

LYNX UK TRUST - PROJECT STAKEHOLDER FORUM

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Introduction

The role of the project stakeholder forum (the "**PSF**") is to provide guidance to the Lynx UK Trust (the "**Trust**") in relation to the views, concerns, points of interest and other thoughts of members of stakeholder organisations on the trial reintroduction of Eurasian lynx to the selected sites in Scotland and/or England (the "**Project**").

The PSF is independent from the Trust and members of the PSF act in a guiding and advisory capacity only, representing their respective memberships' and/or organisations' views. As such, the PSF does not have authority to make decisions in relation to the execution of the Project, but may guide the Trust or make recommendations to the Trust in relation to the Project.

As the PSF performs an advisory and representative function, it does not have any management responsibility for the Project, the members of the Trust or the finances relating to the Project.

No Full Member (as defined below) or Corresponding Member (as defined below) ("**Member**") of the PSF, nor the PSF itself, has an obligation to support the goals or decisions of the Trust. Each Member is independent to the Trust and engages in the PSF for its own purposes.

The role of the PSF is to contribute to issues relating to the Project, where these relate to their area of expertise, areas which are of interest or concern to their organisation or members, and to broad scale, strategic issues of wider relevance.

It will do this through:

- (a) having a proactive role;
- (b) considering and discussing the contributions, concerns, issues and interests of each Member, in the context of the Project as it develops;
- (c) considering and discussing the contributions, concerns, issues and interests of the Trust;
- (d) being evidence-based;
- (e) reviewing and considering scientific and other evidence provided by the Trust in relation to the contributions, concerns, issues and interests of each Member;
- (f) where scientific and other evidence is criticised or disagreed with, by providing alternative evidence which is more comprehensive, relevant and recent;
- (g) ensuring that the Trust retains a focus on how the findings of its data collection processes will be used and how they will need to be presented throughout the lifetime of the Project, in particular in relation to the ongoing functions of the PSF;

- (h) advising on the dissemination of the work carried out in relation to the Project;
- (i) where appropriate, members of the PSF will use their own networks to publicise the Project's findings, in particular within their organisation, to their memberships or to their peers; and
- (j) reviewing its function from time to time.

2. **Composition of the PSF**

At any one time the PSF shall consist of a minimum of six Full Members. The number of Corresponding Members of the PSF shall not be limited.

The membership of the PSF (as amended from time to time) is set out in Annex 1 to these Terms of Reference. The membership of the PSF is made up of "full" members who are invited to each meeting ("**Full Members**"), and "corresponding" members who do not attend the meetings but can provide written contributions and will receive minutes of each meeting ("**Corresponding Members**").

The Full Members of the PSF will be selected in order to proportionately represent the key stakeholders (both statutory and non-statutory) identified in connection with the Project, with the aim of representing agriculture, hill farming, country sports, rural land management, landscape management, deer management, forestry, wildlife conservation, lynx husbandry, tourism and animal welfare.

Full Members of the PSF will be selected in order to achieve a spread of knowledge and experience which will inform the Trust of key stakeholder views, therefore ensuring the fair and effective development and execution of the Project.

The Trust will use ongoing best endeavours to ensure that the PSF comprises Members that proportionally represent key stakeholders interests in the Project. However, the Trust cannot oblige any stakeholder to whom it offers PSF membership to join the PSF and therefore is unable to guarantee that membership of the PSF will be proportionally representative to stakeholder interests in the Project.

Invitations to join the PSF shall remain open to stakeholders and stakeholders may indicate to the Trust that they wish to join the PSF by any means (including orally or in writing by email) at any time during which the PSF continues to meet. The membership of the PSF as set out in Annex 1 may therefore change from time to time.

Any reference to a Member of the PSF is to the organisation, charity, company or other body in question and not to any specific individual representing that organisation, charity, company or other body at a given meeting.

3. **Main roles of the PSF**

More specifically, the PSF will provide independent input and comment, in the manner and context set out above, in relation to the following issues:

- (a) the strategic direction of, and priorities for, the Project;
- (b) the ongoing engagement of key local stakeholders in relation to the Project;

- (c) the balance, relevance and adequacy of management measures supporting the Project;
- (d) broad strategic issues, priorities and policies;
- (e) the design and effectiveness of procedures employed in the implementation of the Project; and
- (f) pressing and emerging management issues facing the Project.

4. **Meetings of the PSF**

Each meeting (a "**Meeting**") of the PSF will coincide with a key milestone in the progress of the Project. This will ensure that the PSF can provide meaningful and relevant input at each significant stage in the timeline of the Project. The Trust reserves the right to call additional Meetings as and when it reasonably considers necessary to fulfil the role of the PSF. A member of the Trust will act as chairman at any meeting of the PSF.

Where key milestones are not obvious, the expectation is that a Meeting will take place bi-annually. Any further discussion required in relation to the Project outside of a Meeting will take place by email.

Key stages in the timeline of the Project which will require input from the PSF include:

- (a) Local stakeholder consultation and pre-project feasibility work;
- (b) Project design;
- (c) Release and monitoring;
- (d) Early findings;
- (e) Final findings;
- (f) Post-first draft report; and
- (g) Dissemination of findings.

If any Full Member fails to attend two consecutive Meetings of the PSF, having been given at least two weeks' notice of such Meetings, the Trust shall review that Full Member's role in the PSF. Where appropriate, the Trust will replace such a Member with another organisation that the Trust believes will represent the views of the key stakeholders originally intended to be represented by that Full Member.

The Trust reserves the right to use its reasonable discretion (or use a majority vote of the Full Members) to dismiss a Member from the PSF for behaviour which in the Trust's reasonably held opinion is disruptive to PSF meetings or prevents the PSF from conducting business as more fully described in sections 1 and 3.

5. Confidentiality

Any views expressed by an individual representing a Member of the PSF and/or any guidance provided by such individual will be understood to be the views and/or guidance of that Member.

All matters discussed during the course of a Meeting or through any other correspondence (including via email) between Members of the PSF (inclusive of the Trust) in their capacity as Members of the PSF will be governed by Chatham House rules except for cases where these are disclosed to any person who is (a) a Member of the PSF (including the board of that Member, any individuals chosen to represent that Member at Meetings or key management employees of that Member), or (b) a member of the Trust, or (c) an adviser to the Trust.

The content of all minutes relating to a Meeting and of all written correspondence between Members (inclusive of the Trust) will be confidential and may not be disclosed to any person who is not (a) a Member of the PSF (including the board of that Member, any individuals chosen to represent that Member at Meetings or key management employees of that Member), or (b) a member of the Trust, or (c) an adviser to the Trust.

The Trust is very grateful to the Members of the PSF for their involvement, input and guidance.

ANNEX 1

Full Members

1. Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust
2. Wildwood Trust
3. Woodland Trust
4. British Veterinary Zoological Society
5. Self-Willed Land
6. Tilhill Forestry

Corresponding Members

1. Fauna and Flora International
2. The Wildlife Trusts / Living Landscapes
3. Wildlife Heritage Foundation
4. Ramblers England
5. Ramblers Scotland
6. British Big Cats Society
7. Eadha Enterprises
8. Forestry Policy Reform Group
9. British Wool Marketing Board
10. People's Trust for Endangered Species
11. EGGER Forestry
12. Scottish Wild Land Group
13. Songbird Survival
14. Scottish Dairy Cattle Association