### **Connect the Wild - Project Alignment & Readiness Checklist**

This checklist is a simple way for us-and you-to explore whether your project aligns with Connect the Wild's mission. It is not a pass/fail test, but a shared sense-check to guide conversation and build trust. We will do this work alongside you.

Checklist

**✅ Restoring Nature**

* Is your project helping restore nature? (e.g. rewilding, habitat restoration, or supporting biodiversity)
* Does it help connect fragmented habitats (e.g. hedgerows, woodlands, rainforests)?
* Does it bring back natural processes, native species, or ecological richness

**✅ Project**

* Do you need the money to buy land for rewilding?
* Do you need the money for rewilding on land you do not own?
* Are there other lenders involved in this project?
* Will you provide ongoing management on the site?

#### **✅ Sustaining the Impact**

* Is there a clear plan for how the project will remain viable beyond the loan?
* Does it include regenerative finance or land-based income (e.g. carbon credits, biodiversity netgain)?
* Does it support long-term climate resilience and land regeneration?

#### **✅ Engaging Communities**

* Will the project involve local communities in meaningful ways?
* Does it promote environmental education or local stewardship?
* Will it increase access to nature and a sense of shared responsibility?

#### **✅Demonstrating Financial Readiness**

* Is there a genuine funding gap that this loan would fill?
* Is traditional funding (e.g. grants, commercial loans) not suitable or available?
* Is there a clear repayment plan (e.g. fundraising, enterprise, or conservation finance)?
* Does your organisation have a track record of repayment?
* Does your organisation have outstanding debts?
* Are key milestones and a timeline in place?

**✅ Land Use & Governance**

* Is the land use ethical and beneficial to both nature and people?
* Does the governance model promote equity (e.g. shared ownership, land trusts)?
* Does the project avoid exclusionary or profit-driven land practices?

#### **✅ Mutual Alignment**

* Does the project align with our shared vision and values?
* Does it contribute to UK biodiversity goals (e.g. 30x30 targets)?
* Does it aim to reverse ecological decline and shift the baseline?

#### **✅ Potential to Inspire Others**

* Can the project model be shared or replicated elsewhere?
* Does it demonstrate new approaches to finance, restoration, or community engagement?