



## Cairngorms Knowledge Exchange Event

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15-16 November 2010  
Aviemore Highland Resort

*Meeting Report and Outcomes*

*A report by:  
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D4.Meeting report and draft SWOT analysis  
sKTP No. 1000335*

**CAIRNGORMS**  
NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
ÙGH DARRAS PAIRC NAISEANTA A' MHO NAIDH RU AIDH

 **Perth College**  
*Creating the University of the Highlands and Islands*



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## **Cairngorms Knowledge Exchange Event Outline**

5 On 15 and 16 November 2010, the Centre for Mountain Studies at Perth College UHI and the  
Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) organised in Aviemore a Knowledge Exchange  
Event for the Cairngorms National Park. The event was part of a Knowledge Transfer  
Partnership (KTP) which aims to create a network of researchers and practitioners in the  
10 Cairngorms, enabling a knowledge exchange process between all stakeholders in the Park. It  
also aims to support the CNPA in achieving its strategic objectives, building up awareness and  
understanding of the Park.

The outcomes of the meeting, presented in this report, will be of strategic use for the CNPA and  
for the network members in addressing gaps in knowledge and identifying needs for new  
15 activities, and thus contributing to the development and implementation of the National Park  
Plan.

The event aimed to bring together researchers and stakeholders working in the Park, to  
increase awareness about ongoing research and to discuss opportunities and activities to  
20 improve the value of existing knowledge for practitioners.

The event addressed an existing need to start a dialogue between researcher and practitioners  
working in the Cairngorms. It brought together 60 participants from academia, research  
institutions, students, general public, trusts and NGO's. Although there was considerable  
interest in participation from community groups, students, NGO's and the land-based sector ,  
25 most of the participants were from the research sector; a better involvement from the other  
groups would be desirable for future events.

The meeting provided a great opportunity for networking, and the variety of interaction  
opportunities (plenary sessions, parallel sessions, field trip, poster displays and interactive  
30 workshops) generated huge potential for knowledge flow between the participants and provided  
the opportunity to discuss future research and communication strategies for the National Park.

The outcomes of the workshop are in the form of a set of recommendations to contribute to the  
future sustainable development of the Cairngorms. In particular, these stress the need for a  
35 central research portal with details about projects in the Park, making use of the newest media  
opportunities, and linking to existing forums and similar mechanisms. A research strategy for  
the National Park would avoid overlap and contribute to filling current gaps; future research  
should adopt holistic inter- and trans-disciplinary approaches. Travelling festivals, networking  
events and educational initiatives could have a great potential in increasing awareness,  
40 understanding and engagement in the Park.

The event highlighted the importance of constructive collaboration between researchers from  
varied discipline and was a significant step in initiating coordination and communication  
45 between diverse stakeholders in the Cairngorms at all levels.

## **Meeting Structure and Program**

The meeting was structured around three relevant themes for the Cairngorms National Park:  
Sustainable Land Use, Sustainable Forests, and Sustainable Destinations and Sustainable  
50 Communities. Delegates participated in both research presentation sessions and working  
groups around these themes. The structure of the event allowed the working groups (last item  
on the agenda of the event), to include insights from the previous sessions. The discussions in

each group were facilitated by representative members of the Cairngorms National Park Authority as follows:

1. Sustainable Land Use: Hamish Trench, Strategic Land Use Director
2. Sustainable Forests: Gavin Miles, Strategic Policy & Planning Officer and Will Boyd Wallis, Senior Land Management Officer
3. Sustainable Communities and Destinations: Murray Ferguson, Sustainable Rural Development Director

A summary of the outcomes of the discussion sessions is presented below, together with a number of key recommendations, which emerged from discussions during the event and follow-up review of notes by the discussion facilitators.

To facilitate wider access to the presentations at the event, most (including abstracts) are available on the event website. This website also hosts the Knowledge Transfer Network, featuring over 100 members and including project and publication details on relevant research for the Cairngorms.

## **Summary of meeting outcomes**

The CNPA plays a key role in providing a framework to link research and practice: the Knowledge Exchange Network and the related event addressed an existing need in this respect. Maintaining an on-going knowledge sharing dialogue between all stakeholders in the Park is a key issue for sustainable development in the Cairngorms and for fostering long-term solutions. The role of the CNPA in communication and research dissemination was emphasized several times during the event. Various other stakeholders can support this knowledge sharing process (e.g., local action groups, land managers forums, farmers' advisory services, school, community groups).

Research presentations showed that there is a great amount of valuable ongoing research in the Park, detailed data are available, and there is a great potential to link different research activities and institutions in order to avoid overlaps and fill gaps by using transdisciplinary, holistic approaches. There is a clear need for better integration of research and practice in the Cairngorms National Park; some of the talks (Monday 15 November) provided good practice examples in this respect. The development of a grant scheme, restricted to researcher-practitioner collaboration could foster strongly applied projects.

### **Research and communication challenges:**

*During the two-day event, some of the following general challenges related to the coordination, collaboration and communication of research in the Park have been identified:*

- setting up priorities for research and long term common objectives, avoiding overlap, and enabling cooperation between various research organizations, addressing key-themes for the park in possibly joint researcher-practitioner teams
- correlation between research activities and sustainable development of the Cairngorms: research has to address the needs of the Park
- careful thought has to be given to which processes, problems, ideas are best investigated at CNP scale (eg. deer management and forest networks) and where best-practice exchanges with other areas should take place
- issues of data accessibility, harmonization and maintenance: maintaining data in a harmonized manner after a project's lifetime and enable access to these data

- involvement of stakeholders as early as possible in the research process; stakeholders need to be given the opportunity to provide feedback on research needs through new or existing mechanisms
- 5 - collaboration between researchers with different backgrounds is required in order to avoid overlap and address gaps, finding the common 'language' to address sustainability issues
- generally, very detailed data are available, but linkages between sectors are still missing
- 10 - research information has to be presented in simple language and easily digestible formats for all types of users (land managers, community groups, arts sector, students etc.)
- research results should flow easily and in an appropriate form to people who are able to make use of them directly or communicate them to others

### Current gaps in knowledge/ topics for future research:

15 *The three working groups identified the following priority research needs during the workshop held on Tuesday, 16 November. Please also see the SWOT analysis, which summarizes the outcomes of the three working groups.*

#### 20 **Sustainable Land Use:**

- human disturbance on biodiversity
- development of ecosystem services decision support systems (gap in applying ecosystems research to an area rather than topic-based)
- motivations and incentives for decision-making by land managers
- 25 - development of good practice 'guidance toolkits'
- economic value of the sporting sector in the Park

#### **Sustainable Forests:**

- balancing conflicts between land use and woodland expansion
- 30 - woodland management for biodiversity/ priority species management
- value of woodland cover and forest management practices in the Park; natural regeneration vs. planning; large scale processes (deer and forest networks) should be planned at supra-estate level
- suitability of current forest establishment processes in relation to climate change, monitoring existing land management
- 35 - non-timber forest products (lack of data and research)
- coordination of monitoring sites across the park and communicating the value of ongoing projects; designation of a set of monitoring sites in the Park (monitored by students, rangers etc.) as a long-term project to enable CNPA to 'take the pulse' of the park and involve public.
- 40

#### **Sustainable Communities and Destinations:**

- links between (eco-)tourism and community development – how can these support each other
- 45 - community planning and how it can be made to work more effectively for the Park
- meeting housing needs in the Park
- community identity within the Park
- cross-fertilization of good practices within the Park

### Future recommendations based on workshop outcomes:

50 *The emerging opportunities do not address specific topics, but refer to overarching strategies that can contribute to better engagement of research and practice in the Park and enable a knowledge-sharing process between all stakeholders at different levels.*

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**1. Developing and implementing a common research strategy:**

- need for a research strategy for the Cairngorms National Park: aligning research to the strategic objectives of the Park and support collaboration and cooperation between researchers
- potential to create a small research advisory group for the strategy
- address inter- and trans-disciplinary aspects, avoid highlighting own research interests, identify key questions around important areas of conflict, involve new researchers with relevant expertise

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**2. Encouraging interdisciplinarity, transdisciplinarity and holistic approaches:**

- Landscape-scale approaches should be encouraged, researchers with different backgrounds and levels of experience should be involved (addressing same issues from different perspectives) building on each others' work in a common area
- Consider developing the Park as a long term socio-ecological research site (LTSER)
- possibility to create a set of ownership-units (eg. forests, moorland management for sports, farms, tourism business), each involving monitoring sites, in order to determine which/how different types of management can contribute to achieving the Park's objectives and learn from each other: also important for determining grant support

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**3. Promoting good practices for future sustainable development:**

- good practices for sustainable park communities (also from other national parks)
- experimental and monitoring sites could benefit land management techniques

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**4. Developing a central portal/hub for Knowledge Exchange in the Park:**

*The value of a portal to connect research and practice in the Cairngorms was mentioned several times. Different functionalities and levels of information were outlined by the different working groups:*

- a searchable database of projects, including links, to increase awareness of ongoing research and avoid overlap; allow research to build on existing work
- making (selected) published papers on CNP freely available (purchasing 'online open' access)
- a central data-access-point, including monitoring sites (e.g. map of sites) and survey data as a valuable data source in the Park
- a database of existing experts/expertise in the Park
- a central digital 'research market' to enable collaborative work between stakeholders, academics, and students (e.g., advertising project ideas for students based on current research needs of the CNPA and other (organizational) stakeholders in the Park)
- better mechanism for student projects to contribute to research in the Park in meaningful ways, monitoring plots can provide fieldwork opportunities for students, batches of data to be used to develop analytical skills.
- information should generally be available to stakeholders in a summarized form, and in a clear and simple language (as a criteria to be included on the portal)

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**5. Integration of existing mechanisms and forums:**

- stakeholders should be informed through existing CNPA mechanisms (Land Managers Forum, Sustainable Tourism Forum, Local Outdoor Access Forum etc.) and other forums (e.g. SRPBA) about ongoing research – and have opportunities to inform the shape of research from an early stage in the process where appropriate
- research should be included as a standing item on the agenda of CNPA fora

- these different mechanisms should be linked to a central point/portal, increasing its added value

#### 6. Knowledge sharing activities in the Park:

- 5
- *Traveling Cairngorms Festival*: a good opportunity to involve researchers, stakeholders from various sectors (food, art, walking groups and tourism) and local communities to increase awareness about specific topics. Potential partners could be the local action groups.
- 10
- *Mountain Cafe Scientifique* – develop a culture of a local attractive meeting place to discuss and disseminate mountain-based science
  - *a Scottish Universities/Colleges conference* – an event for senior undergraduates and postgraduates to share and discuss recent science and policy thinking about the Park
- 15
- *new media*: as a means of improving knowledge exchange: online open access journals, research summaries presented for stakeholders in forums
  - *staff exchange/ shadowing* and targeted *training* sessions (e.g., for rangers) could contribute to knowledge flows within the Park

## Draft SWOT Analysis

Note: this SWOT analysis is based on the results of the workshop organized as part of the event on 16 November 2010.

	<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<b>Research Strategy</b>				
5	Wide range of methodologies (participatory research, surveys, scenario planning, statistical analysis, action research, baseline data, appraisal methodology, public consultations)	Understanding trade offs : eg. Short term damage vs. long term processes	Cairngorms National Park research strategy	No clear strategy of CNP research priorities
10	Experience in identifying funding opportunities	Achieving good buy-in from the land owners and practitioners to work with researchers	Site based/ area research - rather than topic research, landscape scale priorities	
15	Prediction and adaptation strategies (global change, climate change)	Stakeholder involvement (link between research and local people needs, business input into research needs, land management incentives and motivations)	Development of best practice guidance toolkits	
		Collaboration and interdisciplinarity	Encouraging interdisciplinarity, transdisciplinarity and holistic approaches	
			Scottish Universities/Colleges conference	
			CNPA as facilitator for upland policy development	
			Overarching presence of CNPA	
<b>Ecosystems/ Biodiversity</b>				
16	Ecosystem functions and services (long term ecological research, plant ecology, upland ecology)	Interdisciplinary research in ecology management	Ecosystem service support systems	Understanding ecosystem services and benefits
20	Landscape preferences	Links between geodiversity and biodiversity at local catchment scale	Geodiversity auditing	Human disturbance on biodiversity
25	Geology, geomorphology, pedology, geodiversity)	Habitat effects of missing predators, movement of species	Priority species management at habitat level, dispersal distances of priority species	Invasive species control
	Biodiversity (BAP, LBAP, woodland management for biodiversity, public value)	Invasive species distribution impact	Balancing conflicts between land use and woodland expansion	
	Environmental management (management of protected areas, species management)			



<b>Water</b>				
28	Water(systems) management (integrated catchment management, wetlands, fisheries)			Impacts of small hydro-schemes on rivers
30				
<b>Forests</b>				
31	Forest management (experimental design, mountain woodlands, multi-purpose forestry, dendrochronology, woodland establishment, stand silviculture, habitat management, non-native species control, public sector management)	Integration between habitat needs and land based business needs, impact of woodland expansion on other habitats, practical examples of integrating knowledge of social ecological aspects of economic land use	Promote primacy of woodland cover in the Park and sell profile of high quality woodland cover Multifunctional woodland Development of grant schemes to support sustainable forest management	Impact of climate change on woodland management Silviculture data on private land, monitoring of ongoing projects
35	Forest biomass, sustainable wood fuel, extensive forest products	Improved specialist forest management knowledge (value of conifer planting initiatives, natural fire regimes, woodland connectivity, mechanisms of change in biodiversity and ecosystem function during woodland colonisation, cattle grazing effects across sites, catchment scale approaches, impact of forest management on business)	Balancing conflicts between land use and woodland expansion	
40				
45				
<b>Tourism and recreation</b>				
50	Outdoor access, tourism and recreation (recreation management, access implementation, forests and health)	Value of hunting and shooting to park economies Understanding the values of the Park	Land management sporting survey (SRPBA, CNPA)	Tourism vs. conservation Forest productivity impacts of recreational disturbance
53	Wild land research experience			
<b>Communities</b>				
55	Social sciences and traditional practitioner knowledge Regional development and community development	Social network analysis of communities Adaptation to changing economic and political conditions Further investigation of community	Support communities through tourism Promote link between eco-tourism and research, develop mechanisms to organise guided walks, involve artists etc.	Affordable housing Lack of involvement of research and practice
58				

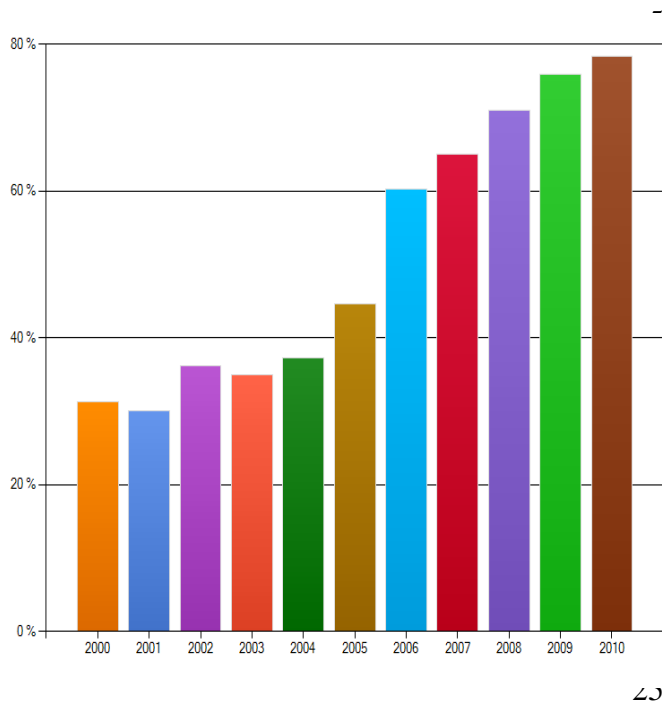
60		identity in the Park	"Cross-fertilisation of community identity Best practice exchange between communities, cross-fertilisation of community identity"	
65			Address planning/housing/communities aspirations	

<b>Knowledge Exchange</b>					
67	Education and training (existing teaching skills, communities workshops, interpretation)	Research summaries in plain language, information flow to practitioners (eg. rangers)	Increase awareness of ongoing activities in the Park, motivate people to engage in management	Lack of time (esp. land managers, land owners)	
70	Technologies (website development, Ipad applications, digital communication, videos, podcasts)		Staff exchange, secondment, shadowing	Missing funding for research dissemination 5	
75	PR and communication (newsletters, interpretation, displays in libraries, writing lay summaries, public engagement)		Development of an open-online concept	Knowledge Exchange Portal (central database of research, new media, integrating existing forums, meta-analysis and synthesis of results, database of experts, simple messages, links to policy, involvement of arts sector, marketplace for students)	Scientific information is not interesting unless 'translated' for stakeholders 10
80	Existing material support (literature, websites, visitor centres)		Develop ranger bases, visitor centres, landmarks	Travelling Cairngorms Science Festival : science, food, music, walks, exhibitions	15
85			Employment of journalists to write for 'trade' newspapers	Mountain Café Scientifique' - with scientific and public audience to promote science results	20
90				25	

*Note: this draft SWOT analysis is based on the results of the workshop organized as part of the event on 16 November 2010.*

# Feedback from surveys

## Cairngorms Knowledge Transfer Network Members

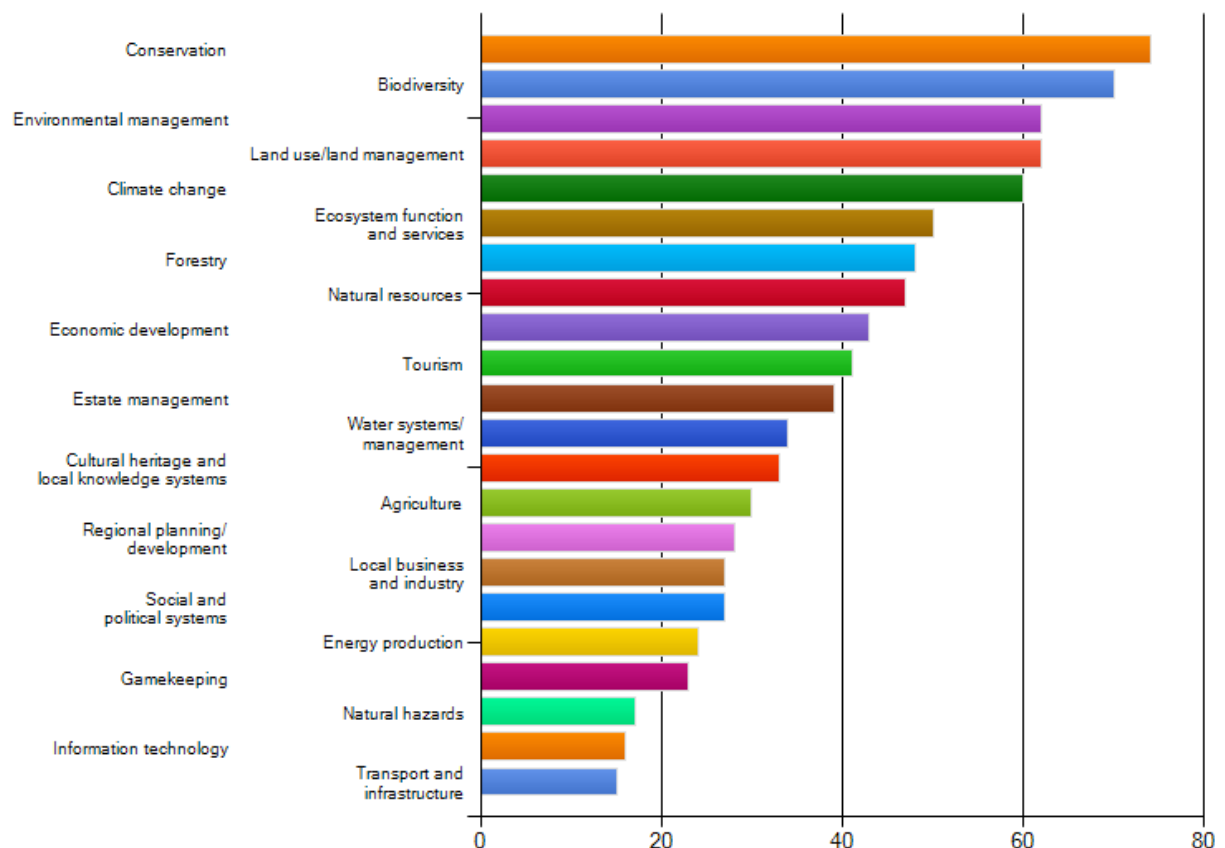


Since June 2010, an ongoing survey has been conducted of the members of the Cairngorms Knowledge Transfer network (111 as of 6 December). This has shown that the topics most frequently addressed in their work are *Conservation (74%), Biodiversity (68%), Environmental Management (60%) and Land use/ management (60%)* (1). Research activity in the Cairngorms has significantly increased since 2000. Over 75% of the network members have been carrying out research in the Cairngorms over the past two years (2).

Figure 2. Timeframe of research activity of Cairngorms Knowledge Exchange Network Members (a total of 111 members on 6.12.2010)

Figure 1. Topics addressed by the Cairngorms Knowledge Exchange Network Members in their work.

### Which of the following topics do you address in your work?



## Participants in the event

5 During and after the event, a survey for delegates, on research activities and science communication in the Cairngorms National Park was carried out to collect additional insights on research gaps and opportunities and the most suitable communication strategies. Only 12 responses were received from the 60 participants, so that the findings may not be representative.

10 The survey shows that the topics that are best addressed by research are *biodiversity, land management and tourism* (81% of the respondents), whereas the general trend of the responses show that further research should be carried out on topics related to *climate change* (63%) and *ecosystem function and services* (54%). These findings are broadly similar to those from the survey of Cairngorms Knowledge Transfer network members.

15 The main challenge faced by the research community is the availability of funding (75% of the respondents); in addition, many researchers (50%) identified collaborative work with local stakeholders, industry and land-based sector as a challenge. The need for collaborative work with communities and local institutions was stressed as applying to all mentioned research topics. The role of the CNPA in bridging this gap has been stressed here. Possible thematic events (rather than by discipline) could be a useful approach.

20 While the engagement of the research community, NGO's, charities and trusts in ongoing projects in the Park was rated as high to very high, the involvement of the educational sector, land-based sector and local businesses was rated only average. Better communication of research results and increased engagement of practitioners on the ground are seen as priorities for better interaction between research and practice by respondents. Suggested mechanisms for a better collaboration include the use of existing networks and experience (NFUS, SRPBA, Forest Research) and a web-based-platform for "science speed dating".

30 Regarding the sustainable management of the Cairngorms, *deer management* (71% of respondents), *biodiversity* (57%) and *outdoor access and recreation* (57%) are seen as strengths of the CNPA. *Sustainable energy use* (62%), *forest and woodland management* (50%) and *Economy and Employment* (50%) are the most frequently mentioned topics to be further addressed by the CNPA.

35 Priority should be given to bottom-up interaction with communities, and to increasing awareness of people living, working and visiting the Park in understanding and respecting the region's environmental and social values and promoting sustainability. The local economy should be supported and guided, in tandem with good research, towards the delivery of high-quality jobs and products within the overall aims and objectives of the Park Plan.

40 The high involvement of all stakeholders (research community, educational sector, land based sector, local business and industries, NGO's, community groups) was mentioned as a success factor for the sustainable management of the Park, with the land-based sector being most often mentioned by respondents (77%).

45 Overall, the expertise of researchers mostly relates to one or few topics, so that the CNPA should play an important role in integrating topics, promoting holistic approaches, and enabling communication and cooperation with the different stakeholders.

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## Lessons learned

5 The Knowledge Exchange event addressed an existing need of starting a dialogue between researchers and practitioners working in the Cairngorms and was the first event organized specifically to address this need. It was a success (being rated as very good by most participants: Figure 3). We are confident that this will be only the first meeting in a continuing initiative. As we are committed to improve future similar events, we have gathered feedback on such improvement possibilities.

10 One of the main challenges in organizing the event was to include elements to suit the needs and expectations of both the research and the practitioner community. In this respect, the plenary presentations session was very well received, although points made by delegates included somewhat contradicting suggestions of 'better representation of the range of stakeholders' or the inclusion of 'plenary speakers with a history of research in the Cairngorms'.

15 The ice-breaking exercise, organized at the beginning of the event, in the form of a 'science speed dating session', had a very good impact on the overall interaction of participants, being rated as "excellent" by most participants. A similar ice-breaking event should be organized at each knowledge exchange event, possibly allowing more time for individual presentations of delegates (rather than in groups).

20 The afternoon of the first day was structured in three parallel sessions around the topics of Sustainable Land Use, Sustainable Forests, and Sustainable Destinations and Communities. Although the choice of themes and quality of the presentations were well received by participants, some of the overarching topics were addressed in different sessions, which made it difficult for participants to attend relevant presentations for their activity. Consequently, session themes could be structured differently for a future event. Furthermore, a thematic approach (eg. deer management, re-introductions) would be useful in bridging the researcher-practitioner divide without being too general. Greater time for presentations and discussion would be preferred over a higher number of presentations.

25 The networking dinner, field trip, and poster session provided very good networking opportunities for participants. The poster session could have been improved by organizing it in a different room, with no access to the posters before the session, to stimulate more interaction during the session itself.

Overall rating of the event:

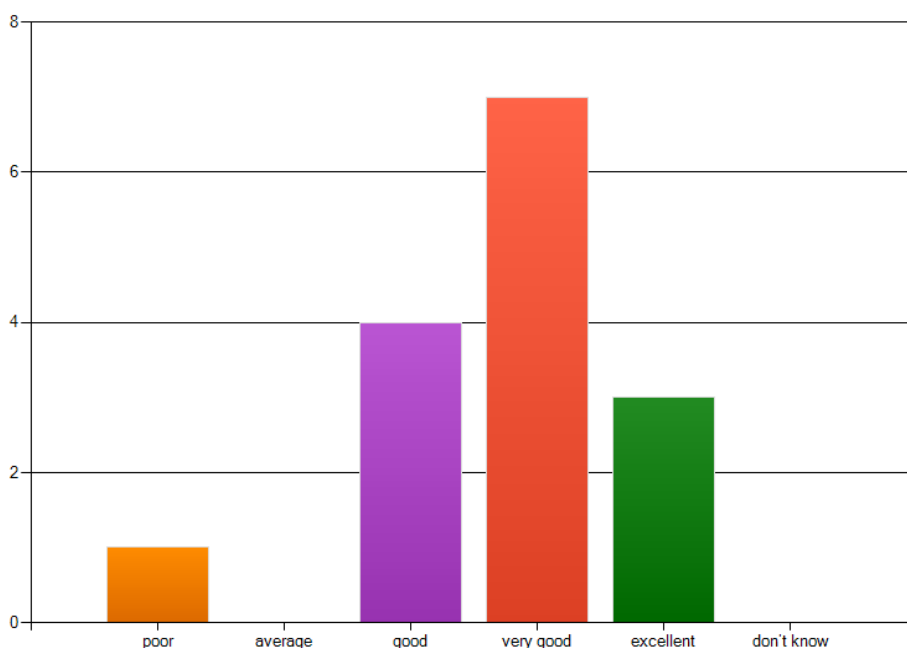


Figure 3. Overall rating of Cairngorms Knowledge Exchange Event (by all participants)

- 5 The concluding workshop was a very useful tool, both for enabling collaborative thinking and for developing recommendations. The format of the workshop allowed participants to organize their ideas in a structured way and to identify communication strategies that would better involve research, practice, and the wider public in the Cairngorms. The mind-mapping method proved to be very useful in this respect, but the KETSO kit appeared somewhat complicated to some participants. A large challenge for the organization of this workshop was its position in the programme, on the afternoon of the second day, which slightly decreased the number of participants and their engagement. The rationale behind this was to enable participants to include insights from both days in their discussion. Allowing extensive time for such a workshop (possibly a whole day) would be desirable for future events.
- 10
- 15 Furthermore, having the research presentations over two days would enable a better 'mix' of researchers and practitioners during the whole event, and increase the participation of researchers in the workshops. More cross-communication between the groups should be enabled in order to promote interdisciplinarity.
- 20 Overall the event was a success, and most of the participants felt that the initiative should be carried forward, with even higher participation: "this should be a regular event, but we need more 'stakeholders' "; "I thought the networking aspects of the event were very well organised though, and I hope that there is some follow up, as there is clearly a lot of interest in continuing knowledge exchange and collaboration in research in the CNP area".
- 25

## Acknowledgements

5 This event was organized as part of the shorter Knowledge Transfer Partnership between the  
Centre for Mountain Studies, Perth College UHI and the Cairngorms National Park Authority,  
with financial support of the Technology Strategy Board. The event was granted further financial  
support through Edinburgh Beltane, Beacons for Public Engagement and the Scottish  
Mountaineering Trust, which enabled us to support local community groups, NGO's and  
10 students to attend the event. We would like to thank all supporters and participants for  
contributing to the success of the event.

### Event Organizers and Supporters:



Knowledge  
Transfer  
Partnerships



## Cairngorms Knowledge Exchange Event Programme

**Monday, 15 November 2010**

<b>09:30 Registration and coffee</b>	
10:00 Hamish Trench	The Cairngorms Knowledge Exchange Network and Event: Outline and expectations
Science Speed Dating Session	Short session facilitating participants to get to know each other
<b>10:45 Coffee break</b>	
<b>11:00 Plenary session</b>	chaired by <b>Duncan Bryden</b> , CNPA Board Member
Gavin Miles (Cairngorms National Park Authority)	<i>7000 years of research in the Park but what do we need to know?</i>
Annie Robinson (NESBReC)	<i>Cairngorms Biological Recording System: How to get involved.</i>
Simon Langan (MLURI)	<i>Working with Stakeholders to Manage Extreme River Flows</i>
Alan Rankin (The Cairngorms Business Partnership)	<i>Collaborating to Compete</i>
Clive Bowman (Centre for Mountain Studies)	<i>Clim-ATIC: Climate change adaptation capacity building in the Cairngorms</i>
Kirsty Blackstock (MLURI)	<i>Going beyond a line on the map: Co-researching the Cairngorms</i>
Discussion	Moderated by <b>Duncan Bryden</b>
<b>13:00 Lunch</b>	
<b>14:00 Parallel Sessions</b>	
Sustainable Land Use	<i>Chair: Hamish Trench, Location: Peregrine</i>
Sustainable Forests	<i>Chair: Will Boyd Wallis, Location: Morlich</i>
Sustainable Destinations and Communities	<i>Chair: Murray Ferguson, Location: Alvie</i>
<b>15:15 Coffee break</b>	
<b>15:30 Parallel Sessions</b>	
Sustainable Land Use	<i>Chair: Hamish Trench, Location: Peregrine</i>
Sustainable Forests	<i>Chairs: Gavin Miles, Location: Morlich</i>
Sustainable Destinations and Communities	<i>Chair: Murray Ferguson, Location: Alvie</i>
<b>16:45 Duncan Bryden</b> , CNPA Board Member and Session Chairs	Summaries of the parallel sessions, discussion and closing remarks
<b>17:30 Close of Day 1</b>	
<b>19:30 Networking Dinner:</b>	
	<i>Aspects Terrace, Highland Hotel</i>



Cairngorms Knowledge Exchange Event  
Programme

**Tuesday, 16 November 2010**

*08:45 Participants meet at the main car park of the Aviemore Highland Resort*

**09:00 Knowledge Exchange Field Trip**

- \* Forest Lodge - testing novel forest management techniques: fire, mowing and dead-wood creation on an RSPB field trial area. Host: *Mark Hancock, RSPB*
- \* Loch Garten and Osprey Centre - challenges for running a visitor attraction centre in an ancient pinewood forest. Host: *Richard Thaxton, RSPB*
- \* Walking to Health research project - sustaining social interactions and networks in and between rural areas of the Park. Host: *Lucy Johnston, Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust*

*12:30 Return to Aviemore Highland Resort & Lunch*

**13:30 Poster Presentations and Discussion, Networking opportunities**

**14:30 Creative Workshop**

**3 Working Groups: Sustainable Land Use, Sustainable Forests, Sustainable Destinations and Communities**

*Research activities in the Park: topics, gaps, future needs, partners*

*15:30 Coffee break*

**15:45 Creative Workshop**

**3 Working Groups: Sustainable Land Use, Sustainable Forests, Sustainable Destinations and Communities**

*Knowledge exchange between research and practice*

*Emerging opportunities and collaborative ideas*

*Plenary Discussion and outcomes from the working groups*

**17:00 Closing remarks and end of Event**

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**Parallel Sessions Monday 14:00 - 16:45**  
**Sustainable Land Use. Chair: Hamish Trench. Location: Peregrine**

Jan	Dick	Centre for Ecology and Hydrology	Sustainable use of land based ecosystem services within the Cairngorm National Park
Steve	Carver	Wildland Research Institute	Wildness in the Cairngorms National Park
Mike	Donaghy	Mike Donaghy Associates	Views and experience of land managers in upper Strathspey, Highland Region, Scotland regarding the application of land management measures for flood risk reduction and their experience of climate change impacts on their land management practices
Rachel	Helliwell	Macaulay Land Use Research Institute	Can nitrogen pollution and land management threaten soil quality in a Scottish alpine heathland?
<i>15:15 - 15:30 Coffee break</i>			
Marshall	Halliday	Esk Rivers and Fisheries Trust	The control/eradication of giant hogweed and japanese knotweed in the catchment of the river South Esk - Year one experience
Silvia	Flaherty	University of Edinburgh	The impact of forest stand structure on red squirrel habitat use in Abernethy Forest, Scotland
Christiane	Nitsch	Centre for Mountain Studies, Perth College UHI	An Investigation into the distribution of the Bilberry Bumblebee, <i>Bombus monticola</i> , in the Cairngorm National Park
Vanessa	Kirkbride	Scottish Natural Heritage	Geodiversity of the Cairngorm Mountains

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**Parallel Sessions Monday 14:00 - 16:45**  
**Sustainable Forests. Chairs: Will Boyd Wallis & Gavin Miles. Location: Morlich**

Ruth	Mitchell	Macaulay Land Use Research Institute	Woodland regeneration within the Cairngorms National Park: where to target it and the impacts of woodland regeneration on ecosystem services and biodiversity.
William	Boyd Wallis	Cairngorms National Park Authority	Montane Scrub in the Cairngorms
Mark	Hancock	RSPB	Testing new techniques for managing native pinewoods: prescribed burning and cattle grazing
Colin	Edwards	Forest Research	Converting Scots pine plantations to more natural structures – experimental evidence and practical experience
<i>15:15 - 15:30 Coffee break</i>			
Mike	Smith	Forest Research	Functional Forests – promoting sustainable multifunctional forestry across the landscape
Heather	McHaffie	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	Montane Willow Restoration Projects
Stefania	Pizzirani	Forest Research	Analysing forest sustainability under various climate change scenarios: a case study in northern Scotland
Rob	Mc Morran	Centre for Mountain Studies, Perth College UHI	Do forest scale and ownership matter for sustainable multifunctional forestry? A case study of forest management in the Cairngorms

Cairngorms Knowledge Exchange Event  
 15-16 November 2010, Macdonald Aviemore Highland Resort

**Parallel Sessions Monday 14:00 - 16:45**

**Sustainable Communities and Destinations. Chair: Murray Ferguson. Location: Alvie**

John	Carnie	Royal Deeside & The Cairngorms DMO	Market development opportunities for Food Tourism projects in Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms
Beata	Kupiec-Teahan	Scottish Agricultural College	Key issues for developing the retailing of mountain quality food products (MQFPs): Lessons from the EU EuroMARC project
Rob	Mc Morran	Centre for Mountain Studies, Perth College UHI	Benefits and impacts of the grouse shooting industry – the rural community perspective. A case study of the Tomintoul and Strathdon Communities
Xavier	Lambin	University of Aberdeen	Turning back the tide of American mink invasion in the Cairngorms National Park through community participation and adaptive management
<i>15:15 - 15:30 Coffee break</i>			
Keith	Marshall	Macauley Land Use Research Institute	Balancing rights and responsibilities: The implementation of outdoor access legislation in the CNPA
John	McClatchey	Environmental Research Institute, North Highland College UHI	Climate change and the skiing industry in the Cairngorms, Scotland.
Kathy	Velander	Edinburgh Napier University	Is there potential to extend the skiing season at Cairngorm? Ecotourism Appraisal

Cairngorms Knowledge Exchange Event  
15-16 November 2010, Macdonald Aviemore Highland Resort

Tuesday, 16 November 2010, 13:30 - 14:30  
Poster Session. Location: Peregrine

Althea	Davies	Macaulay Land Use Research Institute	1. Addressing conflicts over natural resources: using participatory GIS to facilitate consensus over wild deer management 2. Farming retreat from the hills - consequences for deer and biodiversity Where will montane scrub grow?
Diana	Gilbert	University of Edinburgh and Macaulay Insitute	Links between geodiversity and biodiversity on mountain plateaux in the Cairngorms: the importance of understanding terrain sensitivity in conservation management
John	Gordon	Scottish Natural Heritage	Can environmental traits be used to understand nitrogen leaching?
Leah	Jackson-Blake	Macaulay Land Use Research Institute	Climate change and the skiing industry in the Cairngorms, Scotland
John	McClatchey	Environmental Research Institute	
Vanessa	Kirkbride	Scottish Natural Heritage	1. The Geomorphological Heritage of the Cairngorm Mountains
Keith	Marshall	Macaulay Land Use Research Institute	2. Journeys Through Time: experiencing past environments in the Cairngorms Insights from the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute's broad range of research in the Cairngorms National Park
Davies Deborah	Bowman Clive	Centre For Mountain Studies, Perth College UHI	Clim-ATIC: Climate change adaptation posters: 1. Use of climate change projections for the stakeholder decision making in the Park 2. Developng a climate change adaptation strategy for the tourism sector 3. Assessing the impacts of climate change on the Upper Spey Catchment 4. Demonstrating the use of an electric vehicle in a rural area 5. 'Stay and Play' - using ICT to sell tourism products 6. Building the capacity for woodfuel use in the National Park

Cairngorms Knowledge Exchange Event  
15-16 November 2010 Aviemore

**Tuesday, 16 November 2010, 8:45 – 12:30**  
**Knowledge exchange field trip**

Event participants can join a half day field trip on the 16 November 2010. Participants will be leaving from the Aviemore Highland Resort in the morning and returning at lunchtime. Lunch will be provided at the conference venue and will be followed by a poster session and working groups.

**Field Trip Information:**

*8:45 Participants meet at the Aviemore Highland Resort Car Park*

Route:

1. Forest Lodge, Abernethy
2. Osprey Centre, Loch Garten
3. Walking to Health research project, Loch Garten

Forest Lodge, Abernethy - testing novel forest management techniques: fire and mowing on an RSPB field trial area

Host: Mark Hancock, RSPB

Short description:

*This field trip presentation will focus on the research project 'Testing novel management techniques for Caledonian pinewoods: cattle, mowing and fire'. Fire and large herbivores are widely considered to be key ecological processes in natural woodland, especially in boreal pine forests. Can these processes be mimicked by land managers, and help conservation objectives like forest expansion and capercaillie conservation? The project's objectives are to test the efficacy of three management techniques: management fire, mowing and cattle grazing/trampling against three objectives: increased pine regeneration, improved capercaillie habitat, and improved black grouse habitat. While visiting some of the field trial areas for experimental management techniques, participants will be presented with some of the most recent outcomes of the project.*

Loch Garten and Osprey Centre - challenges for running a visitor attraction centre in an ancient pinewood forest

Host: Richard Thaxton, RSPB

Short description:

*At Loch Garten, habitats include pinewoods, heather moorland, blanket bog and mountain plateaux. The RSPB is managing all these habitats in order to maintain their scenic and biological importance, as well as providing a popular visitor attraction, a good example of conservation management practice, and an important resource for the local community. Up to 50,000 people visit the Osprey Centre each year, while many others visit the reserve for its scenery and walking. The reserve contributes greatly to the local community, generating*

*significant revenue and supporting many local jobs. This presentation focuses mainly on the challenges for running a visitor attraction centre in an ancient pinewood forest.*

3. Health Walks in the Cairngorms National Park - *sustaining social interactions and networks in and between rural areas of the Park (including a short guided walk).*

Host: Lucy Johnston, Cairngorm Outdoor Access Trust

Short description:

*The Cairngorm Outdoors Access Trust develops and delivers outdoor access related projects within the CNP. Walking to Health is a major project and in 2009 was expanded to cover the entire Park area, whilst sustaining the existing walks programme in Deeside and Donside. The presentation will focus upon the outcomes of evaluation work currently being undertaken by Lucy Johnston, a local researcher. A key plank of this work has been narrative based interviews with long-term walk participants. Our presentation will set out the pivotal role such projects can play in developing and sustaining social interactions and networks in and between rural areas. The role of volunteers and small scale voluntary initiatives and how they can be developed and sustained within the Park will also be discussed. The Scottish Agricultural College are producing a Policy Briefing Paper using this evaluation as a starting point. The key policy issues for the Park will therefore also be covered.*

Footwear, Clothing, Equipment:

The fieldtrip will involve outdoor presentations and some walking over moderately rough terrain in changeable weather conditions. Participants are advised to bring appropriate footwear equipment and waterproof clothing:

- Walking boots with a good sole tread and ankle support (good walking shoes should be worn as a minimum);
- Comfortable and warm socks to avoid blisters;
- A windproof and waterproof outer jacket (waterproof over-trousers are advisable if you have them);
- Spare fleece or jumper and the wearing of a number of lighter layers of clothing to enable comfortable adjustment to prevailing weather conditions on the day;
- Hat and gloves;
- A small rucksack and a thermos flask with tea or coffee
- A complete change of dry clothes in case you get wet on the day. Spare dry footwear is also advised

**Tuesday, 16 November 2010 , 13:30 – 17:00**  
**Poster session and workshop**

Following the field trip, participants are invited for lunch and then a poster session. An exhibition stand will be displayed at the venue, where delegates can browse the Cairngorms Knowledge Exchange Network, add their own information to the network, and offer feedback to the organisers about current research gaps and needs. On Tuesday afternoon, there will be a workshop between research and practice, organised around relevant topics, to develop creative ideas for new applied research projects and better communication between all stakeholders working in the Cairngorms. There will be 3 different working groups, each focussed around a relevant theme. Table facilitators will introduce the theme, manage the conversation, and provide structure in the discussion. Participants will also be able to offer feedback to other tables. Each table will be provided with mind-mapping toolkits to structure ideas (<http://www.ketso.com/>).

Discussion will be organised as follows:

**1. Research Activities in the Park**

***Goal: Develop collaborative research project ideas to address gaps in knowledge***

*Expected contributions from table participants:*

- a. **Existing Assets:** Expertise related to the table's theme
- b. **Needs:** Current gaps in knowledge & prioritisation of the need to fill gaps
- c. **Opportunities :** Activities needed to fill the gaps
- d. **Actors:** Possible partners, researchers, stakeholders, funding sources

**2. Knowledge exchange between research and practice**

***Goal: communication strategies in the Park to improve sharing of knowledge and better interactions between research and practice***

*Expected contributions from table participants:*

- a. **Existing Assets:** Expertise in research dissemination, applied research, communication
- b. **Needs:** Current gaps in communication & prioritisation of the need to fill gaps
- c. **Opportunities :** Activities needed to fill the gaps
- d. **Actors:** Possible partners with experience in knowledge exchange, target audiences

**3. Emerging opportunities and collaborative ideas**

At the end of the workshop, each table should come up with 3 ideas of collaborative applied research to contribute to sustainable development in the National Park.

Outcomes will be presented at the end of the workshop by the discussion facilitators. There will also be time for discussion.



## Delegate List

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