

**Rewilding  
Apennines**



**Collaborative Agreement  
between  
Rewilding Apennines  
&  
Salviamo L'Orso**

**2020-2024**

This agreement is made on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**BETWEEN:**

**REWILDING APENNINES**, with its principal office at San Giorgio 5, Gioia dei Marsi, 67055, Italy Registered at Gioia dei Marsi under number 1522 (“**RA**”);

**SALVIAMO L'ORSO**, with its principal office at Via Parco degli Ulivi 9, Montesilvano, 65015, Italy, and registered at Anagrafe Unica ONLUS (NGOs Unique Register) under number 15177 of 16<sup>th</sup> October 2012 (“**SLO**”);

Who together shall hereinafter be referred to collectively as “**the parties**”.

**CONSIDERING THAT:**

- a) **Rewilding Apennines** is an independent organisation formally established in 2019 as a result of changing the board and legal status of a predecessor organisation also called Rewilding Apennines, previously established in 2013. The organisation developed from a partnership between Rewilding Europe and Salviamo L’Orso who were instrumental in setting up the organisation, contracting Rewilding Apennine staff prior to formalisation of Rewilding Apennines as an organisation.
- b) **Rewilding Apennines** has the vision of developing the central Apennines as a wilder place for the benefit of nature and people, using the extraordinary biological and scenic richness of the area to counter rural depopulation and create a new economy that is inextricably linked to a wilder post-agricultural landscape.
- c) **Rewilding Apennines** is the strategic Italian partner of Rewilding Europe (RE), a European non-profit organisation registered in the Netherlands that promotes a new conservation vision for Europe, via a partnership Agreement through which both organisations work together to achieving a shared Pan-European vision of rewilding.
- d) **Salviamo l’Orso** is a grass-roots association of mainly volunteers established in 2012 and recognised by the Ministry of the Environment as working for the protection of, and mitigation of human wildlife conflict with, the Marsican brown bear (*Ursus arctos marsicanus*) via practical conservation measures in five Italian Regions (Abruzzo, Lazio, Molise, Marche and Umbria) which correspond to the species home range according to the National Action Plan for its conservation.
- e) **Rewilding Apennines and Salviamo l’Orso (SLO)** have collaborated as follows:
  1. Have been partners in the “*The Bear Smart Community Genzana*”, an initiative of SLO,
  2. From 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 and from 14<sup>th</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019, Rewilding Europe supported SLO with a financial contribution of € 118,380 in total to restart RA’s actions and team in the area, and SLO matched this initiative with its own funds of about € 70,000.
  3. In September 2018, RA and SLO jointly presented the poster “*Actions for the conservation of the Marsican brown bear in the Central Apennines*” at the 26<sup>th</sup> IBA conference at Ljubljana.

4. Staff contracted by Rewilding Apennines are volunteers with SLO in various roles. Their volunteering role is additional to and does not overlap with their contracted time with Rewilding Apennines.
  5. Rewilding Apennine contracted staff often supervise SLO students and volunteers to help achieve the objectives of both organisations.
- f) Both organisations recognise the need to provide clarity for their collaboration to achieve the following goals:
- a. Develop a common solutions-oriented approach to help address the changes taking place in the Central Apennine countryside, providing opportunities for rewilding, wildlife comeback and building nature-based economies, connecting modern society with wilder nature; and
  - b. Creating a larger interest and awareness in the Italian public about the challenging conservation situation in Italy, the ecological importance of natural processes, including keystone species, that shape the landscape.

## **BOTH ORGANISATIONS RECOGNISE THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN FORCES IN:**

### **A. PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVE**

This partnership agreement is designed to formalise, coordinate and clarify the collaboration between the two parties, with a strong focus on, but not limited to, in-field actions that help the conservation of Marsican brown bears. RA and SLO jointly commit to making this cooperation productive, beneficial to both parties and to generating practical outcomes. RA and SLO will support each other to create a large-scale rewilding area in the Italian Central Apennines (> 100,000 ha), where SLO focus is on the conservation of the Marsican brown bear and RA focus is on a wider rewilding initiative, which the bear is part of.

### **B. AREAS OF COLLABORATION**

Both parties hereby agree to collaborate in the following topics:

- I POLICY DEVELOPMENT – RA and SLO will collaborate in developing policy interventions that maximise benefits for the conservation of the Marsican brown bear and its habitat. To achieve this, both organisations will consult each other when writing policy documents, where and when relevant for the other party.
- II PRACTICAL ACTIONS – In general, when SLO and RA are working together on joint activities in the field, RA and SLO will seek to compliment each other avoiding duplication or competition.
- III SCIENCE-LED REWILDING – RA and SLO will work together to stimulate a science-based approach to their joint efforts for the conservation of the Marsican brown bear and its habitat.
- IV COMMUNICATION – RA and SLO will aspire to align their messaging about bear conservation in the Central Apennines and promote a shared set of rewilding principles through active communications on rewilding as a new conservation strategy in Italy.
- V FUNDRAISING – Where feasible, RA and SLO will look for opportunities to join forces to fundraise and attract investment for projects and initiatives of common interest. Where joint

fundraising is agreed, both RA and SLO will ensure enough capacity to timely develop high quality fundraising proposals to potential donors.

- VI SHARED NETWORKING – RA and SLO will introduce each other to people, organisations, and opportunities that may assist with achieving the common objectives set out in this Collaborative Agreement, for example RE’s European network and SLO’s Italian network. This includes key individuals, organisations, best practice models or potential funding partners, where appropriate.

### **C. POINTS OF CONTACT**

The parties will each appoint a dedicated contact person to ensure effective and efficient communication and cooperation between the two organisations. Beyond regular operational and progress meetings, at least once a year a strategic meeting will be held between RA and SLO, to evaluate the partnership within the framework of this Collaborative Agreement. The result of these annual evaluations will be shared with the boards of both RA and SLO.

### **D. ENDORSEMENT**

RA and SLO agree that this Collaborative Agreement is non-exclusive and both parties will collaborate freely with other conservation and rewilding groups in all respective spheres, including European and global communication, marketing, rewilding, enterprise, wilderness, art, and other relevant sectors.

### **E. BRANDING AND LOGOS**

Both RA and SLO will extend to each other the right to use with prior notification their respective logos on their organisation websites and other materials to promote this collaboration within the context of this Collaborative Agreement. As each organisation operates under a Board of Directors, the governance structure responsible for programme strategy, permission will be needed if logos (or other references) are to be used for promoting or communicating about specific projects or issues.

### **F. PROMOTION**

Both RA and SLO will encourage synergies to promote the work of the other and the collaboration through publications, websites, social media, exhibitions, film etc. This Collaborative Agreement however implies no formal financial obligations.

### **G. RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

Both RA and SLO assume full and complete independent responsibility for their own actions and hold no liability either formal or informal against the other (including staff, associates, directors and boards). Each party will inform the other of any pending issue of substance, legal or otherwise, that may impact this collaboration or other parties relevant to their collective work. This is not intended to be a legally binding document.

**H. CONTENTS AND TERM OF AGREEMENT** – This Collaborative Agreement is effective upon signing and ends in 30 April 2024, and is renewable upon written agreement by both organisations. This understanding can also be enhanced at any time by agreement of both organisations, or terminated at any time by either party by simple written notice, respecting a one-month notice period.

**I. DISPUTES** In case of any dispute relating to the implementation or interpretation of this Collaborative Agreement, there shall be mutual consultation between the designated contact persons. Failing this, the dispute will be brought to the meeting of the Parties.

**J. PROJECT CONTRACTS** This Collaborative Agreement governs specific, formal project contracts, which could be developed and agreed separately if and when funding will be secured to implement those joint projects.

**K. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

All intellectual property developed / produced as a consequence of this agreement will be the property of organisation that produced it but if either party request permission to use it in furtherance of their work – such permission will not, unreasonably, be refused.

This Collaborative Agreement is entered into with good intentions by each party, with the purposes of protecting and promoting wilder nature while respecting human needs and requirements for a healthy and viable life; inspiring a wider public movement for such through enhancing the effectiveness of their own work. Both parties recognise that a transparent, respectful, and well-communicated working relationship is integral to this understanding and commit themselves to this with hope and enthusiasm.

Date: 27/10/2020

Date: 27/10/2020

Place: Pettorano sul Gizio

Place: Montesilvano

Antonio Carrara

Stefano Orlandini

Managing Director  
**Rewilding Apennines**

Managing Director  
**Salviamo l'Orso**