

APPENDIX 1

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3. MANAGING THE PARK IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT...cont

Guiding Principles

To help meet the challenge of integration against a backdrop of continual change, the following principles underpin the Plan. They provide a guide to long-term management and decision-making in working towards the vision, objectives and priorities for action identified in the Plan. They should be used as a check by all when working towards the objectives of the Plan.

1. Sustainable Development

The Park's natural and cultural resources should be managed, used and enjoyed in ways that conserve and enhance them for future generations, while ensuring that those who currently live in, work in and visit the Park are able to use and enjoy them.

This means:

- Management of the Park should not compromise the special qualities of the area;
- The interactions between the economic, social and environmental resources should be actively identified, managed and developed;
- The impacts of management on economic, social and environmental resources both within the Park and beyond its boundary should be identified and managed.

2. Social Justice

Access to the benefits from the Park's resources in terms of living, working and enjoying the Park should be available to everyone regardless of economic, physical or social constraints.

This means:

- Everyone, regardless of physical or economic constraints should be able to enjoy the special qualities of the area by some means;
- Access to appropriate services and social infrastructure for everyone living in or visiting the Park.

3. People Participating in the Park

People within and outside the Park should be actively involved in shaping the Park and its management, and be well-informed about the Park and its management.

This means:

- Communicating effectively between public, private, community and voluntary sectors, locally and nationally;

- Developing simple and accessible ways for local communities to engage in and influence the management of the Park, including community planning;
- Local communities taking responsibility for their role in the management of the Park;
- Encouraging national engagement with the National Park.

4. Managing Change

Management of the Park should recognise processes of change, actively consider potential future impacts and manage change in an informed way using best available information.

This means:

- Identifying likely changes over which everyone has little or no influence and planning accordingly;
- Identifying desirable changes and taking the necessary leadership roles to shape positive change;
- Thinking ahead to consider likely implications of change and sourcing the information needed to inform debate and decisions.

5. Effective Governance

The management structures in the Park should be co-ordinated and efficient, tailored to delivering positive and tangible outcomes for the Park.

This means:

- Effective co-ordination between public bodies at strategic and delivery levels;
- Effective partnerships of public, private, community and voluntary interests;
- Committing to transparency and adding value in managing the Park;
- Learning from other areas at home and abroad;
- Effective sharing of information and knowledge;
- Building trust and co-operation amongst different interests.

APPENDIX 2

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4. VISION

The Park in 25 Years Time

The Cairngorms National Park will be seen as an exemplar of integrated and sustainable management, and will share its experience to inform the management of other areas of Scotland and beyond.

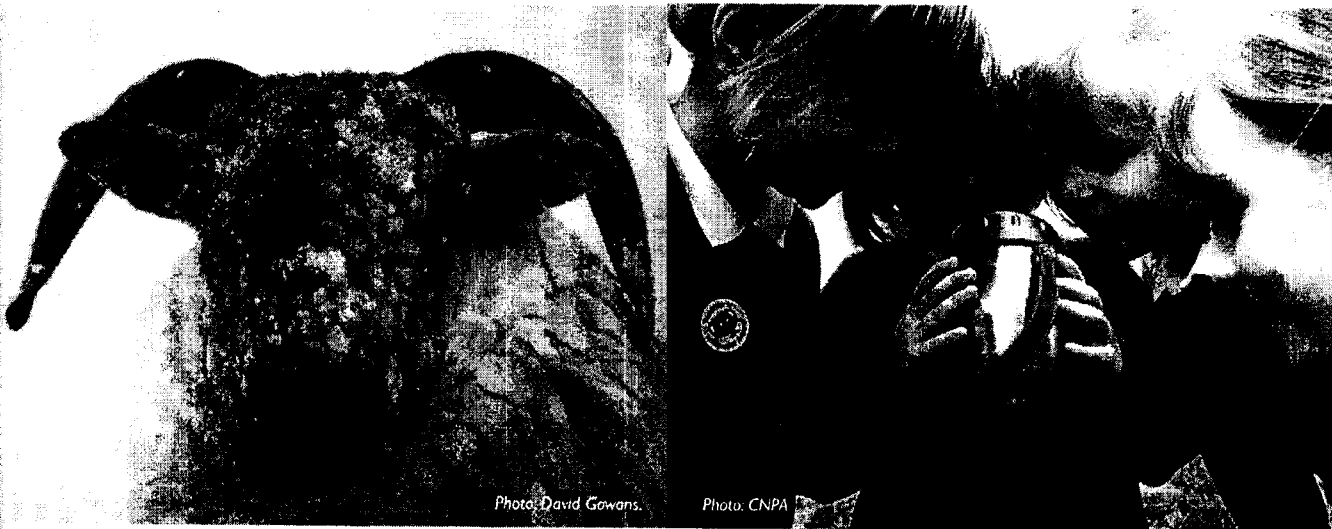


Photo: David Gowans.

Photo: CNPA

Conserving, Enhancing and Managing the Park

The Park will be increasingly recognised around the world for its outstanding natural environment – the high plateaux; corries and glens; the extensive open moorland; the pine and birch woods; and the straths with farmland along the clean rivers, lochs and burns. These areas will continue to be home to a wide range of habitats and species. The network of habitats across the Park will be in good condition, including sites identified as being of national and international importance which will be exemplars of good management.

The distinctive landscape character of the Park will be enhanced through improved management. This includes the extension of alpine scrub, improved woodland networks, and restoration of the more unsightly landscape scars such as redundant vehicle tracks and eroded footpaths. It will still be a landscape shaped by active land-use and management as well as natural

processes. There will be a productive mix of farming, forestry, game and wildlife management.

There will be thriving populations of characteristic species such as dotterel, ptarmigan and mountain hare on the high tops; hen harrier and grouse on moorland; golden plover and dunlin on mires; black grouse and capercaillie in the forest; lapwings, oyster catchers and curlew on farmland; otter and salmon in the rivers; and osprey feeding in the lochs.

In the Park's towns, villages and farms, the best examples of distinctive local architecture will be protected. Sustainable and innovative new buildings will be exemplars of good practice. Growth of settlements will safeguard the traditional pattern and character of the built heritage.

The evidence of previous generations living in the area, both the physical remains such as cairns, stone circles, abandoned shielings, drove roads, and castles; and the less tangible evidence of

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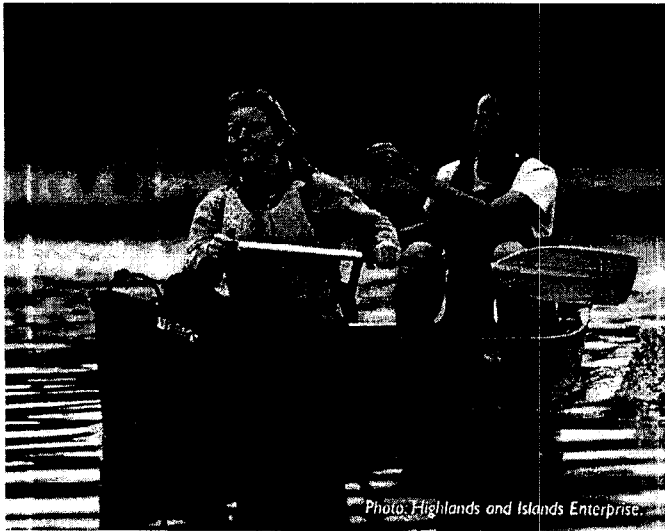


Photo: Highlands and Islands Enterprise



Photo: Arida Gowans

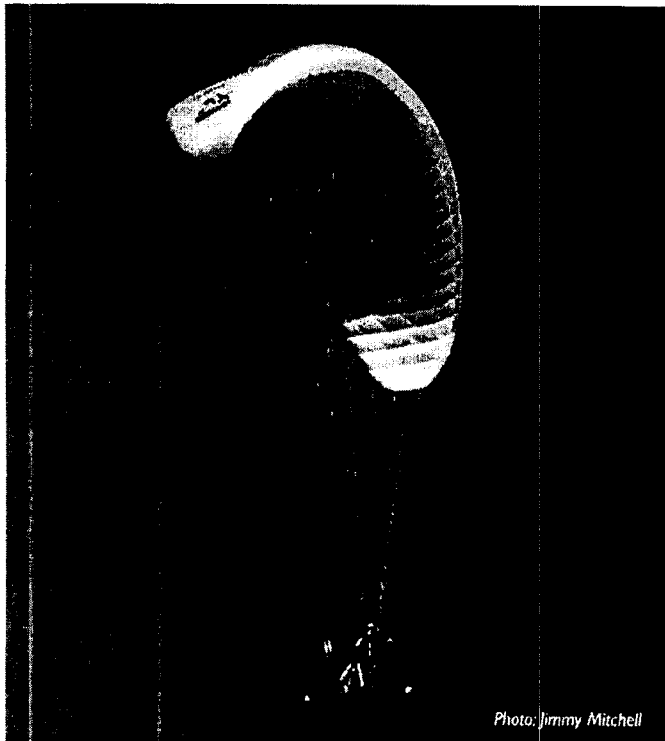


Photo: Jimmy Mitchell

traditions, stories and songs, will be well recorded, cared for, and accessible to understand and appreciate.

Throughout the Park, residents, visitors, businesses and organisations will all contribute in some way to conserving and enhancing what is so special about their part of the Cairngorms.

Communities Living and Working in the Park

Thriving and inclusive communities will sustain, and in turn be sustained by, the special natural and cultural qualities of the Cairngorms. The outstanding environment will stimulate economic activity rather than constrain it and diverse local businesses will flourish.

All people in the Park will be able to find housing, education and training, employment and services that meet their needs. There will be efficient transport systems operating within and beyond

4. VISION...cont

the Park to meet the needs of communities and visitors. Businesses will feel they are a part of the Park, benefit from it, offer a high quality service and experience and be involved in environmental management.

Communities will play an active role in shaping the Park and will have the confidence to share their ideas, experience and culture. Community involvement in policy development and implementation will be normal practice.

Understanding and Enjoying the Park

Residents and visitors will enjoy, understand and support the special qualities of the Park in many different ways, through visitor and recreation experiences of the highest quality. A wide range of outdoor access opportunities on both land and

water will be available to everyone for responsible enjoyment, fun, spiritual rejuvenation, sport and healthy living. Everyone will be encouraged to experience the varied landscape of the Park, from the open uplands to the woodlands and rivers, in ways that respect the natural environment and cultural heritage of the area.

Visitors will come to the Park year-round to enjoy its fine landscapes, appreciate its wildlife and heritage, explore its character and take part in a range of activities. They will be fully aware of what the Park has to offer, understand the importance of conservation of the area and be keen to support this. Residents will be well-informed about the area and keen to communicate their knowledge and the needs of those living, working and visiting the Park will be mutually respected.

