



Colintraive and Glendaruel Development Trust Argyll, Scotland

Large (600 ha) woodland purchased by remote Scottish community to improve the socio-economic situation of local people

COLINTRAIVE AND GLENDARUEL DEVELOPMENT TRUST

This case study is one of a set written as part of a Forest Research project. Some case studies are written by the community group, others by researchers who visited and interviewed group members, but they have all been validated and endorsed by the community groups.

Forest Research developed a standard method for describing the case studies, outlined in Lawrence and Ambrose-Oji, 2013 "A framework for sharing experiences of community woodland groups" Forestry Commission Research Note 15 (available from www.forestry.gov.uk/publications).

The case study comprises three parts:

1. The **Group Profile** provides essential information about the form and function of the community woodland group. Profiles were prepared following the methodology
2. The **Change Narrative** which documents key moments in the evolution of the community woodland group with a particular focus on the evolution of engagement and empowerment
3. The **Engagement and Impacts Timeline** documents milestones in the development of the community woodland group, its woodland and any assumed or evidenced impacts.

The case studies collectively provide a resource which documents the diversity and evolution of community woodland groups across Scotland, Wales and England. The method ensures that the case studies are consistent and can be compared with each other. We welcome further case studies to add to this growing resource.

For further information, and for the detailed case study method, please contact:

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1. Group profile

Woodland: Stronafian forest, South-West Cowal, Argyll

Map ref: NS 015 841

Webpage: <http://www.cgdt.org>

Date of profile: February 2014

Resources: Interview and site visit, Stronafian forest business plan 2012, Memorandum of Association, CGDT website

1. Institutional context (in February 2014)

1.1 Ownership of the woodland(s)

Stronafian forest is owned by Colintraive and Glendaruel Development Trust (CGDT). Approximately 110 ha of the forest with the highest conservation, amenity, and recreation value is managed by CGDT. This is mainly comprises the broadleaf woodland and open spaces. The remaining 510 ha of Stronafian Forest is leased out to a commercial operator on a 99-year term.

Classification of tenure: Ownership

1.2 Access and use rights to the woodland(s)

Responsible public access (by foot, bicycle, horse or canoe) is guaranteed by the Land Reform Act. The forest has two formal access points and third party land needs to be crossed to access either of these entrances to the forest. There is pedestrian access to the forest directly from the A886. However, visitors need to cross the road from the parking place where spaces are limited.

CGDT maintains all rights to woodland products on the 110 ha in their direct ownership. The commercial forestry contractor has the use of rights to all commercial timber within the 510 ha area that has been leased out. CGDT is in on-going negotiations with neighbouring landowners around access issues, which has already resulted in permission for commercial timber transport on the southern access point. However, there is currently no right of access granted for transport associated with the other commercial activities under consideration (e.g., wind

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	<p>turbine construction). CGDT aims to have these access rights resolved by early 2015 and to also include full public vehicle rights up to the first proposed viewpoint parking area. The access rights via the Glendaruel side entrance have already been agreed with the land owner and are currently being drawn up legally. A new car park with visitor interpretation panels will be installed in spring 2015.</p>
<p>1.3 Regulations/ responsibilities affecting the woodland(s)</p>	<p>The minimum legal requirements for H&S, historic monuments and pest and diseases management as outlined in the UK Forestry Standard.</p> <p>A 50-year FCS Forest Design Plan that was prepared when the woodland was under ownership of FCS but it was felt that this was no longer valid and up to date as there has been a change of land use – now community owned with a sitting private forestry tenant. Due to this change of use a new Forest Design Plan, which sets out the future use of the land by the tenant and the community, was prepared by the tenant and was approved by FCS in August 2014. This new FDP is a legally binding document and also incorporates the community master plan, which was finished in spring 2014.</p>
<p>2. Internal organisation of the group/enterprise</p>	
<p>2.1 Group members, representation and decision making</p>	<p>Permanent residents of the Colintraive and Glendaruel area (postcode: PA22 3**), who are over the age of 18 and on the electoral roll, are eligible to join as full voting members of the Trust. Non-residents with an interest in the Trust’s activity are eligible to join as associate members without voting rights. A junior membership is available as well. Membership is by five-year subscription, which is set at £5 for the full period for all categories.</p> <p>There are currently 76 adult members of the Trust with full voting rights (25% of the adult population).</p> <p>Decisions are being made by the board of six Member Directors, with a capacity of nine Member Directors, who meet on a monthly basis. The board is supported by a voluntary consultant who supports CGDT’s renewable energy initiatives. At each AGM, one third of all Member Directors step down. All co-opted Directors step down at each AGM. A Director who retires is eligible for re-election.</p>

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<p>2.2 Communication and learning processes</p>	<p>The group communicates any news items via their website and newsletters distributed on a quarterly basis to their membership. In addition, CGDT also organises extensive community consultations around topics such as access and archaeology. This is done through posting materials on the website, on local notice boards in village halls and local schools and in the newsletter.</p> <p>CGDT has a working Forest Development Group that discusses and evaluates ideas, which then get passed on to the Board for approval. These ideas include new recreation areas, funding, croft acceptance criteria etc. CGDT also has a working archaeology group who meet once a month to discuss the heritage of the forest and the wider glen. This group works closely with Historic Scotland, Archaeology Scotland and the ACCCORD Project based out of Glasgow University. Led by the Project Officers, these groups rely both on internal and, when necessary, external expertise.</p>
<p>2.3 Structure and legal status</p>	<p>The group is established as a Company Limited by Guarantee (SC350010) with a Charitable status (SC040002). It was established on 16.10.2008.</p> <p>Classification of legal form: Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee</p>
<p>2.4 Regulations/ responsibilities affecting the group/ enterprise</p>	<p>Company Law, Charity Law, The 'community body' regulations as formulated in Land Reform Act, the regulations set out as requirements for applicants in the National Forest Land Scheme.</p>
<p>2.5 Forest management objectives and planning procedures</p>	<p>The commercial forestry tenant has prepared a new Forest Design Plan covering the whole of Stronafian Forest. This is because the tenant felt that the FCS plan did no longer represent the situation on the ground. For example, the contractor would like to create more resilient ledges to prevent windthrow. An extensive Master Plan for the community forest describing the community aspirations - paths, recreation facilities, crofts, jobs, training etc - and the viability of these plans has been finalised and was adopted in spring 2014. The Forest Design Plan and Master Plan form the structural and legal basis of the overall future of activities and developments within the forest.</p>

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	<p>According to its Memorandum of Association, CGDT aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide recreational facilities and activities.• Advance environmental protection and improvement in the Community through the provision, maintenance and/or improvement of public open space and other public amenities and other environmental and regeneration projects.• Help young people, particularly those who are resident in the Community, to develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities, such that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and as members of society.• To promote, establish, operate and/or support other similar schemes and projects of a charitable nature for the benefit of the community within the Community. <p>Overall aim of plan: Quality of life</p>
<p>2.6 Implementing the woodland management plan</p>	<p>CGDT currently employs four people to take forward their activities in increasing community resilience. This includes two Project Officers for Stronafian Forest on a job share basis, who are both funded by the Scottish Land Fund and Highlands & Islands Enterprise. In addition, there is also a Project Officer and Administrator to carry out any duties in relation to the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) project undertaken by CGDT.</p> <p>For a three-year period between 2010 and 2013, CGDT also employed a Development Officer to provide administrative support.</p> <p>The activities of the forest project officer are supported by a forest working group (10 members) and an archeology working group (12 members) with representatives of the community to gain feedback from the community.</p> <p>Currently, the forestry tenant has just started their woodland management activities with fresh planting and felling taking place in Spring 2015. Community involvement in woodland management is also just about to start with the formation of a voluntary programme that will look at improving access, paths and picnic areas.</p>

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<p>2.7 Business/ operating model and sustainability</p>	<p>CGDT currently relies almost entirely on grant funding to undertake their activities and fund their employees while plans for a social enterprise are under development. This is supplemented by a working capital from the forestry contractor that was secured as part of the lease deal and income from membership fees and donations.</p> <p>The business is sustainable thanks to grant funding and working capital, the latter of which is used to pay for project costs that are covered by grant funding paid in arrears. Given the economically deprived character of the community, it is expected that funding will remain available in the future. Furthermore, projects under development such as the community wind turbine and the wood fuel scheme are expected to deliver a return within the foreseeable future. The CCF project is expected to be self-sustainable within 18 months from inception, based on rental of the poly tunnels created as part of this initiative. Although this is not an element of the community woodland project, chainsaw training and a wood fuel business trading wood from elsewhere have been components of the most recent aspect/funding of the CCF project.</p> <p>CGDT has a strong business ethos as the forest is mainly perceived as a means to improve the socio-economic condition of the community. A variety of activities have been undertaken to get the business off the ground. A business plan has been developed, which was funded by HIE. This outlines proposals for the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forest acquisition • lease of commercial forest area • forest development • renewable energy • housing and woodland crofts. <p>The group recently applied to the Scottish Government Community And Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) for funding to install a meteorological mast, conduct environmental surveys and start the required pre-planning work. Activities of CGDT are not limited to developing social enterprise in relation the community woodland; it aims to make the community a more attractive place for visitors as a whole. For example, it has plans to purchase and renovate a local hotel that lies to the west of the forest into a 'Centre of Excellence'.</p>

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	<p>Income 2013-2014: Grant & matched funding: £203,463 Membership subs: £377 Other income: £250</p> <p>2014</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Amount</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Grant & matched funding</td> <td>203,463</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Membership subs</td> <td>377</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>250</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Amount	Percentage	Grant & matched funding	203,463	100%	Membership subs	377	0%	Other	250	0%
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<p>2.8 Benefit distribution rules</p>	<p>Any financial benefits associated with timber products or from other investments being made in and around the forest by CGDT will be re-invested into the activities of the group aimed at making the community more sustainable.</p>												
<p>3. External linkages</p>													

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3.1 Partnerships and agreements	<p>There are formal links with Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) to ensure the best outcome for the forest.</p> <p>Furthermore, several CGDT Directors are part of networks and panels related to community benefit of wind farms, recycling and core paths such as the Cowal Way. A Cowal Way Committee acts as a subgroup of the Trust. The Cowal Way has been adopted by CGDT in 2013 and is currently subject to a £350K funding bid for improvements and marketing of the long distance walk. A decision is expected in December 2014 with a planned project start date of January 2015.</p>
3.2 Associations	<p>Directors of CGDT have strong links with policymakers, Governmental Agencies and NGOs supporting community involvement and social enterprise. These stakeholders include: Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS), HIE, FCS and Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust (AICCT). These affiliations have come about either by a CGDT Director taking on a formal role within the organisation or through actively networking on meetings and AGMs.</p> <p>Membership of the Community Woodlands Association, Community Land Scotland and Reforesting Scotland.</p> <p>CGDT has close relationships with other CWGs, most notably Kilfinan Community Forest Company (KCFC), Bute Community Land Company (BCLC) and Blarbuie Woodland Enterprise Ltd. (BWEL). With the former two, which are in the local area, ideas have been discussed around connecting the forests via mountain bike routes and/or walkways such as the Cowal Way.</p>
4. Resources	
4.1 Forest/ woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronafian Forest is a 615ha forest planted for commercial forestry purposes. • It is located between the roads linking Glendaruel with Dunoon (B836) and Colintraiive with Strachur (A866) on the Cowal peninsula of Argyll. The forest occupies the west facing slope of Glendaruel and a shallow glen lying to the east. It ranges from heights of about 30 metres in the lower part of Glendaruel to about 300 metres on the open hill tops. The native broadleaf woodland is located on the slopes above Clachan of Glendaruel itself and elsewhere along watercourses and on the fringes of the forest.

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- The main access to the forest is from the B836 at the southern end of the forest. Although private land needs to be crossed to access the forest, rights of way for forest operations have been provided. Rights of access have also been granted for a second access road leading into forest from the west at its northern end, although a series of three access gates need to be negotiated. There is a good network of internal roads for forestry operations. A walk to the chambered cairn has been signposted and can be reached from the lay-by at Clachan of Glendaruel on the A866.
- The forest comprises 462 ha of largely mature conifers along with 153ha of open ground and small areas of native broadleaf woodland (c. 38 ha). The conifer population is mixed with Sitka spruce as predominant species. Other conifer species include: larch, lodgepole pine, Norway spruce, and Douglas fir. The majority of trees were planted in the early 1970s. Smaller compartments have been planted in 1957, 1980 and 2009/2010. A large number of native species such as willow, rowan, oak and silver birch have gradually re-established themselves since the 1960s. These are also the species comprising the broadleaf woodland.
- The forest includes several areas of open ground in locations that have been harvested and on higher elevations. The latter are areas where it was not considered to be appropriate to plant conifer plantations. They include a mixture of wetland, bog, heath and rock. There are several burns within the woodland. A number of unscheduled archaeological monuments, including a chambered cairn and cup and ring standing stone, can be found within the area closest to Clachan of Glendaruel. CGDT hope to install several ponds and water features in 2015.
- **Classification of woodland type: Mined mainly conifer**
- The previous management of the forest was carried out by FCS - but since the community have been able to acquire the land via the National Forest Land Scheme responsibility of the management of the land now falls to CGDT and the sitting tenant. By working closely together and following the ideas and principles of the forest design plan and community master plan the future of the forest and its viability as a positive resource for the community will be secured for future generations.

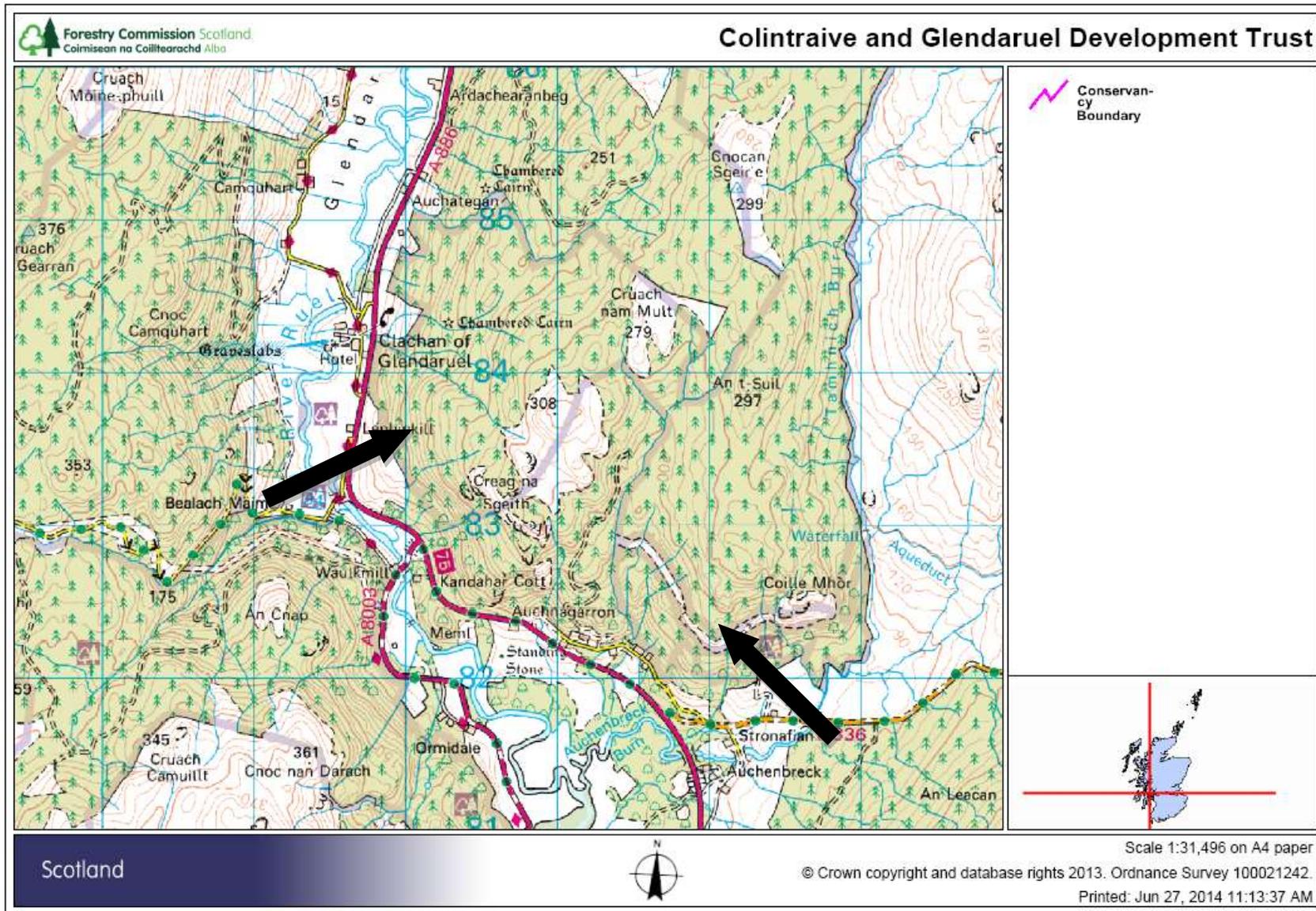
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The general condition of the forest is very good with the native areas thriving and much of the open areas starting to produce wild flowers. Although there are some areas of the conifer and pine that have been badly effected by windthrow, these areas will be gradually cleared and replaced with new plantations that will have stronger more resilient edges. • Red squirrel, pine martin, foxes, red deer, dragonflies, butterflies, newts, toads and a wide variety of birds have all been spotted within the forest. The southern tip of the forest falls within the Kyles of Bute National Scenic Area.
4.2 Woodland and group funding sources	<p>CGDT purchased Stronafian Forest through an arrangement where the development trust negotiated with a third party, such that on acquisition the majority of the forest was immediately leased out to a commercial forestry tenant, who paid £1.3 million (80% of purchase price) upfront for the 99-year lease. The remaining funds used to cover the purchase price were acquired from Scottish Land Fund (£260,000) and HIE (£59,750). HIE and FCS funded the legal costs associated with the transfer (£9,750 each).</p> <p>A Local Development Officer has been employed for a three-year period funded by Argyll and the Islands LEADER, Cruach Mhor Windfarm Trust and HIE. These funds also covered office costs. A Project Officer for Stronafian Forest has been funded by Scottish Land Fund and Highlands & Islands Enterprise.</p> <p>Scottish Native Woodlands funded community consultation and a forest valuation report in preparation of forest acquisition. HIE also funded the preparation of the Stronafian Forest Business Plan.</p> <p>In 2013, CGDT also successfully applied to the Climate Challenge Fund for the “Greener ColGlen” project (£172,357). These funds also finance a Project Officer and Administrator. In April 2014, an application to Scottish government’s Community And Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) towards the funding the pre-planning work for a forest wind turbine was approved (£144,000).</p> <p>FCS funding has been received towards organising a training event for local members of the community around</p>

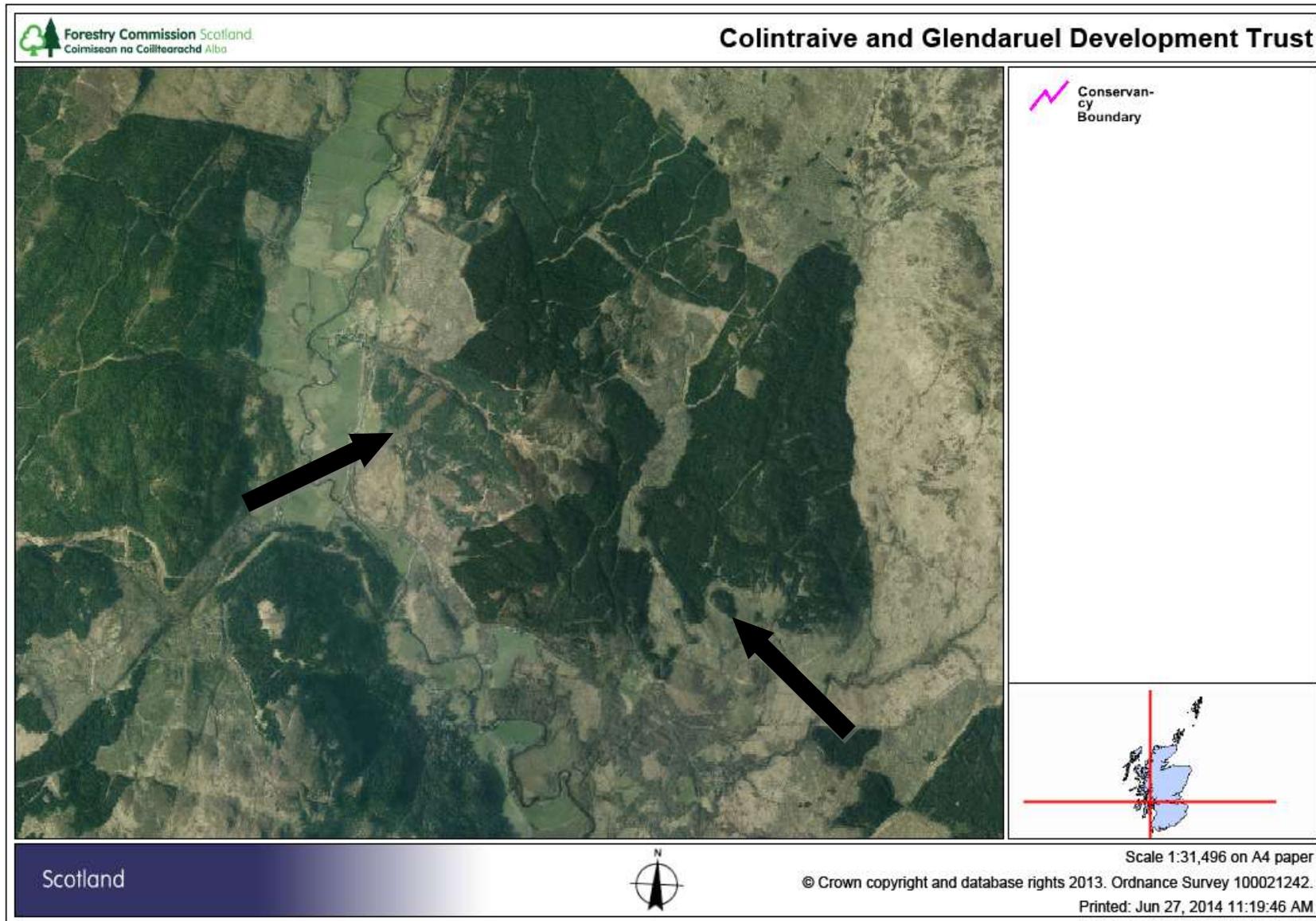
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	<p>preparing a feasibility study. The Cowal Way has contributed £27,276 towards a project aimed at connecting the Stronafian forest with the Cowal Way walking route from Portvadie to Arrochar via a loop. Investing in Ideas funding has been secured to fund an engineer and architect around the Glendaruel 'Centre of Excellence' project. Although this is not directly a forest led project the immediate and long term benefits to the forest, if such a project were to succeed, are clear as it could act as a forest visitor centre, training facility, office space etc.</p>
<p>4.3 Knowledge, skills, human and social capital</p>	<p>As a result of their networking activities (see Section 3.2), CGDT Directors and staff have a good knowledge of current policy, the expectations of spatial planners and the availability of funding schemes to support their activities.</p> <p>CGDT also has access to expert advice from organisations such as HIE, CWA and CLS in relation to account management and legal matters. With regard to woodland management, external advice has been gained from Scottish Native Woodlands and CWGs such as KCWC and North West Mull Community Woodland Company (NWMCWC).</p> <p>Directors and members of staff have been trained in conflict resolution and other training for Directors is provided on an as-needed basis in areas such as woodland management, renewable energy etc.</p> <p>Staff members have specific skills related to business and product development, forestry, farming, project management, grant application writing, management, accountancy, administration, renewable energy and community consultation.</p> <p>Community volunteers have been trained in preparing a feasibility study for constructing a path to the chambered cairn. A 'Training for Skills' volunteering programme where members of the local community and beyond can train for new skills such as chainsaw, first aid, invasive species control etc will commence in autumn 2014. In addition, training for operating the wood fuel business is provided through the CCF project.</p>

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2. Change Narrative

1. Group History. Moments of change, motivations and engagement

The community of Colintrave and Glendaruel (combined population: 300 residents) has a very low density of human settlement and due to its remoteness it faces an increasingly aging population and decreasing availability of employment and public services. Currently, only one third of the population comprises working families with the remaining properties owned by retired people and second home owners. The Colintrave and Glendaruel Development Trust (CGDT) was founded and incorporated in October 2008 to halt the social and economic decline of the community and to ensure its sustainability (**informal enjoyment to group formation**).

Stronafian Forest, a 600 ha woodland nested within the community of CGDT, was listed as surplus by FCS in 2010. CGDT was informed of the proposed sale of the forest by the Colintrave and Glendaruel Community Council in May 2010. In order to retain it as a resource for the community, CGDT decided to investigate the opportunity of woodland acquisition. Following several public meetings, it was decided that the first step should be to undertake a community consultation. This was carried out by “animateurs” from Scottish Native Woodlands, who distributed a questionnaire to local homeowners and held three public meetings. The latter served to provide the community with an opportunity to learn from experiences by nearby community woodland groups. This was followed by a forest valuation report and a community ballot. This saw a majority in support of woodland purchase (66%) with a 67 percent turnout. In response to this, an application for forest purchase was made to the National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS) panel in October 2010. This was approved in May 2011. In February 2013, Stronafian forest was acquired by CGDT following the preparation of a Business Plan (**group formation to full management**). The delay in the purchase was due to the lengthy timeframe required to arrange legal matters and to prepare the terms of purchase. To cover the purchase costs, priori negotiations had ensured that a large section of Stronafian Forest was immediately leased to a third party after acquisition by CGDT on a 99-year term.

CGDT also remains involved in a variety of other projects aimed at improving the sustainability of the community. One of these initiatives is the Climate Change Fund (CCF) project. The first of the CCF projects, “Warmer ColGlen”, was aimed at improving

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energy efficiency of buildings within the community and ran from April 2012 to September 2013 (see Section 2.8). The current CCF project, “Greener ColGlen”, had its inception in October 2013 and will run until March 2015. Greener ColGlen is targeted at making the community more self-supportive through establishing a food growing group and providing polytunnels to support their activities. In addition, composting facilities will be provided to the community and Rhododendron Ponticum will be eradicated to protect the timber resource and set up the wood fuel business.

CGDT is furthermore investigating the possibilities of purchasing Glendaruel Hotel, installing a hydro scheme, pursuing improved broadband provision to the community, connecting Stronafian forest with the Cowal walkway via a loop and constructing a wind turbine. Of these plans, the micro hydro scheme is closest to development (Dec 2015), while the wind turbine development is also proceeding forwards due the application for pre-planning funding being approved by CARES. With regard to Glendaruel Hotel, CGDT already registered a community interest under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act for community purchase. CGDT envisages the hotel to function as a forest, training and conference centre as well as to provide a local café, visitor centre, meeting rooms and office space to lease out to businesses.

Despite this range of other activities, CGDT considers managing Stronafian Forest as its flagship project because it is key to revitalising, and attracting higher visitor numbers to, the area. Forest management activities, however, are held off while CGDT is focussing its efforts on negotiating its legal rights of access on the haulage road to the forest. This is required in order to carry out the proposed wind turbine development. Although CGDT has undertaken some research into the complicated deeds, the main focus is put on negotiating in order to gain unrestricted rights of access on a consensual basis.

2. Challenges, barriers and opportunities for change: Key issues in evolution

Facilitating factors

- The **commitment of volunteers** acting as Directors on the board.

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- **Documenting activities** around each of the projects the group is involved with in a more structured way has allowed for better knowledge transfer from Director to Director.
- Community involvement and sense of ownership have been facilitated through **consultation** around forest acquisition and, more recently, around the development of a Stronafian Forest Master Plan. The Local Authority requested that a community Masterplan be written to articulate the key aspirations of the community and what they would like to see happening in the forest in the future. While access and recreation scored highest, forest crofts, volunteering opportunities, job creation, woodland burials, affordable housing and crofts were favoured as well. Information was disseminated both on - and offline, for example in the local village halls. In addition, community working groups have been created to take forward the woodland projects related to 'hands-on forest work' such as the volunteering, archaeology and forest crofting projects. The benefits of consultation are also illustrated by the way CGDT deals with objections to projects. In the past, it has successfully dealt with objections to the CCF polytunnel development project by undertaking an options appraisal in which the advantages and disadvantages of different locations were compared with those of alternative locations. This was carried out by a working group comprising members of the community. The outcome of this appraisal was disseminated in a report, which was discussed in a public meeting at the Community Council. The conclusion of this was that the location of the original proposal was most suitable. Backed by community support, CGDT was in a better position to carry out the planned development.
- **External funding** has been crucial towards covering the staff salaries and taking forward the projects initiated by CGDT.
- The purchase of the forest was facilitated by **advice from the forestry consultant** of CGDT, who proposed to lease out part of the forest to a commercial timber enterprise. The consultant worked independently and held a key interest in Cowal and Bute.
- To allow for the recruitment of more volunteers, CGDT decided upon **expanding the community area** from which members could be recruited.
- Due to the payment of some grant funds in arrears, it is of vital importance that CGDT remains liquid through maintaining sufficient cash flow. To this end, the availability of **working capital negotiated as part of the lease deal with the commercial timber company** has been of crucial importance.

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- Woodland management has been facilitated by **proactively setting up a wood fuel business and providing chainsaw training** while still awaiting permission to access Stronafian forest for timber transport. This was done through incorporating the wood fuel business into the CCF project proposal whereby the business will use timber extracted elsewhere until the rights of access to Stronafian forest have been established.

Barriers

- CGDT currently focuses most of its efforts on liaising with relevant stakeholders, preparing grant applications and sorting out legal matters in order to prepare for cost-effective management of assets. As a result, there has been **criticism by members of the community regarding the lack of tangible benefits** of community forest acquisition.
- There have also been very strong **objections by members of the community** around activities carried out as part of a CCF project. Similar objections are expected around development of the wind turbine and community purchase of the hotel.
- **Lack of involvement by the local community.** The majority of people involved with CGDT are incomers, who are not native to the community. Furthermore, a subset of local people is difficult to reach because they lack an internet connection, or because they are second home owners, which further challenges participation. Tensions have arisen as the majority of CGDT Directors are incomers and some resist the role of incomers in decision-making around developments in the community.
- **Managing the broad range of projects CGDT is involved with** is sometimes experienced as daunting by newly recruited Directors.
- **Dealing with legal matters** around owning and leasing out a forest. For example, CGDT is dissatisfied with certain terms and conditions in the lease agreement, which was signed with the commercial timber contractor, and is looking to change the agreement. At the time of signing the lease, however, these concerns were not yet apparent, owing to a lack of experience with managing a forest. Similarly, CGDT is also liaising with a solicitor to investigate its rights of access on the haulage road to the south of the forest.

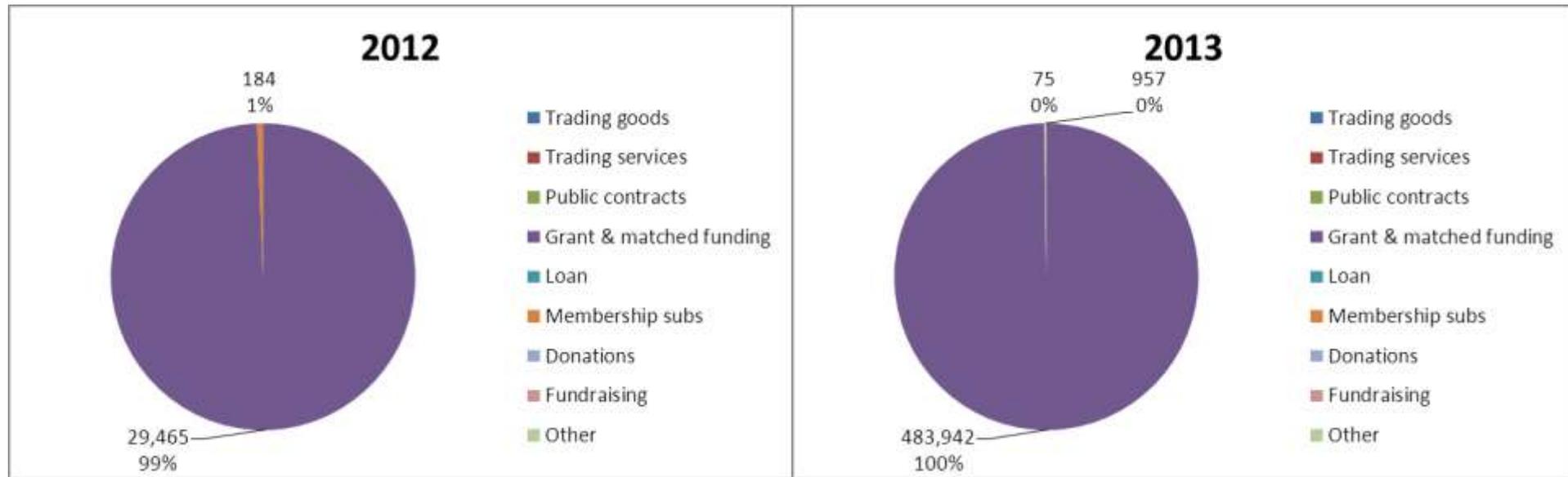
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- **Finding external funding to purchase the forest.** After the NFLS application was approved, an 18 month period to raise £1.55 million was given.
- CGDT is involved in a variety of projects and these put considerable demands on the available Directors. **Lack of time and resources** therefore poses a problem. CGDT is currently looking to recruit additional Directors to reduce the workload.
- Although the involvement of a forestry contractor was crucial in community acquisition of Stronafian forest, it introduced **a need for CGDT to consult with the contractor around forest management activities.** For example, it is important to minimize the nuisance of timber felling to visitors of the forest, to have a level of influence on the decision-making around the construction of new paths and to provide a level of visual amenity throughout the process.

3. Evolution of income streams

In the previous two years, CGDT also largely relied on grant income with the absolute amount of funding received varying from year to year.

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4. Woodland history and change: Benefits and impacts before group involvement

Before community involvement, the forest was owned by FCS and used it for commercial forestry purposes.

Time Period	Owner/Manager	Objectives / Benefits (and evidence)	Major operations	Access and use rights
- 2013	FCS	Productive woodland	Tree planting Tree felling	Right to roam (<i>de facto</i>) Land Reform Act (since 2003)

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5. Woodland history and change: Benefits and impacts since group involvement

The only tangible impact on the woodland since community acquisition is the signposting of a new walkway from Clachan of Glendaruel to the chambered cairns situated on top of a hill within the forest. The commercial forestry operator has also not yet commenced its timber harvesting activities.

Now that the Forest Design Plan and Master Plan have been approved CGDT is proceeding with firming up the access rights into the forest. The Master Plan includes plans for a forest wind turbine, affordable housing (one plot with 4-5 houses) within the forest, improving access and amenity, a woodfuel business and forest crofting. CGDT is now proceeding with and developing access & recreation as well as conducting environmental surveys and setting up a volunteering programme. This will gradually improve the community's role with-in the forest and lay the foundations for a lasting legacy.

A number of environmental surveys (mammal, bat and bird) are currently being conducted within the forest and should be completed by spring 2015. This work is carried out as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment needed for the renewable wind energy project.

Time Period	Owner/Manager	Objectives / Benefits (and evidence)	Major operations	Access and use rights
2013 -	CGDT and commercial timber operator	Increase community resilience Improve public access Productive woodland	Signposted a new walkway Proposed construction of wind turbine Tree felling	Land Reform Act

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6. Future Plans

The future plans of CGDT in relation to Stronafian are as described in the previous section. In addition, it aims to continue its activities as part of the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) project, "Greener ColGlen" and is considering purchasing the Glendaruel Hotel, purchasing and re-opening the former village shop in Colintraive and creating new tourist facilities, including car parking and signposted walkways.

Of the projects internal to the forest, the wind turbine initiative, wood fuel business and improving access and amenity are likely going to be the first projects to be carried out. The forest crofting proposal is also set to be implemented given high local interest. The likelihood that the affordable housing project will be implemented in the short run is much lower given the complex regulatory framework associated with gaining planning permission and the lack of internal expertise to deal with this. This is supplemented by a relative low community appetite for affordable housing, which was reflected in the housing survey.

In 2015 CGDT hopes to install some additional water features and ponds to help the already established species that thrive in wetland areas to expand and flourish.

3. Engagement and impacts timeline

Year	Event	ENGAGEMENT	Reasons (Barriers and challenges)	Changes /Impacts and outcomes Social (evidence)	Changes /Impacts and outcomes Woodland (evidence)	Changes /Impacts and outcomes Financial /Economic (evidence)
2008	CGDT is founded	INFORMAL ENJOYMENT to GROUP FORMATION	To halt social and economical decline	Increased use of village halls (programme of social events)	None	Resources saved on energy use (energy bills)
2013	CGDT purchases Stronafian forest	GROUP FORMATION to FULL MANAGEMENT	To develop the forest for community purposes	Community involvement in working groups	Signposted walkway	Not expected yet