

Let's rewild together!

Donate to the Bear Fund

The Bear Fund works to support the growing number of "Bear-Smart Communities" in the Central Apennines rewilding landscape, which are encouraging and enabling people to live in coexistence with the beautiful, iconic and ecologically important Marsican brown bear.



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Rewilding Apennines is making Italy and Europe a wilder place together with:



IMAGES: BRUNO D'AMICIS, VALERIO REALE, BROOZY

Connecting nature with people

Mission: encouraging and enabling people to live alongside wildlife, for the benefit of both.



Rewilding tourism

Craft a **team of ambassadors** to spread the word about tourism that gives back to nature:

- Work with Italian and European tour operators
- Work with local tour guides and hospitality providers

Rewilding experiences

Immerse and inspire people and businesses through **tailored rewilding experiences** (Rewilding Days, Weekends and Weeks):

- Fieldwork
- Traditional food & culture
- Landscape and wildlife experiences

Collaboration

Raise the profile of **local enterprises** aligned with rewilding principles by:

- Showcasing them through "bear-smart boxes"
- Promoting them at community events and fairs
- Co-creating branded goods

Biodiversity

We aim to **recover populations of keystone wildlife species**, through reintroductions and by enabling animal to move safely through the landscape.

Restoring the endemic **white-clawed crayfish** population through river restoration and restocking.

Healthy ecosystems

Monitoring **griffon vultures** through GPS transmitters to reduce the threat posed by wind turbines and power lines and enhance population growth.



Wildcat

Griffon vulture

Marsican brown bear

Apennines wolf

White-clawed crayfish

Apennines chamois

Apennines chamois

Marsican brown bear

Apennines wolf

White-clawed crayfish

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Apennines chamois

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Apennines

Rewilding Apennines is an initiative focused on restoring the unique and beautiful wild nature of the Central Apennine mountains of Italy.

*Underpinned by a strong partnership with Rewilding Europe, our mission is to encourage and enable local communities to **live alongside wildlife**, while supporting the development of a local **nature-based economy**.*



What is rewilding?

Rewilding is a **progressive approach** to conservation. It's about **letting nature take care of itself**, enabling natural processes to shape land and sea, repair damaged ecosystems, and restore degraded landscapes. Through rewilding, wildlife's natural rhythms create **wilder, more biodiverse habitats**.



The Central Apennines

The Apennines are the **second main mountain range in Italy**, running hundreds of kilometres from north to south. Many areas of the Central Apennines are dramatic and unspoiled, characterised by their diverse ecosystems and diverse wildlife species. Protected areas are **connected by extensive corridors of land**, where rewilding measures are enabling the safe movement of animals and the recovery of wildlife populations.

The expansive beech forests and open hillsides within the Central Apennines support substantial populations of wild herbivores, including red deer, roe deer, and wild boar. These species often coexist with herds of semi-wild horses and cattle, collectively serving as the primary prey for the region's **healthy wolf population**, which in some areas is potentially amongst the densest in Europe.

The most iconic inhabitant of the Central Apennines area is the **Marsican brown bear**, an endemic subspecies unique to the region. Critically endangered, the Marsican bear is now making a tentative recovery.

Rewilding in action

Wilder Nature

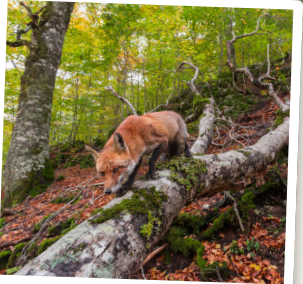
Our primary mission is to promote **harmonious coexistence** between humans and wildlife in the Central Apennines. This is enabling the recovery of wildlife populations and supporting the development of nature-based businesses.

To support the recovery of wildlife populations we are working with local communities to create extensive **corridors of land** – each connecting protected areas – where animals can move safely and easily across the landscape.

We are also actively involved in **river restoration**, which involves the removal of dams and weirs, and reintroducing white-clawed crayfish to local streams and rivers.

We are also working to enhance populations of keystone species through reintroduction initiatives, ongoing monitoring programmes, and efforts to **reduce threats** such as poisoning, traffic accidents, and human disturbance.

Through our partnership with Italian NGO **Salviamo l'Orso**, we engage a substantial number of dedicated **volunteers** each year. They actively participate in wildlife monitoring and help with barbed wire removal and efforts to improve human-bear coexistence.



Nature for people

Promoting coexistence not only means capturing hearts and minds, but ensuring people benefit directly from wilder nature too. This is why we're **teaming up** with local artisans and entrepreneurs to explore and develop economic opportunities linked to rewilding, such as nature-based tourism and the sale of natural products.

In 2020, we created the **Bear Fund Network**, connecting nature-focused entrepreneurs and helping them to grow their products and services as part of a thriving nature-based economy.



Building engagement

Today, there is growing interest in wildlife and **connecting people with nature**. Rewilding Apennines works to bring people closer to nature through our communications, events and practical rewilding efforts. We organise **meetings, webinars and workshops** to promote rewilding and raise awareness of the value of wild nature. We also organise **“Rewilding Experiences”** – a programme of immersive practical experiences for individuals and companies who want to engage with rewilding.

Scaling up

We want to see rewilding taking place at landscape scale across Italy and the rest of Europe, for the **benefit of wild nature and European citizens**.

We work with protected areas, national and local institutions, local nature-based businesses, and conservation organisations to scale up practical rewilding. By collaborating we can maximise rewilding's beneficial impact on the landscape.

