# **A study of key actors’ opinions to a trial reintroduction of the Eurasian Lynx (Lynx lynx) to Scotland**

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Recent studies have considered the ecological feasibility of reintroducing the Eurasian

Lynx (Lynx lynx) to Scotland, however there is still a lack of research regarding the social

factors of lynx reintroduction. This study addresses this research gap by considering the

opinions and perceptions of key actors towards a trial reintroduction of lynx to Scotland.

Using semi-structured interviews and a grounded theory approach, key actors’ perceptions

to the desirability, costs and benefits of a trial lynx reintroduction were analysed.

The results showed conflicting opinions towards lynx reintroduction but that the most

common opinion represented was uncertainty towards a trial. Although key actors

mentioned a variety of perceived benefits of a trial reintroduction, costs including

predation and social issues were discussed more frequently. Key actors suggested ways to

mitigate human-wildlife conflict including provision of effective compensation schemes,

engagement, collaboration and partnership with interest groups.

The theme of uncertainty illustrated in this study resulted in the following

recommendations: continued research regarding stakeholder opinions, improving public

and key actor understanding and support of a trial reintroduction and careful consideration

of the practicalities of a trial. These findings can be used to advise future reintroductions

projects on the potential issues and current perceptions regarding lynx reintroduction.