

## **SCF position on 'rewilding'**

There is no one clear definition of 'rewilding'; it can mean anything from re-introducing predators to planting a few native trees.

The crofting landscape has been managed for agriculture purposes for thousands of years and, therefore, an ecological / environmental system has evolved which could be adversely impacted by 'rewilding'. It can be harmful to reintroduce a species back into an environment that has completely changed since it was last here.

Rewilding is often associated with landowners imposing their views on the local community just because they have a fixed vision in their heads and a lot of money - you can't separate 'rewilding' from the land ownership debate. It does not seem to take into account the people living and working on the land and the effects on them of turning cultivated /used land over to 'rewilding'. Supporting local jobs and population is important too.

SCF favour productive and purposeful use of land - which may include planting of native woodland. There is a great role for woodland grazing – low-density tree cover providing shelter but allowing grass to grow. This benefits climate change mitigation while still allowing food production.