

7. IMPLEMENTATION





7.1 A Partnership Approach

The National Park Plan has been developed in partnership with a diverse range of organisations and interests involved in managing the Park (see Annex I). Implementation of the plan and realisation of the vision rely equally on this diverse range of partners. The agenda set out by the National Park Plan has a scope beyond the remit of any one organisation, including the National Park Authority. It sets out the co-ordinated approach needed across sectors to work towards the aims of the Park.

The public, private, community and voluntary sectors, as well as individuals, all play a role in shaping the Park. Implementation of the plan will rely on further development of partnerships between these sectors, together with a shared sense of responsibility for the Park.

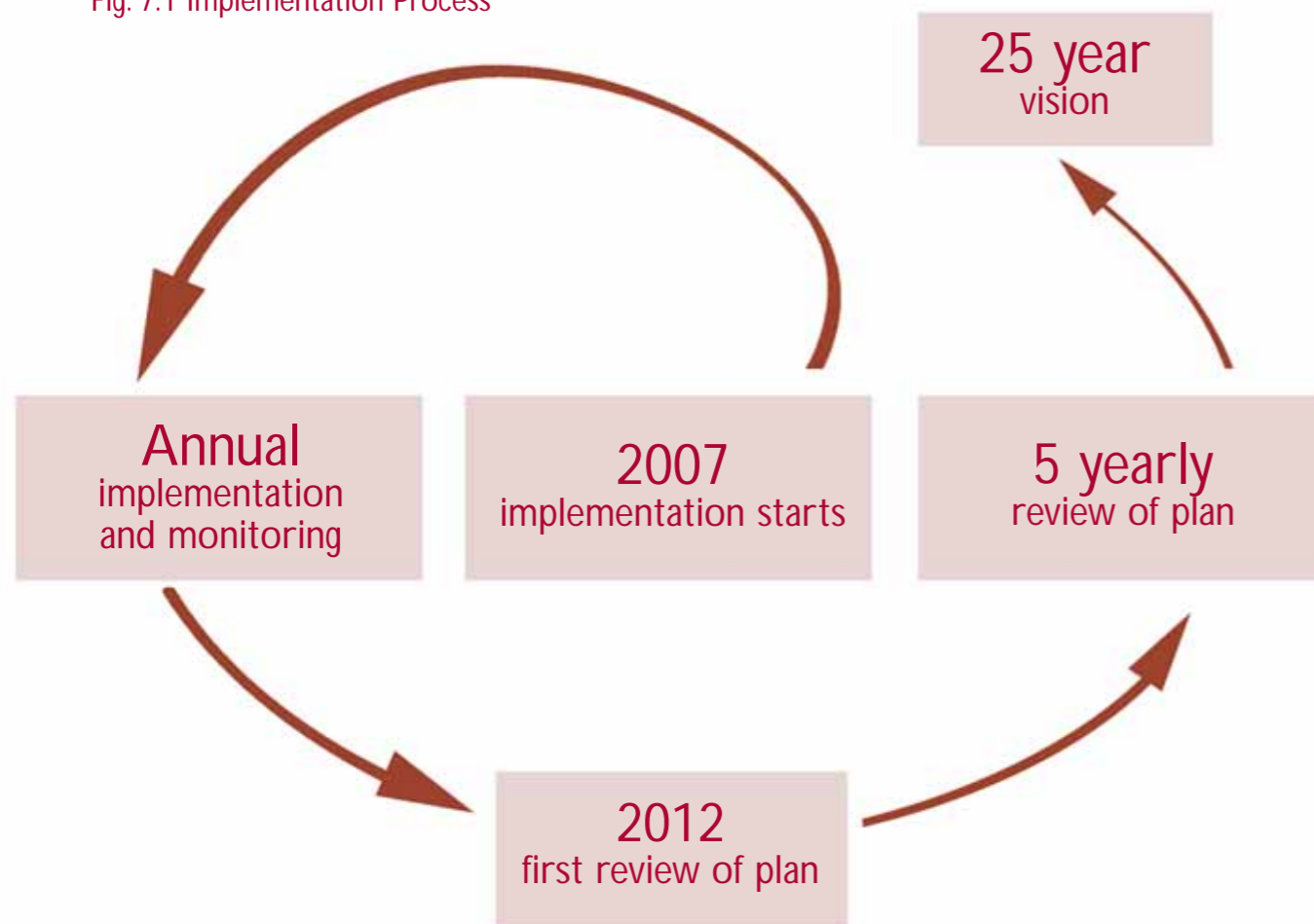
There is no single model of partnership that applies to all aspects of the plan – the partners involved will vary, as will those responsible for taking the lead. However, the starting point must be to add value over and above the activities of each individual partner. A significant amount can be achieved through combining and better co-ordinating existing resources through the National Park Plan.

Some formal mechanisms to bring partners together for both delivery and ongoing advisory functions are necessary. In establishing these groups, it is important to ensure cross-sectoral representation, but also to minimise the additional burden on partners.

The National Park Authority will co-ordinate a series of mechanisms to bring the necessary partnerships together based on the framework shown on the following page.

Implementation of the plan begins at the start of the 2007-08 financial year and runs for a five year period until 2012 when the plan will be reviewed for the next five year period. Figure 7.1 summarises the ongoing process of implementation.

Fig. 7.1 Implementation Process



| Implementation Framework | | |
|--|--|--|
| Mechanism | Role | Who? |
| Priority for Action Delivery Groups | To deliver and report progress on the actions necessary to achieve the five year outcomes for each priority for action. | The partners taking action to deliver the priority. |
| National Park Advisory Forums | To advise and communicate on ongoing implementation of the three plan themes of Conserving and Enhancing the Park, Living and Working in the Park and Enjoying and Understanding the Park. | Representation from across the public, private, community and voluntary sectors. |
| Advisory Panel on Joined-up Government | To co-ordinate the work of the public sector in achieving the aims of the Park. | Senior representatives of public bodies. |
| Forward Strategy Group | To look ahead and beyond the National Park Plan, monitor the State of the Park, identify and advise on drivers of change, strategic research and forward planning. | Expertise from across the public, private, community and voluntary sectors. |

The role of the present Advisory Forums, which have made a significant contribution to developing the National Park Plan, will be reviewed as part of the process to establish the most effective means of engagement to inform ongoing implementation.

The necessary groups and their detailed remit and membership will be developed by the National Park Authority in discussion with partners to achieve the most effective and efficient ways of working.



River Clunie

7.2 Adding Value to Existing Work

There is much ongoing work carried out by the public, private, community and voluntary sectors that is already contributing to the strategic objectives and aims of the Park. The National Park Plan provides a context for this activity to continue and a means of improving the integration and co-ordination.

Above all, the purpose of the National Park Plan is to add value to the existing activity and policy context within the Park. It can do this through increasing the integration and co-ordination of activities and policies and through identifying new areas of work to deliver more for the people and places of the Park.

Within the public sector, added value can be achieved through greater alignment of corporate plans, objectives and priorities in the National Park. The National Park Plan is a starting point for closer integration of both public policy and its implementation.

More broadly, added value can be achieved through greater co-operation between and within sectors to combine effort and resources around the needs of the people and places of the Park and by working towards a shared vision.

7.3 National Park Investment Programme

There are many organisations currently investing in work and projects in the National Park that will contribute towards the strategic objectives of the National Park Plan. Several public bodies in the area facilitate activity through grant schemes which draw funding from a variety of sources.

Greater co-ordination of this public investment between bodies and around the aims of the National Park has the potential to facilitate a significant contribution towards the National Park Plan. The National Park Authority will lead a process to achieve greater co-ordination and better value from public investment. This will include seeking to draw additional funding sources into the National Park, for example through a Landscape Partnership that could deliver actions across several of the priorities for action.



Twinflower

7.4 National Park Research Programme

Research is a key tool in delivering the National Park Plan, managing change and understanding more about the management needs of the Park. The National Park Authority will lead a process to identify and prioritise research needs associated with the National Park Plan and share the information that results from this research. There are many organisations that carry out relevant research in and around the Park. Greater co-ordination will maximise the value of research to a range of partners and make the results easily accessible to all with an interest.

There are some particular research needs identified in the strategic objectives and priorities for action which are required to take the plan forward. The research programme should also look beyond these horizons to improve our understanding of some of the drivers of change affecting the Park (Section 3.3) and help to develop innovative approaches that will inform future management.



Juniper berries

7.5 Role of the National Park Authority in Implementation

The role of the National Park Authority is to lead and co-ordinate implementation of the plan. In seeking to add value, the Authority will always promote the most effective and efficient means to achieve the objectives and aims of the Park. The key question regarding leadership should be 'who is best placed to deliver in the interests of the National Park?'

In many cases this will be other bodies in the public sector, the private sector, communities or voluntary groups. In some cases the National Park Authority will also take a direct role in delivering actions as one of the partners. The National Park Authority will therefore act to facilitate, support, influence and deliver as appropriate to achieve the objectives of the plan. It is also the role of the National Park Authority to ensure the necessary linkages and communications between delivery and advisory groups and to ensure ongoing feedback between groups to inform implementation and review.

The National Park Authority will co-ordinate reporting on implementation and take a lead in ensuring a continuing focus on the National Park, including publication of an annual review of progress in implementing the priorities for action (see Section 8).

7.6 Implementation through Other Plans and Strategies

The plans and strategies of many other organisations, public, private, community and voluntary, will have a significant influence on the delivery of the strategic objectives of the National Park Plan. The plan provides a framework through which other plans and strategies can contribute to the aims of the National Park.

Where there is a need for further policy or guidance, subsidiary plans and strategies should provide this. For example, the National Park Authority, with its partners, has prepared the Outdoor Access Strategy and the Forest and Woodland Framework, both of which provide more detailed guidance on working towards some of the strategic objectives of the National Park Plan.



Fishing on the River Spey

The National Park Authority is also responsible for the preparation of the Local Plan for the area, setting out detailed policies to manage the spatial planning and built development of the National Park. The policies of the Local Plan set out the means by which built development will contribute to the strategic objectives of the National Park Plan.

The plans and strategies of other groups in the area will also implement aspects of the plan, as appropriate to their area. For example, the Cairngorm, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Group (CRAGG) has already considered a strategy to co-ordinate management of their area which shows how many of the objectives and priorities of the National Park Plan can be implemented at a more detailed and local level.

Community Plans are particularly relevant to the delivery of many aspects of the National Park Plan. Community Plans provide an existing mechanism which brings together a partnership of relevant interests and provides a means for community engagement in implementing the National Park Plan. In these areas of common interest, the partners involved should use existing opportunities and mechanisms as far as possible.

7.7 Challenges and Risks

A strategic plan covering such a wide range of objectives cannot in itself ensure delivery over the coming years. There are a number of challenges and risks that we face in terms of our collective ability to deliver the plan and realise the vision for the future of the Cairngorms National Park.

There are a number of essential requirements to ensure the successful delivery of the National Park Plan:

- Genuine commitment by all partners involved to actively pursue the National Park Plan (aims, strategic objectives, priorities for action and outcomes) and to actively set work in the context of the National Park;
- Trust and co-operation between partners to ensure the National Park Plan is delivered as efficiently and effectively as possible;
- Clarity as to who is responsible for delivering different aspects of the National Park Plan, a willingness to take responsibility and the allocation of resources to do so;

- Access to the required information, skills and expertise to allow effective decision making and delivery of action plans; and
- Regular communication with all interested parties on progress being made, opportunities to get involved and managing expectations as to what can be delivered within the available resources and timescales.

In addition, there are a number of risks to the successful delivery of the plan:

- New legislation or political priorities which divert public sector resources to other activities;
- A reduction in external funding resources (such as the Rural Development Regulation, LEADER+, European Funds);
- Environmental change that results in different conditions such as climate change or catastrophic events such as extreme weather, disease; and
- Social and economic change influenced by national or international trends (such as ageing population, international tourism trends, cost of living).



Abernethy moorland and lochan



Northern Corries



Chainsaw carving, Carr-Bridge

Livestock in the National Park

Invercauld Bridge

The National Park Plan will be reviewed at five year intervals. There are two strands to monitoring and review of the plan:

- Annual Report on the Priorities for Action;
- Monitoring the State of the Park.

8.1 Annual Report on the Priorities for Action

An annual report will be prepared by the National Park Authority to monitor progress in the priorities for action. This will monitor the collective efforts of all partners in implementation and will be separate from the National Park Authority's own organisational annual report.

The report will monitor whether the National Park Authority and partners are taking the actions set out in the five year action programmes, essentially monitoring inputs and activities. It will also monitor progress towards the five year outcomes that are set out for each priority for action.

This is about monitoring whether the management interventions being made are having the desired effects and whether we are collectively achieving the five year outcomes as a step on the way to the longer term vision.

For each five year outcome, a measurable indicator will be identified against which progress within the five year period will be monitored. At the end of the five year period, the effectiveness of management responses will be judged against the same indicator. This will inform the review of the National Park Plan at that stage. It will help to determine whether sufficient progress towards the long-term vision has been made in the priorities and therefore whether they still require a particular focus within the next five year period. The priorities for action will change if the issue is no longer considered pressing.

8.2 Monitoring the State of the Park

The annual report will only monitor whether progress is made in those areas that have been identified as priorities for the next five years. There remain many other aspects of the National Park that may change over that period and in the long-term priorities for action will come and go as circumstances change.

Monitoring must also look to the longer term and identify changes in the National Park. This is about monitoring the ongoing state of the Park.

Changes to the state of the Park are likely to occur for a number of reasons. Some changes will be the result of management actions – change may be actively sought or may also be an unanticipated effect. Others will be the result of external drivers of change influencing the National Park (see Section 3.3).

To monitor changes in the state of the Park, a set of indicators will be identified reflecting the aims of the Park. These indicators will cover the four broad themes of the State of the Park Report:

- Natural resources;
- Cultural resources;
- Visitor and recreation resources; and
- Socio-economic resources.

Within each theme, a number of headline indicators will be identified to give a snapshot of the state of the Park. These can only indicate the key relationships of interest – they are not intended to give a comprehensive survey of all aspects of the National Park. They will give an insight into the changing relationships between the pressures affecting the Park, the state of its resources and the impacts on the resources and special qualities of the Park.

Over time, these indicators will help to guide management. The information will be collated and reported at five-yearly intervals, in an update to the State of the Park Report and will inform the five-yearly review of the National Park Plan. As well as informing a review of the long-term objectives, this information will also inform a review of what the priorities for action should be over the next five year period, as these may have changed.

Consultation on proposed indicators in the Draft National Park Plan identified many organisations that are already involved in monitoring relevant aspects and many that wish to contribute to developing the most appropriate indicators to monitor the State of the Park. The National Park Authority therefore concluded that selection of indicators should be a collective process involving several stakeholders. This will take place during 2007 in order to establish a monitoring regime that can inform the first review of the plan in 2012.

8.3 Framework for Monitoring and Review

The two strands are drawn together into a framework for monitoring and review that will give an insight into the relationships between the state of the Park, drivers of change and management actions. This framework identifies:

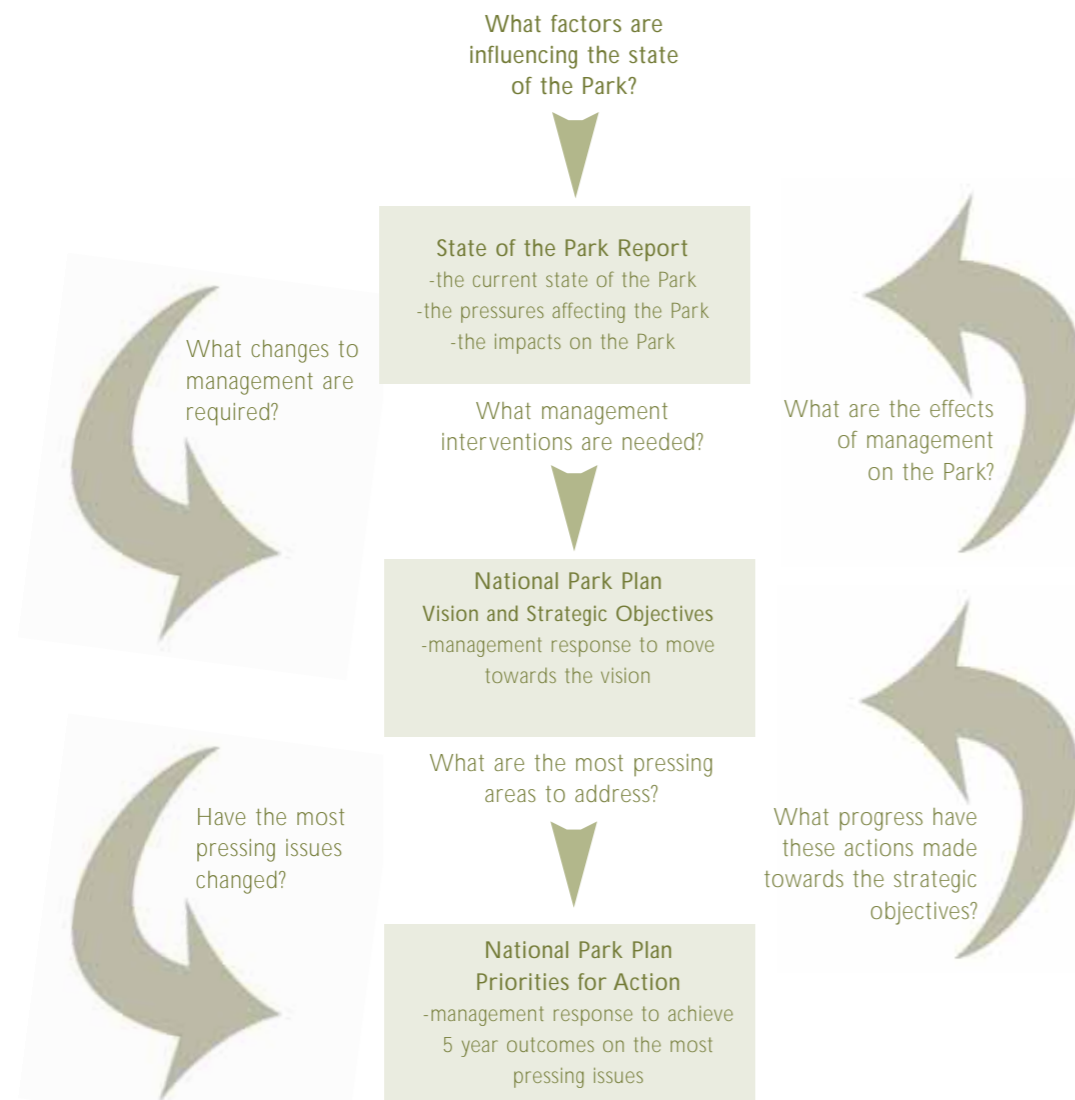
- Pressures affecting the Park;
- The current **state** of the Park's resources;
- **Impacts** on the Park; and
- The management **responses**.

This framework is known as the 'Pressure – State – Impact – Response' model.

The State of the Park Report identifies significant information about the current state of resources, the pressures affecting the Park and the associated impacts on its special qualities. In turn, the management responses to these pressures, states and impacts are set out in the National Park Plan. In particular, the Priorities for Action set out responses to the most pressing issues.

The relationship between these elements is set out in Figure 8.3.

Fig. 8.3 The Monitoring and Review Process



The meeting of the rivers Dee and Quoich

9. CONCLUSION



Throwing the hammer, Highland Games



Mar Lodge, Braemar



Highland Folk Museum, Newtonmore

The National Park Plan sets out the long-term vision and management framework for the National Park, as well as identifying priorities for action for the five years from 2007-2012. The plan itself is only the starting point and the challenge for everyone involved in the National Park is to deliver our collective aspirations for the area.

The vision of a truly world-class National Park is an ambitious one and this is only the first of a series of National Park Plans that will shape the Cairngorms in the future. It cannot and will not deliver everything in the first five years – but a collective effort will make significant progress in this period.

This is a plan for the National Park as a whole, in which the public, private, community and voluntary sectors are all vital to success. It is critical that all interests continue to come together and build on the communications and partnerships that have already been established to deliver the outcomes identified in the plan.

ANNEXES



Dalwhinnie Distillery

ANNEX 1: Contributors to the National Park Plan

The following organisations and groups have contributed to the development of the National Park Plan through the public consultation and discussions:

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| Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Forum | Confederation of Forest Industries |
| Aberdeenshire Council | Council for Scottish Archaeology |
| Aboyne Academy | Crofters Commission |
| Alford Academy | The Crown Estate |
| Alvie and Dalraddy Estates | CTC-RTR Aberdeenshire |
| An Camus Mor | |
| Angus Council | Dalwhinnie Community Council |
| Association of Cairngorms Community Councils | Deer Commission for Scotland |
| Association of Deer Management Groups | |
| Aviemore and the Cairngorms Destination Management Organisation | East Grampian Deer Management Group |
| | Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen |
| Badenoch and Strathspey Conservation Group | Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group Scotland |
| Ballater and Crathie Community Council | Finzean Community Council |
| Bòrd na Gàidhlig | Forests Trees and Livelihoods |
| Braemar Community Council | Forestry and Timber Association |
| Brechin High School | Forestry Commission Scotland |
| British Association for Shooting and Conservation | Forest Enterprise Scotland |
| British Deer Society | |
| British Geological Survey | Grantown Grammar School |
| Built Environment Forum Scotland | |
| | The Highland Council |
| Cairngorm, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Group | Highlands and Islands Enterprise |
| The Cairngorm Club | HIE Inverness and East Highland |
| Cairngorms Campaign | HIE Moray |
| Cairngorms Chamber of Commerce | Historic Scotland |
| Cairngorms Housing Group | HITRANS |
| Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan Group | |
| Cairngorms Local Outdoor Access Forum | Invercauld Estate |
| Cairngorms Moorland Project Steering Group | |
| Cairngorms National Park Economic and Social Development Forum | John Muir Trust |
| Cairngorms National Park Integrated Land Management Forum | Kincraig and Vicinity Community Council |
| Cairngorms National Park Visitor Services, Information and Tourism Forum | Kingussie High School |
| Canoe Scotland | Marr Area Partnership |
| Comunn na Gàidhlig | Moray Council |
| Communities Scotland | The Moray Society |
| Community Recycling Network for Scotland | National Farmers Union of Scotland |

ANNEX 1: Contributors to the National Park Plan...cont

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|--|---|
| National Trust for Scotland | Scottish Enterprise Tayside |
| Nestrans | Scottish Environment Link |
| North East Mountain Trust | Scottish Environment Protection Agency |
| | Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department |
| Ramblers Association | Scottish Native Woods |
| Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Community Association | Scottish Natural Heritage |
| Rothiemurchus Estate | Scottish Raptor Study Group |
| Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland | Scottish Rural Property and Business Association |
| Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors | Scottish Water |
| Royal Society for the Protection of Birds | Scottish Wild Land Group |
| Royal Zoological Society | Scottish Wildlife Trust |
| | Speyside High School |
| Scottish Agricultural College | SportScotland |
| Scottish Canoe Association | SUSTRANS |
| Scottish Civic Trust | |
| Scottish Council for National Parks | VisitScotland |
| Scottish Countryside Rangers' Association | |
| Scottish Crofting Foundation | Webster High School |
| Scottish Estates Business Group | Woodland Trust for Scotland |
| Scottish Enterprise Grampian | |

During the public consultation a total of 31 consultation meetings were held with communities and special interest groups. A total of 61 individuals also submitted written comments during the public consultation.

ANNEX II: IUCN Management Principles for Category V Protected Areas

(Taken from 'Management Guidelines for IUCN Category V Protected Areas', World Commission on Protected Areas Best Practice Guidelines Series No 9, 2002)

Principle 1:

Conserving landscape, biodiversity and cultural values are at the heart of the Category V protected area approach. Though much emphasis is placed in this guidance on economic and social considerations, Category V is a conservation approach which should reflect the over-arching objectives of all protected areas. It is therefore about managing change in such a way that environmental and cultural values endure: change should take place within limits that will not disrupt those values.

Principle 2:

The focus of management should be on the point of interaction between people and nature. To recall part of the definition used in the 1994 Guidelines: "Safeguarding the integrity of (the) traditional interaction is vital to the protection, maintenance and evolution of the area" (IUCN, 1994, p.22). Thus, whereas in many other kinds of protected areas it is nature itself that is the main focus of management, what distinguishes Category V is that management primarily addresses the **linkage** between people and nature.

Principle 3:

People should be seen as stewards of the landscape. As the occupants of lived-in, working landscapes that are of great value to society as a whole, the people living within Category V protected areas should be supported in their role as stewards of the landscape. They are the architects of much we value in the landscape, and their support is needed to ensure its survival. Ideally, they help to shape and care for the environment with the traditions of the past, but with an eye to the future. In that sense, they may more correctly be described as 'the managers' of Protected Landscapes than the professionals who are employed with that formal title: good managers in the professional sense will therefore see their role as 'facilitators' and 'negotiators'.

Principle 4:

Management must be undertaken with and through local people, and mainly for and by them. This principle recognises that the full involvement of local people is essential, and that Category V protected areas should never be planned **against** their long-term interests. It also recognises that local communities should play an important role in delivering protected area objectives and be among the principal beneficiaries of these. But note that local people are not the only source of expertise. Moreover, there are other stakeholders who can derive benefits from protected landscapes: for example, visitors from nearby urban areas or further afield, resource users from afar (e.g. consumers of water supplies downstream), or the wider community interested in biodiversity or landscape protection.

Principle 5:

Management should be based on co-operative approaches, such as co-management and multi-stakeholder equity. It follows from Principles 2-4 that structures and processes are needed to ensure that people are involved fully in shaping management decisions and come to see the protected area as theirs. This will require the operation of open, transparent procedures based on democratic principles. Co-management approaches may be particularly appropriate to Category V protected areas.

Principle 6:

Effective management requires a supportive political and economic environment. The foregoing principles cannot be followed unless broader governance structures and practices in society at large are committed to certain standards. The management of Protected Landscapes will be easier to achieve if the government recognises the need for a quality of life perspective, follows democratic processes, and engages willingly in participatory planning based upon a fair and equitable approach to all groups and respect for a plurality of cultures. It will also be greatly helped by a top-level national commitment to sustainability, the alleviation of poverty, addressing the root causes of inequality, promoting gender equity and supporting civil society.

ANNEX II: ...cont

Principle 7:

Management of Category V protected areas should not only be concerned with protection but also enhancement. Because Category V protected areas are lived-in landscapes, the environment will have been manipulated more than is the case with the other categories of protected areas. It follows that a more active role for management is appropriate, not only in the protection but also in restoration of natural or cultural values that have been eroded or lost. It may on occasion also include the creation of new environmental and social assets which are ecologically or culturally appropriate: examples would be a new woodland or forested areas established on degraded soils, and the development of a new market for goods produced by local people.

Principle 8:

When there is irreconcilable conflict between the objectives of management, priority should be given to retaining the special qualities of the area. Because Protected Landscapes have important social as well as environmental objectives, there is considerable potential for conflict between objectives. As far as possible, management should seek to reconcile such conflicts. In the last analysis there need to be clear rules about what would have priority in such a situation. This principle states that when this happens, priority should be given to protecting the qualities that make the area special (what economists sometimes call 'critical environmental capital'). Because such a claim is likely to be contested, the principle may need to be embodied in legislation.

Principle 9:

Economic activities that do not need to take place within the Protected Landscape should be located outside it. As a lived in, working landscape, a Category V protected area will contain a variety of economic activities and land-uses, such as agriculture, forestry, tourism and some forms of industry, commerce and retailing, as well as residential areas, some infrastructure, etc. The tests for whether such an activity or use is acceptable within the protected area, are whether (i) it is sustainable, (ii) it contributes to the aims of the area and (iii) there are strong reasons for it to be located within it. Where the proposed activity fails these tests, it should either be totally re-designed to fit Category V objectives or located outside the area altogether.

Principle 10:

Management should be business-like and of the highest professional standard. Notwithstanding the strong social and environmental emphasis in the management of Protected Landscapes, the operation of management should be business-like, and hard headed if necessary. It requires effective marketing of conservation approaches too. While this may be difficult to achieve in the short term, financial sustainability should be an aim, rather than 100% reliance on public funding. Procedures should be put in place to ensure that public, private and voluntary funds and other resources are used with due regard to economy, efficiency and effectiveness. All decision-making concerning the use of resources should be transparent and accountable.

Principle 11:

Management should be flexible and adaptive. Like protected area management in general, that of Category V protected areas needs to be capable of adjustment over time in light of experience and changing circumstances – but since its scope embraces both natural and human systems, the need for flexibility is all the greater. Management of Protected Landscapes should also be flexible and adaptive in the sense that it should respond to the very different social, cultural and economic situations in which it takes place: it should always be culturally appropriate and economically relevant.

Principle 12:

The success of management should be measured in environmental and social terms. Though absolutely central, biodiversity measures are only one of several indicators: others include social and economic welfare and the quality of life for local and other people, other environmental considerations such as energy efficiency or natural resource management, and measures relating to the conservation of the cultural environment. An aim should be to demonstrate the maximum social and economic benefits for the local community with the minimum environmental impact. The setting of objectives, also allocation of resources and monitoring of effectiveness should all be undertaken with this breadth of interest in mind.

ANNEX III: Glossary

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| Arctic-alpine habitat | Vegetation communities characteristic of high mountain environments. |
| Biodiversity | The variety of all living organisms. |
| Biomass | Material derived from plant or animal matter including agricultural and forestry residues that can be used for fuel. |
| Boreal Forest | The once extensive forest of northern Europe. |
| Cairngorms Partnership | A Partnership Board operational from 1995 to 2003 tasked with developing a coherent management strategy for the Cairngorms area. |
| Cairngorms Working Party | A working party which in 1992 recommended the establishment of the Cairngorms Partnership. |
| Cairngorms Local Plan | The Local Plan prepared by the Park Authority to guide planning and development control within the Park. |
| Caledonian Forest | Native Scots pine forest that has regenerated from generation to generation from the extensive boreal forest that once covered larger areas of northern Europe. |
| Community Planning | A process which helps public bodies work with communities to plan and deliver better services. |
| Core Paths | Those routes seen to be the main routes which are needed to provide people with reasonable access throughout their area. The National Park Authority has a duty to prepare a Core Paths Plan by February 2008. |
| Crofting | A system of land tenure currently regulated by the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993. |
| Designed Landscape | Grounds laid out for architectural effect and amenity. Those of national importance are listed in Historic Scotland's Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes. |
| Ecosystem | The functioning system of habitats, species and natural processes that supports biodiversity. |
| European Charter for Sustainable Tourism | A charter developed by the Europarc Federation of Protected Areas to recognise and encourage the sustainable management of tourism. |
| Favourable Condition | Refers to the condition of notified interests within sites designated under statutory provisions for nature conservation. |
| Geological Conservation Review | A non-statutory list of sites identified as being of national importance for their geology, palaeontology, mineralogy or geomorphology. |
| Geodiversity | The natural diversity of geological, landform and soil features and processes. |
| Geomorphology | The landforms and features resulting from geological processes. |
| Habitat network | The interconnected pattern of habitats. |
| Historic Environment | The imprint of past generations in the countryside, buildings, settlements and archaeology. |
| Hydrology | Study of water processes. |
| Hydromorphology | The landforms and features created by water processes. |

ANNEX III: Glossary...cont

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| IUCN (World Conservation Union) | The IUCN brings together 900 states, government agencies and other organisations in a partnership to promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. |
| Landscape Capacity Studies | Analysis of the landscape's ability to absorb development and the implications for landscape character. |
| Landscape Character Assessments | A process designed to bring a consistent approach to describing and characterising landscapes. |
| Listed Buildings | Buildings listed as being of special architectural or historic interest and therefore requiring special protection. |
| Local Plan | A plan that provides the policy and locational framework for development in the area, forming part of the statutory planning framework. |
| Montane | Areas of high ground above the natural tree-line. |
| Munros | Mountains in Scotland over 3000 feet (914 metres) in height. |
| Natura 2000 | A European Union network of nature conservation sites representing the best examples of the range of habitats found in the EU, comprising Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas. |
| National Nature Reserves | NNRs are designated by Scottish Natural Heritage as world-class sites for nature. Specialised and sustainable management practices, continual research, and the promotion of responsible access are central to the management of NNRs for the benefit of both wildlife and people. |
| National Scenic Areas | Areas of land considered to be of national significance for their outstanding scenic interest, which must be conserved as part of Scotland's natural heritage. |
| National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) | Statements of Scottish Executive policy on nationally important land use and planning matters. They are being superseded by the Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) series. |
| Priority Species | Species that are qualifying criteria of Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas; listed in Annex I, II, IV or V of the EC Habitats Directive; listed in Schedules 1, 5 or 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; or listed in the UK and Local Biodiversity Action Plan. |
| Public benefits | The benefits enjoyed by the public and the nation that result from land management or business practices. |
| Ramsar Sites | Sites designated as globally important wetlands to meet the UK's commitments under the Ramsar Convention. |
| Registered Social Landlords | Not-for-profit organisations providing homes for people in housing need regulated by Communities Scotland. |
| Rural Housing Burden | A mechanism under the Title Conditions (Scotland) Act 2003 obliging an owner to offer the house back to the Rural Housing Body on sale to ensure the property remains in the affordable stock. |

ANNEX III: Glossary...cont

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| Scheduled Ancient Monuments | Archaeological features recorded and protected by Historic Scotland. |
| Scottish Outdoor Access Code | Guidance on how the access rights and responsibilities under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 should be exercised. It details responsibilities when taking access or managing land and water. |
| Section 75 Planning Agreements | A legal provision to apply conditions of use or occupancy to a grant of planning consent. |
| Sites of Special Scientific Interest | A national suite of nature conservation sites protected as examples of the UK's flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features. |
| Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) | Part of the Natura 2000 network, SACs are protected areas representative of the range of habitats and (non-bird) species of the European Union. |
| Special Protection Areas (SPA) | Part of the Natura 2000 network, SPAs are protected areas that are important habitats for rare and migratory birds in the European Union. |
| Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) | A process to ensure that the significant environmental effects of plans, policies and programmes are identified, assessed, consulted on, mitigated and monitored. |
| Sustainable | A way of living and working which uses and manages environmental, social and economic resources in such a way that future generations will also be able to enjoy them. |

For a large print version of the National Park Plan, please contact the Cairngorms National Park Authority on tel: 01479 873535. This publication is also available in other formats on request.