



A European bison in the Maashorst nature reserve, the Netherlands, in 2017. Photograph: itsajoop/Getty Images/iStockphoto

### **The Return of European Bison**

Eighty years after they were hunted to extinction, the successful reintroduction of a herd of wild European bison on to the dunes of the Dutch coast is paving the way for their return across the continent. The largest land-living animal in Europe was last seen in the Netherlands centuries ago, and was wiped out on the continent by 1927. This project is about bringing back European bison to a Western European area where it lives under natural circumstances e.g. no additional food is given, together with Konik horses, Highland cattle, fallow deer, roe deer and rabbits. The project is carried out in a coastal dune area in which forest patches intertwine with open grasslands and shrubs

Some possible websites:

[https://www.wisentent.nl/sites/default/files/attachments/uk\\_brochure\\_wisententnl\\_lowres.pdf](https://www.wisentent.nl/sites/default/files/attachments/uk_brochure_wisententnl_lowres.pdf)

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/may/28/return-of-the-bison-herd-makes-surprising-comeback-on-dutch-coast>

<https://www.dutchnews.nl/features/2018/02/the-bison-are-back-rewilding-the-dutch-dunes-brings-back-a-mega-beast/>



Photograph: Alamy Stock Photo

### **Gray Wolves in Yellowstone**

Perhaps the most famous – and controversial – case of wildlife reintroduction is Yellowstone National Park’s thriving wolf population. Eleven packs and 108 wolves are reported, as of 2016, while there were none before the 1995 reintroduction of 14 Canadian wolves. The project was sparked by rampant elk overpopulation

Some possible websites:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jan/25/yellowstone-wolf-project-25th-anniversary>

<https://www.yellowstonepark.com/things-to-do/wildlife/wolf-reintroduction-changes-ecosystem/>

<https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/wolf-restoration.htm>



Photograph: Alamy Stock Photo

### **Beavers in the United Kingdom**

A family of beavers was released into a fenced enclosure to stop the village of Lydbrook, Gloucestershire from flooding. The beavers' dam-building stores huge quantities of water and slows peak flows during flood events, potentially lessening devastating floods.

Some possible websites:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/dec/12/uk-to-bring-back-beavers-in-first-government-flood-reduction-scheme-of-its-kind>

<https://www.rewildingbritain.org.uk/explore-rewilding/reintroductions-key-species/rewilding-superstars/eurasian-beaver#:~:text=Wild%20beavers%2C%20and%20those%20in,into%20the%20River%20Forth%20catchment.>

<https://www.positive.news/environment/rewilding-beavers-are-back-heres-what-this-might-mean/>



Photograph: Wikipedia

### **Giant tortoise, Galápagos Islands**

Hunters and invasive species decimated the Galápagos giant tortoise from the 16th century onwards. The Española species was one of the worst affected. Conservationists were able to round up the remaining 14, however, before non-native rats and pests were eradicated over several years. The tortoises were then reintroduced.

Some possible websites:

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/news/galapagos-tortoise-breeding-program-closed>

<https://www.galapagos.org/newsroom/espanola-tortoises-return-home-following-closure-of-successful-breeding-program/>

<https://www.islandconservation.org/espanola-giant-tortoise-saved-species/>

Current rewilding of tortoise-<https://www.galapagos.org/conservation/our-work/tortoise-restoration/>