



# Scotland's moorland

Unique and Important

A Statement of Intent

March 2002

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## **We recognise**

- ◆ That Scotland's moorland is host to habitats and wildlife of European importance;
- ◆ The outstanding economic and conservation importance of well-managed moorland in rural Scotland, and its important contribution to the image of Scotland;
- ◆ The local demise of moorland interests and degree of habitat loss/fragmentation arising from deer and sheep grazing, afforestation, cessation of active management, and possibly climate change and predation;
- ◆ That biodiversity has declined in many upland areas over the last 20 years;
- ◆ That management for sporting interests (grouse moor management in particular) can provide for some of the best moorland for plants and animals;
- ◆ That many grouse moors have ceased to operate since the mid-1970s; and
- ◆ The need to integrate land management issues with public access.

## **Together, we shall:**

- a Continue to pursue opportunities to develop public-private finance support measures to help assist moorland management;
- b Develop a programme of work to support Scotland's moorlands founded on good management for grouse moors, hill farms, deer management, recreation and nature conservation;
- c Promote activities which enhance the local economy and tourism-related values of moorland;
- d Strive to eliminate all illegal practices, not least the persecution of birds of prey, and continue to encourage adherence to all wildlife and countryside legislation;
- e Develop partnerships to fund demonstration projects and research to improve the management and conservation of moorland; and
- f Contribute collectively to revisions of policies addressing moorland issues.

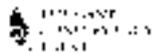
## Principal Signatories

### Moorland Working Group Members



Game Conservancy Scottish Research Trustees

*C. S. R. Stoyan*



The Game Conservancy Trust

*Andrew Cumber-Quinn*



Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

*Stuart Howard*



Scottish Landowners' Federation

*Colin Bell*



Scottish Natural Heritage

*Roy Beag*

## Supporting Organisations



Association of Deer Management Groups



British Association for Shooting and Conservation

*Bl. Hughes*



The Crofters' Commission



Deer Commission for Scotland

*[Signature]*



Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group

*[Signature]*



Highland Birchwoods

*Michael Scott*



The Heather Trust



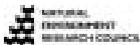
The Macaulay Institute



National Farmers' Union of Scotland



The National Trust for Scotland



The Natural Environment Research Council



Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in Scotland



Scottish Association for Country Sports



The Scottish Crofting Foundation



The Scottish Gamekeepers' Association



Scottish Raptor Study Groups



Scottish Wildlife Trust



VisitScotland



WWF Scotland (World Wide Fund for Nature)

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*Alan Budge*

*Steve Allen*

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*Alan Hogg*

*Ranoch Sicking Auld*

*Steve Dunlop*

## Next steps

**We shall work together to implement the Birds Directive and Habitats Directive, in our collective desire to improve Scotland's moorland ecosystems.**

**During 2002–04, we shall:**

- ◆ Bid for major funding to support the maintenance and, where appropriate, improvement of moorland habitats, and plant and animal populations, thereby helping to sustain local economies;
- ◆ Stimulate the uptake of legal management practices on moorland areas, especially to reduce any impacts of birds of prey on the red grouse harvest. Specifically, we shall produce a timetable with clear targets seeking to resolve the current conflicts over grouse and birds of prey, in line with the recommendations in the report of the UK Raptor Working Group published in February 2000;
- ◆ Contribute to Government policy development on moorland issues especially that which requires the integration of sporting related management (involving grouse, deer and lowland game) with other land uses, notably agriculture and tourism;
- ◆ Continue the progress made at Langholm to reduce in the short-term the impact of birds of prey on red grouse. Specifically, we shall further examine through research those management techniques which aim to reduce the impacts of birds of prey on red grouse numbers;
- ◆ Seek greater investment in sustainable land management practices in the uplands in order to create further employment opportunities in rural areas;
- ◆ Promote good management practices, and have in place a series of demonstration sites and training events in order to share knowledge, experience and best practice; and
- ◆ Raise the public profile and appreciation of the moorland resource.





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