

# Rewilding in Europe: Genealogies, Imaginaries and Practices of Conservation in the Anthropocene

Bonn, Museum Koenig, Lecture Hall (1<sup>st</sup> floor)

19 – 21 March 2025



Conference organisation team:

 Leibniz Institute for the Analysis  
of Biodiversity Change

 Deutsches Museum



 SENCKENBERG  
world of biodiversity



- 5.3 Raf de Bont – University of Maastricht  
**Reintroducing hamsters: charismatic minifauna and agricultural natures**
- 15:00 – 15:30 **Tea & coffee break**
- 15:30 – 17:00 **Panel 6: The Political Ecology of Rewilding**
- Chair:* Reinhard Loske – Witten/Herdecke University
- 6.1 George Iordachescu – Wageningen University  
**Rewilding European green peripheries – how giving more space to nature is essential to green growth**
- 6.2 George Holmes – University of Leeds  
**Who let the frogs out? Illicit and unregulated species reintroductions in Europe**
- 6.3 Anna-Katharina Wöbse – University of Freiburg  
**A visual history of rewilding**
- 17:00 – 17:30 **Break**
- 17:30 – 19:30 **Public lecture:**  
Jan Haft – Creative director, writer & cinematographer, Dorfen  
**Die Architektur der Wildnis**
- 19:30 – 20:30 **Conference dinner**  
(at the Museum Koenig)

## Friday, 21 March 2025

- 09:00 – 10:30 **Panel 7: Geographies of Rewilding**
- Chair:* Pavla Šimková – Collegium Carolinum, Munich
- 7.1 Małgorzata Popiotek-Rożkamp – Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space (IRS), Erkner  
**Rewilding the “Debrisphere”:  
military training areas in Brandenburg after the withdrawal of Soviet troops**
- 7.2 Seth Peabody – Carleton College / Rachel Carson Center, Munich  
**Rewilding, alpine agriculture, and environmental values in the Austrian Alps**

- 7.3 Saara Mildeberg – University of Tallinn  
**Humans in the green corridors: negotiating rewilding with rural dwellers**
- 10:30 – 11:00 **Tea & coffee break**
- 11:00 – 12:00 **Panel 8: Ideas and Imaginaries of Rewilding**
- Chair:* Bernhard Gissibl – Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG), Mainz
- 8.1 Alexandra Böhm – Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nuremberg  
**Wilderness Revisited: imaginations of rewilding – history, conflicts and alternatives**
- 8.2 Christina Pinsdorf – University of Bonn  
**Wilderness and non-use of land in the Anthropocene? Philosophical and ethical perspectives on the land transition**
- 8.3 Pierre L. Ibisch – Eberswalde University of Sustainable Development  
**A concept rooted in ecosystem ecology and thermodynamics: from rewilding to pronaturation**
- 12:15 – 13:00 **Final Discussion: A Wilder Europe in a Wilder World? Paths and consequences**

## Conference venue

Leibniz Institute for the Analysis of Biodiversity Change  
**LIB** – Museum Koenig (Museumsmeile Bonn)  
Adenauerallee 160, D-53113 Bonn, Germany

**Arrival by public transport:** From Bonn Hauptbahnhof, take the underground (*Stadtbahn*), lines 16 or 63, direction ‘Bad Godesberg’, or line 66, direction ‘Bad Honnef’; exit for all lines at station ‘Museum Koenig’ and follow the signs.

Museum website:



(How to get there...)



Map & coordinates:



50.722260, 7.113872

## Programme

### Wednesday, 19 March 2025

- 12:00 – 13:00 **Conference registration**
- 13:00 – 14:00 **Welcome and Introduction**  
Bernhard Misof – LIB Museum Koenig, Bonn  
Klement Tockner – Senckenberg Society for Nature Research, Frankfurt  
Short introduction by the conference organisation team
- 14:00 – 15:30 **Panel 1: Genealogies of Rewilding**  
*Chair:* Bernhard Gissibl – Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG), Mainz
- 1.1 Alexandra Locquet – Université Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris  
**The call of rewilding in Europe to rethink nature conservation**
- 1.2 Margret Bunzel-Drüke – Arbeitsgemeinschaft Biologischer Umweltschutz, Soest  
**Hidden origins: unconscious rewilding in late 20th century Germany**
- 1.3 Brenda Maria Zoderer – University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna  
**Unraveling the diversity of rewilding strategies across Europe**
- 15:30 – 16:30 **Poster session, then Tea/coffee break**
- P.1 Caroline Sophie Birkenhain *et al.* – Senckenberg Centre for Wildlife Genetics, Gelnhausen  
**Pedigree-based analysis of livestock depredation behaviour in German wolves**
- P.2 Lea Jakob *et al.* – Senckenberg Centre for Wildlife Genetics, Gelnhausen  
**Noninvasive genetic monitoring of reintroduced European bison in the Carpathian Mountains – a pilot study**
- P.3 Jordi Serangeli *et al.* – Senckenberg Centre for Human Evolution and Palaeoenvironment, Forschungsstelle Schöningen  
**The Eurasian elephants**

- P.4 Ellen Steinbach *et al.* – Senckenberg Centre for Wildlife Genetics, Gelnhausen  
**Genomic consequences of 20th century population declines on the Great Bustard in Germany**
- P.5 Sofia Zeisig – Ruhr University, Bochum  
**Oases of diversity: cemeteries as structurally rich biotopes of urban biodiversity**
- 16:30 – 17:30 **Panel 2: The Times of Rewilding – Wilderness between Past, Present, and Future**  
*Chair:* Willi Xylander – Senckenberg Museum of Natural History, Görlitz
- 2.1 Jordi Serangeli – Senckenberg Centre for Human Evolution and Palaeoenvironment, Forschungsstelle Schöningen  
**“Rewilding” – what can we learn from the past that can benefit us today?**
- 2.2 Angelika Hunold, Michael Herdick & Holger Schaaff – Leibniz-Zentrum für Archäologie (LEIZA), Mayen/Mainz  
**“Rewilding” an ancient industrial district**
- 17:30 – 18:00 **Break**
- 18:00 – 19:30 **Evening keynote:**  
Luigi Boitani – Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe  
**Conservation going (re)wild – participant observations**

### Thursday, 20 March 2025

- 09:00 – 10:30 **Panel 3: Species in Rewilding – Functions and Strategies**  
*Chair:* Raf de Bont – University of Maastricht
- 3.1 Monica Vasile – University of Maastricht  
**Where does Pleistocene megafauna belong today? Scientific controversies about the European bison and the Przewalski's horse as ecological refugees**
- 3.2 Klaudia Witte – University of Siegen  
**Bringing back the bison – lessons from the German Rothaargebirge**

- 3.3 Sebastian Brackhane – LIB Museum of Nature, Hamburg & Klaus Hackländer – University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna  
**The return of the large herbivores – cause of conflict or opportunity for conservation?**
- 10:30 – 11:00 **Tea & coffee break**
- 11:00 – 12:30 **Panel 4: Designing Species, Designing Wilderness?**  
*Chair:* Helmut Trischler – Deutsches Museum, Munich
- 4.1 Kristin Hagen, Mathias Otto & Margret Engelhard – Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), Bonn  
**Rewilding, nature conservation, and synthetic biology: limits to designing nature**
- 4.2 Carsten Nowak – Senckenberg Centre for Wildlife Genetics, Gelnhausen  
**Molecular reconstruction and genetic monitoring of large iconic mammal recolonization within Europe's anthropogenic landscapes**
- 4.3 Hannes Petrischak – Heinz Sielmann Foundation, Wustermark/Elstal  
**Bisons, birds and bees – ecological interactions in the Döberitzer Heide**
- 12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch break** (in a canteen nearby)
- 13:30 – 15:00 **Panel 5: Actors and Institutions of Rewilding**  
*Chair:* Katharina Schmidt-Loske – LIB Museum Koenig, Bonn
- 5.1 Thomas Graner – Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), Bonn  
**The law of rewilding and restoration of ecosystems in international, European and German nature conservation law**
- 5.2 Ulrich Stöcker – Rewilding Oder Delta e. V.  
**The implementation of the vision for a wilder Europe: the case of the Oder Delta**