
CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR INFORMATION

Title: National Park Plan Final 4-Monthly Progress Report 11

Prepared by: Gavin Miles, Programme Manager

Purpose

To update the Board on the overall progress in delivering the first National Park Plan and signpost where work or priorities have moved to the National Park Partnership Plan for 2012-2017.

Recommendations

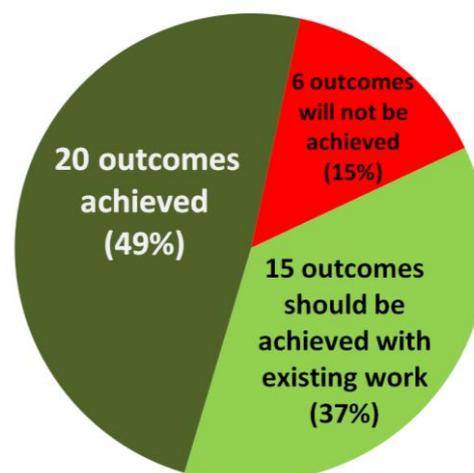
That the Board note progress in delivering the National Park Plan.

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 by May 2012, 49% of the 5-year outcomes are considered to have been achieved and 37% to be likely to be achieved in 2012. 15% of the outcomes will not be achieved in 2012.

The paper also shows how the work associated with priorities for action in the current National Park Plan will evolve to help deliver five-year outcomes to 2017 in the National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017 and be incorporated in work programmes to deliver them.

**Progress Towards All National Park Plan
5-Year Outcomes: May 2012**



NATIONAL PARK PLAN FINAL 4-MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT II FOR INFORMATION

Background

1. This is the eleventh and final 4-monthly report on delivery of the current National Park Plan and shows how work or priorities in it link to the next National Park Partnership Plan for 2012-2017. The board have received monitoring reports on delivery of the Plan every 4 months since January 2009 and the last update was given to the board on 20 January 2012.

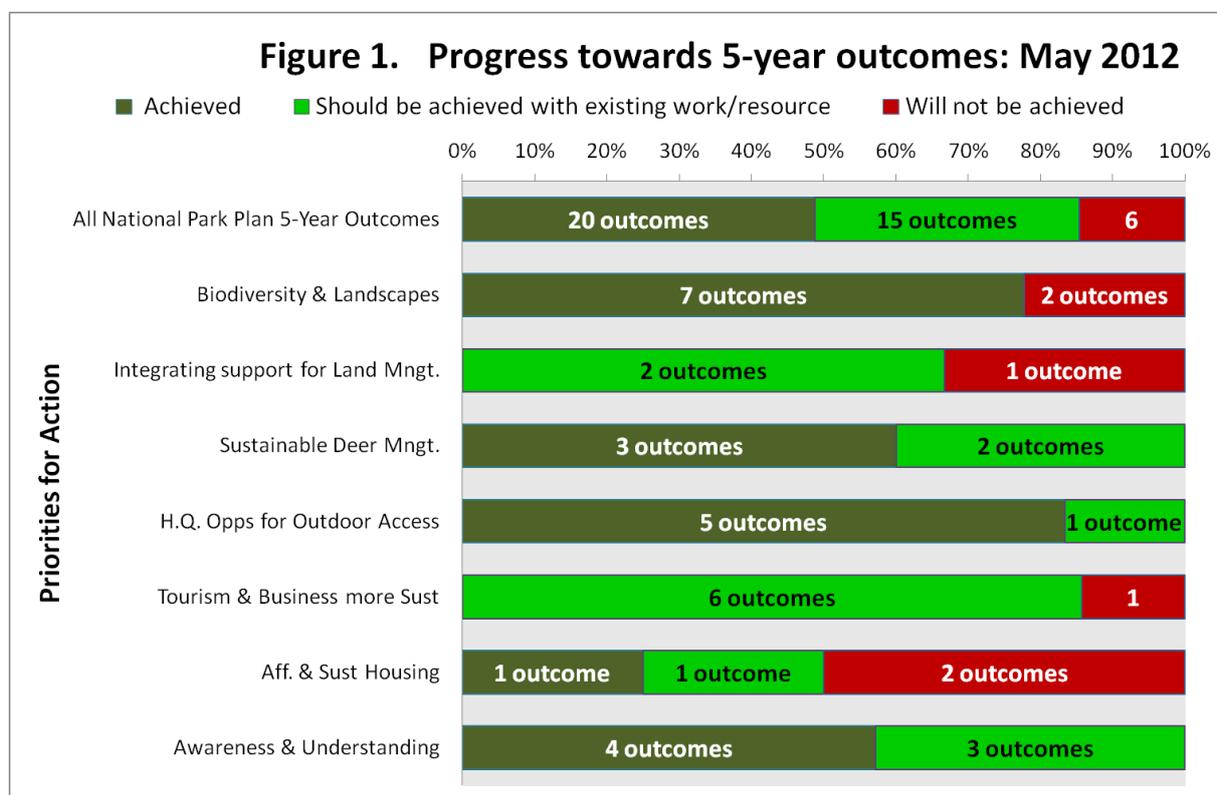
Achievement of Outcomes and Delivery of Actions

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

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

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 May 2012. Figure 2 shows the changes in assessments of progress in delivering the National Park Plan's outcomes from January 2009 to May 2012.

6. The CNPA estimates in Figure 1 that nearly 50% of the 5-year outcomes have been achieved by work in the current National Park Plan. We also estimate that 37% more will be achieved with existing work and resources that were set in train through the current National Park Plan and will be pursued through the National Park Partnership Plan for 2012-2017.

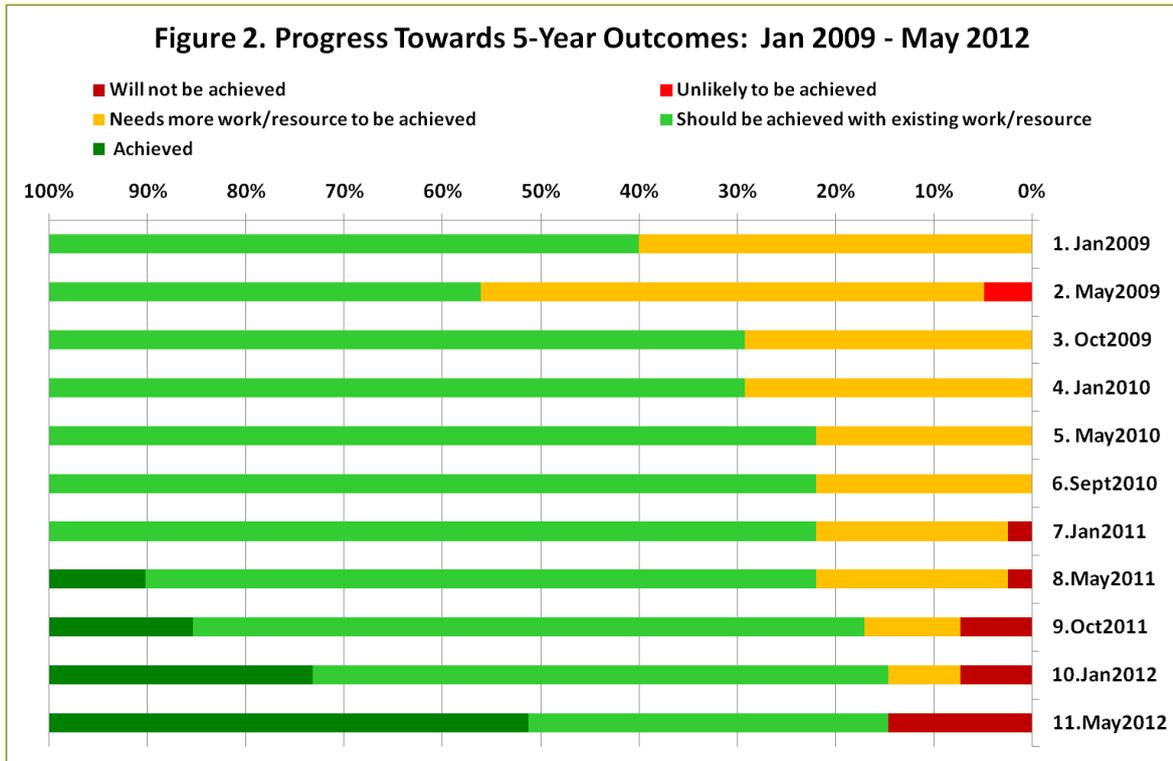


7. Six outcomes (around 15% of the total) have not been achieved and need substantial additional work to be achieved. They are summarised in Table 1. The underlying objectives of each of those outcomes are being addressed in different ways through the National Park Partnership Plan for 2012-2017.

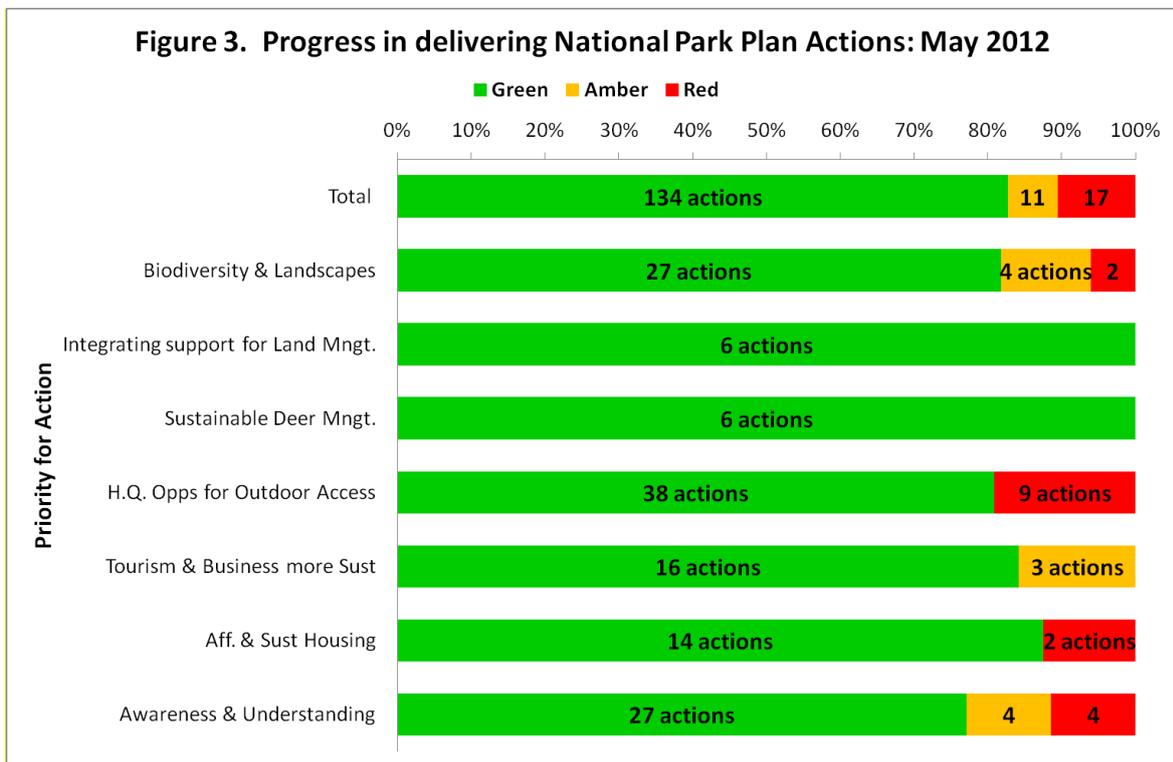
| Table 1. Five-year outcomes that will not be achieved | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 year outcome to 2012 | Comments |
| (1e) There will be enhanced connectivity within habitat networks through practical implementation of a planned, landscape-scale approach, with early emphasis on lowland agricultural habitat networks and forest networks. | Although some projects have improved connection between habitats, the incentives to trigger substantial change were not in place. This outcome is a priority within the new National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017. |
| (1f) All the designated nature conservation sites in the Park will be in favourable condition, or under positive management to | This outcome was an ambitious one, given the number and scale of designated sites within the Park. It remains a priority within |

| Table 1. Five-year outcomes that will not be achieved | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 year outcome to 2012 | Comments |
| bring them into favourable condition, and this will be enhanced further by the appropriate management of the surrounding land to increase their ecological integrity and viability. | the new National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017, but more realistic targets will be established to measure progress by. |
| 2b) Public support for land management will be better integrated and directed at delivering tangible public benefits. | This outcome was associated with the aspiration that SRDP funding would be targeted at specific National Park priorities. It was not, but there is agreement that the system should be tailored as effectively as possible in future. The new National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017 highlights the opportunity to improve targeting. |
| (5c) There will be a more even distribution of visitor numbers throughout the year. | The outcome was not achieved but work is already programmed (such as the National park marketing strategy) by the Cairngorms Business Partnership to tackle it and is supported by the new National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017. |
| (6a) There will be a reduction in the gap between housing need and supply in the Park to meet community needs. | This outcome was not achieved although substantial investment in affordable housing in the Park during the life of the Plan. The new National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017 follows this with an emphasis of helping communities identify innovative and bespoke solutions to housing that meet their needs. |
| (6b) There will be a reduction in the number of businesses identifying housing as a barrier to staff recruitment and retention. | This outcome is associated with outcome 6a. In addition to the work outlined above, the new National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017 emphasises the importance of business growth and better wage structures to help workers find housing on the open market. |

8. Figure 2 shows the historical changes in monitoring reports since January 2009. Many areas of work covered by the five year outcomes of the first Cairngorms National Park Plan will continue to be important over the life of the second National Park Plan. The relationship between the priorities for action in the current National Park Plan and the National park Partnership Plan for 2012-2017 are summarised in Table 2.



9. 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 7% considered to be amber and requiring more attention or alternative action. Seventeen actions (11% of the total) will not be completed, either because resources or priorities changed over the period or because they were no longer considered possible or necessary.



Links to the National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017

10. The development of the National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017 has been substantially informed by the experience of preparing the first Cairngorms National Park Plan and the lesson learned from implementing it.
11. Each priority for action from the current plan is reflected in the Partnership Plan, whether the outcomes are considered to have been achieved, or whether they have not or could not be achieved. Much of the work that was done to achieve change under the current Plan needs to be reinforced, supported, or adapted in the Partnership Plan to either consolidate that change or to lead to future changes.
12. Table 2 below highlights where the work of the priorities for action in the current Park Plan are followed by related work in the National Park Partnership Plan for 2012-2017.

| Table 2. Links between current Park Plan and Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017 | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Priority for Action to 2012 from current Park Plan | National Park Partnership Plan Five Year Outcomes to 2017 | Relevant work Programmes |
| Conserving & Enhancing Biodiversity & Landscapes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quality and connectivity of habitats is enhanced. • The species for which CNP is most important are in better conservation status • The special landscape qualities, including wildness, are conserved and enhanced • Settlements and built development will retain and enhance the distinct sense of place and identity in the Park • More people will enjoy, learn about and help to conserve and enhance the Park | 5. Building Vibrant places 6. Nature & Landscapes 7. Supporting Land Management 11. Sharing the Stories |
| Integrating public Support for Land Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The economy of the Park will have grown and diversified, drawing on the Park's special qualities • Businesses and communities will be successfully adapting to a low carbon economy • The quality and connectivity of habitats is enhanced. • The species for which CNP is most important are in better conservation status | 1. Supporting Business 6. Nature & Landscapes 7. Supporting Land Management |

Table 2. Links between current Park Plan and Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017

| Priority for Action to 2012 from current Park Plan | National Park Partnership Plan Five Year Outcomes to 2017 | Relevant work Programmes |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Supporting Sustainable Deer Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The economy of the Park will have grown and diversified, drawing on the Park's special qualities • The quality and connectivity of habitats is enhanced. • The species for which CNP is most important are in better conservation status | 1. Supporting Business 6. Nature & Landscapes 7. Supporting Land Management |
| Providing High Quality Opportunities for Outdoor Access | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses and communities will be successfully adapting to a low carbon economy • Communities will be more empowered and able to develop their own models of sustainability • More people will enjoy, learn about and help to conserve and enhance the Park • The expectations of visitors are met or exceeded • The Park's recreation opportunities have improved the health and enjoyment of residents and visitors | 9. Active Cairngorms 12. Visitor and Access Infrastructure |
| Making Tourism and Business more Sustainable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The economy of the Park will have grown and diversified, drawing on the Park's special qualities • Businesses and communities will be successfully adapting to a low carbon economy • Communities will be more empowered and able to develop their own models of sustainability • Settlements and built development will retain and enhance the distinct sense of place and identity in the Park • The expectations of visitors are met or exceeded | 1. Supporting Business 2. Infrastructure and communications improvements 3. Low Carbon Cairngorms 4. Community Empowerment 5. Building Vibrant places 8. Leading Sustainable Tourism |

Table 2. Links between current Park Plan and Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017

| Priority for Action to 2012 from current Park Plan | National Park Partnership Plan Five Year Outcomes to 2017 | Relevant work Programmes |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Making Housing more Affordable and Sustainable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The economy of the Park will have grown and diversified, drawing on the Park's special qualities • Businesses and communities will be successfully adapting to a low carbon economy • Communities will be more empowered and able to develop their own models of sustainability • Settlements and built development will retain and enhance the distinct sense of place and identity in the Park | 2. Infrastructure and communications improvements 3. Low Carbon Cairngorms 4. Community Empowerment 5. Building Vibrant places |
| Raising Awareness and Understanding of the Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More people will enjoy, learn about and help to conserve and enhance the Park • The expectations of visitors are met or exceeded | 8. Leading Sustainable Tourism 10. Outdoor Learning 11. Sharing the Stories |

Gavin Miles

11 May 2012

gavinmiles@cairngorms.co.uk