

Ethology in slow-release conditions (5th group of bison, translocated May 2018)

- Identify and understand different behaviour patterns in the the acclimatisation and rewilding process of the 5th group of bison transport to the Bison Hillock.
- Support data collection for mapping feeding patterns and diet composition and input data in database or WWF monitoring app. This includes direct monitoring as well as liaising with rangers and the wider team, in order to multiply value of accidental observations.
- Take part in workshops related to embedded systems development, wildlife monitoring, adaptive wildlife management, hwc mitigation with BH Labs team and partners in Romania and abroad;
- Work closely with the bison rewilding team, especially rangers, CTO, field research interns, Life-Bison manager and Cohesion facilitator to share insight and co-design measures to help reduce HWC, damage prevention, improve species management;
- Nurture a culture of knowledge sharing, learning and support amongst members.

deliverables

- Collect bison behaviour data through direct observations spending time in the bison rewilding area; deploy camera traps in locations relevant to bison movement patterns archive collected data thoroughly according to the agreed monitoring work plan, in close cooperation with the Life Bison manager.
- Record behaviour observations in slow release conditions (group 5). Relate to available information about origin, feeding procedures, natural vegetation available in place of origin, contact to humans, proximity to human settlements, group size in place of origin and other relevant individual history, working closely with the Life Bison manager.
- Contribute to labeling, classification of specific situations or events relevant to bison behaviour (basis for supervised machine learning algorithms developed for anomalies detection and behaviour patterns modeling). Liaise with ArsAnalitica, the community development specialist and cohesion specialist;
- Analyse Camera trap behaviour and record into behaviour database according to existing protocol; share interesting insights and highlight respective photos/videos to the wider team;
- Assist the Bison Rangers and Field Officer on planned bison monitoring (direct observation), applying the agreed monitoring protocols, working closely with the Life-Bison manager. At least 3 field research days/week, use of WWF android app and database for data capture.
- Provide bi-weekly photos and video records of moments in nature and selected camera trap content to content producer and wider team, documenting field activities. Respond to a weekly short update with highlights or lessons of the week; used as captions or context for blogposts, interactive website as well as reference to reflect on work, potential challenges and new opportunities.
- Participate in workshops related to embedded systems development, multi-sensor wildlife monitoring, adaptive wildlife management, HWC mitigation with Bison Hillock Lab team and partners in Romania and abroad;