

<p><b>Frèam Measaidh Pàircean Nàiseanta Ùra</b></p> <p><b>Freagairt Bhòrd na Gàidhlig</b></p> <p><b>26 An t-luchar 2023</b></p>	<p><b>New National Parks Appraisal Framework</b></p> <p><b>Bòrd na Gàidhlig Response</b></p> <p><b>26 July 2023</b></p>
<p><b>16. A bheil beachdan sam bith eile agaibh a bu mhat leibh a chur an cèill mun dreach frèam mheasaidh is pròiseas ainmeachaidh airson Pàircean Nàiseanta ùra?</b></p> <p>Stèidhichte fo Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005, 's e buidheann poblach neo-roinneil de Riaghaltas na h-Alba a th' ann am Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Is e a' phrìomh bhuidheann ann an Alba air a bheil dleastanas gus leasachadh Gàidhlig a chur air adhart agus gus comhairle a thoirt do Mhinistearan na h-Alba mu chùisean Gàidhlig.</p> <p>'S e amas a' Phlana Cànan Nàiseanta Ghàidhlig 2018-23<sup>1</sup> 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' cuimseachadh air:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cur am meud cleachdadh na Gàidhlig.</li> <li>• Cur am meud ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig.</li> <li>• Cur air adhart deagh ìomhaigh den Ghàidhlig.</li> </ul> <p>Bheirear an cleachdadh a bharrachd seo den chànan gu bhith, gu ìre, le bhith a' toirt am buil nam buannachdan eacanomaigeach a bhios a' Ghàidhlig a' toirt do dh'Alba. Tachraidh sin tro bhith a' cleachdadh na Gàidhlig barrachd mar sho-mhaoin eaconamach. '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 nàiseanta.</p>	<p><b>16. Do you have any other comments that you would like to make about the draft appraisal framework and nominations process for new National Parks?</b></p> <p>Established under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, Bòrd na Gàidhlig is an executive non-departmental public body of the Scottish Government. It is the principal public body in Scotland responsible for promoting Gaelic development and providing advice to the Scottish Ministers on Gaelic issues.</p> <p>The aim of the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23<sup>5</sup> 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"> <li>• Increasing the use of Gaelic.</li> <li>• Increasing the learning of Gaelic.</li> <li>• Promoting a positive image of Gaelic.</li> </ul> <p>This greater use of the language will, in part, be achieved through fully realising the social and economic benefits that Gaelic brings to Scotland. 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 asset.</p>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BnG-NGLP-18-23.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BnG-NGLP-18-23.pdf>

Thathar a’ bruidhinn Gàidhlig air feadh na h-Alba. Tha mu 50% de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a’ fuireach sa Ghàidhealtachd agus sna h-Eileanan, agus càch air feadh na dùthcha. A rèir Cunntas-sluaigh 2011, bha sgilean Gàidhlig aig 87,100 daoine (mu 1.7% den àireamh-shluaigh), agus 57,600 dhiubh a b’ urrainn Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn. Tha iarrtas a’ sìor fhàs airson cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig le buannachdan foghlaim, eaconamach is sòisealta co-cheangailte riutha.

Tha Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig (FtMG) a’ leudachadh air feadh na h-Alba. Tha e a-nis ri fhaighinn ann an còrr is dàrna leth nan 32 ùghdarrasan ionadail ann an Alba. Thòisich Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an 1985 le 14 sgoilearan sa bhun-sgoil. A-nis tha còrr is 5,600 sgoilear san roinn thar foghlaim Thràth-bhliadhnaichean, Bun-sgoile is Àrd-sgoile. Gus coinneachadh ri fàs leantainneach san iarrtas bidh feum air tasgadh ann an sgoiltean agus tidsearan.

Tha an t-iarrtas airson Gàidhlig ionnsachadh follaiseach san àrdachadh mhòr de dhaoine a tha a’ gabhail ris an app/làrach-lìn ionnsachadh cànan Duolingo. Tha mu 1.5 millean neach air tòiseachadh air Gàidhlig na h-Alba ionnsachadh air an app bho thòisich an cùrsa o chionn trì bliadhna. Tha a’ mhòr-chuid (71%) bho thaobh a-muigh na RA, le 36% anns na Stàitean Aonaichte a-mhàin.

Tha cur air bhog goireas craolaidh agus teagaisg air-loidhne SpeakGaelic san t-Sultain 2021 cuideachd air cur gu mòr ri goireasan do dh’inbich a tha airson a dhol an sàs sa Ghàidhlig agus an cànan ionnsachadh.

Fhuair “Suirbhidh Beachdan Sòisealta na h-Alba 2021: Beachdan Poball na h-Alba air a’ Ghàidhlig”<sup>2</sup>, gu bheil, an coimeas ri 2012:

- A’ cho-chuid a tha ag ràdh gun urrainn dhaibh co-dhiù corra fhacal Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn air dùblachadh bho 15% gu 30%.

Gaelic is spoken across Scotland. Around 50% of Gaelic speakers live in the Highlands and Islands with the remainder in the rest of the country. 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. There is a growing demand for Gaelic language and culture with related educational, economic, and social benefits.

Gaelic Medium Education is expanding across Scotland. It is now available in over half of Scotland’s 32 local authorities. Gaelic Medium Education began in 1985 with 14 primary pupils. There are now more than 5,600 pupils in the sector across Early Years, Primary and Secondary education. Meeting continuing growth in demand will require investment in schools and teachers.

The demand for learning Gaelic is evident in the huge uptake of the Duolingo language learning app/website. Some 1.5 million people have started learning Gaelic on the app since the course launched over three years ago. The majority (71%) are from outside the UK, with 36% in the United States alone.

The launch of SpeakGaelic in October 2021 has also greatly contributed to resources for adults who want to engage with and learn the language. It has seen around 400,000 learners since its launch.

The “Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2021: Public Attitudes to Gaelic in Scotland”<sup>6</sup> found that since 2012:

- The proportion who say they can speak at least the odd word of Gaelic has doubled from 15% to 30%.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/03.SSA-2021-Public-attitudes-to-Gaelic-in-Scotland-Main-report.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/03.SSA-2021-Public-attitudes-to-Gaelic-in-Scotland-Main-report.pdf>



- 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 dàrna cuid cudromach no glè chudromach do dhualchas cultarach na h-Alba.

Lorg suirbhidh de dhaoine òga (iadsan eadar 11 agus 26 bliadhna a dh'aois)<sup>3</sup> gun robh trian (33%) den luchd-fhreagairt ag ràdh gu robh iad ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig ann an dòigh air choreigin. Thuir tuilleadh air leth (59%) den luchd-fhreagairt aig *nach robh a' Ghàidhlig* gun robh ùidh aca ann a bhith ag ionnsachadh a' chàinain. Cuideachd, 72% den luchd-fhreagairt gu lèir a' meas cultar is dualchas na Gàidhlig mar rud luachmhor no fìor-luachmhor.

**Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' freagairt na co-chomhairle seo oir bhitheamaid ag iarraidh aithne gu leòr fhaicinn do dhualchas cultarach – de bheil cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig na phrìomh eileamaid - taobh a-staigh an fhrèam mheasaidh.**

Le bhith a' tuigsinn cruth-tìre na Gàidhlig agus ag àrdachadh mothachadh 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' dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil Pàirc Nàiseanta ùr sam bith a' cur cudrom air cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig sa chiad dol a-mach, gheibh a' Phàirc, a luchd-còmhnaidh, agus luchd-tadhail buannachd à mothachadh air àite, cothrom Gàidhlig a chleachdadh agus ionnsachadh, agus an cuid sunnd àrdachadh tro bhith a' ceangal nàdar agus cànan.

Chaidh a h-uile cruth-tìre ann an Alba a chumadh le daoine. B' e luchd-bruidhinn na Gàidhlig a bh' ann am mòran de na daoine sin, a thug ainmean do dh'aitichean is feartan-tìre topografach. Tha an ceangal eachdraidheil

- 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.

A survey of young people (those aged between 11 and 26 years)<sup>7</sup> found that one third (33%) of respondents were learning Gaelic in some form. More than half (59%) of the respondents who could *not* speak Gaelic stated that they were interested in learning the language. Also, 72% of all respondents rated Gaelic culture and heritage as quite or very valuable.

**Bòrd na Gàidhlig are responding to this consultation because we wish to see sufficient recognition of cultural heritage - of which Gaelic language and culture is a key element - within the appraisal framework.**

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. By ensuring that any new National Park places importance on Gaelic language and culture at the outset, the Park, its residents, and visitors will benefit from a sense of place, an opportunity to use and learn Gaelic, an increase wellbeing through linking nature and language.

All landscapes in Scotland have been shaped by people. Many of those people were Gaelic speakers who gave names to places and topographic features. This historical connection, and the living tradition, are an equally important

<sup>3</sup> <https://youngscot.net/ysobservatory/a-bhith-an-sas-le-ghaidhlig-air-loidhne-engaging-with-gaelic-online>

<sup>7</sup> <https://youngscot.net/ysobservatory/a-bhith-an-sas-le-ghaidhlig-air-loidhne-engaging-with-gaelic-online>



seo, agus an dualchas beò, a cheart cho cudromach airson na h-àrainneachd a thuigsinn agus a dhìon.

Tha Achd nam Pàircean Nàiseanta (Alba) 2000 a' toirt a' bhrìgh air dualchas cultarach mar dhualchas a tha a' gabhail a-steach "structaran is fuigheall eile mar thoradh air dèanadas dhaoine thar gach linn, cànan, dualchas, dòighean-beatha, agus na ceanglaichean eachdraidheil, ealanta is litreachail de dhaoine, àiteachan is cruthan-tìre". Gu follaiseach, tha sin a' gabhail a-steach cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig.

Ann an Achd nam Pàircean Nàiseanta (Alba) 2000 's e fear de na ceithir amasan aig Pàircean Nàiseanta "dualchas cultarach is nàdarrach na sgìre a ghleidheadh is àrdachadh". Tha seo a' cur an aire gu bheil gleidheadh is àrdachadh dualchas cultarach is nàdarrach a cheart cho cudromach ris a chèile. Mar sin, bu chòir aire cho-ionann a thoirt orra san fhrèam mholaidh. Bu chòir seo a bhith soilleir anns an stiùireadh do dh'ainmeachaidhean.

Chan eil e soilleir carson nach eil dad sam bith mu dhualchas cultarach ann am measg nan slatan-tomhas "Tabhartas ro-innleachdail" san fhrèam mholaidh. 'S e dearmad cudromach a tha seo. Tha feum air prìomhachasan ro-innleachdail a bhith ann do dhualchas cultarach is stiùireadh soilleir a thoirt seachad air dè na prìomhachasan ro-innleachdail a ghabhar ris anns na h-ainmeachaidhean.

Faodar a dheasbad gur e prìomhachas ro-innleachdail a th' ann an cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig do Riaghaltas na h-Alba. Tha a Phlana Gàidhlig a' cur an cèill gu bheil "Riaghaltas na h-Alba ag aithneachadh gur i a' Ghàidhlig pàirt chudromach do dhualchas, dearbh-aithne is beatha chultarach, eaconamach is shòisealta na h-Alba"<sup>4</sup>. Tha e ri chomharrachadh gu bheil Plana Gàidhlig aig an dà Phàirc Nàiseanta a th' ann an-dràsta.

part of understanding and protecting the environment.

The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 interprets cultural heritage as including "structures and other remains resulting from human activity of all periods, language, traditions, ways of life and the historic, artistic and literary associations of people, places and landscapes". Clearly, that includes Gaelic language and culture.

In the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 one of the four aims of National Parks is "To conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area". This suggests that conserving and enhancing the natural and the cultural heritage are of equal importance. Therefore, they should be equally taken into account within the appraisal framework. This should be made clear in the guidance for nominations.

It is unclear why the "Strategic contribution" criterion in the appraisal framework does not include any aspects of cultural heritage. This is a significant omission. There is a need to include strategic priorities for cultural heritage and give clearer guidance on which strategic priorities will be accepted in the nominations.

It can be argued that Gaelic language and culture is a strategic priority for Scottish Government. Its Gaelic Language Plan states that "The Scottish Government recognises that Gaelic is an integral part of Scotland's heritage, national identity and current cultural, economic and social life"<sup>8</sup>. It is notable that both of the current National Parks have a Gaelic Language Plan.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2022/10/scottish-governments-gaelic-language-plan-2022-2027/documents/scottish-governments-gaelic-language-plan-2022-2027/scottish-governments-gaelic-language-plan-2022-2027/govscot%3Adocument/scottish-governments-gaelic-language-plan-2022-2027.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2022/10/scottish-governments-gaelic-language-plan-2022-2027/documents/scottish-governments-gaelic-language-plan-2022-2027/scottish-governments-gaelic-language-plan-2022-2027/govscot%3Adocument/scottish-governments-gaelic-language-plan-2022-2027.pdf>



Bhiodh gabhail a-steach a' Ghàidhlig mar phrìomhachas ro-innleachdail anns an fhrèam mholaidh a' nochdadh amas a' Phlana Nàiseanta Ghàidhlig, dhan deach iomradh a thoirt na bu thràithe.

Rachadh buannachdan a thoirt a dh'Alba air fad le bhith a' toirt àite iomchaidh dhan Ghàidhlig taobh a-staigh a'(nam) Phàirc(ean) Nàiseanta ùr. Mar eisimpleir, leis gu bheil Gàidhlig ga bruidhinn air feadh na h-Alba chuireadh e ri sunnd luchd-labhairt is luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig - a tha air leth moiteil à cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig. Bidh a' Ghàidhlig a' cur ri, ann an dòigh dheimhinneach, na bhios na daoine seo a' smaointinn agus a' faireachdainn mu dheidhinn am beatha.

A thuilleadh air sin, bhiodh e a' brosnachadh luchd-turais tighinn a dh'Alba. Ann an 2022, bhathar a' meas gun tàinig còrr is 1.2 millean neach-tadhail a dh'Alba aig an robh ùidh ann an cultar is cànan na Gàidhlig.

Tha sinn cuideachd a' gabhail ris nach bi atharrachadh sam bith den iomadh mhìneachadh ann an Achd nam Pàirc(ean) Nàiseanta (Alba) 2000 eadar nan ainmeachaidhean a' dùnadh agus gairm a' mholaidh airson Pàirc(ean) Nàiseanta ùr.

Gu coitcheann, bhiodh dragh mhòr oirnn nam biodh a leithid de dh'atharrachadh:

- A' lùghdachadh cudromachd dhualchais chultaraich an coimeas ri dualchas nàdarraich.
- A' toirt a-mach mìneachadh ath-sgrùdaichte air dualchas cultarach a dhèanadh cron do stòras chultarach neo-bheanailteach leithid na Gàidhlig.

Tha sinn an dòchas gu bheil 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.

Including Gaelic as a strategic priority in the appraisal framework would also reflect the aim of the National Gaelic Plan which was referred to earlier.

Giving Gaelic an appropriate place within the new National Park(s) would bring benefits to Scotland as a whole. For example, as Gaelic is spoken across Scotland it would contribute to the wellbeing of Gaelic speakers and learners - who have great pride in the Gaelic language and culture. Gaelic contributes positively to what these people think and feel about their lives.

Further, it would encourage visits from to Scotland by tourists. In 2022, there were an estimated 1.2 million visitors to Scotland who were interested in Gaelic culture and language.

We also assume that there will be no changes to the various definitions contained in the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 between the nominations closing and the announcement of the proposal for new National Park(s).

Generally, we would be very concerned if any such changes were to:

- Diminish the importance of cultural heritage compared to natural heritage.
- Produce a revised definition of cultural heritage that would act to the detriment of intangible cultural assets such as Gaelic.

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

