

Capercaillie Emergency Plan Programme Board meeting

Tuesday 25 March | Park Authority office, Grantown-on-Spey and Teams

Attendees

- Grant Moir: Chief Executive Officer, Park Authority (Chair)
- Carolyn Robertson: Cairngorms Nature Manager, Park Authority
- Chris Donald: Head of Operations Central Highlands, NatureScot
- John Risby: Highland and Islands Conservator, Scottish Forestry
- Alex Macleod: North Region Manager, Forestry and Land Scotland

1. Scientific Advisory Group

A Scientific Advisory Group will be responsible for developing and delivering a research and monitoring plan to measure the impact of the activities in the Capercaillie Emergency Plan and inform adaptive management, and to support the specific research actions within the plan. It was agreed that a Terms of Reference for the group should be drafted and sent to the proposed members identified in the previous meeting.

2. Updating stakeholders

A discussion was had about the need to update stakeholders about the activities that are underway within the Capercaillie Emergency Plan. It was agreed that an informal update should be sent via email to the stakeholder group for the plan.

3. Recruiting a Capercaillie Emergency Plan Project Manager

A draft role description was reviewed for a Capercaillie Emergency Plan Project Manager to be employed by the Park Authority. It was agreed that forestry / woodland management experience should be listed as a desirable criteria. A discussion was had about funding the post and it was agreed that NatureScot, the Park Authority, FLS and Scottish Forestry would investigate whether funds could be made available from each organisations core budget. The RSPB have also offered to contribute.

4. Budget and fundraising

Conversations are ongoing about potential funding from the Nature Restoration Fund that will enable delivery of elements of the plan. Further fundraising will be needed and the Capercaillie Emergency Plan Project Manager will be responsible for this. To inform fundraising, it was agreed that it would be useful to prioritise activities outlined in the plan based on evidence and opportunities for quick wins.

5. Live risks and issues

It was agreed that the majority of current risks and issues extend from a lack of capacity to proactively progress activities within the plan and the solution is to recruit a Project Manager dedicated to driving delivery of the plan. A discussion was had about the need to ensure positive stakeholder engagement with the plan and the role Board members can play. It was also noted that due to staff changes in GWCT there is a risk that comparable productivity data to help measure the impact of the Emergency Plan may not be available.

Actions

1. Carolyn to set the next meeting date (online meeting) in late April / early May.
2. Carolyn to update the role description for the Capercaillie Emergency Plan Project Manager to include forestry / woodland management experience as a desirable criteria.
3. John to prioritise activities outlined in the plan based on evidence and opportunities for quick wins.
4. Carolyn to draft a Terms of Reference for the Scientific Advisory Group.
5. Carolyn to share the Terms of Reference with the proposed members of the Scientific Advisory Group and invite them to join the group.
6. Carolyn to recirculate for comment the draft update for stakeholders re progress to date delivering the Emergency Plan.
7. Carolyn to support, where needed, all involved in conducting brood counting with dogs in tandem with trail cameras.