

A GROWING festival that aims to showcase Highland Perthshire's potential as a wildlife tourism destination is to return for a second year.

Despite testing financial conditions, funding has been secured to enable Wild Connections to run from October 8-16, offering around 30 events to enthusiasts.

This year, organisers are also celebrating the news that it will bring a prestigious film festival to Scotland.

The inclusion of nine award-winning short films, secured by Forestry Commission Scotland as part of the

Festival beats the downturn

UN's International Year of the Forests celebrations, is hailed as a major coup.

Visitors are expected to travel from far and wide to the Birnam Institute on Sunday October 9 for the free viewing of wildlife films, which were premiered in New York earlier this year.

The range of events on offer at this year's Wild

Connections has been strongly influenced by the International Year of the Forest celebrations, in particular demonstrating wildlife that lives within Perthshire.

Badgers, red squirrels, wild cats, pine martens, birds of prey, bats and red deer will all play starring roles in many of the events and activities.

Wildlife photography enthusiasts will not be

disappointed either, as multi-award winning photographer Peter Cairns will return to the festival with two master classes.

Festival organiser Adrian Davis is a wildlife tourism specialist and the driving force behind Wild Connections.

He has been working tirelessly to bring the nine-day festival to fruition and is heartened to see it proceed for a second year.

For more information on the festival, event venues, or to book a seat at the screenings, visit wildconnections.org.uk.