

## PRESS RELEASE

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## Scotland hosts UK summit on environmental cooperation

Environmental coalitions from across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are gathering in Clydebank today. The biennial summit will focus on tackling cross-border environmental threats, where many key regulatory powers and governmental policies are already, or likely to be, devolved. The coalitions, which collectively represent around 9 million members, will focus on shared environment problems: such as avoiding the dangers of untrammelled economic growth, ensuring a sustainable planning system and reversing the spiralling decline in biodiversity. Recent UK-wide reports have shown alarming losses in species and habitats across Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England.

**Helen Todd, acting Chair of Scottish Environment LINK said:** “It is increasingly clear that people from across Scotland, as well as England, Northern Ireland and Wales are looking for a politics that addresses environmental issues. Membership of environmental organisations across the UK combines to show where people’s priorities lie.”

**Craig McGuicken, Chief Executive of Northern Ireland Environment LINK said:** “Greater devolution is undoubtedly a central issue in UK politics right now, and environmental charities working across the UK, see a stronger need than ever for collaboration to tackle issues which don’t neatly respect political borders. Many of our collective members have an international reach and see the big picture. Our planet is warming and we are losing biodiversity and habitats that are essential for humankind’s survival.”

**Bill Upham, Chair of Wales Environment LINK said:** “Issues that were once dismissed as ‘green’ arm-waving are now increasingly part of the mainstream debate. Policies which address the threat of climate change and pollution are now being seen by politicians not just as optional, but as vote-winning necessities. We are committed to working closely together to help give the millions of people involved in environmental organisations across these islands a voice at all levels.”

**Elaine King, Director of Wildlife and Countryside Link said:** “Many environmental challenges are best tackled through local action and the regulatory systems of each constituent part of the UK, but some, such as climate change, invasive species and habitat loss, are bigger than all of us and that’s why we need to work together, no matter what the constitutional context.”

**ENDS**

### For more information:

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### Notes/links for editors:

‘Joint Links’ is the working group of four national-level environmental umbrella groups: [Northern Ireland Environment LINK](#), [Scottish Environment LINK](#), [Wales Environment LINK](#), [Wildlife and Countryside LINK](#). Every two years the Joint Links convene to discuss major environmental issues of UK relevance