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**To all:**

National Park Partnership Plan Partners



24 August 2012

**NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP PLANS 2012 – 2017**

Our colleague Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, formally launch the National Park Partnership Plans for the period 2012 - 2017 at an event at the Royal Highland Show in June this year.

The Partnership Plans are an important milestone in the continued development of our National Parks. They set out the details of the specific projects and programmes to be taken forward over the course of the next five years and also capture the wider contribution that the Parks, working in partnership with others, make to our National Outcomes and to the Scottish Government's Purpose of creating a more successful country through sustainable economic growth.

The drive for increased partnership working and collaboration across public, private and third sectors in delivering meaningful and measurable outcomes for the people of Scotland is an essential part of our approach to Government and crucial in order to make the best use of resources, especially in times of restricted budgets.

Our National Parks are two of our most spectacular assets and we wish to emphasise the importance attached by the Scottish Government to the effective delivery of the new National Park Partnership Plans. These are wide-ranging in their scope but we would highlight the following key policy areas to which delivery of the Partnership Plans will make an important contribution:

**Environment and Tourism policy** – Scotland's natural environment is one of our most precious and significant assets. Not only is it important that we safeguard it for future generations, but it is vital to our tourism industry and we must look for sustainable ways to maximise its economic potential. Our National Parks are two of Scotland's premiere tourism and economic assets

and already deliver outstanding attractions and contribute much to our national tourism product. We wish to build on that success and ensure that the Parks continue to flourish and generate growth in our rural economy for years to come. It is important that all National Park partners, nationally and locally, continue to play their part in making the most of these special places for all of Scotland.

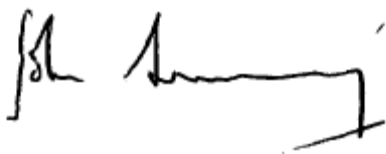
**Public Service Reform** – alignment with our Economic Strategy lies at the heart of our approach to public service reform. This includes a relentless focus on delivering the best possible outcomes for the people of Scotland through co-ordinated activity and actions across sectors. The collaborative approach to delivery taken by our National Parks and their partners exemplifies this and we look forward to seeing further demonstrable results through the delivery of the new National Park Partnership Plans. We look to relevant public bodies to capture their contributions in corporate plans and annual reports and, as signalled at recent National Park partners' meetings, we intend there to be a regular review of progress.

We are grateful to all involved in the development of the new National Park Partnership Plans and for the commitment that is being shown by everyone to play an active part over the next five years and beyond in helping to protect and maximise the potential of these special places.

Copies of the Plans are available at:

[www.cairngorms.co.uk/park-authority/national-park-plan/cairngorms-national-park-plan-2012-2017/](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk/park-authority/national-park-plan/cairngorms-national-park-plan-2012-2017/)

[www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/nationalparkplan/](http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/nationalparkplan/)



**John Swinney**  
Cabinet Secretary for Finance,  
Employment and Sustainable Growth



**Stewart Stevenson**  
Minister for Environment and Climate  
Change