Annex 1

Active Cairngorms Action Plan progress

Title	Key measurable outputs	Delivery period	Status	Notes on delivery
Managing for visitors				
Develop the Managing for Visitors Group to bring together key public sector partners, land managers and businesses and participate in national arrangements.	Meetings delivered.	Ongoing	On track	Summer series of fortnightly meetings commenced on the 15 April and concluded on the 28 October. A winter programme of monthly meetings has been developed to cover topics such as Fire Bylaw, Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) promotion and wider visitor engagement
Promoting messaging that visitors should 'tread lightly' as the main means of promoting the SOAC in the National Park.	Updated Tread lightly in the Park concertina leaflets.	Ongoing	Completed	Tread lightly leaflet updated for 2026 season with new fire byelaw message. New 2026 Fire leaflet produced with byelaw messaging.
Providing clear guidance on recreational activities such as wild camping and water sports.	Updated informal camping advice note. Water users advice published.	Ongoing	On track	Existing guidance in use. A review into the guidance on informal camping will commence in 2027.

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Developing standard signage for key messages that promote the SOAC and supporting land managers to use signs to help them promote responsible access.	Capercaillie and dogs on lead signs distributed Updated SOAC posters.	Ongoing	On track	Various signs produced related to wildlife disturbance, dog ownership and land management in 2026 including; Wader signs, Slavonian grebe signs, conservation cattle grazing signs, beaver lodge signs (in progress.
Ensure a wide range of audiences are engaged with through the use of different platforms, accessible formats, and different languages.	Tread lightly messaging available in foreign languages.	Ongoing	Completed	2026 Tread Lightly leaflet available in 10 languages - available to download from National Park website.
Working well with Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) to reduce rural crime and ensure appropriate enforcement measures are in place.	Standard operating procedures agreed with all relevant forces.	Ongoing	On track	Training with both SFRS and Police Scotland delivered to Family of Ranger Services. Police Scotland training included information regarding Fire Management Byelaw and information on how to effectively take details and evidence and record them appropriately. Police patrols organised in Glenmore and Deeside to cover Friday and Saturday evenings during peak

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				summer period. Guidance for partner ranger services produced in partnership with Police Scotland on when and how to escalate incidents. Guidance re-issued to Family of Ranger services and shared at Highland Ranger Managers meeting.
Develop dedicated campaigns for new audiences in partnership with partners to positively influence specific visitor behaviours such as fires, toileting and roadside or overnight parking.	Revised and updated materials.	Ongoing	On track	New campervan webpage and interactive map produced. New campervan leaflet in progress. Fire byelaw campaign rolled out.
Consult on options around fire byelaws for the National Park [inclusion in plan subject to Board decision in Nov 23].	10-week public consultation completed.	2024/2025	Completed	Bylaw consultation completed and byelaw introduced April 2026.
Investigate the viability of a visitor welcome app for the Cairngorms National Park, providing guidance to visitors and giving real-time data on visitor distribution.	Visitor facing app developed.	March 2026-March 2027	Not started	Paused and requires to be reviewed. Initial proposal was to develop jointly with Loch Lomond and Trossachs NP. Also now awaiting recruitment and induction of a new Digital Communications Manager.

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Develop our capability to collect and analyse information about visitor distribution and behaviour spatially using digital technology.	Annual visitor data report published.	Ongoing	On track	Use of current system based on mobile phone data wasn't working as promised so will go to market with a tender to develop a system for targeted use of mobile phone-based data.
Deliver a programme to support best practice within the land management sector on safeguarding access rights to reduce access obstructions	Two events delivered.	Ongoing	On track	One Fire bylaw-based event for non-ranger estate staff delivered in May 2026. Further options for 2027 under discussion with landowners.
Minimising impacts on sensitive species and habitats				
Develop and utilise methods for measuring the impact of disturbance on sensitive habitats and species – to be used to build a strong evidence base to help inform future management measures.	Monitoring and evaluation framework in place.	Ongoing	On track	Use of current system based on mobile phone data wasn't working as promised so will go to market with a tender to develop a system for targeted use of mobile phone-based data.
Utilise a spatial plan to prioritise the management of reductions in recreational disturbance to species and habitats.	Map published.	Ongoing	On track	Working with RSPB Abernethy to reduce risk of disturbance to Lekking capercaillie on the tracks. Currently working on revised maps for priority area for recreational

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				management based on Special Protection Area (SPA) and other relevant boundaries, will consult key partners on spatial plan and revised maps in early 2027. Updated rogue male protocol including signage and messaging.
Reduce the impact of recreation on ground-nesting birds by implementing site-specific actions and initiatives with land managers.	Management agreements in place	Ongoing	On track	Ranger patrols undertaken on identified sensitive sites "Paws on the Plateau" being implemented by RSPB at Abernethy. Lek it Be patrols completed. Specific advice and signage developed for Lekking (rogue) caper in Boat and Abernethy Caper maps being developed, wader signage drafted, Slavonian grebe signage for Avielochan produced. Waders signs and maps for key sites (Tomintoul/ Loch Muick) – March 2026.

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Supporting communities to create and develop dog walking spaces to meet the needs of dogs and reduce pressure on sensitive areas for wildlife.	Boat of Garten pilot delivered two community dog walking initiatives delivered.	Ongoing	On track	Phase two of Boat of Garten community dog walking work on hold pending landowner support. Collaborating with Anagach Woods Trust. Initial listening sessions delivered and resident dog walker survey in Grantown and Cromdale to be developed and issued in early 2027.
Build knowledge and support by developing an active community of dog owners with information and understanding.	Community dog walking group in place.	Ongoing	Not started	On hold until Anagach Woods dog walker work has been completed.
Develop further with users' best practice for bikes including supporting the delivery of the Mountain Biking Recreation Management Plan for Badenoch and Strathspey.	Trail Feathers development plan delivered.	Ongoing	On track	Mapping of informal trails on sensitive sites in Aberdeenshire nearing completion. Will be used to develop a management plan going forward. Grant funding provided to BASTA to deliver trail academy sessions focused on female mountain bikers, includes principles of reducing disturbance.
Update guidance on outdoor events to promote best practice	Updated guidance published.	2026	On track	Draft completed and external feedback incorporated. Final sign off by December 2026.

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Work with wildlife and activity guides to develop specific local training and codes of conduct for sensitive sites and species eg, twin flower, beavers, raptors and leks.	Code of conduct produced Training sessions run.	Ongoing	On track	Lek it Be campaign ran in Spring. Supporting dawn ranger patrols.
Paths, trails and outdoor access				
Review and publish an updated Core Paths Plan by end of 2026	Community consultation undertaken Plan published.	Consultation - 2025/2026 Plan published 2027	On track	Formal consultation completed on 21 August 2026. Currently working through objections with final amended plan being taken to the Board in March 2027.
Refresh the Cairngorms Local Outdoor Access Forum to ensure it plays an active role in advising on all aspects of the Active Cairngorms Action Plan.	New members recruited	Ongoing	On track	Paper and process on next steps agreed at June 2026 meeting. Recruitment to start in late 2026.
Review monitoring at indicator sites (lowland paths, upland paths, trail-heads, core paths and Long Distances Routes).	Audit of counters completed	Ongoing	On track	Path counter action plan approved. New counters to be installed over spring 2027.

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Use of people counters and other data gathering technologies to measure usage on key paths and car parks.	Review of Active X system and agreed way forward.	Ongoing	On track	Use of current system based on mobile phone data wasn't working as promised so will go to market with a tender to develop a system for targeted use of mobile phone-based data.
Maintaining a suite of community path leaflets in paper and accessible digital formats.	All leaflets feature path grading Leaflets reviewed on five yearly cycles.	Ongoing	On track	New maps being produced for Nethy Bridge and Braemar. New accessible / easy access walks section added to website and expanded walk descriptions done.
Supporting partners to deliver appropriate publications (eg Hill Tracks Leaflet).	Updated Hill Tracks Leaflet	Ongoing	Not started	To be developed.
Ensure paths around communities are well-signposted and waymarked with good community map boards in every community across the National Park.	Signposting plan developed Programme of sign replacements Walk panels installed in communities.	Ongoing	On track	Working with Grantown community to re waymark Beachen woods trails. Condition review for signage on Speyside between Aviemore and Kincraig completed – aim to replace signs by end Mar 2027.

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Support and expand the number of community path groups to deliver path projects through funding, training and sharing best practice.	Community path group training event delivered.	Ongoing	On track	Community Path Gathering event held on 13 June 2026 - future event planned for spring 2027. Accessible path updates fund launched (July 2026).
Review the Upland Path Audit to identify investment priorities for the upland path network and develop innovative techniques to reduce upland path erosion.	Revised upland path audit published.	2025-2026	On track	Audit completed by Outdoor Access Trust (OATS), land managers currently being consulted.
Expand the existing 'Adopt a path' scheme to promote volunteer-led approach to cover all upland paths in the Park.	Increase from 37 upland paths to 40 upland paths- outstanding paths are Fiacaill Coire Cas, Glas Allt and the Beinn a Ghlo return path.	Ongoing	On track	Awaiting update from OATS for Scotland post annual general meeting (AGM) in November 2026.
Public Health and the Outdoors				

Title	Key measurable outputs	Delivery period	Status	Notes on delivery
Embed pathways to green health and nature within GP Practices, social care and education.	Number of referrals via GP and self-referral options.	Ongoing	On track	Total referrals to project 127. 2026 referrals - 17. GP Practice drop-in information sessions completed for Grantown and Aviemore. One info session for physiotherapy and occupational therapy teams delivered.
Maintain up-to-date information for green health opportunities and promote widely within communities.	Monthly What's On for Badenoch and Strathspey Network Content published on Think Health, Think Nature Website.	Ongoing	On track	Monthly emails sent to the Green Health network.
Develop “green health” information on the Park Authority website:	Green Health web page.	April 2025 - March 2026	Completed	Nature Prescriptions information on the website has been completed.
Promote Green Health Week	Green Health Week activities delivered.	Ongoing	On track	Green Health Week 2026 consisted of GP blog, drop-in information event at Grantown Medical Practice and successful promotion on the Park Authority communications.

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				Plan and programme to be developed for May 2027.
Further develop Green Health opportunities with key players.	Continued email correspondence to the Badenoch and Strathspey Green Health Network with monthly event updates, quarterly in-person meetings, and promotion / funding of appropriate training.	Ongoing	On track	Over 80 members on the Green health network list, with appropriate partners also being added to the list. Meetings with new providers have taken place regularly with a plan to complete the partnership agreement list by the end of year three, quarter one. Partnership agreements have been reviewed and replaced with a 'guidance' document containing procedures for information sharing, expectations and health and safety. Discussions with key partnership groups are ongoing.
Work with Ranger Services to integrate Green Health into the wider learning and engagement work (eg school visits, Junior Rangers etc).	Collaborative projects and varied pathways to Green Health.	Ongoing	On track	New NHS / CAMHS post to provide support for young people and families from early 2027. Accessible volunteering opportunities for Nature Prescription participants are limited. Some collaboration on training delivery

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				made - Neurodivergence in the Outdoors and Trauma Awareness. Green Health Link Workers continue to liaise with Health Walk Coordinator to advise on accessible options.
Liaise with specific community support organisations to support particular groups, eg carers and young carers, ethnic minorities, seasonal workers, etc.	Ongoing - targeted support through Green Health Week.	Ongoing	On track	Signposting list has been shared with GP Practices. Engagement activities planned with community groups to highlight the service and increase referral numbers.
Develop dementia-friendly walks in each community within the National Park	Number of Health Walks accredited as 'Dementia Friendly'.	2024-2029	Off track with a plan	Following changes at Walking Scotland, including their support for Dementia Friendly Walking, the current delivery model is under review. Dementia Friends training has been offered to all Health Walk Leaders and approach to Dementia Friendly Health Walk development is currently under review. This will involve stakeholder engagement with Alzheimer Scotland and others to ensure a coordinated approach.

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Develop and promote a health walks programme in each community of the Park.	Number of Health Walks supported	Ongoing	On track	2026 has seen the establishment of one new Health Walk in Blair Atholl (now walking independently with support from Atholl Ranger) and stronger links between Glen Tanar Health Walk and Aboyne developed through the provision of transport, in partnership with the Glen Tanar Charitable Trust Ranger resulting in significant group growth. Laggan / Dalwhinnie and Strathdon will be explored as potential new Health Walk locations in 2027.
Develop targeted promotion activities for those living sedentary lifestyles (for example, Green Health Week, World Mental Health Day, Nature Festival etc,) to deliver and promote Green Health opportunities.	Green Health Week / Requires support from Comms.	Ongoing	On track	Blog written for Green Health Week incudes tips to connect to nature from home. Green Health Week to be promoted in in the Cairn magazine in 2027.
Ranger Services				

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Coordinate and develop the family of ranger services to ensure coverage and deployment across the whole National Park and alignment with national arrangements.	Development of regional ranger groups and for each a schedule of meetings, training and work programmes. Annual rangers get together. Development of Ranger handbook and induction programme. Consistent data collection across services to feed into national reporting programmes.	Ongoing	On track	Quarterly Regional ranger group meetings have taken place as well as the annual Family of Ranger Services conference in September. These meeting facilitate partnership working around patrolling, visitor management, fire management byelaw updates, Junior Rangers, education activities, trainee rangers and continuing professional development opportunities. The Family of Ranger Services SharePoint hub is continuing to facilitate partnership working activities and the sharing of news and updates.
Develop the Ranger Managers Group that brings together public sector and site-specific ranger services to ensure a coordinated approach and to	Annual managers meeting. Involvement in agendas and minutes from	Ongoing	On track	Face to face engagement with ranger managers prior to commencement of Fire byelaw. Continuous engagement with ranger managers takes place through managing for visitors meeting

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feed into the national arrangements for rangers.	regional ranger group meetings and annual get together			throughout the summer season. A newsletter will be issued to ranger managers in December 2026 updating on the work of the Family of Ranger Services in 2026.
Develop the programme of training to develop best practice and a committed and skilled workforce.	Park Authority Family of Ranger Services annual training programme, shaped from regional ranger groups and the core competencies of a professional ranger as identified by Scottish Countryside Rangers Association (SCRA).	Ongoing	On track	A comprehensive training programme has been delivered to the Family of Ranger services, including enhanced training from Police Scotland on the fire byelaw and enforcement activities and with SFRS on incident management and public engagement. The training programme delivered by SCRA Grampian regional group was advertised on our SharePoint hub to all ranger services in the Park. Four seasonal rangers participated in level one SCRA Ranger Award and seasonal rangers from partner services are also taking place in the Ranger Award scheme.

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Develop skills and new career pathways to help people into employment with ranger services.	Trainee ranger training programme developed promoting this and other programmes run by partners.	Ongoing	On track	Employed four Trainee Rangers in 2026. The programme continues to be developed working with partner ranger services giving trainee rangers two days a week with them to develop skills and understanding of the different role rangers undertake.
Volunteer Cairngorms				
Delivery of recruitment programmes.	Annual recruitment aiming for targets as set out in NPPP whilst ensuring numbers are sustainable and appropriate.	Ongoing	On track	2026 has been a year of consolidation for the Volunteer Ranger team, focusing on processes and programmes to ensure a high-quality volunteer experience and to aid retention. Nevertheless, nine new team members joined the programme in March 2026. A larger scale recruitment is being planned for the first quarter of 2027.
Monitor and evaluate the demand and need of partners	Ongoing partnership reviews with	Ongoing	On track	End of season reviews from quarter four 2025 have informed development in 2026. This has included working

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who provide opportunities for Volunteer Rangers.	existing partners. Engagement with new potential partners.			with new partners (eg Glen Tanar Charitable Trust Ranger Service and National Trust Scotland (NTS) Killiecrankie) in addition to reviewing and developing our ways of working with current partners. New opportunities for the Volunteer Ranger team to support Park Authority led work - for example through Cairngorms 2030 (C2030) peatland work - have also been trialled.
Maintain high-quality volunteer management and the Volunteer Cairngorms portal.	Ongoing support, training and celebration events for Volunteer ranger team. Continue to populate and grow opportunities on CERVIS portal Ongoing surveys and feedback to monitor quality of	Ongoing	On track	New Volunteer rangers recruited in 2026 and new opportunities to support partners across the National Park developed. Additional opportunities have included supporting the Park Authority Rangers with sessions alongside care home residents in Deeside, and with patrolling and practical conservation activity in Angus. Peer-to-peer Volunteer Ranger led learning sessions supported throughout the year, along with summer and Christmas gatherings to

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	volunteer experience. Regular review of staff capacity with line manager.			support team cohesion and celebrate / thank team members. Annual Volunteer Ranger Survey indicates a high and increasing level of satisfaction with the programme amongst respondents.
Maintain and deliver high-quality Volunteer Ranger Programme and monitor capacity of the Park Authority to deliver it.	Increase the number of volunteer rangers to meet the needs of partners and the Park Authority.	Ongoing	On track	1232 individual sign-ups to Volunteer Ranger activities (including training) to date in 2026 across 23 partner organisations / landowners. Review conversations ongoing with volunteer rangers identified as falling beneath the two days / month requested participation. Staff work plans under review to reflect current staffing arrangements. Volunteer Ranger survey indicates a continued positive picture from respondents regarding experiences.
Develop and manage the Volunteer Experience Programme to specifically encourage new and under-represented groups into	Number of groups engaged.	Ongoing	On track	Working with five charity partners and five land partners through 2026.

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volunteering (eg carers and young carers, ethnic minorities, LGBTQ people, disability audiences, seasonal workers, etc)				
Increase volunteering opportunities linked to green health activities and support a vibrant community of volunteer Health Walk Leaders across the Park to deliver a Health Walks Programme with a health walk in every community.	Green Health activities promoted.	Ongoing	On track	Blair Atholl Health Walk developed, and Glen Tanar Health Walk supported to grow significantly this year. Significant changes at Walking Scotland with regard to their support for Health Walks nationally have presented an opportunity to review delivery in the National Park (including policies, procedures, supporting materials and information collection). Volunteer engagement and consultation undertaken with a development plan to be drafted by quarter one 2027 to reflect this. Two Health Walk Leader gatherings held (Glenmore and Glen Tanar) to celebrate volunteer achievements and support learning and networking. Mapping of existing walking groups

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				and activities in the National Park currently under way to support progression between different walking activities. Training offered this year including First Aid. In 2027 there will be a focus on Strathdon and Laggan / Dalwhinnie as potential new Health Walk locations, whilst revised procedures and processes will be piloted and Dementia Friendly Health Walk development restarted. Volunteering related to green health activities continues to be supported and publicised.
Advertising opportunities through the Volunteer Cairngorms portal.	Growth in the number of partners and opportunities advertised on the portal.	Ongoing	On track	Opportunities - both new and existing - continue to be advertised through the CERVIS portal for the public. Opportunities with 14 partners have been advertised to date this year giving 2235 hours through 492 individual sign-ups through CERVIS, and additional sign-ups directly with partners.

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Developing / supporting a series of awareness/ recruitment events.	Events held	Ongoing	On track	Working in close collaboration with the Park Authority Comms team with regular check ins to ensure coordinated approach to social media and publicity. Blogs for Health Walks written and shared widely; pieces for Health Walks have appeared in recent Cairn publication, Volunteer Cairngorms newsletter. Transition away from Mailchimp to new comms system due soon, so newsletter can continue to raise awareness of opportunities. 2026 saw the inaugural Cairngorms Environmental Volunteering Festival take place at the Highland Wildlife Park in partnership with the RSPB and RZSS, supporting a connected network of around 70 volunteers from across the National Park, and facilitating a greater number and range of people to volunteer in their communities. It is anticipated this will be an annual and growing event.

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Promoting value of environmental volunteering through media outlets.	Ongoing communications (with comms support) through the Park Authority and Volunteer Cairngorms channels.	Ongoing	On track	Communications continue to be ongoing through the Park Authority (social media and Cairn magazine) and Volunteer Cairngorms channels (newsletter). Hosted and chaired the 2026 UK National Parks Volunteer Officers group supporting the coordination of joint awareness raising activities across UK National Parks and celebrating volunteer involvement as part of the National Parks Big Volunteering Weekend.
Support and encourage community-based litter picking activities. Support relevant littering awareness campaigns through media channels.	Number of online meetings	Ongoing	Not started	Not considered necessary for Park Authority to be involved as community approach is successful.
Young People and Outdoor Learning				
Promote and manage the use of the John Muir Award (JMA) in the National Park to promote and inspire young people.	Number of JMA delivered in schools and by outdoor centres.	Ongoing	On track	The Cairngorms Duthchas Award has been developed to replace the JMA. Has been piloted and is now being rolled out.

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Deliver Junior Ranger programmes to six local secondary schools and monthly Junior Ranger activities in Badenoch and Strathspey and Deeside.	Six Junior Ranger schools' programmes delivered two monthly programmes delivered.	Ongoing	On track	Junior Ranger programmes delivered to the six secondary schools within or associated with the park. Monthly Junior Ranger programmes delivered on Deeside and Badenoch and Strathspey. A Junior Ranger expedition took place in Deeside and the Angus Glens with the support of Balmoral Estate. Two Junior Rangers and one Ranger mentor attended the EUROPARC Junior Ranger Camp in Norway. Dates for the 2027 school discovery weeks have been finalised with all six participating schools.
Deliver education sessions for all schools in the National Park to promote SOAC and outdoor learning,	Number of sessions delivered to schools.	Ongoing	On track	Education sessions continue to be delivered to all schools in the Park by Park Authority rangers, linking with the C2030 Climate Learning Project.
Collaborate with other public sector partners to deliver and develop national education and skills-development programmes.	Attend national Scottish Government Outdoor Learning meetings.	Ongoing	On track	Staff attending regular Scottish Government Outdoor Learning Group Updated outdoor learning directory.

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Promote and manage the Cairngorms National Park education travel grant which supports school and other education groups to access the Park.	Number of travel grants awarded.	Ongoing	On track	91 travel grants have been offered to a wide variety of organisations from across the country. A 10% high fuel cost supplement was applied to all grants to help with increased costs.
Develop and facilitate the Cairngorms Youth Action Team events programme.	Deliver residentials, youth volunteering days and administer youth fund.	Ongoing	On track	Cairngorms Youth Action Team continue to have regular online meetings and weekend development residentials. Two rounds of funding have taken place in 2026, a total of eight rounds of funding worth £123,000. A review of the YLAG fund has taken place this year. The Youth Action Team have begun participation in the three-year Nordic Youth Project alongside youth groups from Iceland and Finland, the first youth exchange took place in Iceland from 25 October to 01 November 2026.

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Support continuing youth collaboration with other national parks, youth initiatives and events to share and celebrate best practice, eg through EUROPARC or Youth Parliament events.	Participate in National Parks UK (NPUK) and EUROPARC youth development projects.	Ongoing	On track	Attendance at NPUK Learning & Engagement Group meetings. Working on two funding bids with other partners.