Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park and John Muir Trust
Impact Report
Celebrating over five years of successful partnership working

2013 | 2019
KEY PARTNERSHIP OUTCOMES

Since 2013

24% INCLUSION
Around 1 in 4 people who completed their John Muir Award were experiencing some form of disadvantage

9,257 AWARDS
including Discovery, Explorer, Conserver and Family Awards

130 PARTNER ORGANISATIONS
including schools, outdoor centres, youth & community groups, employability organisations and families

19 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
engaging 298 professionals and volunteers within and surrounding the National Park

24% INCLUSION
Around 1 in 4 people who completed their John Muir Award were experiencing some form of disadvantage

19 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
engaging 298 professionals and volunteers within and surrounding the National Park

4 SHARING EVENTS
engaging 71 participants and hosted by Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park and the John Muir Trust

10 CASE STUDIES AND STORIES
from schools, outdoor education centres, youth groups, families, staff teams, individuals and volunteers

2 CONSERVE AUDITS
summarising how the John Muir Award is helping to care for Loch Lomond & The Trossachs

2 FOCUSED COURSES
‘Dark Skies in National Parks’ stargazing event and a Literacy & Nature workshop

7 NATIONAL PARK STAFF TEAM AWARDS
John Muir Award for staff development

Staff Award Record eBook

Staff Award Case Study

The Lost Words
Introducing the Partnership

In 2013 a mutually beneficial partnership was formed to manage John Muir Award activity in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. Its purpose was to promote environmental engagement and outdoor learning in and around the National Park.

The partnership supports one day per week dedicated staff time and helps deliver National Park Partnership Plan 2018 - 2023 outcomes across visitor experience, conservation & land management, and rural development.

Conservation & Land Management

John Muir Award participants are helping to care for Scotland’s wild places meeting National Park conservation outcomes and contributing towards Scotland’s 2020 Biodiversity Action Challenge.

The John Muir Award encourages people to enjoy, connect with and care for nature, heritage and landscapes. Its simple structure supports multiple benefits for all – curriculum, adventure, health & wellbeing, skills and personal development. It allows people to engage with complex and challenging agendas such as climate change.

- Conserve audit[1] results show that in two years approximately 6000 John Muir Award participants contributed an average of 6 hours per person towards caring for wild places within Scotland’s National Parks.
- These biodiversity and conservation activities included contributing to three of the five Wild Challenges in WildPark2020, (Red Squirrels, Invasive non-native Species and Our Woodland Habitat).

Case Study - Ardroy OEC

“It’s fantastic that Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre has got so many young people engaged with biodiversity and invasive species removal through the John Muir Award. It’s had a really positive impact for wildlife in the area, and helps achieve some key actions in our National Park Biodiversity Action Plan – Wildpark 2020.”

Maggie McCallum
Award Recipient

Linda Winskill
National Park Biodiversity Officer

Case Study - Volunteer Experience

In just one year alone, John Muir Award groups removed 364m² of invasive Rhododendron from Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park.

[1] Conserve Audit - a monitoring exercise to identify the amount and type of activity carried out to meet the Conserve Challenge of the John Muir Award.

“It was amazing fun and it felt great to help save our native trees”

“I enjoyed my conservation work because it got me outdoors but for a reason”
Visitor Experience

The John Muir Award offers a flexible, practical and experienced based framework that encourages engagement with people from all backgrounds, including those experiencing disadvantage. Visiting John Muir Award groups can make use of the National Park’s Education Travel Grant, Ranger Support and Education Resources, however, the majority of groups are self-funded and led.

Visitor Management

The flexible framework of the John Muir Award encourages active travel, sustainability, minimising impact, care, respect and responsibility (Scottish Outdoor Access Code), preventing and managing litter, reducing visitor pressure and backing national campaigns such as the Great Global Nurdle Hunt.

In 2014, 8 young people from across Europe worked towards a Discovery John Muir Award through a National Trust for Scotland week-long Trailblazer camp at Ben Lomond where they worked on path maintenance and enhancement. Watch and listen to the students reflections [here](#).

John Muir Award participants from Scout Adventures, Lochgoilhead took part in a beach clean and litter survey at Carrick beach. Award groups strengthen efforts to prevent and manage litter in line with the number one priority from the park’s [5 Year Plan](#).

Engagement and Learning

In the 2017-18 academic year, the John Muir Award contributed to learning with over 100 school, youth and family groups using the National Park to meet curriculum, community learning and youth work outcomes. The John Muir Trust have engaged 86 teachers through training events in the National Park over the past five years. The Award has helped teachers promote and meet Professional Standards, providing a pathway for gaining Professional Recognition through the National Park’s Teaching in Nature Programme.

Ardfern Case Study
Bonhill Primary Case Study

“We want pupils within and close to Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park to visit, to see what’s here, and to enjoy it. It’s important to give them a chance to find out for themselves what’s special about the Park. Getting hands-on with nature is the best way to appreciate why it’s important to respect and look after it.”

Alison Cush
Education & Inclusion Adviser

Donibristle Primary John Muir Award Film
JOHN MUIR TRUST
DELIVERING THE NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP PLAN

Visitor Experience

Health and Learning
Participating in a John Muir Award encourages activity that promotes wellbeing - Five Ways to Wellbeing. The Award helps engage people where social circumstances may be a barrier to participation including mental health, addiction recovery, and family support programmes.

Glasgow Friends of Ben Lomond is a National Trust for Scotland volunteering group for men from Glasgow experiencing or recovering from mental health problems. The John Muir Award offered an opportunity to engage more deeply with the environment at Ben Lomond, considering their impact upon it.

87%
Parents and children at 3D Drumchapel said that doing their John Muir Award made them feel happier or more positive!

Family Award Impact Report

Year of Young People 2018
As part of Year of Young People the John Muir Trust supported the National Park Youth Committee; 11 young people who live in or near to the National Park who are passionate about supporting the work of the National Park and sharing their ideas and enthusiasm.

Oscar, National Park Youth Committee member, shares his connections with the outdoors in the National Park. What this John Muir Trust film here.

30 young people joined a #NatureJam event in Balloch supported by Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park and the John Muir Trust. The team removed a heap of invasive Himalayan Balsam, built a new path in Balloch and tested their hand at Japanese Printing (Hapa Zome) using leaves.

#NatureJam film
“Great day in Balloch Country Park for a Nature Jam. Great day doing some conservation, learning and doing some nature art.”
- Participant Tweet

Rural Development

Sustainable Population
The John Muir Award provides a nationally recognised certificate for all who have met its criteria building confidence and improving self-esteem, recognising achievement, and providing real life tangible experiences, valuable for moving towards employment. This contributes to Developing the Young Workforce - Scotland’s Youth Employment Strategy. The Employability and John Muir Award is an overview of how the Award is being used to help participants move towards employment.

Ceara, Kevin and Mathew
The Mountains & The People trainees, gained Conserver Awards as part of their Environmental Conservation traineeship. Their traineeship and Award delivered high quality, accredited, employment based training and skills for work.

“I was proud to secure my John Muir Conserver Award at a ceremony last night. Enjoyable experience for anyone working in and loving the great outdoors.”
- Kevin Unitt, Conserver Award

© Ben Lomond Ranger Service
© Martin MacLeod
DEDICATED & REFERENCED RESOURCES

- Branded John Muir Award certificates
- Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park help fund the John Muir Award Record eBook
- Branded John Muir Award Record Books
- Mission: Explore National Parks
- Dedicated John Muir Award webpages
- National Park Resource Guide
- John Muir Way activity guide
- Zeki Basan John Muir Way film with interview of Alison Cush, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

Ebook partners

The John Muir Award Record eBook is supported by our generous partners

10 case studies and stories
JOHN MUIR AWARD IN THE NATIONAL PARK

The purpose of the partnership is for the John Muir Award to become the principal environmental engagement and outdoor learning scheme promoted by Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority because:

- it is a flexible, practical and experienced based learning scheme that can be used by a wide range of learners from inclusion groups\(^3\) to self-guided individuals
- it encourages outdoor activity and links participants to first-hand experience of wildness and the natural environment
- it increases people’s understanding of the special qualities of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs and of John Muir (the Scottish born ‘founder’ of National Parks)
- it is a nationally recognised scheme that effectively assists with the delivery of the Curriculum for Excellence\(^4\)

Looking Forward
Between 2019 and 2020 we will continue to monitor John Muir Award activity within the National Park that helps mitigate and address the impacts of climate change.

We will better use the insights, interactions and experiences of young people to understand, and respond to their needs. Through exploring new digital solutions, collaborations and partnerships, we can develop further support and opportunities to meet these needs.

The John Muir Trust will continue to support the National Park in delivering outcomes around a number of different priorities from the National Park Partnership Plan 2018 - 2023\(^5\) from conservation & land management, visitor experience to rural development.

“In it’s fantastic to see the progress achieved through the partnership between Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park and The John Muir Trust since August 2013, and to see the benefits for both Award participants and for the environment in and around the National Park. We look forward to facilitating even more learning opportunities and experiences in the years to come.”

Gordon Watson
Chief Executive Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

Contact
Scotland Project Manager
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs
National Park Authority
Carrochan
Carrochan Road
Balloch G83 8EG

email sarah@johnmuiraward.org
Tel 0141 420 5021

[4] Find out how the John Muir Award supports the Curriculum for Excellence
[5] Read the full National Park Partnership Plan