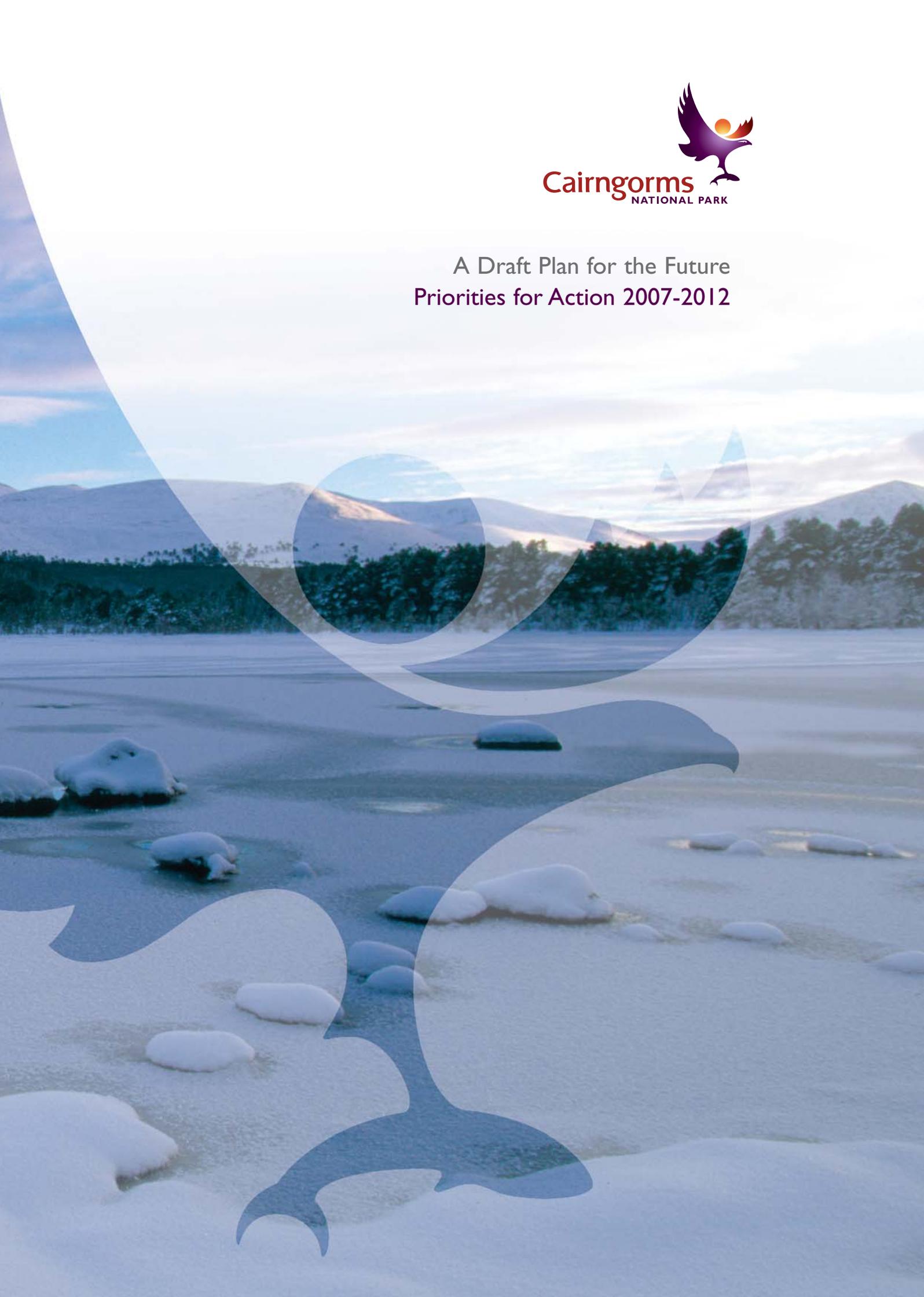




A Draft Plan for the Future
Priorities for Action 2007-2012



HOW TO COMMENT THE CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK - DRAFT PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

This document, entitled 'Priorities for Action 2007-2012', is published for public consultation alongside its sister document, 'Looking to 2030'. The consultation period for both runs to 30th June 2006.

**Comments are requested at any time before 30th June 2006
and should be sent to:**

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Further copies of this document, along with an Environmental Report and its Non-Technical Summary, and a State of the Park report can be obtained from the same address.

Copies of all these documents are also available to view at the National Park Authority offices in Grantown-on-Spey (14, The Square) and Ballater (Station Square); or at local libraries within the National Park.

The documents can also be downloaded from the Cairngorms National Park Authority website: www.cairngorms.co.uk

For a large print version of this publication, please contact the
Cairngorms National Park Authority on tel: 01479 873535

FOREWORD

Draft National Park Plan:

The National Park Plan is a unique and potentially very powerful opportunity. It will shape the direction of the National Park in the immediate future and for years to come. For the first time it will require the major public bodies operating in the area not only to talk with each other and cooperate together, but to plan openly – in advance and in a considerable degree of detail – how they will work collectively to achieve the aims of the National Park.



This consultative document is the first attempt at ever doing this in the Cairngorms National Park. It is very much a draft. To make the Plan clearer to understand, we have presented it over two timescales:

- 'Looking to 2030' – looking 25 years ahead, this proposes what we want to achieve in the longer term;
- 'Priorities for Action 2007-2012' – looking five years ahead, this proposes a targeted work programme for the public sector and others that addresses the most immediate challenges and opportunities.

The Cairngorms National Park Authority and all of its public sector partners are still on a learning curve with this process, and a steep one at that. We are looking for feedback on what is contained here – on content and on format. We want to know if you agree with our longer-term aspirations and what it is that the public agencies propose to do over the next five years. Are we clear and specific enough to ensure that everyone will know what will be done and what can be expected?

Please let us know your views on this. The Scottish Parliament created the Cairngorms National Park for the Scottish people. It is therefore vital that Scottish people understand and support what will now be done in their name.



Andrew Thin
Convener, Cairngorms National Park Authority
March 2006

Pàirc Nàiseanta a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh – Dreach Phlana na h-Ama ri Teachd:

Dh'fhaodadh Plana na Pàirce Nàiseanta a bhith na chothrom sònraichte agus fìor chumhachdach. Bidh

stùireadh ann a thaobh na Pàirce Nàiseanta an ceartuir agus airson nam bliadhnan ri teachd. Airson a' chiad uair bidh iarraidh e gum bi chan e a-mhàin còmhraidh agus co-obrachadh eadar na prìomh bhuidhnean poblach a tha ag obrachadh san sgìre, ach planadh follaiseach – ro-làimh agus le mion-fhiosrachadh – air mar a bhios iad a' co-obrachadh gus amasan na Pàirce Nàiseanta a choileanadh.

'S e am pàipear co-chomhairleachaidh seo a' chiad oidhirp a-riamh air seo a dhèanamh ann am Pàirc Nàiseanta a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh. Chan eil ann ach dreachd de phlana. Gus am Plana a dhèanamh nas fhasa a thuigsinn, bidh e thar dà raon-ama:

- A' coimhead ri 2030
A' coimhead air adhart 25 bliadhna, 's e seo na tha sin ag amas air a choileanadh san ùine fhada;
- Prìomh-amasan Gnìomha – 2007-2012
A' coimhead air adhart 5 bliadhna, 's e seo prògram obrach le amasan sònraichte don roinn phoblach agus roinnean eile a tha a' cur aghaidh air na dùbhlain agus cothroman as cudromaiche aig an àm seo.

Tha a' chùis seo ùr do Ùghdarras Pàirc Nàiseanta a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh agus a com-pàirtichean san roinn phoblach, agus chan e obair fhurasta a th' ann. Tha sinn ag iarraidh fiosrachadh air ais mun aithisg seo – air susbaint agus cruth. Bu toigh leinn cluinntinn a bheil sibh ag aontachadh ri ar miannan anns an ùine fhada agus dè tha na buidhnean poblach an dùil a dhèanamh thar nan còig bliadhna ri teachd. An tug sinn fiosrachadh soilleir agus sònraichte gu leòr gus dèanamh cinnteach gun tuig na h-uile dè bhios air a dhèanamh agus dè dh'fhaodar a shùileachadh?

Thoiribh dhuinn ur beachdan mun chùis seo. B' ann do shluagh na h-Alba a chruthaich Pàrlamaid na h-Alba Pàirc Nàiseanta a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh. Mar sin tha e ro-chudromach gum bi slugh na h-Alba a' tuigsinn na bhios a-nis air a dhèanamh air an son agus a' toirt taic dha.

Andrew Thin
Neach-gairm
Ùghdarras Pàirc Nàiseanta a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh
Am Màrt 2006

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The Draft National Park Plan comprises two parts:

- **Looking to 2030**
- **Priorities for Action 2007-2012**

'Looking to 2030' looks at least 25 years ahead to identify what the Park should be like in the future, and what we should collectively work towards. It sets out the context, vision and strategic objectives which will guide the future management of the Park and activities in it.

However, given the breadth of 'Looking to 2030', some focus is required to ensure that the varied partners combine their resources and effort to tackle the most pressing issues and challenges in the immediate future. The purpose of this part of the Draft Park Plan is to identify these priorities and set out an initial programme of work to tackle them.



Photos: Paul Tomkins, VisitScotland/Scottish Viewpoint, David Gowans.

2. VISION

The Park in 25 Years Time

‘Looking to 2030’ sets out the vision for the Park in 25 years time: The Cairngorms National Park will be seen as an exemplar of integrated and sustainable management, and will share its experience to inform the management of other areas of Scotland and beyond.



Conserving, Enhancing and Managing the Park

The Park will be increasingly recognised around the world for its outstanding natural environment – the high plateaux; corries and glens; the extensive open moorland; the pine and birch woods; and the straths with farmland along the clean rivers, lochs and burns. These areas will continue to be home to a wide range of habitats and species. The network of habitats across the Park will be in good condition, including sites identified as being of national and international importance which will be exemplars of good management.

The distinctive landscape character of the Park will be enhanced through improved management. This includes the extension of alpine scrub, improved woodland networks, and restoration of the more unsightly landscape scars such as redundant vehicle tracks and eroded footpaths. It will still be a landscape shaped by active land-use and management as well as natural

processes. There will be a productive mix of farming, forestry, game and wildlife management.

There will be thriving populations of characteristic species such as dotterel, ptarmigan and mountain hare on the high tops; hen harrier and grouse on moorland; golden plover and dunlin on mires; black grouse and capercaillie in the forest; lapwings, oyster catchers and curlew on farmland; otter and salmon in the rivers; and osprey feeding in the lochs.

In the Park's towns, villages and farms, the best examples of distinctive local architecture will be protected. Sustainable and innovative new buildings will be exemplars of good practice. Growth of settlements will safeguard the traditional pattern and character of the built heritage.

The evidence of previous generations living in the area, both the physical remains such as cairns, stone circles, abandoned shielings, drove roads, and castles; and the less tangible evidence of



Photo: Highlands and Islands Enterprise



Photo: David Gowans



Photo: Jimmy Mitchell

traditions, stories and songs, will be well recorded, cared for, and accessible to understand and appreciate.

Throughout the Park, residents, visitors, businesses and organisations will all contribute in some way to conserving and enhancing what is so special about their part of the Cairngorms.

Communities Living and Working in the Park

Thriving and inclusive communities will sustain, and in turn be sustained by, the special natural and cultural qualities of the Cairngorms. The outstanding environment will stimulate economic activity rather than constrain it and diverse local businesses will flourish.

All people in the Park will be able to find housing, education and training, employment and services that meet their needs. There will be efficient transport systems operating within and beyond

2. VISION...cont

the Park to meet the needs of communities and visitors. Businesses will feel they are a part of the Park, benefit from it, offer a high quality service and experience and be involved in environmental management.

Communities will play an active role in shaping the Park and will have the confidence to share their ideas, experience and culture. Community involvement in policy development and implementation will be normal practice.

Understanding and Enjoying the Park

Residents and visitors will enjoy, understand and support the special qualities of the Park in many different ways, through visitor and recreation experiences of the highest quality. A wide range of outdoor access opportunities on both land and

water will be available to everyone for responsible enjoyment, fun, spiritual rejuvenation, sport and healthy living. Everyone will be encouraged to experience the varied landscape of the Park, from the open uplands to the woodlands and rivers, in ways that respect the natural environment and cultural heritage of the area.

Visitors will come to the Park year-round to enjoy its fine landscapes, appreciate its wildlife and heritage, explore its character and take part in a range of activities. They will be fully aware of what the Park has to offer; understand the importance of conservation of the area and be keen to support this. Residents will be well-informed about the area and keen to communicate their knowledge and the needs of those living, working and visiting the Park will be mutually respected.



'Looking to 2030' (Section 3) sets out five Guiding Principles which should also be applied throughout the work to deliver all the Priorities for Action. In developing the detailed work programmes and implementing these priorities, all partners should use the following principles as a check.

1. Sustainable Development

The Park's natural and cultural resources should be managed, used and enjoyed in ways that conserve and enhance them for future generations, while ensuring that those who currently live in, work in and visit the Park are able to use and enjoy them.

This means:

- Management of the Park should not compromise the special qualities of the area;
- The interactions between the economic, social and environmental resources should be actively identified, managed and developed;
- The impacts of management on economic, social and environmental resources both within the Park and beyond its boundary should be identified and managed.

2. Social Justice

Access to the benefits from the Park's resources in terms of living, working and enjoying the Park should be available to everyone regardless of economic, physical or social constraints.

This means:

- Everyone, regardless of physical or economic constraints should be able to enjoy the special qualities of the area by some means;
- Access to appropriate services and social infrastructure for everyone living in or visiting the Park.

3. People Participating in the Park

People within and outside the Park should be actively involved in shaping the Park and its management, and be well informed about the Park and its management.

This means:

- Communicating effectively between public, private, community and voluntary sectors, locally and nationally;

- Developing simple and accessible ways for local communities to engage in and influence the management of the Park, including community planning;
- Local communities taking responsibility for their role in the management of the Park;
- Encouraging national engagement with the National Park.

4. Managing Change

Management of the Park should recognise processes of change, actively consider potential future impacts and manage change in an informed way using best available information.

This means:

- Identifying likely changes over which everyone has little or no influence and planning accordingly;
- Identifying desirable changes and taking the necessary leadership roles to shape positive change;
- Thinking ahead to consider likely implications of change and sourcing the information needed to inform debate and decisions.

5. Effective Governance

The management structures in the Park should be co-ordinated and efficient, tailored to delivering positive and tangible outcomes for the Park.

This means:

- Effective co-ordination between public bodies at strategic and delivery levels;
- Effective partnerships of public, private, community and voluntary interests;
- Committing to transparency and adding value in managing the Park;
- Learning from other areas at home and abroad;
- Effective sharing of information and knowledge;
- Building trust and co-operation amongst different interests.