

## **Paper for information**

The following text was developed in response to feedback from CDAG members at the last CDAG meeting 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2010.

## **8 SUSTAINING THE DEER RESOURCE**

### **8.1 Introduction**

The National Policy document *Scotland's Wild Deer a National Approach* set out "guiding principles for ways of working". This section builds on those principles and provides a Cairngorms National Park context for *sustaining the deer resource* into the long-term.

Wild deer are integral to the many ecosystems that make up the landscape of the National Park. The principles below acknowledge the functions of landowners/land managers, agencies, interest groups and the public in the management of deer. They are based on a collective spirit of respect for the public interest in deer management, the value of contrasting estate objectives across the National Park and the significance of the key role that landowners play as stewards of the countryside.

Ultimately the aim of the principles below is to maintain local business and employment, support rural communities and protect the National Park environment.

### **8.2 Principles for managing wild deer and their range:**

#### **Management based on sound evidence and objectives**

Deer culls ensure the maintenance of good quality and varied deer habitat. They should be guided by knowledge of population density, habitat condition and grazing pressure obtained through up to date best practice monitoring techniques.

#### **Public benefit and public funding**

The provision of public benefits, which may not be in the immediate interests of landowners, justifies public funding assistance.

#### **Integration and collaboration**

Neighbouring landowners do not operate in isolation, but should seek, through Deer Management Groups, to resolve competing objectives and involve other interest groups in decision making.

#### **Geographic areas and timescales**

Densities of deer across the National Park vary both geographically and through time and should be managed to allow a diversity of land use objectives to be met.

#### **Communication**

Wider understanding of the purpose and importance of deer, their management and the range they occupy should be promoted.

#### **Marketing**

All opportunities to optimise the benefits of wild deer for food, crafts, tourism, sport etc should be explored.