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## CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

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### FOR INFORMATION

**Title: NATIONAL PARK PLAN 4-MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT 9**

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#### **Purpose**

To provide the Board and all the partners involved in delivering the National Park Plan with regular updates of progress in delivering the National Park Plan.

#### **Recommendations**

That the Board note progress in delivering the National Park Plan.

#### **Executive Summary**

This paper provides a summary of progress in delivering the actions set out in the National Park Plan and an assessment of the likelihood of achieving the 5-year outcomes under each Priority for Action. It shows that:

- a) By October 2011, nearly 70% of the 5-year outcomes are considered to be likely to be achieved by 2012 and 15% are considered to have already been achieved. Around 10% are considered unlikely to be fully achieved by 2012 and a further 7% will not be achieved fully by 2012.
- b) By October 2011, 82% of the actions in the National Park Plan were considered to be on track to be delivered. About 9% of the actions within the Park Plan require more work to be delivered by 2012 and 9% will not be delivered by 2012, either because of unforeseen delays, or because they have been superseded by events and are no longer priorities for delivery.

## NATIONAL PARK PLAN 4-MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT 9 FOR INFORMATION

### Background

1. This is the ninth 4-monthly report on delivery of the National Park Plan. The last 4-monthly progress update was given to the board on 13 May 2011.

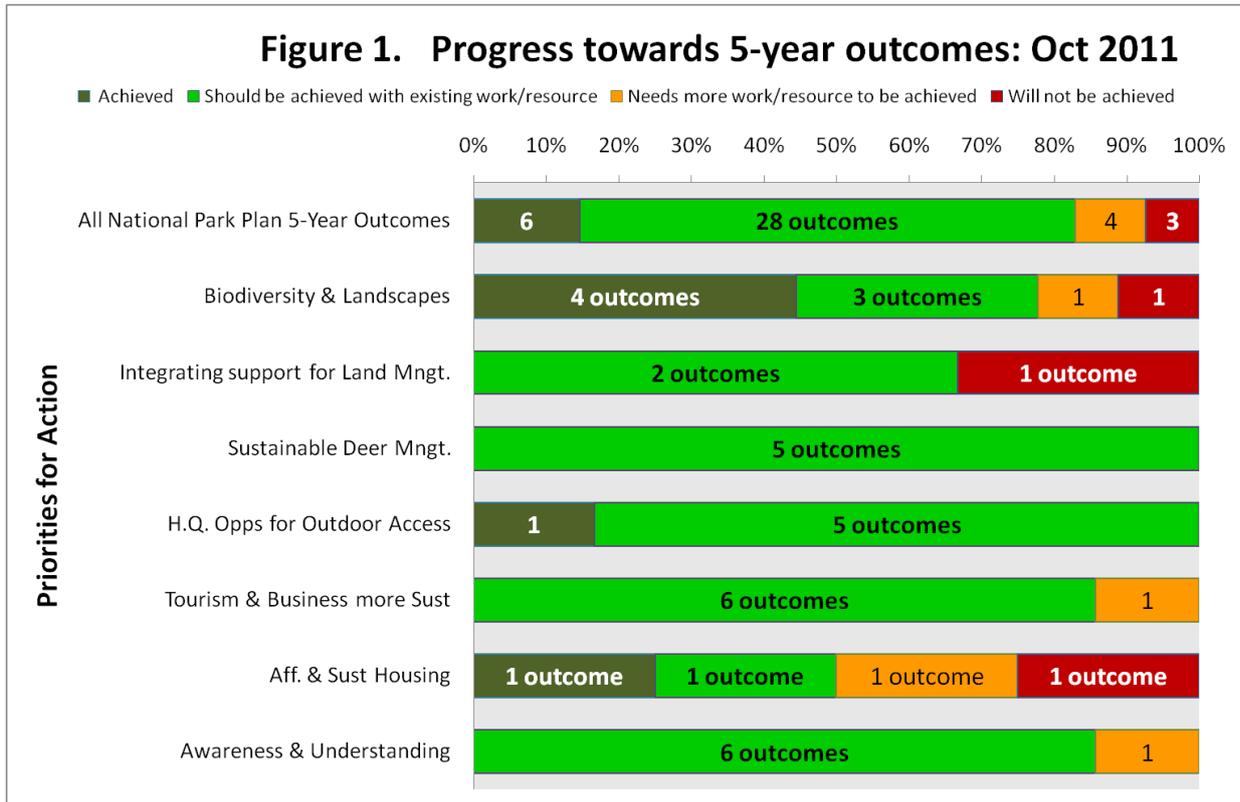
### Achievement of Outcomes and Delivery of Actions

2. The assessment of progress towards 5-year outcomes is summarised using 5 classes associated with a specific definition:

	<b>1 Will not be achieved</b>
	<b>2 Unlikely to be achieved</b>
	<b>3 Needs more work/resource to be achieved</b>
	<b>4 Should be achieved with existing work/resource</b>
	<b>5 Achieved</b>

3. The assessment of progress in delivering actions for each priority for action is based on a simpler 'traffic light' system of green-amber-red to provide a simple visual summary where:
  - a) **Green** = Progress towards the outcome or action is on track and there is confidence that the outcome or action will be achieved by, or before 2012;
  - b) **Amber** = There is uncertainty about whether the outcome or action will be achieved, or there may be delays in achieving it.
  - c) **Red** = The outcome or action will not, or is unlikely to be achieved.
4. The assessment is undertaken by the respective CNPA officers managing each Priority for Action. Further detail on the reasoning behind the assessment of individual outcomes is provided in the tables of Annex I.
5. Figures 1 and 3 show the assessment of progress in delivering the National Park Plan's outcomes and actions for each priority for action at October 2011. Figure 2 shows the changes in assessments of progress in delivering the National Park Plan's outcomes from January 2009 to October 2011.
6. The CNPA estimates in Figure 1 that 15% of the 5-year outcomes have been achieved and that nearly 70% more will be achieved by 2012 with existing work and resources. Around 10% of the outcomes are considered to require more work and

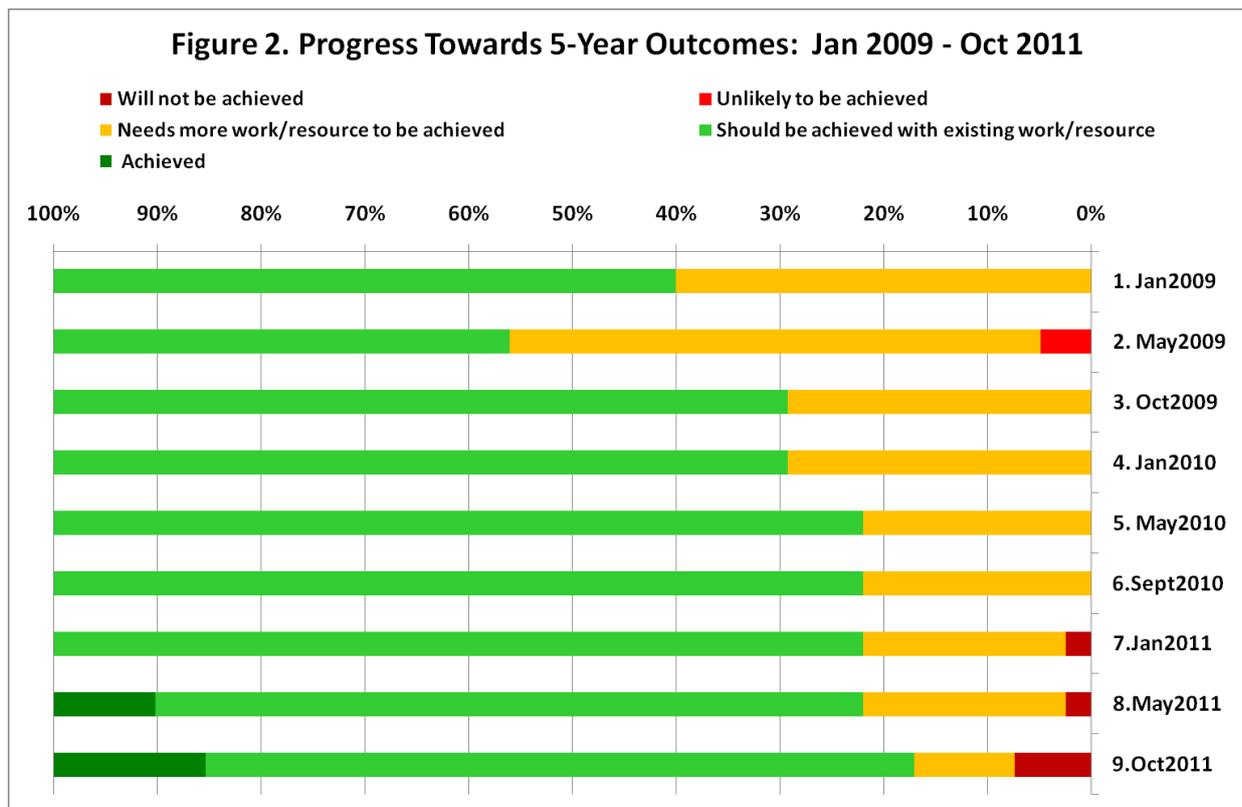
3 outcomes (7%), 2 more than in the last monitoring update in May 2011. will not be achieved by 2012.



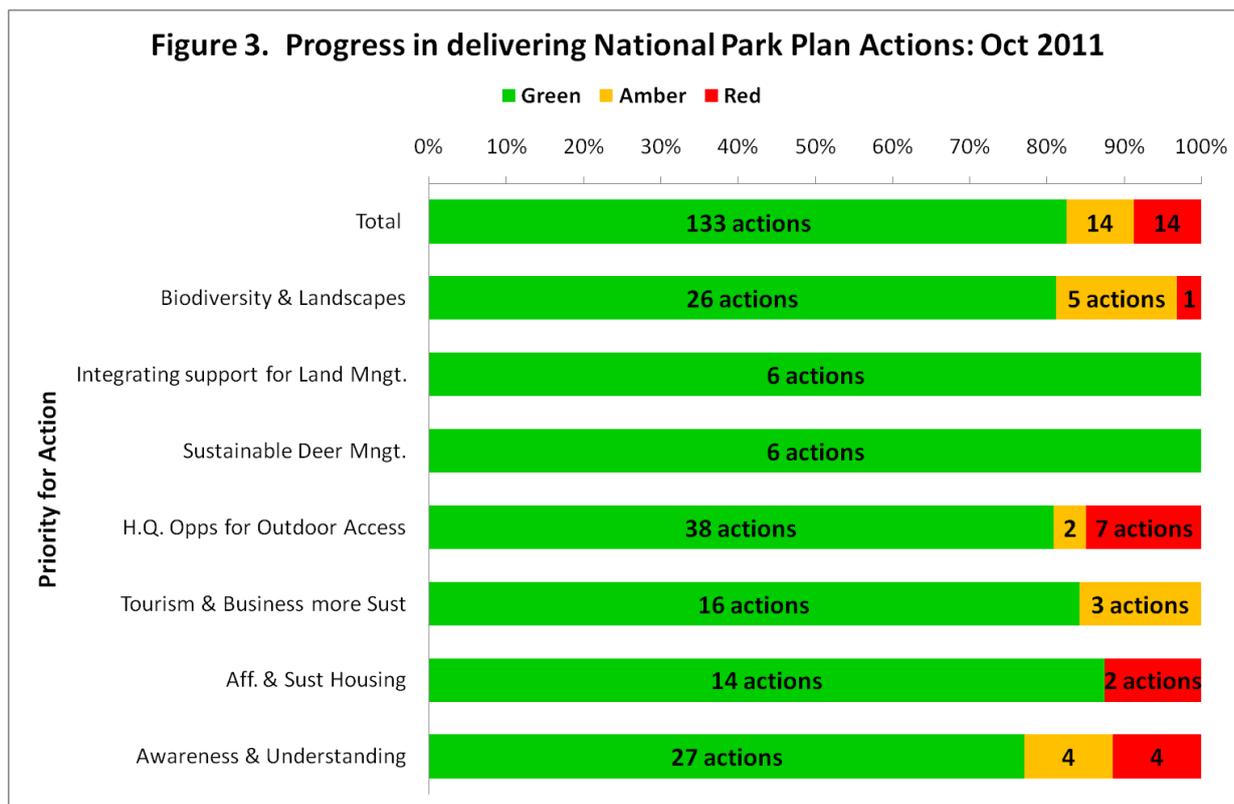
7. The land management support outcome remains as reported in the previous monitoring report.
8. The biodiversity and landscapes outcome that will not be achieved by 2012 relates to improvements in habitat network connectivity across the National Park under the 'Biodiversity and Landscapes' priority for action. Actions have been put in place and habitat improvement as been delivered, but progress in delivering significantly improved connectivity on the ground has been slower than anticipated due partly to lack of sufficient incentive. Five years is a short time to make a significant impact on the ground and the need for further work remains. The work under this outcome has laid a good basis for delivery of more focused action in the next National Park Plan from 2012-2017.
9. The third outcome that will not be achieved is from the 'Making Housing more Affordable and Sustainable' priority for action and relates to the reducing the gap between housing need and demand. The factors affecting this outcome are complex and are not confined to the National Park. The outcome has always been extremely ambitious and this was recognised in the mid-term review of the National Park Plan, where realistic milestones for 2012 were set. Although those milestones have been

achieved, and significant numbers of new affordable housing have been created since 2007, the economic slowdown and reduced availability of public subsidy means that relatively small numbers of new affordable housing are likely to be built in future years and the gap between need and supply remains an issue.

10. Figure 2 shows the historical changes in monitoring reports since January 2009. It is expected that by the next monitoring update of January 2012 there will be further change to some outcomes as they are either considered unachievable, or have been fully achieved.



11. Figure 3 shows that more than 80% of the actions in the Park Plan are considered to be green and on track to be delivered, with 9% considered to be amber and requiring more attention or alternative action. Fourteen actions (9% of the total) are considered to be red (not achievable by 2012) at this time.



## Policy Context

12. This paper is concerned with the delivery of the National Park Plan. It is therefore also central to the themes of the CNPA Corporate Plan, and to the ability of the National Park Plan and its delivery partners to deliver the Scottish Government's National Outcomes.

## Implications

### *Financial Implications*

13. The National Park Plan has been used by the CNPA and partners to help focus work in the National Park since 2007. Although more work is required to achieve its outcomes by 2012, the mid-term 'Health Check' in 2009 refocused priorities to 2012.

### *Presentational Implications*

14. There has been clear progress in delivering the National Park Plan since 2007. Overall, a great deal has been delivered and much has been learnt from successes and challenges. The next six months will see the completion of this National Park Plan and final development of its successor for 2012-2017. This is a period of review and transition, with some areas of work being developed further for the next National Park Plan.

***Implications for Stakeholders***

15. The implications for other organisations, stakeholders and communities are all tied to the partners' ability to deliver the Park Plan's outcomes over the next 6 months and to their ability to contribute to the next National Park Plan from 2012-2017. In a Scotland with constrained public spending, the next National Park Plan provides an excellent opportunity for partners to be more creative and efficient in delivering Scotland's national outcomes and their own within the National Park.

**Next Report**

16. The next report on delivery of the current National Park Plan will be in January 2012.

**Gavin Miles**

**28 October 2011**

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