

Rewilding Apennines



VOLUNTEER WORK PROGRAMME INFORMATION



We would like to welcome you to the **Volunteering Programme** for our project in the Central Apennines. Please note that this is not a paid position. You will find below a general programme which may vary according to weather conditions and locations, and agreements with local institutions – especially nature reserves and national parks – regarding some specific activities.

We welcome interns and volunteers ideally for a period of at least one or two months, in the period February to mid-December, possibly arriving the first week of the month.

We are flexible with dates: if you have different requirement or questions regarding your date of arrival, or the amount of time you would like to spend here, please contact us.

The initiative includes the creation of **Bear Smart Communities** (BSCs) in the home range of the Marsican brown bear (*Ursus arctos marsicanus*, Altobello 1921) and a **Bear Fund** to finance them. This is an ambitious goal and we rely on your skills, motivation and abilities to achieve it.



What is a Bear Smart Community?

The **Bear Smart Community** initiative consists of a set of proactive conservation measures to **prevent conflicts between humans and bears** and involve and educate local communities on how to coexist with bears, especially outside the protected areas and in the ecological corridors.

This initiative is in progress in the area of Pettorano sul Gizio and Rocca Pia and received a grant from IBA (International Association for Bear Research and Management) in the years 2015-2017 in order to start a pilot project. A similar initiative has been replicated in Alto Molise since 2018 and Valle Roveto–Ernici since 2019.

Why do we believe in Bear Smart Communities?

Conflicts with humans occur more often in areas that bears are gradually recolonising. Scientists agree that the conservation of this critically endangered brown bear population is strictly dependent on its ability to **spread into suitable territories**. BSCs are also facilitating this natural process.

REQUIREMENTS

- Be comfortable with walking/hiking in the mountains
- Be comfortable with working and living with other volunteers
- Have a VALID TETANUS VACCINATION (mandatory)

Monitoring activities

- Camera trap management (systematic and random wildlife monitoring) and analysis.
- Study of **human-bear relationship**.
- **Monitor wildlife species** in the study areas (Marsican bear, Apennine wolf, European wildcat, Griffon vultures, Apennine chamois etc.) and use data collection apps.
- **Wildlife observations.**



Coexistence and environmental restoration



- Construction and maintenance of electric fences.
- Set up road reflectors, road signs and delineators and clean underpasses for road ecology purposes.
- Remove unused barbed wire and waste from the natural environment.
- Verify the efficiency of bear-proof waste bins.
- Prune wild or abandoned fruit trees outside the urban centres to preserve and increase food sources for bears.

All these activities are supported by tutors who are able to deliver theory and practice to the participants.



Communication

- Write or review articles for the organisation's communication.
- Organise public events and fundraising initiatives.
- Help in writing pages on social networks regarding the traineeship activities.
- Sharing stories from the field with your own photos and videos

Enterprise

- Support in making a BSCs' Landscape Business Plan.
- Help in any fundraising initiatives.
- Help to find potential sponsors or funding opportunities (i.e., writing projects to be funded).

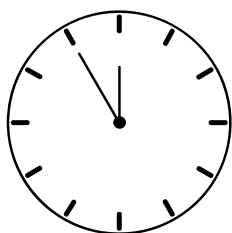


Training & Learning by doing

- GPS elementary course.
- Cartography course.
- Advance wildlife monitoring. techniques (trail camera setting and management).
- Observation with binoculars or telescopes.
- Identification of signs of wildlife presence and collection for genetic analysis etc.

What you will learn

- Knowledge of the best practices of **wildlife management** (especially in mitigating conflicts between humans and large carnivores).
- Skills and competences in **wildlife monitoring**.
- Knowledge, skills and competences in the installation of **electric fences** and maintenance.
- Skills and competences in the use of **GPS**.
- **Road ecology techniques** for the mitigation of wildlife-vehicle collisions.
- Skills and competences in **data collection** and processing.
- Skills and competences in **dissemination** of bear smart community best practices.
- Skills in the organisation of **events** and activities to raise local people's environmental awareness.
- Skills and competences in the **identification of botanical and faunal species**.
- Knowledge of (basic) **Italian language**, culture and traditions.



We ask a report at the end of every week. The volunteers will report the actions performed and their effectiveness to the volunteer supervisor.

Number of traineeship hours per week: 40
(we will be flexible, do not worry!)

HIKES AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION FROM REWILDING APENNINES



Possible hikes

- Hike in the Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise National Park.
- Hike in the Maiella National Park.
- Hike in the Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga National Park.
- Hike in the Sirente Velino Regional Park.
- Hike in the Monte Genzana Alto Gizio Nature Reserve.
- Hike in the Montagne della Duchessa Nature Reserve.
- Hike in the Zompo Lo Schioppo Nature Reserve.

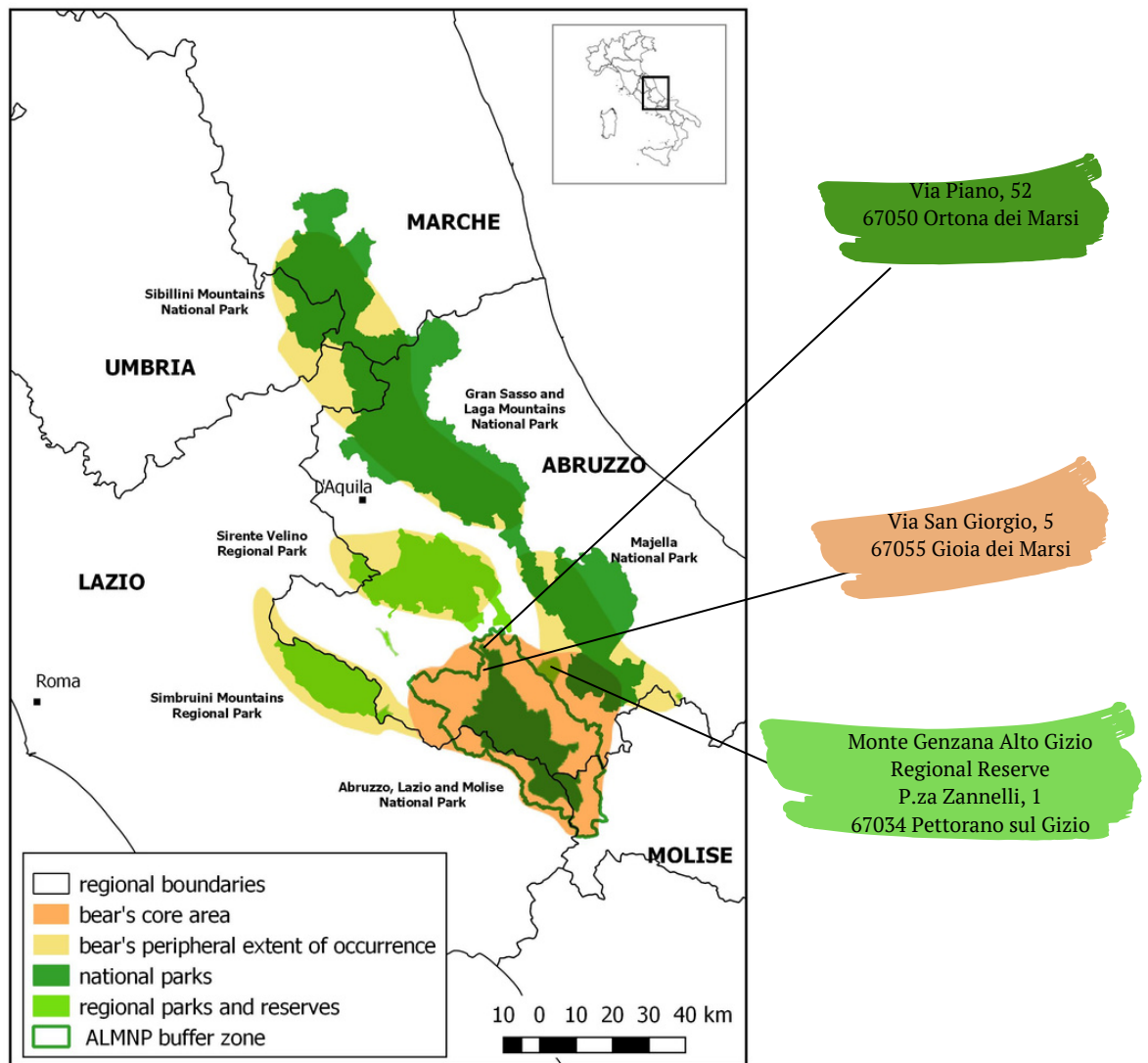
In-kind contribution from RA

- First aid equipment
- Binoculars
- Trail cameras
- GPS
- Working tools
- Working gloves and other personal protective equipment
- Hi Viz jackets for road ecology interventions



Rewilding Apennines volunteers and Erasmus Plus trainees will play a key role in this programme. Please, use the above equipment with care and return it to us at the end of the traineeship in the original conditions.

CENTRAL APENNINES: THE BEAR'S COUNTRY



The map shows the current home range of the Marsican brown bear, the “coexistence corridor” and the distribution of the protected areas.

As a volunteer or intern you will be staying in one of the three towns highlighted in the map:

- **Gioia dei Marsi** and more specifically the hamlet of Casali d’Aschi (CDA in the map),
- **Ortona dei Marsi** (ODM),
- **Pettorano sul Gizio** (PSG).

Generally, volunteers and interns take part in activities that take place in all of the ecological corridors where we operate, with some variations, but may do most of the activities in the area closer to their accommodation.

For more info about the accommodation, see the **accommodation info package**.



Costs

€ 300 a month per volunteer including accommodation in guesthouses (Wi Fi, power and water consumption expenditures included), membership fee, tutoring and Italian incident and public liability insurance*.

€40 non refundable advanced payment is requested to book your stay.

Accommodation availability

- Pettorano sul Gizio: 6 people in shared rooms (max 4 people in each room),
- Gioia dei Marsi: 5 people in shared rooms,
- Ortona dei Marsi: 9 people in shared rooms.

*It would be desirable for you to have also an insurance from your country.

Contacts

Please contact us at volunteer@rewilding-apennines.com for any further information about volunteering and visit our website www.rewilding-apennines.com

We are waiting for you!