

## **Note of meeting of CNP Deer Framework Sub Group**

Silverfjord Hotel, Kingussie

28<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

Present: Dick Balharry, Will Boyd-Wallis & Michael Hone

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The main purpose of the meeting was to advance progress on the deer framework (DF). The discussion centred upon the section entitled 'Sustaining the Deer Resource', the latest draft of which had been sent to DB and MH the day before. NB In order to avoid going into too much detail in the time available, the paper contained only a single explanatory sentence to go with each of the 8 principles – the full text providing much more background and explanation to each principle was not discussed.

From the outset it was clear that for the DF to be a useful and meaningful document it has to be of interest to and valued by landowners and absolutely not a duplication of other policy documents such as the National Park Plan or the Wild Deer - a National Approach. It is important to endorse the principles set out in WDNA but not necessary to repeat them.

In the discussion about what is lacking in the 8 principles tabled, it became apparent that there are some fundamental overarching principles that must be stated for the DF to be taken seriously by land owners and managers.

The wording for these will be developed, but essentially the fundamental points of principle that must be recognised and clearly articulated include (in no particular order):

- The contributions and successes of landowners to date
- Landowners' right to set cull targets on their estates
- Landowners are stewards/guardians of the land for future generations
- The need to see estate management on economic terms
- We need a working population in the NP
- Provision of public benefits needs public assistance
- Respect by public for landowners' rights
- Respect by landowners for public attitudes and neighbours interests
- Geographical and temporal patchwork of deer
- Training and public support for habitat monitoring carried out by stalkers
- The National Park to be seen as a complete entity

There were also a number of detailed points on the draft noted, which will be taken up in the next draft of the DF.

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WBW - 28 January 2010