

# Cairngorms Climate Conference

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## Workshop I: Changes in Land Use to achieve 'Net-Zero with Nature'

**Key Speaker:** Hamish Trench, CEO Scottish Land Commission  
**Host:** Will Boyd Wallis, Head of Land Management  
**Facilitator:**

### Purpose

The purpose of the workshop was to look at how we best influence land use to achieve Net-Zero with and for nature. Addressing the threats associated with climate change brings significant challenges and yet also great opportunities. We need to take on our responsibilities, address the risks, be ambitious and be realistic about what is achievable and what we must do.

### Brief overview

The workshop was led by Will Boyd-Wallis (CNPA Head of Land management) and Chris Whitehead (consultant for Wild Thinking) and was attended by 64 people from a wide range of backgrounds.

Hamish Trench, CEO of the Scottish Land Commission initiated the discussion by highlighting the change we can expect and the degree to which we must respond and by asking us: Who should be involved, who should benefit, who should pay and finally who decides?

We broke out into separate groups to answer four key questions:

1. What are the main opportunities in land use to help address climate change?
2. What role should the NP play in achieving Scotland's national land use targets?
3. What are the main challenges associated with land use change and how do we address them?
4. What needs to be done to achieve the necessary land use change?

### Main points raised

#### ***1. What are the main opportunities in land use to help address climate change?***

- CNP as a major Carbon store
- Changes in drivers & policies - carbon offsetting / economics
- Changes in public attitudes
- Take opportunity to rethink soil conservation, deer management, marketing /use of local products

#### ***2. What role should the NP play in achieving Scotland's national land use targets?***

- A place to pioneer and lead/broker land use change
- A place to support, build skills & capacity to change
- A place to test new ideas

**3. What are the main challenges associated with land use change and how do we address them?**

- Lack of sense of urgency!
- Resistance to change e.g. through statutory designations
- Environmental / habitat and geophysical
- Perceived and real cultural & social challenges
- Lack of capacity in some significant sectors and this is constraining pace of change
- Policy changes are needed e.g. agricultural support from 'land based' to 'action based'
- Government investment must focus on developing necessary skills
- Risk-based approach to mitigation & fiscal instruments are required
- There is a tension between delivering change at a pace and bringing communities / the public along

**4. What needs to be done to achieve the necessary land use change?**

- Captivate the sense of urgency
- Urgently to get new payments schemes in place
- Get buy-in from stakeholders e.g. land managers, residents and visitors
- Provide information & communication to all groups of stakeholders
- Willingness to test the rules e.g. seasonality of peatland restoration

**Cairngorms National Park Authority**

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