



Rewilding Europe consultancy opportunity 'Wilder Parks'

Background

Rewilding Europe wants to make Europe a wilder place, with more space for wildlife and natural processes. We believe that wild nature should be valued and treated as an essential element of a prosperous and healthy society. It is our goal to see rewilding being practised at scale across Europe.

Rewilding Europe achieves its goals by assuming two distinct roles. Firstly, it directly demonstrates the effectiveness of rewilding in ten diverse landscapes across Europe. Secondly, it actively encourages and supports others to adopt rewilding practices by helping them rewild their own landscapes or jurisdictions. This collaborative approach upscales the reach and impact of Rewilding Europe's efforts.

Within the EU alone, more than 1 million km² are designated as protected areas, with more protected areas being developed and announced. This offers a tremendous opportunity to achieve landscape-level impacts for nature, climate and people through rewilding. Many protected area managers - both public and private - are already embracing the opportunity of nature recovery to progress their commitments under EU Biodiversity Strategy and Framework, the Global Biodiversity Framework, and relevant SDGs, among others.

Rewilding Europe therefore plans to support protected areas throughout Europe to take rewilding action, offering guidance, resources and expertise to help nature recover. Our strategy is to work with those who are already on this path, or are close to as the front-runner protected areas in Europe. We call them 'Wilder Parks'.

This consultancy assignment plays a critical role in helping Rewilding Europe and European protected area managers achieve our shared ambitions to create such Wilder Parks.

Assignment

The ability of protected areas to engage in rewilding is affected by existing and emerging opportunities, legislation, governance structures, and the existing plans and commitments of each protected area. These criteria, and others, should be articulated fully and assessed for the potential front-runner parks. The selected consultant for this assignment will:

1. Identify the strongest candidates for Rewilding Europe to engage with as front-runner protected area partners (Wilder Parks), based on an existing long-list, using desk research.
2. Assess the feasibility of each candidate, including visiting suitable parks and in-person consultations, to create a short list of potential front-runner Wilder Parks.
3. Present recommendations to Rewilding Europe on the next phase, including how Rewilding Europe and others could engage and support, to make it operational.
4. Ensure proper documentation of the process, criteria and learning to inform future phases.

Deliverables

The consultant shall deliver:

1. Reasoned list of protected areas with which Rewilding Europe can engage, drawing from the long-list provided, and with additional guidance from Rewilding Europe on our overarching strategy, aims and ambitions.
2. Feasibility reports and priority actions for the most promising front-runner Wilder Parks.
3. Written recommendations on operationalising the next phase, considering fundraising and resourcing needs and opportunities for Rewilding Europe and other organisations to engage and support.
4. Clear and complete documentation of the assignment, including (minimum) criteria and process followed, contacts, and learning.
5. A final report including all these elements.

These deliverables would ideally lead to phase 2, supporting the selected protected areas with practical rewilding actions, preferably with the involvement of the initial consultant. The consultant should therefore also indicate their interest, availability and capacity to engage in this second stage in their Expression of Interest.

Qualifications and expertise

The consultant shall bring the following qualifications and expertise:

- Direct experience in managing protected areas, preferably in Europe.
- In-depth knowledge of international guidance and best practices for protected area management, monitoring and assessment.
- Good knowledge of protected areas and their management in Europe, with strong professional networks to these.
- Experience of developing replicable tools, systems and/ or processes through consultations.
- Good understanding of rewilding and the European context.

We anticipate that this consultancy will be for an individual or small team. The consultancy requires travel within Europe, and you should be able to independently reach the potential protected areas. Multiple European languages will be considered an advantage but are not required.

Proposal and Deadline

Based on the above information, the consultant is expected to submit a proposal including an overall description of the task, approach, deliverables, timeline, budget, overview of the experience of the consultant and team credentials.

The deadline for the proposal is 18:00 CET on 22 September 2023. Proposals should be sent via email to info@rewildingeurope.com with 'Wilder Parks Consultant' in the subject.

Online meetings for further information and discussions ahead of the proposal deadline may be organised, based on the interest shown.

Ideally, this assignment will be completed before the end of June 2024.