



ONLINE SYMPOSIUM

CONNECTING REWILDING SCIENCE AND PRACTICE

DECEMBER 3, 2020

9:30 - 16:30 CET

What exactly is rewilding, how does it work, where can it be done and what does it deliver?

During this one-of-a-kind online event, highly-regarded rewilding scientists and experts from Rewilding Europe will address these questions by bringing rewilding science and practice together.

With a mix of presentations, videos and Q&A the event provides an excellent and easy-to-understand overview of the field of rewilding. Don't miss out if you want to hear more about the state-of-the-art of the philosophy of rewilding and rewilding in action!



PROGRAMME

9:30 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

9:45 **REWILDING: A NEW NARRATIVE IN CONSERVATION**

Paul Jepson

Rewilding is an ecosystem restoration approach. What makes it different from traditional conservation or other restoration approaches? Paul will address the narrative of rewilding to answer this question.

10:40 **REWILDING EUROPEAN LANDSCAPES**

Frans Schepers

There is a historic opportunity in Europe for rewilding landscapes at scale. Many initiatives are making progress demonstrating how rewilding benefits nature and people. Frans will give the latest insights and will make the case for scaling up this new approach in restoration.

11:35 **MAPPING REWILDING OPPORTUNITIES IN EUROPE**

Nestor Fernandez

Using remote sensing techniques and modelling to map land-use changes in Europe, Nestor will show us where in Europe the opportunities are to perform large-scale nature recovery using a rewilding approach.

12:30 *LUNCH BREAK*

13:00 **REWILDING IN ACTION: THE SHORT FILM 'ZIMBRUL'**

13:15 **RESTORING THE ROLE OF MEGAFUNA IN EUROPEAN ECOSYSTEMS**

Jens-Christian Svenning

Large wild animals, the megafauna, have largely disappeared from European landscapes. Jens-Christian addresses how their return may contribute to ecosystem and biodiversity restoration.

14:10 **HOW TO MEASURE REWILDING SUCCESS?**

Patrick Jansen

Rewilding aims to restore self-governing ecosystems. Patrick will talk about how the progress in ecosystem restoration can be measured, including monitoring techniques as well as study design.

15:05 *TEA/COFFEE BREAK*

15:20 **CONNECTING REWILDING SCIENCE AND PRACTICE**

Liesbeth Bakker

To restore ecosystems, a rewilding approach is increasingly applied. Liesbeth addresses what science can learn from rewilding practice and how science may support the practice of ecosystem restoration.

16:15 **CLOSING REMARKS**

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAMME
SEND AN EMAIL TO L.BAKKER@NIOO.KNAW.NL

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LIESBETH BAKKER
Netherlands Institute of Ecology, Wageningen University

Liesbeth is a wildlife and wetland ecologist at the Netherlands Institute of Ecology and Special Professor in Rewilding Ecology at Wageningen University. How water dynamics and wildlife return affect biodiversity and ecosystem functions in human-dominated landscapes is her core interest. By combining rewilding science and practice she aims to advance ecosystem restoration with more room for natural processes.



PAUL JEPSON
Ecosulis Ltd., UK

Paul is Nature Recovery Lead at Ecosulis Ltd where he designs new tools and metrics to support nature recovery. He believes that conservation needs vision – imaginings of futures that we can collectively aspire to create. To achieve this, Paul works up visions that blend emerging trends in science, technology and society with a sense of confidence, innovation and hope.



FRANS SCHEPERS
Rewilding Europe

Frans is Managing Director and one of the founders of Rewilding Europe. Leading this cross-European initiative with team members now working from 17 different countries, he works on demonstrating how rewilding of landscapes allows wild nature to bounce back through ecological processes and wildlife comeback, and how people can enjoy and benefit from these rewilded landscapes.



NESTOR FERNANDEZ
iDiv, Leipzig

Nestor is a conservation biologist at the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) in Leipzig. Optimizing spatial planning of conservation areas to increase wildlife abundance and biodiversity across Europe is the focus of his research. He uses spatial modelling, remote sensing and biodiversity monitoring techniques to achieve this and seeks how science can better inform biodiversity policies.



JENS-CHRISTIAN SVENNING
Aarhus University

As a macroecologist and biogeographer, Jens-Christian is Director of the Center for Biodiversity Dynamics in a Changing World at Aarhus University in Denmark. He and his team aim to improve our understanding of biodiversity dynamics in this human-dominated epoch and provide a scientific basis for overcoming our biodiversity crisis, for which they conduct many rewilding-related studies.



PATRICK JANSEN
Wageningen University

Patrick is a wildlife ecologist at Wageningen University, where he focuses on interactions of wildlife with plants and with each other. He is particularly interested in the consequences of wildlife extirpation, as well as wildlife return, such as through rewilding. Patrick mainly works in forests, where he coordinates large camera-trapping programs to assess the abundance of wildlife and to quantify interactions.

