



In collaboration with:

RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
NATURE AND FOREST



## When nature can do the job

**Fostering co-benefits for people and the environment  
in view of the Nature Restoration Regulation**

**Brussels, 19 March 2025**

<https://www.wilde-project.eu/restoration-policy-event>

## Outline

This public in-person event is held to support the implementation of the Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR) and the associated need to upscale ecological restoration beyond current practice. It focuses in particular on restoration perspectives and solutions that: (1) think biodiversity and climate change challenges together, and (2) are environmentally effective, economically feasible, and socially acceptable. Such solutions can often strongly complement, and sometimes even substitute the application of costly engineering, input-intensive approaches in favour of a low-impact management that builds on ecosystem self-regulation and “lets nature do the job” where and when possible.

The event assembles leading European experts who will give concise presentations on selected topics and participate in moderated open discussions with the audience (up to 250 participants). There are three sessions, each consisting of three 15-min presentations with 5-min Q&A sessions and a final 30-min general discussion:

- Session I, "Why should we let nature do the job?" will set the greater scene and the needs to be tackled under the NRR. The first talk (H. Pereira) will present a new framework for ‘climate-smart’ rewilding, the second talk (J. Bredahl Jacobsen) will focus on climate change impacts and adaptation, and the third talk (S. Wunder) will compare costs and benefits of alternative forest restoration options. The combination of experts from the environmental, social and economic sciences underpins the interdisciplinary nature of the session.
- Session II, "Where nature is already doing the job" presents three examples of successful restoration from different contexts: ongoing forest regrowth and its management through trophic rewilding (J.C. Svenning), a 35-year success story of Dutch floodplain restoration (W. Helmer), and the evolution of coastal wetlands re-exposed to natural regimes (I. Möller). Each case illustrates in its way how biodiversity support and climate change adaptation are intertwined and can be jointly addressed.
- Session III, "Let the Nature Restoration Regulation facilitate the job" will convene a cross-sectorial set of speakers to share their respective experiences with concrete legal (A. Cliquet), governance (J. Verheeke), and financial (A. Brunner) challenges and solutions under the NRR. Their contributions should spark active debates about where, when and how "let nature do the job" restoration can be implemented and expected to be more effective than other approaches, given current practices and practical constraints.

The event will be closed by Mr. Humberto Delgado Rosa (Director of the DG Environment Directorate for Biodiversity).