

# Highland Environment Forum

## 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016

### OVERVIEW OF SRDP:

The new SRDP schemes were launched in early 2015 and include the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme ([AECS](#)) these replace the RDC [Rural Priorities](#) Scheme.

AECS includes Improving Public Access ([IPA](#)).

The [ECAAF](#) scheme (Environmental Co-operation Action Fund) launched on 6/10/15.



# Agri-Environment Climate Change Scheme – AECS

- **What is it?**
- **What does it include?**
- **How much money is available?**



# Agri-Environment Climate Change Scheme – AECS

## What will it deliver?

- deliver the [2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity](#) by supporting appropriate management for vulnerable and iconic species and habitats, strengthening ecological networks, controlling invasive non-native species and enhancing the condition of protected nature sites
- contribute to Scotland's world-leading climate change targets by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture and securing carbon stores in peatlands and other organic soils
- meet obligations to improve water quality under the EU Water Framework Directive by reducing diffuse pollution
- control flooding through natural flood risk management
- support organic farming
- preserve the historic environment
- improve public access



# Agri-Environment Climate Change Scheme – AECS

## Who will deliver the scheme?

- The scheme will be delivered jointly by the Rural Payments and Inspections Division (RPID) of the Scottish Government and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).
- **What will SNH deliver**
  - Proposals on designated site
  - Deer related case (Delivering Favourable Condition)
  - Peat land Restoration cases



# Agri-Environment Climate Change Scheme – AECS

## IPA – Improving Public Access

- The aim of this item is to support new and upgraded paths for public use, providing:
  - improved links and connectivity
  - improved path conditions
  - barrier-free access for all



# Agri-Environment Climate Change Scheme – AECS

## ECAF – Environmental Co-operation Fund

- The Environmental Co-operation Action Fund (ECAF) is a new £10 million scheme which is part of SRDP. The purpose of ECAF is to encourage the development and delivery of landscape scale environmental projects by paying facilitators to initiate and enable co-operation between land holdings in a project area.



# Agri-Environment Climate Change Scheme – AECS

