

Title: NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP PLAN MONITORING

Prepared by: Operational Management Group

Purpose

To present the results of the latest six monthly analysis of progress in delivering the National Park Partnership Plan.

Introduction

1. This paper provides the National Park Partnership and Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) Board with an update on delivery of the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan. Monitoring reports will be produced twice a year based on March and September reference points.
2. This is the second update on delivery of Plan, ten months since it was approved by the Minister in June 2012. It has been prepared by the CNPA Operational Management Group.
3. The paper has 3 sections:
 - a) An update on the National Park Partnership Strategic Delivery Group
 - b) It presents an analysis on monitoring of indicators and targets associated with the National Park Partnership Plan's five-year outcomes. (In this first report mainly an update on establishing baseline data).
 - c) It provides an update on delivery with the opportunity to highlight significant successes or areas where delivery is unlikely to achieve outcomes.

Background

4. The National Park Partnership Plan is the plan that coordinates how the aims of the National Park will be delivered. Although it is prepared by the National Park Authority, it was developed with the help of many organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors, as well as interested groups and communities in the National Park. The National Park Partnership includes the organisations that are best able to coordinate delivery of the Plan.
5. The National Park Partnership Plan for 2012-2017 was approved by the Environment Minister in June 2012. It sets out the vision for the National Park and three long term outcomes as:

***An outstanding National Park,
enjoyed and valued by
everyone, where nature and
people thrive together***



6. The Plan also sets out 10 five-year outcomes that provide the focus for work for the five years between 2012 and 2017 and will help to deliver the vision and long term outcomes. A series of programmes and with work packages were identified with partners help deliver those outcomes and form the starting point for delivery of the National Park Partnership Plan.

The National Park Partnership Strategic Delivery Group













7. The National Park Partnership Strategic Delivery Group is a small sub-group of the partnership including senior representation from organisations (public/private/voluntary) with responsibilities for managing the Park beyond individual project delivery. The group had its first meeting in February 2013 and discussed monitoring of the Plan and collective delivery as well coordination of capital spending programmes and opportunities.
8. Future progress reports will be prepared with the Strategic Delivery Group partners to provide a clear link to the key partner organisations. This will also allow partners to improve data sources and to react to problems or issues with delivery.

Analysis of Progress Towards National Park Partnership Plan Five-year Outcomes

9. Progress towards achieving the National Park Partnership Plan’s five-year outcomes is tracked with the help of indicators and targets and summarised in Table I. Some indicators will take time to show trends, but where possible the indicators are coded with a traffic light system to provide a sense of progress.

Table I progress towards five-year outcomes			
Five-year outcomes	Indicators	Targets	Comment
Long-term outcome I: A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities			
1. The economy of the Park will have grown and diversified, drawing on the Park’s special qualities	Business confidence reported through Cairngorms Business Barometer	Increase	Business confidence dropped in the recession and started at a low point for this National Park Partnership Plan in 2012
	Number of jobs created in the Park	To have grown by more than the rate of population growth	This data was created for the Economic Health of the Park report in 2010 but is not readily available. We will identify an alternative indicator with the Strategic Delivery Group.
2. Businesses and communities will be successfully adapting to a low carbon economy	% population living within connection of high speed broadband or equivalent	75%	Currently identifying baseline. Estimated at 0%
	Renewable energy production	To increase year on year	Data for 2011 held. 2012 baseline available later in

Table 1 progress towards five-year outcomes			
Five-year outcomes	Indicators	Targets	Comment
			2013. Initial data shows increase
3. Communities will be more empowered and able to develop their own models of sustainability	The number of community enterprises generating income	Increase by at least 50%	Baseline estimated at 2 in 2012, rising to 4 by early 2013.
Long-term outcome 2: A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced			
4. The quality and connectivity of habitats is enhanced	Area of woodland	Increase of 6% (c.4,000 Ha) in total woodland area	2011 baseline established. Currently collating new woodland planting data for 2012.
	Water quality	Maintenance or increase in water quality status	2011 baseline established. 69% of water bodies at 'high' or 'good' status. % maintained to 2012.
5. The species for which the Park is most important are in better conservation status	Active conservation for Cairngorms Nature priority species	Targets identified in Cairngorms Nature Plan achieved	Can't be assessed till later in 2013.
	Estates participating in Wildlife Estates Initiative	75% of estates in the Park	2012 baseline is established: 4% of Estates in the CNP participating
6. The special landscape qualities, including wildness, are conserved and enhanced	Qualities of wildness	Equivalent or increased area of the Park characterised as high or medium wildness	Baseline established. Not reassessed till 2015.
7. Settlements and built development will retain and enhance the distinct sense of place and identity in the Park	Number of conservation area improvement projects	To cover all conservation areas	Baseline is 1 in 2011/12. No further work programmed until 2014
Long-term outcome 3: People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences			
8. More people will enjoy, learn about and help to conserve and enhance the	Number of volunteer days spent caring for the Park per year	Increase by 50% by 2017	Baseline: 1570 volunteer days in the year 2011-2012.

Table 1 progress towards five-year outcomes													
Five-year outcomes	Indicators	Targets	Comment										
Park													
9. The expectations of visitors are met or exceeded	Visitor satisfaction reported in Cairngorms Visitor Survey	Increase	Baseline 2010 Survey. Next data 2015										
10. The Park's recreation opportunities have improved the health and enjoyment of residents and visitors	Number of people using promoted core paths	Increased path use overall and more even spread throughout year	Baseline established for 2011/12										
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Key</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Indicator shows positive direction of travel or maintains state</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Indicator shows lack of progress to target</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Indicator shows negative direction of travel or problems</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>No data available yet</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Key			Indicator shows positive direction of travel or maintains state		Indicator shows lack of progress to target		Indicator shows negative direction of travel or problems		No data available yet
Key													
	Indicator shows positive direction of travel or maintains state												
	Indicator shows lack of progress to target												
	Indicator shows negative direction of travel or problems												
	No data available yet												

Update on Delivery of National Park Partnership Plan Programmes

8. Table 2 below summarises activity within the twelve National Park Partnership Plan programmes and their work packages. It included highlights at this point in time, 4 months into the delivery of the Plan, so is not an account of all activity.

Table 2. Summary of National Park Partnership Plan Programme Activity	
Programme	Key Work Packages
I Supporting business	<p>Ia Enterprise Forum, economic strategy development and implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work has been undertaken to review existing economic strategies, plans and delivery structures as they relate to the Cairngorms National Park. A workshop is planned for 27th March to review the findings and agree key themes for the Strategy and make-up of the Forum. <p>Ib Skills and Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBP, RDCDMO and Business Gateway delivering training for businesses. <p>Ic Food and drink development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A visit to Dumfries & Galloway has been arranged for Cairngorms Producers to learn about their experiences in effective collaboration and marketing. Cairngorms Farmers Market is implementing recommendations from a review and also looking at opportunities for a permanent

Table 2. Summary of National Park Partnership Plan Programme Activity	
Programme	Key Work Packages
	<p>outlet in Aviemore.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued work with schools and community groups to increase knowledge, understanding and growing of local produce. <p>1d Growing the Cairngorms Business Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Business Conference delivered in November themed around 'Your bottom line' i.e. helping businesses to save money. Membership numbers increased and membership offering widened including improved offerings for non tourism businesses.
2 Infrastructure & communications improvements	<p>2a Improving IT and mobile communications connectivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tomintoul and Glenlivet and Corgarff & Glenbuchat have been selected as two of only six pioneer projects in Scotland to receive support and funding from the Community Broadband Scotland seed fund. HIE and Scottish Government procurement ongoing for delivery of Broadband in intervention areas. Aberdeenshire Council committed £18million to support wider delivery with a focus on those with no current service. <p>2b Improving access to housing for local needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable Housing Officer working actively with a number of communities on various local initiatives Seminar on Community Land Trusts held in Boat of Garten
3 Low Carbon Cairngorms	<p>3a Renewable Energy Generation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of developer checklists for renewable energy developments Partners collaborating on events to raise awareness of renewable energy opportunities and funding. <p>3b Low Carbon Living</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a programme to support community groups develop renewable energy schemes and generate income as well as increase energy efficiency of community assets. Scoping research to identify how the local economy and business can benefit from future Green Deal opportunities <p>3c Low Carbon Land Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peatlands seminar held on 19th September, aimed at advising on sensitive management of carbon stores. Continued support for woodfuel action plan. Woodfuel seminar held to advise on improving woodfuel development
4 Community Empowerment	<p>4a Community action planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of existing Community Action Plans to be conducted (2012-2014) Community mapping exercise completed to inform development of economic strategy and the leader business plan for next cycle. <p>4b Community capacity building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening Communities project launched in Badenoch and Strathspey complete first year, 300 participants have attended 15 training sessions.

Table 2. Summary of National Park Partnership Plan Programme Activity	
Programme	Key Work Packages
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust (TGDT) Development Officer recruited end of 2012, key projects in the regeneration plan being progressed. • The LEADER LAG have supported some 220 largely community based projects throughout the 2008-2013 Programme, the new Programme is currently being developed to continue this essential work with communities for a sustainable future.
5 Building vibrant places	<p>5a Planning the best development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Local Development Plan due to be published for consultation in April- July 2013. <p>5b Delivering the most effective Planning Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Improvement Plan 2012-14 approved by Planning Committee 22 June 2012 setting out package of work to improve service for all customers – applicants, developers, communities • First Planning Performance Framework annual report submitted to Scottish Government • Staff recruited to focus on service improvement • Developers Forum, Community Council/Association Planning Network established improving communication with planning service. • Planning applications and Local Plan can all be viewed on website <p>5c Supporting the regeneration of Tomintoul and Glenlivet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust (TGDT) is now established and supported by partners is working to deliver a number of key regeneration projects including the Tomintoul Youth Hostel. The Trust will take over the Hostel in April employing a manager and installing a biomass heating system which will also provide a long term income stream. The Trust is also undertaking a feasibility study on the hotel, broadband project, public transport review, gateway project and contributing to an HLF bid. • Ian White associates have developed gateway designs which are the subject of community consultation. Work is scheduled to start following planning permission and procurement in summer 2013. <p>5d Quality in Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Cairngorms National Park Design Awards took place. • Establishing Design Panel for Park to provide impartial advice to developers and planning authorities. <p>5e Townscape Enhancement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programming work to complete conservation area appraisals by 2014 with subsequent bid for improvement grants.
6 Nature and Landscapes	<p>6a Wildlife Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cairngorms Nature Strategy Group established. • Cairngorms Nature and Action plan final draft submitted to strategy group in March.

Table 2. Summary of National Park Partnership Plan Programme Activity	
Programme	Key Work Packages
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrating cairngorms nature event scheduled for 18th May <p>6b Cairngorms Landscapes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web-based landscape toolkit (first phase) up and running. Futurescapes (Wetlands and woodlands) linked in to development of Cairngorms Nature. • Tomintoul and Glenlivet landscape partnership project bid at pre-application stage. <p>6c Designated Sites Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint-Agency Working on priority (Section7) deer sites continues. • Trial ranger service in Boat of Garten wood highly successful for managing recreation and preventing disturbance to capercaillie
7 Supporting Land Management	<p>7a Land Management Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent training courses on wildfire prevention and snaring. • New courses and seminars scheduled for 2013 include hydro, deer stalking certificate, farm security, IACS refresher etc. <p>7b Advice and Support Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land management forum, farmers' forum, monitor farm and CDAG continue to be active and usually well attended. • New programme of land management support and advice being developed by CNPA. • Coordination of forestry consultations improved. <p>7c Wildlife Estates Scotland Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 152 Estates either wholly within or whose boundaries straddle the Cairngorms National Park. Of the 13% of Estates that are participating in Wildlife Estates Scotland Initiative; 60% are at Level 1 and 40% are at Level 2. <p>7d Catchment Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catchment management partnerships (Dee, Spey and South Esk) remain highly active. • Upper Dee riparian woodland project (aka Pearls in Peril) headline for the Dee launched 28th September. Project manager (job share) in place and based at Dee Fishery Board office • Spey Catchment Initiative has led pioneering projects aimed at river restoration and improvements. Significant political and national interest.
8 Leading Sustainable Tourism	<p>8b Cairngorm Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glenmore Settlement now forms part of the draft Local Development Plan with recommendations about the type of developments that will be considered focussing on improving visitor experience while maintaining the outstanding natural heritage • Consultants have been appointed to undertake an audit of existing tourism and visitor information and identify gaps in the data. This work will directly inform the new strategy and action plan.

Table 2. Summary of National Park Partnership Plan Programme Activity	
Programme	Key Work Packages
9 Active Cairngorms	<p>9a Delivering and reviewing the Cairngorms National Park Outdoor Access Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strategy is now some five years old and a review will be undertaken this year. The most significant change in recreation over this period has been in cycling and this element will be developed into a detailed action plan. (See 9c below). <p>9b Promoting active enjoyment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health walks continue to meet demand in each community and proactive work with NHS Scotland and other partners is leading to a more integrated approach to delivering some of the key Scottish Government targets on health and activity. <p>9c Developing cycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Cycling Action Plan is now in development, building on the information that came from the workshop held at the Lecht in November 2012 and scheduled to be ready for Board approval at the June meeting. . The New Mountain Bike trails on Crown Estate, Glenlivet are nearing completion and scheduled for opening early summer.
10 Outdoor learning	<p>10a Using National Parks in the Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor learning with the National Parks project to be extended until the end of 2013. Three year action plan to be drawn up by the partnership to ensure the legacy of the project. (2013-2016) Monitored and evaluated by the existing steering group. CPD programme being developed for Education services going forward. Outdoor Learning Festivals are already planned for Highland and Aberdeenshire. Outdoor learning Strategy groups in Highland and Aberdeenshire continue to make good progress in promoting the use of outdoor learning and highlighting opportunities in the National Park. Good progress is being made in the other authorities. The National Parks Senior pupil residential and teacher training weekend has been organised for September. The National Parks media project is underway with primary schools using the 10th Anniversary and the Year of Natural Scotland as inspiration. <p>10b Learning from the Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Junior Ranger Project will be operating in Highland, Aberdeenshire and Angus with 5 secondary schools involved. Planning is underway to include Pitlochry HS in Perth & Kinross for 2013. The John Muir Award target for 2012 was 2200 awards; 2246 was the final total. Planning is underway for celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the John Muir Award in the Cairngorms. A special Cairngorms national park branded certificate has been produced to mark this occasion.
11	11b Developing and delivering inspiring campaigns

Table 2. Summary of National Park Partnership Plan Programme Activity	
Programme	Key Work Packages
Sharing the Stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans are in place with partners for a series of events and activities celebrating 2013 Year of Natural Scotland, and 10th Anniversary of Cairngorms National Park. CBP are testing the 'Make it Yours' campaign of inspiring messages. CNPA are developing condensed version of 'Sharing the Stories' showcasing the outstanding features of the area for use with a wider range of partners.
12 Visitor Access and infrastructure	<p>I2a Management of core paths and outdoor access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community path leaflets are now available in Dalwhinnie and Blair Atholl and a second print run has been commissioned for Boat of Garten. <p>I2b Maintaining and improving high quality visitor facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The refurbished Blair Atholl Visitor Centre & Ranger Base was formally opened in March. Project supported by Blair Atholl Area Tourist Association, Blair Charitable Trust, Perth & Kinross Council, Historic Scotland and Scottish Government. Boat of Garten Community Company, with support from Scottish Government, has redeveloping Station Square and installing visitor information, interpretation and a 4.5m osprey feather sculpture. This will be opened in May. Work has started in both Nethy Bridge and Laggan in developing detailed proposals for upgraded visitor facilities. <p>I2c Scotland's National Parks Mountain Path Restoration Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new tranche of trainees have been recruited and will be working towards their SVQ over the next 8 months. Further upland pathworks are scheduled for the plateaux during the summer and a remote camping system (cabins) will again be deployed to reduce walk-in times making for a more efficient and cost effective contract.

OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT GROUP

April 2013