



La Lomellina Foundation
ANNUAL REPORT
2023

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Our mission

The habitats and living beings on earth are the result of millions of years of evolution and the genetic diversity we have arrived at today, is the basis for the evolution of all species.

Biological diversity, therefore, should be protected for its own sake, as it cannot be replaced. If the world loses its biological richness and diversity, it loses its essence. For these reasons, the Foundation's objectives are the respect, development and protection of nature and the animal world, as well as the promotion of education and an increase in culture in these contexts. In particular, the Foundation aims at: encouraging the respect, development, and protection of wildlife in all its forms. Also, by means of hunting with or without dogs, in Switzerland and abroad; promoting education and the knowledge of the animal world through initiatives oriented to preserve fauna's dignity and its survival, even following a reduction in the available habitat.



Our organization

The Board

Mr Carlo Campanini Bonomi, *Chairman of the Board*

Mr Andrea Campanini Bonomi, *member*

Mr Paolo Bottini, *member*

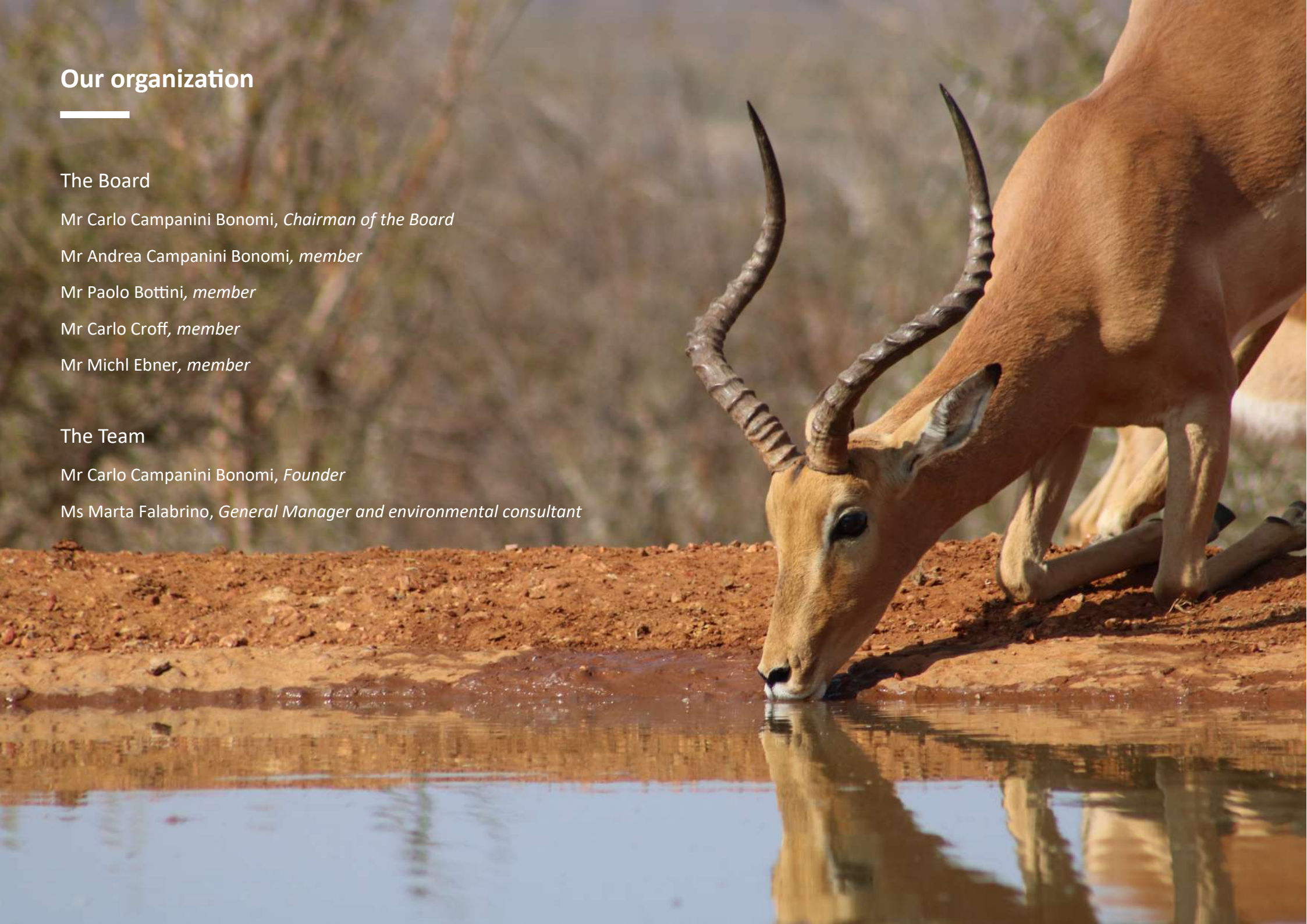
Mr Carlo Croff, *member*

Mr Michl Ebner, *member*

The Team

Mr Carlo Campanini Bonomi, *Founder*

Ms Marta Falabrino, *General Manager and environmental consultant*



A message from the Founder and Chairman

The year 2023 marked the fifth since our Foundation began operations and we should be satisfied that in such a short time, we funded no less than eleven projects in distinct geographical locations such as Switzerland, Spain, Italy, India, and Mongolia.

In this time frame, we have received proposals for support for more than 50 projects.

Our desire to have a successful and tangible impact makes us prefer projects that are operational on the ground and therefore, produce benefits in the short term - whatever 'quick' may mean when it comes to nature - over studies or research which, although fundamental, are less reflective of our objectives. In this regard, it is worth emphasizing the difficulties we encounter in identifying projects more in keeping with our constituent's mission and making operational concreteness the basis of their proposals.

Before closing this brief introduction, I must give special thanks to our Director, who has done an excellent job over the past year despite the limited resources at our disposal.

Carlo Campanini Bonomi



Our grant-making

The following principles guide our work and funding, which are at the heart of our strategy:

- Foster the long-term viability of wild animal populations (especially endangered ones) and control the factors that influence their decline;
- Support all efforts to maintain, restore and protect critical habitats and functional ecosystems;
- Support captive breeding of threatened species and their reintroduction into the wild;
- Promote the sustainable use of natural resources, particularly forests, water and pastures.

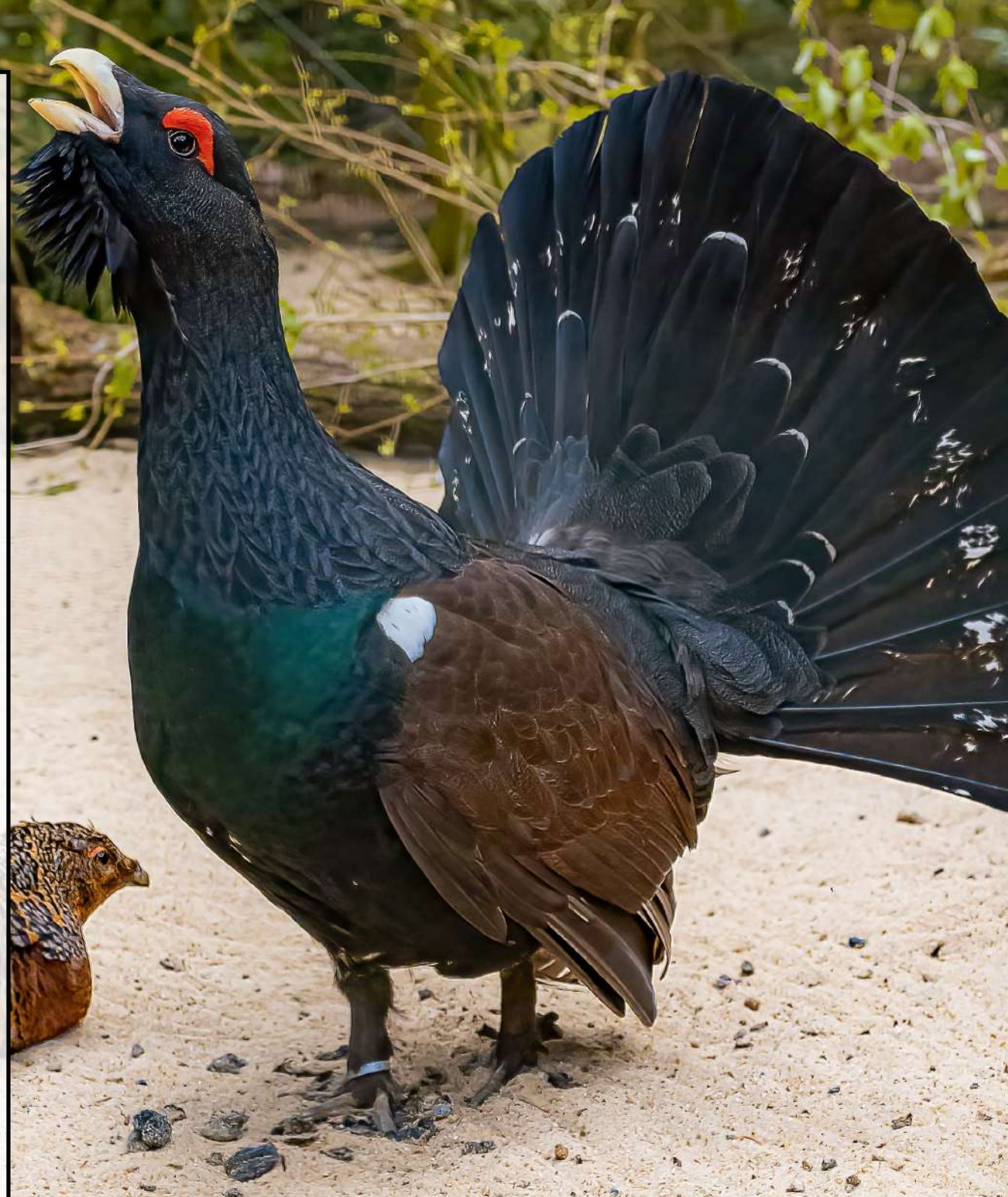
The projects we support must guarantee a lasting impact on the environment in which they are implemented and must enable our partners to continue their work once the Foundation has ended the collaboration.

Project supported in 2023

Lomellina is a grant-making Foundation; therefore, to achieve its mission it mainly aims at allocating straight grants to applicants to carry out socially useful projects.

The aim of our projects is to support the conservation of wildlife for the benefit of humans, environment, and habitats worldwide. Projects that pursue the same goals, with a focus on wildlife, can apply for our support.





Habitat Improvements for Capercaillies in the “Alpstein-Churfirsten” Region — WWF Switzerland

This project has a long-term objective to improve the living conditions of the Western Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), a charismatic and endangered/vulnerable bird species in the Swiss Alps (Canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden) – by improving the specific habitat conditions they rely on and contributing to over-all biodiversity in his region.

Professional forest management measurements such as logging and thinning were implemented as they create diversified forest structures for the capercaillie. Additionally, with the help of volunteers from the WWF and the Bergwaldprojekt, forest soil was cleaned in the areas of interest.

Through school visits, excursions and snow hikes, children and adults are sensitized towards minimizing disturbance of wildlife and the importance of diverse and ecologically valuable habitats.

Partners: WWF Switzerland, Canton Appenzell Ausserrhoden - Forestry service and Bergwaldprojekt (volunteers)



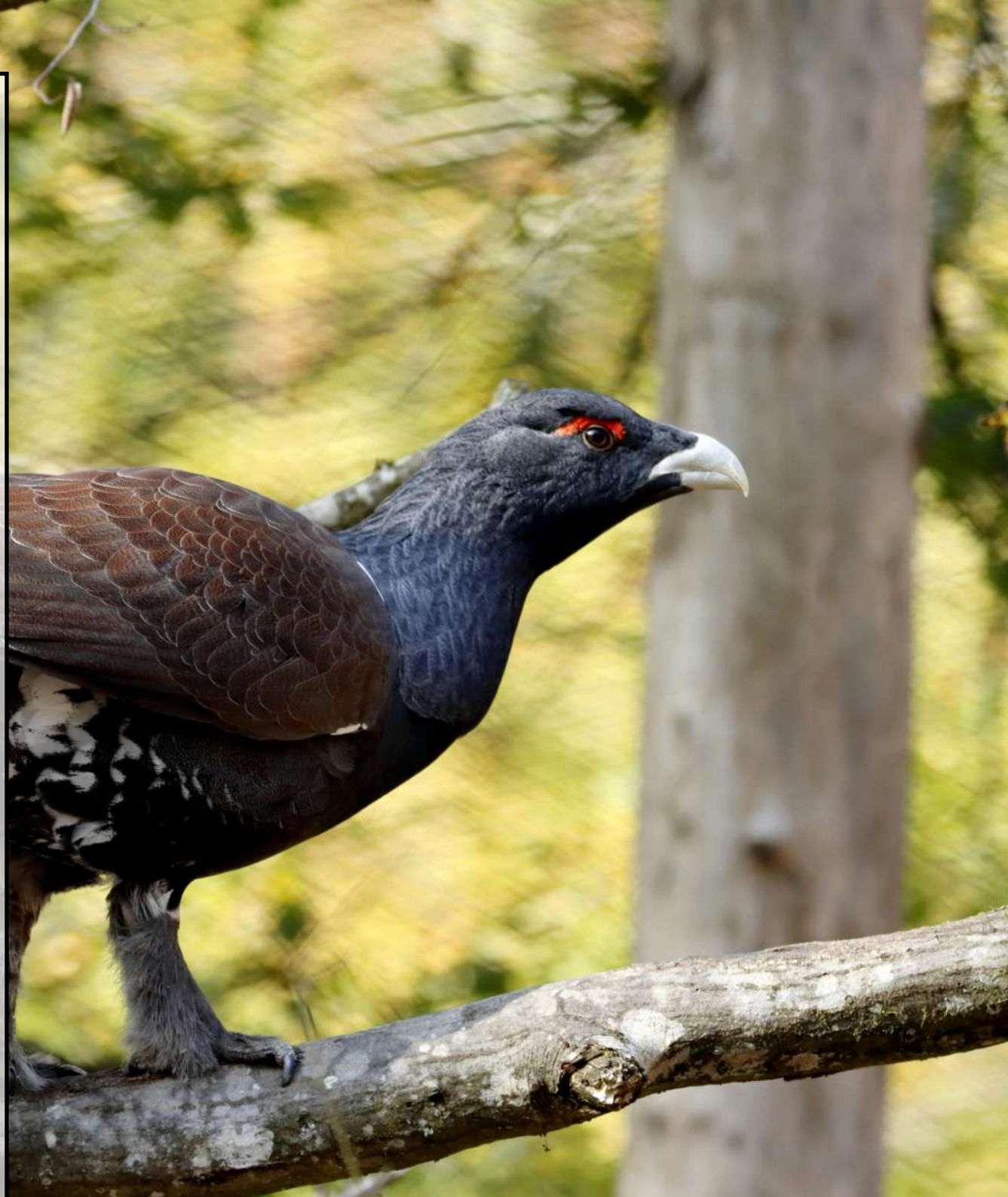
Recovery of the Pyrenean Capercaillie in Aragón – Fundación Artemisan

The goal is to recover the Western Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*) populations through targeted actions in the breeding areas near the city of Bielsa, in the north of the Huesca province, located in the autonomous community Aragón (Spain), where the birds are still present.

In 2023 it has been planned to manage habitat in four areas, with a total of 218 hectares to be managed in three plus 55-60 hectares in a fourth one to be decided in 2024. In 2023 habitat has been managed in 69 hectares. The remaining surface will be managed from August 2024 onwards.

At the beginning of the project a 'Steering Committee' was created, in which different stakeholders are represented, including hunters, conservationists, researchers, politicians and the inhabitants of Bielsa. This group meets cyclically to update the situation and to exchange views on the continuation of the project. During the winter, they started activities at schools in the region.

Partners: Fundación Artemisan, Government of Aragón and French authorities





Roe deer study in Valsemana experimental centre – Centro Cingético Valsemana

The project consists of analysing, obtaining results and publishing them in written form (books, magazines and web) of a study on roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) conducted over the last 20 years at the Valsemana Centre, belonging to the Junta de Castilla y León, in the Spanish province of León.

The roe deer are kept in semi-freedom in 16 enclosures of varying sizes, with supplementary feeding based on cereals and fodder administered only once a week. This study includes very detailed work on the horns of the males and the biology and behaviour of both sexes.

Most of the work of 2023 involved taking measurements, entering data into the general files and reviewing, locating and resolving errors in the historical data series, as well as taking the first steps with photo-trapping observations.

Partners: Centro Cingético Valsemana and Junta de Castilla y León





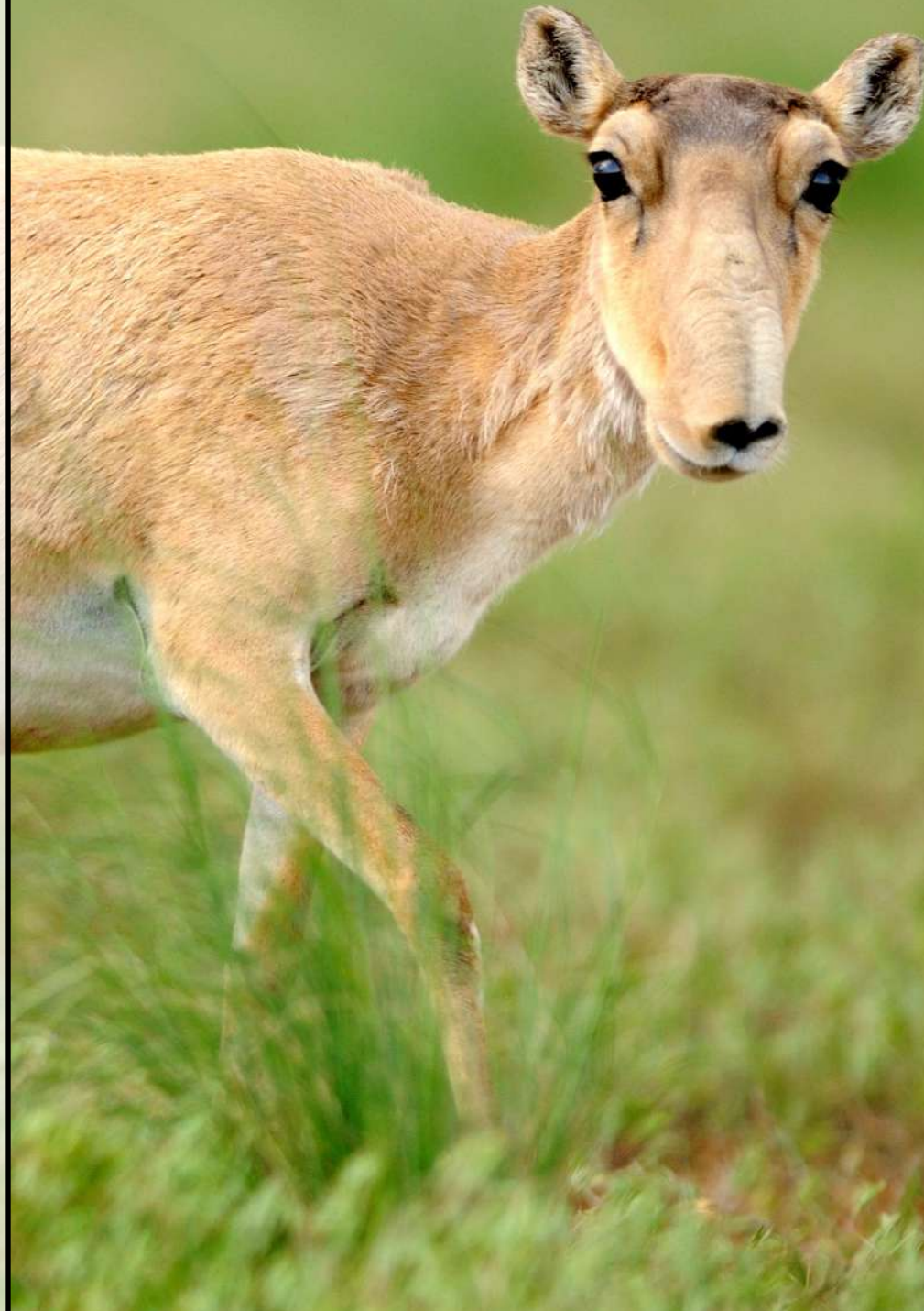
Wetlands project – Fundación Fondena

The objective is to create a pilot wetland with ideal conditions for research and development of strategies to optimise water quality parameters, hydrobiology and biodiversity enhancement. The wetland will then undergo additional biological wastewater treatment, as the current treatment of industrial (especially agro-food) and residential water is deficient.

The project in 2023 is being planned and approved by the authorities, and will then start 'in the field' in 2024.

Partners: Fundación Fondena, Institute for Game and Wildlife Research (IREC, CIC-UCLM-JCCM), Regional Centre for Water Studies (CREA, UCLM) and Institute for Environmental Diagnostics and Water Studies (IDAEA, CSIC)





Mongolia's 100 springs of life – WWF Mongolia

While focussing on the critically endangered saiga antelope, the project strongly contributes to the conservation and promotion of valuable habitats by protecting natural springs to ensure meadows and pastureland for the saiga antelope and local herding families.

In 2023 herder families, local communities in Gobi-Altai and Khovd provinces (Over 500 people including more than 300 school children) e WWF-Mongolia fenced 17 spring heads.

WWF-Mongolia convinced the river basin authority of the Gobi-Altai province to conduct seasonal natural spring monitoring, register the water parameters and include the results in the national database system.

WWF-Mongolia together with the authorities drafted a guideline document, who will be used nationally.

Partners: WWF Mongolia, WWF Switzerland, Local authorities, Mongol Els National Park, IUCN Antelope Specialist Group



Recovery of Anveuda – Fondazione Dötra

With the reopening of the larch grove, conditions will be favoured to strengthen the presence of the Black Grouse, a huntable species in the intervention area in Canton of Ticino (Switzerland).

The objective of the silvicultural component interventions is to recover, maintain and enhance the traditional form of management of the pastured larch forest. The opening up of wooded areas favours the development of the grazed grassland layer, and this with the aim of using the recovered agro-forestry areas extensively by pasturing. The planned interventions started in September 2023 and they will finish in autumn 2025.

Partners: Fondazione Dötra, Forest Section and Office for Nature and Landscape - Dipartimento del Territorio (Canton Ticino), Blenio Municipality (Olivone), Zurich Ornithological Society (vogelwarte), Swiss Landscape Fund





Sarcogyps calvus project — Parco Natura Viva

The project will make new individuals of the red-headed Indian vulture available in the wild with the hope of saving the species from extinction.

The Indira Gandhi Zoological Park in Andhra Pradesh (India), helped by Parco Natura Viva in Bussolengo (Italy), manages a new pair of vultures consisting of a male and a female from the Parco Natura Viva. The chicks of this new pair can then be reintroduced into the wild in India, in the species' areas of origin.

Parco Natura Viva is today the only European facility to host red-headed vultures. It seems to be the only one in the world to have a breeding pair of vultures capable of mating, laying, incubating, helping the chick during hatching, and raising the young.

Partners: Parco Natura Viva, Indira Gandhi Zoological Park and Angkor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity



Our partners

La Lomellina Foundation wishes to thank all the partner organisations and institutions for the successful cooperation.

Below are the partner with whom we collaborate or have done so in the past.



FONDS LANDSCHAFT SCHWEIZ (FLS)
FONDS SUISSE POUR LE PAYSAGE (FSP)
FONDO SVIZZERO PER IL PAESAGGIO (FSP)
FOND SVIZZER PER LA CUNTRADA (FSC)



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