



## **Position Statement on Re-Introduction of species**

### **Policy context**

Under Article 22 of the EU Habitats directive, member states are required to “...study the desirability of re-introducing species in Annex IV...” In recent years Scotland has seen reintroductions of sea eagles, red kites and a beaver re-introduction trial.

### **General principles**

The John Muir Trust’s founding document (Memorandum of Association) outlines specific objectives to:

- Protect existing wild places so as to conserve their natural processes, and their indigenous animals, plants and soils;
- Renew wild places, where they have been damaged, by encouraging natural processes;

The John Muir Trust works to enhance habitats and natural processes, both on land it manages (in ownership or partnership) and through influencing wider wild land management. The Trust believes that robust wild landscapes, produced as a result of allowing natural processes to prevail, should sustain healthy populations of native wildlife. Robust wild landscapes will also maximise ‘ecosystem services’ such as carbon sequestration, flood mitigation and climate change adaptation for the benefit of wildlife and people.

### **Re-introductions**

The John Muir Trust recognises there is paradox in attempting to achieve robust wild landscapes through natural processes where once native species are missing. Therefore, while the Trust works on habitat enhancement, it also supports re-introductions where the habitat and ecosystem can support the re-introduced species, particularly when the re-introduction will help wild land restoration. Re-introductions must follow relevant guidelines and best practice in relation to biology, local community support, socio-economics, legal requirements, planning, preparation and post-release monitoring.