

[NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP PLAN | REVIEW 2012-2013]



LOCH
LOMOND
& THE TROSSACHS
NATIONAL PARK



Partners

Key public sector partners

The National Park is covered by four local authorities: **Argyll & Bute, Perth & Kinross, Stirling** and **West Dunbartonshire Councils**. Each provides a range of services to their residents including education, environmental services, housing, leisure facilities etc.

The mission of **Forestry Commission Scotland** is to protect and expand Scotland's forests and woodlands and increase their value to society and the environment.

Historic Scotland is an executive agency of the Scottish Government and is charged with safeguarding the nation's historic environment and promoting its understanding and enjoyment on behalf of Scottish Ministers.

Police Scotland deliver an effective service to the communities of Scotland, ensuring that they live their lives free from crime, disorder and danger.

Scottish Enterprise's job is identifying and exploiting the opportunities for economic growth by supporting Scottish companies to compete, helping to build globally competitive sectors, attracting new investment and creating a world-class business environment.

Scottish Environment Protection Agency is Scotland's environmental regulator. Its main role is to protect and improve the environment. SEPA is a non-departmental public body, accountable through Scottish Ministers to the Scottish Parliament.

Scottish Natural Heritage's work is about caring for the natural heritage, enabling people to enjoy it, helping people to understand and appreciate it, and supporting those who manage it.

sportscotland is the lead agency for the development of sport in Scotland, investing expertise, time and public money in developing a world-class sporting system at all levels.

Transport Scotland is the national transport agency for Scotland and is responsible for rail and trunk road networks and major public transport projects.

VisitScotland works closely with private businesses, public agencies and local authorities, to ensure that visitors experience the very best of Scotland and that the country makes the most of its outstanding tourism assets.

Key non-public sector partners

Community

National Park Community Partnership, Community Councils, Community Development Trusts

Representative bodies & third sector
Environment Link and specifically land-owning NGOs in the Park.

- RSPB
- National Trust for Scotland
- Woodland Trust Scotland

Scottish Land and Estates, National Farmers Union of Scotland, Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust

Private Sector

National Park Destination Development Group, Land Managers, Local Destination and Trade Groups, Businesses.



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Foreword

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Partnership Plan was developed to lead and coordinate the management and enhancement of this very special part of Scotland. It was approved by Scottish Ministers in 2012 and sets out our vision for the Park over the next 25 years, outlining the projects that need to be delivered in the 2012 - 2017 period to help us achieve this vision.

It is structured around our three focus areas of Conservation, Visitor Experience and Rural Development and highlights where partnership approach is crucial for the success of the National Park.

This first annual review highlights some of the successes which were achieved through the significant contributions made by partners.

We are proud to have completed the many diverse conservation projects through implementation of the first National Park Biodiversity Action Plan 2008-11. Through targeted efforts with key partners we have an increased population of red squirrel and water vole, and have a programme in place for control of invasive non native species in

key areas across the Park. Our Natural Heritage Grant Scheme has been central in aiding land managers to deliver conservation projects that were integral to the first Biodiversity Action Plan.

A central aspiration of the Partnership Plan is to raise the standard of visitor facilities and sites, helping to deliver a visitor experience that compares to the best in world. During the year, 15 new permanent stone threshold signs were introduced, providing visitors with a strong sense of 'arrival'. Building on the success of our work in East Loch Lomond, a visitor infrastructure strategy has been developed for five of our Trossachs lochs, with the first phase of the project near completion at two heavily used sites at Loch Lubnaig.

Additionally, delivery of £200k in capital investment saw improvements to part of the popular Conic Hill section of the West Highland Way. Our strong Operation Ironworks partnership with Police Scotland continues to support responsible behaviour and improve safety for our visitors.

Our investment in the long-term future of the Park is already supporting communities and local businesses as well as safeguarding high quality and

sustainable access to the outdoors for future generations. The National Park Local Plan has delivered considerable success in attracting investment in tourism development, hydro energy and community regeneration initiatives. Most notably, consent was granted this year for the development of a five star hotel and resort at the site of the former torpedo range in Arrochar which is estimated to create 300 new jobs. This multi-million pound development demonstrates how an effective and proactive planning approach can generate inward investment on a national scale through sensitive and high quality developments.

We continue to work closely with our communities and through the National Park Community Partnership we supported the preparation of new Action Plans, as well investing in projects such as the restoration of Argyll Mausoleum in Kilmun to helping achieve funding success for a new paths network in St Fillans.

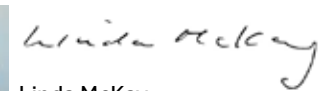
The coming year presents many new opportunities to achieve great success through partnership working. This report highlights some of the priority activities for the coming year. A key theme is how we continue to utilise and

invest in public assets across partners to achieve greater benefits for sustainable economic growth and the conservation of a special landscape.

It is the delivery of such tangible improvements to the National Park and its communities that continues to drive us. Now, when Scotland needs even greater contribution from its national agencies, we are well-positioned to demonstrate how our approach at Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority through increased collaboration with partners is delivering significant benefits to conservation, visitor experience and rural development across the National Park and beyond.



Fiona Logan
Chief Executive Officer



Linda McKay
Convener, Loch Lomond
& The Trossachs National
Park Authority

Facal-toisich

Chaidh Plana Com-pàirteach Pàirc Nàiseanta Loch Laomainn & nan Tròisichean a chur ri chèile gus stiùireadh is leasachadh anns a' phàirt shònraichte seo de dh'Alba a threòrachadh agus a cho-òrdanachadh. Chaidh gabhail ris le Ministearan na h-Alba ann an 2012 agus cuiridh e an cèill ar n-amas lèirsinneach airson na Pàirce thar nan 25 bliadhnaichean ri teachd, a' toirt cunntas air na pròiseactan a dh'fheumas sinn libhrigeadh taobh a-staigh nan còig bliadhnaichean a th' air thoiseach oirnn mar chuideachadh ann a bhith a' toirt a-mach ar n-amas.

Tha e air a chur ri chèile a rèir trì raointean ar fòcais, 's iad sin Glèidhteachas, Mothachadh Luchd-tadhail agus Leasachadh Dùthchail, le cuideam àraid air far a bheil com-pàirteachas fìor chudromach a thaobh soirbheachadh na Pàirce Nàiseanta.

Tha a' chiad ath-sgrùdadh bhliadhnail seo a' cur cuideam air cuid dhe na rudan soirbheachail a thugadh a-mach tron shàr-chuideachadh a fhuair sinn o ar com-pàirtichean.

Tha sinn pròiseil gun do choimhlion sinn tòrr phròiseactan ioma-sheòrsach tro chur-an-gnìomh ciad Phlana-gnìomha Bith-iomadachd 2008-11 na Pàirce Nàiseanta. Tro oidhirpean cuimseach

cuide ri prìomh chom-pàirtichean, chuir sinn ri lìon nam feòragan ruadha agus nan lamhallan, agus tha prògram an-sàs againn gus smachd a chumail air cus ghnèithean neo-ghnàthach ann am prìomh raointean thar na Pàirce. Tha ar Sgeama Tabhartasan a thaobh Dualchas Nàdarra air pàirt mòr a chluich ann a bhith a' cuideachadh buidhnean-stiùiridh fearainn gus pròiseactan glèidhteachais a libhrigeadh a bha aonaichte ris a' chiad Phlana-gnìomh Bith-iomadachd.

'S e aon de phrìomh amasan a' Phlana Chom-pàirtich ach feabhas a thoirt air goireasan agus làraichean luchd-tadhail, a' cuideachadh ann a bhith a' libhrigeadh rud sònraichte dhaibh a ghabhas cur an coimeas ris an rud as fheàrr san t-saoghal. Ri linn na bliadhna, chaidh 15 soighnìchean cloiche maireannach a thoirt a-steach air gach slighe-a-staigh, rud a bheir mothachadh làidir do luchd-tadhail gu bheil iad 'air a thighinn ann'. A' cur ri soirbheachadh ar n-obrach ann an Loch Laomainn an Ear, chaidh ro-innleachd bunstructair luchd-tadhail a chur ri chèile airson còig dhe na lochan againn sna Tròisichean, le ciad ìre a' phròiseict gu bhith air a coimhlionadh aig dà làrach air an tadhail mòran dhaoine aig Loch Lùdnach.

A bharrachd air seo, chuidich libhrigeadh £200m de chur-an-seilbh calpa le leasachadh air a' phàirt sin de Shlighe Gàidhealtachd an Iar a tha glè mhòr aig daoine, 's e sin Cnoc Còinnich. Agus leanaidh ar com-pàirticheas làidir, 's e

sin 'Obair an Iarainn', cuide ri Poileas na h-Alba, ann a bhith a' toirt taic a thaobh giùlan ciallach agus sàbhailteachd am measg ar luchd-tadhail.

Tha gu bheil sinn a' cur maoin is eile an-sàs gu fad-teirmeach a thaobh làithean ri teachd na Pàirce mu-thrath a' toirt taic do choimhearsnachdan is do ghnìomhachasan ionadaile, cho math ri bhith a' dìon sàr-chothroman ruigsinneachd aig àrd-ìre air a' bhlàr-a-muigh do na ginealachdan a tha ri thighinn. Shoirbhich gu math le Plana Ionadail na Pàirce Nàiseanta ann a bhith a' tarraing cur-an-seilbh a thaobh leasachaidhean luchd-turais, lùths-uisge agus ro-innleachdan ath-nuadhachadh choimhearsnachdan. Gu sònraichte, chaidh cead a thoirt seachad am-bliadhna gun tèid taigh-òsta 's baile-turasachd 5 rionnaig a leasachadh air seann-làrach raon nan bomaichean-mara anns an Àrar, rud a thathar a' meas a chruthaicheas 300 obraichean ùra. Tha an leasachadh seo, anns a bheil iomadh mìleann nota an-sàs, a' sealltainn mar a ghabhas cur-a-steach-seilbh a ghintinn le dòigh-obrach éifeachdach fhor-ghnìomhach aig ìre nàiseanta tro leasachaidhean faiceallach aig àrd-ìre.

Tha sinn a' cumail oirnn ann a bhith ag obair gu dlùth ri ar coimhearsnachdan, agus tro Chom-pàirticheas Coimhearsnachdail na Pàirce Nàiseanta thug sinn taic a thaobh Planaichean-gnìomha ùra ullachadh, cho math ri cur-an-seilbh do phròiseactan leithid obair

ath-ùrachaidh Chrùisle Earra-ghàidheal ann an Cill Mhunna agus cuideachadh gus maoineachadh fhaotainn airson lìonra ùr de cheuman-coiseachd anns a' Phort Mhòr.

Bidh mòran chothroman ann ri linn na bliadhna a tha romhainn gus soirbheachadh nach beag a thoirt a-mach tro obair chom-pàirteach. Tha an aithisg seo a' cur cuideam air cuid de phrìomh ghnìomhan na bliadhna ri teachd. 'S e prìomh rud ach mar a leanas sinn oirnn a' cur feum air, agus a' cur-an-seilbh, maoineachadh poblach ann an co-bhonn ri ar com-pàirtichean a chor is gun toir sinn a-mach buannachdan nas motha ann am fàs seasmhach eaconamach is ann an glèidhteachas aghaidh-tìre àraid.

'S e libhrigeadh a leithid seo de leasachaidhean so-fhaicsinn sa Phàirc Nàiseanta agus sna coimhearsnachdan innte a chumas a' dol sinn fhathast. Aig an dearbh àm seo, nuair a tha Alba feumach air fiù 's tuilleadh cuideachaidh is cur-ris o na buidhnean nàiseanta aice, tha sinn ann an deagh shuidheachadh gus sealltainn mar a bhios ar dòighean-obrach ann an Ùghdarras Pàirc Nàiseanta Loch Laomainn & nan Tròisichean, ann an co-bhonn meudaichte ri ar com-pàirtichean, a' libhrigeadh tòrr bhuannachdan a thaobh glèidhteachas, mothachadh luchd-tadhail agus leasachadh dùthchail thar na Pàirce Nàiseanta agus thairis oirre.

Introduction

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17 (Partnership Plan) was approved by Scottish Ministers in June 2012. It is the second such Plan that has been produced since the National Park was designated in 2002.

This review sets out how much progress has been made towards delivering actions and achieving outcomes in the first year of the Partnership Plan. Scottish Ministers have made clear that the Plan's main role is as a vehicle for co-ordinated and effective Partner working – by Government, national agencies, local authorities, private businesses, charities, land managers and community organisations. This report focuses on how partners are working alongside the National Park Authority to enhance and realise the full benefits of this nationally important area for Scotland.

As a heavily visited area, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park has both the challenge of intensive visitor pressure and a huge opportunity to improve the visitor experience in a way that protects and enhances the environment and is a generator for growth in the Scottish economy. A significant focus for the Plan has been to increase the quality of visitor infrastructure in the National Park to generate greater business activity to sustain the Park's economy, support the quality of life in our communities and most importantly protect our magnificent environment as the underpinning asset of the area.



Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Paul Wheelhouse, meets our team of dedicated volunteers at the Royal Highland Show.

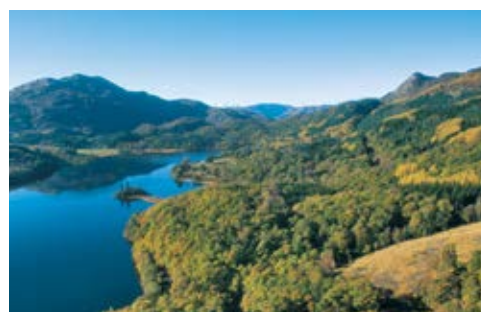
Spotlight on our key achievements

The first year of our Partnership Plan has seen some excellent achievements in both delivery of our priorities for action and partnership working.

At the same time there are some areas of work where early progress is needed if targets set for later in the Plan period are to be met.

This Annual Review is set out against the three areas of focus around which the Partnership Plan is structured. Priorities for Conservation, Visitor Experience and Rural Development are explained in more detail in the tables that begin on page 23.

The figures below show at a glance the number of priorities we have been working on and what we have achieved to date.



Number of priorities (115)

Completed	12
On track	82
Attention required	21
Unlikely to deliver	0



Conservation (38)

2
28
8
0



Visitor Experience (49)

7
34
8
0



Rural Development (28)

3
20
5
0

Conservation

National Park Partnership Plan Outcome

An internationally renowned landscape where the natural beauty, ecology and the cultural heritage are positively managed and enhanced for future generations.

The year was marked by the final report of the Park's first *Biodiversity Action Plan*. From a total of 133 projects, 95 were on target, 15 were progressing more slowly than anticipated and 23 were not progressed. These successes have been achieved through targeted conservation action by our key partners.

The acquisition of land at Wards Estate in conjunction with RSPB and SNH, along with specialist landscape work carried out with our sister Park in the Cairngorms represent significant progress being made in this key area of our work.



Conservation: Key achievements

Intensive programme in place for the control of invasive non-native species in the Fillan, Dochart and Earn catchments.

Significant Rhododendron control underway within **Forestry Commission Scotland's** Loch Katrine area and adjacent parts of **The Great Trossachs Forest** to eradicate Rhododendron Ponticum from 50% of National Forest Estate in the National Park.



Funding secured by **River Forth Fisheries Trust** to lead on developing and delivering a programme to control invasive non-native species in the Forth and Teith catchments.

Continuation of the *National Park's Natural Heritage Grant Scheme* which funds businesses, organisations and community or voluntary groups pursuing projects to conserve and enhance the Park's natural heritage, and to promote understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities.



Funding has been secured from the **Scottish Government's Green Stimulus Peatland Restoration Project**. This will enable us to identify the extent and condition of peatland within the National Park and liaise with land managers where practical restoration measures will bring benefits for carbon storage and habitat enhancement.

The expansion of population ranges of red squirrels and water voles.



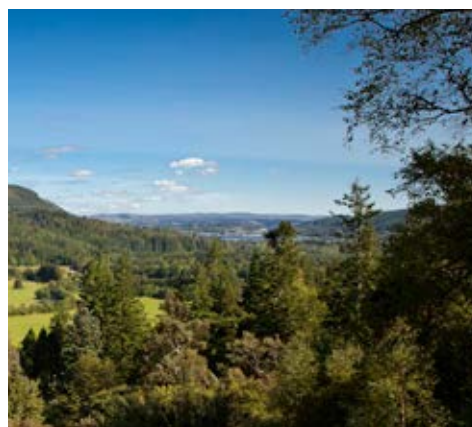
An exciting partner-led conservation initiative has been the establishment of a new **RSPB** reserve at the Wards Estate as part of the Loch Lomond National Nature Reserve, under a partnership agreement with the National Park Authority and **Scottish Natural Heritage**. This will enable targeted conservation action for priority species such as Greenland white-fronted geese and the wetland habitats of the Endrick marshes, as well as a great opportunity to provide more opportunities for visitors and local residents to engage more with nature.



Conservation: Looking ahead - priorities for 2014

Key to the success of achieving many conservation outcomes will be the priorities and processes of future land management support schemes. During the year, consultations got underway regarding the new **Scottish Rural Development Programme** and a co-ordinated response was submitted jointly with the **Cairngorms National Park Authority**. Both Parks are seeking to be priority areas within the new scheme so that funding can be better targeted towards beneficial conservation management activities.

Development of the second edition *National Park Biodiversity Action Plan (Wild Park 2020)* began and the level of engagement received from partners was very encouraging. Woodland and forest management is a significant land use activity for the Park. The Woodland & Forestry Framework for the Park is now more than ten years old and would benefit from a review to provide a steer on an appropriate balance between woodland cover and other land uses and to continue to ensure high standards for forest design and woodland management to realise multiple benefits for the National Park.



Work on a new Woodland & Forestry Framework has been deferred to allow pilots of the *National Land Use Strategy* to share their experiences. Nevertheless, **Forestry Commission Scotland** and the National Park Authority continue to explore new opportunities for closer working and more efficient shared use of expertise to ensure high standards of forest design and management in the National Park, with a particular focus on forestry on private land. In addition, further discussion is needed with **Forestry Commission Scotland** regarding the design and management of forest tracks and their impact on the National Park's scenic landscapes.



The conservation of the Park's built heritage has in recent years focussed on the two Conservation Areas of Killin and Callander with significant support from **Historic Scotland**. The *Killin Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS)* came to a conclusion after 5 years and the *Callander CARS* has also reached its final year. Both have achieved great things bringing significant conservation improvements to notable townscape buildings and heritage features and introducing heritage trails to support visitor enjoyment of built heritage and historic associations. So far 42 grants have been awarded, totalling over £330K

which has successfully levered over £500k of investment by property owners into conservation works. With these schemes coming to an end, there is a need to find new funding sources to continue this work in other towns and villages and the wider countryside. Following a recent survey by the **Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Buildings Scotland** the numbers of important historic 'Buildings at Risk' has increased from 18 to 24. The National Park Authority is proposing to continue with a more limited repair grant scheme, but there is a need to identify other funding partners to support more effectively the conservation of the Park's precious built heritage.

Visitor Experience

National Park Partnership Plan Outcome

A high quality, authentic experience for visitors, with many opportunities to appreciate and enjoy the natural and cultural heritage, within an internationally renowned landscape that compares to the best on offer around the world.

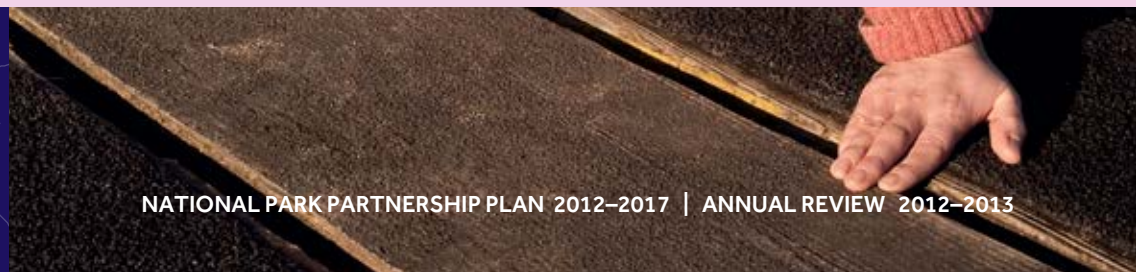


A central aspiration of the Partnership Plan has been to significantly raise the standard of visitor facilities and sites to deliver a National Park visitor experience that compares with the best in world. Public money has been carefully targeted in a way that also creates more opportunities for the private sector to provide a wider range of tourism products and services that respond to visitor expectations of a National Park.

To better promote the Park as a special place to enjoy the outdoors and ensure visitors have better information and orientation of what there is to see and do, the National Park Authority has commenced a strategy to roll out branded

signage and information that both creates a strong unifying sense of place and orientates visitors to all the area has to offer.

Delivery during the first year of the Partnership Plan has been greatly assisted by **Scottish Government** increasing capital resources available to the National Park Authority to begin to implement many of the visitor infrastructure investment aspirations. The *Year of Natural Scotland* has also created a fantastic platform to develop events to attract new audiences to the Park and strengthen promotion of the destination in the UK and internationally as a key part of Scotland's tourism offer.



Tourism: Key achievements

Working in close partnership with the **National Park Destination Group** of businesses, we delivered new National Park threshold signage. Stunning stone columns have been installed at fifteen locations on the main routes into the Park. The second stage of the signage project is now underway to reduce clutter and create a consistent destination style for information signage in towns, villages and popular countryside visitor sites.



The roll out of the Park brand and consistency of visitor information points provided in the National Park Authority's tenanted and partner visitor centres is progressing well and will be completed by March 2014. **Forestry Commission Scotland** became the first partner organisation to adopt *Partner in the Park* brand on vehicle liveries.



Development of the National Park Authority area of the **Loch Lomond Shores** site is underway as a gateway to the Park with two new visitor attractions and a pontoon developed in partnership with **Scottish Enterprise** due to be in place in 2014 to support growth in the *Loch Lomond Waterbus* and widen tourism audiences visiting Loch Lomond Shores and Balloch, particularly by water.



Working with **EventScotland** and **Creative Scotland** as well as a range of arts and events providers, a series of activity and cultural events have been secured or developed to celebrate the *Year of Natural Scotland*, these include Get Active in the Park, The Great Scottish Swim, Island Drift light installation and National Park Artist in Residence.

The *Loch Lomond Water Bus* service continues to expand and has made links between Loch Lomond and Loch Katrine for the first time, as well as introducing a new stop at Inchmurrin. Joint working with cruise operators, lochside businesses and **Scottish Enterprise** has helped to support route and itinerary development and marketing opportunities.

Scottish Government funding has been secured to commence the implementation of pilot sites for a national scenic routes project working with partners such as **Scottish Canals**, **VisitScotland**, **Cairngorms National Park Authority** and **Transport Scotland**.

Tourism: Looking ahead - priorities for 2014



It is vitally important that in tandem with investing in the quality of visitor experience, co-ordinated efforts are made to attract private sector investment in new tourism products that fit with the National Park's special qualities.

The Local Development Plan process will identify appropriate new tourism development opportunities for accommodation and activity provision. Partnership working to unlock development potential and promote new opportunities to the market will be critical to this and **Forest Enterprise**, **Scottish Enterprise** and **Scottish**

Development International will all have important roles to play in developing a portfolio of tourism investment opportunities.

Significant focus is needed on coordinating the public sector investment which supports destination development in the National Park area. There are a number of destination strategies, national and local which cover the wider National Park area. Decisions regarding investment into visitor infrastructure and delivery of an enhanced product experience balanced against the marketing and promotion of sub-areas of the Park need to be made.



Currently due to conflicting business planning cycles the public sector's diminishing resources could be better coordinated to greater effect. The agencies involved include the National Park Authority, **Scottish Enterprise**, **VisitScotland** and the relevant **Local Authorities**. Seeking an aligned model for investment would be highly desirable.

Similarly a stronger partnership approach needs to be adopted in terms of provision of visitor information and visitor centres across the Park area.



Opportunities for co-branded, consistent 'look and feel' signage rather than multiple uncoordinated signage are already being explored with **Forestry Commission Scotland**. There are also opportunities for co-operation to maintain and improve visitor centre provision at strategic locations. Collaboration is already taking place with **VisitScotland** at Callander and opportunities are being explored with the **Royal Botanic Gardens** at Benmore.



There will continue to be opportunities to consolidate and grow *Loch Lomond Waterbus* services supporting connections to other services on Loch Katrine (working with the **Sir Walter Scott Trust**) and, in due course, Loch Long. There is a need to work with private pier owners at key locations such as Balmaha, Rowardennan and Arrochar to ensure they are functioning parts of the network. At the same time there are opportunities to expand facilities to broaden usage at key locations such as Tarbet and Balloch. Similarly work needs to continue with boat and travel operators to promote itineraries that connect better with public transport services and facilitate cycle use on connecting routes.



Significant opportunities exist to develop new tourism products based on the high quality recreation infrastructure that exists in the Park. The presence of the *National Cycle Routes* in the Trossachs linking up villages and visitors sites present a key opportunity to promote cycling itineraries to increase use and create business opportunities for cycle hire and destination promotion.



The *Year of Natural Scotland* has presented an excellent platform to promote National Parks more prominently as part of the Scottish tourism offer. Headline grabbing events such as the *Great Scottish Swim* have helped attract new audiences to the area. The forthcoming *2014 Year of Homecoming* which also incorporates the *Commonwealth Games* in Glasgow and the *Ryder Cup* can continue this opportunity.

Visiting high quality landscapes is a key reason why people come to Scotland and continued working with **VisitScotland** and **EventScotland** should seek to showcase National Parks as an internationally recognised brand in promoting outdoors experiences to international markets. An international conference to mark the 100th anniversary of John Muir's death will seek to highlight the role and contribution of National Parks in the 21st Century.

Visitor Management: Key achievements

The *5 Lochs Visitor Management Plan* for the Trossachs area, developed with local community, business and landowner interests alongside **Police Scotland**, **Transport Scotland** and **Stirling Council**, was published in November 2012 covering popular Trossachs Lochs Achray, Venachar, Lubnaig, Voil and Earn. The first lochside visitor site improvement works got underway at two sites on Loch Lubnaig to provide improved parking, camping and picnicking facilities alongside camper van service points and a toilet/kiosk facility. When open, the site will be operated with a private business.

Complimentary actions are being progressed with respective local authorities, **Transport Scotland** and **Police Scotland** to address traffic management and road verge parking issues for the A84, A85, B 829, South Loch Earn and Balquhider Glen roads.



A £200k capital investment was delivered to significantly improve and restore the heavily used Conic Hill path stretch of the **West Highland Way** and co-ordination discussions have taken place regarding welcome improvements by **Forest Enterprise** to stretches on the forest estate.



Operation Ironworks, the successful partnership originally developed with **Central Scotland Police** completed its 5th successful year with 4285 hours of patrolling and the dedicated National Park Police officer role confirmed for another three years. 540 hours were worked by National Park employees as Special Constables. The year also saw a very successful transition of the initiative to the new **Police Scotland** organisation offering more opportunities for co-ordinated working across the wider Park area.

To mark outstanding commitment to the National Park and its communities, recently-retired Police Chief Inspector Kevin Findlater was awarded the first *National Park Ambassador award* in March this year. The Ambassador Award is a new initiative aimed at recognising those who have made significant contributions to the National Park and its aims. Kevin was integral to the establishment of the award-winning *Operation Ironworks*. Since retiring from the Police in February, Kevin's services to the environment and to the communities in the National Park were also recognised by the Queen and he was awarded an MBE at a ceremony at Holyroodhouse in July.

The successful partnership of local communities and businesses, **Forestry Commission Scotland, Police Scotland** and **Stirling Council** to deliver the *East Loch Lomond Visitor Management Plan* continued to positively transform the visitor experience of the area, radically reducing anti-social behaviour and litter by 84%, preventing environmental degradation and providing improved camping opportunities. The *East Loch Lomond Camping Byelaw* is due to be reviewed by the end of 2013. Data collection was been completed for season 2012 on camping, litter and anti-social behaviour and is being supplemented by visitor, community and business perception surveys in 2013.



The **Countryside Trust for the National Park** was established and their remit will be to develop and deliver projects that support park aims including recreation, access and natural heritage priorities.

An *Outdoor Recreation Plan* was approved by the National Park Authority Board in June. This is a five year action plan which outlines commitments and intentions held by stakeholders to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities across the National Park.

The National Park Authority supported 79 outdoor learning and outreach visits to the National Park, including support to 66 schools and 2363 children and young people.



The **National Park Ranger Service** continued to play a key role interacting with visitors, patrolling busy sites, enforcing byelaws and supporting conservation and education activities. Their work has been complimented by a 45 strong volunteer rangers service who are able to share their extensive knowledge of the area with visitors at key locations and events.



A **Litter Strategy Group** was established and an audit completed for the 5 Lochs area by **Keep Scotland Beautiful**.

Conservation opportunities have been offered to National Park Authority volunteers via partner organisations such as **National Trust for Scotland** and **Forestry Commission Scotland**.



Visitor Management: Looking ahead - priorities for 2014



The **Scottish Government** and the National Park Authority are heavily investing into the visitor infrastructure in the National Park. This programme is evidencing significant private sector return, better conservation and visitor experience outcomes. There is a need to drive better partnership working including joint investment planning and co-ordination of infrastructure investment plans with **Forest Enterprise, Scottish Enterprise** and both **Stirling** and **Argyll & Bute Councils**.

We will continue to make progress on the 5 Lochs Visitor Management Plan. Based on evidence from communities and businesses and information gathered through the Ranger Service, investment will continue on lochside sites at Lochs Venachar and Earn as well as at Inverlochlarig. Measures to



address impacts from lochside/roadside camping will continue to be reviewed. Continued partnership working with **Police Scotland, Transport Scotland** and **Stirling** and **Perth & Kinross Councils** will be crucial. An immediate priority is to promote the use of clearway orders to manage dangerous road verge parking in the 5 Lochs area.

An immediate priority will be to prepare and consult on revised visitor management options for the Loch Lomond Islands following last year's consultation. Continued dialogue with **Scottish Natural Heritage, Luss Estates** and Loch Lomond user groups will be essential to find a consensus based solution. Consideration of a proportionate approach to camping management will require to be



considered at this and a number of other heavily used locations across the National Park. A review of the East Loch Lomond Camping Byelaws will be submitted to Scottish Ministers in early 2014.

Improved visitor management arrangements and facilities will require to be explored at a range of other heavily visited locations. A visitor management plan for the village of Luss will require close working with the main landowners, **Argyll & Bute Council** and **Luss Estates**.

The **West Highland Way** is Scotland's best known and most popular long distance route contributing significantly to the Scottish visitor economy. There is a need to review how this and other strategic routes are managed and maintained alongside other managing organisations. An agreed set of priorities will be established with the **Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust** focussing on improving access opportunities, healthy activity and conservation projects linked to the *Parks Outdoor Recreation Plan* and *Wild Park 2020*.

Litter continues to be a massive issue in the Park. The *East Loch Lomond Management Plan* has shown how the right visitor management approach can help reduce the amount of litter generated. However, there is an urgent need to develop a coherent and co-ordinated litter management strategy and service for the Park. A pilot partner project with **Zero Waste Scotland** is in development, but to tackle this issue properly and provide a cost effective and sustainable litter management service, the practical co-operation of the **Local Authorities** will be essential, alongside supporting the implementation of a National Litter Strategy for Scotland.

Rural Development

National Park Partnership Park Plan Outcome

In the National Park businesses and communities thrive and people live and work sustainably in a high quality environment.

The National Park Authority has sought to use its planning function as a key tool to lever in private sector investment which supports the visitor economy and regenerates our communities. The current National Park Local Plan has delivered considerable success in attracting significant investment in tourism development, hydro energy and community regeneration initiatives. A well developed pre-application advice process has also created great confidence and better considered planning applications leading to 98% being approved. To continue this momentum, the National Park Authority has worked with the

Scottish Government to run community based Charrette masterplanning workshops across five locations to identify placemaking projects and development opportunities. These processes were also important in securing more focussed partnership working, particularly with **Local Authorities**, for our towns and villages. Alongside this we have worked with the **National Park Community Partnership** to take forward the third wave of *Community Action Plans* to continue to provide a strong platform for the excellent community led projects the Park has seen over recent years.



Rural Development: Key achievements

We have approved 19 applications for small scale hydro schemes with the potential to generate 13mw of hydro-electricity. With another 10 currently at the scoping stage, seven pending consideration and more than 50 which have gone through the pre-application process, this is evidently a significant growth area within our planning remit.



In the Park's largest settlement, the Callander Partnership's Action Plan was successfully completed with new priorities identified to regenerate Callander including the re-use of St Kessog's, improvements to Ancaster Square and car parking management.

The monitoring report on our *Local Plan (2010-15)* was published during the past year. Despite market conditions affecting many housing sites, some key development sites are progressing. Perhaps most significantly, planning consent was granted for the development of the former Torpedo range in Arrochar for a new 5 star hotel and resort which is estimated to create 300 new jobs.

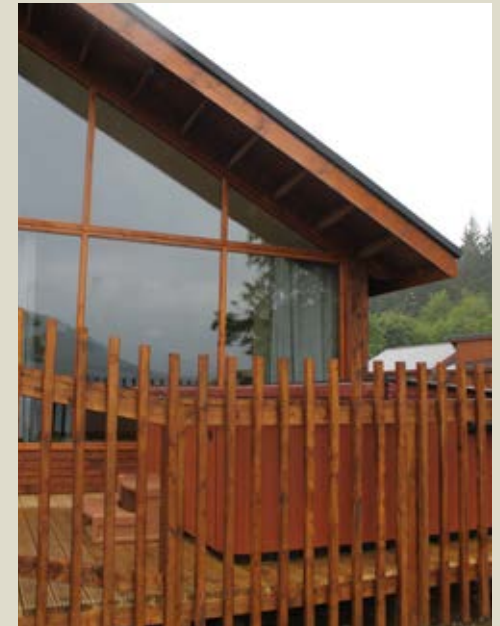


We have also produced a toolkit for housing delivery through *Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance* which was developed in conjunction with housing providers, Registered Social Landlords and local authorities.

Another particularly noteworthy achievement recently was the completion of *Supplementary Planning Guidance* for the Park area. Based on the Callander Charrette Outcomes for better Design and Public Realm, this document will provide improved direction and clarity for developers working within the Park.



Finally, support was provided through the **National Park Community Partnership** to four communities to prepare a *Community Action Plan* including the facilitation of networking events with funders. This has proved to be a positive example of our facilitation role in action and is testament to the close working relationships forged with a wide variety of partners.



Rural Development: Looking ahead - priorities for 2014



The National Park Authority will be refreshing its planning policies by publishing a new Local Development Plan Main Issues Report in the coming year. This will build on the ideas and initiatives developed by the 5 Charrette processes that have taken place across the Park. A significant challenge and opportunity will be continued joint working with **Stirling Council** to take forward initiatives to regenerate Callander town centre as well as consider how the expansion options proposed in the Charrette can be developed.

The prospect of the Ben Arthur Resort developing at Arrochar presents significant opportunities for the local communities to benefit from jobs and to develop supporting facilities and services including housing. The Charrette process has helped to develop ideas which can be taken forward in the Local Development Plan, but will need partnership working to deliver, particularly with **Transport Scotland** (access), **Argyll & Bute Council** (housing) and **Scottish Enterprise**.



Other key tourism development opportunities such as Balloch West Riverside also require to be unlocked through joint working with **Scottish Enterprise**.

Delivery of housing continues to be a challenge in the current economic climate. A refreshed housing enabler project will get underway in the **Argyll & Bute Council** area of the Park and work continues to identify opportunities in the **Stirling Council** area.



Scottish Government are currently consulting on the shape of the new **LEADER** programme for 2014-20 which is an important European funding source for rural development projects. The new Local Action Group (LAG) arrangements must be improved so that strategic projects being developed in the Park are not disadvantaged by straddling LAG boundaries and undergoing complex application and monitoring processes. The National Park Authority wishes to work with LAG and **Local Authority** partners to secure better **LEADER** arrangements for Park communities.

A partnership that delivers

Delivery of the outcomes within the National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP) is the responsibility of all the organisations that operate in the Park, and the Plan's delivery, led by the National Park Authority (NPA) is underpinned by a set of Individual Partnership Agreements (IPAs) with key public sector organisations.

These IPA's set out the specific actions partners will help to deliver over the next five years. We are encouraged by the response from our partners to date in this new approach and we have now received agreement and commitment from the following partners;

Transport Scotland
Forestry Commission Scotland
Scottish Natural Heritage
Historic Scotland
West Dunbartonshire Council
Scottish Enterprise
VisitScotland
SEPA
Stirling Council
Argyll & Bute Council
Perth & Kinross Council
Police Scotland







Our partners came together at a meeting on 11 November 2013, chaired by Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Environment and Climate Change. The focus of this meeting was to review the progress against each of the priority for actions and re-confirm commitment for the year ahead and identify any potential areas for concern.








Priorities for action

The following pages detail our priorities for actions in tables and what we have achieved in the year 2012 - 2013.

-  Action completed
-  On track
-  Attention required
-  Unlikely to deliver




CONSERVATION – Priorities for action 2012 - 2017











	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Conservation (Sandford) Principle					
Outcome– Long term protection of the National Park					
C1	Asset management	By end 2013 raise awareness of the role that natural assets perform in the economic performance of the National Park.	No progress on this theme since the “Valuing the National Park” report in 2011. This target will be progressed in conjunction with the accompanying C1 target to develop an approach whereby the value of natural resources is taken into account in all decision making by public bodies by the end of 2014.		National Park Authority Scottish Natural Heritage
		By end 2014 develop an approach that takes into account the value of natural resources in all decision making by public bodies in the National Park.	Project scheduled to commence in Autumn 2013.		
C2	Species management	By end 2013 revise the National Park Biodiversity Action Plan and then implement.	The process of drafting the second edition National Park Biodiversity Action Plan commenced with full partner engagement – scheduled for public consultation September to November 2013 and adoption and launch March 2014.		National Park Authority Scottish Natural Heritage Forestry Commission Scotland/National Forest Estate
		By 2017 wading birds, Greenland white-fronted geese, red squirrel, black grouse, capercaillie, salmon and water vole populations to have increased in numbers or extent on 2011 baseline or for their habitat to have been improved.	<p>Waders: 220 hectares of private land proactively managed under Glen Dochart Waders Project – monitoring suggests wader population is increasing. Further management for waders undertaken at RSPB Loch Lomond Reserve.</p> <p>Greenland White-Fronted Geese: The Management Plan for the RSPB Loch Lomond Reserve is in production.</p> <p>Red Squirrel: Following publicly and privately funded grey squirrel control measures, monitoring shows that the population range of red squirrels is increasing.</p> <p>Black grouse: 8000 hectares of private and public (FCS) land proactively managed under Callander Black Grouse Project. Further management elsewhere such as within The Great Trossachs Forest, especially at FCS Loch Katrine. Annual monitoring, now using nationally agreed methodology, shows increasing numbers in some locations.</p> <p>Capercaillie: No evidence of lekking in 2012 or 2013 and no birds sighted since June 2012. No adjacent populations near enough for inward migration. Population now considered to no longer be viable.</p> <p>Salmon: Early stages of project development with River Forth Fisheries Trust and Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust. Some habitat improvement undertaken on Leny Burn in Teith catchment.</p> <p>Water Vole: Population reintroduced in Loch Ard Forest now expanding beyond reintroduction area, but limited by extent of mink control.</p>		

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
C3	Integrated habitat network	By end 2013 identify key areas of woodland, wetland, grassland and moorland/heathland habitats that need to be protected, enhanced and/or expanded, connecting to the Central Scotland Green Network Integrated Habitat Network.	SNH have provided Integrated Habitat Network datasets and provided training on their use. The data is being utilised with reference to larger development proposals so that impacts on habitat networks can be understood. When working with private land managers, we are using data to inform opportunities but plans to analyse opportunities on a Park-wide basis are on hold.		National Park Authority Scottish Natural Heritage Forestry Commission Scotland/National Forest Estate
		By 2015 pro-actively support applications to the SRDP (or other support mechanisms) that deliver landscape-scale habitat enhancement.	The NPA did not work on any SRDP applications in this year due to the limited availability of the funding. The next Rural Development Programme for Scotland is scheduled to commence in Autumn 2014.		
C4	Invasive non-native species	By end 2012 start management of riparian invasive plants in the Fillan/ Dochart and Earn catchments.	Intensive programme of controlling Japanese knotweed, American skunk cabbage and Himalyan balsam in place on Fillan, Dochart and Earn (65 sites in 2012) involving NPA staff and volunteers.		National Park Authority Scottish Natural Heritage Forestry Commission Scotland/National Forest Estate
		By end 2013 develop Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy for National Park.	INNS strategy being developed as part of drafting the second edition National Park Biodiversity Action Plan – see C2 above.		
		By 2015 ensure grey squirrel and American mink populations are reducing.	Grey Squirrel: Control programme in place led by SWT using a combination of public (SRDP) and private funding, volunteers and a dedicated Control Officer – monitoring shows that the population range of grey squirrels is contracting. American Mink: Control programme in place in some locations including Loch Ard Forest and Loch Lomond Islands – monitoring indicates reduced presence of mink in these areas. Control also undertaken elsewhere including Glen Dochart.		Scottish Environment
		By 2015 put in place management to eradicate Japanese knotweed and other non-native riparian plants from the Teith system in National Park.	LEADER, NPA, SNH and other partnership funding secured by River Forth Fisheries Trust to lead on developing and delivering control programme on Forth and Teith commencing in 2013.		
		By 2017 put in place management to eradicate <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> from 50% of National Forest Estate in National Park.	Significant Rhododendron control underway within Forestry Commission Scotland Loch Katrine area and adjacent parts of The Great Trossachs Forest.		









	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Landscapes					
Outcome - Maintain high quality landscapes that deliver multiple environmental benefits and an economic return					
C5	Land of wild land character	By end 2013 develop supplementary planning guidance on relative wildness (and potentially an associated action plan) and ensure policy development for next National Park Local Plan.	Separate SPG for wildness not considered necessary. Wildness will be incorporated into next Local Plan – the Local Development Plan – and has been incorporated into the new SPG on Renewable Energy.		National Park Authority Scottish Natural Heritage
		By end 2014 apply for Dark Sky Reserve status for National Park.	Programme for stakeholder engagement being developed in conjunction with the preparation of the application to the International Dark Sky Association.		
		From 2012 maintain the existing area of core wild land in the National Park as in 2011 relative wildness baseline.	Monitoring of development activity is now part of our Local Plan monitoring work. Wildness has been also incorporated into the new SPG on Renewable Energy and is considered as part of any significant development proposal.		
C6	Support schemes	By 2012–14 promote the recognition of the National Park as a priority area within the new SRDP.	Liaison with Scottish Government and other partners is ongoing.		Scottish Government
		By 2014–15 a new scheme in place delivering the National Park Partnership Plan priorities across conservation, visitor experience and rural development.	The next Rural Development Programme for Scotland scheduled to commence Autumn 2014.		
C7	Land management plans	By 2017 25% of all private land in the National Park has a long-term management plan.	NPA piloting Whole-Farm or Whole-Estate Plans with four private land-based businesses. Roll-out expected subject to pilot.		National Park Authority Forestry Commission Scotland Private Land Managers
C8	Designed landscapes	By 2017 20% of designed landscapes in management agreements.	Detailed field survey and recommendations undertaken for one prominent site in 2012. This was supported by practical works to improve boundary dykes and parkland tree planting. Process to be streamlined and incorporated into Whole Farm/Estate Plans where possible – see C7 above.		National Park Authority Historic Scotland






	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Water					
Outcome – Water resources to be protected and enhanced to deliver multiple benefits for local communities, businesses and visitors					
C9	Ecological status of water bodies	By end 2012 contribute to the implementation of measures set out in relevant River Basin Management Plans.	SEPA have prioritised RBMP's for implementation on a national basis – no RBMP's within the Park were prioritised for SEPA's first round of implementation. Consultation with SEPA underway on priorities for second round.		Scottish Environment Protection Agency
		By 2017 an improvement in the ecological status of water bodies in the National Park.	To be achieved through implementation of RBMP's in timescale determined by SEPA prioritisation – see above.		
C10	Loch Lomond	By end 2012 review the existing navigational byelaws and submit revised Loch Lomond Byelaws to Scottish Government for approval.	Byelaws review completed and approved by Scottish Ministers February 2013 and effective from 1 st April 2013.		Loch Lomond: National Park Authority
		By 2017 limits of acceptable change framework with stakeholders for the future management of environmental and recreation pressures on Loch Lomond in place.	A Limits of Acceptable Change study was completed in April 2011 and used to inform the Loch Lomond byelaws review completed in 2012/2013. Further development of the framework to follow in 2014/2015.		Canal Link: West Dunbartonshire Council British Waterways
C11	Sustainable flood management	By end 2014 establish natural flood management options for the Teith area of the Forth catchment as part of the development of Flood Risk Management Plans to reduce flood pressure on Callander and Stirling.	NPA, SEPA and Stirling Council actively discussing flood management options, with proposal to designate the NPA as a responsible authority under the Flood Risk Management Act 2009. Role identified for NPA in receiving and disseminating flood alerts and warnings. Objectives to be set in 2013/2014. Recent flood events at Aberfoyle also highlight the need for flood management in that community.		Scottish Environment Protection Agency National Park Authority Stirling Council Forestry Commission Scotland
		By 2015, work to develop Flood Risk Management Plans, providing opportunities for natural flood management.	Work on Flood Risk Management Plans scheduled for 2013/2014.		
		By 2015 support applications to SRDP (or alternative sources of funding) for flood management options on the Teith.	Subject to work on Flood Risk Management Plans scheduled for 2013/2014 and content of next Rural Development Programme for Scotland scheduled to commence autumn 2014.		









	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Carbon Storage					
Outcome – Increased carbon storage within the National Park					
C12	Carbon storage	By end 2013 have in place a Local Woodland Strategy that provides a basis for a wider land use action plan by 2014.	Woodland Strategy not progressed. NPA considering merits of wider land use action plan and are monitoring process and outcomes from national Land Use Strategy pilot areas (Aberdeenshire and Borders). These pilots due to report in 2015 but have a 'lessons learned' session in 2014. NPA approach will be delayed to take advantage of lessons from these pilots.		Forestry Commission Scotland/National Forest Estate National Park Authority Scottish Natural Heritage
		By 2017 increase the area of woodland in the National Park in line with historic trends (around 600 hectares a year) using locations and designs that bring landscape and biodiversity benefits, whilst avoiding adverse impacts on landscape special qualities, designated sites and soil carbon stores.	Over 400ha of well-designed new native woodland planted or regenerated within the Park in 2012/2013. No commercial afforestation during this period. Historic trend of 600ha/year not achieved due primarily to issues around SRDP funding. In part dependent on SRDP funding from 2014, average rate of 600ha/year may still be reached by 2017. Planting proposals to compensate for woodland removal for wind farm developments outwith the Park are beginning to come forward. FCS commissioned a study to identify potential areas for further woodland establishment in Cowal.		
		By end 2014 identify and assess the condition and management of peatland in the National Park. Identify areas for restoration and management focussing on the most degraded sites first.	Funding secured for Peatland Project. Phase 1 desk study completed, identifying areas that may require restoration. Phase 2 ground-truthing and liaison with land managers scheduled for 2013.		








	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Cultural Heritage					
Outcome: Enhanced cultural heritage that delivers multiple environmental benefits and an economic return					
C13	Safeguard, manage and promote the National Park's built heritage and archaeology	By August 2012 prepare a revised Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) proposal for submission to Historic Scotland.	Proposals submitted to Historic Scotland's CARS 5 programme for Killin and Callander. However both were unsuccessful. Park-wide, NPA-funded scheme is being prepared for late summer 2013 launch as a pilot alternative approach, but further work needed to identify other potential match funders.		National Park Authority Historic Scotland
		By end 2013 review coverage of conservation areas.	Programmed for September/October 2013.		
		By end 2013 complete and promote Shopfront Design Guide for Callander.	Guide complete and has been used as a technical guide for the CARS Shopfront Small Grant Scheme. Intended to incorporate into SPG for the Local Development Plan.		
		By end 2013 commission British Geological Survey to complete stone and slate survey of five conservation areas.	Budget allocation for this is limited. However it is hoped to still undertake at least one by the end of the financial year. Will be reviewed at the end of the next quarter.		
C14	Enhance and promote the National Park's Built Heritage and Archaeology	By end 2013 identify and secure new sources of funding for built heritage projects in the National Park.	Despite an initial discussion with Heritage Lottery Fund there are few sources of grant funding available. Currently, research into the HLF's Landscape Partnership programme is being explored for at least part of the Park's area.		National Park Authority Historic Scotland
		2012-14 deliver community education projects through CARS raising awareness.	Stone mason apprenticeship almost completed, traditional skills training with high school children delivered and built heritage education via photography competition delivered to school children.		
		By end 2014 50 projects delivered through CARS (and any new grant funding).	42 grants with a value of £334,750 paid out between 2009/2010 - 2012/2013. Currently expected to issue at least another 14 by the end of March 2014. The total cost of the projects delivered as a result of these grants is £849,558. Match funding of £514,808 provided by home and business owners, Stirling Council and the British Geological Survey.		
		By 2017 reduce the number of buildings on the buildings at risk register within the Park.	Review in July 2012 by Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Buildings Scotland increased the number from 18 to 24, due to a re-survey of the Park. Reducing this number will require co-operation from property owners.		
C15	Cultural traditions and events (cross reference with VE9)	By end 2013 undertake a cultural audit of the National Park.	Audit scheduled to be completed during 2013.		Community Partnership National Park Destination Development Group Local Destination Organisations Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs
		By end of 2013 raise awareness of the cultural heritage of the park by having in place, and promoting, a programme of cultural events and activities.	A programme of cultural events to be promoted for Year of Natural Scotland 2013.		








VISITOR EXPERIENCE – Priorities for action 2012 - 2017

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Visitor Management					
Outcome: Improved quality of life for residents and enjoyment for visitors					
VE1	A safe place to visit and live in	Increase the % of residents and % of visitors who feel safe in the National Park from 2011 visitor survey baseline and 2012 Operation Ironworks community feedback baseline.	Operation Ironworks delivered in 2012 with transition completed to Police Scotland model operating across three divisions from 1 April 2013. National Park Police Officer post confirmed for a further three years.		Central Scotland Strathclyde and Tayside Police National Park Authority
VE2	Review camping management	By end 2013 review East Loch Lomond Camping Byelaws.	Data collection completed for season 2012 on camping, litter and anti-social behaviour, Ranger and police enforcement plans implemented no reports to fiscal. Surveys under preparation for 2013 review.		National Park Authority Visitor Management Groups
		By end 2014, if appropriate following review, consult on the management of camping in the National Park based on the experience of the East Loch Lomond camping management byelaws.	No progress to date as subject to East Loch Lomond camping byelaw review findings at end of 2013.		
VE3	Capacity management – high pressure Visitor management zones	By end 2012 have in place a visitor management plan (VMP) for the Five Lochs area (Achray, Venachar, Lubnaig, Voil and Earn).	5 Lochs Visitor Management Plan finalised November 2012.		National Park Authority Visitor Management Groups
		By end 2012 have in place a VMP for Loch Lomond islands in line with revised Loch Lomond Byelaws.	Initial discussions with one of the key landowners have taken place and findings from Loch Lomond byelaws consultations drawn together.		
		By mid 2013 have in place a VMP for Luss.	Operational management data gathering exercise completed, and input to Luss Estates led development plan.		
		From 2012 to 2017 implement VMPs.	East Loch Lomond Visitor Management Plan implemented. 5 Lochs Visitor Management Plan agreed and early actions progressed at Loch Lubnaig site developments, traffic and peak capacity management issues reviewed and actions agreed.		
		By mid 2013 have in place a long-term plan for the development and maintenance of the West Highland Way.	Condition survey and prioritisation of actions completed for NP sections of WHW, leading to delivery of Conic Hill path improvements and programme maintenance tasks.		







	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
VE4	Capacity management – medium pressure Visitor management zones	Ensure regular monitoring and patrolling of these areas to ensure pressure does not increase in these areas.	Ranger patrol guide reviewed and updated. Patrolling plan implemented during summer 2012 and patrol data gathered on key issues such as camping, parking, litter, vandalism and fires. Patrol plan drawn up for 2013.		National Park Authority
VE5	Sustainable traffic management	In 2013 put in place a consultation on traffic management options for: Luss Balmaha to Rowardennan	Traffic management options for Luss to be considered alongside progressing a Luss Visitor Management Plan (see VE3) and similar for Balmaha to Rowardennan as part of East Loch Lomond Visitor Management Plan review which is currently underway.		Stirling Council Argyll & Bute Council Perth & Kinross Council
		In 2014 through the Five Lochs VMP consider traffic management options for: South Loch Earn Balquhidder Glen	Initial actions progressed in meeting with respective local authorities to discuss traffic management issues notably informal parking, mis-use of passing places and provision of adequate formal parking options.		National Park Authority Luss Estates Luss Community Council
		In 2016 put in place a consultation on traffic management options for: Aberfoyle to Inversnaid	First stage consultation held in March 2013 as part of Aberfoyle Charrette.		
VE6	Quality standards	By end 2013 agree and implement litter policy for the National Park across all local authority areas that reflects visitor pressure in high season.	Litter Strategy Group established with four local authorities, review of litter management operations completed. Litter audit completed for 5 Lochs area by Keep Scotland Beautiful.		Stirling Council Argyll & Bute Council West Dunbartonshire Council Perth & Kinross Council SEPA National Park Authority Keep Scotland Beautiful Central Scotland, Strathclyde and Tayside Police

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Tourism					
Outcome: Improved consistency of product encourages greater enjoyment and spend in the National Park					
VE7	Better information and signage for visitors	National Park forum between VisitScotland, Forestry Commission Scotland, local authorities and the Park Authority to look at visitor information and centres to encourage a joined up approach.	Meetings have been held with Visit Scotland and Forestry Commission Scotland, planning a meeting between all bodies in 2013.		National Park Authority Forestry Commission Scotland Visit Scotland – Digital Scotland National Park Destination Development Group
		By end 2013 new threshold signage in place and Destination Interpretive Strategy for the Park in place.	All threshold signs now in place other than two final signs which will be in place by end 2013. Interpretive strategy in draft form.		
		By end 2013 a visitor web portal for the National Park in place linking with other high quality websites in the area.	Being progressed. The first stage of splitting Park Authority and visitor information took place in 2012. The new website for the Park is currently being tendered and visitor information content and links are being researched and updated for adding.		
		By 2017 develop consistent brand welcome to villages and towns in the Park.	Strategy and priorities to be agreed with forward planning and communities team August 2013.		
VE8	Meeting visitor expectations to create more economic benefits	Increase private sector investment in tourism facilities in the Park that are compatible with conservation objectives for designated sites and with the wider landscape of the National Park.	Prospectus for inward investment to be produced September 2013.		Scottish Enterprise Highland and Island Enterprise Business Gateway National Park Authority
VE9	Maximising the benefits of Year of Natural Scotland 2013 and Year of Homecoming 2014	2013 – Maximise commercial and awareness opportunities of Year of Natural Scotland.	Three new events have been secured to celebrate the Year of Natural Scotland, Great Scottish Swim, Island Drift and National Park Artist in Residence		Scottish Natural Heritage National Park Authority Visit Scotland/ Event Scotland Stirling Council National Park Authority John Muir Trust
		2014 – Increase international visitor spend in the National Park in 2014 as part of wider Year of Homecoming.	Working with partners to develop a programme with links to Homecoming celebrations		
		In 2014 hold conference to celebrate John Muir's life and the future of National Parks.	Date agreed, venue booked, funding secured, conference organiser tendered. Speakers to be approached July, conference open Sep 2013		









	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
VE10	Quality and consistency of experience for the visitor	By end 2013 develop a service programme for the National Park.	Programme being developed		Scottish Enterprise
		By end 2014 200 individuals trained.	166 individuals trained up to March 2013		National Park
		By end 2013 300 businesses using the National Park Business in the Park Toolkit.	220 businesses registered up to March 2013		Destination Development Group
		Undertake a visitor survey in 2013, 2015, 2017,	Agreed that 2013 too soon to measure trends in light of Visit Scotland having completed survey in 2012. Meeting Cairngorms National Park in August to begin plans for survey in 2014.		Local Destination Groups
VE11	Range of sustainable transport opportunities	By end 2014 have in place a suite of self-sustaining water bus services on Loch Lomond with hubs at Tarbet, Balmaha and Loch Lomond Shores. Link with other forms of public transport and cycling and walking provision.	Increased range of routes in 2013 and for first time link to Loch Katrine.		National Park Authority
		By 2017 have joined up services between key lochs, such as Loch Long, Loch Lomond and Loch Katrine.	Services linking to Loch Katrine are being piloted in 2013 and will be reviewed for 2014. The Ben Arthur Resort planning consent will provide opportunities to provide water transport services on Loch Long by 2016		Scottish Enterprise Private Businesses
Recreation and Access					
Outcome: Responsible and managed access to the National Park that leads to improved health benefits for West and Central Scotland.					
VE12	Establish a sustainable model for the management of the West Highland Way	By end 2013 establish a long term management arrangement for the WHW.	Due to staff resource pressures, this project was delayed in being taken forward. Process will involve internal agreements between Visitor Experience and Visitor Management teams, followed by discussions and agreements with Local Authority partners		National Park Authority East Dunbartonshire Council Stirling Council Argyll & Bute Council Highland Council Scottish Natural Heritage







	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
VE13	Maintenance and enhancement of recreation provision (i.e. paths, bridges, and access points to water) and improved linkages between exiting routes.	By end 2012 have in place a Countryside Trust for the National Park. Trust to target infrastructure investment and reduce gaps in the network.	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust established in April 2012, manager appointed to develop business plan and implement priority projects in 2013.		National Park Authority Forestry Commission Scotland
		By mid 2013 develop National Park Outdoor Recreation Plan and identify key gaps in recreation provision.	Outdoor Recreation Plan public consultation in 2012. Submission to Board for approval in June 2013.		Scottish Natural Heritage
		By 2015 a programme of path works to address erosion management on key upland paths will be in place.	Mountain paths project under development in partnership with Cairngorms National Park Authority, Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust and SNH. Preparations underway for HLF bid in 2013.		
		By 2015 review Core Paths Plan and consider local path connections around communities.	No progress to date, however access provision included within Outdoor Recreation Plan will help inform Core Paths Plan review.		
		By 2017 ensure Balloch is a hub for visitors using long-distance routes, such as West Loch Lomond Cycle Path, John Muir Way etc.	A plan for the elements which can help establish Balloch as this hub will be developed by 2014. Improvements to the cycle path out of Balloch and the development of the John Muir Way are underway for 2014.		
VE14	Promotion of path and water networks	By end 2013 develop a database of routes for different purposes and produce appropriate web-based materials and leaflets where appropriate.	Unforeseen staffing changes and SG CapEX prioritisation has impacted progress. Tourism team's proposed cycling strategy will identify key cycling actions during 2013 including promotional material. Examination of route info options ongoing. Park Paths, Cycling in the Park, Horseriding leaflets maintained and updated along with NP website content. ORP consultation carried out, land and water actions identified.		National Park Access Forum
VE15	Preventative spend to improve health benefits	To increase the number of people on healthy walks programme by 10% every year of the National Park Partnership Plan.	Callander Healthy Walks average walkers per week increased from 13 in 2011/12 to 23 in 2012/13. New walkers in Callander have increased from 21 in 11 /12 to 42 in 12/13. The total numbers of walkers for Callander has increased from 578 to 885. Killin Healthy Walks in first year had an average of 13 walkers per week and just over 20 walkers walking at least once per month.		

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Education, Outreach and Volunteering					
Outcome: Increased engagement in the Park through education, outreach and volunteering opportunities leading to greater appreciation and improved behaviour					
VE16	Increased opportunities to deliver Curriculum for Excellence through Outdoor Learning	Increased delivery of teacher Continuing Professional Development (CPD) from 2011 baseline.	CPD programme developed with key deliverables including a teacher residential weekend in Sept 2012. Delivery in 2012-13 included raising awareness amongst teachers of the National Parks Outdoor Learning programmes at a variety of events.		National Park Authority Local Authorities Education Scotland
		National Park educational resources available through websites by 2013.	A new web page on the National Park website has been created containing educational resources for teachers. A downloadable teaching pack for The Great Trossachs Forest has been produced in partnership with the National Park and a teacher's guide to Inchcailloch highlighting opportunities for using the island as a learning resource.		
		By 2017 increase number of schools engaged with by 50% from 2011 baseline.	Ranger service has supported 79 outdoor learning and outreach visits to the National Park, including support to 66 schools and 2363 children and young people.		
VE17	Increased support for those experiencing disadvantage	By end 2012 map all existing education, outreach and volunteering provision within the National Park.	Schedule of partnership meetings developed and initial meetings held, mapping provision with key organisations. Process will be completed in 2013, report will inform development of an engagement forum.		National Park Authority
		By end 2013 have in place an Education, Outreach and Volunteer Engagement Working Group.	Feedback from partnership mapping meetings indicates an interest in participating in some form of engagement, options to be explored.		
		By 2017 increase number of outreach partners engaged with by 50% from 2011 baseline.	Educational Travel Grant targeting resources to support those experiencing disadvantage has provided opportunities to engage with an increased number of Black and Minority Ethnic and Disabled groups. The new interpretive panels in the National Park Centre, Balmaha have been translated to support these groups needs.		
VE18	Volunteer Rangers	By end 2014 have 60 Volunteer Rangers with the Park Authority.	During summer 2013, 45 volunteer rangers have been involved in ensuring a positive experience for visitors to the National Park. With recruitment planned for November 2013, we are on course to have 60 volunteer rangers in January 2014 for delivery in April.		National Park Authority
		Through expanding the Volunteer Ranger role to partner organisations, by 2017 there will be 150 Volunteer Rangers in the National Park.	Volunteer Rangers have had a presence on many partners sites including Forestry Commission Scotland in Cowal and Benmore Gardens; and initial conversations have been held with some partners about expanding this.		









	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
VE19	National Park volunteers	By end 2014 develop a programme for National Park volunteers with partners.	Conservation opportunities have been offered to National Park volunteers via partner organisations such as National Trust Scotland and Forestry Commission Scotland. A variety of opportunities have been promoted to National Park volunteers that offer ongoing or longer term involvement in a Park based project. For example, information and training sessions run by the Forth Fisheries Trust and the BTO.		National Park Authority
		By 2017, increase the number of activities offered to National Park Volunteers by 50%.	In 2012, 127 projects, providing 745 spaces were offered to National Park volunteers and taken up by 130 different volunteers. This is a slight decrease from delivery in 2011. However, although there were more projects, the spaces were filled by a slightly smaller number of volunteers with 124 different people coming out to volunteer.		
Scenic Routes					
Outcome: Improved visitor experience, increased safety and designs that complement the landscape					
VE20	National Park scenic routes	In 2013 a design competition for innovative lay-bys is in place.	Funding has been secured to progress a national scenic routes design completion with suitable pilot sites being identified along one of the National Parks major routes.		Transport Scotland
		By end 2013 a strategic plan is in place for the A82 upgrade.	Whole route design exercise for Tarbet to Inverarnan underway.		National Park Authority
		By 2015 pulpit rock and Crainlarich bypass on the A82 completed.	Construction work at Pulpit Rock underway. Woodland clearance and tendering exercise for construction underway for Crianlarich Bypass.		Local Authorities
		A84 improvements to be considered as part of Five Lochs Management Project and Callander Charrette. Scrub removal from West Highland Line to continue.	Scrub removal now completed from all but one key site to improve views from the West Highland Line – on-going monitoring for re-growth. Two sites alongside A82 north of Inverbeg also cleared to improve views from the road.		Friends of the West Highland Line

RURAL DEVELOPMENT – Priorities for action 2012 - 2017

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Sustaining our population					
Outcome: A Population balanced across age groups					
RD1	Increase access to a range of affordable housing types	By end 2013 reach agreement with housing providers/RSLs and local authorities on a suite of delivery models for affordable housing. This will be produced as a toolkit.	The toolkit for housing delivery is in place through Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance and associated documents.		Local Authorities National Park Authority Rural Housing Service
		By end 2014 20 new housing opportunities delivered through the Rural Housing Enabler project.	Despite numerous discussions on potential opportunities only one has moved to feasibility stage – a site on Forestry Commission land in Balmaha. After the first phase of the project ending in 2012, a new delivery partner is due to start in August with a focus on enabling more opportunities.		
		In 2015 prepare a Housing Need and Demand Assessment for the Park.	The basis for the housing need and assessment has been agreed with partners, in principle, using a model developed by Scottish Government. A workshop to run through the model is being held with housing partners in July.		
		Promote and monitor delivery of the Local Plan Housing Land Requirement by 2015.	Monitoring Report issued in December 2012.		
RD2	Access to employment opportunities	Establish a reduction in out migration of working age groups by 2017.	2011 Census outputs will provide baseline against 2001 Census. National Park data is due to be issued in September 2013.		Scottish Enterprise Highland and Islands Enterprise
		By 2017 increase business start ups by 10%.	Meeting with economic development agencies due in late summer to establish common data sources for the National Park.		Business Gateway Local Authorities
RD3	Expand apprenticeship scheme and outreach training opportunities for young people	By end 2014 have in place an apprenticeship scheme that covers tourism and land-based businesses (including food).	Leader funding bid approved and project manager role to be filled to deliver the park wide apprenticeship scheme.		Community Partnership Forth Valley College Clydebank College
		By end 2014 develop an accredited outreach training module.	The development work associated with access to relevant training is part of the work plan for 2013/2014.		Skills Development Scotland West Dunbartonshire Council

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Spatial Development Strategy					
Outcome: Sustainable pattern of new development					
RD4	Direct most new development to existing settlements	Promote and monitor delivery of Local Plan (2010- 15).	Monitoring Report on Local Plan delivery issued in 2012. Despite market conditions affecting many housing sites some key development sites are progressing.		National Park Authority
		By end 2016 prepare and adopt Local Development Plan.	Development Plan Scheme issued in December 2012 with good progress being made. To issue first formal consultation – the Main Issues Report - over the coming winter.		
Rural Economy					
Outcome: Rural economic development to support job creation and retention that safeguards and enhances the Park’s special qualities					
RD5	Increase available business and workspace	By end 2015 increase the volume of local workspace based on Local Plan Economic Development proposals and Rural Activity Areas implemented: Callander East, Strathfillan, Drymen South and Strachur South.	Monitoring is indicating poor uptake of allocated land. Survey of businesses is programmed for August/September to gain a better understanding of barriers and what planning interventions may help.		Stirling Council Argyll & Bute Council National Park Authority
RD6	Support rural businesses in the primary industries	By end 2013 consider whether a Park brand for locally produced food is viable.	Currently targeting business start up and business growth opportunities to facilitate brand development within food and drink sector and assess viability of Park brand for locally produced food.		National Farmer's Union Scotland Scottish Land and Estates
		By 2017 increase the value of forestry, farming and food produce originating in the National Park from 2011 baseline.	Currently working on assessing opportunities for business growth which enhance the value of forestry, farming and food produce.		National Park Destination Group National Park Authority
RD7	Rural broadband	Increase rural broadband coverage and speed within the National Park.	The Scottish Government have just confirmed BT as the winning tenderer for the Step Change Project. The NPA is arranging joint meetings with BT, and our Local Authority partners, to prioritise investment priorities for high speed broadband within the NPA. This will include Community Broadband Scotland who have responsibility for community led broadband schemes. It is the intention to share the outcomes of these discussions with local communities interested in creating their own community broadband initiatives within the National Park.		Scottish Government Scottish Enterprise Highlands and Islands Enterprise

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Climate Change					
Outcome: Climate change mitigation and adaption is integral to all activities and new development.					
RD8	Reduce carbon emissions and promote low carbon development	By end 2014 produce environmental sustainability guidance.	Programmed to be part of draft Supplementary Planning Guidance for draft Local Development Plan to be issued in late 2014.		National Park Authority Community Partnership
		By end 2016 promote all new development to exceed 2010 Building (Scotland) Regulations sustainability requirement to achieve a 'silver' rating.	Programmed to be part of draft Local Development Plan and Supplementary Planning Guidance to be issued in late 2014. Improved standards promoted through Local Plan.		
		By 2017 energy efficiency projects have been delivered in 10 communities.	Following on from the Climate Challenge funded projects in Callander, Killin, Benmore & Kilmun, Gartmore, Strachur, Kilmaronock, Strathfillan, Lochgoil Sandbank and Buchanan, focus has now moved, with Scottish Government providing national schemes such as the Home Insulation Scheme and Green Deal to longer term energy and income generation schemes for Park communities. Information event to be held Autumn 2013. New focus post Gathering 2012 on local food production with working group of community representatives taking this initiative forward.		
Renewable Energy					
Outcome – Appropriately scaled and located renewable energy schemes that support community development.					
RD9	Increase renewable energy generation	By end 2014 undertake work to establish cumulative impacts of energy schemes on the landscapes, hydrology, recreation opportunities and ecology.	Initial scoping of work commenced.		National Park Authority Private Businesses Scottish Environment Protection Agency Local Authorities Scottish Natural Heritage
		By 2017 increase in electricity produced through renewable energy from small-scale hydro and increase use of biomass for heat or in combined heat and power systems.	There are 19 approved applications for small scale hydro schemes, with the potential to generate 13MW of hydro-electricity, with another 10 at scoping stage and 7 "pending consideration". There are also more than 50 that have gone through the pre-application process		
RD10	Landscape setting of the Park	Ensure that landscape impacts which may affect the special qualities of the National Park are taken into account in the preparation of neighbouring planning authorities' planning policies or guidance for renewable energy.	Comments or representations submitted to all neighbouring planning authorities where required. Draft Scottish Planning Policy also picks up on this issue which is currently being discussed with SNH and Cairngorms National Park Authority.		Local Authorities National Park Authority Scottish Natural Heritage

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Community Development					
Outcome – Active and empowered communities					
RD11	Community capacity building	Increase the investment leveraged in through community organisations in the National Park.	Minimum of four communities supported to produce an up to date Community Action Plan, offering evidence of a community wide mandate to funders and partners for community priority projects. Networking events such as Community Gathering facilitated relationships with funders. National Park Community Grants have also supported the capacity of individual Community Development Trusts.		Community Partnership Community Development Trusts
		By 2017 each of the Park's communities to have independently delivered a community project.	In reviewing Community Action Plans annually, communities are able to identify their successes. The National Park Authority and Community Partnership plan to map the outcomes of these reviews to give a park-wide picture in 2013/2014.		Local Authorities
Built Environment					
Outcome: The built environment is enhanced and is a valued special quality of the Park					
RD12	Place making	By end 2013 establish a National Park annual design award to promote and celebrate good design.	Currently being scoped out.		National Park Authority
		By 2017 increase the number of developments that are recognised through local or national awards for design/planning.	Where there is opportunity to promote this it has been taken.		
		By 2017 expand Sustainable Design Supplementary Planning Guidance to issue area specific guidance, sustainability guidance and best practice advice.	Programmed to be part of the Local Development Plan, to be adopted by 2016.		
RD13	Callander (Charrette) master plan	By September 2012 support the Callander Partnership's preparation of an action plan for delivery of the charrette's recommendations.	New priorities identified as – St Kessogs building re-use, Ancaster Square improvements and car parking management.		Callander Partnership
		By mid 2013 adopt Supplementary Planning Guidance that translates the charrette's recommendations into short-term actions. This will focus on design and public realm.	Supplementary Planning Guidance, based on Charette Outcomes for better Design and Public realm completed.		
		Integrate the charrette's long-term recommendations into the preparation of the Local Development Plan.	This will form part of the Main Issues Report which is consulted on over the winter.		

Indicators of Success

20 indicators of success have been identified which set core headline indicators to establish whether the National Park Partnership Plan as a whole is having a positive effect on the National Park. Baseline figures have been set for 2012 and subsequent year's data will be shown in relation to those values showing trends over the lifespan of the plan.

National Park Topic	National Park Indicator	Baseline 2012		Source
Natural Heritage	% of designated site features in favourable condition	45%		SNH
Landscapes	% of land under agri-environment schemes	Indicator currently under review due to data collection implications		n/a
Water	% of water bodies achieving good ecological condition	TBC		SEPA
Carbon	% of land under woodland	27%		NPA
	* Number of hectares of peatland (soils and habitats) improved within the Park	35 hectares		NPA
Cultural Heritage	Number of buildings on the buildings at risk register within the Park	16		Historic Scotland
Visitor Management	% of visitors satisfied with cleanliness of countryside	86%		NPA
	% of residents and visitors that feel safe in the Park	93%		NPA
Tourism	Numbers of overnight stays in the National Park	2,003,000		NPA
	Hotel capacity in the National Park	19,851		NPA
Recreation & Access	Number of people using key paths	Conic Hill	84,683	NPA
		Smugglers Cove	37,552	
		Ben Ledi	49,416	
		Bracklinn Bridge	52,567	
		Cobbler	25,784	
		Total	250,002	

* This indicator has been amended from '% of restored peatland' to 'Number of hectares of peatland (soils and habitats) improved within the Park' to reflect improved condition due to reduced grazing as well as measures such as grip blocking

National Park Topic	National Park Indicator	Baseline 2012		Source
Education	Number of groups undertaking outdoor learning in the National Park	2610 children and 470 adults 12 different Equality Groups.		NPA
Volunteering	Number of volunteer rangers	25		NPA
Rural Economy	GDP growth in NP	GDP factor cost	£119,500,000	Scottish Enterprise
		Gross Value Added	£155,100,000	
	Inward Investment in the National Park	Argyll and Bute		Local Authorities
		Tourism	£160,000	
		Other Business	£200,000	
		Housing	£2,325,000	
		Total	£2,685,000	
		Stirling		Local Authorities
		Tourism	£235,000	
		Other Business	£200,000	
		Community	£685,000	
		Housing	£1,182,965	
		Total	£2,302,965	
		West Dunbartonshire		Local Authorities
		Business	£112,722	
		Housing	£210,000	
		Total	£322,722	
Business	Number of business start-ups	81		Scottish Enterprise
Communities	Number of communities with community action plans revised within past 3 years	1		NPA
Affordable Housing	% of all new housing that is affordable	75%		NPA
Renewable Energy	Mw generated from renewable sources	147.1mw		NPA
Transport	Number of people using water transport	11,170		NPA



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