



## Program

- Rewilding as a restoration strategy
  - Importance of animal behaviour in nature restoration & rewilding
  - Welfare of animals in rewilding and nature conservation from the animal science-, veterinary- and ecological perspective
  - Public perceptions of rewilding and implications for policy & practice
  - The power of communication in rewilding
- **Practicals**
- Cutting-edge behavioural ecology methods from drone videos to machine learning
  - Welfare assessment in rewilding and nature conservation
- **Roundtable with practitioners**

Date: 29 June – 03 July 2026



Place: Molslaboratoriet, in Mols Bjerge National Park – Denmark



Lecturers are university professors, researchers, veterinarians, nature managers, and nature communicators

## Rewilding meets Behaviour, Welfare & Practice

# SUMMER CAMP

INTERDISCIPLINARY AND INTERNATIONAL SUMMER CAMP FOCUSED ON THE INTERSECTION OF ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR, WELFARE AND POLICY IN REWILDING

## informations

**THIS IS A MSC LEVEL CAMP FOR DANISH AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS OF ECOLOGY, VETERINARY STUDIES, AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**  
THE SUMMER CAMP IS NOT AN AU-ACCREDITED COURSE, HOWEVER, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY TO EXTEND THE CAMP PARTICIPATION INTO A PROJECT TO OBTAIN ECTS CREDITS\*

Participation is limited to 20 students

The summer camp participation is fully funded for participating students by the Hempel Foundation.

## Interested?

- Please apply by submitting a short motivation letter outlining your academic background, interest in rewilding, and reasons for wanting to participate.
- Send your application by 20 May 2026 to:

Lilla Lovász, PhD  
Postdoctoral researcher,  
Aarhus University – ECONOVO  
lilla.lovasz@bio.au.dk

&  
Nell Tassous  
Administrator of the summer camp, intern  
Aarhus University – ECONOVO  
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\*International students should inquire their home institute's coordinator for obtaining credit points



**HEMPEL FOUNDATION**  
ACCELERATING CHANGE TOGETHER



**AARHUS UNIVERSITY**

## Rewilding meets Behaviour, Welfare & Practice Summer Camp

Interdisciplinary and international summer camp focused on the intersection of animal behaviour, welfare and policy in rewilding

*Within the framework of the HERDWISE (Herbivore Social Structures Driving Rewilding and Supporting Ecosystem Recovery) research project*

Time: 29 June – 03 July

(expected arrivals of students: 28.06 evening; latest departure 04.07 morning)

Place: Molslaboratoriet, Mols Bierge National Park - Denmark

### Preliminary program

**Day 0 (June 28) – arrival to Mols by the evening**

**Day 1 (June 29): Introduction day**

Time	program	presenter
7:30-8:30	breakfast	–
8:45-9:45	Summer Camp general intro	<i>Lilla Lovasz</i> , postdoc AU
	Camp participants introduce themselves	Participant students
10:00–11:00	Lecture: Introduction to rewilding	<i>Jens-Christian Svenning</i> professor, macroecologist – ECONOVO, Aarhus University
11:30–13:00	Guided tour at Mols	<i>Peter Lassen</i> , site manager Mols Laboratoriet
13:00–14:30	lunch	
14:45–15:30	Lecture: Research & results conducted at Molslab	<i>Kent Olsen</i> , biologist, senior researcher – Naturhistorisk Museum Aarhus
15:30–17:30	Practicals: Groupwork – brainstorming on group projects –» study question	
18:00	dinner	

**Day 2 (June 30): Behavioural ecology day**

7:45–8:45	breakfast	
9:00–9:45	Lecture: <i>Importance of animal behaviour in rewilding</i>	Lilla Lovasz, postdoc, AU - ECONOVO
10:00–10:45	Lecture: <i>Novel methods in behavioural ecology research – stable isotope analysis</i>	Maciej Tomasz Sykut, postdoc – archaeology & ecology, AU - ECONOVO
11:00–11:45	HERDWISE students introduce their projects	Tine Petersen, Mathieu Portmann, Nell Tassous
12:00–13:00	lunch	
13:00–16:00	Practicals: Behavioural data recording and handling crash course (direct observation / drone observation / behavioural annotation / intro to computer vision)	LL, TP, MP, NT
16:00–>	Student group work -> sampling protocol and data collection	
18:00	dinner	

**Day 3 (July 1): Welfare day**

7:45–8:45	breakfast	
9:00–9:45	Lecture: <i>Animal welfare terminology and concepts</i>	Janne Winther Christensen, professor AU/ANIVET
9:45–10:30	Lecture: <i>Welfare in an ecological context</i>	Lilla Lovasz, postdoc, AU - ECONOVO
10:30–11:00	Q&A with coffee - on welfare	
11:00–12:00	Student group work: data collection	
12:00–13:00	lunch	
13:30–14:15	Lecture: <i>Considerations of welfare in rewilding from the vet's perspective</i>	Henrik Hagbard, veterinarian
14:15–15:00	Q&A	
15:30–16:30	Practicals: Come-along on a real-life veterinary-check in a rewilding area	Therese Hard, veterinarian
16:30–>	Student group work -> data collection	
18:00	dinner	

**Day 4 (July 2): Policy & practice day**

7:45–8:45	breakfast	
9:00–9:45	Lecture: <i>Public perceptions of rewilding and implications for policy-making and practical implementation</i>	<i>Ole Noe, Regional Director, Danish Nature Agency - Thy</i>
9:45–10:15	Q&A with coffee	
10:15–11:00	Lecture: <i>Rewilding from a non-governmental perspective</i>	<i>Thor Hjarsen, head of Wilderness, Hempel foundation)</i>
11:00–11:45	Lecture: <i>The power of communication of rewilding towards the public</i>	<i>Jens Thorvig Andersen, rewilding naturalist, nature interpreter at Hempel Foundation</i>
12:00–13:00	lunch	
13:30–15:30	Roundtable with practitioners: <i>Navigating practical rewilding between legal and public burdens</i>	<i>Martin Sandager (owner, rewilding practitioner – Kragelund Mose), Heidi Buur (owner, rewilding practitioner – Klostergård), Ole Noe (Thy National Park, chief manager), Thor Hjarsen (head of Wilderness, Hempel foundation)</i>
15:30–>	Student group work -> data collection	
18:00	dinner	
19:00	VILDSKABENS VEJE – film	<i>Martin Sandager /Jeppe Svendsen</i>

**Day 5 (July 3) – Presentation-day**

7:45–8:45	breakfast
9:00–12:00	Student group work – analysis
12:00–13:00	lunch
13:00–16:00	Student group work – presentations
16:30–18:00	Student flashtalks
18:00	dinner

**Day 6 (July 4) -> students leave in the morning**

Student tasks:

Each student (group):

1. Formulate a study question within the theme rewilding
2. Design sampling protocol
3. Collect data (e.g. direct observation / drone /smartphone footage on behaviour; questionnaire for tourists; or own choice)
4. Analyse data
5. Prepare a 5-slide presentation
6. Present a flashtalk