



Cairngorms Capercaillie Project Progress Report: 1 January - 31 March 2023

The information in this document is submitted and discussed as part of the Cairngorms Capercaillie Project's quarterly reporting to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Project summary

The Cairngorms Capercaillie Project is working to secure the long-term survival of capercaillie in the UK. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund until January 2024, the project's actions for capercaillie are being delivered across the Cairngorms National Park.

The project's key actions are:

- to enable communities to develop and deliver their own community-led actions for capercaillie;
- raise awareness of the plight of capercaillie and how people can help;
- research the genetic diversity of capercaillie in the Cairngorms National Park to help inform action;
- improve and create more habitat for capercaillie and undertake predator control in key areas;
- strengthen current capercaillie monitoring to enable more informed decisions

The project is led by the Cairngorms National Park Authority and delivered in partnership with the Badenoch & Strathspey Trail Association, Balmoral Estate, Brook Forestry, Cairngorms Business Partnership, Carrbridge Capercaillie Group, Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland, Forestry and Land Scotland, Groves Forestry, Rothiemurchus Estate, RSPB, Scottish Forestry, NatureScot and Seafield and Strathspey Estates.

Project start date	22 July 2020
Grant expiry date	31 January 2024

Progress towards the project's approved purposes

Green	Delivery is on track
Amber	Minor issues are impacting delivery
Red	Major issues are impacting delivery

The project's three-step model for enabling community-led action for capercaillie

Stage 1: Why?	This stage is about defining the cause. Why does (or might) capercaillie conservation matter to the community? This is about identifying the key interest groups and leaders in the community and listening to them to identify the issues and themes at play related to capercaillie conservation.
Stage 2: How?	This stage is about identifying how the community feels about the cause by identifying the views held in the wider community, how widespread those views are and where the common ground is.
Stage 3: What?	This stage is about enabling the community to take action for the cause using the data and analysis from Stage 2 and helping the community plan how to monitor and evaluate the actions they deliver in response.

Approved purpose	Summary of progress	Status
Empower communities to help ensure the survival of capercaillie through community-led conservation, by implementing the Carrbridge Capercaillie Conservation Strategy and developing, agreeing and implementing action plans with additional communities.	<p><i>Carrbridge community – Stage 3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 22/23 Action Plan for delivering aspects of the Carrbridge Capercaillie Conservation Strategy was produced by the Carrbridge Capercaillie Group and approved by the Project Board in February 2022. It was shared with Carrbridge residents via Carrbridge Capercaillie News. The following actions from the plan are now in the process of being delivered: Purchase and install an all-weather Carrbridge Nature noticeboard to provide a central hub for sharing information about nature around the village. Commission the production of small capercaillie keepsakes for visitors and residents and invest donations received into wildlife projects around Carrbridge. Commission the production of a capercaillie carving to include in the Carvings Trail around Carrbridge. Work with the Park Authority Ranger Team and landmanagers to install seasonal signage around Carrbridge (developed and tested as part of the 2021 Action Plan) to promote responsible access and dog walking in capercaillie areas during the 2023 breeding season. Support more habitat creation and predator control for capercaillie on Seafield Estate. Support the second phase of the pilot genetic lek survey aimed at developing a more accurate approach to estimating the size of local capercaillie populations using dropping. 	

Approved purpose	Summary of progress	Status
	<p><i>Carrbridge community – continued</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commission a parasitology analysis of droppings to check for potential causes of chick mortality. This work has been scoped with RZSS. A methodology has been developed for delivery this spring. ▪ Scope the potential for new capercaillie related experiences for visitors and Carrbridge residents. The Carrbridge Capercaillie Group have been working with Landmark Adventure Park in Carrbridge to support the development of a new capercaillie exhibit as part of an Ancient Forest Adventure exhibit which is scheduled to open this summer. 	
	<p><i>Mountain biking community – Stage 3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Habitat Regulations Appraisal has been completed for the MTB Recreation Management Plan for Badenoch and Strathspey which has been developed as part of the Trail Feathers project. The MTB Recreation Management Plan is designed to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enable data driven decisions about trail development, maintenance and promotion in Badenoch and Strathspey to ensure mountain biking recreation develops sustainably and sensitive habitats and species are safeguarded. 2. Enable greater levels of responsible access by the mountain biking community in Badenoch and Strathspey including resident and visiting riders. 3. Enable the mountain biking community, land managers and agencies to communicate more effectively. ▪ Guided by the MTB Recreation Management Plan, progress is ongoing to deliver the priority actions for 2022/2023: ▪ ‘Youth trail camps to inspire and enable more responsible riding and trail development amongst young riders.’ The camps (called Trail Academies) have been scoped and a series of up to five are on track to be delivered at different locations in Badenoch and Strathspey by December. ▪ ‘Trail development in Potential Trail Areas (identified as part of the MTB Recreation Management Plan) to reduce MTB activity in Sensitive Areas.’ Scoping work has begun with Forestry and Land Scotland to develop trails in a Potential Trail Area on to help reduce MTB activity in a Sensitive Area. ▪ ‘Trail repairs to reduce habitat loss and fragmentation.’ Part of a popular trail in a Sensitive Area has been re-routed to reduce habitat loss. ▪ ‘Habitat improvement in mountain biking areas, for example screening to reduce disturbance.’ An opportunity has been identified and scoped to improve habitat more widely around the aforementioned re-routed trail. ▪ ‘Consumer facing messages to help raise awareness specifically amongst visiting riders and promote behaviours that will benefit capercaillie and other wildlife.’ Scope exists to use the pre-arrival messaging developed as part of the Business Community Action Plan. Work is also underway to develop and deliver more specific onsite messaging in key mountain biking areas. 	

Approved purpose	Summary of progress	Status
	<p><i>Business community – Stage 3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work is ongoing with agency Genoa Black to develop, test and produce targeted, positive and engaging online visitor facing content that promotes behaviours that will be of benefit to the area's natural heritage, including capercaillie. In the previous quarter the work was not fulfilling objectives. A review meeting took place and changes were made to ways of working and the work itself. The work is now back on track. ▪ The draft online content has been tested with 155 visitors who participated in the project's visitor research and 12 members of the business community. The content has been refined in response and will be available for all 400 members of the Cairngorms Business Partnership to use from May onwards. The Business Engagement Officer, funded by the project and employed by the Cairngorms Business Partnership, will be responsible for encouraging and enabling use of the content by members. ▪ Also part of the Business Community Action Plan, Cairngorms Gravel aims to promote gravel riding in the Cairngorms National Park. The project stands to strengthen the Mountain Biking and Visitor Community Action Plans by promoting less sensitive areas to visiting and resident cyclists and by delivering pre and in ride information to enable cyclists to enjoy the National Park responsibly. ▪ A film and multiple gravel riding routes have been developed and promoted as part of the project. In the previous quarter issues were experienced regarding some routes which promoted sensitive areas and opportunities were missed to share messaging developed as part of the Mountain Biking Community work. A review meeting took place and changes were made to ways of working to resolve these issues. The work is now back on track. The next key step is to scope and develop in ride information that will be delivered to riders through an app as part of their Cairngorms Gravel experience. 	
	<p><i>Visitor community – Stage 3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As part of the Visitor Community Action Plan, Colin Mulberg Consulting has completed a visitor experience audit. The audit identifies where and how Abernethy, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore 'speak' to the different visitor segments identified through the project's visitor research. ▪ The audit has been reviewed and the three sites have begun to identify a range of deliverables to enable progress towards the vision for this area of work. The vision is to develop and maintain high quality, sustainable visitor experiences and thriving capercaillie areas in Abernethy National Nature Reserve, Glenmore Forest Park and Rothiemurchus. ▪ The deliverables include staff training, the development and production of a new map to improve the visitor journey on Rothiemurchus and assets to enhance visitor experiences including remote cameras to provide live stream footage from capercaillie dustbaths and artistic responses to capercaillie, e.g., carvings, at key access points to raise awareness. 	

Deeside communities – Stage 3

- A 'Capercaillie Catch-up' was held on Glen Tanar in February to update local landmanagers and businesses on the following actions from the Deeside Community Action plan:
- Concept designs have been produced for a virtual lek experience in Balmoral Castle for residents and visitors to enjoy. The virtual lek aims to provide an innovative and immersive way for people to 'see' capercaillie lekking, raise awareness of the plight of capercaillie and tell the story of capercaillie in Deeside.
- The project's CaperMap has been extended to include Deeside landholdings outwith the National Park boundary. Advisory support has been provided to improve habitat and access Forestry Grant Scheme funding for works on Ballogie Estate and Finzean (both just outside the National Park boundary). This stands to compliment and strengthen action for capercaillie on neighbouring landholdings in the National Park.
- The project's CaperMap has also been used to identify and trial a targeted, seasonal management intervention on Balmoral Estate to reduce disturbance in a critical area for capercaillie on the estate. Seasonal signage will be installed advising people to take an alternative route to enjoy the same area. A baseline survey of capercaillie activity has been conducted to identify changes before and after the intervention.
- Frequent volunteer work parties have been delivered on Balmoral Estate over the winter to improve and extend capercaillie habitat on the estate. The project has offered to facilitate volunteer work parties on other Deeside estates and landholdings. The opportunity will be offered again in August.
- Deeside landmanagers have been consulted on a suggested approach to assess habitat suitability for capercaillie in Deeside. This was identified as a need by Deeside landmanagers at the end of last year. The suggested approach would involve two key steps; firstly, a desk-based assessment using capercaillie data, fence data, National forestry and vegetation data and recreation data, followed by ground truthing. Whilst this approach would provide some insights, it was felt that upskilling landmanagers to assess existing habitat quality by sampling transects every 200m with set criteria, as per the approach used in the Black Forest, would provide a more accurate and up to date assessment that could also be repeated and sustained post project.

Dog walking community – Stage 2

- Building on the listening sessions conducted with canine professionals last summer, 265 dog owners and canine professionals completed an online survey to identify the views held in the wider dog walking community in Badenoch and Strathspey.
- The survey results identified clear common ground within the scope of the project and a series of professionally facilitated action planning workshops were delivered from February to March.
- Members of the resident dog walking community attended the workshops and used the survey results to identify the following vision and areas of action to take forward:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dog friendly Cairngorms where wildlife can thrive ▪ Areas of action to help achieve the vision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dog-friendly spaces throughout Badenoch and Strathspey to help wildlife thrive - Building a dog owning community in Badenoch and Strathspey - Positive and consistent signage for local and visiting dog walkers in Badenoch and Strathspey ▪ The next steps are to host an open gathering to recruit more dog owners into this area of work to help with the development and delivery of dog-friendly spaces and building a dog owning community. Action on signage will be taken forward by the Park Authority with input from the members of the resident dog walking community who are now actively engaged with the project and others that come on-board over the coming months. 	
<p>Raise awareness and increase understanding of the challenges facing capercaillie through a variety of means including social media activities and events, a new online engagement platform, volunteer work, a public app, new resources for schools and genetics analysis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This quarter the project website attracted 307 returning visitors and 2,315 new visitors. The project Facebook page has 2,200 followers. ▪ In partnership with BirdGuides, members of the birding, photography and wildlife guiding community and Police Scotland, the project launched the Lek It Be campaign to reduce disturbance at lek sites during the breeding season. The campaign, which is focused on awareness-raising and targeted enforcement, has the following intended outcomes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Less birders and photographers found on lek sites. 2. Fewer images of capercaillie taken and shared on social media by birders and photographers during the breeding season. 3. Fewer requests to look for capercaillie received by commercial operators. 4. Less guiding for capercaillie during the breeding season. ▪ This quarter the project featured in the following media: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Press & Journal (Cairngorms Gravel coverage) - Cycling Europe (Cairngorms Gravel) - International Mountain bike Magazine (Cairngorms Gravel) - GravelCyclist.com (Cairngorms Gravel) - Cykelportalen.dk (Cairngorms Gravel) - BBC Scotland and Alba (Feature on the MTB community work) - BBC Radio Scotland (Lek It Be coverage) - Oban Times (Lek It Be) - BirdGuides.com (Lek It Be) - BBC News (Lek It Be) - STV News (Lek It Be) - Strathspey Herald (Lek It Be) - Forres Gazette (Lek It Be) - Grampian Online (Lek It Be) - Northern Scot (Lek It Be) - VN Online (Lek It Be) 	

- Police Scotland (Lek It Be)
- Highland Environment Forum (Lek It Be)
- Sunday Post (Lek It Be)
- Scottish Daily Mail (Lek It Be)
- The Scotsman (Lek It Be)
- Outdoor Photography Magazine (Lek It Be)

- To date, volunteers aged 16 to 60+ have donated over 3,330 hours or £71,300 of unskilled, skilled and professional time to the project.
- Five habitat improvement sessions for volunteers have taken place in the last quarter on Balmoral and Seafield Estate.
- The project hosted a visit from Raffael Kratzer, the Capercaillie Manager in Germany's Black Forest National Park which is now home to less than 200 capercaillie. Responsible for monitoring and managing capercaillie in the National Park, Raffael attended six site visits in the Cairngorms to meet project staff and partners to share and discuss insights about the successes and challenges of capercaillie conservation in the Black Forest where measures to protect capercaillie are currently focused on reducing human disturbance, improving habitat and reducing mortality from predators. As part of his visit Raffael also gave a public talk in Boat of Garten attended in person by around 80 people and watched online by over 120.
- The second phase of the pilot genetic lek survey is underway. 182 droppings collected at 2 lek sites last spring are currently being analysed to identify the number of individual birds that attended the lek sites and their sex. The results of the analysis will then be compared to the number of birds seen. The final report is on track to be completed by September.
- Work is ongoing by RZSS to identify the genetic diversity of the Scottish capercaillie population using feathers collected by the project from across the National Park. Initial insights from this work have been shared with groups involved with the project and the Scottish Capercaillie Group. The final report is on track to be completed by early April.
- The tender re-published on Public Contracts Scotland for developing and producing capercaillie related learning resources did not receive any bids of sufficient quality. Rather the re-publish the tender for a third time, scoping work is now underway to develop learning resources and experiences in partnership with the Highland Wildlife Park for delivery post project.

<p>Work with landowners to implement plans to improve and manage around 9,000 hectares of habitat across six estates for the benefit of capercaillie; enable landowners to play their part in capercaillie conservation via a third-party grant scheme targeting landholdings in capercaillie areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The following habitat improvement work was delivered this quarter, improving over 8,900 hectares of habitat for capercaillie: ▪ Abernethy: Field layer management using a robocutter to enable blaeberry to grow and capercaillie to move around more freely. ▪ Balmoral Estate: Removing non-native trees to allow Scots pine to regenerate, planting mixed broad leaves to expand capercaillie habitat and blocking man-made ditches to re-wet and restore forest bogs; an essential habitat for capercaillie. ▪ Rothiemurchus Estate: Ongoing control of foxes and crows to enhance capercaillie survival and marking has been improved on strategic fences to avoid collisions. ▪ Seafield Estate: Ongoing control of foxes and crows to enhance capercaillie survival. Marking has been replaced on strategic fences to avoid collisions. Habitat has also been expanded by replanting an area with Scots pine and native broadleaves. ▪ Tom an Uird Forest: Enhanced deer control to improve the field layer over 300 hectares for the benefit of capercaillie.
<p>Monitor, test and evaluate ideas throughout delivery, applying learning from the project to refine activities including habitat improvement work, survey techniques, promotional activities and the community action planning model.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An interim evaluation of all project activities to date was conducted by Heritage Pathfinder at the end of last year. The project's Operational Management Team, Project Board and NLHF reviewed and discussed the findings in January, which included lessons and evidence of the project's impact so far. Work is ongoing to prepare for a final evaluation of the project which will be available in December. As project activities are completed, they will be evaluated starting with the Capercaillie Habitat Grant Scheme and Fence Monitoring Volunteers in May.
<p>Develop an innovative and replicable model for community-led species conservation that enables communities to successfully coexist with their natural heritage, sharing the project's findings internally and externally with UK organisations, and further afield, to create a legacy of learning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The model for community-led species conservation, developed through initial work with Carrbridge and subsequently modified through adaptive learning continues to be used effectively across the project, including, most recently, with the dog walking community. ▪ Plans are underway to partner with the Cairngorms 2030 project to host a series of 'Sharing the learning' events in September. The events will see key learnings shared from both the Cairngorms Capercaillie Project and Cairngorms 2030's development phase. The intended outcome for the events is that learning from the Cairngorms Capercaillie Project strengthens future community-led action across the Cairngorms National Park and beyond. ▪ Work by the James Hutton Institute (JHI) is ongoing to document on film the process and outcomes of the Trail Feathers project (the project's work with the mountain biking community) to provide inspiration, learning and evidence in a way that can stimulate further debate and learning.

Milestones

Green	Delivery is on track
Amber	Minor issues are impacting delivery
Red	Major issues are impacting delivery

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Recruitment				
Recruit Project Officer, Communications Officer, Project Administrator, Community Ranger and Capercaillie Advisory Assistant				
Raising awareness				
Develop a Comms Plan				
Launch a new project website				
Commission the design of capercaillie related resources for primary schools				
Genetic research				
Analyse DNA from capercaillie feathers collected from across the National Park				
Deliver an action planning workshop in response to findings from the DNA analysis				
Trial a genetic lek survey				
Habitat improvement				
Improve over 300 hectares of habitat for capercaillie in Abernethy Forest				
Improve over 30 hectares of habitat for capercaillie in Baddengorm Woods				
Improve over 400 hectares of habitat for capercaillie on Balmoral Estate				
Improve over 300 hectares of habitat for capercaillie in Tom an Uird Forest				
Improve over 4,500 hectares of habitat for capercaillie on Rothiemurchus Estate (includes predator control)				
Improve over 3,000 hectares of habitat for capercaillie on Seafield and Strathspey Estates (includes predator control)				
Launch a grant scheme to enable further habitat improvement for capercaillie				

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Capercaillie monitoring				
Launch a public capercaillie monitoring app				
Conduct brood, lek and occupancy surveys				
Project monitoring and evaluation				
Develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework				
Community-led action - Carrbridge community (researching community views was completed in the previous phase)				
Plan actions				
Deliver actions				
Community-led action – mountain biking community				
Research community views				
Plan actions				
Deliver actions				
Community-led action – visitor community				
Research community views				
Plan actions				
Deliver actions				
Community-led action – business community				
Research community views				
Plan actions				
Deliver actions				
Community-led action – Deeside communities				
Research community views				
Plan actions				
Deliver actions				
Community-led action – dog walking community				
Research community views				
Plan actions				
Deliver actions				

Risks and Issues

Risk / Issue	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation	Priority
1. Reduced capacity in the last 12 months of the project due to staff leaving fixed-term posts early to secure future employment.	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing conversations with project staff to ensure early notice of intentions / plans to leave their posts. Scope to change existing part-time contracts to full time if required. Existing ways of working lend themselves to project staff being able to pick up work relatively easily from colleagues if required. 	High <i>No change</i>
2. Reduced ability to deliver actions in the last 12 months due to time constraints and contractor availability.	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dynamic approach to project planning and timetabling. 	High <i>No change</i>
3. Project information is used to undermine public support for the project.	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Board have strategic responsibility for project communications. A Comms Plan is in place and ongoing strategic support is provided by the Park Authority Comms Teams. All project documents are written for a public audience and published on the project website (as far as appropriate). 	High <i>No change</i>
4. Monitoring and evaluation information and processes are not used effectively to strengthen the project; inform legacy planning; and help safeguard the project from inherent risks.	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Evaluation Framework is in place. Interim evaluation conducted. A culture of reflection is embedded in the project and professionally facilitated where possible. 	Medium <i>No change</i>
5. Community-led elements are not conducted in an effective, transparent and defensible way limiting benefits and causing disengagement and mistrust in communities.	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All learning captured from the development phase and ongoing learning in the delivery phase is being applied. The Operational Management Team includes representatives from all community groups and organisations involved. A three-stage model is in place to ensure work with communities is only carried out if it's considered within the scope of the project and the community is considered viable to work with with the project resource available. 	Medium <i>No change</i>

Risk / Issue	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation	Priority
6. The diverse range of interests, organisations and groups involved in the project presents challenges to effective partnership working.	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All partners and areas of work are represented on the Operational Management Team. The Operational Management Team operates under a Partnership Agreement. Members of the Park Authority Board and Senior Management Team are members of the Project Board. The Project Board operate under a Memorandum of Agreement. 	Medium <i>No change</i>
8. The project increases capercaillie disturbance or is perceived to do so.	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff work closely with landowners, landmanagers and community members to stay informed and respond to any issues or perceptions related to disturbance. Comms assets are actively shared with partners and third parties to reduce the need for capercaillie filming and photography. All survey work is completed under licence and all habitat improvement and monitoring work is carried out in accordance with relevant legislation. The project operates within the Capercaillie Data Sharing Policy. 	Medium <i>No change</i>
9. Habitat improvement work delayed or unviable due to changes onsite, delays in the process of applying for FGS funding and or conflicting advice.	Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners applying for FGS funding are experienced in the process and have a good track record of securing funding. Additional resource is provided by the project to help strengthen applications. Scottish Forestry and NatureScot are project partners and members of the Operational Management Team. 	Medium <i>Was High</i>
10. Project activities conflict with other initiatives, e.g. wader conservation.	Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisations involved in potentially conflicting activities are project partners represented on the Operational Management Team and Project Board, operating respectively under a Partnership Agreement and MoA. 	Low <i>No change</i>
11. Continued cold and wet weather during capercaillie nesting and breeding season could overwhelm the benefits of the project.	Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue delivery - the project's work is vital to enhance capercaillie survival, even in difficult years; maintain proactive comms internally and externally; review the issue at Project Board to identify a way forward. 	Low <i>No change</i>
12. Genetic analysis reveals capercaillie population in the UK is at risk of becoming functionally extinct.	Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue delivery and fast track the action planning work scheduled in response to the genetic analysis; review the issue at Project Board to identify a way forward. 	Low <i>No change</i>

Budget

Income	Expected	Received to date
National Lottery Heritage Fund	2,036,100	1,349,497
Cairngorms National Park Authority	60,280	50,280
NatureScot	50,000	50,000
Scottish Forestry	28,000	28,000
Forestry Grant Scheme / SRDP	127,473	27,789
RSPB	40,000	30,000
RSPB Abernethy	10,000	3,080
Seafield and Strathspey Estates	224,144	107,036
Rothiemurchus Estate	41,669	26,982
Balmoral Estate	11,500	2,500
Baddengorm Woods	48,240	0
Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland	75,000	1,440
Volunteer time (in-kind)	120,000	71,300
RSPB in-kind (technical support for the app and online hub)	27,800	3,593
Total	2,900,206	1,751,497

Breakdown of income / contributions received

Partner / Funder	Nature of contribution	Total to date
National Lottery Heritage Fund	Grant	1,349,497
Cairngorms National Park Authority	Donation	50,280
NatureScot	Donation	50,000
Scottish Forestry	Donation	28,000
Forestry Grant Scheme / SRDP	Predator control on Rothiemurchus Estate	16,176
Forestry Grant Scheme / SRDP	Woodland regeneration on Seafield and Strathspey Estates	11,613
Rothiemurchus Estate	Estate contribution to predator control work	26,982
RSPB	Donation	30,000
RSPB Abernethy	Contractor payment - field layer survey prior to heather cutting	3,080
Seafield and Strathspey Estates	Contractor payment - replanting	38,184
Seafield and Strathspey Estates	Contractor payment - fence removal & repair prior to replanting	36,092
Seafield and Strathspey Estates	Contractor payment - groundwork prior to felling and replanting	17,460
Seafield and Strathspey Estates	Contractor payment - fence removal, replacement and marking	15,300
Balmoral Estate	Contractor payment - removal of 1,100m of deer fence	2,500
Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland	Contractor payment - trail maintenance and inspection training	1,440
Total		1,676,604

Partner / Funder	Nature of contribution (Added value - not in the original budget)	Total to date
Cairngorms National Park Authority	6-month internship to support MTB community work	6,762
Forestry Grant Scheme / SRDP	Fence marking on Seafield Estate	22,752
Forestry Grant Scheme / SRDP	Scarifying to promote natural regeneration on Seafield Estate	5,672
RSPB	Pilot genetic lek survey	5,000
Total		40,186

Volunteer time (in-kind contribution)	Total to date
Carrbridge Capercaillie Group	17,505
Mountain biking (Trail Feathers) group	16,106
Dog walking community volunteers	1,286
Volunteers delivering habitat improvement work	5,264
Fence Monitoring Volunteers	12,407
Capercaillie monitoring	6,632
Digital volunteer (project website design and development)	9,700
Comms support (Lek It Be campaign)	2,400
Total	71,300

RSPB (in-kind contribution)	Total to date
Capercaillie monitoring app development	3,593
Total	3,593

Breakdown of expenditure / investment

Community	Community-led action	Total
Mountain biking	Equipment to repair trails to reduce habitat loss and fragmentation	6,041
	Printing and production of trail signs to encourage responsible riding in capercaillie areas	160
	Trail Association website to increase visibility, build awareness and support	785
	Trail Association insurance to deliver community-led action	683
	Contribution towards the Laggan Forest Trust's Pilot Cycling Programme	1,000
	Trailer to transport equipment to repair trails to reduce habitat loss and fragmentation	2,880
	Spill kits for use when operating on Seafield Estate	137
	Lantra training and assessment in brush cutting equipment to maintain trails in non-sensitive areas	852
Total		12,538

Community	Community-led action	Total
Carrbridge	Revised national capercaillie population estimate to help inform action	2,400
	Study of predator activity in capercaillie areas in Kinveachy Forest to help inform action	7,260
	Printing and production of trail signs to encourage responsible access in capercaillie areas around Carrbridge and stakes to install the signs	698
	Path surveys and feasibility work to enable thriving capercaillie areas around Carrbridge and paths and outdoor spaces for all residents and visitors to enjoy	5,730
	Carrbridge Village Hall hire for community events and consultations to build stronger community involvement and participation	144
	Hapi Capi production (small wooden capercaillies) to build stronger community involvement and participation	1,014
	Small capercaillie keepsakes for visitors and residents to build stronger community involvement and participation.	1,905
	Tree surgery (preparatory works for a carved capercaillie to include in the Carvings Trail around the village)	480
	All-weather nature themed noticeboard to provide a central hub for sharing information about nature around the village to build stronger community involvement and participation	60
	Journal publishing cost for the national capercaillie population estimate commissioned as part of the 2021 Action Plan to increase awareness of the plight of capercaillie	2,100
Total		21,791

Community	Community-led action	Total
Business community	Development and delivery of activities in the Business Community Action Plan - payroll and associated staff costs for the Business Engagement Officer	12,000
	Development and delivery of activities in the Business Community Action Plan - Cairngorms Business Partnership staff costs	9,000
	Scoping, testing and developing a technology solution to enable the easy sharing of destination level pre arrival / experience information	2,520
	Development and delivery of activities in the Cairngorms Gravel project – payroll and associated staff and contractor costs	5,724
Total		29,244

Contractor	Work	Total
Genoa Black	Developing and producing digital collateral for businesses to use to promote responsible enjoyment of the Cairngorms National Park	35,821
Colin Mulberg Consulting	An audit of where and how Abernethy National Nature Reserve, Glenmore Forest Park and Rothiemurchus 'speak' to visitor segments	15,800
Highland Field & Forest / Instinct	Brood surveys to help measure impact of habitat improvement work, predator control and community-led action to reduce disturbance	8,852
Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT)	Brood surveys to help measure impact of habitat improvement work, predator control and community-led action to reduce disturbance	4,650
RZSS	Researching the genetic diversity of capercaillie in the Cairngorms National Park to inform action	62,768
RZSS	Developing a new approach to estimating the size of the UK capercaillie population using genetic material	9,853
James Hutton Institute	Evaluation film to share the learning and achievements of the mountain biking community; working to deliver conservation solutions in the Cairngorms National Park	18,000
The Evaluator	Monitoring and evaluating the project to measure impact and share learning	9,100
The Evaluator	Researching public attitudes and beliefs about the Deeside area and capercaillie conservation to inform community-led action planning in Deeside	7,443
Heritage Pathfinder Ltd.	Researching visitor attitudes and beliefs to inform action to enable thriving capercaillie areas and high quality, sustainable visitor experiences	33,160
Heritage Pathfinder Ltd.	Monitoring and evaluating the project to measure impact and share learning	27,510
Total		232,957

Landholding	Habitat improvement work	Total
Abernethy	Heather cutting (with a robocutter) to improve c300 ha of habitat	50,000
Baddengorm	Replanting woodland with native species to expand habitat	6,800
Baddengorm	Marking fencing with wooden markers to avoid collisions	5,000
Balmoral Estate	Heather cutting, fence removal and marking fences with wooden markers to improve c400 ha of habitat and avoid collisions	18,900
Balmoral Estate	Restructuring woodlands (removing non-native trees) to expand habitat	4,770
Brook Forestry	Deer control to improve field layer	10,880
Crannach Nature Reserve	Heather cutting to improve habitat	1,290
Dorback Estate	Heather cutting equipment to improve habitat	5,000
Invercauld Estate	Marking fences to avoid collisions	4,640
Lynamer, Nethy Bridge	Restructuring woodlands (removing non-native trees) to expand habitat	2,673
Rothiemurchus Estate	Screening trackside edges to reduce human disturbance	1,600
Rothiemurchus Estate	Heather cutting and creating grit beds to improve habitat	5,450
Rothiemurchus Estate	Marking fences to avoid collisions	1,600
Rothiemurchus Estate	Predator control to enhance capercaillie survival in key areas	83,315
Seafield and Strathspey Estates	Planting native trees to expand habitat by c90ha	58,290
Seafield and Strathspey Estates	Removing, replacing and marking strategic fences to avoid collisions	15,300
Seafield and Strathspey Estates	Marking fences and maintaining fence marking to avoid collisions	17,643
Tombain Plantation	Marking fencing with wooden markers to avoid collisions	4,944
Total		298,095

Project staff	Work	Total *
Capercaillie Advisory Assistant (P/T)	Capercaillie monitoring to inform work and measure impact	44,700
Capercaillie Advisory Officer (P/T)	Strategic support for capercaillie monitoring & habitat improvement	59,350
Communications Officer (P/T)	Raising awareness and understanding about capercaillie & the project	91,350
Community Ranger	Supporting Carrbridge community-led action	103,150
Gamekeeper	Predator control on Seafield Estate	168,014
Highland Development Co-Ordinator	Strategic support for community-led action	40,000
Project Coordinator (P/T)	Supporting project delivery and providing administration support	77,200
Project Manager	Managing the project as a whole, including staff and contractors	170,700
Project Officer (P/T)	Supporting project delivery	105,900
Total		860,364

* Total salary, equipment and overhead costs for the delivery phase, i.e. 3 years (2020 – 2023)