Rewilding Knowledge



Science-policy event

“Reconnecting nature and people: evidence-based restoration under the Nature Restoration Regulation”

The Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR) aims to restore vast areas of degraded terrestrial and marine ecosystems across the EU. National Restoration Plans will define how each member state upscales ecological restoration far beyond current practice, with their ambition and effectiveness set to be evaluated by the European Commission. This event will bring together leading European experts to discuss the current landscape and explore novel, actionable solutions under the NRR—focusing on approaches that are environmentally effective, economically feasible, and socially acceptable, while remaining ambitious and innovative.

Comet Louise
Place Stéphanie 20
1050 Bruxelles

25 November 2026

wildE WILDCARD REWRITE SER European Commission | European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency | CINEA

Organised by Horizon Europe projects wildE, WILDCARD, and REWRITE and the Society for Ecological Restoration Europe.
Supported by CINEA.

9:00 - 9:05	**Welcome by the CINEA Head of Sector for Climate mitigation and ecosystems** Marie-Christine van Wunnik
9:05 - 9:15	**Evidence-based restoration for nature and people: an introduction** Arndt Hampe for the organising team

Session I: Overview and update on the NRR implementation

9:15-9:30	**National Restoration Plans: current progress from an EEA perspective** Eirini Glyki, European Environmental Agency
9:30-9:35	Q&A
9:35-09:50	**From plans to delivery: early lessons from Europe's National Restoration Plans - findings from the RestoreNature assessment of draft NRPs** Sabien Leemans, WWF, Restore Nature coalition
9:50-9:55	Q&A
9:55-10:10	**What will it take to make the Nature Restoration Regulation a success? A perspective from the Society for Ecological Restoration Europe** Aveliina Helm, Society for Ecological Restoration
10:10-10:15	Q&A
10:15-10:45	Coffee break

Session II: Evidence-based nature restoration: the big picture

10:45-11:05	**Large-scale restoration with climate-smart rewilding** Nestor Fernandez, Martin-Luther University Leipzig
11:05-11:10	Q&A
11:10-11:30	**From ambition to implementation: public support for nature restoration across Europe** Sabrina Dressel, Wageningen University and Research
11:30-11:35	Q&A
11:35-11:55	**Restoring future Europe: land-use change, ecosystems and biodiversity** Almut Arneth, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
11:55-12:00	Q&A
12:00-12:30	**General discussion** Moderation: Katharina Faradsch, Prospex Institute
12:30-13:30	Lunch

Session III: Evidence-based restoration: going local and digging deeper

13:30-13:50	**Nature restoration economics: will benefits likely exceed stakeholder costs?** Sven Wunder, European Forest Institute
13:50-13:55	Q&A
13:55-14:15	**Nature restoration politics: conflicts, synergies, and ways forward?** Georg Winkel, Wageningen University and Research
14:15-14:20	Q&A
14:20-14:50	**General discussion** Moderation: Sara Moreno Pires, University of Aveiro
14:50-15:20	Coffee break

Session IV: Research and innovation needs for effectively implementing the Nature Restoration Regulation

15:20-16:00	**Round table:** **Invited representatives:** Eirini Glyki (EEA), Aveliina Helm (SERE), Kris Decleer (biodiversa+), Gabor Figeczky (IUCN), Moderation: Jette Bredahl Jacobsen, University of Copenhagen
16:00-16:15	**Wrap-up: lessons learned** Katharina Faradsch, Sara Moreno Pires, Jette Bredahl Jacobsen
16:15-16:45	**Closing statements on the need for transformative change to successfully implement the NRR** Hans Bruyninckx, Regional Director Europe, World Resources Institute
16:45-17:30	Final networking snack

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Co-funded by the European Union