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**CAIRNGORMS NATURE STRATEGY GROUP**

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<b>Title:</b>	Draft spatial targeting plan
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<b>Purpose</b>	This paper introduces the Strategy Group to the proposed spatial targeting exercise to identify strategic and priority areas for expansion and enhancement of different habitat types, taking into account designated sites/ features, landscape and land use.

### **1. Advice Sought**

Strategy Group members are asked to consider the proposed content of a suite of maps and advise as to what land managers and policy makers would need from a landscape-scale map based approach to influencing habitat management and creation in the National Park.

### **2. Rationale**

There is already a considerable amount of existing work mapping current and projected habitats, some of it very detailed. The proposal is not to carry out further research, but to compile existing datasets into broad-brush, macro scale recommendations that are informed by, and support, the more detailed works.

In promoting woodland and wetland expansion, or indeed any habitat change, it is vital to recognise that all land-uses and habitat types must be considered in any proposals. A spatial targeting exercise will consider current land-use, biodiversity value and legislation in making recommendations for future efforts.

There are currently a number of different schemes offering land management support and advice. These are not always complementary or targeted in areas of highest importance or potential gain.

### **3. Aims, Objectives and Outcomes**

#### **3.1 Aim:**

To provide a map-based resource that will guide and inform land management planning at a landscape-scale in the National Park, helping land managers and policy makers recognise opportunities for enhancing species and habitat networks.

### 3.2 Objectives

- Identify strategic areas and opportunities for habitat expansion and enhancement
- Help prioritise management for the enhancement, and protection, of particular habitats and species in specific areas
- Inform forest plans and other land management consultations
- Focus the land management advice resource
- Steer rural development through agri-environment schemes and a co-ordination of national policy and advice
- Identify opportunities for species management
- Inform development management and mitigation packages
- Inform the work of partnerships such as Catchment Management Partnerships & Futurescapes

## 4. Potential content/ layers

The output of the spatial targeting exercise will be a GIS based collation of data, held in several layers. There is a risk that by going into detail the resource could become prescriptive and unwieldy. The intention is to provide information at a landscape scale, identifying areas and making recommendations very broadly.

The proposed layers will comprise:

- Areas where we would encourage specific habitat management priorities
- Designations
- Current and projected forest cover
- Ancient woodlands
- Species presence/ absence
- Deer management aspirations
- Landscape character assessments
- Management units
- Broad habitat classifications:
  - Montane & upland
  - Montane scrub
  - Caledonian pine forest
  - Productive woodlands
  - Broadleaved woodland
  - Riparian woodland

- Peatland
- Wetland
- Wet grassland/ Farmland wader habitat
- Species rich grassland
- Freshwater

## 5. Questions for consideration

- What kind of information will land managers/ agents and policy makers need from a spatial plan?
- What's the right level of detail for the spatial scale and habitat descriptions?