

<p>Coimisean nam Pàircean Nàiseanta - Co-chomhairleachadh luchd-ùidhe</p> <p>Freagairt Bhòrd na Gàidhlig</p> <p>15 Samhain 2022</p>	<p>National Parks Commission – Stakeholder Consultation</p> <p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig Response</p> <p>15 November 2022</p>
<p>Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a’ cur fàilte air a’ chothrom freagairt a thoirt don cho-chomhairleachadh seo. ’S e Bòrd na Gàidhlig a’ phrìomh bhuidheann phoblach ann an Alba a tha an urra ri a bhith a’ cur air adhart leasachadh na Gàidhlig, a’ gabhail a-steach comhairle a thoirt do Mhinistearan na h-Alba air cùisean Gàidhlig. ’S e ar n-amas gum faicear is gun cluinnear a’ Ghàidhlig gu làitheil air feadh na h-Alba, air dhòigh 's gun tèid aithneachadh gu farsaing gu bheil i aig cridhe beatha na h-Alba agus na stòras cultarach is eaconamach.</p> <p>’S e amas a’ Phlana Cànain Nàiseanta Ghàidhlig 2018-23 gun tèid “a’ Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh nas trice, le barrachd dhaoine agus ann an raon nas fharsaing de shuidheachaidhean”. Bheirear seo gu buil le bhith a’ fòcasadh air:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cur am meud cleachdadh na Gàidhlig. • Cur am meud ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig. • Cur air adhart deagh ìomhaigh den Ghàidhlig. <p>Tha Gàidhlig ga bruidhinn air feadh na h-Alba. Tha mu 50% de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a’ fuireach air a’ Ghàidhealtachd agus sna h-Eileanan, agus càch air feadh Alba air fad. A rèir Cunntas-sluaigh 2011, bha sgìlean Gàidhlig aig 87,100 daoine (mu 1.7% den àireamh-shluaigh), agus 57,600 dhiubh dham b’ urrainn Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn.</p> <p>Tha iarrtas airson cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig a’ sìor-fhàs agus airson nam buannachdan foghlaim, eaconomaigeach is sòisealta a bhuineas dhaibh.</p>	<p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation. Bòrd na Gàidhlig is the principal public body in Scotland responsible for promoting Gaelic development, including providing advice to Scottish Ministers on Gaelic issues. Our aim is that Gaelic is seen and heard on a daily basis across Scotland, such that it is widely recognised as an integral part of Scottish life and a national cultural and economic asset.</p> <p>The aim of the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23 is “that Gaelic is used more often, by more people and in a wider range of situations”. This will be achieved by focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the use of Gaelic. • Increasing the learning of Gaelic. • Promoting a positive image of Gaelic. <p>Gaelic is spoken across Scotland. About 50% of Gaelic speakers live in the Highlands and Islands with the remainder in the rest of Scotland. At the 2011 Census 87,100 people in Scotland had Gaelic skills (around 1.7% of the population), of which 57,600 were Gaelic speakers.</p> <p>There is a growing demand for Gaelic language and culture with related educational, economic, and social benefits.</p>

Tha an t-iarrrtas airson Gàidhlig ionnsachadh follaiseach san àrdachadh mhòr de dhaoine a tha a' gabhail ris an app/làrach-lìn ionnsachadh cànan Duolingo air a bheil ceudan de mhiltean de dhaoine ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig ann an Alba agus air feadh na cruinne. Tha cur air bhog SpeakGaelic san t-Sultain 2021 cuideachd air cur gu mòr ri goireasan do dh'inbhich a tha airson a dhol an sàs sa Ghàidhlig agus an cànan ionnsachadh.

Fhuair Suirbhidh Beachdan Sòisealta na h-Alba 2021: Beachdan Pòball na h-Alba air a' Ghàidhlig, an coimeas ri 2012:

- Gu bheil a' cho-chuid a tha ag ràdh gur urrainn dhaibh co-dhiù corra fhacal Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn air dùblachadh bho 15% gu 30%.
- Gu bheil a' cho-chuid a tha ag ràdh gun tuig iad co-dhiù beagan Gàidhlig air a dhol am meud bho 25% gu 41%.

A bharrachd air sin, tha 79% de dhaoine a' smaointinn gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig an dara cuid cudromach no glè chudromach do dhualchas cultarach na h-Alba.

Mar thoradh air na puingeann a dh'ainmicheadh gu h-àrd, agus na puingeann a leanas, bu chòir gu bheil cultar is cànan nan Gàidheal a' cluiche pàirt chudromach san dreuchd a bhios aig a' Phàirc Nàiseanta ùr, no na Pàircean Nàiseanta ùra, a thèid a chruthachadh.

Tha Gàidhlig na cànan nàiseanta a tha air a bruidhinn air feadh na h-Alba.

Tha a' Ghàidhlig deatamach airson tuigse fhaighinn air a' chultar a tha ceangailte ri iomadh sgìre ann an Alba.

Tha an sgrìobhainn ullachadh-sgeòil ag ràdh: "Tha Pàircean Nàiseanta gan stèidheachadh gus cuid den rogha de fhiadh-bheatha, cruthan-tìre, seallaidhean-mara agus dualchas cultarach na dùthcha a dhìon agus a mheudachadh". Thathar a' gabhail ris san fharsaingeachd gu bheil dualchas cultarach neo-stuthach a cheart cho cudromach 's a tha an dualchas fiosaigeach. Tha cànan na phàirt chudromach de dhualchas cultarach neo-stuthach

The **demand for learning Gaelic** is evident in the huge uptake for the Duolingo language learning app/website which has hundreds of thousands of people learning Gaelic in Scotland and across the globe. The launch of SpeakGaelic in September 2021 has also greatly contributed to resources for adults who want to engage with and learn the language.

The "Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2021: Public Attitudes to Gaelic in Scotland" found that since 2012:

- The proportion who say they can speak at least the odd word of Gaelic has doubled from 15% to 30%.
- The proportion who say they can understand at least a little Gaelic has increased from 25% to 41%.

Further, 79% of people think Gaelic is either very or fairly important to Scotland's cultural heritage.

Given the above, and the following points, there is a need to ensure that Gaelic language and culture are a central part of role of the new National Park(s) that are created.

Gaelic is a national language which is spoken across Scotland.

The Gaelic language is vital to understanding the culture associated with many areas of Scotland.

The scene setting document states that "National Parks are established to protect and enhance some of a nation's finest wildlife, landscapes, seascapes and cultural heritage". It is generally accepted that intangible cultural heritage is of equal importance to physical heritage. Language is a key part of intangible cultural heritage and is related to its landscape, culture, and society.



agus tha e ceangailte ris a' chruth-tìre, cultar agus comann-sòisealta.

Chaidh a h-uile cruth-tìre ann an Alba a chumadh le daoine. Bha mòran dhiubh nan luchd-bruidhinn na Gàidhlig, a thug ainmean do dh'aitichean is feartan-tìre topografach. Tha an ceangal eachdraidheil seo, agus an dualchas beò, nam pàirtean a tha a cheart cho cudromach airson an àrainneachd a thuigsinn agus a dhìon, agus airson cur ri sunnd is tlachd a gheibh daoine às an àrainneachd nàdarra.

Thathar air toirt fa-near ¹:

"Tha a' Ghàidhlig, agus an cultar agus dualchas a thèid còmhla rithe, a' toirt uinneag air leth fiosrachail air a' chruth-tìre agus air na eag-shiostaman nàdarra, agus eadar-obrachaidh mhic an duine leis an dà chuid, air Gàidhealtachd na h-Alba thairis air ùine glè fhada, agus mar sin tha iad buntainneach do bharrachd choitcheann muinntir na h-Alba air an tìr aca agus mar a thathar ga stiùireadh, an-dràsta agus air adhart san àm ti teachd".

Faodaidh ainmean-àite Gàidhlig - agus bàrdachd agus òrain - ann an sgìre innse dhuinn mar a bha daoine beò ann agus mar a bha iad a' beachdachadh air a' chruth-tìre. Bidh iad gar cuideachadh gus cleachdadh fearainn eachdraidheil a chomharrachadh, a bharrachd air nàdar agus gnìomhachas agus factaran eile. Tha iad mar chuimhneachan air an dualchas Gàidhlig a tha fhathast a' dol tron chruth-tìre.

Le bhith a' tuigsinn a' chruth-tìre Ghàidhlig agus ag àrdachadh aire air aon de chànanan dùthchasach na h-Alba, bithear a' neartachadh na dòigh sam bi cruth-tìre na h-Alba agus an dualchas cànanach agus cultarach aige a' tàladh dhaoine agus a' daingneachadh na faireachdainn aca gu bheil an cruth-tìre air leth.

Le bhith a' brosnachadh leasachadh a' chàinain, bithear a' neartachadh dearbh-aithne na sgìre agus mothachadh air àite - gach cuid airson luchd-còmhnaidh agus airson luchd-tadhail. Tha seo a' cuideachadh dhaoine gus ceangal a dhèanamh leis, agus tuigse fhaighinn air, àitichean agus

All landscapes in Scotland have been shaped by people. Many of them were Gaelic speakers who gave names to places and topographic features. This historical connection, and the living tradition, are an equally important part of understanding and protecting the environment and contributing to people's sense of wellbeing and enjoyment of the natural environment.

It has been noted² that:

"The Gaelic language, and its attendant culture and heritage give a unique and informative window on the landscape and natural ecosystems, and human interactions with both, in the Scottish Highlands, over a very long period, and therefore possess relevance for the Scottish people's collective view of their land and its management, now and in the future".

Gaelic place names - and poetry and song - in an area can tell us about how people lived and viewed their landscape. They help us to identify historical land use, nature and industry and other factors. They act as a reminder of the Gaelic heritage that still permeates the landscape.

Understanding the Gaelic landscape and increasing awareness of one of Scotland's indigenous languages can **strengthen attraction to, and sense of uniqueness of, the Scottish landscape and its linguistic and cultural heritage.**

Encouraging the development of the language strengthens an area's identity and sense of place - for both residents and visitors. This helps people connect with and understand the places and traditions of where they live or visit. The use

¹ Aithisg Rannsachaidh Àir. 1230 Seirbheisean Eag-shiostaim agus a' Ghàidhlig: Eacarsaich Sgòpaiddh NatureScot 2021

² Research Report No. 1230 Ecosystem Services and Gaelic: a Scoping Exercise NatureScot 2021



traidiseanan an àite far a bheil iad a' fuireach no a' tadhal. Bidh cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a' leigeil le coimhearsnachdan còmhnaidheach tuigse nas fheàrr fhaighinn air an dualchas aca fhèin agus mar sin bithear a' meudachadh am faireachdainne gu bheil iad a' buntainn ris an sgìre.

Tha an teacsa an cois na suirbhìdh air-loidhne ag ràdh:

“Mar sin, chan eil stèidheachadh aon Phàirc Nàiseanta a bharrachd, no barrachd air aon, mar amas ann fhèin, ach feumar fhaicinn ann an co-theacsa de raon de ro-innleachdan is poileasaidhean co-cheangailte a tha aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba.”

Le bhith a' gabhail a-steach cànan is cultar dùthchasach san fhrèam-obrach airson Pàirc Nàiseanta ùr, bithear a' cur ri amas Riaghaltas na h-Alba gum bithear a' meudachadh nan àireamhan de dhaoine a tha a' bruidhinn is ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig a rèir a' Phlana Cànan Nàiseanta Ghàidhlig.

Tha Planaichean Gàidhlig aig an dà Phàirc Nàiseanta a th' ann an-dràsta.. Tha na planaichean a' cur an cèill mar a bhios gach buidheann a' neartachadh cleachdadh, ionnsachadh agus cur air adhart na Gàidhlig anns na pàircean. San dà phàirc sin, tha am brandadh/suaicheantas dà-chànanach, a' nochdadh spèis cho-ionann air a' Ghàidhlig is air a' Bheurla.

Tha Plana Gàidhlig a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh ag ainmeachadh:

- Gu bheil Ùghdarras Pàirc Nàiseanta a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh ag aithneachadh gu bheil Gàidhlig na pàirt bhunaiteach de dhualchas, fèin-aithne is cultar na h-Alba agus na Pàirce.
- Tha luchd-tadhail, agus gu h-àraid an fheadhainn le sinnsirean Albannach, gu mòr airson Gàidhlig fhaicinn/chluinntinn fhad 's a tha iad ann an Alba, agus tha am Monadh Ruadh a' toirt deagh chothrom do dhaoine sin a dhèanamh tron dualchas agus tro na cruthan-tìre againn.
- Tha sinn a' tuigsinn cho cudromach 's a tha e comas a thoirt do bharrachd daoine Gàidhlig a

of Gaelic will allow resident communities to better understand their own heritage and thus increase their sense of belonging.

The text accompanying the online survey states that:

“The establishment of one or more additional National Parks is therefore not only a goal in its own right, but must be seen in the context of a range of connected Scottish Government strategies and policies.”

The incorporation of indigenous language and culture in the framework for a new National Park will contribute to Scottish Government's aim **to increase the numbers of people speaking and learning Gaelic** as per the National Gaelic Language Plan.

There are Gaelic Language Plans (GLPs) for the two existing Scottish National Parks. They set out how each organisation will strengthen the use, learning and promotion of Gaelic in the parks. In both cases, the Park brand/logo is bilingual, demonstrating equal respect for Gaelic and English.

The Cairngorms GLP states that:

- Cairngorms National Park Authority recognises that Gaelic is an integral part of Scotland and the Park's heritage, identity and cultural life.
- Visitors, especially those with Scottish ancestry, are keen to experience Gaelic while in Scotland and the Cairngorms provide an excellent opportunity for people to do so through our culture and landscapes.
- We recognise the importance of enabling more people to use Gaelic as their



chleachdadh mar an dòigh conaltraidh as fheàrr leatha agus mar an dòigh chonaltraidh àbhaisteach a th' aca.

Tha Plana Gàidhlig Loch Laomainn is nan Tròiseachan ag ainmeachadh:

- Gu bheil an t-Ùghdarras ag aithneachadh gu bheil Gàidhlig na pàirt chudromach de dhualchas, dùthchas is cultar na h-Alba.
- Tha a' Ghàidhlig bunaiteach ann a bhith a' tuigsinn agus a' mìneachadh a' chruth-tìre phrìseil againn.
- Tha e ag amas air cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a bhith air a leasachadh agus Gàidhlig air a brosnachadh mar chànan agus mar phàirt chudromach anns a' bheatha chultarail agus ann an cruth-tìre na Pàirce Nàiseanta.

Bhìomaid an dùil gum biodh Plana Gàidhlig aig Pàirc Nàiseanta ùr sam bith.

Tha comas fàis neo-shuarach aig turasachd Ghàidhlig.

Tha seo air aithneachadh le VisitScotland ann an Roinnleachd Turasachd na Gàidhlig do dh'Alba, a tha ag amas air: "Taic a thoirt do mar a thèid fàs a thoirt air eaconamaidh turasachd na h-Alba tro bhith a' toirt cothrom do bharrachd luchd-tadhail gus eòlas a chur air agus a dhol an sàs ann an Gàidhlig agus a cultar.

Dh'ainmich *The Herald* air 21mh Màrt 2022 mar a bhathar a' comharrachadh ciad Sheachdain na Gàidhlig air feadh an t-Saoghail. Dh'ainmich e cuideachd gun robh an àireamh de luchd-tadhail a' sireadh susbaint Ghàidhlig air làrach-lìn VisitScotland air a dhol suas 72% thairis air na ceithir bliadhna mu dheireadh.

Mar a chuireadh an cèill na bu tràithe, tha iarrtas a tha a' sìor-fhàs airson cànan, ionnsachadh is cultar na Gàidhlig. Far a bheilear a' cleachdadh agus a' cur air adhart na Gàidhlig, bithear a' cur ris an luach a gheibh daoine às a' chuairt aca, agus bidh iad a' fàgail nas eòlaiche air a' Ghàidhlig mar gach cuid cànan beò agus mar phàirt den dualchas chultarach.

Leis an àireamh de luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig agus turasachd a tha co-cheangailte ris a' Ghàidhlig a' fàs, tha

preferred and normal mode of communication.

The Loch Lomond & The Trossachs GLP states that:

- The Authority recognises that Gaelic is an integral part of Scotland's heritage, national identity and cultural life.
- The Gaelic language is integral to understanding and interpreting our precious landscape.
- It aims to develop the use and promotion of the Gaelic language and its important role in the cultural life and landscape of the National Park.

We would expect any new National Parks to have a Gaelic Language Plan.

Gaelic tourism has significant growth potential.

This is recognised in VisitScotland's Gaelic Tourism Strategy for Scotland which aims "To support the growth of the Scottish tourism economy through engaging more visitors in discovering and experiencing the unique Gaelic language and its associated culture".

The Herald of 21st March 2022 referred to the celebration of the first ever World Gaelic Week. It also noted that VisitScotland has seen a 72 per cent rise in website visitors seeking out Gaelic content over the last four years.

As set out earlier there is growing demand for Gaelic language, learning and culture. Using and promoting Gaelic adds value to people's visits and they leave knowing more about Gaelic both as a living language and as part of its cultural heritage.

The growth in Gaelic learner numbers and in Gaelic-related tourism represents a tremendous



seo mar chothrom mìorbhaileach airson Pàirc Nàiseanta ùr agus airson nam Pàircean Nàiseanta a th' ann mar-thà. Le bhith a' tàladh dhaoine a tha a' cleachdadh na Gàidhlig no aig a bheil ùidh innte, bithear a' cruthachadh barrachd iomadachd am measg pròifil an luchd-tadhail – agus a' meudachadh na h-àireamh de luchd-tadhail, leis na buannachdan eaconamach a thig còmhla ri sin.

Bidh cleachdadh na Gàidhlig ann an suidheachaidhean leithid nam Pàircean Nàiseanta a' cur ri sunnd dhaoine.

Bidh cànan agus cultar a' cruthachadh fèin-mhiadh, a' brosnachadh fèin-mhisneachd, a' mìneachadh fèin-aithne agus a' leasachadh maitheas na beatha. Bidh seo a' meudachadh sunnd luchd-cleachdaidh, luchd-ionnsachaidh agus luchd-taice na Gàidhlig – aig a bheil moit mhòr às a' Ghàidhlig agus a cultar. Tha a' Ghàidhlig a' cur ris, ann an dòigh dheimhinneach, na bhios na daoine seo a' smaointinn agus a' faireachdainn mu dheidhinn am beathannan.

Fhuair Suirbhidh Beachdan Sòisealta na h-Alba 2021 gu bheil mu thrian (31%) ag ràdh gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig an dara cuid glè chudromach no gu math cudromach don dualchas chultarach aca fhèin. Tha a' Ghàidhlig a' cur ris, ann an dòigh dheimhinneach, na bhios na daoine seo a' smaointinn agus a' faireachdainn mu dheidhinn am beathannan.

Ann an suidheachadh nam Pàircean Nàiseanta, gheibhear meudachadh ann an sunnd tro bhith a' ceangal nàdar agus cànan. Bidh seo a' leigeil le buidhnean Gàidhlig agus luchd-còmhnaidh Gàidhlig a bhith a' faicinn na Gàidhlig ga cleachdadh agus a' toirt chothroman gus a bruidhinn.

Bidh cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a' meudachadh sunnd dhaoine fa leth le bhith a' nochdadh spèis cho-ionann don Ghàidhlig ri taobh na Beurla.. Gabhaidh sin a dhèanamh gach cuid tro cheangal eachdraidheil leis an sgìre ionadail agus mar chànan beò a tha ga cleachdadh an-diugh tro, mar eisimpleir, mìneachadh airson luchd-tadhail..

Mu dheireadh, tha sinn a' moladh gum bu chòir gu bheil a h-uile gnìomhachd foghlaim agus/no goireas foghlaim a tha ga amas air clann is daoine òga ann an Tràth-

opportunity for new and existing National Parks. Attracting people who use or are interested in Gaelic will produce a more diverse visitor profile - and increase visitor numbers with attendant economic benefits.

The use of the Gaelic language in settings such as National Parks contributes to individuals' wellbeing.

Language and culture create self-esteem, nurture self-confidence, define identity and improve quality of life. This increases wellbeing for Gaelic users, learners, and supporters - who have great pride in the Gaelic language and culture. Gaelic contributes positively to what these people think and feel about their lives.

The Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2021 found that around a third (31%) say Gaelic is either very or fairly important to their own cultural heritage. Gaelic contributes positively to what these people think and feel about their lives.

In National Park settings there is an increase in wellbeing through linking nature and language. This will allow Gaelic speaking groups and residents to see the Gaelic language being used and provide opportunities to speak it.

The use of Gaelic will increase individual's wellbeing by demonstrating equal respect for Gaelic alongside English. That is both through the historical connection with the local area and as a living language that is used today through, for example, visitor interpretation.

Finally, we recommend that all educational activities and / or resources aimed at children and young people in Early Years, Primary or



bhliadhnaichean, Bun-sgoil no Àrd-sgoil air a thoirt seachad air stèidh cho-ionann sa Bheurla agus sa Ghàidhlig.

Tha sinn an dòchas gum bi an fhreagairt againn cuideachail agus taiceil. Feuch gun cuir sibh fios thugainn ma tha ceist sam bith agaibh no ma tha sibh a' sireadh soilleireachadh.

Secondary Education should be provided on an equal basis through English and Gaelic.

We hope that our response is helpful and constructive. Please get in touch if you have any questions or wish to seek clarification.



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