

## **Manx Nature Conservation Forum Terms of Reference**

### **Background**

This forum was originally proposed when Mr Henderson was Minister and was “launched” at a meeting at the Manx Museum.

The initiation of the Forum was announced by Minister Gawne in his conservation policy speech on World Wetlands Day - 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009: “A Conservation Forum, with representation from all conservation and countryside groups will be able to consider the future for biodiversity including the impacts of our changing climate. I’d like to discuss with the Manx Wildlife Trust and with other Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), how this might work – and what you would like to achieve through such a forum. It’ll be a chance to lobby through a regular mechanism – which I hope will give more focus and develop our collective ability to preserve biodiversity on the Island.”

### **Purpose of the Forum:**

#### **1. Dialogue**

- An opportunity for NGOs to hear about and comment on DAFF’s policies and priorities.
- A focus for DAFF’s consultation with wildlife and countryside NGOs.
- An opportunity for DAFF to hear and comment on conservation and countryside groups’ wildlife conservation priorities.
- An opportunity for groups to discuss common areas of interest.
- A body through which other sectors can discuss issues or matters with countryside groups.

Note: The Forum is not the sole route for the communication between DAFF and the NGOs.

#### **2. Partnership of Government and Non-Government Organisations**

- Extending joint working to better progress biodiversity conservation on the Island, especially Convention on Biological Diversity work.
- Initiating further joint projects.

#### **3. Promotion of biodiversity conservation**

- More effective promotion and publicity of conservation issues.

#### **4. Dissemination of scientific information**

- Encouraging the sharing of scientific information and facilitating regular science updates.
- To assess what stage the Island is at with regard to wildlife conservation then to set targets and regularly report to the public on the progress made to meet those targets.

### **Three types of meeting (as recommended at inaugural Forum meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009):**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Open to</b>	<b>Chaired by</b>	<b>Regularity of meetings</b>
Open Meetings	Broad subject meetings workshops, e.g. funding,	NGO representatives and the general public.	Political Member for	As required.

	impacts of climate change, broad legislation consultation.	Meetings will be advertised in the press and all members of the Forum Mailing List will be informed.	Wildlife and Conservation.	
Core Group Meetings	To hear a whole range of issues and decide whether topics should go out widely to Forum Open Meetings or be discussed by Working Groups of people with a particular interest or expertise.	NGO representatives – one person from each Group.	Political Member for Wildlife and Conservation.	Not less often than every six months.
Working Groups	To progress or examine a particular issue e.g. biological records or legislation reviews and report back to the Forum Core Group Meeting.	NGO representatives with a particular interest/expertise.  Other specialists not present at the Forum Core Group Meetings may be invited to attend as required.	As elected by the Group.  Minute taker arranged by the Group.	As required.

### Accountability

The Wildlife and Conservation Division will provide the Secretariat and will record recommendations and comments at Forum Open Meetings and Forum Core Group Meetings. These will be taken to the monthly Wildlife and Conservation Divisional meeting of DAFF.

### The following NGOs have been invited to be involved with the Forum:

Beach Watch  
 Centre for Manx Studies  
 IOM Beekeepers Federation  
 IOM Farming and Wildlife Group  
 IOM Friends of the Earth  
 IOM Natural History and Antiquarian Society  
 IOM Woodland Trust  
 Mammal Society  
 Manx Basking Shark Watch *affiliated to Manx Wildlife Trust*  
 Manx Bat Group  
 Manx BirdLife  
 Manx Butterfly Conservation  
 Manx Fish Producers Organisation  
 Manx Footpaths Conservation Group  
 Manx Game Preservation Society  
 Manx Heritage Foundation  
 Manx National Farmers Union  
 Manx Rivers Improvement Association  
 Manx Sea Matters  
 Manx Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
 Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch  
 Manx Wildlife Trust  
 Native Oak Group  
 Manx Ornithological Society  
 Seasearch  
 Society for the Preservation of the Manx Countryside and Environment  
 Wildflowers of Mann Project *a Government Partnership Project operated by Manx Wildlife Trust*