



HM Government of Gibraltar

Ministry of Education, Heritage,
Environment, Energy and
Climate Change

PRESS RELEASE

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Calpe 2017 Conference: The Rewilding Conference

This year's Calpe Conference promises to be of great interest to a wide public, especially those with an interest in Natural History and Nature Conservation. Leading specialists from around the world will gather in Gibraltar from the 20th to the 24th September to discuss the subject of Rewilding. The Rewilding concept is gathering momentum across the world. It aims at restoring wild places and their constituent species in places where they became extinct as a result of human intervention. Rewilding is an ecological restoration strategy and has focused on restoring mega-faunas, the large emblematic animals whose presence can influence the structure and function of ecosystems. This conference will aim at discussing the scientific basis of the method and aims to evaluate Rewilding's current scientific basis, discuss the main lessons learned from ongoing Rewilding projects and consider the way ahead. The Conference starts on Thursday 21st September at the University of Gibraltar. As in previous years registration is free for residents of Gibraltar.

In addition, a pre-conference symposium will be held at the same venue on Wednesday 20th September. This event is also open to the general public and the subject that will be discussed is "Reintroductions and Tracking of animals with special reference to Gibraltar". The speakers at this symposium will be a mix of local biologists and invited speakers from abroad. They will provide an exciting complement and prelude to the Calpe Conference itself.

Ministry of Education, Heritage, Environment, Energy and Climate Change

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The programmes are included below and further information and registration forms may be obtained from the Gibraltar Museum or its website: <http://www.gibmuseum.gi/events/calpe-17>

Symposium “Reintroductions and Tracking of animals with special reference to Gibraltar”

Wednesday 20th September, 2017 at the University of Gibraltar

Programme

- 0930 Benigno Varillas, Journalist, Revista el Carabo
La vida salvaje, pieza clave de la sociedad digital
- 1030 Clive Finlayson, The Gibraltar Museum
The Pleistocene world as a baseline for species reintroductions?
- 1130 Emanuele Coppola, Gruppo Foca Monaca Onlus
Monk Seal. The Mystery of the Mediterranean
- 1430 Ugo Mellone
Migration strategies of Eleonora’s Falcons and Short-toed Eagles as revealed by satellite telemetry
- 1530 Keith Bensusan, Gibraltar Botanic Gardens and Stewart Finlayson, The Gibraltar Museum
Tracking and reintroduction of cave and cliff-dwelling vertebrates in Gibraltar - prospects
- 1630 John Cortes, Ministry for the Environment, Gibraltar
The case for species reintroductions with specific reference to Gibraltar and formulating Government policy
- 1730 Discussion

The Rewilding Conference

Conference Programme



Thursday 21st September

- 0930 Official Opening by the Hon Prof. John E. Cortes, Minister with responsibility for Heritage and the Environment
- 1000 Opening Lecture: Professor Jacques Blondel, CNRS, Montpellier, France
Rewilding in the Anthropocene: taking up scientific, technical and ethical challenges
- 1100 Coffee Break
- 1130 Professor Lars Werdelin, Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, Sweden
How 'wild' is the wild in rewilding? Lessons from the African fossil record
- 1230 Dr Carlo Meloro, John Moores University, Liverpool, United Kingdom
Predators from the past, still hiding in the present
- 1330 Lunch Break
- 1500 Professor Jens-Christian Svenning, Department of Bioscience, Aarhus University, Denmark
Broad-scale, long-term perspectives on megafauna ecology and trophic rewilding in a changing world
- 1600 Tea Break
- 1630 Dr Juan Jose Negro, Estación Biológica Doñana, CSIC, Sevilla, Spain
Rewilding before the era of Biodiversity Conservation: the case of Doñana National Park
- 1730 Professor John Cortes, Ministry of the Environment, Gibraltar and Professor Clive Finlayson, Gibraltar Museum, Gibraltar
Raptors and their satellites: Can meso-predators have an effect on the rewilding of mega-predators?

Friday 22nd September

- 1400 Dr Paul Jepson, Smith School of Enterprise and Environment, University of Oxford, UK
Investable Earth: rewilding and the rise of a 21st century environmental narrative
- 1500 Professor Joris Cromsigt, Department of Wildlife, Fish, and Environmental Studies, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Umeå, Sweden
Rewilding Europe with large herbivores: insights from African savanna ecology
- 1600 Tea Break
- 1630 Dr Dennis Hansen, Department of Evolutionary Biology & Environmental Studies, University of Zurich, Switzerland



Islands reborn: The lesson of the giant tortoise

1730 Professor Felisa Smith, Department of Biology, University of New Mexico, USA
Megafauna in the Earth System

Saturday 23rd September

0930 Dr Liesbeth Bakker, Netherlands Institute of Ecology (NIOO-KNAW), Netherlands
Ecosystem impacts of rewilding with large herbivores in temperate grasslands and wetlands

1030 Coffee Break

1100 Professor Chris Johnson, University of Tasmania, Australia
Rewilding for management of threatened and invasive species in novel ecosystems

1200 Professor Miguel Araujo, Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, CSIC, Madrid, Spain and Dr Diogo Alagador, Universidade de Evora, Portugal
Optimal spatial conservation strategies for rewilding

1300 Lunch Break

1430 Professor Pedro Jordano, Estación Biológica Doñana, CSIC, Sevilla, Spain
Megafauna in the entangled web: the ghost of extinct ecological interactions

1530 Tea Break

1600 Discussion

1730 Closing Lecture: Professor Valerius Geist, Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary, Canada
Rewilding with a view to history, promising current practices and the future