

Cairngorms National Park Research Event, 14 November 2013

Workshops - Helping develop the Research Strategy

Q1 *What are the research priorities that should be identified in the strategy – both long term themes and immediate needs?*

Immediate research needs:

- Should stem from management plans
- Caper, recreation, peat, deer, water quality & quantity, freshwater pearl mussel and salmon
- Value of natural resources (baselines)
- Consistent language and terminology
- Learning from others
- sharing data
- Make existing research relevant
- Build relationships with research institutes/units
- Funding options: Horizon 2020, Scotland Euopa, Intertwining LEADER and SRDP (EU funding as a whole. Alternate option would be summer schools.
- Engagement and conflict management- co construction

Long term themes:

- Governance i.e. for plans, data points for now, changes in riparian environment/landscape scale water is a good focus
- Climate change – time ar
- Social-economic
- Peat restoration – Loss/damage
- Access to baseline data
- Major land use conflict
- Influences/causes of conflict (e.g. policy)
- Impact of A9 dualling
- Horizon scanning potential future impact
- Habitat regen, restoration and SPP reintr
- How is knowledge exchanged and how is it improved
- Ecosystem cumulative impacts of human use
- Interacting impacts – Land Climate
- Green Energy
- How people use the area, pop dynamics and agric/land management

Q2 *How do we link into, and frame these priorities in ways that connect into, national and international research programmes and funding?*

- Make more data available from sites with the Park in long term– eg ECN, JHI, Mar Lodge, RSPB;
- Link portal to other portals in UK and world – create easy access to data and networks of sharing;
- Promote LTSER network benefits;
- Match research priorities with national research programmes;
- Raise profile of research in the Park – if it gets attention funders will follow
- Raise awareness of opportunities through links with academic institutions;
- Use web and other comms to promote research

Q3 *What are the ways we can get collaborative research done in the Park? What can research institutions do, are there ways of doing research differently or better that we should promote more? What role for volunteers and citizen science/research?*

- Have to build trust. Research should help people do what they want/need, not only tell what they should do;
- Citizen science to engage, need people to feel the work is valued and to find a way to do that is to make the info available. The data collected needs to be valuable, simple and repeatable “between observer biases”;
- Develop formal relationships with universities;
- Database of available researchers placements/interns (ALSEC);
- Have a suite of research leads ready;
- Royal society of Edinburgh – outreach programmes (Free!!);
- More active use of students;
- Need language for lay people and social media links to non-science communities;
- Establish web portal and use it;
- CNPA promote and case study collaborative research and benefits;
- Be explicit about research needs and big opportunities.