**Trees for Life Ethical Funding Policy**

**Introduction**

This policy provides guidance on the acceptability of funding and other support that might be offered to Trees for Life by corporates or other major benefactors.

**Statement of intent**

Trees for Life will accept the support of corporate entities and major donors where it helps to advance our aim to restore the Caledonian Forest. This support may be in the form of funding, skills or other resources.

We reserve the right to consider carefully and potentially reject donations from sources that might compromise our reputation, independence and work.

**Guidelines for support from corporates**

Any corporate partners should:

* Support our aims to restore the Caledonian Forest
* Be committed as an entity to reducing the environmental impact of their operations
* Have an environmental policy which is actively applied.

The level of benefit accrued to Trees for Life from the association must be at least equal to that gained by the corporate supporter.

No form of support or partnership between Trees for Life and a corporate body signifies an endorsement of that corporate’s products or services.

Any public communications relating to the relationship will be subject to approval by Trees for Life.

We reserve the right to terminate the partnership for reasons including actual or potential reputational damage, breach of an agreement, legal non-compliance, misuse of our logo or name.

There may be occasions on which the risks of accepting corporate support may outweigh the benefits to the Caledonian Forest. In these cases, the Relationships Manager and a sub-group of the Trees for Life Board will assess the risks and make the decision which will be communicated to the corporate concerned.

In order to assess the potential risks of an association with an organisation, we will undertake due diligence so that we are confident we know with whom we are doing business. The aim of due diligence is to ensure that we have a reasonable degree of confidence about the reputation of the organisation and provenance of the donation. It should enable us to expose any legal reasons why we should not accept the donation (eg the funds are likely to be from illegal sources) and enable us to identify the donor's activities/ethics.

Undertaking due diligence may involve:

* Checking company details on the Companies House website (or on the relevant Register of Charities if a charity).
* Checking whether the organisation is proscribed under UK law
* Reviewing the company’s own website
* Searching the internet for other information written about the company
* Assessing the reliability of information sources

The effort expended on due diligence will be proportionate to the scale of support being offered.

**Guidelines for support from major donors**

We may undertake due diligence on major donors similar to that undertaken for corporates if the donor is from a country outside the UK or operates a business about which concerns have been raised.

Karen Mitchell, Relationships Manager

13 February 2017