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Chairman, Cairngorms Biodiversity Partnership  
(affiliated to the National Park Authority)

  
Barbara Bremner  
Chair,  
Caithness Biodiversity Group

  
Jon Hollingdale  
Chairman,  
Community Woodlands Association

  
David Green  
Chairman  
Crofters Commission

  
Ian Pritchard  
Head of Scottish Marine Estate,  
The Crown Estate

  
Nick Reiter  
Director,  
Deer Commission Scotland

  
Steve Hunt  
Director,  
Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group

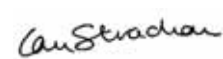
  
Bob Dunsmore  
Conservator,  
Forestry Commission Scotland

  
Murdo Macdonald  
Chairman,  
Highland Biological Recording Group

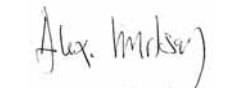
  
Cllr William Ross  
Sustainable Development  
Select Committee Chairman,  
Highland Council


  
Sandy Cumming  
Chief Executive,  
Highlands & Islands Enterprise

  
Cllr Margaret Davidson  
Chair, Inverness & Nairn Biodiversity Group  
(affiliated to the Partnership for Rural Inverness & Nairn)

  
Ian Strachan  
Chairman,  
Lochaber Biodiversity Group


  
Calum Duncan  
Scottish Officer,  
Marine Conservation Society


  
Alex Lindsay  
Regional Director,  
National Trust for Scotland

  
Fran Lockhart  
Member,  
Ross & Cromarty (East) Biodiversity Group

  
George Campbell  
Regional Manager,  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

  
Gillian McKnight  
Manager, SAC Conservation Services,  
Scottish Agricultural College


  
Dr. Chris Spray  
Director of Environmental Science,  
Scottish Environment Protection Agency

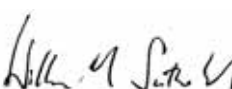
  
Anne Rae  
Principal Agricultural Officer,  
Highland Area, SEERAD  
(Scottish Executive Environment  
& Rural Affairs Department)

  
Jeff Watson  
Director of Strategy & Operations,  
Scottish Natural Heritage

  
Rhoderick Noble  
Highland Chairman,  
Scottish Rural Property & Business Association

  
Peter Tilbrook  
North Committee Chairman,  
Scottish Wildlife Trust

  
Ian Turnbull  
Interim Chairman,  
Skye & Lochalsh Environmental Forum

  
William Sutherland  
Chairman,  
Sutherland Biodiversity Group  
(affiliated to the Sutherland Partnership)

  
Aaron Forsyth  
Chairman,  
Wester Ross Environment Network  
(affiliated to the Wester Ross Alliance)

  
Michael Comerford  
Chairman  
Moray Firth Partnership



# HIGHLAND BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT



The above signatories have agreed to support the Highland Biodiversity Partnership Agreement from January 2006 to December 2007

For further information, contact:

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Images taken from the Caithness Biodiversity Collection  
(Photographers: Iain Sarjeant, Ken Crossan, Sue Scott)



# HIGHLAND BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT





## Introduction

The Highland Biodiversity Partnership comprises 20 - 30 representatives from local groups and key organisations committed to understanding, safeguarding, restoring and celebrating biodiversity within the Highland Council area.

Its purpose is to provide guidance and support to the existing network of local biodiversity groups, and to make progress on the key strategic biodiversity issues in the Highlands.






## Our Aims

The aims of the Highland Biodiversity Partnership are:

-  To identify and address strategic and / or pan-Highland biodiversity issues.
-  To review and monitor biodiversity actions contained within the seven Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs), with reference to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plans.
-  To provide a link between local groups and national biodiversity strategies, action plans and reporting procedures.
-  To raise awareness and promote biodiversity by championing individual LBAPs and biodiversity issues generally.

## Our Commitment

In recognition of the above, we the undersigned pledge our co-operation, commitment and support to the Highland Biodiversity Partnership and undertake to use our best endeavours to:

-  Take cognisance of the Highland LBAPs in the day-to-day business of our organisations.
-  Identify sources of funding to deliver an improved Highland Biodiversity Network, provide support to local groups and finance future grant schemes.
-  Produce a Highland Biodiversity Action Plan identifying the key strategic actions emerging from the 8 Highland LBAPs and for each action, identify a 'SMART target that can be delivered in the next three years.
-  Provide guidance and support to local biodiversity groups and help them produce an Implementation Plan that, building on their LBAP, identifies who will undertake which actions and when.
-  Monitor and report on progress with the Highland Biodiversity Action Plan and constituent LBAPs at local, regional and national levels.

## Governance

The Partnership will operate on the following principles:

-  **Legal Status:** The Partnership itself will hold no legal status, but in signing this Agreement members agree to work together to deliver the Highland LBAPs and address individual biodiversity issues as they arise.
-  **Membership:** Meetings will be open to Partnership members and members have the ability to introduce new members as deemed appropriate. Co-opted representatives may be invited to attend to discuss specific items of business.
-  **Meetings:** The Partnership will meet on an infrequent basis – i.e. once or twice per annum, although further meetings may be required at the outset and from time to time to deal with large issues.
-  **Sub Group:** A Sub Group comprising 6 - 8 Partnership members will meet more frequently to undertake agreed tasks and report back to the wider membership.
-  **Project Management:** The Sub Group will put in place separate arrangements for funding and managing any individual projects under the auspices of the Highland Biodiversity Partnership as appropriate.
-  **Working Groups:** The Partnership will convene smaller Working Groups as necessary to address specific issues arising from the Highland LBAPs.
-  **Chair:** Initial meetings will be chaired by Cllr Ian Ross, Chairman of Highland Councils Sustainable Development Select Committee. Once the Partnership is established, members will elect a new Chair from amongst their number, rotating on a three year basis or as otherwise agreed.
-  **Administration:** The Partnership will be serviced by the Councils Biodiversity Officers.
-  **Budget:** Unless otherwise agreed, the Council will hold and manage any associated budget and finances.
-  **Voting:** Every effort will be made to reach decisions by consensus but where a vote must be taken, the minimum number of members required at meetings is 15.
-  **Reporting:** The Partnership will report regularly to the Highland Wellbeing Alliance, Sustainable Development Select Committee and other Groups and Forums as deemed appropriate by members.
-  **Relationship to other Groups:** The Partnership will promote new and existing relationships with other groups and forums operating in the biodiversity arena.
-  **Badenoch & Strathspey:** The Partnership will liaise with the Cairngorms Biodiversity Steering Group over relevant issues and projects in Badenoch & Strathspey.
-  **Highland Biodiversity Forum:** The Partnership will set up and manage a Forum of stakeholders and local enthusiasts, which will be open to anyone with an interest in biodiversity to join.
-  **Annual Seminar:** An annual seminar will be held to listen to views from, and report on progress to, members of the Highland Biodiversity Forum.
-  **Publicity:** The Partnership will publicise progress updates twice a year through a newsletter and the website [www.highlandbiodiversity.com](http://www.highlandbiodiversity.com).
-  **Acknowledgements:** The Partners agree that in conducting the Partnership and in publicising its work, full recognition will be given to the support of each Partner.
-  **Termination:** Any member will be entitled to withdraw from the Partnership on giving one month written notice to its Chair.