

## The Name of the National Park and Future Management Issues

**8-1** This final section deals with the name of the proposed National Park and also with the issues raised by respondents about the future management of the area.

### Name of the National Park

#### The proposal

**8-2** The proposal sought views on the name of the National Park.

#### SNH consultation document

**8-3** In the consultation document we suggested that the name “Cairngorms National Park” might be appropriate and sought views.

#### Comments generated

**8-4** Many consultees recognised the importance of the name of the National Park in terms of the influence it would have on the identity of the initiative, and on visitors’ expectations of the area.

**8-5** A clear majority of those who responded on this issue suggested that the name “Cairngorms National Park” was the most appropriate. Many respondents commented that this was the obvious choice and that it was clear, simple and straightforward. There was a general consensus that “Cairngorms” was preferable to “Cairngorm” to differentiate the one popular hill from the mountain range. However, several respondents noted that a more correct, but less desirable form, might be Cairngorm Mountains National Park.

**8-6** Many respondents noted that the most appropriate name for the Park would depend on the area covered by the designation, and that the suggested name may be less appropriate if the larger area options were selected. A variety of names were put forward reflecting the larger Park areas, including:

- Grampians National Park
- Grampian Mountains National Park
- Cairngorms and Grampians National Park
- Cairngorms and Monadhliath National Park
- East Highland National Park
- Cairngorm and Central Highland National Park
- Cairngorms and Angus Glens National Park
- Caledonia Forest National Park

**8-7** A considerable number of responses suggested that the name of the Park should recognise the deeply rooted Gaelic heritage of parts of the area. Very few respondents who addressed this theme suggested a Gaelic name alone with most advocating a bilingual name with the most popular Gaelic title “Pàirce Nàiseanta a’ Mhonaidh Ruaidh”. Some respondents suggested the Gaelic title should come first, but most that it should come after the English version. References were also made to need for the name to also reflect the linguistic heritage of Doric in parts of the area.

**8-8** A few respondents questioned the use of the name “National Park”. Some felt that these words inferred ownership by the nation and that a Park was primarily for fun and recreation while the Cairngorms were a working landscape. Alternative suggestions included the Cairngorms Heritage Area. It was suggested that, if it had to be called a National Park, information provided for visitors should emphasise that the area is a working environment, owned and managed by people with a wide variety of interests.

**8-9** A few respondents, including the Scottish Landowners’ Federation and the Cairngorms Partnership’s Recreation Forum, made the point that the National Park Authority should be named the National Park Service to emphasise the sense of co-operation, partnership, responsibility and duty. Use of the word “Authority” was felt to imply control by dictat and regulation which would be inappropriate.

## SNH view as natural heritage adviser

**8-10** There are no particular natural heritage implications concerning the name of the National Park.

## Discussion

**8-11** The responses to the consultation revealed more suggestions for alternative names of the National Park than expected. Most of the suggestions reflected the degree to which the more extensive Park options were generally not felt to share an identity which could be included within the name Cairngorms.

**8-12** Although some of the alternative names put forward, including the Grampian Mountains National Park, and the Cairngorms and Grampians National Park, have perhaps some technical merit, there are strong arguments in favour of the name Cairngorms National Park, in terms of its simplicity and in maintaining continuity with the work of the Cairngorms Working Party and the Cairngorms Partnership. The choice of such a name would reflect the considerable consensus on the issue which arose from the consultation exercise.

**8-13** The arguments in favour of a bilingual name were persuasive and would, we believe, help to focus attention on the cultural heritage aspects of the National Park. Whether this needs to be defined in the Designation Order itself, or could be left for the Park Authority to formally adopt is a matter for Scottish Ministers to consider as part of their overall approach to Gaelic language. In considering the management of the area the Park Authority will need to be sensitive in their use of Gaelic in, for example signs and leaflets, particularly in areas other than the north and west of the Park.

## Future management issues

**8-14** A great number of people who were involved in the consultation exercise made comments about the future management of the area. These frequently concerned matters which were not the subject of the consultation process, and which could only be addressed by the Park Authority once it is established. While we have given priority in this report to the elements of responses which addressed the key issues of the consultation exercise, we have also recorded in Report 2 views about a number of the main themes which emerged, and these are summarised briefly below. All responses and reports of meetings and events will be passed to the Cairngorms Partnership, and we hope that they will be useful for the implementation the Management Strategy, should Ministers decide to proceed with the draft Designation Order, for planning the transition of the Partnership in to a National Park Authority.

## Local and national interests

**8-15** The consultation exercise revealed the significant degree of mistrust that still seems to exist between many of the various stakeholders within the area, and in particular between local and national interests. This mistrust was particularly evident in the comments made over the planning function. The view was frequently expressed that the national interest of the area has not been secured under local management while, conversely, there were frequent local concerns expressed about the potential for further interference from those living outside the area. At the same time, the theme of local interests being overtaken is apparent in some of the debate about the designation of Park itself, and whether individual communities wanted to be in or out.

## Reporter's Advice

**On the basis of the consultation undertaken and the area recommended for inclusion in the National Park, we conclude that the name of the National Park should be "The Cairngorms National Park: Pàirce Nàiseanta a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh."**

## SNH advice as natural heritage adviser

SNH has no comments to make on this matter with respect to the natural heritage.

### *Building on past experience*

**8-16** Knowledge of the current Cairngorms Partnership arrangements was mixed, but clearly strongest among the individuals and organisations who had been involved in the development and implementation of the management strategy for the area. Irrespective of the awareness of this work, there was a strong feeling expressed that the new Park Authority should look to build on the existing arrangements, including the Advisory Panel, Peer Groups and various Task Forces, and also the range initiatives that have been developed by agencies, local authorities and others across the area.

### *Zoning*

**8-17** The concept of zoning has been widely applied in National Parks and other protected areas elsewhere, and received much support during this consultation. It was suggested that the Cairngorms area is particularly amenable to such an approach, with a remote mountain core surrounded by populated straths. A small number of respondents considered that decisions on the Park could not be effectively made until zoning for the area had been developed.

### *Balancing the aims of National Parks*

**8-18** A number of respondents drew attention to the conflicting aims of the National Park and expressed concern about the delivery of these aims. There was some suspicion of the “Sandford principle” but also concern that conservation interests may be jeopardised by the need for social and economic development, and vice versa. At the same time, many respondents accepted that the future Park Plan would be the main tool for the Park Authority to collectively take forward its aims, with the role of zoning within the Park Plan highlighted as a means to ensure each aim was met effectively.

### *Suggested programmes of activity*

**8-19** Many respondents took the opportunity to comment on what a future National Park should do. A large number of comments were made, for example, on future approaches to visitor

management, as increased visitor numbers were considered by many to be inevitable. As recreation and tourism depend on landscape and wildlife values, the encouragement of suitable land management was also seen as a priority by many respondents, as was the careful marketing and promotion of the area. The cultural heritage remit of the Park Authority was considered important by a number of respondents although there were relatively few pointers about the role that the Authority might play in its conservation and enhancement. There were, however, specific demands that the Park Authority should take an active role in, for example, the promotion of Gaelic culture and language development. Other specific policy areas which received significant coverage included design issues, transport, environmental education, the development of ranger services, housing that meets local needs, and deer and forest management.

### *Adjacent areas*

**8-20** The consultation exercise also revealed a number of concerns among communities who could be on the edge of the Park. These concerns were particularly pronounced in Highland Perthshire, which is likely to lie between both Loch Lomond and The Trossachs and the Cairngorms National Parks. Similarly, Highlands and Island Enterprise and others expressed the view that the designation of both National Parks would have implications for the rest of the Highlands, which would need to carefully identified and managed, if the economy of the region as a whole was to benefit.

### *Gateways*

**8-21** A number of respondents referred to the suitability of settlements around the periphery of the Park as gateways. There was some evidence, however, that this term was used in a wide variety of ways. Some respondents indicated that particular settlements both within and outwith the area might be designated in some way and promoted as places to find information and services relevant to the Park. Others saw the establishment of gateways as management mechanisms to assist with visitor management or to spread the economic benefits. The Park