

PLAN-GNÌOMHA
GNÈ AN
TRAOIN

CORNCRAKE
SPECIES ACTION
PLAN



WESTERN ISLES LOCAL
BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

PLANA-GNÌOMHA
BITH-IOMADACHD
IONADAIL NAN EILEAN SIAR

1. SPECIES PROFILE

Common Name:

Corncrake.

Scientific Name:

Crex crex.

UK Biodiversity Status:

UK Priority Species

Statutory Protection:

The corncrake is listed on Appendix II of the Bern Convention and Annex 1 of the EC Birds Directive. In the UK it is protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Within the Western Isles many populations are on Special Protection Areas (SPA's), National Nature Reserves (NNRs), Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and RSPB reserves. North Uist Machair and Islands SPA qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Birds Directive by supporting populations of European importance of Corncrake, (at least 5.2% of the breeding population). South Uist Machair and Lochs SPA (3.1% of the breeding population) and Ness and Barvas SPA (3.8% of the breeding population) are also designated for their corncrake populations.

Corncrake grant schemes, funded by SNH and RSPB and Scottish Crofting Foundation under their joint Corncrake Initiative, provide incentives for corncrake-friendly grass cutting and management to protect corncrakes, but it is hoped to supersede this approach by the provision of improved agri-environment prescriptions with advice to land manager.



2. OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

	Objective	Target
1	Map the current range of corncrake in the Western Isles.	Annually produce a map of distribution to allow monitoring of distribution and numbers.
2	Maintain the current range of corncrakes in the Western Isles.	Ensure no net loss of range.
3	Expand the range/number of corncrakes across the Western Isles.	Expand the distribution of corncrakes on the Western Isles. Increase population on islands to 600 calling males by 2010.
4	Maximise corncrake breeding performance and/or survival across the Western Isles.	Ensure maximum breeding performance by provision of early cover, appropriate cutting techniques and predator control.
5	Promote the relationship between traditional crofting practice and the conservation of corncrakes.	Continue to develop corncrake management schemes. Promote the uptake of relevant agri-environment schemes.

Associated Habitats and Species:

Most corncrakes are found in traditionally managed agricultural grasslands. They require tall grasses or herbaceous vegetation, such as nettles and cow parsley, of at least twenty centimeters in height so that they can be concealed at all times. Occasionally crops such as barley or oats will be used later in summer. On the Western Isles most corncrakes live on farmed grassland where mowing and livestock grazing produces suitable habitats but in the Uists, are known to move into crops later to a significant extent. Corncrakes also require 'early cover' when they arrive from Africa in April and May. They rely on tall herbs such as nettle, iris, cow parsley and reeds until meadow grass attains sufficient height. Birds then move into hay and

silage meadows when the grass is more than 20cm high. They relocate to the safety of tall herbs during grass cutting.

The corncrake is closely associated with two priority habitats, machair and neutral grassland. It shares many of the conditions enjoyed by other priority species, species of conservation concern and those classified as of local interest such as Great Yellow Bumblebee *Bombus distinguendus*, Northern Colletes Bee *Colletes floralis*, Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra* and Skylark *Alauda arvensis*.

Most corncrakes are found in traditionally managed agricultural grasslands



1. CUNNTAS GNÈ

Ainm Cumanta:

Traon.

Ainm Saidheansail:

Crex crex.

Inbhe Bith-iomadachd na RA:

Prìomh Ghnèithean na RA

Dìon Reachdail:

Tha an traon air ainmeachadh ann am Pàipear-taice II de Chùmhnant Bern agus Leas-phàipear 1 de Riaghailt Eun an EC. Anns an RA tha e air a dhìon fo Liosta 1 de Achd Fiadh-bheatha is Dùthcha 1981.

Anns na h-Eileanan Siar tha àireamhan mòra dhiubh ann an Àitean Sònraichte Dìona (SPAan), Tèarmannan Nàdair Nàiseanta (NNRan), Ionadan de Shuim Shònraichte Shaidheansail (SSSIan) agus tèarmannan-nàdair RSPB. Tha còir aig SPA Machair is Eileanan Uibhist a Tuath fo Chùmhnant 4.1 de Riaghailt nan Eun tro thaic do àireamhan den Traon le cudrom Eòrpach, (co-dhiù 5.2% de na traoin briodaidh). Tha SPA Machair is Lochan Uibhist a Deas (3.1% de na traoin briodaidh) agus SPA Nis is Bharabhais (3.8% de na traoin briodaidh) air an sònrachadh cuideachd airson nan àireamhan de thraoin a tha orra.

Tha sgeamaichean tabhartais Traoin, air am maoineachadh le SNH is RSPB agus Urras Croitearachd na h-Alba fon Cho-iomairt Traoin aca, a' brosnachadh gearradh is rianachd feòir traon-chàirdeil a bheir dìon don traon, ach thathar an dòchas gum bi òrdaighean àiteachais-àrainneachd nas fheàrr le comhairle do mhanaidsear fearainn air an cur an àite na dòigh seo

Àrainnean agus Gnèithean Co-cheangailte ris:

Tha a' chuid as motha de thraoin air am faighinn ann an talamh-feòir a tha air àiteach san dòigh thraidiseanta. Feumaidh iad feuran no lusan àrda, mar deanntagan agus costag fhiadhain, a tha co-dhiù fichead ceudameatair a dh'àirde agus an cumail falaichte daonna. Uaireannan cleachdaidh iad arbhar mar eòrna no coirce nas fhaide air adhart den t-samhradh. Anns na h-Eileanan Siar gheibhear a' chuid as motha de thraoin air

talamh-feòir àitichte far a bheil spealadh agus ionaltradh stuic a' cruthachadh àrainnean freagarrach ach anns na h-Uibhistean, tha iad gu ìre mhòr air gluasad air ais dhan arbhar. Feumaidh na traoin cuideachd 'còmhdach thràth' nuair a thig iad à Afraga anns a' Ghiblean agus a' Chèitean. Tha iad an urra ri lusan àrda mar deanntag, seileastair, costag fhiadhain agus cuilcean gus am fàs am miad-fheur gu àirde freagarrach. Bidh eòin an uair sin a' gluasad a-steach dha na h-achaidhean feòire agus feur-fioraidh nuair a tha am feur nas àirde na 20cm. Bidh iad a' dol air ais fo dhion lusan àrda aig àm gearradh an fheòir.

Tha dlùth cheangal aig an traon ri dà phrìomh àrainn, machair agus talamh-feòir neo-phàirteach. Tha e a' mealtainn mòran shuidhichidhean co-ionann ri prìomh ghnèithean eile, gnèithean le cudrom glèidhteachais agus an fheadhainn den t-seòrsa le ùidh ionadail mar an Seillean Mòr *Bombus distinguendus*, an Seillean Northern Colletes *Colletes floralis*, a' Ghealag-bhuachair *Miliaria calandra* agus an Uiseag *Alauda arvensis*.

2. AMASAN AGUS CUIMSEAN

	Amas	Cuimse
1.	Mapa a dhèanamh de raon làthaireach an traoin anns na h-Eileanan Siar.	Mapa a dhèanamh de sgaoileadh an traoin gach bliadhna gus sùil a chumail air an sgaoileadh agus na h-àireamhan
2.	Cumail suas raon làthaireach an traoin anns na h-Eileanan Siar.	Dèanamh cinnteach nach bi call lom ann a thaobh raon.
3.	Raon/àireamh nan traoin air feadh nan Eilean Siar a leudachadh.	Sgaoileadh nan traoin anns na h-Eileanan Siar a leudachadh. Àireamhan anns na h-eileanan a mheudachadh gu 600 eun fireann a' briodadh ro 2010.
4.	Briodadh an traoin a mheudachadh air feadh nan Eilean Siar agus/no dèanamh cinnteach gum bi i maireannach.	Dèanamh cinnteach gum faighear briodadh cho math 's a ghabhas tro chòmhdach thràth, dòighean gearraidh freagarrach agus smachd air creachadairean.
5.	Adhartachadh na dàimh eadar obair croitearachd thraidiseanta agus gleidheadh an traoin	Cumail a' dol le sgeamaichean riaghlaidh traoin. Adhartachadh na tha a' dèanamh feum de sgeamaichean àiteachais-rainneachd iomchaidh.

Tha a' chuid as motha de thraoin air am faighinn ann an talamh-feòir a tha air àiteach san dòigh thraidiseanta.

Photos (left to right):

Iris beds provide early cover for conrakes until grass crops are tall enough; Conrakes.

Dealbhan (a' gu deas):

Tha leapannan seileastair a' toirt còmhdach thràth dhan traoin gus ma bidh am feur àrd gu leòr; Traoin.



3. CURRENT STATUS

The corncrake population has more than doubled in the UK in the past 10 years, and this has been reflected in the Western Isles population.

The most recent distribution map for Scotland (2004) shows the main centres of population on the Orkney Isles, the Western Isles plus Coll, Tiree and a scattering of mainly coastal records in mainland Caithness and Sutherland- see Figure 1 in Section 5 Biodiversity Context. In the Western Isles the corncrake is predominantly associated with the machair land of North Uist (including Berneray), Benbecula, South Uist (including Eriskay) and Barra (including Vatersay). It has been recorded on the Monach Isles.

The count for the Outer Hebrides in 1978-79 is known to be an underestimate because surveys on Lewis and Barra were incomplete. Hence the number counted is given (in brackets), together with the total after data for Lewis and Barra are included.

The corncrake population has more than doubled in the UK in the past 10 years...

Table 1 - Summary of surveys of calling male Corncrakes in Britain and the Isle of Man

(Source: RSPB).

Region	1978-79	1988	1993	1998	2003	2004
Northern Isles	108	34	9	17	35	17
Outer Hebrides	265 (206)	312 (185)	271	308	393	483
Inner Hebrides	239	197	172	225	377	547
Rest of Scotland	99	27	18	24	17	12
England, Wales & Isle of Man	17	5	10	15	8	
Total	723	574	480	589	830	1059



3. INBHE LÀTHAIREACH

Tha àireamhan an traoin suas barrachd air uimhir eile san RA anns na 10 bliadhna a dh'fhalbh, agus tha seo air fhaicinn anns na h-àireamhan sna h-Eileanan Siar.

Tha an sgaileadh mapa as ùire airson Alba (2004) a' sealltainn gu bheil na h-àireamhan as motha ann an Arcaibh, anns na h-Eileanan Siar còmhla ri Colla, Tiriodh agus an-siud 's an-seo gu h-àraidh cladaichean air fir-mòr Ghallaibh is Chataibh - faic Dealbh 1 ann an Earrann 5 Suidheachadh Bith-iomadachd. Anns na h-Eileanan Siar tha an traon air fhaighinn nas motha air a' mhachair an Uibhist a Tuath (a' gabhail a-steach Beàrnaraigh), Beinn na Faoghla, Uibhist a Deas (a' gabhail a-steach Èirisgeigh) agus Barraigh (a' gabhail a-steach Bhatarsaigh). Chaidh a chlàradh anns na h-Eileanan Monach.

Tha fios gu bheil na h-àireamhan a tha air an clàradh airson nan Eilean Siar ann an 1978-79 ro ìosal oir bha sgrùdaidhean ann an Leòdhas agus Barraigh gun an crìochnachadh. Mar sin tha an àireamh a

chaidh a chunntadh air an sealltainn (sna camagan), còmhla ris an àireamh iomlan an dèidh don dàta airson Leòdhas agus Barraigh a chur riutha.

Roinn	1978-79	1988	1993	1998	2003	2004
Na h-Eileanan mu Thuath	108	34	9	17	35	17
Na h-Eileanan a-muigha	265 (206)	312 (185)	271	308	393	483
Na h-Eileanan a-staigh	239	197	172	225	377	547
An còrr de Alba	99	27	18	24	17	12
Sasainn, a' Chuimrigh & Eilean Mhanainn	17	5	10	15	8	
Àireamh iomlan	723	574	480	589	830	1059

Tha àireamhan an traoin suas barrachd air uimhir eile san RA anns na 10 bliadhna a dh'fhalbh...

Clàr 1 - Geàrr-chunntas de sgrùdaidhean air Traoin fhìreann briodaidh ann am Breatann agus Eilean Mhanainn

(Bho: RSPB)



Photos (left to right):

Comcrake; Comcrakes are often found in grassland and crops such as this.

Dealbhan (cli gu deas).

Traon; Tha traon air am faighinn tric ann an talamh-fèidh agus arbhar, mar a tha seo.

4. ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

Today most corncrakes live on farmed grassland where mowing and grazing by livestock at appropriate times of year produces suitable vegetation. They are ground nesters and require just enough vegetation to hide them during the breeding season, a minimum of 20cm. In spring when birds return from winter quarters in Africa this height of vegetation is at a premium, usually in the form of iris beds, nettle or managed specific corncrake corners.

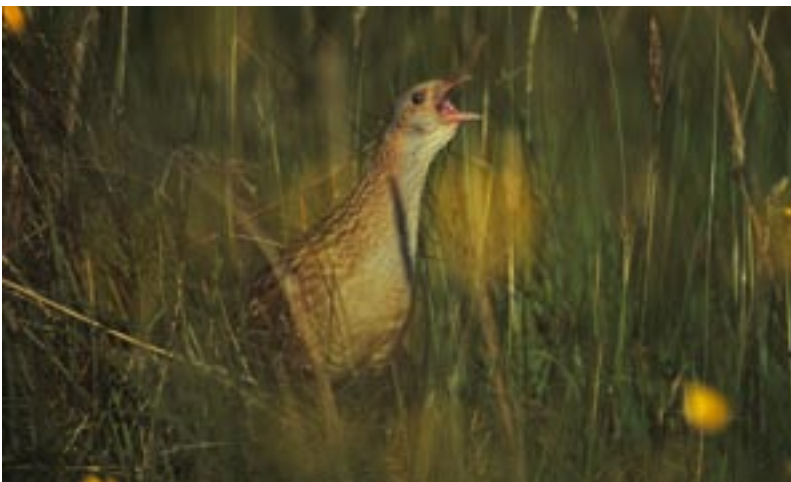
These corners are located close to areas where hay and silage is grown. By summer, the birds will move from the corners into taller available habitat to breed. These corners are often used again when the silage is cut in late summer and corncrake's retreat back to the safety of iris and nettles. They are secretive birds and are rarely seen but regularly heard.

Not all long vegetation is actually suitable for corncrake. Some, such as rushes, is so dense it does not allow the birds to move through it and they are unable to reach the ground surface to forage for food. Their diet consists of earthworms, beetles, slugs and snails picked from the soil surface.

Females locate mates by their song upon return from winter areas. Once paired males become less vocal, the call is a distinct "crex crex" giving the species its Latin name, and the pair stay close together. Nests are concealed in stands of nettles, cow parsley or yellow flag iris and will contain up to 12 eggs. Males then resume singing in hope of attracting another female. Many females lay a second clutch later in the summer, often moving to a new area to do so.

In many Hebridean townships, the distinctive rasping call has become synonymous with a crofting summer.

*In many
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4. EAG-EÒLAS AGUS RIANACHD

An-diugh tha a’ chuid as motha de thraoin air am faighinn air talamh-feòir àitichte far a bheil spealadh agus ionaltradh le stoc aig amannan freagarrach den bhliadhna a’ cruthachadh fàs-bheatha freagarrach. ‘S e eòin-grunnachaidh a tha anna agus feumaidh iad dìreach gu leòr fàs-bheatha airson am falach rè na seusan briodaidh, 20cm aig a’ char as lugha. As tearrach nuair a thilleas eòin bho gheamhrachadh an Afraga chan eil ann ach beagan fàs-bheatha den àirde seo, mar as trice ann an leapannan seileastair, deanntagan no oirean sònraichte don traon.

Tha na h-oirean sin faisg air achaidhean feòire is feur-tioraidh. Mus tig an samhradh, gluaisidh na h-eòin bho na h-oirean a-steach gu àrainn nas àirde airson briodadh. Tha na h-oirean sin gu tric air an cleachdadh a-rithist nuair a thèid am feur-tioraidh a ghearradh aig deireadh an t-samhraidh agus thèid na traoin air ais fo dhion seileastair agus deanntagan. ‘S e eòin falchaidh a th’ anna agus chan ann tric a chithear iad ach cluinnear iad bho àm gu àm.

Chan e a h-uile fàs-bheatha àrd a tha freagarrach dhan traon. Tha cuid dheth, mar luachair, cho tiugh ‘s nach fhaigh na h-eòin troimhe agus cha ruig iad uachdar na talmhainn a sholar bidhe. Bidh iad ag ithe boiteagan, daolagan, seilcheagan agus seimhidhean a bhios iad a’ togail bho uachdair na talmhainn.

Aithnichidh na h-eòin bhoireann an fheadhainn fhireann air an t-seinn aca nuair a thilleas iad bho na ceàrnaidhean geamhraidh. Aon uair ‘s gu bheil iad air càraideachadh chan eil na h-eòin fhireann a’ dèanamh uimhir de fhuaim, ‘s e “crex crex” soilleir a tha sa ghairm aca, bhon tugadh an t-ainm Laidinn, agus bidh an dìthis a’ fuireach còmhla. Tha na nid falaichte ann am badan de dheanntagan, costag fhiadhain no seileastair agus bidh suas ri 12 uighean anna. Bidh na h-eòin fhireann a’ tòiseachadh a’ seinn a-rithist an dòchas eun boireann eile a thàladh. Bidh dàrna àl aig mòran de eòin bhoireann nas fhaide air adhart as t-samhradh, gu tric a’ breith nan uighean sin ann an ceàrnaidh ùr.

Ann an iomadh baile sna h-Eileanan Siar, tha ràcadh sònraichte an traoin na phàirt de shamhradh croitearachd.

*Ann an iomadh
baile sna
h-Eileanan Siar,
tha ràcadh
sònraichte an
traoin na phàirt
de Shamhradh
croitearachd.*



Photo left to right:

Male comcrake calling; Traditional crofting practices can benefit the comcrake; In the Uists, comcrakes are known to move into crops later in the summer.

Dealbhan (cli gu deas):

Traon fhireann a gairm; Faodaidh dòighean croitearachd traidiseanta an traon a leasachadh; Anns na h-Uibhistean, tha traoin a gluasad dhan arbhar nas fhaide air adhart den t-samhraidh.



5. BIODIVERSITY CONTEXT

A globally threatened summer visitor, the corncrake was once widespread throughout the UK and much of northern and central Europe, extending to Siberia. Within this former range the corncrake is now restricted, and occurs in fragmented populations. The species winters in south-eastern Africa and migrates to Europe in spring.

Over the past 100 years the corncrake has shown a sustained decline in numbers in the UK and a contraction in range – see Figure 1. By the early 1970s there were only 3,250 calling males, falling to 480 in 1993. By 2004 the core population was over 1000 with nearly half these being on the Western Isles. Over 90% of calling males are located in the Western Isles and Inner Hebrides, with the remainder mainly in Orkney. The corncrake is a globally near-threatened species and a priority for action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

The UK Action Plan for Corncrake *Crex crex* can be viewed at:

www.ukbap.org.uk

(UK Biodiversity Group Plans, Tranche 1, Volume 2, Page 102)



Over the past 100 years the corncrake has shown a sustained decline in numbers in the UK...

Figure 1 – Maps showing change in distribution of Corncrake in UK between 19th century and 2004

(Source: RSPB)

Dealbh 1 – Mapaichean a' sealltainn atharrachadh ann an sgaoileadh an Traoin san RA eadar 19^{mh} linn agus 2004

(Bho: RSPB)



5. SUIDHEACHADH BITH-IOMADACHD

Eun samhraidh a tha ann an cunnart air feadh an t-saoghail, bha àireamhan mòra den traon uaireigin air feadh na RA agus iomadh pàirt de thaobh tuath agus meadhan na Roinn Eòrpa, gu ruige Siberia. Anns an raon seo san robh e roimhe tha na h-àireamhan den traon a-nis gann, agus sgapte. Bidh a' ghnè a' geamhrachadh ann an ear-dheas Afraga agus ag imrich don Roinn Eòrpa as t-earrach.

Thar nan 100 bliadhna a dh'fhalbh tha àireamhan an traoin air sìor dhol sìos san RA agus tha an raon aige air fàs nas lugha - faic Dealbh 1. Ro thoiseach nan 1970an cha robh ann ach 3,250 eòin fhìreann airson briodadh, a' tuiteam gu 480 ann an 1993. Ro 2004 bha an àireamh anns na prìomh raointean nas àirde na 1000 le faisg air an dàrna leth anns na h-Eileanan Siar. Tha còrr air 90% de eòin fhìreann briodaidh air feadh nan Eilean Siar, leis a' chuid as motha de na th' air fhàgail ann an Arcaibh. Tha an traon na ghnè glè chugallach air feadh an t-saoghail agus na phrìomh-amas gnìomha fo Phlana-gnìomha Bith-iomadachd na RA.

Chithear Plana-gnìomha na RA airson an Traoin *Crex crex* aig:

www.ukbap.org.uk

(Planaichean Buidheann Bith-iomadachd na RA, Cuibhreann 1, Leabhar 2, Taobh-duilleig 102)

*Thar nan
100 bliadhna
a dh'fhalbh tha
àireamhan an
traoin air sìor
dhol sìos san
RA...*



Photo (left to right):

Hay stacks, Lewis; Corncrake corner, North Uist; Skylark, an associated species.

Dealbhan (cli gu deas):

Cruachan feòire, Leòdhas; Oire don traon, Uibhist a Tuath; Uiseag, gnè co-cheangailte.

6. CURRENT FACTORS AFFECTING THE SPECIES AND FUTURE THREATS

- ✚ Loss of traditionally cultivated machair and hayfields.
- ✚ Heavy summer grazing.
- ✚ General changes in crofting practice such as increased mechanisation, earlier mowing practices and lack of bird-friendly mowing techniques.
- ✚ Change in stock rate and move to sheep rather than cattle.
- ✚ Predation by feral cat, mink, ferrets and hedgehogs.
- ✚ Increased use of pesticides
- ✚ Abandonment of crofts producing dense, rank vegetation
- ✚ Potential impacts on population from wind turbine and pylon development
- ✚ Global warming

7. OPPORTUNITIES AND CURRENT ACTION

- ✚ Actions are being carried out currently for the species in the Western Isles.
- ✚ Prescriptions under ESAs and RSS could directly enhance corncrake populations.
- ✚ Opportunity to target more precisely under new agri-environment schemes (RSS)
- ✚ Current management of the machair where this is occurring traditionally maintains the current population. This includes minimal or no summer grazing.
- ✚ Opportunity to support traditional and organic crofting alongside corncrakes.
- ✚ Promote green tourism schemes based on this species
- ✚ Funded schemes for corncrake management indirectly enhance the environment for bumblebees. There is an opportunity to direct this to the advantage of bees without in any way altering its effectiveness for corncrake. RSPB is working on a plan to do this on their reserves.
- ✚ Opportunity to retain a wonderful expanse of summer wild flowers.

Funded schemes for corncrake management indirectly enhance the environment for bumblebees



6. NITHEAN A THA A' TOIRT BU AidH AIR A' GHNÈ AGUS CUNNARTAN RI TEACHD

- ↓ Call machrach agus achaidhean feòire air an àiteach san dòigh thraidiseanta.
- ↓ Mòran ionaltradh samhraidh.
- ↓ Atharrachaidhean san fharsaingeachd ann an obair croitearachd mar barrachd innealraidh, spealadh nas tràithe agus cion dhòighean spealaidh eun-chàirdeil.
- ↓ Atharrachadh ann an ìre stuic agus gluasad gu coaraich seach crodh.
- ↓ Sealg le cait fhiadhaich, minc, neasan agus gràineagan.
- ↓ Barrachd puinnsean-bhiastan ga chleachdadh
- ↓ Croitean bàna a' cruthachadh fòghlach tiugh
- ↓ A' bhuidh a dh'fhaodadh roth-uidheaman gaoithe agus leasachadh paidhleanan a thoirt air àireamhan
- ↓ Blàthachadh an t-saoghail

7. COTHROMAN AGUS OB AIR LÀTHAIREACH

- ↓ Thathar ag obrachadh airson na gnè aig an àm seo anns na h-Eileanan Siar.
- ↓ Dh'fhaodadh òrdaighean fo ESAan agus RSS leasachadh dìreach a dhèanamh air àireamhan an traoin.
- ↓ Cothrom air cuimseachadh nas cinntiche fo sgeamaichean ùra àiteachais-àrainneachd (RSS)
- ↓ Tha rianachd làthaireach air a' mhachair far a bheil seo a' tachairt san dòigh thraidiseanta a' cumail suas nan àireamhan a tha ann an-dràsta. Tha seo a' gabhail a-steach glè bheag ionaltradh as t-samhradh, no gun ionaltradh idir.
- ↓ Cothrom air taic a thoirt do chroitearachd traidiseanta agus fàs-bheairteach far a bheil an traon.
- ↓ Adhartachadh sgeamaichean turasachd uaine stèidhichte air a' ghnè seo.
- ↓ Tha sgeamaichean maoinichte airson rianachd an traoin a' dèanamh leasachadh neo-dhìreach air an àrainneachd don t-seillean-mòr. Tha cothrom ann seo a stiùireadh gu buannachd nan seillean gun atharrachadh sam bith a dhèanamh air a' bhuanachd don traon. Tha RSPB ag obair air plana gus seo a dhèanamh air na tèarmannan aca.
- ↓ Cothrom air raon mìorbhaileach de fhlàraichean fiadhaich an t-samhradh a ghleidheadh.

Tha sgeamaichean maoinichte airson rianachd an traoin a' dèanamh leasachadh neo-dhìreach air an àrainneachd don t-seillean-mòr.



*Photos (left to right):
 Corncrake management indirectly benefits the Great Yellow Bumblebee; Heavy summer grazing can be a threat to the corncrake; Machair at Luskenyire, Harris.
 Dealbhan (cli gu deas):
 Tha rianachd an traoin a' toirt buannachd neo-dhìreach don t-seillean mhòir;
 Faodaidh mòran ionaltradh samhraidh a bhi na chunnart dhan traon; Machair aig Losgaintir, Na Hearadh.*



8. ACTIONS

	Action	Lead	Priority	Timescale	Partners	Objective
1	Policy and Legislation					
1.1	Promote the use of the Rural Stewardship Scheme (RSS) and other incentives to land managers to ensure 'corncrake friendly' management of the machair and crofting habitat.	SAC, SNH, RSPB	High	Medium	SEERAD, SCF, WIE, CnES	2, 3
2	Site Safeguard and Management					
2.1	Encourage land managers adjacent to existing sites to introduce 'corncrake-friendly' maintenance techniques.	CnES, SNH, RSPB	Medium	Long-term	SCF, SAC, SEERAD	2, 3, 4
2.2	Identify potential new areas of suitable habitat, particularly in Lewis, and encourage 'corncrake friendly' management in these areas. Apply existing habitat management guidelines to these new areas. Expand availability of payments for corncrake friendly management to include non designated areas and non croftland. These areas should also be included in monitoring (see action 4.1).	SNH, RSPB	Medium	Long-term	SAC	2, 3, 4
2.3	Ensure that grazing regime is suitable for corncrakes. Further promote corncrake friendly' mowing methods, and agri-environment schemes that benefit corncrakes.	SEERAD	Medium	Medium	SAC, SCF, CnES, RSPB, Land Managers	2, 3, 4
2.4	Liaise with Cat Protection League and SSPCA to raise awareness of the potential impact cats pose to corncrakes.	RSPB	Low	Medium	SNH, CnES	2,3,4
3	Advisory					
3.1	Maintain production of leaflets and promotional material for all interests including information on how to recognise corncrake by song and actions that community members can undertake themselves.	SNH, RSPB	High	Medium	BRISC, SCF, CnES, SWT, Curracag	2, 3, 4, 5
3.2	Publicise availability of free conservation advice from SAC, RSPB and SNH.	SAC	High	Long	SNH, SCF, SEERAD, RSPB	2, 3, 4
3.3	Develop a mechanism to discuss positive management of the machair for the corncrake and the bumblebee with the crofting community. Priorities for positive management to be identified.	SAC	High	Medium	SNH, SEERAD	2, 3, 4, 5
4	Monitoring and Research					
4.1	Continue programme of annual survey and monitoring on machair and neutral grassland. Expand programme to include all corncrake habitat and not just croftland. Ensure results of all survey work are disseminated widely.	SNH, RSPB	High	Long		1
4.2	Map the current range of corncrake in the Western Isles and ask public to report all records.	SNH, RSPB	Medium	Short	BRISC	1
4.3	Investigate other threats to corncrakes, not currently identified.	SNH	Medium	Medium	RSPB	2,3,4

ABBREVIATIONS:

BRISC	Biological Recording in Scotland
CC	Crofters Commission
CnES	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Curracag	Western Isles Natural History Society
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Scottish Agricultural College
SCF	Scottish Crofting Foundation
SEERAD	Scottish Executive Environment & Rural Affairs Department
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SSPCA	Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SWT	Scottish Wildlife Trust
WIE	Western Isles Enterprise



8. GNÌOMHAN

	Gnìomh	Stiùireadh	Prìomhachas	Ùine	Com-pàirtichean	Amasan
1	Poileasaidh agus Reachdas					
1.1	Adhartachadh cleachdadh na Sgeama Stiùbhartachd Dùthchail (RSS) agus iomairtean eile do mhanaidsearan fearainn gus dèanamh cinnteach gum bi rianachd 'traon-chàirdeil' air a' mhachair agus an àrainn croitearachd.	SAC, SNH, RSPB	Àrd	Meadhanach	SEERAD, SCF, WIE, CnES,	2, 3
2	Dìon agus Rianachd Làraich					
2.1	Misneachadh manaidsearan fearainn ri taobh làraich làthaireach gus dòighean airson obair gleidhidh 'traon-chàirdeil' a thoirt a-steach.	CnES, SNH, RSPB	Meadhanach	Fad-ùine	SCF, SAC, SEERAD,	2, 3, 4
2.2	Comharrachadh àiteachan ùra a dh'fhaodadh a bhith nan àrainn freagarrach, gu sònraichte an Leòdhas, agus misneachadh rianachd 'traon-chàirdeil' anns na h-àiteachan sin. Cleachdadh stiùireadh rianachd àrainn a tha ann cheana anns na h-àiteachan ùra sin. Leudachadh cothrom air pàigheadhean rianachd traon-chàirdeil gus gabhail a-steach àiteachan gun sònrachadh agus talamh eile a bharrachd air croitean. Bu chòir na h-àiteachan sin a ghabhail a-steach cuideachd ann an sgrùdadh (faic gnìomh 4.1)	SNH, RSPB	Meadhanach	Fad-ùine	SAC	2, 3, 4
2.3	Dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil an dòigh ionaltraidh freagarrach don traon. Tuilleadh adhartachaidh air dòighean spealaidh 'traon-chàirdeil', agus sgeamaichean àiteachais-àrainneachd le buannachd don traon.	SEERAD	Meadhanach	Meadhanach	SAC, SCF, CnES, RSPB, Manaidsearan fearainn	2, 3, 4
2.4	Co-obrachadh le Buidheann Dion nan Cait agus SSPCA gus barrachd mothachaidh a thoirt air a' bhuidh a dh'fhaodadh cait a thoirt air an traon.	RSPB	Iosal	Meadhanach	SNH, CnES	2, 3, 4
3	Comhairleachadh					
3.1	Cumail ag ullachadh bhileagan agus stuth adhartachaidh don h-uile neach le com-pàirt ann a' gabhail a-steach fiosrachadh air mar a dh'aithnichear an traon air òran agus gnìomhan a dh'fhaodadh buill den choimhearsnachd a dhèanamh.	SNH, RSPB	Àrd	Meadhanach	BRISC, SCF, CnES SWT, Curragag	2, 3, 4, 5
3.2	Cothrom air comhairle glèidhteachais an-asgaidh bhon SAC, RSPB agus SNH fhoillseachadh.	SAC	Àrd	Fada	SNH, SCF, SEERAD, RSPB	2, 3, 4
3.3	Dòigh a chur ri chèile gus beachdachadh air deagh rianachd na machrach don traon agus an seillean-mòr còmhla ris a' choimhearsnachd croitearachd. Prìomh-amasan airson deagh rianachd rin comharrachadh.	SAC	Àrd	Meadhanach	SNH, SEERAD	2, 3, 4, 5
4	Sgrùdadh agus rannsachadh					
4.1	Cumail a' dol leis a' phrògram de rannsachadh agus sgrùdadh bliadhnaile air machair agus talamh-feòir neo-phàirteach. Leudachadh air a' phrògram gus gabhail a-steach a h-uile àrainn traoin agus chan e dìreach talamh croitearachd. Dèanamh cinnteach gum bi toraidhean a h-uile obair sgrùdaidh air an sgaoileadh fad is farsaing.	SNH, RSPB	Àrd	Fada		1
4.2	Mapa a dhèanamh de raon an traoin anns na h-Eileanan Siar aig an àm seo agus iarraidh air muinntir an àite innse mun h-uile clàradh.	SNH, RSPB	Meadhanach	Goirid	BRISC	1
4.3	Rannsachadh cunnartan eile don traon, nach eil air an comharrachadh fhathast.	SNH	Meadhanach	Meadhanach	RSPB	2,3,4

GIORRACHADH:

BRISC	Clàradh Bith-eòlasach an Alba
CC	Ùghdarras nan Croitearan
CnES	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Curragag	Comann Nàdair nan Eilean Siar
RSPB	Comann Rìoghail Dion nan Eun
SAC	Colaiste Àiteachais na h-Alba
SCF	Urras Croitearachd na h-Alba
SNH	Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba
SSPCA	Comann Albannach airson Dion nan Ainmhidhean
SWT	Urras Fhiadh-bheatha na h-Alba
WIE	Iomairt nan Eilean Siar



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9. FIOSRACHADH

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The Decline of the Corncrake in Britain
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Corncrakes Naturally Scottish Series.
 Ri fhaotainn bho oifisean ionadail SNH
Farms, Crofts and Corncrakes. Stiùireadh
mu rianachd àrainn do Thraoin. Bileag
mu thuathanachas traon-chàirdeil air
fhoillseachadh le RSPB, SNH, SEERAD.



Photos (left to right):

Corncrakes move into silage fields such as this when the grass is more than 20cm high; The corncrake shares many of the conditions enjoyed by the Corn bunting; Corncrake-friendly mowing.

Dealbhan (clì gu deas):

Bidh traoin a' gluasad a-steach dha na n-achaidhean feurtioraidh mar a tha seo nuair a tha am feur nas àirde na 20cm.; Tha an traon a' mealtainn mòran shuidhichidhean co-ionnan ris a' Glealag -bhuachair; Spealadh traon-chàirdeil.



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Photographs courtesy of Bill Neill, James Smith, Jamie Boyle, Kenny MacIver, Anne MacLellan, SNH & RSPB.

Dealbhan le cead bho Bill Neill, James Smith, Jamie Boyle, Kenny MacIver, Anne MacLellan, SNH & RSPB.

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