

Grants available for communities to help save wildlife in their local patch

It may seem that the issues facing the planet and biodiversity are beyond the scope of most people, but there are many things that can be done that will help safeguard the future of habitats and species in the Cairngorms.

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) is actively encouraging communities and local groups to get involved by developing innovative projects that will help biodiversity in their local patch, which collectively can make a huge difference. It really is a case of think global, act local.

Through the Biodiversity Grant Scheme, funding is available for 100% of project costs up to £5000, which can also be used to match fund other funding. Projects must be completed by mid March 2008 and the closing date for applications is 1 October 2007.

If you have ideas that will benefit biodiversity in the Cairngorms, please get in contact with the LBAP Officers to see if we can help with grant funding.

Projects seeking grant-aid should address one of the common threads or issues set out in the Cairngorms LBAP. These include:

- 1 Lack of data and/or important information
- 2 Raising awareness
- 3 Direct habitat loss and fragmentation
- 4 Inappropriate management
- 5 Climate change and pollution
- 6 Non-native or alien animal and plant species

For the next few years the Cairngorms LBAP will be focusing attention on the recently reviewed Priority Species. This will allow us to direct our efforts at helping the species that are in most need of urgent help. This is not to say that we will be ignoring the other species and will still consider projects to help them. But our aim through the Grant Scheme is to encourage communities to deliver projects that are aimed at these Priority Species and the habitats they depend on. Potential projects could include community run goldeneye nest box schemes, managing community grassland for butterflies, planting of aspen stands, creation of wetlands to benefit amphibians, dragonflies and damselflies, as well as many others. There are 33 Priority Species, of which some examples include Atlantic salmon black grouse, lapwing, pearl bordered fritillary, red squirrel, Scottish wildcat.

For information on the Biodiversity Grant Scheme, the Priority Species and more advice on potential projects, please contact one of the Cairngorms LBAP Officers Tel: 01479 870528 Email: stephencorcoran@cairngorms.co.uk or justinprigmore@cairngorms.co.uk