

Rewilding Leadership Programme

Reconnect, Learn, Act
12 - 17 May 2020
Southern Carpathians, Romania

A Growing Awareness


of the Natural World

We live in a busy, digital and urbanized world, in which we hardly take time to slow down, be outdoors and reflect on the lives we live. Most of us spend long, hectic days behind computer, telephone and television screens in artificial offices and homes.

At the same time, there is a growing awareness that a radical shift is needed in the way we live on planet Earth. More and more people realize that the way we treat the air, land, rivers, forests, mountains, oceans and all other living beings is simply wrong and time has come to fundamentally change our society and economy.

“Deep inside we all feel that we, as human beings, are not separate from the natural world, but that we are just one species in a rich and diverse ecosystem.”



A woman with a white headband and a black jacket stands in a field of tall, golden-brown grass. In the background, a large mountain covered in dense forest with some autumn-colored trees rises against a clear sky. The image has a soft, natural feel with some semi-transparent circular overlays.

“It was certainly a wild experience! The combination of physical exertion, the simplicity and richness of living screen-free in the great outdoors, delicious local food and the supportive and inspiring dynamic of the group made for a life-changing week for me. Everyone goes through a unique and personal journey during those 6 days and the program is designed to accommodate that. Returning from the mountains, I felt confident and energised to make sustainable changes in my life, both personal and professional.”

Charlotte Jongejan

Reconnect

learn & act

During the Rewilding Leadership programme we reconnect with nature within ourselves and around us. The programme will be organized in the great outdoors of Romania where nature and wildlife roam freely.

Away from everything familiar, from your daily routine. Living in simplicity, without cell phones, and sense of time, there are no distractions but the natural world around us. The setting invites to reflect and leads to increased awareness. Self awareness of the road you have travelled so far as well as awareness of the context in which you are living and working now.

During the programme you will not only learn about the practice of rewilding from experts and local guides, but you will also contribute to it practically by working as a voluntary ranger for the re-introduction bison project.



This 3-month Rewilding Leadership Programme offers you:

- a **life-changing experience** in an unique Romanian wilderness area.
- **re-connect** with nature within yourself and around you.
- learn about **rewilding** and contribute to rewilding (practically and financially).
- a **transformative experience** that changes your paradigm toward sustainability values and behaviors.
- **inspiration and energy** to act professionally towards sustainability in general and rewilding in particular.

Bison Release

After a 200-year absence, the bison returned to the Southern Carpathians in 2014 with the launch of the largest ever reintroduction programme attempted in the area. Since 2013, Rewilding Europe and WWF Romania have been working together in the Southern Carpathians rewilding area to reintroduce this iconic species. The first two bison releases took place in 2014 and 2015. The major objective of this ongoing project is to create a demographically and genetically viable population in the Southern Carpathians, comprising free-roaming sub-populations in the Tarçu Mountains and nearby Poiana Ruscă Mountains. The total number of bison in the area, taking into account deaths and births, was 30 by the end of 2017. Rangers are monitoring them closely and reporting their health and wellbeing is good and they are adapting well to the new surroundings.

Impression of the project:

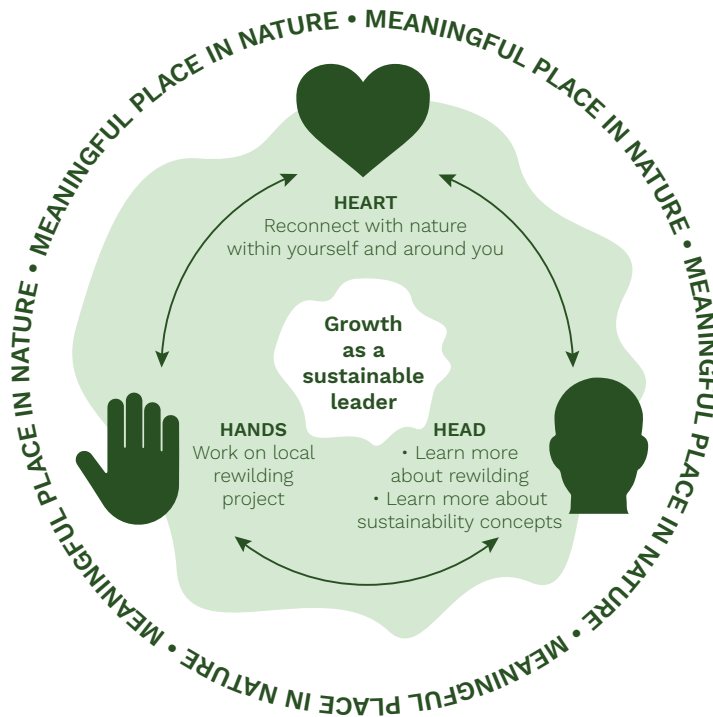
<https://youtu.be/p1ml2M9kO2U>

Our holistic

approach

Our approach to leadership transformation is based on the Context, Heart, Head and Hands framework. A framework for transformative sustainability learning that combines ingredients as meaningful learning context (nature) with the cognitive domain (head), the affective domain (heart) and the psychomotor domain (hands).

HHHC Framework



“An understanding of the natural world and what’s in it, is a source of not only a great curiosity but great fulfillment.”

Sir David Attenborough

Ingredients

of the programme

- 1. Kick-Off Workshop:** meet the group, sharing practical information, start learning process inspired by rewilding expert and formulate your sustainability challenge.
- 2. Six Day Immersion** in rewilding area, including:
 - Rewild yourself: back-to-basics and digital detox.
 - Connect with life around you: wildlife spotting and learning with local guide.
 - Rewilding in action (e.g. working with camera traps, removal of barbed wire in rewilding areas, installing electric fences etc.).
 - Daily walks and sharing sessions to experience, learn and reflect (regularly in silence).
- 3. Follow-Up Workshop:** participate in co-creation session with your group participants and formulate a plan to address your sustainability challenge.

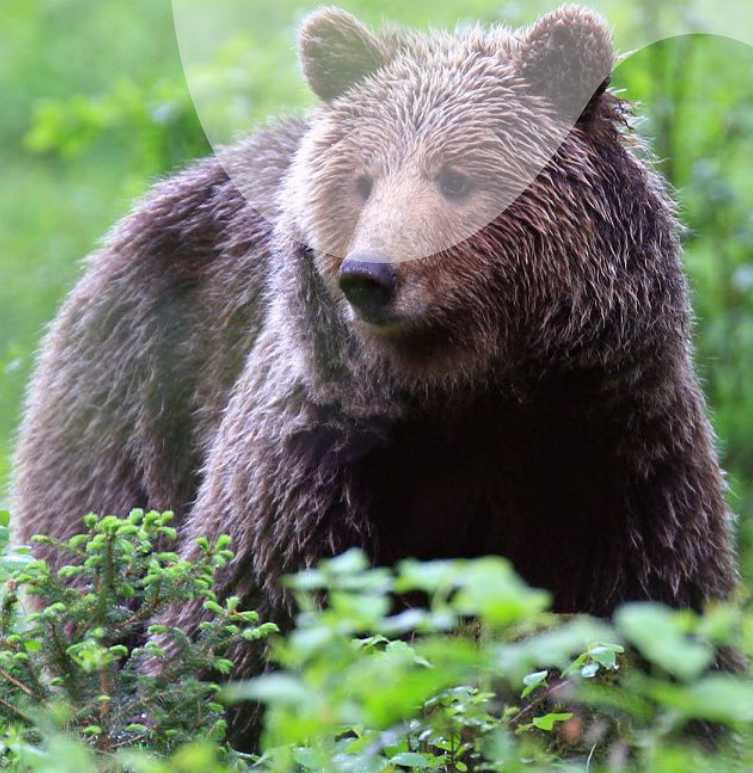


What you need to know

- Number of international participants: **six to eight** people from businesses, institutions and public organizations in Europe.
- **Investment:** €2,250 excl. VAT and logistics.
- Many participants are **fully or partially sponsored** by their employer.

Southern Carpathians

Along the southern end of Romania's arcing Carpathian Mountains, the continent's largest wilderness landscapes is being created, a place to experience a life changing experience with diverse wildlife. Brown bears, wolf, chamois, wild cat and lynx are on the come back, and with growing numbers and research, this area's wildlife is a fantastic reason to visit here.



Who

are your facilitators and local guide?



Jasper Folmer started leadership & transformation firm Nature Lab in 2014. He has facilitated wilderness leadership programmes in the Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria, Azores, Romania and Italy. His approach is characterized by a great deal of intuition and pragmatism. In addition to several human dynamics courses, he has done a Nature & Wildlife Guide and a Spirit of Nature Guide course.



Maarten van der Schaaf works as consultant, journalist and facilitator. He is the founder of advisory firm IndiaConnected; he writes for various Dutch media outlets on leadership, sustainability and nature; and he facilitates dialogues and debates at business events, cultural hotspots and preferably in the great outdoors of Europe. Maarten is associate partner at Nature Lab.



Matei Myculescu was born in Armeniş and grew up around the Bison Hillock area in Romania. Matei's guiding career started when he began working for the Bison Reintroduction Project in 2014, when the first group of bison were brought into this area to give them the chance to roam free again.

For whom?

- People and organizations that have the ambition to **act more towards sustainability** in general and nature conservation, nature development and rewilding in particular.
- People who want to **re-connect** with wild nature within themselves and around them.
- People who would like to **enrich** their sustainability leadership skills.
- Companies and organizations that have the **ambition** to act more towards sustainability in general and nature conservation, nature development and rewilding in particular.
- Teams that want to be **inspired** by nature for innovation.

Nature Lab & European Safari Company & Rewilding Europe

This programme is organized by Nature Lab, European Safari Company and Rewilding Europe. Nature Lab offers wilderness leadership and transformation programmes in the great outdoors of Europe. Rewilding Europe is a non-profit organization that aims to make Europe a wilder place. In partnership with Rewilding Europe, the European Safari Company specialises in nature-based experiential travel in Europe.

Impression of Rewilding Areas



Registration and Questions?

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