

---

# CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

---

## FOR DISCUSSION

**Title: CAIRNGORMS NATURE ACTION PLAN**

**Prepared by: Andy Ford, Cairngorms Nature Manager  
Will Boyd Wallis, Land and Conservation Programme  
Manager**

### **Purpose**

To update the Board on progress with the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan and to seek comments to inform any necessary revisions.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Board highlight any significant presentational issues that may need to be addressed in the current draft Cairngorms Nature Action Plan.

### **Executive Summary**

Cairngorms Nature is a partnership where people and organisations come together with the common desire to safeguard and enhance the outstanding nature in the Cairngorms National Park and all the benefits that flow from it.

It is steered by a Strategy Group made up of representatives from the Cairngorms National Park Authority, Dee Fisheries Trust, Forestry Commission Scotland, National Farmers Union Scotland, National Trust for Scotland, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Scottish Land and Estates, Scottish Natural Heritage, and the Scottish Gamekeepers' Association, and a Community Development Officer.

The Cairngorms Nature Action Plan, developed through extensive consultation with stakeholders, builds on the previous Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan and work done to implement it. It describes the priorities for action over the next five years and provides a focus for the work of partners. The draft plan is provided in **Annex I** and is available on the CNPA website at <http://cairngorms.co.uk/look-after/cairngorms-nature-action-plan/> for views and comments. Feedback is sought from the Board in order to finalise the draft for a further period of formal consultation leading to the launch of the plan on May 18 2013.

## CAIRNGORMS NATURE ACTION PLAN - FOR DISCUSSION

### Background

1. The CNPA Board (31<sup>st</sup> August 2012) approved the process of developing the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan and provided useful feedback on the makeup of the Cairngorms Nature Strategy Group. The Strategy Group met for the first time on 27<sup>th</sup> September; its members agreed that Martin Price should chair it. Since then, Cairngorms Nature Officers Justin Prigmore and Stephen Corcoran, led by Andy Ford have significantly refined the draft Action Plan in preparation for it being publicised on the CNPA website for comment.

### Implications

#### *Financial Implications*

2. The Cairngorms Nature Action Plan is intended to be the main strategic document guiding conservation work across the National Park over the next five years. This has been anticipated in the 2013-13 operational plan in which £40,000 in total is budgeted to cover a variety of projects. The Strategy Group will advise on future operational plan budgets and projects contributing to Cairngorms Nature.

#### *Presentational Implications*

3. The draft Cairngorms Nature Action Plan is available on the CNPA website and we are welcoming comments from anyone who is interested. It should be noted that:
  - a) The vital role of land managers is acknowledged and highlighted throughout the plan
  - b) It is a five-year plan and has to be realistic, i.e. it can't cover everything
  - c) The focus is on woodland and wetland habitats, in line with the National Park Partnership Plan
  - d) This does not mean other habitats, species, land uses, etc. are any less important

#### *Implications for Stakeholders*

4. We hope that the current draft of the Action Plan will stimulate interest and debate about the priorities for nature conservation in the National Park. The development of Cairngorms Nature as a prominent partnership in the National Park will build on the wide array of existing work by land managers, organisations and communities.

## Next Steps

5. The table below sets out the key stages leading up to the launch of the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan on 18<sup>th</sup> May during the 2013 Year of Nature - Celebrating Nature Event. The alterations in timing and additional web consultation take account of the need to consult on the Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Next Steps	Key Dates
Current web consultation on draft Action Plan	5 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2012 – 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2013
Cairngorms Nature Strategy Group meeting	17 <sup>th</sup> January 2013
Second web consultation on draft Action Plan and Strategic Environmental Assessment	28 <sup>th</sup> January – 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2013
Cairngorms Nature Strategy Group agree final plan	late March 2013
Board ratification of agreed plan	12 <sup>th</sup> April 2013
Launch Cairngorms Nature Action Plan	18 <sup>th</sup> May 2013

**Andy Ford**  
**Will Boyd-Wallis**

December 2012

andyford@cairngorms.co.uk  
willboydwallis@cairngorms.co.uk