

## SPECIES

### Capercaillie Framework

**Around 90% of the UK capercaillie population is found in the Cairngorms National Park**

2015 saw the publication of the Capercaillie Framework which pulled together all the information relating to capercaillie distribution, the pressures they face and the current management measures being undertaken. This is being used to make decisions about their future conservation management across the entire National Park, so that work which includes habitat expansion and access management can be directed to where it is needed most. Click here for the full [Phase I Report](#).

In April 2018, the Cairngorms Capercaillie Project successfully secured funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop, and if successful with the next stage, deliver a large-scale, Park-wide, five-year Project.

The project will have three objectives.

#### ***1: Raise profile and build support for capercaillie conservation***

To save the capercaillie for future generations, we need to win hearts and minds, to build a bond between people and place, to address some of the disconnection with nature in our communities. We want people to value capercaillie and the forests they live in, whether for economic, environmental or emotional reasons, and to support and play a part in their conservation. This work will include community engagement and listening to gather views on attitudes towards woodlands, capercaillie and conservation; and developing a communications campaign to develop a strong brand identity and PR campaign for capercaillie. Alongside this will be a programme of education and inclusion involving events, interpretation, art projects and work with schools; recruitment of community rangers to raise awareness and understanding as well as recruiting, training and supporting community champions for capercaillie conservation. There will also be significant work aimed at improving the visitor experience with capercaillie-themed facilities.

Find out more:

[www.cairngormsnature.co.uk/capercaillie](http://www.cairngormsnature.co.uk/capercaillie)



#### ***2: Sustainable recreation to benefit communities and capercaillie***

Disturbance by humans and dogs is one of the key pressures on capercaillie populations and many of the communities in the National Park are near sensitive capercaillie woodlands. The project will be working closely with the community of Carr-Bridge in the Development Phase to develop a thorough, robust and inclusive approach to consultation and engagement. We envisage a range of actions to improve the experience and facilities for residents and visitors while minimizing impact on capercaillie, including creating off-lead dog waking areas and path management. The project will also look to create 'refuge areas' where capercaillie populations will be less disturbed.

#### ***3: Support the long term survival of capercaillie***

Bigger, better and better connected forests are fundamental to the long term survival of the species in Scotland. We need to encourage more landowners to enhance and expand woodland. As the forests are continually managed at a landscape scale, we will monitor how the fragile population is reacting to changes in habitat and/or mitigation of the pressures. This project will work to improve breeding success both through predator management where there are currently inconsistencies leading to gaps in coverage; and through informing adaptive management by monitoring population health and genetics.