

## **Application by Cairngorms National Park Authority for European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas**

The following briefing outlines the process for application to Europarc:

### **Principles**

1. As the Authority is responsible for the protected area, the NPA will sign and agree to abide by the principle for sustainable tourism in protected area as set out in chapter 3.1 of the Sustainable Tourism Strategy.

### **Application Report and Supporting Documentation**

2. This is a short summary report with cross reference to the Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan to be sent to Europarc by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2005. A number of supporting documents will be part of the application including details of the development of the Park Plan, visitor leaflets and brochures etc.

### **Verification Visit and Report**

3. Once the application is received, an expert verifier will be appointed by Europarc to visit the CNP for two days in April/May 2005. They will conduct interviews with personnel involved in tourism as well as representatives of tourism enterprises. The verifier will submit a report to the Evaluation Committee and a short report with feedback on the visit to the NPA.

### **Evaluation Committee and Results**

4. An evaluation committee will consider the application in July, and the result will be either:
  - a) To award the Charter
  - b) To defer the award subject to specific changes being made
  - c) To reject the application

### **Award of the Charter**

5. Arrangements for an official signing of the Charter certificate will be made, and successful protected areas are allowed to use the Charter logo and obtain as much media coverage of their success as possible

### **Endorsement of the National Park Authority Board**

6. Following the incorporation of the comments on the strategy and action plan, the final version will be presented to the NPA Board on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2005. This is after the application will have been submitted to Europarc, but any comments and outcomes from the Board will be forwarded prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> March deadline.