



A partnership working to restore Glen Affric's Caledonian forest

Glen Affric Partnership

Glen Affric Partnership brings Trees for Life and Forest Enterprise Scotland together for the restoration of Glen Affric's magnificent woodlands. To get the most out of the partnership, and to help both parties work together in the most effective way, restoration work is carried out according to a Memorandum of Understanding: a formalised agreement that clarifies the roles and responsibilities of each partner.



How good communication and formalised agreements between project partners can benefit a woodland restoration project.

Background

Glen Affric is situated in the West Highlands. The woodland is one of the best examples of the Caledonian forest that once covered much of Scotland. The rich environment is an important haven for wildlife and the whole glen was given National Nature Reserve status in 2001.

The Glen Affric Partnership is made up of two organisations: Trees for Life and Forest Enterprise Scotland. Trees for Life is a registered Scottish charity that aims to restore the ancient Caledonian Forest. Both Trees for Life and Forest Enterprise Scotland own and manage core Caledonian woodlands in and around Glen Affric. As such, they are well placed to work in partnership on the restoration of these magnificent woodlands.

How does it work?

The aims of the Glen Affric Partnership are agreed under a **Memorandum of Understanding** (MoU). The MoU sets out common objectives and makes sure that the roles and responsibilities of each partner are clear and understood by all. It outlines the approach to planning ahead on joint projects but also recognises where both organisations operate in different ways. Individual projects are managed on the ground by supplementary agreements. For example, volunteer projects are managed through individual permissions.

Reflecting on the project so far and lessons learnt

Good communication is essential for any partnership, especially on the detail of day to day activities. Good communication also makes the best of joint opportunities and resources such as lifting fencing materials and trees onto the site.

The Glen Affric Partnership has been a good stimulus for both sides. It has helped the partners organise, plan, collaborate, support and keep each other updated on progress. The partnership has also had its ups and downs during its 25+ years. Over several years, staff and organisational changes in either organisation can result in loss of direction and focus.

The MoU has been crucial in maintaining the partnership's focus. The agreement outlined by the MoU should be periodically reviewed to make sure it stays relevant and useful.

Looking ahead

The next project for the partnership will be a volunteer programme to plant a richer range of species on Forestry Commission Scotland ground in Glen Affric. These will include aspen and rare montane species. This ecological restoration work contributes the partnership's shared vision for Glen Affric and would be difficult for either party to deliver on their own. Working in partnership via a Memorandum of Understanding has been a positive step.

For more information about the Glen Affric project visit www.treesforlife.org.uk



For further information on our work with communities please contact

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