

Cairngorms National Park Authority Corporate Plan Monitoring: Progress Against 46 Achievements

2nd Update End November 2008

	Priority for Action in NP Plan /Achievements (Relevant Operational Plan Lines Indicated)	Performance Monitoring – Year 1 Milestone	Comment on Progress towards 3 year achievement AND Year 1 milestone	NPP Actions
Conserving Biodiversity and Landscape to sustain our Natural and Cultural Heritage				
1	A landscape framework is in place which supports the management of the Park's forests, woodland, moorland, upland and farmland areas. (1, 2, 6)	Landscape character assessment carried out	Some elements are already in place e.g. Wildness perceptions and mapping. Initial consultation with NP Board undertaken. Overall project plan being developed. Increased local plan related work impacting on completion of 1 st year milestone.	1a, 1b, 1f
2	A mechanism is in place which allows biodiversity information to be collated and accessed by anyone interested in the Park. (11, 12)	Gaps in research and opportunities for public input identified	A 2+ year contract has been awarded to the North East Scotland Biological Records Centre to encourage people to gather and send in wildlife records. Funded by CNPA and SNH. NESBReC will verify records and pass them on to the National Biodiversity Network so that they can be easily accessed on the web.	3a, 3b
3	Action on priority species and habitats most at risk has been stimulated/initiated to stop further loss and enhance biodiversity. (13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27)	Level of additional work addressing priority species and habitats stimulated or levered in	A wide variety of research and practical projects have been started to support the conservation of priority species and habitats e.g. in bye and wetland surveys, forest habitat network project, Action for mountain woodlands, wildcat, water voles, capercaillie, red squirrel and aspen.	3c – 3f 3h – 3k
4	Information on the cultural heritage resource within the Park is collated, accessible and used to conserve and promote the cultural heritage. (7, 8, 9, 10)	Gaps and knowledge requirements identified.	A new Community Heritage project is being created. A key role of the project will be to co-ordinate the conservation and promotion of the National Park's cultural heritage. On track to deliver achievement by 2011, but delayed due to unsuccessful funding bid to HLF. Revised funding package now being developed.	2a – 2d
Integrating Public Support for Land Management to Deliver Public Benefits				
5	Tailored public support and	SRDP regional	Sufficient relationship between NPP outcomes and RDC	1a, 1e

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	advice for land managers within the Park meets their needs and is co-ordinated at a landscape scale. (35, 39)	priorities consistent	priorities despite regional variation. Ongoing liaison with the three Regional Proposal Assessment committees regarding the implementation of the Rural priorities programme, but detailed information on applications difficult to access due to data protection issues.	
6	Proactive advice enables land managers to make the most of the SRDP and other funds to deliver outcomes for the National Park. (40, 41)	Value of funds invested in NP; Land Management Support Officers (LMSOs) in place	The 2 LMSO are in place and have completed their first six monthly report. They will now be concentrating now on proactive work by contacting all farmers and land managers in the NP before the end of March. Information on funds invested in the NP is not currently accessible to CNPA due to data protection restriction by RPID. However we are endeavouring to find a solution to that either through SEARS or direct Ministerial approval for data sharing.	1f, 1g
7	Land management action on climate change has been encouraged/initiated to deliver the best possible impact on tackling climate change. (36, 38, 42)	No. of green farm audits	16 green farm audits were delivered in pilot project. Audits not continued beyond pilot due to lack of interest at this point. A number of projects are in development that will deliver on climate change. These are; Low Carbon Estates Project, Cairngorms Woodfuel Development Plan; Clim-ATIC project including Woodfuel Promotion and Awareness project.	1b, 1d, 1h
Sustainable Deer Management to Benefit People and the Environment				
8	There will be a large-scale patchwork of deer densities across the National Park underpinned by an inclusive deer management planning process (44, 45, 48)	Area covered by inclusive process	CDAG has agreed a 4 stage process towards an inclusive deer management planning process linked to habitat monitoring. DMGs and individual estates have mixed views on the merits of this approach and we will endeavour to argue the case with land managers.	1a, 1b, 1e

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9	Greater public understanding of deer management (44, 45)	No. of events held	A number of deer viewing and deer management events have been held in the Park in 2008 which have been attended by over 200 people. These include the primary schools visit to Kinveachy. Feedback from all these events has been very positive.	1a, 1b
10	Opportunities to increase the economic value of wild deer are actively promoted. (48)	Socio-economic study completed	Venison cookery demonstrations were linked to the schools visit. The creation of public deer viewing facilities on estates has been fully explored with one estate still considering public deer viewing. Socio-economic study completed and extended for a further year.	1e
Provide High Quality Opportunities for Outdoor Access to encourage more people to actively enjoy the outdoors				
11	Outdoor Access Authority duties are delivered effectively and efficiently and advice and support on outdoor access rights and responsibilities is promoted and upheld (67 – 78)	No. & type of access cases reported to CNPA	All access authority duties are being delivered effectively. On the upholding of access rights 64 cases are under investigation, 22 of which have already been closed. Obstructions and provision of misleading information account for 93% of the live cases. No significant change in number/ type of caseload.	2a – 2l
12	The Core Paths Plan is adopted which identifies over 850 km of key links in the Park's path network, including around 25 km new paths that will be built and open for public use by 2011 (52, 53, 54)	CPP adopted	Final Draft Plan approved by Board in October 08. The Plan with list of outstanding objections, and with written evidence in support of CNPA's assessment, will be submitted to Ministers in February 09.	1a, 1b, 1c
13	The Speyside Way is extended from Aviemore to Newtonmore (56)	Glenmore off-road route in place	Speyside Way extension proposal will be submitted to Ministers in December 2008. Glenmore off-road route (now called the Old Logging Way) is open, very well used and is due to be sign-posted in February 2009.	1e

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14	A Park-wide Trust is in place which provides a mechanism to manage outdoor access projects on a cooperative basis (55, 57 – 66)	Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust established	COAT was established on 1 April 2008 and is currently recruiting new officer for West Cairngorms. Project funding has been secured for Gynack Bridge (Kingussie) and Strathdon paths, both of which will be delivered in the current year. Funding packages are in development for subsequent two years and early indications are that this is coming together extremely well.	1d, 1f – 1o
15	Comprehensive information about outdoor recreation opportunities across the Park is available – especially for young people, disabled people and people on low incomes (79 – 83, 91 – 94)	Cairngorms on a shoestring available	Information on “Cairngorms on a Shoestring” has been published within the Explorer leaflet and is on new web portal (still to be launched). The development of a consistent template for community path leaflets will be available in 2009 and rolled out when existing community path leaflets require re-printing. Launch of web portal will help direct visitors towards existing good websites.	3a – 3e, 5a – 5e
16	Healthy walking groups are available in every community (91 – 94?)	No. of communities with a healthy walking group	There are currently seven communities covered by healthy walking groups operating in the National Park. Discussions are under-way about extension of existing schemes.	5a – 5d?
Making Tourism and Business more sustainable to create a high quality sustainable destination				
17	Businesses within the Park provide a high quality, environmentally friendly service and benefit from using the Park brand	120 businesses awarded brand in 08/09.	132 businesses/producers/tourist association using the brand (at 13 Nov 08). 17 have been awarded the brand since Mar 08. Year 1 milestone will not be achieved but still high confidence in meeting overall 3 year targets. Ties in with CCC commitment to all members meeting Brand	1a – 1c, 1e, 2g, 3c

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			criteria.	
18	Businesses within the Park have environmental plans in place	40+ businesses developing environmental plans	CCC survey ongoing to assess levels of business uptake of quality and environmental accreditation and identify barriers to uptake/retention. Phase 2, which is focused on improving environmental performance, will start next year. Thus, while year 1 target will not be achieved there is still high confidence in meeting overall 3 year targets.	2b
19	A voluntary contribution scheme for visitors and sustainability fund is in place to collect funding for conservation initiatives within the Park.	Scoping study completed	DMO lead and awaiting Steering Group meeting to commence scoping study work (as at 13 Nov 08).	1d
20	All communities within the Park have community action plans in place	3+ new action plans	Community action plans finalised for Grantown, Dulhain Bridge, Cromdale and Advie. Incorporated local housing needs surveys. VABS have developed project proposal to roll out across Badenoch & Strathspey. Work also underway with Ballater and (potentially) Tomintoul/Glenlivet communities to support development of community action plans next year.	1f (& Housing – 1a)
21	Active support for communities and other potential beneficiaries within the Park to make the most of LEADER/other funding opportunities to lever extra funds into the Park (103)	New Cairngorms Local Action Group and Business Plan approved by Scottish Government; BP aligned to Park	LEADER Strategy and Business Plan aligned with Park Plan and Community Plans and £2.17 million of LEADER/Convergence funding awarded to Cairngorms LAG. To date LAG has approved £400K of LEADER/Convergence funding, £90K of CNPA funding and £10K of SNH funding to 43 projects.	1f

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		Plan		
Making Housing more affordable and sustainable to help meet the needs of people living in the Park				
22	The Local Plan is adopted and implemented by the CNPA and the four Local Authorities to help deliver affordable and sustainable housing in the Park (184, 127)	Modifications agreed/consulted on, Local Plan Inquiry held.	2 nd Modifications are being consulted on in Year 1. The Local Plan Inquiry will now be held in May 2009 with the Plan adopted later in 2009. Implementation will follow end Year 2 into Year 3 and beyond via planning application determinations and working with developers on allocations to bring them forward. Economic climate and availability of SG funding for LA/RSL activity will both have a bearing on delivery.	4a
23	Potential sites have been identified for housing including affordable housing (128, 127)	Sufficient land allocated across the Park to meet identified needs for next 5 years.	Year 1 milestone met as sufficient land in Draft Local Plan. Confirmation of ability to deliver housing needs over 3years and beyond depends on outcome of various active major applications and outcome of LPI.	4d, 4a
24	Action to make a wider range of affordable housing available in the Park has been stimulated/initiated to help people living in the Park (121 – 124)	Policies and allocations in Local Plan reflect range of housing needed.	Year 1 met as sufficient land and policy support in Draft Local Plan. Confirmation of ability to deliver housing needs over 3 years and beyond depends on outcome of various active major applications and outcome of LPI. Economic climate and availability of SG funding for LA/RSL activity will both have a bearing on delivery. The sustainable housing project at Milehouse, Kincaig is now on site following purchase by the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust through the Forest Land Scheme. One Rural Empty Property Grant in Aberdeenshire may be approved in 2009/10 following the REPG project.	2a – 2d

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25	The sustainable design guide has been adopted to provide a consistent basis for pursuing high standards of sustainable design across the Park. (125, 126)	Design guide prepared, consulted on, adopted as supplementary guidance.	Year 1 milestone not met due to pressure of work on staff in the Local Plan team which are now being addressed. Successful Board staff workshop held in November and Board has agreed principles. Current timetable is for draft SDG to Board in March 2009 with consultation and adoption in Year 2.	3a, 3b
Raising awareness and understanding of the National Park to encourage people of Scotland to take pride in this special place				
26	Ranger services, Tourist Information Centres and other visitor centres across the Park are using the Park brand in a high profile way (135, 159, 160)	50% of ranger centres & TICs use the Brand	On target for Year 1 milestone. Finance agreed to improve CNP presence in 5 TIC's with work scheduled at several TICs in early 2009. CNP Brand for rangers has been agreed and its use will be a condition of CNPA grant from April 2009.	2a, 5a, 5b
27	A National Park web portal is in place and working effectively to meet customers/users needs (152, 153, 156)	Park web portal launched & phase 1 complete (visitors)	Good progress has been made on preparing the website but Year 1 milestone has been delayed because of the need for further work on the collaboration of private sector in relation to the National Park. Future phases of development (ie beyond visitors) are also on hold.	4a, 4b
28	Cairngorms National Park is well sign-posted and promoted across Scotland (131 – 133)	Pre-arrival sign in place in 5 new locations.	Year 1 milestone not met – we are awaiting detailed sign design and approval from Transport Scotland on the Trunk Roads (applied Feb 2008) and for the re-signing of the Highland Tourist Route by Visit Scotland and partners.	1a - 1c
29	Educational resources have been developed and a variety of formal and informal Park-related learning opportunities have been delivered (146, 151, 158)	Increase in volunteers & JMA awards	Year 1 milestone going well with 1,641 JMA awards this year to date and the successful Junior Ranger Camp being run at Glen Tanar with 31 young people (11 from Scotland). Longer term, outdoor education in CNP is being promoted by Teaching and Learning Scotland & this will lead to the 5 LA's developing action plans to use	3d, 3i, 4g

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			the CNP in developing the Curriculum for Excellence.	
30	A co-ordinated, Park-wide programme of events promoting the special qualities of the Park is available and publicised for everyone to enjoy (149, 150)		Good progress with a monthly electronic bulletin of Countryside Events being circulated to TIC's, Ranger Bases and Tourism Businesses via the CCC. The bulletin also appears on CNPA website. Information on free and reasonably priced events appear in a dedicated page in the DMO "What's On" pamphlet.	3g, 3k
Strategy and Communications to deliver our role effectively and efficiently				
31	A research programme is in place to provide information about the State of the Park (162)	Gaps and knowledge requirements identified	Research into the state of the Park has been prioritised by the requirements of the Priorities for Action during year years 1 & 2. Year 3 will include a review of future research requirements on both priorities for action and State of the Park and a statement on research priorities for future years.	6a
32	Lead & co-ordinate the implementation of the National Park Plan and make significant progress towards achieving the plan outcomes by 2012 (168, 169)	NPP Annual Progress Report	NPP progress report agreed with partners and distributed during September 2008.	
33	Prepare and report on CNPA Corporate Plan (170)	CNPA Annual Report & corporate plan updates	CNPA Annual Report & Accounts 2007/08 and CNPA Corporate Plan 2008-2011 have been approved by Ministers and distributed to key partners in October 2008.	
34	Communications to support effective partnership working (171 – 178)	Opinion Former Survey & partner engagement (attendance	Advisory Forums held in June/July and in October 2008. Delivery teams continue to meet regularly and NPP progress report distributed. A new section on the NPP is being developed for the CNPA website and will go live	

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		figures)	by January 2009, Advisory Forums will take place in February 2009 and a strategy group meeting in Spring 2009. A review of these meetings will also take place in early 2009. Survey on hold to maximise value of timing for next NPP development.	
35	Using the Cairngorms National Park as the inspiration, and collating work by partners, our communications function has been deployed to publicise and promote awareness and understanding of climate change, and actions individuals can take. (116, 151, 163, 179, 196, 197)	Carry out climate change survey & produce promotional materials for events & on websites	Climate Change survey has been produced and is being distributed via local media and the CNPA website. Support materials are being prepared to promote case studies targeted at key audiences and a climate change section has been added to the CNPA website to go live in January 2009.	3d, 3i, 6b
Planning and development management to ensure the Park is a well designed and sustainable place				
36	Planning & Development Management service delivered which is pro-active, efficient and effective and contributes to the Park aims & delivery of the National Park Plan (186)	All applications determined within 3 months of call in where necessary information to allow decision available.	Year 1 milestone met – if all information is available we are processing in 3 months from call in. 3 Year achievement met in part, but this is all still work in progress.	
37	Local Plan is in place and used as a basis for encouraging and managing sustainable development in the Park (127)	Modifications agreed/consulted on, Local Plan Inquiry held.	Modifications consulted on in Year 1. The Local Plan Inquiry will now most likely be held in April/May 2009 – Year 2. Plan adopted later in Year 2. We will be using it as basis for decision making end Year 2 into Year 3 and this in turn will influence what happens on the ground.	4a

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38	Supplementary guides are in place including sustainable design guide, renewable energy (182)	Sustainable design guide, open space strategy, Aviemore Masterplan prepared and adopted	Year 1 milestone not met due to pressure of work on Local Plan Team which is now being addressed. Current timetable is for draft SDG to Board in March 2009. Aviemore Design Framework (formerly Masterplan) first draft prepared by LUC early 2008, following variety of feedback – this has to be revisited to prepare draft for Board and subsequent consultation. This can be instructed in current financial year or in Year 2. Other SPG in Year 2. It will all be in place by end Year 3.	
39	Enforcement monitoring of the local plan and planning and development management process and conditions (183)	Enforcement Charter and Enforcement post in place	Year 1 milestone not yet met. Some internal work on draft charter. Enforcement officer currently being recruited – once in place first priority is to get charter completed and adopted. Possibly end Year 1 or early Year 2. Within 3 year period there will be effective monitoring in place.	
40	E-Planning regime established and widely used (185)		This is being done in tandem with SG and all LAs. In Year 1 we have basic information available on line. Likely that in Year 2 all planning applications can be submitted electronically to LAs, and all information will have to be on line. We are speaking to Highland Council about them hosting on line development plans – possibly end Year 2 or Year 3.	
Corporate Services – as a public body the CNPA has a duty to deliver a high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive service				
41	Lead, co-ordinate & deliver	"Best Value"	Year 1 Milestone on target to be delivered. Best value	

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	service improvements (192 – 195, 198, 199, 200 – 204)	service improvement action plan delivered satisfactorily	work contributes to wider service improvements in governance (performance monitoring and Key Performance Indicators) and procurement (utilising SEAP expertise). We have accelerated publication of annual report and accounts for 2007/08; internal audit review highlights that previous improvement recommendations have been implemented.	
42	Staff trained and able to participate in SEARS; working arrangements with other public bodies to facilitate seamless service to public (such as shared service points; secondments of staff) (205 – 207)		We continue to participate in SEARS customer service improvements for land managers, following up training on customer service standards for all staff in Summer 2008. Although implementation delayed, we aim to launch the pilot shared service point with Highland Council by early 2009. Shared service activities underway with Loch Lomond and the Trossachs NPA, Scottish Natural Heritage and SEPA.	
43	Lead own internal organisational greening initiatives to identify and implement sustainability improvements in policies and practices (196)	2% to 3% annual reduction in carbon emissions from CNPA business travel.	The in-year milestone is at some risk of not being achieved in the year. While use of public transport is increasing significantly, underlying business travel by car remains strong resulting in a reduction in emissions in 2008/09 being at risk. The greening group continues to focus on delivering long-term improvement, with further investment plans focused at reductions in travel and building emissions.	
44	Realise 2% efficiency savings (199 – 201)	2% efficiency savings delivered	2008/09 budget monitoring highlights that the Authority remains on target to deliver 2% efficiency savings in the year, in the first year of a three-year action plan. Current monitoring also indicates that the Authority also remains	

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			on course to deliver outcomes and achievements while realising a 2% saving each year.	
45	Implement internal equalities action plans (202)	Internal equality actions implemented satisfactorily and in line with Equality Schemes Action Plan	Monitoring of the Authority's equality scheme action plans highlight that we remain on course to deliver actions intended in 2008/09 and also to ensure that, longer term, the Authority's policies and procedures address any potential inequality of access to the organisation or the Park.	
46	Encourage others to deliver equality action plans and meet best practice standards		The Authority's Equality Group continues to oversee the organisations work in encouraging others to adopt best practice in equalities standards. The Authority is working very closely with Inclusive Cairngorms in particular, and working with this representative grouping to promote equalities issues with a wide range of organisations, to encourage operations that meet the highest equality standards.	