

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR INFORMATION

Title: UPDATE ON NATIONAL PARK PLAN MONITORING
FRAMEWORK

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Purpose

To update the Committee on progress with developing the National Park Plan monitoring framework and the proposed process for finalising and formalising it.

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK PLAN MONITORING FRAMEWORK

1. The monitoring framework for the National Park Plan is intended to measure what we do, what the effects of what we do are on the Park, and what the effects of other pressures are on the Park.
2. It is known as the 'Pressure – State – Impact – Response' model and is summarised in the figure below:



3. This means that monitoring of the Park Plan takes place at three levels:
 - a) **of inputs and outputs in operational terms** – the activities that partners undertake under the priorities for action;
 - b) **of progress towards the 5-year outcomes** – based on indicators for those outcomes.
 - c) **of the State of the Park** – based on indicators that tell us about key relationships of interest, changing pressures on the Park, and the net effects of management and those pressures.

4. The operational monitoring is done on the basis of the delivery team's action plans. Monitoring of the progress towards 5-year outcomes and the state of the Park use indicators to demonstrate progress and change.
5. The indicators have been compiled by the CNPA with contributions from each delivery team. The proposed indicators are shown in Annexe I and II. As far as possible, the indicators are existing measures or readily accessible measures that will help to monitor progress. In many cases, the indicators will only be a rough proxy for the outcome, and any interpretation and explanation will draw on other additional measures.
6. The indicators selected so far represent a clear picture of available data and realistic measures. We anticipate three more stages to formalise them and asked the National Park Strategy Group to endorse this approach on 14 March 2008:
 - a) Re-presentation to each delivery team to check and confirm commitment to measure/monitor;
 - b) Presentation of indicators to National Park Advisory Forums for comment;
 - c) Final modification and confirmation of indicators by the delivery teams and CNPA staff prior to formal presentation to the Audit Committee for endorsement and approval.

National Park Plan Priority for Action Outcome Indicators

1 Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity and Landscapes

Park Plan 5 year outcome	Headline Indicator	Baseline	Target (numerical or directional)	Currently monitored? (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or <input type="checkbox"/>)
A Landscape Plan for the Park will identify the natural, cultural and built landscape qualities, the factors influencing them and underpin actions for positive management.	% of consented developments that comply with the Landscape Framework.	2009	100%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The key areas for the experience of wild land qualities will be identified, protected and enhanced as a major source of enjoyment of the Park and wild land qualities throughout the rest of the Park will be safeguarded.	Total area of land that has one or more attributes of wild land. Total area of land that has all attributes of wild land.	2008	No net loss of areas.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not yet but CNPA research will provide baseline 2008
The location, scale, layout and design of all new development will make a positive contribution to the natural, cultural and built landscapes of the Park, and the adverse impacts of some existing developments will be reduced.	% of consented housing developments that comply with Policies 17 & 18 in the Deposit Cairngorms Local Plan (and adopted Local PLAN)	2008	100%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> will be monitored as part of Local Plan.
Species and habitats identified as the highest priorities in the Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan, the UK and Scottish Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and the Scottish Species Framework will be protected and under active conservation management.	% of priority species and habitats in favourable conservation status	2008/2009	increase	(<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>) Partial monitoring
Park Plan 5 year outcome	Headline Indicator	Baseline	Target (numerical or directional)	Currently monitored? (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or <input type="checkbox"/>)
There will be enhanced connectivity within habitat networks through practical implementation of a planned, landscape-scale approach, with early emphasis on lowland agricultural habitat networks and forest networks.	Area of land managed to improve connectivity through the Forest Habitat Network Project	2008	increase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not yet but would be monitored through FHNP
All the designated nature conservation sites in the Park will be in favourable condition, or under positive management to bring them into favourable condition, and this will be enhanced further by the appropriate management of the surrounding land to increase their ecological integrity and viability.	% of designated sites in favourable condition	2007?	95% or more	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The habitat and water quality of rivers and wetlands will be enhanced through commencement of positive management initiatives guided by catchment	% of water bodies achieving 'high' or 'good' ecological.	2007	Increase to exceed WFD requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2 Integrating Public Support for Land Management

Park Plan 5 year outcome	Headline Indicator	Baseline	Target (numerical or directional)	Currently monitored? (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or <input type="checkbox"/>)
A diverse, viable and productive land management sector will continue to provide high quality primary produce such as food and timber, whilst delivering public benefits which are compatible with the Park's special qualities and will make a growing contribution to employment and the local economy.	Number of people employed by land management businesses	2007?	increase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, but data available from SERPID?
Public support for land management will be better integrated and directed at delivering tangible public benefits.	Number of RDCs delivering public benefits derived from the National Park Plan	2007	increase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not yet but would expected to be recorded by RPAC.
The public benefits which land managers are asked to deliver with public sector support in the Park will be informed by sound information and determined through an open process involving land managers, communities and other stakeholders.	The range of stakeholders involved in setting RPAC regional priorities.	2007	Increase number of stakeholders involved.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not yet but would expected to be recorded by RPAC.

3 Supporting Sustainable Deer Management

Park Plan 5 year outcome	Headline Indicator	Baseline	Target (numerical or directional)	Currently monitored? (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or <input type="checkbox"/>)
There will be a large-scale patchwork of deer densities across the NP underpinned by an inclusive deer management planning process.	% of NP covered by an inclusive deer management plan.	2007 (40%)	100%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Designated sites will be protected and enhanced and the deer range throughout the Park will be managed to a good environmental standard.	% of designated sites in favourable condition	2007	100%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
There will be good communication and understanding between all sectors involved in deer management. Better understanding should reduce conflict between sectors.	% of Communities who identify deer management as a major issue each year.	2008	Reduce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Simple survey through AoCC would provide information
The economic value of the deer resource will be enhanced.	Total Value of stalking & accommodation p.a. & Number of estates gaining income from non-traditional deer related activities	2007 2008	Increase Increase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
There will be more opportunities and fewer perceived barriers for a wider range of people to enjoy stalking.	Total Number of people shooting deer on estates p.a. Total number of single or half day clients p.a.	2008 2008	Increase Increase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4 Providing High Quality Opportunities for Outdoor Access

Park Plan 5 year outcome	Headline Indicator	Baseline	Target (numerical or directional)	Currently monitored? (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>)
A wider range of people will have the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors.	% & length of paths in 'favourable condition'	2008 estimate	Increase by 10% p.a.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Land managers and those enjoying the outdoors will have a better understanding of their respective rights and responsibilities which will positively influence behaviour and enable all to enjoy the special qualities of the National Park.	Number and type of access cases reported to CNPA p.a.	2005/06/07	Reduction in complaints relating to signage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
There will be a more extensive, high quality, well maintained and clearly promoted path network so that everyone can enjoy the outdoors and move around the Park in a way that minimises reliance on motor vehicles.	% & length of paths in 'favourable condition'	2008 estimate	Increase by 10% p.a.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
There will be greater involvement of communities, land managers and visitors in the management and maintenance of paths.	% of Community Council areas with active community involvement in path management p.a.	2007	Increase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Total number of community groups involved in path management p.a.	2007	Increase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
There will be more effective connections between public transport and places with outdoor access opportunities.	Number of public transport links with main outdoor access recreation points identified by Green Travel Plan for B&S	2008	Increase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
There will be locally based healthy walking groups throughout the National Park and active promotion of outdoor activity by health professionals in order to contribute positively to the physical, mental and social health of residents and visitors.	Number of health walking schemes operating in National Park	2007	Increase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5 Making Tourism & Business more Sustainable

6 Making Housing more Affordable and Sustainable

Park Plan 5 year outcome	Headline Indicator	Baseline	Target (numerical or directional)	Currently monitored? (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or <input type="checkbox"/>)
There will be a reduction in the gap between housing need and supply in the Park to meet community needs.	Annual ratio of households in housing need to number of social rented available for rent and low cost home ownership properties for sale.	2007	Reduction in the ratio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
There will be a reduction in the number of businesses identifying housing as a barrier to staff recruitment and retention.	Proportion of businesses identifying housing as a barrier to staff recruitment and retention	2008	Reduction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey required. use CCC?
There will be more good quality private rented sector accommodation available at affordable rents to meet local need.	The numbers of private affordable rented accommodation units supported by public grants.	2008	Increase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not monitored but data should be available
New housing will be of a more sustainable design	% of consented housing developments that comply with Policies 17 & 18 in the Deposit Cairngorms Local Plan (and adopted Local PLAN)	2008	100%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> will be monitored as part of Local Plan.

7 Raising Awareness and Understanding of the Park

Park Plan 5 year outcome	Headline Indicator	Baseline	Target (numerical or directional)	Currently monitored? (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or <input type="checkbox"/>)
i. More people across Scotland will be more aware of the National Park, what makes it special and the opportunities it offers them.	Cairngorms Visitor Survey (CVS) <i>How important was NP to your visit?</i>	CVS 2003 25% important	increase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii. Residents and visitors will appreciate the special qualities of the Park and understand more about their special management needs.	CVS <i>What do you like most about the National Park?</i>	CVS 2003	Increase the number of special qualities being stated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii. Everyone will know when they have arrived in the National Park and have a positive feeling about arriving in a special place.	CVS <i>Are you in a NP?</i>	69% knew they were in a NP	increase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv. More people who have visited the Park will have high quality experiences and will tell positive stories about the area.	CVS Visit rating out of 10	8.46	Maintain or increase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
v. There will be more opportunities for people to become practically involved in caring for the Park and its special qualities	Number of volunteer days in caring for NP	2007	increase	<input type="checkbox"/>
vi. There will be more opportunities to learn about and enjoy the Park and its special qualities – especially for young people, people with disabilities and people on low incomes.	Number of JMA Awards per annum	2004 138 2005 831 2006 1394	increase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
vii. There will be more comprehensive and detailed information about the special qualities available in order to provide a better basis for conserving and enhancing them in the future.	Number/% of information gaps identified in State of Park Report that have been addressed	41 identified in SOTPR	reduce	<input type="checkbox"/>

State of the Park Indicators

Reported at five-yearly intervals in update to State of the Park Report

Purpose:

- To inform five-yearly review of Park Plan
- Snapshot of state of the Park; indicate key relationships of interest;
- not comprehensive survey of all aspects of Park;
- insight into changing relationships between pressures affecting the Park, state of its resources and impacts on the resources and special qualities;

Summary

The State of the Park indicators have been chosen as descriptive or performance. Most can have targets (defined or directional)

The Draft Park Plan suggested 35 indicators under 15 themes. The consultation responses to the draft Park Plan helped in some cases to refine indicators and showed a desire to see clear baselines and numerical targets. However, many of the comments related to absolute measures of action or progress that would only be relevant to one area or topic. The point about the State of the Park Indicators is that they should allow progress to be gauged as accurately as possible but also that they provide insight into a range of factors.

The following Table has a list of over 50 indicators that have been grouped based on 17 themes from the NPP's strategic objective topics and within the 4 Park Aim headings.

Park Aim and Key Pressures/drivers	Indicators	NPP 25 year outcomes
<p>The conservation and enhancement of natural & cultural heritage</p> <p>Pressures: climate change, land management regimes, development pressure, social change</p>	<p>Landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % Area of Park where management practices are consistent/inconsistent with the priorities identified in NP Landscape Plan • Area of land with more than X characteristics of wild land? • New Development design quality - % of developments that comply with Planning Policy on design <p>Biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favourable condition of designated site notified features • % LBAP/UKBAP habitats in favourable condition • % LBAP/UKBAP species in favourable condition <p><i>Geodiversity?</i> <i>Some linked to designated sites</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of sites/areas managed to conserve/interpret geodiversity features <p>Built & Historic Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk category of Buildings at Risk (BAR) (target – increasing % to good) • Condition of Scheduled Ancient Monuments (target – increasing % to good) • Area of land managed to preserve/interpret archaeological features, built environment features and historic landscape elements? (target – increase area) <p>Culture & Traditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of local history/heritage groups/societies • Number of interpretative guides based on or linking to cultural heritage? • Visitor Survey data – awareness of cultural heritage/ visits for culture? • Number of Gaelic language speakers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The distinct character of the Cairngorms landscape and its diverse mix of mountains, straths, glens, forests and farmland will be conserved and enhanced, shaped by natural processes and positive management. • The sense of wildness, particularly in the high montane areas, will be enhanced and renowned as a particular special quality of the area that continues to be enjoyed by many. • The Park will continue to have a rich biodiversity which will be better connected and able to adapt to a changing climate. Areas of national and international importance will be exemplars of good management, set within a broader network of well managed habitats. • The important geodiversity record in the Park will be widely recognised and will be well managed and conserved. • The built heritage of the Park will be safeguarded and new buildings will complement or enhance their setting, including the settlement pattern and character. • The archaeological evidence and material records of previous generations will be well recorded and understood, actively cared for and safeguarded. • The cultures and traditions associated with the people and communities of the Park will be well recognised and continue to evolve as part of a living culture that secures tomorrow’s cultural heritage.
<p>Promoting sustainable use of natural resources</p> <p>Pressures: climate</p>	<p>Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of energy consumption in Park from renewable sources in (a)Park & (b)Scotland • % households using oil/gas fuel as main heating source N <p>Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of business & domestic water recycled in Park • % water bodies achieving ‘high’ and ‘good’ ecological status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will continue to be an active and productive land management sector that conserves and enhances the special qualities and is a significant economic asset. • There will be a vibrant renewable energy, recycling and waste sector in the National Park together with greater awareness and action by individuals, businesses and organisations. This will result in more sustainable patterns of use, supply and management of energy, water and waste.

Park Aim and Key Pressures/drivers	Indicators	NPP 25 year outcomes
<p>change, land management regimes, development pressure, social change</p>	<p>Air</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon emissions footprint of business and residential properties in NP ? <p>Land Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people employed by land management business • Number and (average or mean size class)area of active farm units • Premium level for livestock/crop/deer/grouse sporting products in National Park compared to Scottish averages <p>See also social & economic indicators</p> <p>Waste Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total volume of waste from Park pa. • Total/% waste recycled p.a. 	
<p>Promoting understanding and enjoyment of special qualities by the public</p> <p>Pressures: economic , land management regimes, social change</p>	<p>Sustainable Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor numbers throughout year • Tourism related expenditure • Proportion of enterprises providing opportunities for environmental payback/total visitor payback (£)/ average visitor payback p.a • Number of international visitors • Visitor survey data (satisfaction, reasons for coming, what likes?) <p>Outdoor Access & Recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % & length of paths in ‘favourable condition’ • types of case heard by LOAF p.a. • Number of residents taking part in outdoor access per week? <p>Learning & Understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of participants in John Muir Award p.a. • Uptake of promoted National Park educational resources by primary schools, secondary schools, FE etc • Numbers of visitors to main interpretation centres in Park • Visitor survey data (satisfaction, reasons for coming, what likes?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cairngorms National Park will be renowned in Scotland and internationally and will make a significant positive contribution to Scotland’s national identity. • The Cairngorms National Park will be an internationally recognised world class sustainable tourism destination that consistently exceeds residents’ and visitors’ expectations in terms of quality of environment, services and experience. • There will be an excellent and integrated network of routes to enjoy outdoor access across the Park that meets the needs of residents and visitors. • There will be an even higher quality and increased range of outdoor recreation activities available and accessible to a wider range of people of all abilities to enjoy the Park. • There will be a high level of understanding and widespread practice of responsible behaviour in the Cairngorms. Outdoor access will be enjoyed and managed as an integral part of a broader recreational experience and in ways that promote enjoyment of the special qualities of the Park while conserving them. • Interpretation of the National Park will be of an internationally high standard revealing the significance and meaning of the National Park and its special qualities, helping people to understand and enjoy the area. • The Park will be a significant national learning resource that raises understanding of the special qualities of the area and sustainable development, while also contributing to national objectives. • Key gaps in knowledge will have been addressed, and the National Park will lead the way in research on issues such as sustainable development and rural tourism. Information will be widely accessible and contribute fully to the knowledge

Park Aim and Key Pressures/drivers	Indicators	NPP 25 year outcomes
<p>Promoting sustainable economic and social development of area's communities</p> <p>Pressures: human migration, social change economic, development pressure, social change</p>	<p>Sustainable Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population Profile of Park • Population Profiles of census settlement zones • Use levels of community meeting places • % school rolls increasing/stable/declining • Time to key services from settlements (GP, grocer shop, pub/café, primary school etc) <p>Economy & Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full time & part time Employment by sector & season • Number of VAT registered businesses p.a. • Average earnings by sector & compared to Scottish average • Social economy turnover <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number new houses built p.a. • Total number social rented/ low cost home ownership properties built/created p.a. • Total number social rented/low cost home ownership properties lost p.a. • Annual Ratio of households in housing need to number of social rented and low cost ownership available for rent/sale. • % of new housing that incorporates local materials in structure? • % of houses built pa that are zero carbon • % existing housing stock requiring additional loft/cavity insulation <p>Transport & Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % adults travelling to work by private car • Occupancy of Inverness commuter train services • Number of demand-responsive public transport services within Park • Number of public transport services carrying bicycles 	<p>economy of the region and Scotland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be thriving and sustainable communities throughout the Park that are confident to share their ideas, experience and culture in actively shaping their own future and enjoying a sense of ownership of the National Park. • There will be a wide range of opportunities for people in the National Park to develop their skills and employment options that will meet the needs of individuals and businesses. • The outstanding environment of the Park will stimulate economic activity, businesses will thrive, and the Park will be an economic asset to the wider regional economy. • Delivering economic, social and environmental sustainability will be an integral part of every business. Businesses will manage their impacts to ensure a positive contribution to the area's communities, environment and special qualities. • People will be able to access housing that meets their needs through rent or purchase. Housing of all types will be of good quality and new development will implement sustainable design principles. • The National Park will be a leader in sustainable rural transport. Infrastructure and provision will meet the needs of residents, businesses and visitors and strengthen the regional interaction of the Park. Barriers to transport and dependence on private car use will have reduced, helping to facilitate sustainable development.