

Rewilding Europe

Making Europe a wilder place

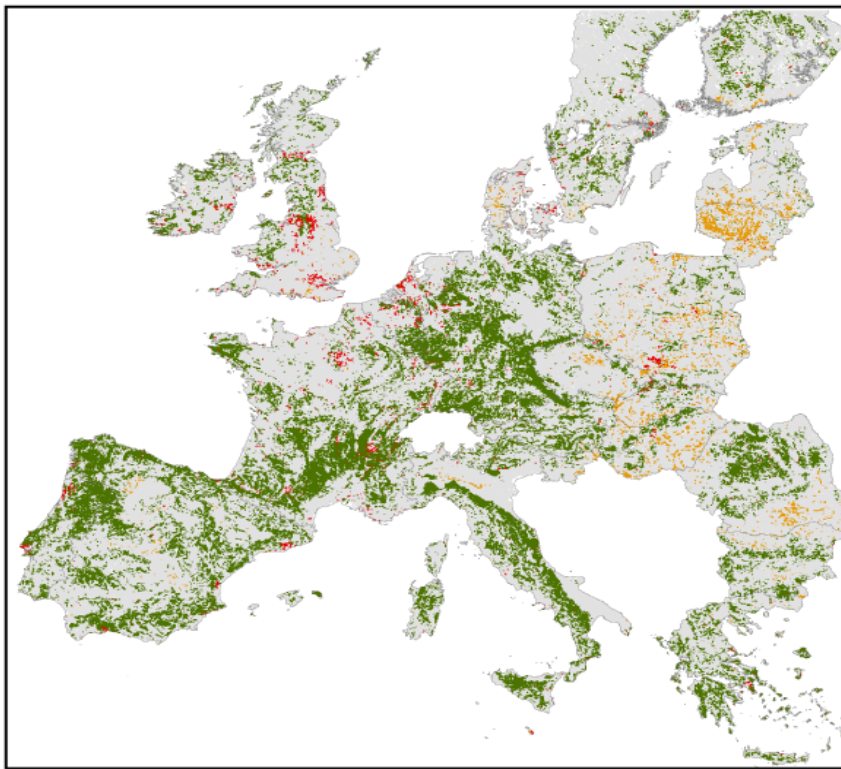


Wageningen 26 August 2016

Wouter Helmer

Historic opportunity
Mission and strategy
Vision and practice
The role of large herbivores
Research questions





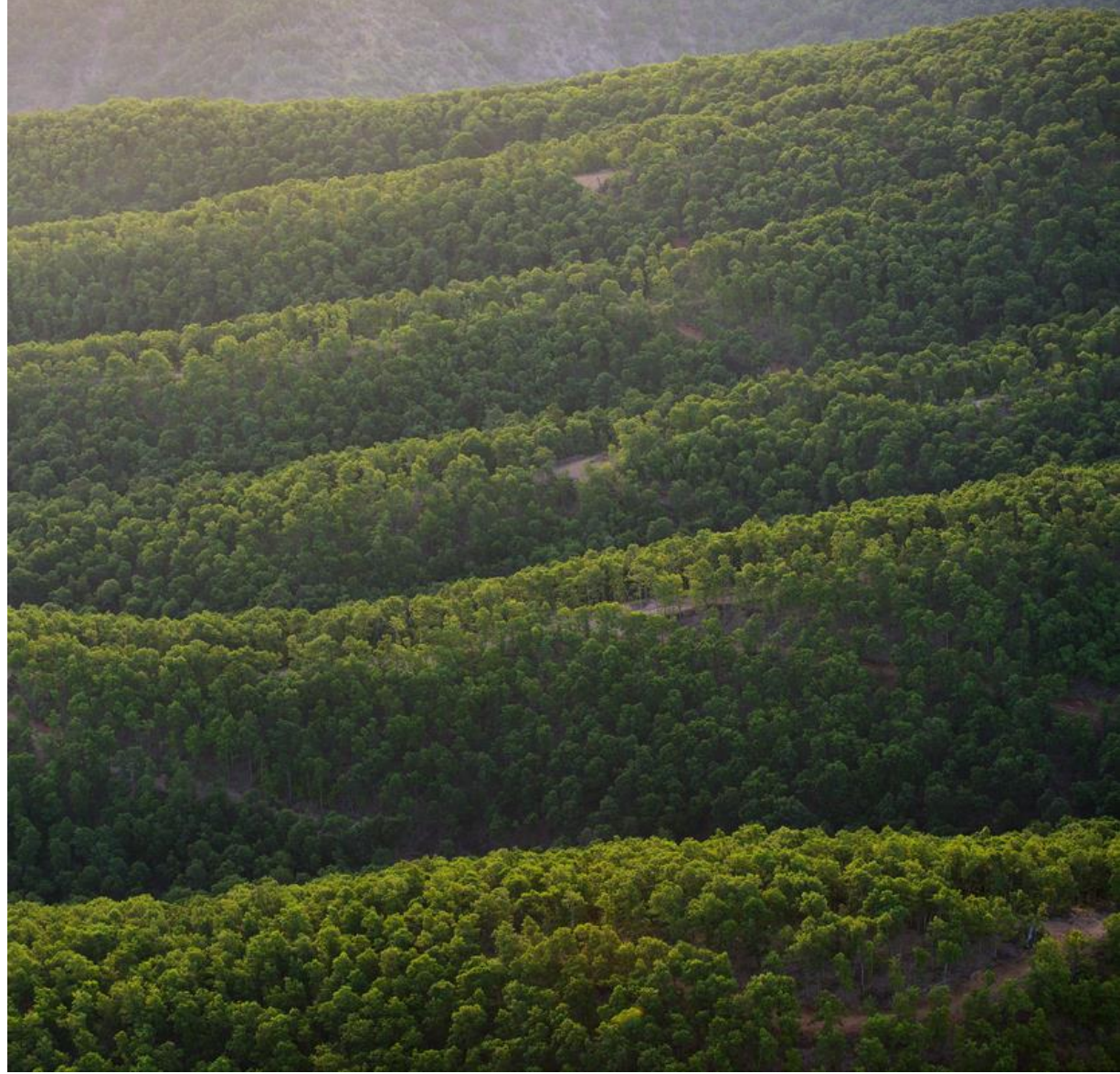
Legend

- Stabile
- Abandonment
- Agricultural expansion
- Urbanisation
- Urbanisation and abandonment
- Urbanisation and agricultural expansion



Europe is changing





Biodiversity loss



How can we turn these problems
into opportunities ?

**Natura
2000**

18%

IEEP (2011):

- Only 9-19 % of the estimated financing needs of 5.8 billion Euro/year is covered
- 'Business as usual approach puts the network at risk'

**Are there other ways to finance nature or lowering the costs?
(and even improve the quality of nature?)**

**Rewilding
Europe®**





A new vision for an old continent



Our vision:
Making Europe a Wilder Place



With much more space for wildlife,
and natural processes



Bringing back the variety of life
for us all to enjoy.



Exploring new ways for people to earn a fair living from the wild.



Three key components:
Rewilding – Communication - Business



Rewilding
Restoring natural processes



1 million ha in 10 areas by 2022





Theaters without actors



Supporting the wildlife comeback
'the soul of European Nature'



Breeding and reintroduction
of keystone species



BISON REWILDING PLAN 2014–2024

Rewilding Europe's contribution to
the comeback of the European bison

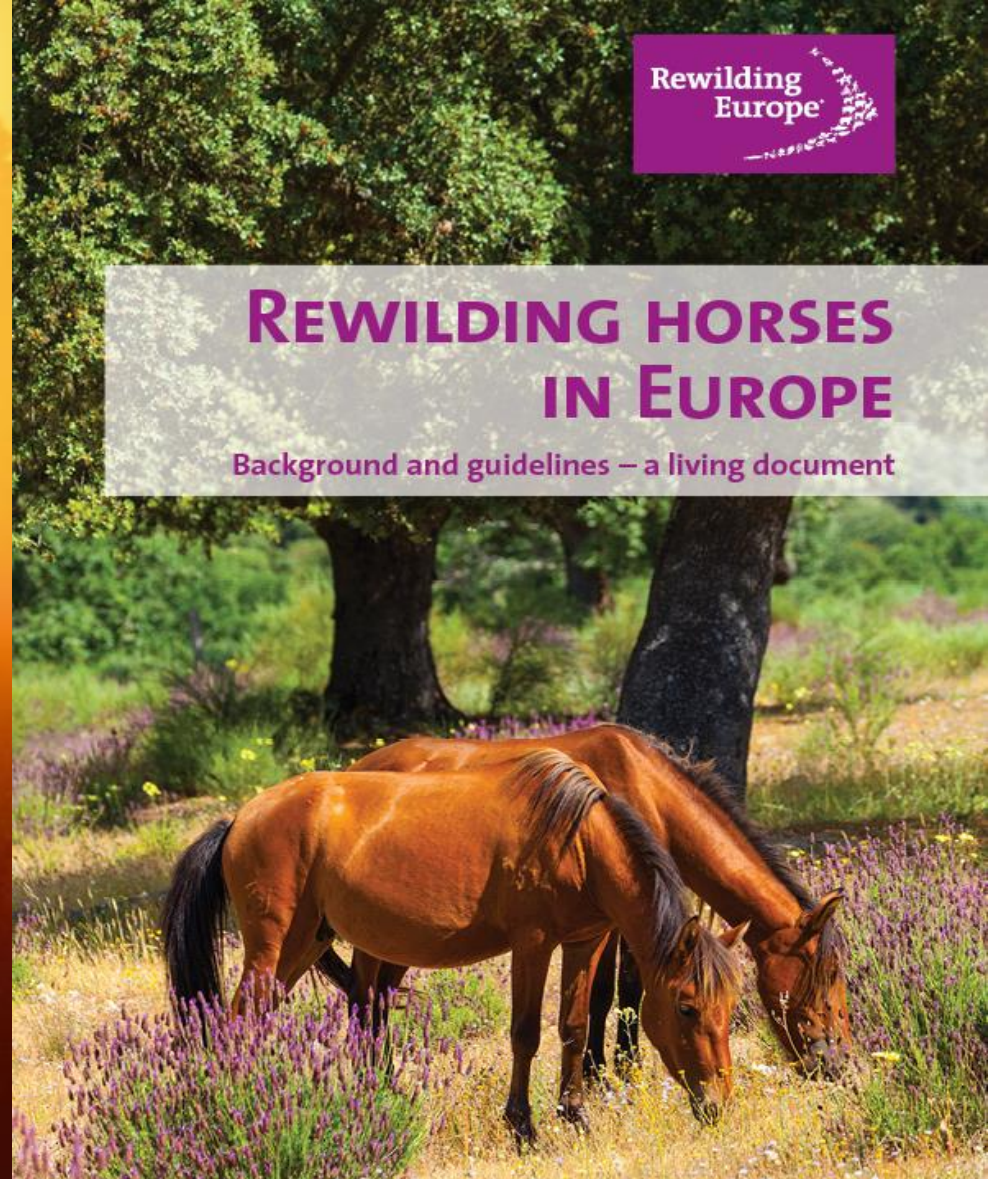
ADVISED BY THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON



Vision and practice

REWILDING HORSES IN EUROPE

Background and guidelines – a living document



THE AUROCHS BORN TO BE WILD

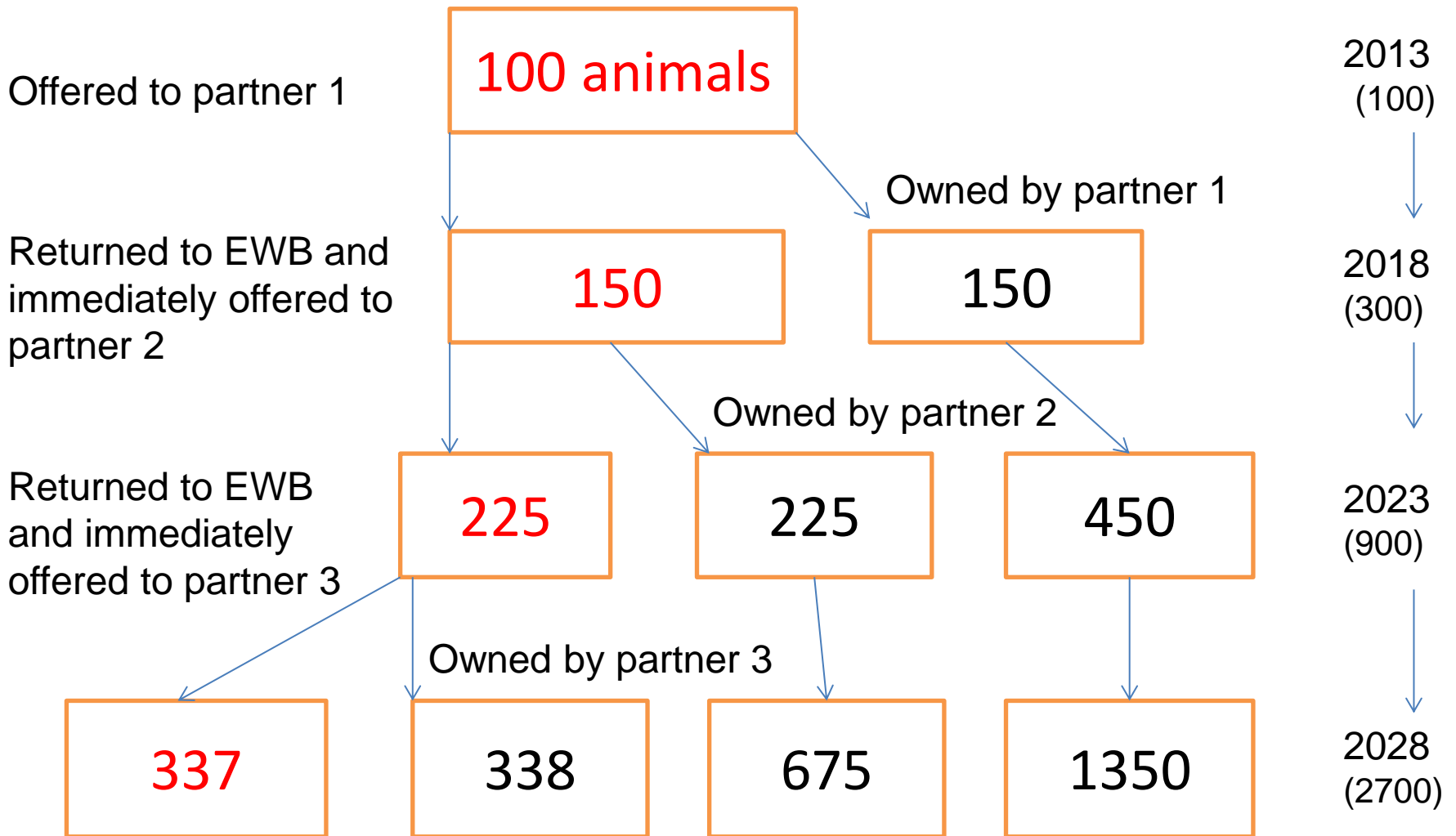
Two other come-back species



Innovative tool:
European Wildlife Bank

Starter herd European Wildlife Bank = 100 animals

(reproduction rate 20-25%/year)





‘Big Five’
for EWB contracts



Western Iberia Rewilding horses and cattle



Western Iberia Herbivores as a grazing ‘fire brigade’





Western Iberia
Wildlife creates wildlife



Rhodope Mountains Restoring foodchains



Rhodope Mountains Wild Status-pilot for horses







Velebit Mountains Lika Plains



Central Apennines Safe corridors for wildlife



Danube Delta Local breeds in tauros programme



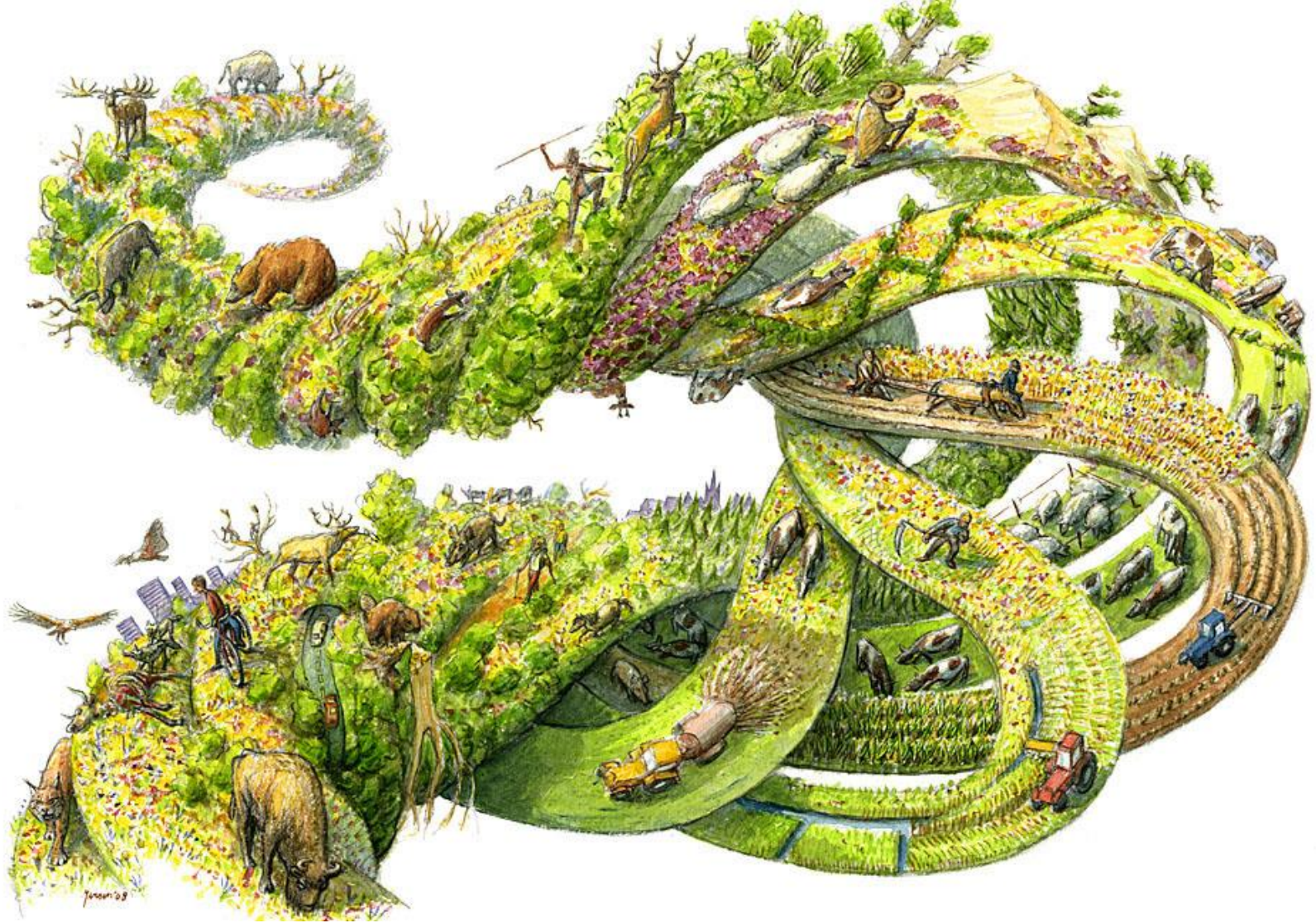




Southern Carpathians Involvement of local people: Bison Day



Southern Carpathians
After centuries of absence...



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