

# A Statement of Intent



**Scottish Natural Heritage**  
**Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba**

All of nature for all of Scotland  
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad



**Game & Wildlife**  
**CONSERVATION TRUST**  
*Scotland*

# Statement of Intent between the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust and Scottish Natural Heritage

- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) enjoy a good working relationship, and share many common objectives for the countryside. Over the last five years we have worked together on more than 10 projects. We have a particular joint interest in testing and promoting sustainable, multiple-benefit land-uses; a key example of this is the conservation and management measures being developed through the Langholm Moor Demonstration Project.
- This joint statement re-affirms each organisation's appreciation of the other's interests, and describes arrangements for future liaison and co-operation.

## Scottish Natural Heritage

- SNH, established by Parliament in 1992, is the Scottish Government's statutory body responsible for promoting the conservation, enhancement, understanding, enjoyment and sustainable use of Scotland's natural heritage – the wildlife, habitats and landscapes which have evolved in Scotland through the long partnership between people and nature. It acts as statutory adviser to the Government, undertakes projects, and provides advice and funding to others contributing to these objectives.
- Following the merger with the Deer Commission for Scotland in 2010, SNH has acquired new functions. These give SNH a greater focus on wildlife management, as part of a broader approach to securing healthy ecosystems that better support all natural and human life into the future through the sustainable use of the resources and services they provide. In this respect, SNH aims to secure the sustainable management of Scotland's wildlife in order to deliver what is best for Scotland's people, economy and environment. Four activities are important for this:
  - Promoting management of populations of wild animals to secure sustainable economic and social benefits, resolve land use conflicts, and minimise negative environmental impacts;
  - Working more closely with wildlife managers to build relationships founded on trust and mutual respect for each other's knowledge and experience;
  - Raising understanding of how wildlife and their management contribute to ecosystem services – to the economy, people's well-being, and species conservation; and
  - Developing common objectives for wildlife and other land uses so that integrated management can help balance these.



## Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust

- The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) is an independent charity, the objectives of which are to promote the conservation of game species, associated habitats and species particularly through research into ecosystem function and educating the public in game biology and the conservation of game. GWCT believes the public's interest in healthy wildlife and habitats is well served by the responsible application of game management principles, as recognised by the Convention on Biodiversity.
- These principles accept that the active intervention of people into ecosystems to achieve sustainable harvests of game requires disease, habitat and predator management to raise the productivity and thus the population size of valued species which:
  - Supports biodiversity and delivers a sustainable representation and balance of species in Scottish ecosystems.
- The Trust is funded by the subscriptions and donations of members, by grants from Government bodies (including SNH) and by sponsors within the private sector. The Trust employs over 60 scientists, with almost half of them at the post-doctoral level. The Trust conveys its findings to its members, to other scientists, the wider public and to politicians and officials who take decisions which affect game and wildlife conservation.
- An associated company, Game & Wildlife Conservation Trading Ltd, provides practical advice on game and wildlife conservation and habitat management through a national network of advisers who make site visits throughout the UK and abroad. GWC Trading Ltd also runs game and wildlife management courses.



## In working together:

- GWCT recognises and supports the statutory role of SNH in the conservation, management and enhancement of Scotland's diverse range of landscapes, habitats and wildlife; and
- SNH recognises good practice, private sector wildlife and habitat management is at the heart of effective landscape scale

conservation, that field sports and game conservation are important drivers of this, and that GWCT research and advice plays an important role in securing the beneficial contributions made by these activities.

## Both organisations recognise the importance of:

- Research programmes in supporting evidence-based policy for game and sport fisheries management and the wider positive benefits these provide for people and biodiversity; and
- Raising awareness and understanding of these benefits amongst

Government, policy advisers, land and wildlife management practitioners, and the public so as to meet a range of practical, social, economic and environmental needs.



© Laurie Campbell

## Together we shall:

- Find balanced, practical and cost effective solutions to sustain and improve biodiversity;
  - Promote good practice in animal welfare;
  - Promote awareness of and adherence to wildlife and countryside legislation and codes of practice;
  - Develop the evidence base on both the extent and impacts of game and wildlife management on the environment, and how game and wildlife management might offer adaptation and mitigation measures relevant to environmental change issues;
  - Raise awareness amongst land managers of the importance of game and wildlife management in delivering multiple
- benefits, such as rural income and employment and enhanced conservation value in working landscapes;
  - Seek evidence-led management and resolution of conflicts between species of conservation value themselves and between different social, environmental and economic objectives;
  - Recognise and promote the responsibilities inherent in public enjoyment of the countryside;
  - Strive to improve the connections between people and the land by raising public awareness of game and wildlife management practices and the environmental, social and economic benefits they provide.

# These objectives will be achieved by:

- Sharing specialist knowledge and experience in collaborating over conservation and management of protected areas;
  - Contributing to the development of a strategic framework for wildlife management;
  - Identifying the constraints and opportunities relating to conservation conflicts which can be used to develop adaptive management plans;
  - Undertaking jointly-funded research projects, including experimental manipulations, and agreeing how their findings will be published;
  - Continuing to promote demonstration opportunities which achieve multiple benefits through management for game – for example the Langholm Moor Demonstration Project, and through collaborative advisory service events;
  - Encouraging land and wildlife managers to take an active role in monitoring their contribution to countryside conservation;
  - Contributing to the training of Scottish Government/SNH/GWCT staff and others involved in game and wildlife management – for example, disseminating new science through developing Sharing Good Practice or similar events;
  - Jointly working to produce publicly available information eg. guidance notes, information booklets and web-based material;
  - Giving early consideration to work on Special Protection Areas and SNH managed National Nature Reserves; the conservation status of game species and improving woodcock, ptarmigan and mountain hare monitoring; predation impacts on and management options for capercaillie; studies of buzzard and raven impacts; and wider uses of the National Gamebag Census.
- Senior officers from each organisation shall meet at least once a year by the end of September to review liaison, co-operation and achievements. This Statement shall be supported by a work programme covering collaborative working and reporting of the results. This agreement shall be reviewed at three-yearly intervals, or at other intervals as agreed mutually.

Signed for Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (Registered Nos: 1112023; SC038868)

---

Signed for Scottish Natural Heritage

---

This day, Friday 1 July 2011

Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, The Control Tower, Perth Airport, Scone, Perthshire, PH2 6LP  
[www.gwct.org.uk](http://www.gwct.org.uk)

Scottish Natural Heritage, Battleby House, Redgorton, Perthshire  
[www.snh.gov.uk](http://www.snh.gov.uk)

© Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust and Scottish Natural Heritage. No reproduction without permission. All rights reserved.  
July 2011.

