

## **PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

### **STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OF CAIRNGORM ESTATE AND GLENMORE FOREST PARK**

#### **Partnership Composition**

The following parties:

Cairngorms National Park Authority  
Forestry Commission Scotland,  
Highlands and Islands Enterprise,  
Scottish Natural Heritage, and  
The Highland Council

agree to work in partnership to deliver long-term and integrated management of the publicly owned land on the Cairngorm Estate and Glenmore Forest Park.

#### **Purpose of Partnership**

To co-ordinate strategic management of publicly owned land at the Cairngorm Estate and Glenmore Forest Park to deliver:

- a) An exceptionally high quality natural environment;
- b) A world-class visitor experience;
- c) An economic asset contributing to the economy of the National Park and Scotland;
- d) Engaged business and community stakeholders;
- e) Efficient and effective public service delivery.

#### **Context**

Cairngorm Mountain and Glenmore Forest Park are together an iconic visitor destination at the core of the identity of the Cairngorms National Park. The National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17 identifies the need to develop a refreshed strategy for the wider Cairngorm, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore area, given its importance for nature conservation, visitor experience and economic development. This area is heavily designated for international conservation value, it attracts around 1.4M visits per annum and is a driver of the tourism economy in Aviemore, Badenoch and Strathspey and the wider National Park.

The strategy for the area is being taken forward through partners in the Cairngorm, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Group (CRAGG) which brings together land owners, local business, community representatives and public bodies.

Within this area, the neighbouring land holdings of the Cairngorm Estate and the Glenmore Forest Park are in public ownership. This means there is a particular responsibility for the relevant public bodies to join-up in a coherent and long term approach to getting the best for and from this area and, in doing so, work in a co-ordinated way with neighbouring land

holdings, businesses and communities. This partnership is a commitment by the public bodies to work in a collaborative way with each other and with partners to deliver the ambitions for the whole Cairngorm, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore area.

## **Principles**

The parties agree to the following principles:

- a) To agree and work together to deliver a shared vision for the long term future of the Cairngorm Estate and Glenmore Forest Park;
- b) To adopt a shared and collaborative approach to strategic management, annual business planning and capital investment, while the management responsibilities of individual ownership units remains unchanged;
- c) To deliver a significant contribution to the strategy for Cairngorm, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore and the National Park Partnership Plan and Highland Single Outcome Agreement;
- d) To engage in a co-ordinated way with neighbouring land holdings;
- e) To communicate openly, engage and support communities and businesses in effective service delivery.

## **Working arrangements**

The partnership will be guided by a management board comprising a senior representative from each partner. The management board will meet at least once per annum and will be responsible for agreeing the strategy and reviewing progress.

The management board will put in place a partnership team drawn from across the partners to co-ordinate delivery and reporting. The partnership team will include the Cairngorm Mountain operating company. The Cairngorms National Park Authority will provide the secretariat/support for the partnership.

The work programme will be set out and agreed annually by the management board and appended to this agreement (schedule I)

## **Review**

Progress will be reviewed annually. The format and nature of the partnership agreement will be reviewed after an initial three year period.

**Schedule I:  
Workstreams – 2014**

The parties will work together to deliver the following workstreams:

- a) **20 yr vision and masterplan** – develop a coherent masterplan for Cairngorm and Glenmore to guide future management decisions.
- b) **Land management plans** – review existing forest and land management plans to support masterplan, ensure designated site objectives are met and further enhance nature and landscape qualities.
- c) **Visitor Experience plans** – review existing plans to support masterplan, enhance the tourism offering and visitor experience, identify required investment in infrastructure, develop coherent signage, ranger service, interpretation and information.
- d) **Transport infrastructure** – review and consolidate car parking, manage traffic flows and seek enhanced public transport provision.
- e) **Communications** – engage other partners including neighbouring land holdings, businesses and communities in developing all workstreams.