very broad audience in Europe, who will also again be able to enjoy these wild values.

9. A science-based and practical, tailor-made monitoring system will be established to oversee progress on the objectives of Rewilding Europe, both at the central level and in the rewilding areas.

10. The concept of the Joy of the Wild will have reached out to at least 350 million European citizens, using different kinds of media, outdoor and indoor exhibitions, computer and mobile applications, etc.



## GENERAL RESULTS

# Management and development

## Overall progress

In general, Rewilding Europe made a lot of headway in 2013. Our initiative continued to grow in different dimensions: our rewilding work both at the central and local level, funding base, media and communication outreach, the team, internal management and operations, rewilding area portfolio, enterprise work and others.

The initiative received a very high visibility through our communication efforts. With due modesty we can say that we have put rewilding on the map, and that our vision has gained a lot of attention and support from different sectors: not only in conservation, but also within the business, finance, communication and scientific sectors.

Although we are still in our early days, we believe that with all of this above, we have laid a base to make our vision reality.

The growth of the initiative during this year was of course not without its dynamics and challenges. As we went along, many lessons were learnt and from time to time we had to adapt to new or changing circumstances. This included ceasing existing but also creating new partnerships, identifying a different setup in our rewilding areas, reviewing and adapting our rewilding area portfolio, and revising strategies.

As we are a learning organization, we believe these lessons are essential for us to move forward, and by doing so show the flexibility that we have to adapt if needed. In this Annual Review 2013, you will find more details about the challenges, the opportunities and the results so far in the third year of our exciting initiative.



**Ilko Bosman**  
*Finance & Operations  
Director*



› Woodcock orchid with mating Black veined white butterflies.

### Consolidation and building

In 2013 we consolidated and further developed Rewilding Europe. The Supervisory Board, established in September 2012, had four meetings. The commitment and dedication of the board members enabled us to move forward on many different issues. Important decisions were taken on the expansion of the rewilding area portfolio, the legal structure of Rewilding Europe, our new 3-Year Strategic Plan 2014–2016, our Operations Manual, the European Wildlife Bank, Rewilding Europe Capital, our partnerships with local organizations, and many others.

On 17 April, the Supervisory Board formally accepted our Annual Review for 2012, financial statements and the Auditors Report (done by PriceWaterhouseCoopers) over our first full year of existence (2012). Early June, the Annual Review 2012 was published.

We were able to further build our capacity at the central level, in particular with the assignment of a Finance & Operations Director, a crucially important position. We were also able to recruit an additional Communications Manager who is responsible for the day-to-day communication at the central level, and the support to the local communication managers. Further capacity was created for the coordination of the European Rewilding Network and the management of the European Wildlife Bank (through our partnership with ARK Nature) and the Rewilding Europe Travel Club. A lot of effort was put to ensure a proper working structure of the central team, which is now distributed over 11 persons (total 7.0 fte) working from 6 different countries.



› Rewilding Europe stand at WILD10.

### Review process and design of Phase II

Based on progress and lessons learned in the first year (2012), we reviewed progress in a lot of detail with all the rewilding area teams. We agreed to have an interim phase to be used for preparing and planning for the next phase.

For the Danube Delta, Southern Carpathians, Western Iberia and Velebit Mountains we prepared a long-term vision and three-Year Action Plans. Also, based on a positive outcome of the scoping phase, it was agreed to take Central Apennines on board as a new rewilding area.

All these new planning documents have been completed in close cooperation with the local partners and teams, and formal contracts were signed for all the rewilding areas by the end of the year. In the meantime, activities have proceeded – although at a lower level in most areas – however we believe this was an extremely important process to prepare for the future challenges and relationships with the teams.

### Restructuring relationships with local partners

The experiences during the review phase as described above included an evaluation of the structure of the relationships with all of the rewilding areas – both existing and potential new ones.

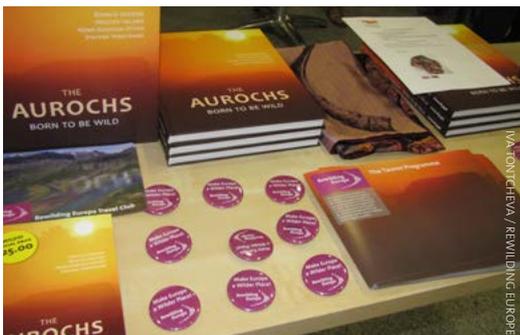
A proposal to revise these relationships was discussed and agreed in the Supervisory Board meeting on 4 June. The essence of our new approach is to create, where necessary and relevant, special legal entities (foundation, limited company, association or other) to enable Rewilding Europe to work with multiple partners in each of the rewilding areas (our existing partners

## Main facts and figures

- › In 2013, the central team had a capacity of 7.0 full-time equivalents (fte), with people working from 6 different countries; this is a growth with 1.6 fte compared to 2012.
- › Of this capacity, 3.7 fte is working to support the rewilding areas; the rest is related to general management and central initiatives.
- › Rewilding Europe started to employ its own staff for the first time. A Finance and Operation Director was assigned to the Central Team.
- › In the rewilding areas, in total 25 people were active working on the rewilding, enterprise and communication in the five rewilding areas that were operational, with a total capacity of around 15 fte.
- › A rolling Three-Year Strategic Plan (2014–2016) and an Operations Manual was approved by the Supervisory Board, pre-empting and preparing for CBF certification in 2014.
- › By the end of 2013, six rewilding areas spanning 7 countries, were part of the Rewilding Europe portfolio.
- › One rewilding area (Eastern Carpathians) had to be put on hold for revision, while a new area (Central Apennines) was added to the portfolio.
- › For three potential new rewilding areas, we have completed the scoping phase and all three of them have now embarked a start-up phase that will prepare for inclusion in the portfolio in 2014.
- › In the newly set up European Rewilding Network, a total of 19 rewilding initiatives from 10 European countries, became a member.
- › Rewilding Europe became a beneficiary of the Dutch Postcode Lottery, while existing funding partners planned to continue their support, and a new funding partner came on board.
- › Our expenditure in 2013 was nearly 1.8 million euros, which is slightly less than in 2012. For details see pages 56–59.



▶ Eduardo Galleano (Council of Europe) and Angelo Salsi (European Commission) receiving the Wildlife Comeback Report from Richard Grimmett (BirdLife International) and Monika Bohm (Zoological Society of London).



▶ Presentation of the book "The Aurochs – Born to be Wild".

will remain prime partners), and to engage with private sector, landowners and other non-conservation focused partners or stakeholders.

For the new rewilding areas the creation of such legal entities will be a pre-requisite; for the existing rewilding areas we will identify in each case what would be the best approach. By the end of the year, the first two legal entities were created (Croatia and Italy).

### Launch of new initiatives

The year 2013 marked the start of a number of important centrally led initiatives, working in support of the rewilding areas: the European Wildlife Bank, Rewilding Europe Capital and the European Rewilding Network. You will read more about these initiatives and progress so far in the specific sections of this Annual Review.

Moreover, two landmark publications saw the light in 2013: a report on Wildlife Comeback in Europe (produced by Zoological Society of London, BirdLife International and European Bird Census Council) and a book called "Aurochs – Born to be Wild" (produced by Rewilding Europe



▶ Goed Geld Gala 2013 in Amsterdam on 13 February, in the presence of former US President Bill Clinton, where Rewilding Europe became a beneficiary of the Dutch Postcode Lottery.

*We are extremely excited to have become a beneficiary of the Dutch Postcode Lottery in 2013 – we can consolidate what we have achieved so far and bring our initiative to a next level.*

and the Taurus Foundation). These high-quality publications generated immense media-attention – see the communications section for more details.

Another important communication initiative was the Wild Wonders of Europe outdoor exhibition in Stockholm, where Rewilding Europe was the main partner, together with the Swedish Postcode Lottery.

### Expanding our funding base

A very exciting and major milestone in our young history took place on 13 February. At the Goed Geld Gala, Rewilding Europe was announced as a new beneficiary of the Dutch Postcode Lottery. We signed a contract about this support for a period of five years, in particular meant to consolidate and further build the initiative and its organisational aspects.

We closed the year with another new funding agreement: with the Swiss-based Fondation Segré, starting to support the Central Apennines rewilding area, in particular the conservation of the critically endangered Marsican brown bear.

In July, we signed a new agreement with ARK Nature after a thorough review of our existing partnership. This led to a renewed commitment from ARK Nature as a partner of Rewilding Europe, providing additional financial support and capacity to Rewilding Europe for 2013–2015.

Our funding agreement with WWF Netherlands ended on 31 December, however we have been invited to submit a next funding proposal covering the next three years.

Concluding, our funding base has been consolidated through becoming a beneficiary and of the Dutch Postcode Lottery, renewed commitments from existing funding partners and new funding partners coming on board.

# European Rewilding Network

## Set up

A rewilding movement is taking shape in Europe, with exciting and ambitious initiatives developing all across the continent. Rewilding Europe is now building a living network of these, to develop rewilding as a conservation tool and as something to learn from and get inspired by: the European Rewilding Network (ERN).

As this rewilding movement is maturing, Rewilding Europe feels that it is now time to connect as many of these rewilding projects as possible, to learn from and be inspired by each other.

Although each initiative is unique and has its own opportunities linked directly to the area and the people involved, it is really worth a lot to exchange ideas and knowledge between these initiatives.

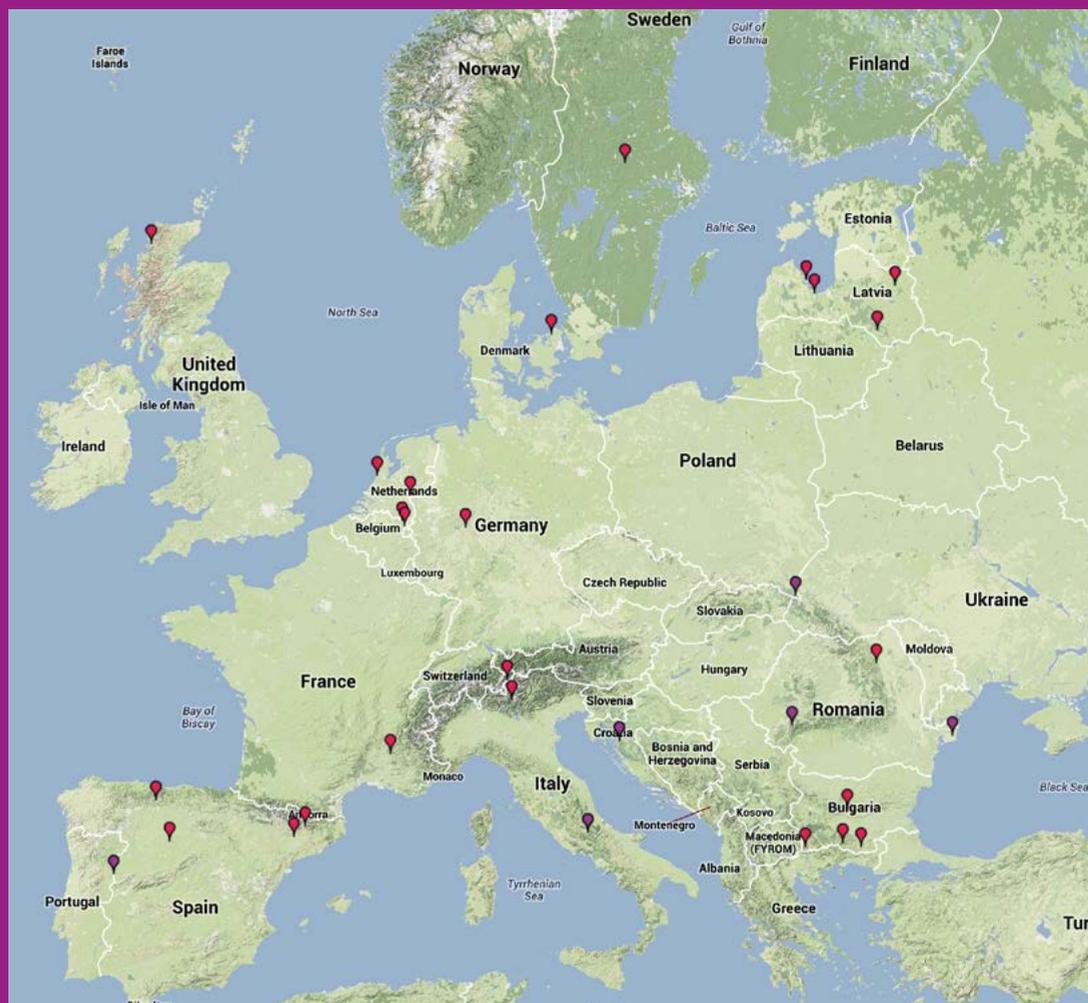
## Growing membership

The start of the European Rewilding Network was announced on the Rewilding Europe website and right at the start 14 rewilding initiatives from eight countries had joined already, covering some 639,000 hectares plus 810,000 hectares from the Rewilding Europe areas in seven different countries: from Scotland to Romania and from Latvia to Spain. At WILD10 in Salamanca in October, Rewilding Europe officially launched the Network. By the end of 2013, in total 25 areas had joined the Network, totalling 15 countries, covering in total just over 1.5 million hectares.

## How does it work?

The European Rewilding Network is an open network. We encourage not only rewilding initiatives where natural processes and wildlife species are present but also warmly welcome initiatives that have successful agreements with forestry organizations or hunting associations as well as successful examples of enterprises and businesses that clearly connect to rewilding.

The online database, including a brief outline of each member of the Network, became publicly accessible during WILD10. In the near future, possibilities for arranging training opportunities, learning seminars and experience-sharing visits will be investigated.



► Map showing Rewilding Europe areas (in purple) and other rewilding initiatives (in red) across Europe.

## Ambitions for the years to come

Rewilding Europe will work to further increase the membership of as many rewilding initiatives as possible, targeting a number of at least 100 rewilding initiatives all across Europe and covering a wide variety of landscapes, approaches, species and habitats.



► Ignace Schops from Regional Landscape 'Kempen & Maasland' receiving the membership certificate of ERN from Yvonne Kemp.

# Rewilding

At the central level, we have moved forward with building and developing the rewilding component, in support of the rewilding areas. Good progress was made with the European Wildlife Bank, the Tauros Programme, the Bison Rewilding Action Plan and building connections with scientific institutions in different European countries.

Here we present the initiatives that are driven from a central level, in support of all the rewilding areas. The results at the rewilding area level itself are all presented separately. In general, progress in the rewilding areas was somewhat tempered because of the extensive review process that all the rewilding areas went through.

## Wildlife comeback

After two years of hard work, finally the report 'Wildlife Comeback in Europe, The recovery of selected mammal and bird species' was presented in London on 26 September. Rewilding Europe commissioned this study to the Zoological Society of London, BirdLife International and the European Bird Census Committee. The main purpose was to identify the main drivers for recovery of some 38 wildlife species in Europe, in order to learn lessons for the future. The results show that a wide-ranging comeback of iconic wildlife species has taken place in many regions across Europe over the past 50 years. Legal protection of species and sites emerges as one of the main reasons behind this recovery. Active re-introductions and re-stockings have also been important factors.

The wildlife comeback in Europe provides huge opportunities for rewilding approaches. Rewilding Europe is working to further support this wildlife comeback in all rewilding areas and outside.



**Wouter Helmer**  
*Rewilding Director*





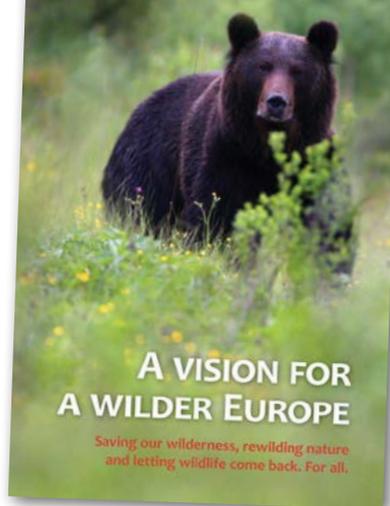
▶ Planning the demarcation of the bison release area in Southern Carpathians, Romania.

### European Wildlife Bank

After more than a year of preparations, a three-year contract was signed with our rewilding partner ARK Nature to transform their 'ARK Herd Fund' into the European Wildlife Bank, thereby creating a single Europe-wide 'bank' of large herbivores, based on the experiences so far. Based on a partnership agreement the transfer of the 'founder herds' of animals, which are presently owned by the ARK Foundation to the EWB, has started. At the end of 2013, already 394 animals were part of the EWB. For an explanation of the EWB, see the Special Feature.

During 2013 the following actions for the EWB were planned for:

- In the Danube Delta the release of a first group of at least 20 Tauros in the grazing area of Sfantu Georghe (>5,000 hectares) and a management contract for this herd with the main herd keepers in the area;
- In Velebit the release of a group of 8 European bison for a scientific experiment on 45 hectares under controlled conditions (later to be expanded to 600 hectares) and a management contract for this herd with a private landowner;
- In Western Iberia the first discussions with the NGOs ATN and FNYH to bring their herds of Retuertas horses (ca 50 animals) and Garrano horses (ca 35 animals) under the EWB;
- In the Southern Carpathians the release of a first group of 20–30 European bison on 140 hectares (planned release in May 2014, later in 2014 to be released in the wild) and a management contract for this herd with the municipality of Armeniş.



### Vision for a Wilder Europe

A major milestone was the launch of a new 'Vision for a Wilder Europe' at WILD10, the World Wilderness Congress in Salamanca, Spain. Nine organizations from across Europe – including Rewilding Europe – then signed this vision that seeks to build on the significant conservation achievements in Europe that have seen the comeback of some of our most iconic wild species such as the wolf, bear, sea eagle, salmon and beaver.

The vision calls for a European continent where the last wilderness areas are protected and where wildlife, natural processes and biodiversity are allowed more space and freedom to come back and shape the vegetation and ecosystems of our land- and seascapes as they did for millions of years.

The vision promotes a new perspective on management of nature in European conservation with emphasis on protecting existing wilderness and rewilding – where natural processes take precedence and native species are encouraged to return.

The vision is another milestone in moving forward to make Europe a wilder place, at the core of Rewilding Europe's mission. The undersigning parties hope this will be adopted broadly as a future way to allow wild nature to come back in our continent. The focus of Rewilding Europe is to show how this can happen in practice, in our rewilding areas and throughout the European Rewilding Network.

### Main facts and figures

- ▶ Three natural grazing projects in two different rewilding areas started, covering a total of ca 4,000 hectares.
- ▶ Two Tauros breeding sites operational (both in Western Iberia), two other breeding sites in preparation (Velebit and Danube Delta).
- ▶ On 1 June, official start of the European Wildlife Bank through the signing of a partnership agreement between ARK Nature and Rewilding Europe.
- ▶ By the end of the year, in total 394 animals in the European Wildlife Bank, consisting of 24 bison, 253 konik horses, 30 Bosnian horses and 87 other animals in the Tauros programme.
- ▶ On 6 October, European Rewilding Network launched in Salamanca, Spain. By the end of the year, 25 members in the European Rewilding Network, covering 15 countries and a total surface of 1.5 million hectares (this includes the Rewilding Europe areas).
- ▶ A Vision for a Wilder Europe presented at WILD10 and signed, together with eight other European conservation organizations.
- ▶ Feasibility studies on reintroduction or restocking of wildlife finished for red deer and beaver in the Danube Delta, and started for red deer and Iberian ibex in Western Iberia.
- ▶ Study started on the wild status of horses and Tauros in Europe, with the goal to start a first pilot in 2014.
- ▶ Presentation of the Wildlife Comeback Report in September in London, providing evidence of increase and range expansion of 37 selected wildlife species in Europe over the last 50 years.
- ▶ Development of a Bison Action Plan, presenting Rewilding Europe's contribution to the conservation of the European bison. Publication planned in 2014.
- ▶ By the end of the year, plan started for the Marican brown bear in Central Apennines, Italy.



## Bison Rewilding Action Plan

During 2013 Rewilding Europe has worked on the development of a Bison Rewilding Action Plan, which has neared completion at the end of the year. Based on the IUCN Action Plan for the European bison, in this document Rewilding Europe will present its contribution to the protection and support of Europe's largest land mammal.

The Bison Rewilding Action Plan will be published in spring 2014, in conjunction with a planned reintroduction and with the support of important bison conservation organizations in Europe.

## Tauros Programme

In partnership with the Taurus Foundation (signed in 2012) the back breeding of Tauros started officially in Western Iberia, as part of the Tauros Programme. On 3 and 4 June, specific Tauros breeding plans were agreed and contracts signed with FNYH and ATN to move forward with the breeding programme. In Velebit and Danube Delta, the first steps of Tauros breeding were also made, so that now three rewilding areas are involved in the Tauros Programme.

The publication of the book 'Aurochs – Born to be Wild' in October in Salamanca, Spain was a major publicity event with the book available in both English and Dutch.

The book does not only explain how the aurochs shaped Europe not only in ecological terms, but also tells about the cultural dimension of this animal, and how it is still part of our society. Of course the book also explains about the possibilities of breeding back primitive cattle breeds to an animal that will be very close to the aurochs (in the meanwhile called Tauros) and how this relates to the rewilding of Europe.

The beautiful logo of the 10th World Wilderness Congress (WILD10) in Spain – based on a rock painting from the Altamira caves in Spain, was donated to the Tauros Programme.

THE  
**TAUROS**  
PROGRAMME



## Hunting and rewilding

In each of our rewilding areas we come across hunting interests and we are posed to the question how we deal with hunting as a land-use, and how we can work with the hunting community to achieve our objectives. To address this question, we developed a 'Hunting Position Paper', with the help of external advisors. The purpose of this position paper is to provide clarity on how Rewilding Europe envisages the role of hunting in Europe with regard to reaching the overall vision and objectives of our Europe-wide initiative. In this respect it is important to say that Rewilding Europe has no specific hunting interest itself, nor is it one of the objectives of our initiative.

Essentially, Rewilding Europe believes that rewilding and hunting have a number of interests in common, which provide a base for necessary cooperation at both a European and at a local level. In particular, we see a common interest in re-establishing the original species diversity and supporting larger populations of wildlife in Europe, especially large herbivores and a number of bird species. The position paper contains a number of practical areas of cooperation, in particular the creation of no-take zones, wildlife breeding, re-introductions and wildlife watching, as well as measures against poaching and poisoning.

## Rewilding and the scientific community

In 2013, Rewilding Europe started cooperation with institutions to address specific scientific questions related to rewilding: the Wildlife Comeback report is a first example of a successful cooperation with leading institutions on mammals and birds. However we have also begun to work with universities and institutions in Denmark, The Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Romania and Croatia. We have made preparations to start a scientific programme and establish an 'Affiliate Professorship' position to coordinate the research agenda and involvement of PhD and MSc students from all over Europe.

Providing scientific guidance and support towards rewilding is important to be effective and successful in the rewilding endeavours.



► Tauros breeding herd in Campanarios de Azaba, Western Iberia rewilding area.

## SPECIAL FEATURE

# The European Wildlife Bank

### Set up

For several thousand years, domesticated livestock in Europe has served to perpetuate the role played by pre-agriculture era wild herbivore populations in maintaining open or semi-open bio-diverse landscapes. Land abandonment is now a significant threat to this. Accordingly, Rewilding Europe is playing a proactive role in reintroducing wild herbivore populations on a targeted basis through the creation and management of a European Wildlife Bank (EWB) – the operational basis has already been tested and proven by ARK Nature.

The European Wildlife Bank is designed as a live asset-lending model to reintroduce and expand naturally grazing wild herbivore populations across Europe. Efforts have been made and will continue with the local rewilding area teams to identify a range of opportunities for natural grazing initiatives in our priority rewilding sites.

### Number of animals in the EWB

By signing the agreement with ARK, Rewilding Europe became the owner of 110 konik horses and the progeny of the Founder Herd of ARK Nature. The latter means that Rewilding Europe obtains ownership of at least another 143 konik horses, 24 bison and 62 bovines (depending on the breeding success). In addition to this, ten Sayaguesas and four Maronesas in Western Iberia became part of the EWB in 2013, and 30 Bosnian mountain horses and 11 Boskarins in Velebit. The bovines are all part of the Tauros Breeding Programme. With these herds, reintroduction of natural grazing as a key natural process has started both in Western Iberia and Velebit, and is prepared for the Danube Delta.

### Preparation of new herds under the EWB

During 2013 different actions were planned for the EWB in 2014, including the release of a first group of at least 20 Tauros in the grazing area of Sfantu Georghe (>5,000 hectares) in the Danube Delta (Romania), the release of a first group of 20–30 European bison in Southern Carpathians (Romania), the release of a group of eight European bison for a scientific experiment on 45 hectares (later to be possibly expanded to 600 hectares) in Velebit (Croatia) and the inclusion of Retuertas horses (ca 50 animals) and Garrano horses (ca 35 animals) under the EWB in Western Iberia. Also, a database with all information about animal numbers, grazing contracts, reproduction and distribution plans has been started.



## GENERAL RESULTS

# Enterprise development

Thanks to the financial support of Adessium Foundation, Rewilding Europe was able to move forward with enterprise development at different scales. Having carried out a process of validation and scoping of the wider enterprise development context and potentially suitable enterprises in 2012, the focus in 2013 has been on supporting specific enterprises and within this developing our 'Pioneer Fund', now known as Rewilding Europe Capital ('REC'). Enterprise development efforts have focused upon a combination of:

- Technical support through provision of expertise and network contacts to relevant enterprises;
- Financial support: primarily through REC but also through efforts to help local businesses access regional, national or international enterprise funding support;

- Promotional support through marketing and other relationship development activities.

We have maintained our focus on certain 'enterprise enabling initiatives' with a continued emphasis on securing property rights (land tenure) for our priority rewilding sites and on the development of wildlife tourism where possible.

### Rewilding Europe Capital launched

After a 'soft' internal launch in April 2013 in order to commence investment activities, Rewilding Europe carried out a formal public launch of Rewilding Europe Capital (REC) at the WILD10 'World Wilderness Congress' in October 2013. For an explanation of REC, please read the Special Feature.



**Neil Birnie**  
Enterprise Director



▶ Wildlife watching hide in Western Rhodope mountains, Bulgaria.



▶ Casa Cisterna guesthouse.



▶ Bee keeper Sanjin Zarkovic at his bee farm in Melnice, Croatia.

## Main facts and figures

- ▶ Rewilding Europe Capital (REC) pioneer phase launched at WILD10 in Salamanca, Spain.
- ▶ Three loans were provided through REC to rewilding enterprises in Croatia and Spain, with at least 15 new deals in the pipeline.
- ▶ By the end of 2013, over 2,157 members of the Rewilding Europe Travel Club registered.
- ▶ Three prize draws of the Travel Club with 19 trips won by 21 people from 10 different European countries, engaging 18 nature and wildlife tour businesses across Europe.
- ▶ Developed wildlife-tourism related business plans for 5 rewilding area priority areas in Velebit, Western Iberia, Central Apennines, Southern Carpathians and Danube Delta.
- ▶ Concept for a European Safari Company developed and explored with potential partners and investors (to be concluded in 2014).

*New Rewilding Europe Capital deals are in the pipeline for nearly all rewilding areas, ranging from wildlife tourism businesses, setting up conservancies and accommodation to local food production.*

The years 2013 and 2014 comprise the pioneer phase for REC while we would like to scale up and further expand REC to a new level as of 2015, adding more enterprises and businesses to the portfolio. In 2013, the first three REC investments were approved:

- 1) A 50,000 euro loan to Linden Tree Ranch and Trails in Velebit; a tourism accommodation facility and associated horse riding and guided activities operation which is working with Rewilding Europe to facilitate a grazing experiment with bison in Velebit.
- 2) A 15,000 euro loan to Casa Cisterna – a guesthouse in a village close to the Faia Brava reserve in Portugal, which is actively involved in hosting and guiding visitors in the reserve and in the wider Coa valley rewilding area. This loan served to leverage a

grant of additional EU funds for the business.

- 3) A 30,000 euro loan to Guslice and Melnice, a local honey production business in Velebit, owned and operated by a local couple that produces nationally famous wild flower honey. The husband also chairs the local bee keeping association, consisting of 200 people.

The finance has been provided to these businesses under a series of conditions ('rewilding covenants'), which oblige the businesses to support rewilding through creation of a levy that will be charged to all guests and to also make serious efforts to promote Rewilding Europe in all aspects of their business.

New REC deals are in the pipeline for Western Iberia, Velebit, Central Apennines, Danube Delta

and Southern Carpathians, ranging from nature and wildlife tourism businesses (e.g. around bison, wolf and bear), setting up conservancies, accommodation, local natural food production, and others.

The next phase of REC will set out to involve commercial co-investors and potentially also government-backed development financing institutions. Meetings with many European development financing institutions have taken place already. A crucial component of developing REC further will be building up 'pipeline' by way of a track record of businesses in which investments have been made during the first (pioneer) phase of REC.



### Travel Club moves forward

The Rewilding Europe Travel Club has continued to grow. The latest and third draw took place on 20 December, with prize-winners in Denmark, Norway, Spain, The Netherlands and Sweden. Fantastic tours were won again, including reindeer sled driving in Lapland, bird photography in Bulgaria, Brown bear and orchid watching in Estonia, wolf watching in Spain and now also two nature and wildlife tours to two of our rewilding areas: Western Iberia and Danube Delta.

Rewilding Europe will continue to develop this initiative further with a focus on three main elements for our rewilding areas:

1. Forming partnerships with tour operators who may be interested in developing products;
2. Providing a promotional platform for existing and new nature tourism businesses within; and
3. Building a database of potential customers for future rewilding related tourism enterprises.

There are now 2,157 members of the Travel Club and three prize draws were carried out in 2013, engaging 12 different nature and wildlife tourism businesses across Europe.

An extensive database of wildlife and nature tourism operators has been developed and relationships have been established with the key tour operators across Europe (and beyond) in an effort to engage and receive their views on Rewilding Europe and to promote product development possibilities in our rewilding areas. We will continue efforts to grow the membership through promotional efforts in order to reach over 25,000 members by 2015, and as a tool to develop tour operator relationships.

### Focus on Western Iberia and Velebit

In Western Iberia, support was provided to development of business plans for a new 'simple luxury' tented camp facility in the Faia Brava reserve in Portugal, being developed in association with the 'European Safari Company'. Other business development concerns development of wildlife tourism activities (a fly camp, trails, bush dinners, nature guiding, bird watching tours) and local products (wine, olive oil, Iberian ham and others) that are all linked to the rewilding area.

Velebit continues to represent one of our most promising areas and strong links have been forged with the two principal National Parks in the region (North Velebit and Paklenica) both of which are now collaborating with us to plan nature-based enterprises. We have been working to secure a 17,000-hectare hunting concession in Velebit Nature Park, to start rewilding work. If this can be concluded, this would provide important opportunities for Rewilding Europe in this area.

Other enterprises in Velebit that have been supported are related to tourism (adventure tours, wildlife guiding and watching) and local products as well.

### Community Conservation Areas

Efforts to create a community conservancy in the Sfantu Georghe area in the Danube Delta are on-going and having received legal advice on the recommended conservancy structure in early 2013. There has been extensive community liaison and an MOU with a community association was concluded in November 2013 as the next step towards creating the conservancy. We propose to convert the customary land use rights, which the community hold over a 5,000-hectare area of land, into a recognisable wildlife conservancy. This requires a corporate entity to be formed in the ownership of the community and legal recognition by the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve management authority, the government agency with the mandate to manage the whole Delta. If successful the conservancy will be the first of its kind in Europe and will create a platform for many forms of enterprise once established.

# Rewilding Europe Capital

## Set up

Rewilding Europe Capital is a specialist financing division of Rewilding Europe, which provides commercial finance to enterprises that either directly, or have the potential to, generate economic and social benefits that contribute to rewilding.

Enterprises and financial capital can be part of the rewilding of Europe in many different ways. Below are some criteria used to define a 'rewilding enterprise':

- Increase the economic value of wildlife and wild nature in a way that creates incentives to support and conserve it;
- Generate finance that can directly sustain the development and management of a rewilding area or initiative;
- Inspire key local stakeholders (communities, land owners, land managers, local inhabitants), through employment or other benefits in a way that gives incentives to further save and rewild a relevant area;
- Redirect threatening business activities in a rewilding area towards more rewilding-friendly alternatives;
- Increase income from the surrounding 'buffer' areas to reduce the need to encroach into 'core' areas of higher natural value;
- Promote and provide access to the values of a rewilding area for a better enjoyment of and understanding of it.

## Areas of focus

Rewilding Europe Capital, REC, focuses primarily on debt finance. In selected cases, REC can also provide a component of its financing package as a development grant to fund activities designed to optimize the impact of a business and its ability to service a subsequent REC loan. No such grant will be provided without a wider loan contract with REC. Particular preference is given to the following sectors:

- Tourism – Nature, wildlife and adventure including accommodations, wildlife watching hides, guides, operators.
- Land owners – Land owners looking to engage with Rewilding Europe and develop new or additional business ideas for their land, based



► Lunchtime at a nature tourism development seminar held in Widziensko, Oder delta, Poland.

on the values of the wild (ideally more than 500 ha of relevant land required).

- Education providers – Businesses providing educational courses associated with nature.
- Natural products – Producers of local natural products associated with nature e.g. honey, cheese, wine and meat.

## First enterprises supported by REC

REC is interested in partnering with and investing in both new and existing enterprises that can demonstrate their ability and motivation to sup-

port rewilding in Europe. REC not only provides investment, but also through its linkages with Rewilding Europe, provides wider support to the enterprises with which it engages. In particular this means helping businesses to align their operations towards rewilding and, for those that do this best, making use of Rewilding Europe's very powerful and far-reaching communications platforms for promotion.

In 2013, three different investments were approved (in Croatia and Spain) while another 15 are in preparation for REC support in 2014.



## GENERAL RESULTS

# Communication and promotion



**Staffan Widstrand**  
Marketing &  
Communications Director

Communication about and promotion of our initiative, which already started as a major effort in 2012, has continued at all levels in 2013. Rewilding Europe became far better known and understood thanks to a huge media outreach at all levels: international, national and local.

Overall, our media and communication work reached very impressive results reaching out to around 155 million people in total over the year. The Wildlife Comeback Report alone reached out to more than 138 million people. We will plan how we can further use this massive outreach to connect people with our initiative, and make them supporters.

### Media

Major features on Rewilding Europe were published in renowned international and national media (printed, on-line, TV and radio) mainly as a leverage of the Wildlife Comeback Report, WILD10, the publication of the Aurochs book and the Wild Wonders of Europe Outdoor exhibition in Stockholm – where Rewilding Europe was the main partner.

There were numerous news items, blogs and posts on our website, Facebook, Twitter and our external newsletter resulting in a further growth in outreach. The number of monthly and unique web visitors grew with 200% from 6,973 in December 2012 to 13,772 in December 2013 with most visitors from The Netherlands, UK, Spain, United States, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, France, Romania and Bulgaria – our Top-10 countries.



➤ Wildlife comeback received a lot of media coverage.

By the end of the year we had 1,252 followers on Twitter and 9,957 'likes' on Facebook, a growth of 220% and 242% respectively, compared to December 2012. Just after New Year, we reached a milestone number of 10,000 'likes' on Facebook. The Facebook pages of the rewilding areas (Western Iberia, Velebit, Danube Delta, Southern Carpathians, Central Apennines) were created and grew in numbers as well.

### Rewilding Europe at WILD10

After more than 1.5 years of preparation, finally the 10th World Wilderness Congress – WILD10 – took place in Salamanca, Spain from 3–10 October. WILD10 provided a major podium for our initiative where we introduced, shared and discussed 'rewilding' as a new, developing concept and complementary tool for conservation in Europe.

With four plenary presentations, a full day rewilding seminar, five scientific presentations, a number of launches, a Rewilding Europe Expo, support to a number of resolutions, an internal 'Round Table' and many side-meetings with partner organizations and individuals, WILD10 brought good critical mass and discussions that will help to further develop and sharpen our initiative. During WILD10 we made great progress in building a 'rewilding community' in Europe and put our initiative to the attention of many individuals, organizations, potential partners, investors and funding institutions.

The Wildlife Comeback Report was handed over officially on stage to Angelo Salsi from the European Commission and to Eduardo Galleano from the Council of Europe, emphasizing the critical role that the EU has played for this continent-wide comeback of iconic wildlife species.



➤ Another milestone – 10,000 likes on Facebook.

During a presentation called 'The Rewilding10 – Making it Real' the Central Apennines was announced as the 6th rewilding area in the portfolio of Rewilding Europe.

Rewilding Europe Capital and the European Rewilding Network were officially launched during WILD10.

During the full-day seminar 'Making Europe a Wilder Place', organized by Rewilding Europe, thirteen high level speakers presented rewilding visions, plans and actions around the multi-faceted approach in Rewilding Europe. Real show-cases and concrete examples were shared and many new facts about rewilding, wildlife, business opportunities and many more. Proceedings of the seminar have been published.

A group of more than 60 participants then visited the nearby Western Iberia rewilding area, to see some of the activities happening on the ground; they witnessed the release of a second herd of Retuertas horses into the Campanarios de Azaba reserve.

### The Aurochs – Born to be Wild

At WILD10, our book about the aurochs was officially launched at a special event, which was attended by many people. Ronald Goderie from Taurus Foundation handed over the first copies of the book to Vance Martin, President of the WILD Foundation and to Carlos Sanchez, President of Fundación Naturaleza y Hombre, project leader of Rewilding Europe's Western Iberia rewilding area and the founder of the Tauros breeding station there.

As a co-production between Rewilding Europe and Taurus Foundation, a lot of work has been put into this unique and wonderful publication about the aurochs. The book not only explains

## Main facts and figures

- Four Rewilding Europe Newsletters were issued in 2013 to 4,700 subscribers.
- Wildlife Comeback Report publication reaches at least 138 million people, featured in many media throughout Europe and other parts of the world.
- An estimated 440,000 visitors to the Wild Wonders of Europe outdoor exhibition in Stockholm, where Rewilding Europe was the main partner.
- Number of Facebook "likes" reaches 10,000 just after 31 December.
- Increase of unique web visits increased with 200% arriving at 13,772 per month at the end of the year.
- Major media reached with Rewilding Europe: BBC World, Al Jazeera, Le Monde, ABC Radio, Der Spiegel and many others on publication of Wildlife Comeback Report and WILD10.
- 60 WILD10 participants from different countries across the world visit Western Iberia rewilding area and witness release of a second herd of Retuerta horses.
- Many new printed materials available, such as factsheets on six new initiatives within Rewilding Europe.
- Rewilding Europe seminar in Spain attended by some 200 participants, discussing latest insights in rewilding.





► Davor Krmpotic interviewed in the Velebit mountains, by Rebecca Morelle and David O'Neill from BBC World News.

the history of the aurochs in Europe, but also shows how we can breed-back an animal that will be very close to the original species – as the aurochs genes are still present in various old cattle races in Europe.

The Tauros Programme – the initiative to breed-back an animal that as closely as possible resembles the original wild aurochs that once roamed all across Europe – has taken off with the official start of the breeding site in Western Iberia. This is the first breeding site within the partnership between Taurus Foundation and Rewilding Europe.

### Huge media outreach for Rewilding Europe

The launch of the Wildlife Comeback Report in London but also WILD10 in Salamanca resulted in a major media outreach for Rewilding Europe in September and the first week of October.

The Wildlife Comeback Report was launched through a press conference and a seminar at London Zoo on 25 and 26 September. The report was covered by TV as a major news item on BBC World and BBC UK (two items) and also Al

Jazeera and Dutch TV (RTL). Live radio broadcasting was done by the Voice of Russia (in English), ABC Radio (Australia) and Radio FM4 (Austria). Press agencies that covered the news were Associated Press, Agency France Press and ANP News. Newspaper articles appeared in The Times, The Guardian, Le Monde, The Daily Express, The Daily Mail, The Telegraph (all UK), De Volkskrant (Netherlands), Dagens Nyheter (Sweden), A-Magazinet (Norway), Christian Science Monitor, and several others. Additional articles, partly related to WILD10 presentations and outcomes were published in Der Spiegel, Berliner Zeitung and Taz-Tageszeitung (all in Germany) and La Stampa (Italy). Nearly all of these media also used their websites and some of them made great 'carousels' of pictures, e.g. The Guardian (two times), Le Monde and Der Spiegel and many media in our rewilding areas.

### Opening outdoor exhibition in Stockholm

After the successful outdoor exhibition in Madrid in 2012, a new Wild Wonders of Europe outdoor exhibition was opened in Stockholm on



► Photographer Magnus Lundgren on a photo mission in the Danube Delta, together with local rewilding officer Christian Mititelu and fisherman Florin Moisa.

*Overall, our media and communication work yielded very impressive results – reaching out to around 155 million people, across many European countries and abroad.*

26 June. This exhibition, funded by the Swedish Postcode Foundation and the Dutch Postcode Lottery, provided a great opportunity to reach out to the Swedish audience. Rewilding Europe was well featured in many media and during the opening ceremony.

The potential rewilding area in Greater Lapponia in Swedish Lapland was an interesting link that we could make. The exhibition was open until October 13, beautifully located in the centre of the city, attracting large numbers of visitors (ca 440,000) and with over 11 million in media outreach.

### Photo missions

A second photo mission to the Danube Delta, focusing on underwater photography, was carried out in June.

Also photo missions were carried out to the Rhodope Mountains (Bulgaria) in May and Greater Lapponia (connected to final scoping visits) in June. These photo missions have provided lots of high-quality imagery from these potential rewilding areas.

“Naturen  
är en avgörande del  
av vår identitet, som  
europeer.  
Den är en del av  
det arv  
alla våra olika  
kulturer  
bygger på  
och en omistlig del  
av oss själva”

Ladislav Miko, Tjeckien,  
Europeiska kommissionen

"Nature is a vital part of European identity. It is a part of our heritage and a part of ourselves."



Krushuvad  
pelikan

Med en vikt på 20 ton och en kroppslängd på 2,5 meter är krushuvad pelikan en av de största fåglarna i världen. Den är en utmärkt flygfågel och kan flyga över stora avstånd. Den är också en utmärkt svämfågel och kan sväma över stora avstånd. Den är också en utmärkt simfågel och kan simma över stora avstånd. Den är också en utmärkt vattentätare och kan vattentäta över stora avstånd. Den är också en utmärkt vattentätare och kan vattentäta över stora avstånd.



Dalmatien  
pelikan

Den dalmatien pelikan är en utmärkt flygfågel och kan flyga över stora avstånd. Den är också en utmärkt svämfågel och kan sväma över stora avstånd. Den är också en utmärkt simfågel och kan simma över stora avstånd. Den är också en utmärkt vattentätare och kan vattentäta över stora avstånd.



DIEMER NILL / WILD WONDERS OF EUROPE

## EXPANSION

# Building our rewilding area portfolio

### Rewilding areas at the frontline

Rewilding Europe wants to put its vision into practice through working in 10 areas in Europe, which will become the lead (or model) examples of rewilding. The rewilding areas are at the frontline of the initiative, because we believe that only by showing our vision in reality we can generate support for this new conservation vision for Europe. Through our mass media work so far, and through that presenting our ambitions and goals, we have generated a lot of interest and support, but we also raised considerable expectations.

For the period 2014–2016 our initiative will therefore fully focus on:

- Supporting the existing five operational rewilding areas making considerable progress

in terms of rewilding, enterprise development and communication,

- Re-establishing the Eastern Carpathians rewilding area with key local stakeholders and setting a new team,
- Supporting the three rewilding areas that are “in pipeline” with their start-up phase, and preparing their formal inclusion into the Rewilding Europe portfolio,
- Identify a 10th rewilding area to add to our portfolio.

Expansion of the rewilding area portfolio will be done in a careful and case-by-case approach, taking into account important lessons from the first two years of operation. It is important to note that there is a certain level of dynamic in



**Deli Saavedra**  
*Regional Manager*

building the portfolio, due to external and sometimes unexpected events. As we are pioneering new approaches, rewilding areas can suddenly face challenges because of a changing local context and unfavourable conditions. Although this is not a referred option, Rewilding Europe needs to be prepared to put rewilding areas 'on hold' if needed. We need to be accountable for our financial investments and technical support at all times. Of course, this will always be done based on careful and thorough assessments and with involvement of the Supervisory Board.

### Selection of areas

#### First tranche

At the Conference on Wilderness and Large Natural Habitat Areas hosted by the Czech European Union Presidency and the European Commission in May 2009, we first presented our vision and invited participants to submit nominations for potential rewilding project areas. Based on an initial screening of twenty applications from all over Europe submitted by a variety of organizations, it was decided to undertake detailed feasibility studies in six of the areas. The subsequent field visits assessed the current protection status, land ownership, human settlement, threats, land abandonment, tourism, other relevant business initiatives, ecological/wildlife status, and the institutional situation. From these studies, five areas were selected in 2010 to serve as the first rewilding areas. These were taken on board in 2011 and 2012 after a detailed planning process, and after substantial funding was secured. All rewilding areas started working either at the end of 2011 or at the beginning of 2012; this was later than anticipated due to a lengthy planning and preparation process. These areas are:

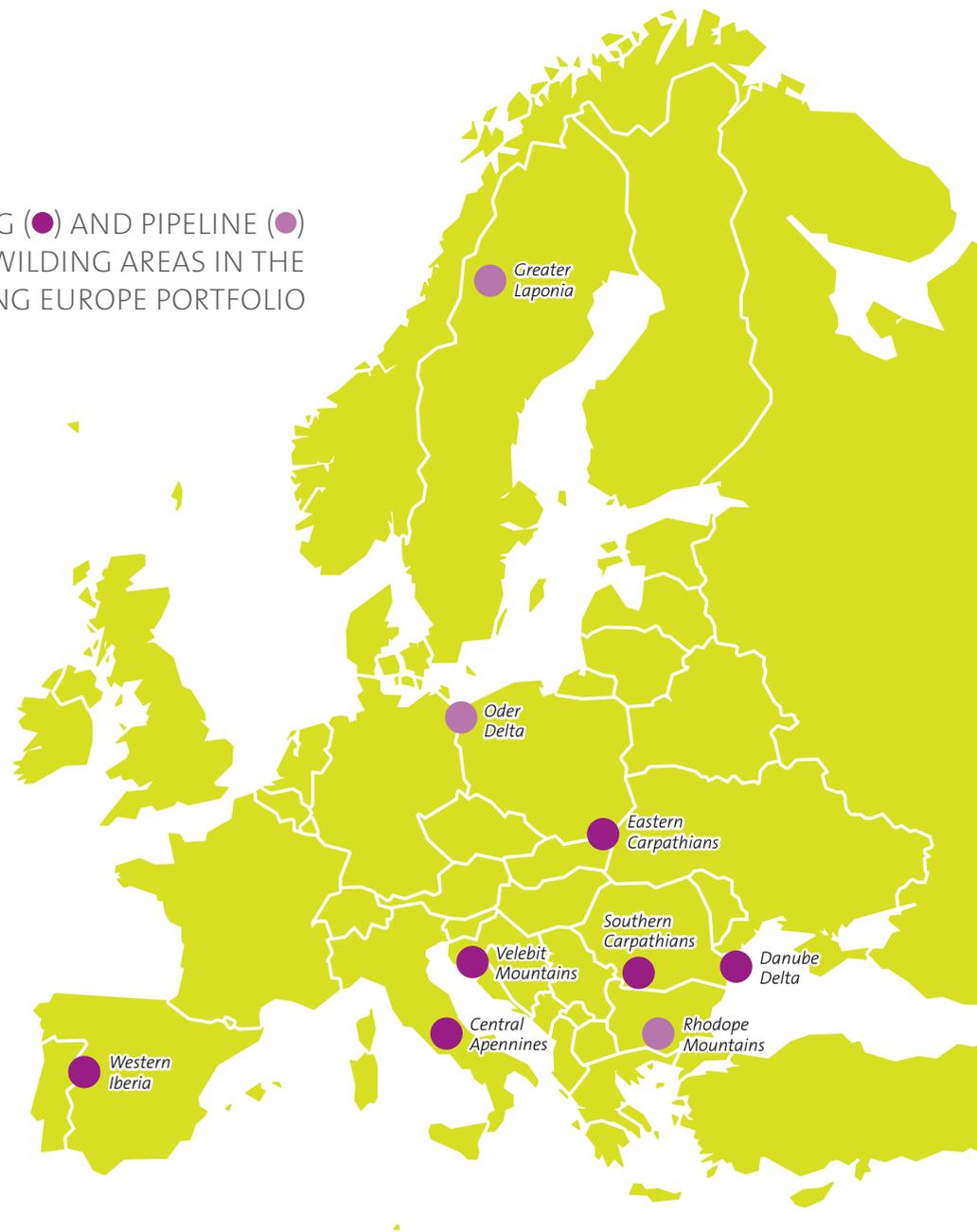
- Western Iberia (Portugal and Spain);
- Velebit Mountains (Croatia);
- Eastern Carpathians (Slovakia and Poland);
- Southern Carpathians (Romania);
- Danube Delta (Romania);

#### Second tranche

During 2012, we continued to explore possible nominations and another 10 proposals were received. In total the first and second tranches yielded some 30 nominations from all over Europe.

Based on the experiences from the first tranche and the lessons learnt, we conducted a much

### EXISTING (●) AND PIPELINE (○) REWILDING AREAS IN THE REWILDING EUROPE PORTFOLIO



more detailed analysis of these areas. As a result, the following four additional areas came out as preferred and potential new rewilding areas:

- Central Apennines (Italy),
- Rhodope Mountains (Bulgaria – with extension possibility into Greece),
- Odra Delta (Germany/Poland),
- Greater Laponia (Sweden – with extension possibility into Norway).

A 10th area, to complete the portfolio, has not been selected yet.

For the Central Apennines, a decision was taken by the Supervisory Board in July 2014 to take this area on board because of its outstanding rewilding potential and high scores in the assessment done.

For the three other areas (Rhodope Mountains, Odra Delta and Greater Laponia), the scoping phase has been finalized by September 2013, and a start-up phase has been commenced. This means that the Rewilding Europe Central Team will assist these three areas to work on achieving the right status to become part of the portfolio. It is expected this decision will be made in the course of 2014.



➤ Matthew McLuckie and Ulf Lovén studying the maps during a scoping visit to the Greater Laponia, Sweden.



➤ Wildlife watching operator Marin Kurtev beside his vulture watching hide in Eastern Rhodope mountains, Bulgaria.



➤ Birdwatching in mosaic grazing landscape during a scoping visit to Oder Delta, Germany.

### Geographical and ecosystem representation

We aim to have a maximum of geographical spread and representation of different ecosystems, to ensure the Rewilding Europe portfolio will be as diverse as possible. The main reasons for this are:

- Rewilding Europe would like to prove that rewilding is possible in all regions in Europe, not only in southern and Eastern Europe (more remote areas) but also in Central, West and Northwest Europe (more urbanized areas),
- We strongly believe that rewilding is applicable throughout European ecosystems, and we want to learn how different ecosystems respond to rewilding,
- We would like to work and learn about rewilding in different settings and local socio-economic contexts.

The current six rewilding areas in the portfolio (as of the end of 2013) span different regions of Europe, but have an emphasis on the southern and eastern parts of the continent. Therefore we have been (and still are) actively engaging and supporting nominations in North and Northwest Europe. Also, we see a slight over-representation of mountainous areas, and therefore we would also like to include more lowland areas.

The 10 rewilding areas together reflect a wide selection of European regions and ecosystems, flora and fauna. With each then showing a substantial wildlife comeback.

### REWILDING EUROPE PORTFOLIO BY THE END OF 2013

(countries in brackets means we have not started/initiated working there)

Name of area	Status (2013)	Size (ha) <sup>1</sup>	Landscape type	Countries
<b>First tranche</b>				
Western Iberia	Operational	100,000	Montado, dehesa, sierra, rivers and canyons	Portugal, Spain
Velebit Mountains	Operational	220,000	Temperate and Mediterranean forest, sub-alpine grasslands, coastal marine, cliffs and canyons	Croatia
Eastern Carpathians	On hold, planned to re-open in 2014	110,000	Temperate forests, sub-alpine grasslands, river valleys and streams	Poland, Slovakia, (Ukraine)
Southern Carpathians	Operational	100,000	Temperate forest, sub-alpine grasslands, cliffs and steep river valleys	Romania
Danube Delta	Operational	100,000	River delta, reed beds, marshes, riverine forests, coastal grasslands, dune systems, coastal lagoons and forests	Romania, (Ukraine)
<b>Second tranche</b>				
Central Apennines	Operational	100,000	High alpine mountains, alpine grasslands and valleys, small rivers and temperate forests	Italy
Rhodope Mountains	In pipeline	250,000	Mediterranean and temperate oak and beech forests, natural and semi-natural grasslands, cliffs and gorges, free-flowing rivers	Bulgaria (Greece)
Oder Delta	In pipeline	TBD	Baltic coast with lagoons, wetlands, tidal zones, reed marshes, sand dunes, alluvial and coastal forests, peat systems and wet grasslands	Germany, Poland
Greater Laponia	In pipeline	TBD	Taiga forest, high tundra and alpine grasslands, mountains, free-flowing rivers, lakes and peat marshes	Sweden (Norway)
10 <sup>th</sup> area	Exploration	TBD	Unknown	

<sup>1</sup> The estimated size of the area that can be rewilded which is targeted in each rewilding area over a period of ten years; this excludes the wider magnification area.





> Caterpillar of a geometer moth.



> Red deer.



> Roosting trees and breeding location for thousands of Great cormorant in Oder river delta on the border between Germany and Poland.

## Rewilding at four levels

All the rewilding areas have a large size (100,000 ha or more) with the potential to be even larger, looking at their magnification potential. It is important to us that Rewilding Europe works in areas that have a certain scale and have the potential to leverage significant impact at a landscape level.

On the other side, we have to be careful to work in a tangible way, starting in certain rewilding nodes with physical activities on the ground and scale up from there. We have therefore developed a system of four different scales, in which we work. Levels 1 and 2 are the framework and tell the big story and levels 3 and 4 signal the priorities and where the physical activities are carried out.

### Level 1. Larger landscape: magnification area

This is the wider landscape or region, in which the rewilding area is situated. The size can range from some hundreds of thousands to some millions of hectares, e.g. the Southwest Carpathians, the Montado/Dehesa landscape in Iberia, the Greater

Laponia, the Apennines or the Rhodope Mountains. It's the context in which our rewilding area can serve as a direct example to be implemented in the future. The time horizon for magnification in this wider landscape is beyond 10 years.

### Level 2. Rewilding area

The area to which we have attached our 10-year vision, and which we want to be considerably rewilded within that period. The size is at least 100,000 ha of connected areas that during those 10 years will develop towards a much wilder state, according to zonation plan, including core wilderness areas, buffer zones and transition zones.

### Level 3. Priority area

Within the rewilding area we focus our work on specifically identified priority areas, at least 2–3 for each rewilding area. In these priority areas, each about 5–10,000 in size, we concentrate our efforts in a coherent way (on rewilding, enterprise development and communication)

because here the opportunities for rewilding have been seen as the most promising. These selected priority areas become the nodes and showcase examples for the rewilding of the 100,000 ha area. For each of them, we set 3-year objectives and concrete results.

After or during such a three year period, new opportunities for priority areas could emerge. However, we will only take these on board if additional funding is available – to avoid spreading too thinly.

For each of the existing rewilding areas, priority areas have been identified.

### Level 4. Pilot site

The pilot sites are situated within the priority areas and are the places where we will actively work on the ground, where property rights have been secured (e.g. hunting concession, tourism concession, management agreement, etc.). Pilot sites are situated inside a priority area and can, by successful elaboration of the pilot, cover a growing part of the priority area.

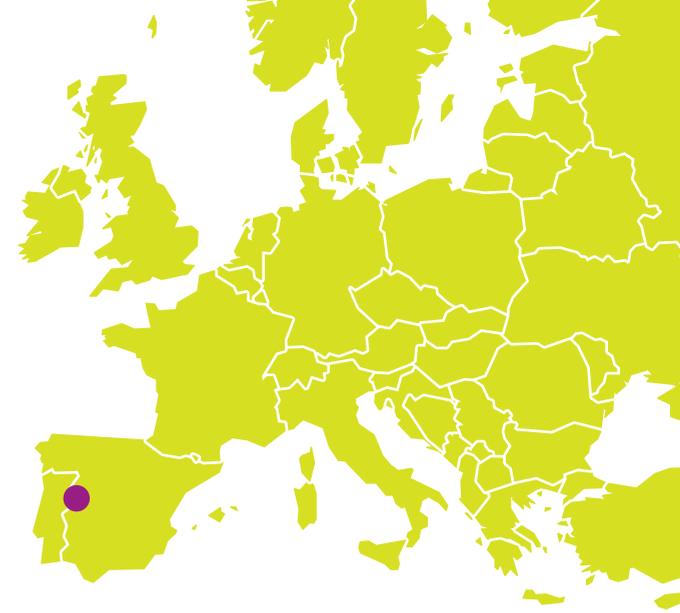
## FOUR DIFFERENT LEVELS OF WORK IN THE REWILDING AREAS AND MAIN TARGET WILDLIFE SPECIES

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	
Larger landscape	Rewilding area	Priority areas 2013–2015	Pilot sites	Main (target) wildlife species
<b>Existing rewilding areas</b>				
Montado and dehesa landscape between Sierra de Gata in the south and Douro Valley in the north, West-Central Spain and Portugal	<b>Western Iberia (Spain/Portugal)</b>	Campanarios de Azaba connected through Nave de Haver with Côa Valley	Faia Brava, Campanarios de Azaba, New Camp, Tauros breeding sites, Cihaldele village, flycamp sites	Griffon, Black and Egyptian vulture, Spanish imperial and Bonelli's eagle, Iberian lynx, red deer, roe deer, Spanish Ibex, wolf, wild horse and Tauros
Velebit Mountain range, connected with Slovenia in the north and Dalmatia in the south; including the marine coast and islands (part of Dinaric Arc)	<b>Velebit Mountains (Croatia)</b>	North Velebit National Park, Paklenica National Park, Ramino Korito, Lukovo Sugarje, Dolin islands and possibly Ubdina	Linden Tree, Lagosta concession locations, bear and wolf watching hides, flycamp sites and Mala Libinju	Griffon and Egyptian vulture, wolf, brown bear, European bison, red deer, Balkan chamois, Eurasian lynx, wild horse, Tauros
Apennines mountain range throughout Italy, connected network of protected areas with major national parks	<b>Central Apennines (Italy)</b>	Sirente Velino, Ortona dei Marsi, Gioia dei Marsi, Lecce dei Marsi, Monte Genzana	Montagne della Duchessa, Teve Valley, Monte Velino, Giovenco Valley, Gioia Vecchio	Marsican brown bear, Wolf, Apennines chamois, Griffon vulture, Red deer
South-western Carpathian Mountain range including a connected series of national parks and protected areas ranging from Danube River valley in the south to Fagaras in the north.	<b>Southern Carpathians (Romania)</b>	Armenis municipality within Tarcu Mountains Natura 2000 site	Plopu (others not known yet)	European bison, Red deer, wolf, brown bear, Eurasian lynx
Overall Danube Delta system consisting of major river branches in Romania and Ukraine connected with Dobrogea Plateau and middle reaches of the Danube river.	<b>Danube Delta (Romania)</b>	C.A. Rosetti, Sfantu Georghe, Crisan, polders and fish farms (both outer and inner delta)	Tauros breeding sites, beaver and deer reintroduction sites, Caraorman Forest, Letea forest, Mahmudia and others	White and Dalmatian pelican, sturgeon, red deer, European mink, Tauros, wild horse, beaver
Northern range of the Carpathian Mountains, including the International Biosphere Reserve 'Eastern Carpathians' and various national parks and nature parks (e.g. Bieszczady, Uzhansky, Poloniny)	<b>Eastern Carpathians (Poland, Slovakia &amp; Ukraine)</b>	Upper San and Lower San Valley (Poland)	Muzcne, Krywe, Tworylne, wildlife watching sites and local accommodation, bison release sites	Wolf, European bison, brown bear, Eurasian lynx, red deer, wild horse
<b>Pipeline rewilding areas</b>				
Part of a large escarpment between Greece and Bulgaria (Rhodope and Orvilos Mountains), including a number of national parks	<b>Rhodope Mountains (Bulgaria)</b>	Eastern Rhodope Mountains: Byala Reka, Madzharovo, Studen Kladenetz and Chernoochene	Studen Kladenetz Hunting Reserve, Nanovitsa, Krumovitza, Sbor, Tintyava	Griffon vulture, black vulture, Egyptian vulture, souslik, imperial eagle, marbled polecat, red deer, fallow deer, and wild horses, European bison
Mouth of the Oder river in the Baltic Sea, on the border of Germany and Poland (Pomerania)	<b>Oder Delta (Germany, Poland)</b>	Several areas proposed, including Ueckermünder Heide and river, Altwarp and Nowe Warpno, Swidwie, Olszanka, Stepnica Bay, Kopice, Odra Delta Nature Park	To be identified	White-tailed eagle, European bison, elk, Tauros, wild horse, wolf, beaver, harbour porpoise
Huge area (almost four million hectares) stretching from the Atlantic fjords in the west, to the Bothnian Bay (Baltic Sea) via three of the largest free-flowing rivers in Europe	<b>Greater Laponia (Sweden)</b>	Several areas proposed, including Nikkaluokta-Tjuonajokk-Kebnekaise, Stora Sjöfallet-Saltoluokta, Tjåmotis-Årrenjarka-Kvikkjokk, Udtja Saami reserve and Arvidsjaur	Tjunajokk, Kalixälven, Kebnekaise, Padjelantaleden, Krongård, Såkkevarats, Pärälven, Udtja, Pite River	Muskox, Arctic fox, Lesser white-fronted goose, Wolverine, Brown bear, Eurasian lynx, Golden eagle, White-tailed eagle



## WESTERN IBERIA

# Ancient dehesa, sierra and montado landscapes



### Setting

The Iberian Peninsula, with some of the earliest human settlements in Europe, is home to some of the most ancient natural landscapes of the continent. One typical example is the Spanish “Dehesa” or the Portuguese “Montado”, traditional wood pastures with its origins back to, at least, the middle ages. The savannah-like appearance shaped by large grazers – especially cattle – is today home to some of the most rare animal species of Europe, such as the Spanish Imperial eagle and the globally endangered Iberian lynx. These species have together with their favourite prey, the European rabbit, decreased alarmingly in numbers during the last century and just only recently begun to come back slowly. These areas are also famous for their ham – Jamon Iberico and Jamon Serrano in Spain – produced from pigs feeding on acorns from the holm oaks of the dehesa.

### 10-Year vision

Western Iberia’s rich and varied dehesa, montado and sierra landscapes, crossed by deep river valleys that straddle the border between Portugal and Spain, has become one of the most exciting wild areas of the Iberian Peninsula.

Core rewilding areas with no-take zones have been established, that are connected through wildlife corridors and surrounded by transition- and buffer zones, where people still use the landscape in relatively traditional, but more sustainable and wildlife friendly ways.

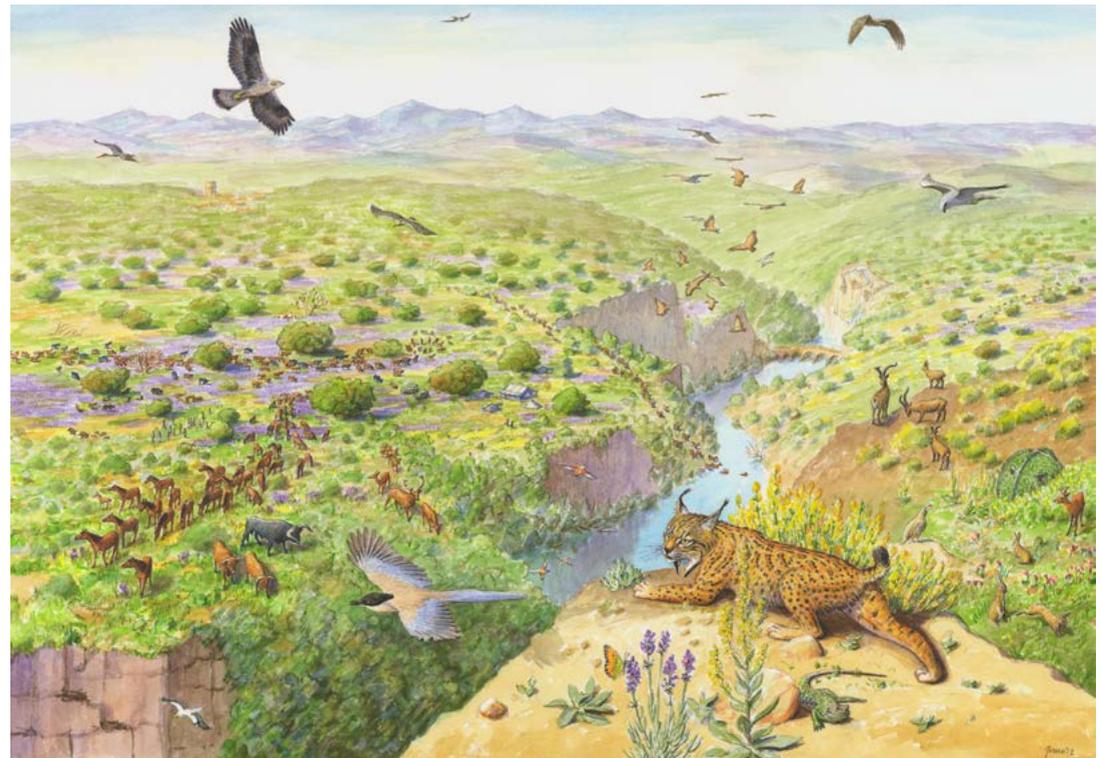
Western Iberia has not become a huge, unbroken wilderness area, but rather a much wilder version of the dehesa/montado habitat, containing several really wild zones where the

### LOCAL REWILDING PARTNERS:



### TEAM LEADER:

Carlos Sanchez  
(Spain)



► An artist's vision of the Western Iberia rewilding area.



JUAN CARLOS MUÑOZ ROBERTO / RAWIDIN.EUROPE

### General progress

full original native range of species is back in place. The management principle practiced in the core areas is based on allowing for the natural processes and letting nature manage itself to an as high degree as possible, through a gradual process from the former active management.

The main wildlife attractions are Iberian ibex, Iberian lynx, red deer, wild horse and black stork as well as vultures and many other raptors like the Bonelli's eagle and the Spanish Imperial eagle. Both Campanarios de Azaba and Faia Brava reserves areas are used as one of Europe's first breeding sites for the Tauros, which will roam free in social herds. The Iberian lynx has come back again in a sustainable population thanks to successful reintroduction efforts and a good prey base of rabbits. The Iberian wolf has come back spontaneously and has become accepted as a normal inhabitant in the area.

Western Iberia has attracted new, young people, for whom it provides business opportunities based on these wild values, local products and culture, thereby contributing to its future.

With the Fundación de Naturaleza y Hombre (FNYH) and Associação Transumância e Natureza (ATN) as our key partners, progress has been made in the two priority areas within the larger rewilding landscape: Campanarios de Azaba and Faia Brava reserves.

Based on a thorough review, a new 3-year action plan was developed which further focuses on these two areas with the Côa valley our main axis of expansion between these two reserves that are a property of these two NGO's.

Currently, Western Iberia is the main area for the Tauros Programme, although two other areas in our portfolio will follow in 2014 (Croatia and Romania). Also grazing of wild-living horses is an important element in this area with a herd of Garrano and another herd with 50% of the Retuertas horses left remaining in the world of this ancient Iberian breed.

The socio-economic landscape forms a mosaic of productive dehesa and abandoned areas, especially in Spain, and it makes the scaling-up more challenging.

*Currently, Western Iberia is the main area for the Tauros Programme, with two breeding sites started in both Spain and Portugal. A herd management contract was signed under the regime of the European Wildlife Bank.*



› Casa Cisterna Bed and Breakfast near the Faia Brava reserve in Coa valley, Portugal.



› Signing of the Tauros breeding site agreement.



› Diego Benito cutting up the Jamon Iberico in the Campanarios lodge.

## Rewilding

- Tauros breeding site established in Spain (Campanarios de Azaba, with eight Sayaguesa cows) and Portugal (Faia Brava, with nine Maronesa cows). A herd management agreement was signed under the European Wildlife Bank (EWB).
- An additional number of 23 Retuertas horses joined the herd of Campanarios de Azaba, now with 47 animals grazing this area.
- A seminar on Iberian Wolf was held in Almeida (Portugal) as this species is expected to further recover and soon re-occupy this area.
- New agreements are under way to increase the rewilding extension of the Faia Brava reserve.

## Enterprise

- The Campanarios de Azaba Guesthouse was further upgraded and a business plan was prepared. Also a wildlife breeding plan for the reserve was finalized.
- A vulture watching hide was developed in Faia Brava, where it is possible to photograph griffon vulture, black vulture, Egyptian vulture and even sometimes the rare Rüppell's vulture.
- The first Erasmus Intensive programme "European Wilderness Entrepreneurship" took place in Western Iberia in April, with the participation of 30 students and 15 lecturers/researchers from six countries.
- A €15,000 REC loan was approved to Casa Cisterna – a guesthouse in a village close to the Faia Brava reserve in Portugal, which is actively involved in hosting and guiding visitors in the reserve and in the wider Cõa valley rewilding area.

## Communication

- A Facebook page (Oeste Ibérico) became active in Spanish, Portuguese and English. The Rewilding Europe brochure was translated and is now also available in Spanish.
- An sales agreement was signed with AEFONA (Spanish Nature Photography Association) about volume usage of the hides and the promotion of wildlife watching in the Campanarios de Azaba reserve.
- About 60 delegates from WILD10, the World Wilderness Congress in Salamanca spent a full day in the Campanarios de Azaba reserve, where they witnessed the release of the second group of Retuertas (23 individuals) coming from Doñana National Park.



VELEBIT MOUNTAINS

# The Wild West of the Adriatic coast

## Setting

Velebit, one of the most important natural areas of Europe and the Balkans is situated on the Adriatic coast of Croatia. This limestone mountain chain is 145 km long from north to south, and lies parallel to the coast. Following a cross section from the crystal waters of the Adriatic in the west, it rapidly rises to 1,757 metres, and then phases out into a higher-level plateau towards the east. The area hosts an extraordinary diversity of different habitats, from barren Mediterranean landscapes at sea level to almost boreal systems at higher altitudes. This has led to the establishment of the two Paklenica & Northern Velebit National Parks as well as the Velebit Nature Park – all three very well set up and managed. Together the three areas occupy more than 220,000 ha. The area has also been declared a UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve and has been included in the UNESCO Tentative List of World Heritage Sites. Outside the protected areas in the south and west, there are further very interesting areas for rewilding too, consisting mainly of abandoned farm- and grazing lands.

In a 'nutshell', Velebit is a climber's and nature lover's paradise, home to spectacular caves and breath-taking sceneries, and receives an increasing number of visitors each year. The tourism infrastructure is well developed with hiking trails, smaller overnight cabins, larger dormitories, and professional visitor centres & information panels. The dramatic coastal landscapes with their steep, barren cliffs, deep canyons, waterfalls, and open, uninhabited plains have also an interesting link to contemporary European film history. In the 1960s, the famous 'Winnetou' movies were produced.

LOCAL REWILDING PARTNERS:

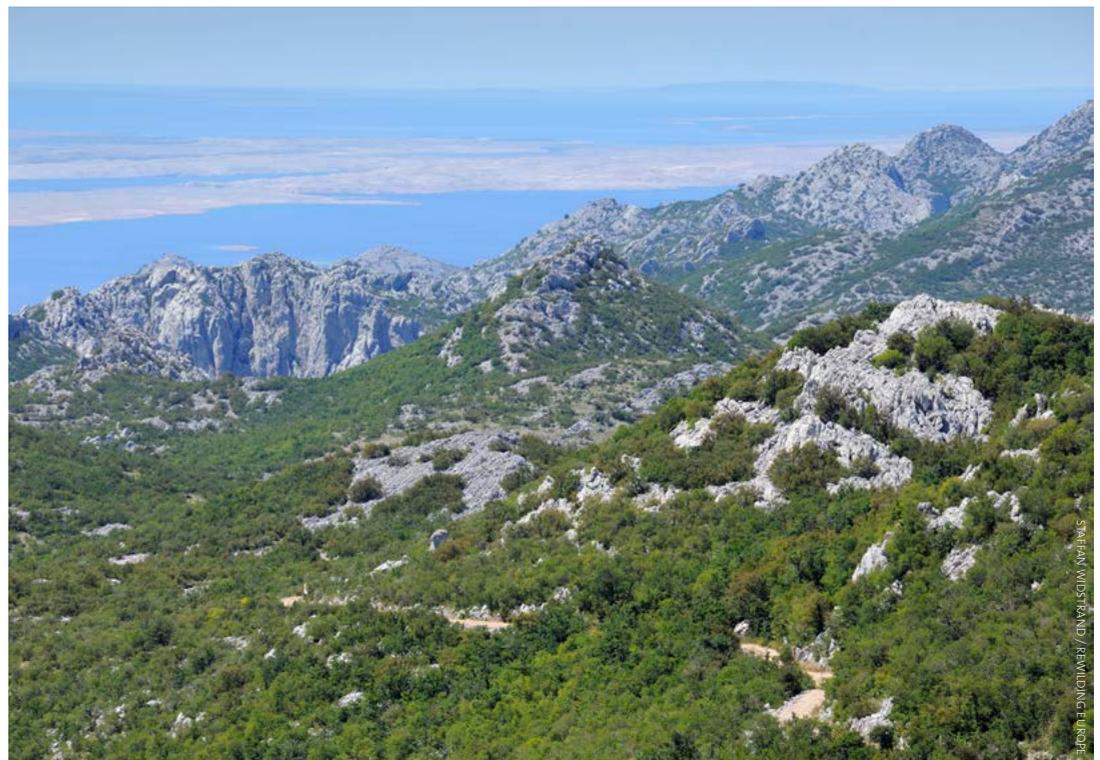


Nacionalni park  
Sjevorni Velebit



TEAM LEADER:

Davor Krmpotic  
(Croatia)



➤ Adriatic coast in Velebit Nature Park.





► An artist's vision of the Velebit rewilding area.



► Flowering field in the North Velebit National Park.

*The potential in Velebit to link rewilding and enterprise was proven with two of the three first Rewilding Europe Capital loans provided to local entrepreneurs here in 2013.*

## 10-Year vision

The Velebit mountain chain has, together with the most suitable of its surrounding lowlands and marine areas, been established as one of the finest, wildest, largest, best protected and most famous wildlife and wilderness areas in Mediterranean Europe.

The whole area has much stronger populations of its original native wildlife species, boosted by reintroductions and re-stockings when considered necessary. The main wildlife attractions here are Balkan chamois, brown bear, red deer, Alpine ibex, wolf, Eurasian lynx, wild horse, European bison, wild boar, capercaillie, griffon vulture and other raptors like eagle-owl, peregrine falcon, short-toed eagle and golden eagle.

The unbroken ecological integrity of the Velebit ecosystems has been preserved, and at the same time large areas of it have become much wilder, with a number of core rewilding areas that have no-take regimes, especially along the main ridge of the mountain chain.

In the core rewilding areas, natural ecological

processes to a great extent regulate nature, with wildlife in fully natural densities and with all the original native species present.

This new situation has provided examples of new or additional ways to make a living here, based on the wild resources. The negative spiral of land abandonment, rural exodus, loss of biodiversity and fading traditional culture has instead turned into new opportunities, attracting new, young and entrepreneurial people as well as many more visitors, also from far outside the region, and thereby increasing the variety of the total tourism offer of Croatia as well as extending the country's tourism season.

## General progress

In Velebit, good progress was made in 2013, although some time was needed for preparations after the partnership with WWF was unfortunately terminated early July.

A limited liability company, called 'Rewilding Velebit' now forms our legal base to work in the

country. This is a structure that will work for the short time, however we are planning to further strengthen the team and our legal set up in 2014.

The agreement with an owner and stock-breeder in south Velebit made it possible to start natural grazing as an important natural process, with a Tauros breeding site and wild-living horses at the same site.

One of the important elements in the rewilding strategy is wildlife comeback, in particular related to hunting. During 2013 we worked to be able to secure 17,000 hectares of hunting ground, and develop a new strategy for this area where wildlife watching becomes a new activity. The potential in Velebit to link rewilding and enterprise was proven with two of the three first REC loans provided to local entrepreneurs here in 2013.

## Rewilding

- A Heads of Terms was signed with a company to manage a 17,000 hectares hunting concession, creating no-take zones, increasing wildlife numbers and promoting wildlife watching.
- A natural grazing project with 30 wild-living Bosnian mountain horses was started in Malo Libinje area. The animals, used to live with predators as brown bear and wolf, became part of the European Wildlife Bank.
- The Tauros breeding programme started in Velebit with the purchase of a founding herd of 11 Boskarin cows, which will be released in 2014.

## Enterprise

- A limited liability company, Rewilding Velebit, was created to support our work in the area, especially on enterprise and natural grazing activities.
- A €50,000 REC loan was approved to Linden Tree Ranch and Trails in Velebit; a tourism accommodation facility and associated horse riding and guided activities operation which is working with Rewilding Europe to facilitate a grazing experiment with bison in Velebit.
- A €30,000 REC loan was approved to Guslice & Melnice Honey, to expand their existing honey production capabilities, diversify their product range and work towards creating alternative products and activities that benefit rewilding processes.

## Communication

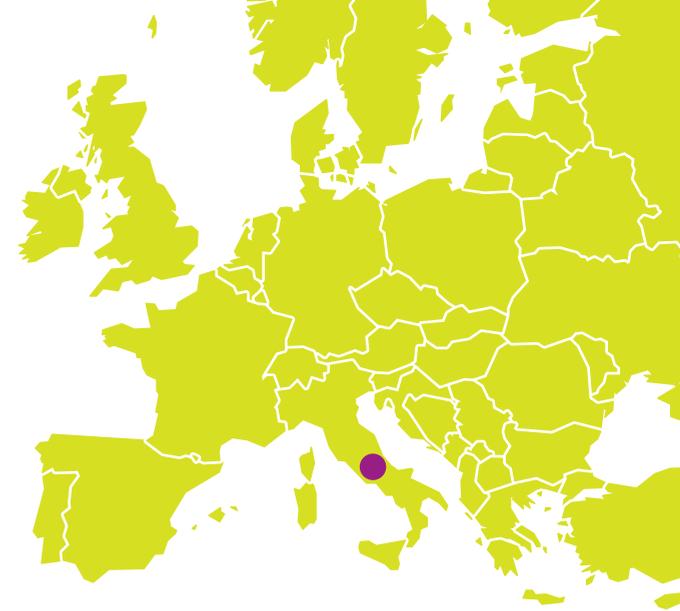
- A Facebook page (Rewilding Velebit) became active, in Croatian and English.
- A TV crew from BBC World News visited Velebit explaining about wildlife in the area, in particular the brown bear and as a showcase for wildlife comeback in Europe.





CENTRAL APENNINES

# The Wild Heart of Italy



## Setting

The Central Apennines is a majestic range of limestone peaks reaching an altitude of almost 3,000 meters, concealing caves, deep canyons, some of Europe's oldest beech forests and a wide range of grasslands – inhabited by brown bear, wolf, wild cat, Apennine chamois, red deer, wild boar, golden eagle, vultures and an astonishing set of endemics. The Central Apennines is a vast natural area, with many reserves and Natura 2000 sites, like the Abruzzo and Majella National parks, the Gran Sasso-Monti della Laga National Park and the Monte Velino and Monte Sirente Regional Park. The Abruzzo National Park is one of the first national parks in Italy and Europe. It was created in 1923 with the purpose to protect species like the Marsican brown bear and the Apennine chamois, and it is very famous also outside Italy. More than 2,000,000 visitors are claimed to reach the area each year.

Since all the way from the high plateaux via the slopes to the foothills of the mountains, traditional livestock herding and mountain farming have been increasingly abandoned for socio-economic reasons, nature here has been left to a natural rewilding process. Vast areas have been allowed to become much wilder than before. Large herbivores, carnivores and scavengers are coming back in their natural numbers to this rich mosaic landscape.

LOCAL REWILDING PARTNERS:



TEAM LEADER:

Alberto Zocchi  
(Italy)



➤ Apennine chamois.

## 10-year vision

The Central Apennines is now a true biodiversity hotspot, with real wilderness at the very heart of rustling Italy, only 1.5 hours from Rome. Something that inspires people in other natural areas to also use rewilding as a tool to create opportunities out of the challenges they face.

Vast areas have been allowed to become much wilder than before. Large herbivores, carnivores and scavengers are coming back in their natural numbers to this rich mosaic landscape. People, previously struggling to be able to remain in their villages through making a living in the traditional style, have now found new, additional or alternative sources of income from wildlife, wild values and wild nature.

A number of large core rewilding areas that have no-take regimes, are connected through wildlife and wilderness corridors and surrounded by zones for different kinds and levels of sustainable use. This provides opportunities for truly Mediterranean wilderness experiences. Once again, large herds of red deer and chamois roam the grandiose landscapes. The wolf and bear are allowed to play their important roles in the ecosystem, influencing the movements and numbers of deer, wild boar, chamois, wild horse and Tauros, and providing the food base for the many scavenging species. Hundreds of griffon vultures soar the skies in search of carrion, followed by majestic bearded vultures that take care of the remaining bones.

The oak woodlands and grasslands are roamed by Tauros and wild boar; lynx pursue Apennine chamois along the steep rocky cliffs, with golden eagles and choughs soaring above them. Rumbling streams are full of brook trout, patrolled by otters and wolves, and with large patches of endemic orchid species growing on their banks. A vast wild landscape, dotted by charming, thousand-year-old villages that fit perfectly in their natural surroundings, merging the unique flavors of history, culture, gastronomy and nature into a unique mix, attractive both to its inhabitants, as well as to its visitors from near and afar.

*Work in the Central Apennines started with preparing urgent measures for the conservation of the Marsican brown bear, with only some 50 animals left in the wild.*



➤ An artist's vision of the Central Apennines rewilding area.

## General progress

The Central Apennines rewilding area was officially announced as the sixth rewilding area in our portfolio at WILD10 in Salamanca (Spain) in October. An association called 'Rewilding Apennines' was established in Italy, completely dedicated to the rewilding of this area according to the long-term vision and 3-Year Action Plan agreed with Rewilding Europe.

A two-year partnership was signed with the Swiss-based Fondation Segré, starting 1 January 2014, receiving €238,000 for the period 2014–2015 to prepare and take urgent measures for the conservation of the Marsican brown bear. Since work has started by January 2014 we cannot yet report progress; instead, we explain the plans for the area.



➤ Golden eagle scavenging on red fox carcass.



➤ Marsican brown bear.



➤ Cyclists on a mountain road in Majella National Park.



➤ Vanilla orchid, endemic of the Apennines.



➤ Planning work and discussions around the map, Deli Saavedra, Wiet de Bruijn, Umberto Esposito, Ilko Bosman and Wouter Helmer.

## Plans for the area

The rewilding strategy for the first three-year period here aims at connecting the existing protected areas (Abruzzo, Lazio e Molise National Park and Sirente-Velino Regional Park) with corridors for large mammals, especially brown bear, red deer and wolf. The strategy also includes an increase of the wildlife populations.

One of the main goals is to improve the situation for the Marsican brown bear; this work will be carried out in three communities strategically located at the northern border of the Abruzzo National Park, which still is a home to many of the only about 50 remaining bears of this kind. Among the planned activities is a long-term lease of a critical area in order to eliminate existing problems with poisoning, poaching and transfer of disease from livestock.

This area is at the same time one of the best spots in the whole region to see bears, wolves, red deer, roe deer and wild boar. Rewilding Europe will help entrepreneurs to develop wildlife watching tourism for some of these species.

In the same area, a local organisation – Salviamo l’Orso – will be supported to reduce the risk for road traffic accidents with wildlife, by establishing speed reduction devices and warning signboards. We will also try to increase the social control of poisoning and poaching, with the cooperation of the local communities. A group of locally recruited “Bear Ambassadors” who will ensure the information flow between the local communities and the project, training landowners in the management of electric fences for the protection crops and properties, search for illegal snares, support the anti-poisoning patrols, collect reports of sightings and signs of bear presence, and manage a system of camera traps. Indeed, involvement and participation of the local community will be a key tool for success.

Rewilding Europe and Rewilding Apennines also aim to improve the situation for the vultures. Griffon vultures have been reintroduced to the Velino area and five small colonies now exist. To speed up the increase of breeding pairs

and colonies we will provide them with more easily available food near the colonies, and at the same time building state-of-the-art hides, especially conceived for vulture watching and photography, allowing economic revenue and self-sustainability. A network of feeding stations and watching places will be established in private or publicly owned sites. The huge Bearded vulture or Lammergeier has been missing for over a century in the Central Apennines and we will look at and promote the possibilities to reintroduce it to this area.

Rewilding Europe and Rewilding Apennines will also work with local administrations and hunters to create large “no-take zones”, a “Wilderness Megatrek” (a wilderness path crossing the rewilding area) will be created, and a common brand for all three villages (Gioia, Lecce and Ortona dei Marsi) will be developed and promoted where these stand out as bear-friendly municipalities. There will also be training of local guides and entrepreneurs in the needs of the wildlife watching tourism.



SOUTHERN CARPATHIANS

# A wilderness arc at the heart of Europe



## Setting

Like a huge green crescent, the Carpathians arch over an area of more than 20 million hectares, from the Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Hungary and Poland in the north and north-west, via Ukraine in the northeast, to Romania in the southeast and Serbia in southwest. At the southern end of the mountains in Romania, an initiative is underway to create one of Europe's largest wilderness landscapes south of the Arctic Circle. With a backbone of more than 1 million hectares of protected areas already in place, rich wildlife, large intact forests, a high concentration of biodiversity, un-fragmented landscapes, wild rivers, and large mosaic landscapes kept open by sustainable farming practices, there is a unique opportunity to realise this vision.

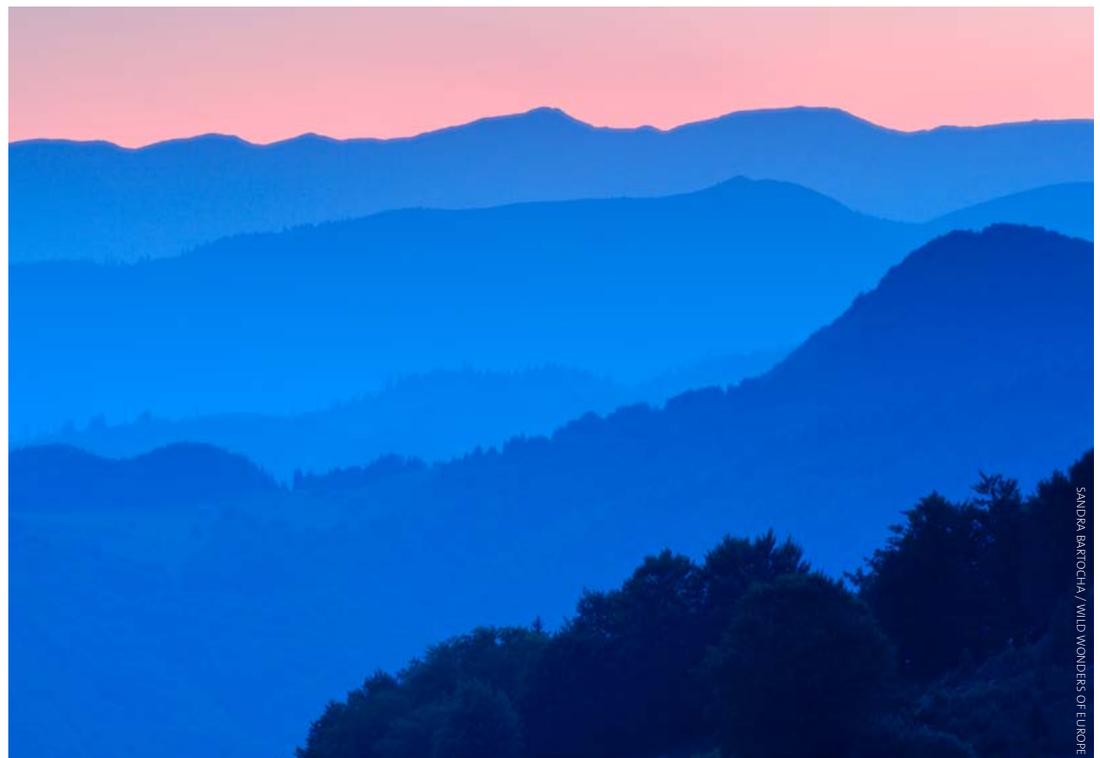
The starting point is in three areas – the Tarcu Mountains Natura 2000 Site, the Domogled-Valea Cernei National Park, and the Mehedinti Plateau Geopark, which together cover around 225,000 ha. Ranging from the 2,196 m peak of Mount Tarcu in the north, to the Danube River at 150 m in the south, the area covers a wide variety of ecosystems – alpine meadows and grasslands, old beech and fir forests, steep cliff formations, and undulating mosaic landscapes with open grasslands intersected by woodlands (with a mixture of deciduous tree species, including oak) closer to the Danube. With dramatic, steep cliffs, deep canyons, waterfalls and untamed smaller rivers, it is a very attractive part of Romania and the Carpathians.

LOCAL REWILDING PARTNERS:



TEAM LEADER:

Adrian Hagatis  
(Romania)



► Mountain dawn in the Southern Carpathians.

SANDRA BARTOCHA / WILD WONDERS OF EUROPE



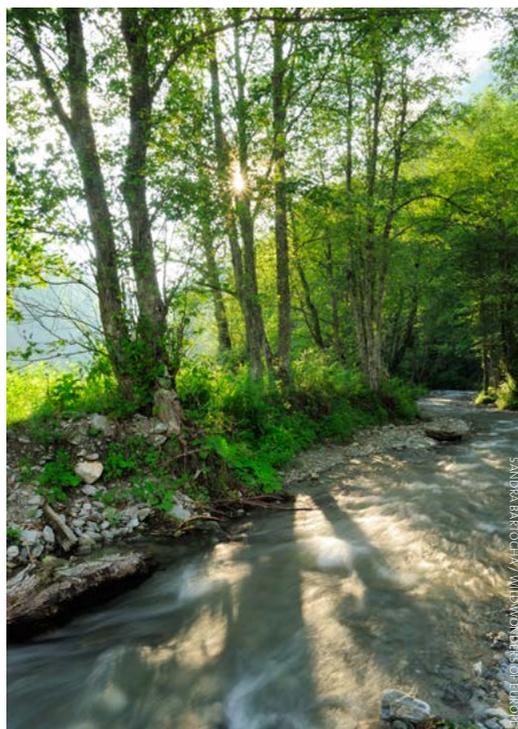
► An artist's vision of the Southern Carpathians rewilding area.



► Common juniper and common beech growing on pasture land.



► Wooden signpost for hiking trails.



► Ghimbavul Valley Gorge.

## 10-year vision

This unique area of old-growth forests, wild mountains and a mosaic of open and farmed landscapes has been established as one of the finest, wildest, largest, most well protected and famous wildlife and wilderness regions in Eastern Europe.

The main wildlife attractions are European bison, red deer, chamois, bear, wolf, lynx, wild boar, eagles and griffon vulture, owls and capercaillie. The large carnivores are seen as a normal part of the fauna and are accepted by the community members becoming attractions for the area, as well as other wildlife species.

In the core wilderness areas, natural ecological processes are allowed to a great extent regulate nature, with wildlife in fully natural densities and with all the original native wildlife species present. In these core areas, industrial usage of the landscapes has taken a clear step back, and man is not actively managing, neither landscape nor wildlife anymore.

The rewilding efforts are providing examples of new or additional ways to make a living here, based on the existence and the availability of the wild resources and creates new opportunities, attracting young and entrepreneurial people as well as many more visitors, contributing to increased incomes and new employment opportunities.

## General progress

The Southern Carpathians rewilding area is a partnership between WWF Danube Carpathian Offices in Bucharest and Braşov and Rewilding Europe. The partnership between the two organizations was reviewed and a new three-year agreement was signed.

The Southern Carpathians rewilding area in 2013 became the frontrunner in Rewilding Europe's reintroductions plans, as the bison reintroduction project is well advanced, with the first animals arriving to the area in May 2014.

The collaboration with the municipality of Armenis is a good example for other rewilding areas of how to work linking rewilding, local pride and improvement of the local economy, and the strength in having a major and a council so committed to the Rewilding Europe initiative.



› Man carrying edible tree mushrooms from common beech.



› Stuck car during a field visit to the Southern Carpathians.



› Wildlife advisor Joep van de Vlasakker (in the middle) with the Southern Carpathians team.

## Rewilding

- Preparation of the reintroduction of the bison in Armenis, with the fencing of a 120 hectares pre-release enclosure, the obtaining of suitable animals (from five different European countries) and permits, the contracting of two local rangers and the involvement of local stakeholders in future tourism business activities.
- An agreement was reached with the local community of Armenis (Tarcu Mountains) to use their communal grazing area for rewilding purposes (bison project). The rest of the area was provided by Caras-Severin and Teregova Forestry Departments.

## Enterprise

- Different tour operators, tour enterprises and local guesthouses were identified and contacted regarding the opportunity to develop a wildlife tourism product in Tarcu Mountains. The first products will be connected with the bison reintroduction.
- Other relevant non-tourism businesses that could be supported by the initiative were identified in the area.

## Communication

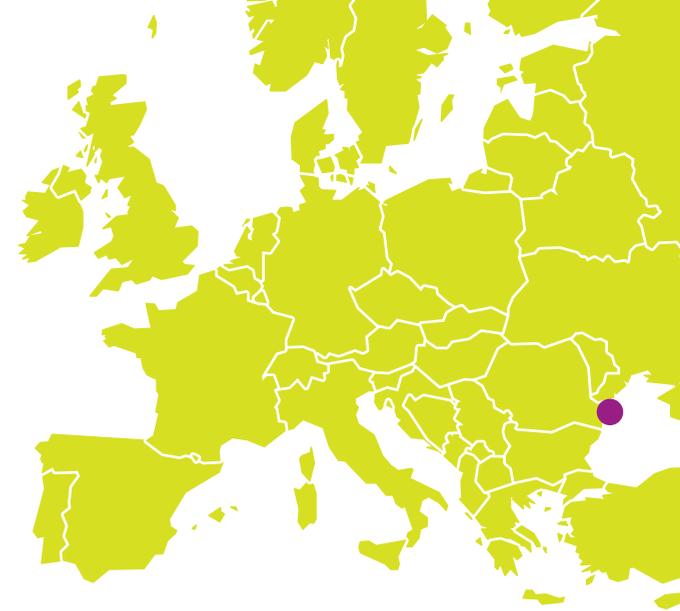
- A Facebook page (Rewilding Romania) became active, in Romanian and English, together with the Danube Delta. Regular postings also in LinkedIn.
- The preparations for the bison comeback and the involvement of the local community appeared already in many occasions in Romanian media: the national Romanian television (TVR, live on set), the public national broadcasting society (Radio Resita-Radio Romania Actualitati) and others.

*The Southern Carpathians became the frontrunner in Rewilding Europe's reintroduction plans for the European bison, with the first animals planned to arrive in the area in May 2014.*



DANUBE DELTA

# Europe's unrivalled wetland



## Setting

The Danube Delta on the border between Romania and Ukraine is outstanding in Europe – due to its size (over 600,000 ha), intact river dynamics, unexploited coastline (shaped by the Danube River and the Black Sea together), wide horizons and large-scale landscapes without significant infrastructure. It also has the largest reed beds in the world, in addition to millions of nesting and migrating birds, many of them rare and some even globally endangered. The unique Letea Forest mosaic savannah, situated in the Romanian section, is one of the few “primeval” forests of the country that has trees up to 700 years old. Through the designation as UNESCO Biosphere Reserves by both the Romanian and Ukrainian governments, with some relatively strictly protected core areas, the delta enjoys a high level of formal protection. Buffer areas and economic zones around these also provide opportunities for local developments without jeopardizing the natural values.

## 10-Year vision

The Danube Delta, the largest river delta wetland in Europe, has become one of the finest, wildest, best-protected and most famous wildlife areas of the whole continent.

The main wildlife attractions in the Danube Delta are red deer, fallow deer, beaver, golden jackal, wolf, European mink, wild horse, wild boar, pond terrapin and birds like white-tailed eagle, lesser spotted eagle, pelicans, herons, storks, cormorants, red-footed falcon and bee-eater. Three species of sturgeon are together with Danube salmon and Wels catfish some of

LOCAL REWILDING PARTNERS:



TEAM LEADER:

Alexandra Panait  
(Romania)



➤ An artist's vision of the Danube Delta rewilding area.



► Sunken boat.



► Beluga or European sturgeon, image shot in a large aquarium at Danube Delta Eco Tourism Museum Center, Tulcea, Romania.



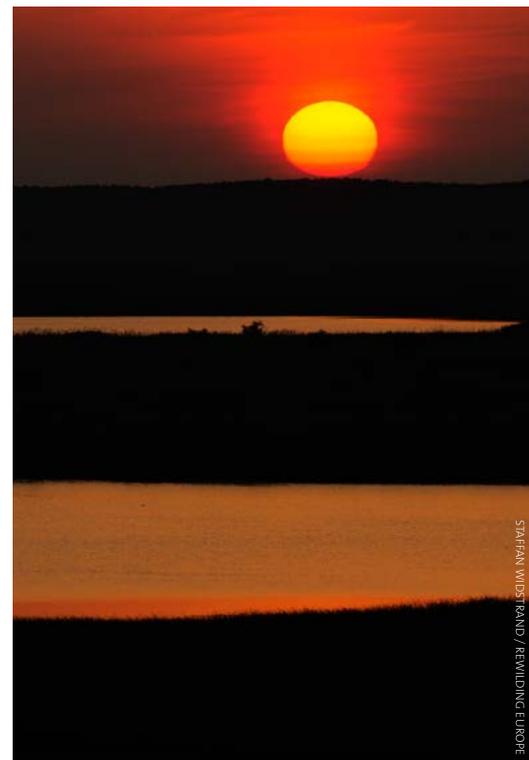
► Little Viorela Canareica from Letea village is happy to see pictures of her mother and relatives in our Annual Review 2012.

*We believe that the work with the local people in Sfantu Georghe will become an embryo for the future community conservancy here in the Danube Delta.*

the most important attractions among the fish species. Further explorations have been done to reintroduce other key stone wildlife species.

The ecological integrity of the Danube Delta ecosystem has been preserved, and at the same time vast areas of it have become much wilder than before. The Rewilding Europe initiative has firstly focused in the outer delta to achieve this. A number of large core rewilding areas that have no-take regimes, are connected through wildlife and wilderness corridors and surrounded by areas for different kinds and levels of sustainable use. In the core rewilding areas, nature is regulated to a great extent by natural ecological processes, with wildlife and fish in natural densities and with the original native species present. Some areas are run as community conservancies where local people have an important role in the sustainable management and development.

The rewilding process has also provided examples of new or additional ways to make a living, based on these wild resources. In combination with sales of products from the surrounding areas where people still use the landscape in traditional, sustainable ways, this is a vital part of the income for people in the region.



► Sunrise over the delta.



## General progress

The Danube Delta rewilding area is run as a partnership between WWF Danube Carpathian Office in Bucharest and Rewilding Europe. The partnership between the two organizations was reviewed and a new three-year agreement was signed.

During 2013, we have tried to focus in only one municipality (Sfantu Gheorghe) to be able to work more closely with the local stakeholders, providing guidance and support to start enterprise activities that can support rewilding. We believe that the work together with the local people here and their initiatives will become an embryo for the future Community Conservancy.

Although the feasibility study concluded positively about a reintroduction of beaver in Danube Delta, some important authorities still have some preclusion about this project, so we have put it on a hold and we will continue the discussions.

## Rewilding

- A feasibility study for the reintroduction of beaver was finished and results were presented to the National Academy of Sciences and the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority. The study was also presented at the Annual Zoological Congress of Romania in Bucharest.
- The feasibility study for the reintroduction of Red deer was finished, with further meetings proceeding in 2014 on the way forward.
- A Tauros breeding site was discussed with stockbreeders in Sfantu Gheorghe municipality, to be started in 2014, replacing progressively the less suitable cattle of the local breeds.

## Enterprise

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between “Farul Vechi” association and Rewilding Europe to work in Sfantu Gheorghe municipality on rewilding and local development of economic initiatives.

- Local entrepreneurs who are willing to associate in a small-scale tourism association have been identified, offering guidance for developing services.

## Communication

- Magnus Lundgren from Wild Wonders of Europe carried out an underwater photo mission, providing unusual images of the sub-aquatic life of the Delta, including the sturgeon.
- A Facebook page (Rewilding Romania) became active in Romanian and English, together with Southern Carpathians.
- Rewilding Europe was presented at Romania Fest 2013 in the delta’s capital Tulcea, taking also part in the “Alive Danube” debate where the Rewilding Europe vision was presented.



## EASTERN CARPATHIANS

# One of Europe's top wildlife areas



### Setting

Eastern Carpathians – the triangle area between Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine – is one of the wildest corners of Europe: vast, extensive forests with untamed rivers, low undulating mountains with scattered alpine meadows, and pockets of old-growth forests. Here one of Europe's largest wild-living populations of bison lives side by side with red deer, roe deer, wild boar, lynx, wolves, bears, beavers, and otters. Few other regions of the continent have more protected areas than the Eastern Carpathians – in total around half a million ha of national parks, biosphere reserves, forest reserves, landscape parks, nature parks and Natura 2000 sites.

### General progress

Although this rewilding area made a good start with promising initial results in 2012, we were not happy with progress made and decided to put the work on hold in this area. The Rewilding Europe Supervisory Board decided to review and restructure the Eastern Carpathians rewilding area, before moving forward. This relates in particular to ensure a number of critical factors are being met to create a good base for success. We have started to explore with existing and potential new partners how this can be done. Important elements are to find out what would be needed to move more quickly ahead with concrete rewilding work on the ground. Other key factors relate to securing support of local key stakeholders and partners, team structure, and the enterprise component.

The potential of this area to remain part of the portfolio is very high. A number of tangible

*Although we had to put the work in this area on hold, we believe the Eastern Carpathians potential for rewilding remains very high. We are working hard to re-open our initiative here again.*



► European bison.



➤ Still from the documentary "The Wolf Mountains".



➤ Traditional hay stacks and the church of Nova Sedlica, Slovakia.



➤ "The Wolf Mountains" is also available on DVD.



➤ Pygmy owl.

results have been achieved in this area already during the first year of operation. This was mainly linked to obtaining a good overview of the opportunities for rewilding in the Bieszczady region in Poland and the Poloniny area in and around the Poloniny National Park in Slovakia. A feasibility study showed that the Eastern Carpathians rewilding area provides huge rewilding opportunities on both the Slovakian and Polish sides. Also, there is a large local support within local communities and authorities for the initiative on the Slovak side, as shown by a poll held in 2012.

In November, meetings were held with the Bieszczady National Park Authority and the State Forest Department in the region. Rewilding Europe was presented and very positive discussions were held on how this rewilding area could be re-started again. Follow-up meetings are planned for 2014.

The stunning, new documentary "The Wolf Mountains – Where Nature Is Getting a Second Chance" (funded partly by Rewilding Europe) created huge interest: more than 700 people attended its Slovakian premiere in the town of Trenčín, and the discussions until midnight with the filmmakers. Later on, the film was screened in the small towns of Nitra, Košice and Veľké Uherce and so far, thousands of local people have seen it. Markiza TV, Slovakian Television and Slovakian Radio also featured the first screenings of the documentary, while several articles were published in weeks after the release. It was also launched internationally at the WILD10 congress in Salamanca.

A regional wolf-hunting ban was recently decided in eastern Slovakia, covering the Poloniny National Park and the Eastern Carpathians Landscape Park, in the "Wolf Mountains". This, a result from the lobbying by our local partners there, is the first positive step in the restoration and protection of the wolf population in the Eastern Carpathians, a keystone species in this transboundary landscape.



# Financial overview 2013

The financial information for 2013 as summarised in this Annual Review is based upon the consolidated financial statements for 2013. The detailed Rewilding Europe financial statements 2013 are available upon request.

PwC have audited our accounts and have provided an audit report on the financial statements 2013, on 25 March in Nijmegen, The Netherlands. The Supervisory Board of Rewilding Europe officially accepted the Auditors Report at its meeting on 25 March in Geneva, Switzerland.

## Background

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Dutch Law Book 2 Chapter 9 and the Guidelines of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board (RJ650). All amounts are in euro.

The consolidation accounts comprise the fully consolidated information for Stichting Rewilding Europe and its subsidiary in which Stichting Rewilding Europe has majority control (Rewilding Europe B.V.). The financial statements of the parent and its subsidiary are combined on a line by adding together like items of assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses. Inter-company transactions and intercompany balances, have been eliminated.

## Income

Rewilding Europe realised a total income in 2013 of € 1,791,180, which was slightly lower than in 2012, when the total income was € 1,866,111. This indicates Rewilding Europe has been successful in consolidating its fundraising efforts and to sustain its income level. The breakdown of income in comparison with the budget and last year is as follows:

	2013	Budget 2013	2012
Income from own fundraising	1,758,685	1,743,572	1,813,594
Other income	2,585	0	30
Interest and similar income	29,910	50,000	52,487
<b>Total income</b>	<b>1,791,180</b>	<b>1,793,572</b>	<b>1,866,111</b>

During the years 2011–2013, Rewilding Europe received a number of funds restricted to certain purposes. To some extent these funds are spent over a number of years and therefore are carried forward as part of an appropriated reserve. The balance of this appropriated reserve at year-end 2013 was € 1,104,926. This amount was not yet spent to the purposes set by the Board of Directors, and is expected to be fully spent in 2014. The detailed positions within the appropriated reserve is as follows:

Purpose	Fund	
Rewilding areas	Dutch Postcode Lottery and Adessium Foundation	€ 468,874
Rewilding Europe Capital	Dutch Postcode Lottery	€ 460,000
Outdoor exhibition	Dutch and Swedish Postcode Lotteries	€ 343
Enterprise & development	Adessium Foundation	€ 14,877
Wildlife recovery programme	Liberty Wildlife Fund, Swedish Postcode Lottery and Adessium Foundation	€ 112,332
Communication NPL	Dutch Postcode Lottery	€ 28,501
Evaluation	Adessium Foundation	€ 20,000
<b>Restricted carry forward</b>		<b>€ 1,104,926.49</b>

## Fundraising

As a young initiative, Rewilding Europe is completely dependent on donor income. In 2013, 98% of funds came from own fundraising, i.e. donor income. In order to establish a level of funding security on which Rewilding Europe can budget with confidence and with a balanced mix of funding sources, Rewilding Europe has developed a fundraising strategy. This strategy works to a minimum targeted income of 2.5 million per year as of 2014 to cover both central level costs and rewilding area costs, for a 10 year period, as per the objectives of the initiative.

During 2013, a new funding application has been submitted to Swiss based Fondation Segré, to further strengthen the financial position of the initiative. Next to our on-going fundraising efforts, we have also continued to explore and approach private individuals, companies, impact investors and EU funding possibilities.

## Expenses

### Overall expenses

In 2013, Rewilding Europe spent € 1,655,286 on its activities, which amounts to 61% of the originally budgeted expenses. The main reason for this lower expenditure was that in 2013 the first term of agreements with the first rewilding areas expired. We took this opportunity to review all rewilding areas carefully and adjust where necessary. This took considerable time in analysis and re-planning, which has led to late agreement and signing of new contracts. In addition, the Eastern Carpathians area was put on hold leading to a lower expense than planned for. On the contrary, we started the inception of the Central Apennines rewilding area, which involved a modest amount in start-up costs. The 2013 expenditure is broken down into the following categories, which are explained further below:

	2013 actual	2013 budget	2012 actual
Rewilding area allocations	300,447	810,269	532,584
Rewilding activities	376,077	615,298	194,380
Communication & marketing activities	375,228	376,679	296,337
Enterprise & development	215,557	269,352	187,200
Management & administration	300,462	490,567	301,648
Trainings and seminars	48,230	94,800	51,992
Travel costs	39,054	58,270	51,138
Interest and similar expenses	231	6,000	0
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>1,655,286</b>	<b>2,715,235</b>	<b>1,615,279</b>

### Rewilding area allocations

During 2013, five rewilding areas were formally contracted for a new period (Phase II). These included four of the five first areas (except Eastern Carpathians) and the Central Apennines as a new area. All new agreements are based on detailed proposals, work plans and budgets. In total, the rewilding area expenses in 2013 amounted at € 300,447, taking 18% of the overall expenses. The table below shows the distribution of expenses for the six rewilding areas. The year 2012 is also shown in this table, as Phase I commitments were partly running across the year-end. The achieved results of each of the areas are explained on page 32–55 of this Annual Review.

	2013	2012
Western Iberia	24,469	174,342
Velebit	55,268	161,811
Southern Carpathians	100,354	109,968
Eastern Carpathians	0	81,463
Danube Delta	105,556	5,000
Central Apennines	14,800	0
	<b>300,447</b>	<b>532,584</b>

### Centrally led initiatives and activities

In 2013, we continued to work and started a number of new overarching initiatives at the central level that are core to our work and instrumental to the success of the rewilding areas. These centrally led initiatives relate to rewilding, enterprise development, marketing and communication.

The total expenses for this work were € 966,862 and equated to 58% of the overall expenses. The results of these centrally led initiatives and activities are explained on page 12–31 of this Annual Review. The main centrally led initiatives for each of the components are:

*Rewilding:* apart from daily technical support and back stopping to the rewilding areas, this mainly includes the development of the Wildlife Recovery Programme (which includes the Bison Rewilding Action Plan, the Tauros Programme and other wildlife initiatives) and the European Wildlife Bank.

*Enterprise development:* apart from providing substantial support to build up the enterprise component to the rewilding area teams, this includes the development of Rewilding Europe Capital, the European Safari Company, the scoping and development of local enterprises, and support to the development of Community Conservation Areas.

*Communication and marketing:* apart from general support to the rewilding teams on communication, this includes general mass media work, the Wild Wonders of Europe outdoor exhibition in Stockholm, the Rewilding Europe Travel Club, photographic assignments to rewilding areas and preparations for a film production on Rewilding Europe.

### Management and administration

Expenses for management and administration only include those activities that are purely meant for running the initiative at a central level: setting up and managing the organisation, finance and operations, board costs, office costs, etc. The total expenses for management and administration were €300,462, which equates to 18% of the overall expenses.

### Other costs

The other costs that were not covered in the sections above consisted of training and seminars; this consisted of cost for training in the rewilding areas and the representation of Rewilding Europe at external events, such as Wild10 in Salamanca in October 2013. The reported travel costs are all travel expenses made dedicated to the rewilding areas. All management related travel costs are included in the management and administration section.

### Overall distribution of expenses

The Rewilding Europe initiative works both at a central and rewilding area level to achieve the objectives of the foundation. Most of the work done at the central level however is in support of the rewilding areas, as shown in this Annual Review. The overall distribution of expenses shows that 82% of the funding is used in support of the core objectives of the foundation; 18% is used for general management and administration of the initiative. The chart of total distribution is represented on the following page.

## Consolidated statement of income and expenses for the year 2013

	2013		Budget 2013		2012	
	€	€	€	€	€	€
Income from own fundraising		1,758,685		1,743,572		1,813,624
Other income		2,585		0		30
Interest and similar income		29,910		50,000		52,487
<b>Total income</b>		<b>1,791,180</b>		<b>1,793,572</b>		<b>1,866,111</b>
Rewilding area allocations		300,447		810,269		532,584
Rewilding activities		376,077		615,298		194,380
Communication & marketing activities		375,228		376,679		296,337
Enterprise & development		215,557		269,352		187,200
Management & administration		300,462		490,567		301,648
Training and seminars		48,230		94,800		51,992
Travel costs		39,054		58,270		51,138
Interest and similar expenses		231		6,000		0
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>1,655,286</b>		<b>2,715,235</b>		<b>1,615,279</b>
<b>Net income and expenses</b>		<b>135,894</b>		<b>-921,663</b>		<b>250,832</b>

### NET INCOME AND EXPENSES OF €135,894:

	€
Withdrawn from: Appropriated reserve	-197,354
Assigned to: Other reserve	333,248
<b>Total</b>	<b>135,894</b>

## Consolidated balance sheet as at 31 December 2013

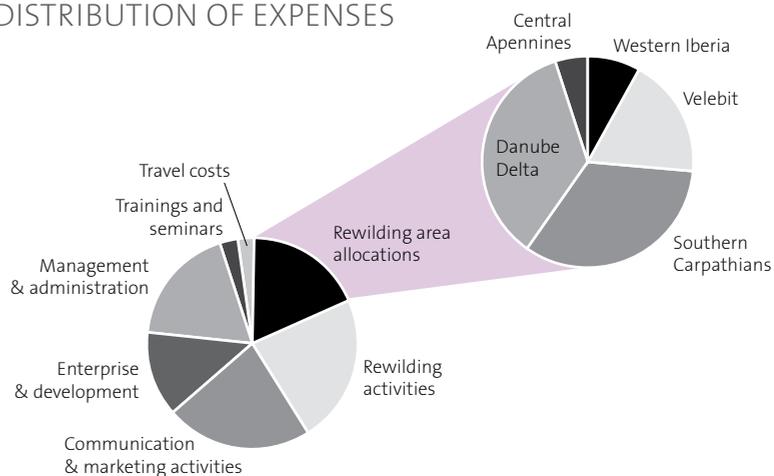
(after appropriation of net income and expenses)

ASSETS	31-12-2013		31-12-2012	
	€	€	€	€
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
Tangible fixed assets		3,604		0
Financial fixed assets		65,418		0
<b>Current assets</b>				
Receivables				
Debtors		525		2,599
Other receivables and accrued assets		442,941		887,905
		443,466		890,504
Cash and banks		1,056,692		555,009
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>1,569,180</b>		<b>1,445,513</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>Reserves</b>		1,344,966		1,209,073
<b>Short-term liabilities</b>				
Amounts owed to credit institutions		0		5
Creditors		109,170		55,141
Other liabilities and accrued expenses		115,044		181,294
		224,214		236,440
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>1,569,180</b>		<b>1,445,513</b>

## Reserves

	Appropriated reserve	Other reserve	Total
	€	€	€
Balance as at 1 January 2013	1,302,281	-93,209	1,209,072
Appropriated of income and expenses	-197,354	333,248	135,894
<b>Balance as at 31 December 2013</b>	<b>1,104,926</b>	<b>240,039</b>	<b>1,344,965</b>

## DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENSES



## THE REWILDING EUROPE TEAM

In 2013, the entire Rewilding Europe Team had no less than 47 people involved in the initiative: Supervisory Board (3), Special Advisors (3), Senior Management Team (6, of which 2 persons are executive board members), Central Team members (5) and rewilding team members (25). All in all, Rewilding Europe is working from 13 different European countries. An overview of all the Rewilding Europe team members during 2013 is presented below.

### SUPERVISORY BOARD



**Wiet de Bruijn**  
chairman  
(The Netherlands)



**Pierre-Andre Mourgue d'Algue**  
member  
(Switzerland)



**Professor Henrique M. Pereira**  
member  
(Portugal)

### SPECIAL ADVISORS



**Princess Laurentien van Oranje**  
(The Netherlands)



**Dr Claude Martin**  
(Switzerland)



**Odile Rodríguez de la Fuente**  
(Spain)

### SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM



**Frans Schepers**  
Managing Director  
(The Netherlands)\*



**Ilko Bosman**  
Finance & Operations Director  
(The Netherlands)\*



**Staffan Widstrand**  
Marketing & Communications Director  
(Sweden)



**Woutier Helmer**  
Rewilding Director  
(The Netherlands)



**Neil Birnie**  
Enterprise Director  
(United Kingdom)



**Deli Saavedra**  
Regional Manager  
(Spain)

\*Executive Directors

### CENTRAL TEAM

**Violeta Giurgi**  
Finance & Administration Manager  
(The Netherlands)

**Kristjan Jung**  
Communications Manager  
(Estonia)

**Iva Tontcheva**  
Communications Manager  
(Bulgaria)

**Matthew McLuckie**  
Enterprise Development Manager  
(United Kingdom)

**Yvonne Kemp**  
Coordinator European Rewilding Network  
(The Netherlands)

### WESTERN IBERIA

**Carlos Sanchez**  
Team Leader  
(Spain)

**Diego Benito**  
Rewilding officer  
(Spain)

**Carlota Pérez Ruiz**  
Communications officer  
(Spain)

**João Quadrado**  
Project coordinator  
(Portugal)

**Alice Gama**  
Communications officer  
(Portugal)

**Antonio Monteiro**  
Project coordinator  
(Portugal)

**Barbara Pais**  
Communications Officer  
(Portugal)

### VELEBIT

**Davor Krmpotic**  
Team Leader  
(Croatia)

*Until 1 July 2013:*

**Stella Satalic**  
Project coordinator  
(Croatia)

**Ana Šteler**  
Communications officer  
(Croatia)

**Deni Porej**  
Conservation director  
(Serbia)

**Andrea Stefan**  
Policy officer  
(Croatia)

### DANUBE DELTA

**Alexandra Panait**  
Team Leader  
(Romania)

**Cristian Tetelea**  
Project coordinator  
(Romania)

**Cristian Mititelu**  
Rewilding officer  
(Romania)

**Ioana Cenusă**  
Communications officer  
(Romania)

### SOUTHERN CARPATHIANS

**Adrian Hagatis**  
Team Leader  
(Romania)

**Anca Georgescu**  
Communications officer  
(Romania)

**Alexandru Bulacu**  
Rewilding officer  
(Romania)

**Adrian Grancea**  
Rewilding Officer  
(Romania)

**Marius Berchi**  
Rewilding Officer  
(Romania)

**Cosmina Raescu**  
Rewilding Officer  
(Romania)

### CENTRAL APENNINES

**Alberto Zocchi**  
Team Leader  
(Italy)

**Bruno D'Amicis**  
Communications officer  
(Italy)

**Manuela Osmi**  
Fundraising and administration  
(Italy)

### EXTERNAL ADVISORS

**Magnus Sylvén**  
Advisor Rewilding  
(Switzerland)

**Giles Davies**  
Advisor Business  
(France)

**Joep van de Vlasakker**  
Advisor Wildlife  
(Belgium)

**Barbara Mayer**  
(Hungary)

**Tim Jones**  
(United Kingdom)

**Derek de la Harpe**  
(South Africa)

**Josep Oriol**  
(Kenya)

**Annette Mertens**  
(Italy)



SUPPORT

# How can you become engaged in Rewilding Europe?

Rewilding Europe is an ambitious initiative and for reaching its full potential, we are looking for a wide support and partnerships with conservation organizations, public or private institutions, foundations, companies and private individuals to help us make Europe a wilder place.

We therefore welcome contributions of all kinds – pro-bono work, joint PR and marketing efforts, financial investment in conservation enterprises, donations, grants, media coverage, presentation possibilities at conferences and seminars, land donations, practical services, sponsorships and business partnerships.

Maybe you yourself or your organization or company would be interested? If you have the desire to make a difference for wildlife, wild nature and wilderness in Europe, we would really like to talk to you about it. Rewilding Europe can offer you many different possibilities in which to do this, including becoming personally involved in a project, if you would like to. Here we present different options with an increasing support level.

## **Support our different fundraising initiatives**

You can always donate any amount, small or larger, to support our work through [www.rewildingeurope.com/support/](http://www.rewildingeurope.com/support/). You are most welcome!



› Poet's daffodil.

Starting in 2014, Rewilding Europe will put up a series of activities that can be crowd-funded by a very wide audience. These will be posted on our website and on our Facebook page.

#### Become a regular donor

These are primarily corporate entities and individuals who are prepared to donate €1,000 or more on an annual basis to our conservation work, typically focused on (activities in) one of our projects.

#### Become a major donor

Major donors to Rewilding Europe are individuals, foundations or NGOs who have the means to engage with us at a substantial level. Funding contributions start from €10,000 a year, and make a substantial difference to one of our projects, or our portfolio in general, or a specific activity or component of Rewilding Europe.

#### Become a strategic partner

Organizations, public or private institutions, foundations, companies and private individuals which have the ability and desire to make a substantial and long-term impact on a wilder Europe, are invited to become a strategic partner. Strategic partners believe in our approach and their contributions have a substantial and long-lasting impact on the success of Rewilding Europe. Funding contributions from strategic partners typically exceed €100,000 per year.

#### Invest in rewilding enterprises

All across our rewilding areas, Rewilding Europe is working to support the development of rewilding enterprises – conservation-minded businesses that in one way or the other support rewilding. We are identifying the relevant local



› Dinner in the bush – a local tourism concept for groups.

entrepreneurs and businesses and welcome any opportunity to introduce them to potential investors or business partners.

For this purpose, we have launched 'Rewilding Europe Capital' (phase I) which allows private individuals, companies and environmentally minded investors to initially co-invest alongside this mechanism in a wide range of conservation-based businesses across our project areas and indeed across Europe. This, we hope, will serve as a precursor to a larger and more conventional conservation investment fund model as the initiative builds momentum and investment track record. If you are interested in these opportunities, we invite you to contact us for more details.

#### Contribute to the European Wildlife Bank

Rewilding Europe is setting up a European Wildlife Bank, to boost the numbers of wildlife in the rewilding areas, in particular large herbivores such as red deer, European bison, wild horses and wild bovines. This is a very innovative mechanism that has been proven to work already at national levels and will now be scaled up to the European level. You can join us in the European Wildlife Bank, by supporting the purchase, translocation or management of the animals.

#### Donation details

You can choose to donate through the tax-efficient funding structures that have been set up for Rewilding Europe in the Netherlands, as a not-for-profit foundation. For further information on donations to Rewilding Europe, you are welcome to contact us. We will do everything we can to match your support with your ideas and desires.



› Newly released European bison in the Tarcu Mountains.

#### What can Rewilding Europe offer you?

- As an important supporter of Rewilding Europe, you are invited to visit any of the rewilding projects and we would be delighted to show you the rewilding work done on the ground.
- Depending on your level of contribution, you will also be invited to participate in exciting conservation activities, such as the translocation of animals, research work or European wildlife and wilderness safaris.
- As a strategic partner, you will be invited to an annual gathering of like-minded individuals where we will provide you with insights into conservation issues across Europe.
- We will offer individuals or companies who make a significant contribution, the opportunity to join us on an inspiring experience in one of our rewilding areas.
- Regular updates on progress from the rewilding projects and invitations to Rewilding Europe activities.

# Words of thanks

These first years of developing Rewilding Europe have been both very exciting and at times also challenging. Many organisations and individuals provided us with indispensable support in 2013, for which we are truly grateful. First of all, our strategic and initiating partners were crucial to help Rewilding Europe further develop in this second full year of existence. But we are also very grateful to all other organisations and people we worked with over the last year and who helped us to move forward, and among them in particular our funding partners. We very much appreciate your firm and generous support and look forward to continue working with all of you on the rewilding of Europe.

## Initiating Partners

WWF Netherlands  
ARK Nature  
Wild Wonders of Europe  
Conservation Capital

## Funding partners

Dutch Postcode Lottery  
Adessium Foundation  
Svenska Postkod Stiftelsen  
Liberty Wildlife Fund  
Fondation Segré  
Elisabeth Mathilde Stichting  
WWF Netherlands  
ARK Nature

## Advisors

Egon Zehnder – Rudolf Jordaan  
Hekkelman Advocaten &  
Notarissen – Henk Oosterdijk  
PWC – Jochem Kijftenbelt, Bram  
Verhoeven, Martin van Dam  
Fa. Fair Focus – Christiaan  
Kraaijenhagen  
HayGroup – Bas van der Linden  
ARBOR Advocaten - Bas Westerhout  
Remmers Financieel Centrum –  
Frank Remmers  
UNIT4 – Edo-Jan Meijer  
Annette Mertens (Italy)

## Photographers

Bruno d'Amicis (Italy)  
Juan Carlos Muños Robredo (Spain)  
Grzegorz Lesniewski (Poland)  
Florian Möllers (Germany)  
Magnus Lundgren (Sweden)  
Ann Dahlberg (Sweden)

## Conservation partners & relations

WILD Foundation – Vance Martin,  
Harvey Locke, Karl Wagner,  
Magnus Sylvén, Mar Ramírez,  
María Feduchi  
Taurus Foundation – Ronald  
Goderie, Paul Jans  
Wild Europe Initiative – Toby  
Aykroyd  
Vulture Conservation Foundation –  
Jose Tavares  
Large Carnivore Initiative Europe –  
Luigi Boitani  
Natuurdoeners – Iris de Boer,  
Merijn Biemans, Stefan Sand  
American Prairie Reserve – Dick  
Dolan  
Tusk Trust – Charlie Mayhew  
African Parks Network – Peter  
Fearnhead

## European Parliament

Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy

## Business relations

Wilderness Safaris – Derek de la  
Harpe, Keith Vincent  
LIFE Exhibitions – Søren Rud, Stine  
Norden-Trier  
Casa Cisterna – Ana Berliner  
Linden Tree Retreat & Ranc –  
Bozidar Bruce Yerkovich  
Neuw Ventures SA – Keith Tuffley  
Roodbont Publishers – Ton van  
Schie  
DJEnvironmental – Tim Jones  
Wild Business – Chris Sandom

## Partners in Rewilding Europe Travel Club during 2012

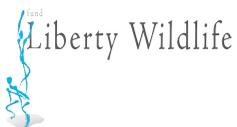
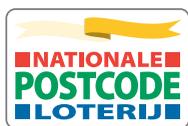
Articmedia, Finland  
Birding in Spain, Spain  
Larsbo Gärd, Sweden  
Neophron Tours, Bulgaria  
Norway Nature, Norway  
Vargas Wilderness Lodge, Sweden  
Aurora Safari Camp, Sweden  
Gabi Tour, Bulgaria  
Wild Sweden, Sweden  
EcoTours Wildlife Holidays,  
Hungary  
Linden Tree Ranch & Trails, Croatia  
Nutti Sámi Siida, Sweden  
Fundación Naturaleza Y Hombre,  
Spain  
Associação Transumancia e

Natureza (Portugal)  
Ibis Tours, Romania  
Wild Wolf Experience, Spain  
Estonian Nature Tours, Estonia  
Nature Travel, Bulgaria  
Nature's Best, Sweden  
STF, Svenska Turistföreningen,  
Sweden  
Focus on Mediterranean Wildlife,  
Spain

## Scientific partners

Zoological Society of London –  
Jonathan Baillie, Stefanie Deinet,  
Monika Böhm, Louise McRea  
Aarhus University – Jens-Christian  
Svenning  
Wageningen University – Judith  
Jobse, Arjaan Pellis, René van der  
Duim  
BirdLife International – Richard  
Grimmett, Ian Burfield,  
Christina Ieronymidou  
European Bird Census Committee –  
Ruud Foppen  
University of Lisbon – Laetitia  
Navarro  
Swedish University of Agricultural  
Sciences – Mats Niklasson

## FUNDING PARTNERS



## REWILDING PARTNERS



## LOCAL CONSERVATION PARTNERS



# Rewilding Europe®

Making Europe a wilder place

## Rewilding Europe is working to make Europe a wilder Place

With much more space for wildlife, wilderness and natural processes. Bringing back the variety of life for all of us to enjoy, and exploring new ways for people to earn a fair living from the wild.

Any initiative aiming to rewild a continent will need a lot of support. We need your support in this effort. We would love if you, in one way or another, would like to become part of this groundbreaking initiative.

You are invited to be a part of Making Europe a Wilder Place!

[www.rewildingeurope.com](http://www.rewildingeurope.com)

Rewilding Europe • Toernooiveld 1, 6525 ED Nijmegen, The Netherlands • [info@rewildingeurope.com](mailto:info@rewildingeurope.com)

