



**EUROPARC**  
Conference 2018  
Cairngorms National Park  
Scotland

## **Native Woodland: creation and restoration on a landscape scale**

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WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WOODLAND TRUST FOR SCOTLAND AND THE COIGAGH AND ASSYNT LIVING LANDSCAPE PROJECT

# THE COIGACH AND ASSYNT LIVING LANDSCAPE PROJECT. CALLP

THE CALLP IS LOCATED IN THE NORTH WEST OF SCOTLAND.

THE PROJECT AREA LIES TO THE NORTH OF ULLAPOOL AND IS BOUNDED BY THE SEA ON THE SOUTH, WEST AND NORTH SIDES AND BY SUBSTANTIAL HILLS AND MOUNTAINS TO THE EAST.

THE AREA EXTENDS TO 62,000 HECTARES WITH A POPULATION OF 1,148 RESIDENTS.

THE AREA'S GEOLOGY IS UNUSUALLY VARIED AND ITS LANDSCAPE ACCOMMODATES OVER 1,268 LOCHS, AND ALMOST A QUARTER OF THE AREA IS DESIGNATED AS PROTECTED, DIVIDED AMONGST 11 SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AND SPECIAL PROTECTED AREAS

**LOCATION OF THE COIGACH AND  
ASSYNT LIVING LANDSCAPE  
PROJECT**





# WORKING TOGETHER ON A LARGER SCALE.



- THE COIGACH AND ASSYNT LIVING LANDSCAPE IS A PARTNERSHIP OF LOCAL STAKEHOLDER GROUPS, AND COMMUNITY, PRIVATE MEMBERSHIP ORGANISATION LANDOWNERS, WITH THE AIM OF CO-ORDINATED MANAGEMENT OF THE LANDSCAPE TO INCREASE WILDLIFE VARIETY AND SECURE BENEFIT FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

TRADITIONAL STALKING IS CERTAIN TO  
CHANGE WITH A MOVE TOWARDS  
MORE NATIVE WOODLAND CREATION,  
WILDLIFE TOURS AND EDUCATION.









# Regeneration of native trees and shrubs









# The Challenges faced.



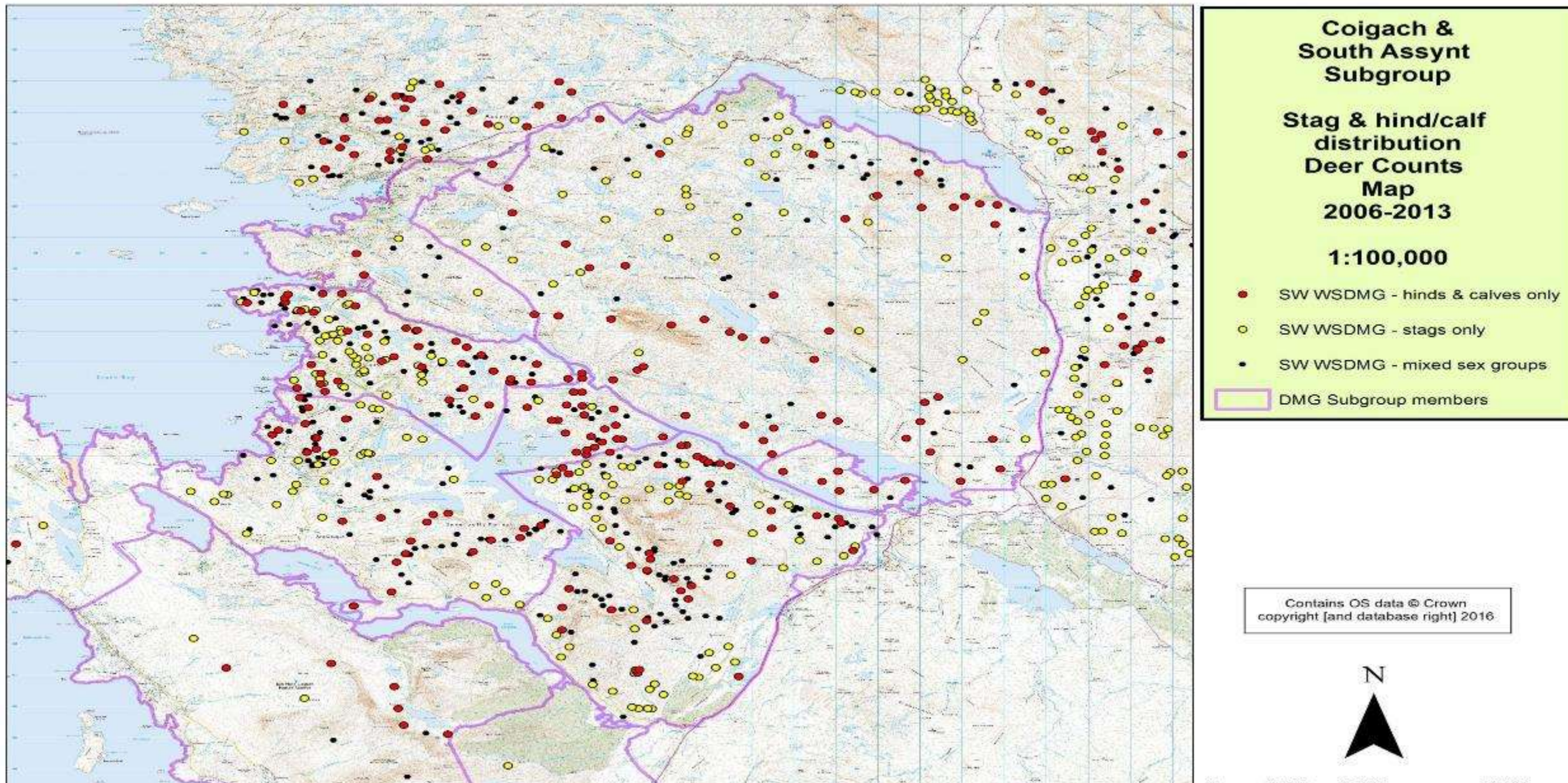


# After the Fire.





# Recording deer numbers, sex and distribution.



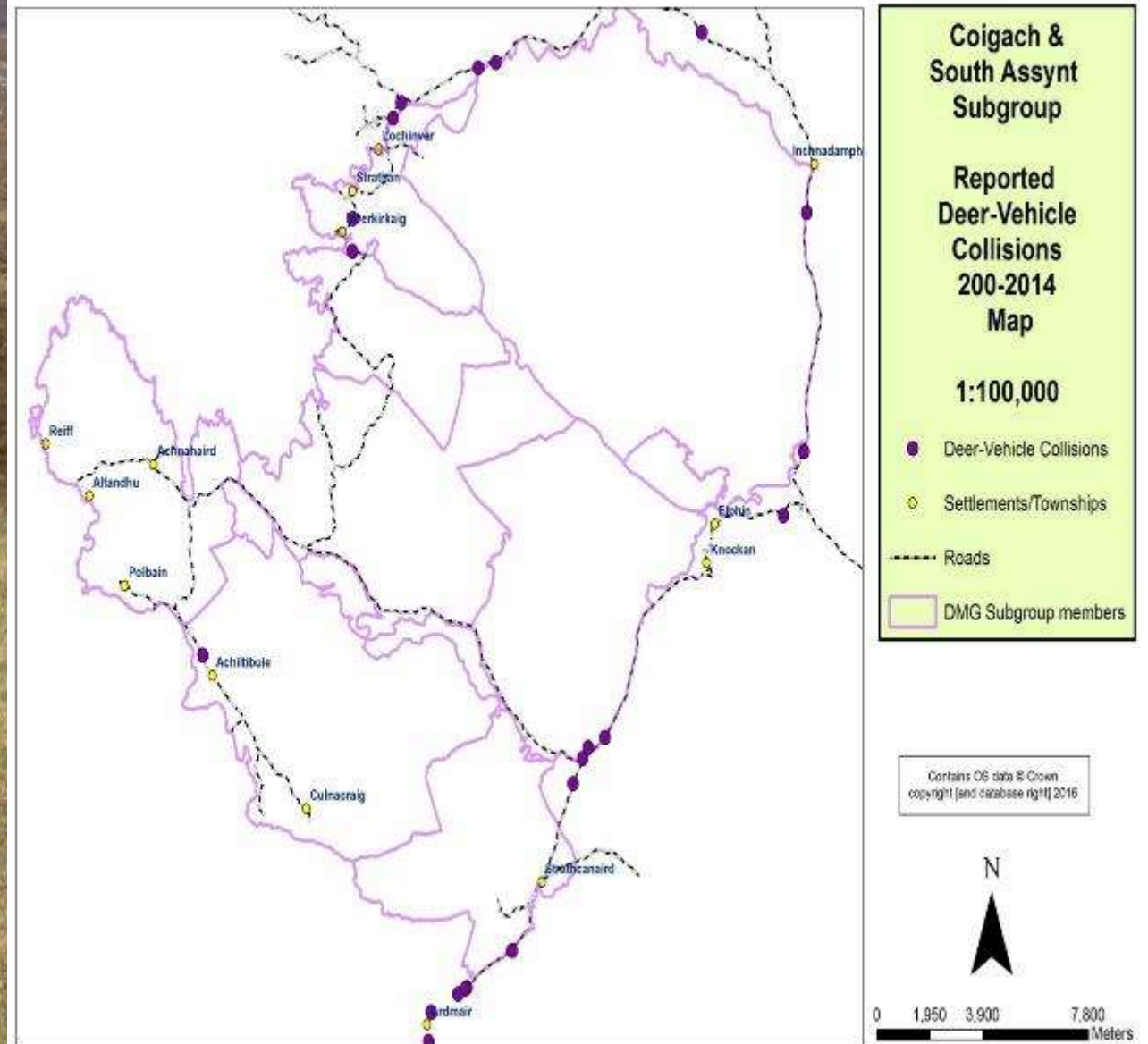


# Regular helicopter counts of deer population





# The death of a deer leads to soil enrichment in an area of very low fertility.





# Deer impacts.





## **Woodland types in Coigach-Assynt. Non Native 57.6%. Native 42.4%. Only 7.3% of the whole CALLP area is woodland.**

THE AREA HAS SEVERAL ANCIENT WOODLANDS THAT WERE DOCUMENTED IN THE FIRST MAPS OF SCOTLAND.

MOSTLY DOMINATED BY BIRCH, ALDER AND OAK INTERSPERSED WITH HOLLY, JUNIPER, WYCH ELM, BIRD CHERRY AND ROWAN.

THEY PROVIDE A DIVERSE HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE, STABILISING THE BANKS OF RIVERS AND BURNS AND STEEP HILLSIDES.

DEVELOPING AND SAFEGUARDING NATIVE WOODLANDS WILL PROVIDE LARGE SCALE HABITATS FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED MAMMALS WHO ARE RELIANT ON WOODLAND.

CALLP HAS A STRATEGY TO ENRICH AND REPLANT AREAS THAT WERE TRADITIONALLY ANCIENT WOODLAND, EXTENDING NATIVE WOODLANDS AROUND ESTABLISHED STANDS, AND REPLACEMENT PLANTING OF NATIVE TREES ONCE COMMERCIAL PLANTATIONS ARE HARVESTED.





**NEVER TOO YOUNG TO START  
PLANTING A NATIVE WOODLAND.**



## **SO WHAT IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING AND WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES.**

1. THE CALL PROJECT HAS WORKED WITH FUNDERS AND PARTNERS TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE.
2. AT LEAST 8 NEW POTENTIAL NATIVE WOODLAND SITES ARE BEING SURVEYED, WITH ONE 180 HECTARE PLANTING APPLICATION SUBMITTED LAST WEEKEND.
3. POTENTIAL NATIVE TREE PLANTING AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT HAS MOVED TO THE TOP OF THE PRIORITY LIST WITHIN THE 4 DEER MANAGEMENT PLANS BEING FINALISED WITHIN THE CALLP AREA.
4. ANALYSIS FOR THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF WOODLAND COFTS AND OTHER FORMS OF TENURE IS UNDERWAY.
5. THROUGH REGULAR COLLABORATION, THE POTENTIAL FOR LARGE LANDOWNERS TO WORK TOGETHER IN DELIVERING LARGE SCALE PLANTINGS HAS MOVED RAPIDLY FORWARD.



1. TRADITIONALLY THE CAPITAL VALUE OF SPORTING ESTATES WAS RELATED TO THE NUMBER OF STAGS SHOT.
2. A NEW LAND VALUE IS EMERGING, WITH HIGH PRICES BEING PAID BY LANDOWNERS SUCH AS WILDLAND ,WHO ARE COMITTED TO CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT, LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENT AND CARBON CAPTURE.
3. UNCERTAINTY EXISTS AS TO THE LEVELS AND TYPES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR UPLAND MANAGEMENT POST BREXIT.
4. TOURISM IS CURRENTLY ONE OF THE BEST OPPORTUNITIES TO GENERATE INCOME IN THE HIGHLANDS, AND CARRIED OUT WELL WILL LEAD TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT, EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES, EMPLOYMENT AND GIVE VISITORS AND LOCALS THE CHANCE TO INTEGRATE SENSITIVELY INTO OUR LIVING LANDSCAPE.
5. TO RECEIVE FORESTRY GRANTS FOR TREE PLANTING, THE NEW PLANTATIONS MUST BE FENCED TO PROTECT THE TREES FROM DEER AND LIVESTOCK AS A CONDITION OF THE GRANT. THESE FENCES CAN BE REMOVED ONCE THE TREES ARE ESTABLISHED AND THIS TIME CAN BE USED TO REDUCE DEER AND STOCK NUMBERS TO A LEVEL WHERE BOTH INTERESTS THRIVE.
6. THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR CLARITY ON THE DEFINITION OF WILDERNESS OR WILD LAND.
- 7. A LIVING LANDSCAPE SHOULD ACTUALLY BE A LIVING LANDSCAPE**, WHICH SUSTAINS FLORA, FAUNA, AND COMMUNITIES.

WE WILL ALL NEED TO WORK TOGETHER WITH GOVERNMENT, STATUTORY BODIES, AND THE PLANNERS TO FIND A WAY TO AGREE ON A VISION FOR THE FUTURE.





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**Thank you**

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