



Rewilding Europe consultancy opportunity

Rewilding and the Common Agricultural Policy

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.

Rewilding Europe recognises that one of the policies that most affects land use in Europe is the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Focused on food security and availability, more recent iterations of the CAP also aim to address biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes.

Despite reforms initiated in April 2024, there is still scope for those who are piloting rewilding in an agricultural context to benefit from CAP subsidies (e.g. under Article 6(1)(f)). Rewilding activities that may be relevant in this context include natural grazing (e.g. with rare livestock breeds), peatland and wetland rewetting, setting aside agricultural land for nature, and so-called carbon farming under the upcoming EU Carbon Removal Certification Framework.

This consultancy assignment plays a critical role in helping Rewilding Europe and many other rewilding practitioners across Europe to understand the opportunities offered by the CAP to further rewilding in an agricultural context in Europe.

Assignment

Rewilding Europe seeks support from a consultant with detailed and up-to-date knowledge of the CAP to evaluate the opportunity for rewilding entities and/or their partners to claim CAP subsidies for their rewilding activities. The focus is on nine countries: Germany, Poland, France, Italy, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Spain and Portugal, at the relevant national or sub-national level (such as in German federal states).

The selected consultant for this assignment will use their expert knowledge of the CAP to research and provide answers to the following questions:

1. Which of the relevant Member States or federal governments have provision for subsidies related to the rewilding activities as listed above?
2. What factors may qualify for additional payments (e.g. rare breeds, Natura 2000 grazed areas, etc.)?
3. What registrations are required in each country in order for a rewilding entity to be able to claim the relevant subsidies, and what is the process to complete such registration?
4. Once the necessary registrations are achieved, what are the steps to be taken to apply for relevant subsidy payments?
5. Which local organisations or service providers can assist rewilding entities successfully in completing both the registration process and the subsidy payment application?

Rewilding Europe will provide the consultant with information on the relevant rewilding entities, including current rewilding actions and future plans.

Deliverables

Containing information for each of the countries listed above (or appropriate sub-national level), the consultant shall deliver:

1. List of relevant subsidies available and their values, relevant to the rewilding activities in each country.
2. Recommendations on the registration and any other legal requirements necessary to enable subsidies to be claimed.
3. An outline of the process for applying for these subsidies.
4. List of potential local service providers to help claim subsidies.
5. 2-3 case studies where rewilding (or similar) organisations have successfully claimed CAP subsidies to support their nature conservation or restoration objectives.
6. A final report including all these elements and recommended actions for Rewilding Europe to obtain appropriate subsidies.

Qualifications and expertise

The consultant shall bring the following qualifications and expertise:

- Expert knowledge of the Common Agricultural Policy
- In-depth knowledge of how the CAP relates to conservation in general, and rewilding specifically
- Proven experience of interpreting the CAP or another EU policy for use by practitioner organisations, ideally through consultations.
- Good understanding of rewilding in the European context.

We anticipate that this consultancy will be for an individual or small team and that this assignment will require approximately 25-30 days.

We anticipate that the work will be done remotely and be desk based. Rewilding Europe expects the consultant to attend a series of online meetings: onboarding and orientation meeting, at project milestones; to present draft findings; to present final documents.

Rewilding Europe offers this opportunity with an immediate start. We anticipate work begins in August 2024.

Proposal and Deadline

Based on the above information, the consultant is expected to submit a 2-3 page proposal (including an overall description of the task, planned approach, deliverables, timeline, budget) and CV with an overview of the experience of the consultant. We would also value an example of relevant previous work (such as analysis or research on the applicability of a specific law or policy to support the implementation of an environmental objective).

The deadline for the proposal is 18:00 CET on 15 July 2024. Proposals should be sent via email to hr@rewildingeuropa.com with 'CAP Consultant' in the subject.

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted by the end of July to present their proposal and discuss the opportunity.

The legal identity of the selected consultant will be verified prior to contracting.