**WWF-Romania is looking for a Consultant for the LIFE with Bison Project**

**Project name: Increasing the viability of the European bison population and achieving successful coexistence in the Southwestern Carpathians, Romania**

**LIFE22-NAT-NL-LIFE with Bison/project no. 101114088**

**Terms of references**

1. **Technical specifications:**

**1. Monitoring and evaluation of the European bison population in the Țarcu Mountains**

**a. Monitoring framework development and continuous updated**
Ongoing refinement of the monitoring framework for the reintroduced European bison population in the Țarcu Mountains, with a focus on:

* Estimating population size, genetic diversity, and overall health
* Assessing European bison movement patterns, habitat use and preferences, and home range
* Evaluating the ecological impact of the European bison’s reintroduction, including effects on wildlife, vegetation, habitat structure, and landscape mosaics
* Monitoring damage to public and private property caused by European bison and evaluating the effectiveness of implemented coexistence measures

**b. Genetic and health monitoring**

* Estimating population size and structure through spatial genetic capture–recapture analysis, using data collected in 2024
* Assessing genetic diversity through laboratory analysis of biological samples
* Maintaining and updating the genetic database of the European bison in the Țarcu Mountains, including a complete list of reintroduced individuals

**c. Movement ecology and habitat use analysis of European bison**

* Defining European bison home ranges using telemetry (GPS collar data) and complementary field tracking methods
* Integrating movement data with vegetation maps and socio-economic datasets to assess European bison effects on habitat and landscape dynamics
* Mapping habitat types and vegetation structure using satellite imagery

**2. Carrying capacity study**

* Designing and implementing a structured sampling framework across habitat types and European bison density gradients (including control areas with no European bison presence)
* Assessing landscape changes to inform the ecological and social carrying capacity of the reintroduction area

**Deliverables**

* Report on population size and genetic diversity of the European bison
* Study on the diet of European bison and other sympatric large herbivores
* Updated genetic database, including a full inventory of reintroduced individuals
* Analysis of European bison home-range size
* Updated monitoring protocols for sign surveys and biodiversity impact assessments
* Terms of Reference (ToR) for a vegetation impact study, supporting the carrying capacity analysis

**Travel commitments**

* The provision of services may involve travel. The expected travel includes:
	+ Two trips to Romania
	+ One trip to another European location
* Any additional travel required will be discussed and billed separately
1. **Minimum requirements:**
* Relevant experience in the field of nature conservation/management of large mammals for at least 3 years
* Relevant studies in the field of ecology/biology/environmental sciences
* Participation in relevant projects/studies related to European bison management
1. **Award Criteria and Deadlines**

Interested parties are invited to submit an offer via email to agrancea@wwf.ro.

The offer must be accompanied by the relevant degree certificate(s) and an up-to-date CV of the consultant(s).

Deadline for Submission of Offers: 31.07.2025

Estimated Contract Start Date: 01.08.2025

Estimated Contract End Date: 01.07.2026

Contract Award Criteria:

The contract will be awarded based on the most advantageous offer in terms of price/quality ratio that meets the requirements outlined in the Terms of Reference:

* 50% – Technical capacity of the contractor (sufficient expertise in implementing similar contracts)
* 50% – Financial offer/budget

More information about the WWF Romania Association can be found here: www.wwf.ro

For additional information about this project, please contact:

Adrian Grancea

Project Manager

+40 743 775 130

agrancea@wwf.ro