

## Foreword



Scotland's National Parks are two of our greatest national assets. From the high mountains and straths of the Cairngorms to the lochs and woodlands of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, these areas of outstanding natural beauty provide some of our most iconic landscapes. They are important for their contribution to the Scottish tourist industry and wider economy, their rich cultural heritage and for the health and social benefits they bring our citizens. They are valued by the communities and people that live, work and find recreation and enjoyment in them.

Our National Park Authorities play a vital role in managing the Parks, in supporting sustainable rural development, in promoting and enhancing the visitor experience and ensuring that the Parks' stunning landscapes and special qualities are conserved and enhanced for future generations.

Success for our National Parks relies on close and effective partnership working – by Government, national agencies, local authorities, private businesses, charities, land managers and community organisations. I am confident that everyone will play their part, working together to make the most of the tremendous opportunities that the National Parks offer and to ensure that these special areas of Scotland achieve their full potential. We aspire to them being 'must visit' destinations – renowned for their landscapes, welcoming visitor experience and thriving communities.

The new five-year National Park Partnership Plans have been produced following extensive consultation and discussion. They set out in detail how the National Parks, and what they offer to the people of Scotland and visitors, will be enhanced over the next few years. We should be proud of our National Parks and, in partnership, work to ensure they stand as two of the best in the world.



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