

# Species and Habitat Action Plan Assessment Form

Please refer to the accompanying guidance for information about how to complete this form and an explanation of terms used

## Field 1: Action Plan details

<b>Species/Habitat Action Plan</b>	Capercaillie ( <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> )
<b>Lead Partner/Agency</b>	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Institute of Terrestrial Ecology (ITE)
<b>Steering Group/Other organisations</b>	<p><i>Steering group in existence? Please state yes or no. Please list the organisations represented.</i></p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>The capercaillie biodiversity action plan steering group constitutes representatives from RSPB; ITE; Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH); Forestry Commission (FC); Forest Enterprise (FE); Game Conservancy Trust (GCT); Scottish Landowners Federation (SLF); and Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS). Dr Robert Moss (RM) an independent consultant, is also a member of the group.</p>
<b>Work programme in existence?</b>	<p><i>Please state yes or no. If in existence, please use the agreed work programme to update Field 3 and Table B.</i></p> <p>Yes.</p>

## Field 2: Objectives and targets overview

Please list the targets for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the target is applicable, and additional comments including the rationale for new targets. For each new target please add new sequential paragraph numbers and target text. Please provide information about progress and country disaggregation in Table A for all targets.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Comments
<b>4.1</b> This species has declined in recent years. The plan aims to halt the decline, the causes of which are becoming clearer, and to restore the species to its former range.				X		See below.
<b>4.2</b> Halt the decline of the capercaillie in its core range in eastern and central Scotland by 2000.				X		Provisional estimate of 1057 birds from 1998/99 national winter survey. This represents a 48% decline on the 1992/94 survey result and is consistent with predictions/estimates from two other independent methods.
<b>4.3</b> Maintain, and expand where possible, the range and population numbers of capercaillie in Scotland to 20,000 (the status of the early seventies) by 2010.				X		Probable overall declines in range – work in progress to revise distribution map.

## Field 3: Proposed actions overview

Please list the proposed actions for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the action is applicable. For each new action please add new sequential paragraph numbers and action text. If the action is regarded as significant (please see guidance) indicate this in the box and provide further details in Table B. For actions not regarded as significant simply state if the action is ongoing or complete. Remember any action, which is being dropped from the workplan, will be regarded as significant for the first round of reporting.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Action significant?	Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)
<b>5.1 POLICY AND LEGISLATION</b>							
5.1.1 Seek to protect, manage, create and enhance native pinewoods for the benefit of capercaillie.				X		Yes	Ongoing
<b>5.2 SITE SAFEGUARD AND MANAGEMENT</b>							
5.2.1 Encourage sympathetic management of Scots pine, especially extended rotations in commercial plantations.				X		Yes	Ongoing
5.2.2 Encourage management of non-Scots pine woodland for capercaillie within, or close to, existing capercaillie ranges.				X		Yes	Ongoing
5.2.3 Consider aerial spraying of insecticide within, or close to, existing ranges on a case-by-case basis to avoid undue impact on capercaillie.				X		Yes	Ongoing
5.2.4 Seek to enhance the continuity of existing isolated woodland fragments within the range of the species.				X		Yes	Ongoing
5.2.5 Promote reduced grazing by deer and sheep to encourage regeneration of native pinewood and blaeberry under-storey, and to allow removal of fences.				X		Yes	Ongoing
<b>5.3 SPECIES MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION</b>							
5.3.1 Encourage removal of forest fences where practicable and, following further research, improve visibility of remaining fences.				X		Yes	Ongoing
5.3.2 Consider adding capercaillie to Schedule 1 of the WCA 1981 to make disturbance of nesting birds an offence.				X		Yes	Ongoing
5.3.3 Encourage private estates and FE to continue the voluntary ban on shooting capercaillie.				X		Yes	Ongoing
<b>5.4 ADVISORY</b>							
5.4.1 Provide advice to landowners and managers of native pinewoods and plantations on favourable methods of management for capercaillie, in particular managers of estates considering re-introduction or restocking programmes.				X		Yes	Ongoing
5.4.2 Ensure the provision of appropriate advice on predator control.				X		Yes	Ongoing
<b>5.5 FUTURE RESEARCH AND MONITORING</b>							
5.5.1 Survey suitable sites to assess the numbers and breeding success of capercaillie in relation to methods of habitat management and predator control, and their relationship with other native pinewood species.				X		Yes	Ongoing
5.5.2 Establish the frequency of collisions of capercaillie with deer fences and research the effectiveness of marking fences in reducing collision risk.				X		Yes	Ongoing
5.5.3 Encourage a survey of numbers and distribution, and establish a long-term population-monitoring scheme.				X		Yes	Ongoing

5.5.4 Pass information gathered during survey and monitoring of this species to JNCC or BRC so that it can be incorporated in national databases.				X		No	Ongoing
5.5.5 Provide information annually to Birdlife International on the UK status of the species to contribute to maintenance of up-to-date global red lists.				X		No	Ongoing
<b>5.6 COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICITY</b>							
5.6.1 Lek sites should remain confidential to protect the breeding population.				X		Yes	Ongoing
5.6.2 Consider publishing a code of practice for birdwatchers, to highlight the problems of human activity in the vicinity of capercaillie.				X		Yes	Ongoing

**Field 4: Assessment of status**

Please tick the appropriate category to indicate the assessment of status of the species or habitat, for each country/region where appropriate, and provide a statement supporting the category selected.

	Not appropriate	Recovered	Signs of recovery	No change	Declining	Lost	Insufficient information
UK							
England	X						
Northern Ireland	X						
Scotland					X		
Wales	X						
Brief text description justifying assessment of status: (~ no more than 100 words for each country/region)							
<p>The 1998/99 national winter survey has yielded a provisional estimate of 1057 birds. This represents a decline of 48% on the 1992/94 national survey estimate of 2189 birds. The number of adult birds encountered during annual brood counts on several important estates has also declined at a similar rate during this period. Anecdotal evidence of range contractions; further survey work underway for 1999/2000.</p>							

**Field 5: Summary statement**

Please provide an overview of plan implementation, including new factors affecting the species or habitat, which will accelerate or constrain progress towards meeting of the targets. Where a factor results in new action(s) please cross-reference back to the relevant numbers under Field 3 and Table B.

**Numerous agencies and individuals are contributing to the targets of this plan. This work, co-ordinated by the BAP Group, will be enhanced by the recent appointment of the Capercaillie Project Officer.**

**Very low recruitment, since 1991 at least, has probably been the principal reason for the decline of the species. (Inclement weather and predation are considered to be two of the main contributory factors to this low reproductive success.) However, if the mortality caused by fences was eliminated, the population decline of capercaillie could be stopped. Adequate deer control programmes are required in many forests to facilitate the removal of fences; this is an urgent requirement.**

**Field 6: Signing off**

Please 'sign off' the form below to confirm that steering group members or key contacts have been consulted and agreed the information provided.

Contact details	Lead Partner	Contact Point
Name	Ian Bainbridge / Mick Marquiss	Andy Douse
Organisation	RSPB / ITE	SNH
Assessment date (dd/mm/yy)	02.11.99	04.11.99

Completed forms should be submitted to JNCC

Biodiversity Information Service  
 Joint Nature Conservation Committee  
 Monkstone House  
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 Peterborough PE1 1JY  
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**Table A: Action Plan objectives and targets (Copiable table)**

For each target please state how, if applicable, it has been disaggregated to the country level. Please insert the paragraph number, UK target and country-specific disaggregated target(s) into the table. Please tick the appropriate category to indicate progress against published and disaggregated targets. For each target please copy the table and detail the (existing or new [new paragraph numbers should run sequentially, under relevant headings in the published volumes]) paragraph number, target text and an assessment of progress.

<b>Objective/target</b> (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	<b>4.1</b> This species has declined in recent years. The plan aims to halt the decline, the causes of which are becoming clearer, and to restore the species to its former range.				
<b>Country</b>	<b>Not appropriate</b>	<b>Target achieved</b>	<b>Some progress</b>	<b>No progress</b>	<b>Insufficient information</b>
UK					
England	X				
Northern Ireland	X				
Scotland				X	
Wales	X				
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
See <b>4.2</b> and <b>4.3</b> .					
<b>Objective/target</b> (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	<b>4.2</b> Halt the decline of the capercaillie in its core range in eastern and central Scotland by 2000.				
<b>Country</b>	<b>Not appropriate</b>	<b>Target achieved</b>	<b>Some progress</b>	<b>No progress</b>	<b>Insufficient information</b>
UK					
England	X				
Northern Ireland	X				
Scotland				X	
Wales	X				
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
No progress because of poor recruitment and high mortality rates of adults (due mainly to fence strikes).					
<b>Objective/target</b> (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	<b>4.3</b> Maintain, and expand where possible, the range and population numbers of capercaillie in Scotland to 20,000 (the status of the early seventies) by 2010.				
<b>Country</b>	<b>Not appropriate</b>	<b>Target achieved</b>	<b>Some progress</b>	<b>No progress</b>	<b>Insufficient information</b>
UK					
England	X				
Northern Ireland	X				
Scotland				X	
Wales	X				
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
No progress – reasons as <b>4.2</b> . The BAP group now considers the target of 20,000 to be biologically impossible (it may always have been so). Group to discuss new target at next steering group meeting.					

**Table B: Proposed actions (Copiable table)**

For each significant action please copy and complete the table below.

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	<b>5.1.1</b> Seek to protect, manage, create and enhance native pinewoods for the benefit of capercaillie.	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	The capercaillie BAP group attempts to achieve 5.1.1 through the following:  1. FC challenge funds. 1. Designation and appropriate management of SACs important to capercaillie. 2. Designation and appropriate management of SPAs for capercaillie. 3. WGS implementation. 4. WIGS implementation. 5. Suitable management of Natura 2000 sites.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Challenge funds made available for Cairngorms, Deeside and Speyside. Challenge fund extended to 2001. (FC.)</li> <li>2. 85% of remaining native pinewoods are proposed SACs. (SNH.) See Native Pinewoods HAP.</li> <li>3. 6 capercaillie SPAs are to be submitted to government in early 2000. (SNH.)</li> <li>4. WGS: 27,000ha. of native pinewood regeneration and establishment by 30/9/99. (FC.)</li> <li>5. WIGS: Challenge funds expansion of 1500ha. by 30/9/99. Woodland improvement of 20,000ha. (FC)</li> <li>6. Targets for Natura 2000 site management to be written and completed by December 2000. (SNH.) See Native Pinewoods HAP.</li> </ol>	Action by FC, FE, SNH, SERAD
<b>Constraints to action</b> (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints that the steering group is unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	More funding needed for WGS and WIGS, and for SSSI agreements. Lack of understanding of appropriate management techniques for pine woods e.g. use of prescribed burning. (SLF) SPAs as proposed are too small: they need to be big enough to allow for 20km natal dispersal distances, and special management (e.g. fence removal) must also occur. All capercaillie Core Areas should be designated as SPA. (RM)	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Ensure notification of SPAs and SACs. Investigate possibility of new challenge fund.	Action by BAP group.

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	<b>5.2.1</b> Encourage sympathetic management of Scots pine, especially extended rotations in commercial plantations.	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advisers to promote 5.2.1 during advisory work.</li> <li>2. Revised FC guidance on 'Deer, Natural Regeneration and Fencing' will be sent to BAP Group members for comment; subsequently to be made available to WGS applicants.</li> <li>3. FC consultation casework to promote 5.2.1.</li> </ol>	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ongoing (RSPB, SNH, GCT, FC and R.Moss).</li> <li>2. Revised guidance notes ready late 1999 (FC).</li> <li>3. Ongoing (FC).</li> </ol>	Action by FC, SNH, RSPB, GCT, R.Moss.
<b>Constraints to action</b> (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints that the steering group is unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	Cost implications for estates of extended rotations. (SLF) Government unwillingness to implement Birds and Habitats Directive. (RM)	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	FC to conduct review of current practice and research needs between January and March 2000. Further action depends on the outcome of the review. Responsibility of FC and Scottish Executive. (FC)	Action by FC, Scottish Executive.

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	<b>5.2.2</b> Encourage management of non-Scots pine woodland for capercaillie within, or close to, existing capercaillie ranges.	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advisers to promote 5.2.2 during advisory work</li> <li>2. Capercaillie core area map to be used to determine important areas for beneficial management.</li> <li>3. Upland Oakwoods HAP to consider needs of capercaillie (FC, SNH).</li> </ol>	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	

<b>Output and timescale</b>	1. Ongoing (RSPB, SNH, GCT, FC, and R.Moss). 2. Revised map to be completed in autumn 1999 (FC). 3. Capercaillie BAP Group to discuss with lead partner of Upland Oakwood HAP.	Action by FC, SNH, RSPB, GCT, R.Moss.
<b>Constraints to action</b> <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints that the steering group is unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>	Lack of clear understanding of capercaillie requirements in these types of woodland. Over-riding financial considerations of commercial woods. Necessary research on breeding biology in this habitat not being carried out due to lack of funding. (RM) Lack of understanding of appropriate habitat management techniques and a lack of funding to develop these. (SLF)	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	PhD entitled 'Optimal Management strategies for Capercaillie in Forest Plantations' to be completed in 2001.	Action by

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	<b>5.2.3</b> Consider aerial spraying of insecticide within, or close to, existing ranges on a case-by-case basis to avoid undue impact on capercaillie.	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	FC to consider all insecticide spraying in capercaillie areas on case-by-case basis.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Ongoing	Action by FC, FE
<b>Constraints to action</b> <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints that the steering group is unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>		
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>		Action by

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	<b>5.2.4</b> Seek to enhance the continuity of existing isolated woodland fragments within the range of the species.	
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<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	<i>Covered under Native Pinewoods Habitat Action Plan.</i> Woodland Grant Scheme encourages connectivity of woodland. (FC)	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> (Please state yes or no.)		
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>		Action by FA, FE, SNH
<b>Constraints to action</b> (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints that the steering group is unable to resolve should also be detailed.)		
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)		
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>		Action by

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	<b>5.2.5</b> Promote reduced grazing by deer and sheep to encourage regeneration of native pinewood and blaeberry under-storey, and to allow removal of fences.	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advisers to promote reduced grazing regimes and fence removal during advisory work.</li> <li>2. National woodland grouse days and regional capercaillie workshops to promote reduced grazing and fence removal.</li> <li>3. Deer control measures at Abernethy, Creag Meagaidh, and Glen Tanar to be used as demonstration sites to show deer management without fences is feasible.</li> </ol>	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ongoing (RSPB, SNH, GCT, FC, and R.Moss).</li> <li>2. See 5.4.1 for details of workshops (RSPB and partners).</li> <li>3. Ongoing (RSPB, SNH).</li> </ol>	Action by FC, SNH, RSPB, GCT, R. Moss.
<b>Constraints to action</b> (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints that the steering group is unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	<p>Sheep stocking densities – reform of livestock policy of CAP needed.</p> <p>Financial implications for estates of reducing deer numbers. (SLF)</p> <p>Reluctance to date of the Deer Commission for Scotland to become involved formally with capercaillie BAP group.</p> <p>Government unwillingness to implement management measures through the Birds and Habitat Directives. (RM)</p> <p>Measures inadequate if decline continues at current rate. (RM)</p>	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	

<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	BAP group has re-invited DCS onto steering group; positive response. Group to press for changes in sheep regimes.	Action by BAP group

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	<b>5.3.1</b> Encourage removal of forest fences where practicable and, following further research, improve visibility of remaining fences.	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. FE to remove fences from their forests where possible.</li> <li>2. FA to encourage fence removal using grants as incentives.</li> <li>3. RSPB to remove fences from forests reserves.</li> <li>4. Group to monitor legal situation of fences in light of EC Birds and Habitats Directive.</li> </ol>	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. FE has removed 91 km of fences up until 27/9/99.</li> <li>2. FA grants have resulted in 150km of fences being removed and 65km being marked up until 30/9/99.</li> <li>3. RSPB have removed 27.5km of deer fences and 12km of stock fences from Abernethy forest reserve. In addition, 6.4km of deer fence have been reduced to stock height.</li> <li>4. Legality of fences being investigated by R.Moss. Group monitoring progress.</li> </ol>	Action by FC, FE, RSPB.
<b>Constraints to action</b> <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints that the steering group is unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>	<p>Financial implications for estates in removing deer fences and implementing rigorous deer control measures. (SLF)</p> <p>Deer Commission for Scotland not currently involved in capercaillie BAP group. Convention that capital value of estates is defined in part by the average cull of red deer. (RM)</p> <p>Limited pool of money to remove fences. (GCT)</p>	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	FC to review guidance note on deer and fencing in 1999; to be considered by BAP Group Relevant agencies to seek to strengthen powers to order removal of fences.	Action by FC

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	<b>5.3.2</b> Consider adding capercaillie to Schedule 1 of the WCA 1981 to make disturbance of nesting birds an offence.	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	The considered view of the BAP group is that adding capercaillie to Schedule 1 Part II is necessary. However, group notes that this status would not protect capercaillie at leks, and they may be unprotected from inadvertent disturbance, and that amendments to the WCA 1981 would be necessary to introduce such protection. A minority view (RM) is that capercaillie should be added to Schedule 1 Part 1.	

<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Issue discussed in detail by Group. To be agreed in Nov 99; letter to Ministers to be prepared.	Action by
<b>Constraints to action</b> (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints that the steering group is unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	Full agreement from Group members still awaited before approach to Ministers on this issue.	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Group to present case to Scottish Executive in 1999.	Action by BAP Group

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.3.3 Encourage private estates and FE to continue the voluntary ban on shooting capercaillie.	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)		
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Ongoing – apparently successful.	Action by SLF/SNH
<b>Constraints to action</b> (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints that the steering group is unable to resolve should also be detailed.)		
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Continue promoting moratorium on hunting capercaillie.	Action by SLF/SNH

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.4.1 Provide advice to landowners and managers of native pinewoods and plantations on favourable methods of management for capercaillie, in particular managers of estates considering re-introduction or restocking programmes.	
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<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide advice to landowners and land managers.</li> <li>2. Organise regional seminars and woodland grouse days for land managers, keepers, foresters etc.</li> <li>3. Produce and distribute advisory material.</li> </ol>	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Capercaillie Project Officer to co-ordinate provision of advice from various advisers (RSPB, SNH, GCT, FC, R.Moss.)</li> <li>2. Capercaillie workshops held in November 1998 and in April 1998. Two capercaillie workshops and one woodland grouse day planned for autumn 1999. Further events planned for 2000. (RSPB and partners.)</li> <li>3. Group has produced leaflet entitled 'Woodland management and saving the capercaillie' which is being distributed. Also available is FC Bulletin 113 'Management of Forests for Capercaillie in Scotland'.</li> </ol>	Action by FC, SNH, RSPB, GCT, R.Moss.
<b>Constraints to action</b> (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints that the steering group is unable to resolve should also be detailed.)		
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Group has agreed to review advisory material and revise for 2000.	Action by BAP Group.

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.4.2 Ensure the provision of appropriate advice on predator control.	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	Research into predator impacts at Abernethy in progress (RSPB). Advisers to promote control of foxes and crows using appropriate methods. (SNH, RSPB, GCT.)	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
<b>Output and time-scale</b>	Long-term experiment not yet complete. Annual reporting of research progress. Advisory note on safe snaring in preparation	Action by RSPB
<b>Constraints to action</b> (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints that the steering group is unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	Research needs to be completed; still ongoing Agreement on safety and legality of snaring practice needed. Legality of snaring in capercaillie areas currently being investigated (RM, RSPB). One view is that the Group should not produce leaflets until this is clarified (RM).	

<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Advisory note on safe snaring in capercaillie areas to be prepared late 1999 or early 2000. Decision on issue of this to be debated at next Group meeting	Action by RSPB, SNH, GCT.

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.5.1 Survey suitable sites to assess the numbers and breeding success of capercaillie in relation to methods of habitat management and predator control, and their relationship with other native pinewood species.	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	Annual monitoring of broods in c10 sites ongoing. (R. Moss, RSPB, GCT).	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Annual reports to RSPB. Refereed paper in draft (Baines <i>et al.</i> )	Action by RSPB, ITE, GCT, R.Moss.
<b>Constraints to action</b> (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints that the steering group is unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	Paper needs to be completed by GCT et al. No time available to write above paper. (RM) No projects to study breeding success in relation to habitat management being carried out due to lack of funding. (SLF) Inadequate funding to implement 5.5.1 adequately e.g. predator control effects only examined in one year. (GCT)	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Group to consider long-term monitoring needs. FC to conduct review of current practice and research needs between January and March 2000. Further action depends on the outcome of the review. Responsibility of FC and Scottish Executive. (FC)	Action by RSPB, ITE, GCT, SNH. FC and Scottish Executive.

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.5.2 Establish the frequency of collisions of capercaillie with deer fences and research the effectiveness of marking fences in reducing collision risk.	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Investigate scale of fence collision problem.</li> <li>2. Conduct research into marking of fences.</li> <li>3. Design and trial novel fences.</li> </ol>	

<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Catt, D.C., <i>et al.</i> 1994. Collisions against fences by woodland grouse in Scotland. Forestry 67. This work demonstrated scale of the problem. (ITE, RSPB, GCT.)</li> <li>2. Baines, D. &amp; Summers, R. 1997. Assessment of bird collisions with deer fences in Scottish forests. Journal of Applied Ecology 34.</li> <li>3. Andrew, M. &amp; Baines, D. 1997. The impact of deer fences on woodland grouse and other birds. Game Conservancy Report. This work tested the effectiveness of marking fences.</li> <li>4. Goddard, P., <i>et al.</i> 1998. Testing alternative capercaillie-friendly fences. MRCS report. This work used farm deer to test various new fence designs. (RSPB, MLURI.) Dugan, D., <i>et al.</i> A field test of a capercaillie-friendly fence. In press. This work tested a novel fence in the field. (RSPB.)</li> </ol>	Action by FC, SNH, GCT, RSPB.
<b>Constraints to action</b> (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints that the steering group is unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	Further research with new fence designs impeded by high cost and declining numbers of birds.	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Further work to trial effectiveness of new fence designs under consideration, possibly using red grouse as a model, or using novel approaches. FC to conduct review of current practice and research needs between January and March 2000. Further action depends on the outcome of the review. Responsibility of FC and Scottish Executive. (FC)	Action by RSPB, ITE, FC and Scottish Executive.

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	<b>5.5.3</b> Encourage a survey of numbers and distribution, and establish a long-term population-monitoring scheme.
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. National winter survey 1998/99.</li> <li>2. Distribution questionnaire in preparation.</li> <li>3. Regional lek surveys 1998 and 1999. Planned for 2000.</li> <li>4. Long-term monitoring using brood counts and winter drives on a number of key sites.</li> <li>5. Winter transects at Abernethy to give index of abundance there.</li> </ol>
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> (Please state yes or no.)	Yes
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>

<b>Output and timescale</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Report due late 1999. Paper in early 2000. (RSPB, SNH.)</li> <li>2. Report due in 2000. (RSPB.)</li> <li>3. Reports produced. (RSPB.)</li> <li>4. Annual reports produced. (R. Moss, RSPB, GCT.)</li> <li>5. Annual reports produced. (RSPB.)</li> </ol>	Action by RSPB, SNH, GCT, R.Moss.
<b>Constraints to action</b> <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints that the steering group is unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>	<p>Cost of monitoring. The long-term monitoring at key sites, for example, is dependent on piecemeal funding and on unfunded work. The declining population makes monitoring increasingly difficult.</p> <p>A careful revision of long-term monitoring is needed to develop a scheme which is adequate given the declining numbers of birds</p>	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Continue monitoring programmes and seek new funding.	Action by RSPB, SNH, GCT, R.Moss.

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.6.1 Lek sites should remain confidential to protect the breeding population.	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	FC to amend WGS literature as necessary.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>		
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>		Action by
<b>Constraints to action</b> <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>	<p>Many leks already well known and birdwatchers' information network is very active.</p> <p>RSPB has produced a report detailing lek sites in Moray. This has restricted distribution and must remain confidential</p>	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Continued confidentiality of lek sites.	Action by SNH

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	<b>5.6.2</b> Consider publishing a code of practice for birdwatchers, to highlight the problems of human activity in the vicinity of capercaillie.	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Development of code of practice agreed by group in spring 1999. Drafting underway (SNH and RSPB).	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Code of practice to be published in 2000.	<i>Action by SNH, RSPB.</i>
<b>Constraints to action</b> <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>		
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Disseminate code of practice to birdwatching magazines, tour companies, conservation organisations etc. in 2000.	<i>Action by SNH, RSPB.</i>