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|  | **Environmental Development:** **Integrating, Mainstreaming, Raising the Game.** **Thursday 27 November, 11.00 -5.00 Birnam Arts and Conference Centre, Perthshire** |

**Background**Landscape-scale conservation, ecological restoration, re-wilding, green infrastructure, living cities, ecosystem health, futurescapes, living landscapes, wild land, wider countryside measures: for decades, environmentalists understood that the delivery of environmental ‘goods’ requires work at large spatial scales. They have made the case for, and put their backs into, ambitious schemes that extend beyond protected sites and reserves.

This work can take decades to bear fruit. It needs deep, cross-sectoral integration, inter-generational commitment and popular support. There are some wonderful initiatives happening in Scotland, and there is explicit national ambition and vision for improving our environment expressed, for example, in Scotland’s Marine Act and its Biodiversity Strategy.  Yet there remain neither the necessary funding support in public subsidy mechanisms, nor the sustained political will, to challenge ‘business as usual’ development - which is so often incompatible with these visionary aims.

This meeting seeks new thinking and innovative ideas that will open doors to better integration of LINK partners’ environmental vision with society at large and, thence, to the land, the sea and the life it sustains.

**Who is it for?**
All LINK member bodies - directors, trustees, senior policy staff, experienced operational staff, volunteers, all with an interest in working together and with others to raise the game.

We will warmly welcome people from outside our network with a similar interest in improving the long-term environmental sustainability of Scotland’s seas, uplands, lowlands and urban areas. Contact Alice Walsh alice@scotlink.org to discuss or reserve a place.

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|  | **The Crown Estate, a LINK Organisational Supporter, is the principle sponsor of the Members’ Congress, 2014.**  |

**Draft Programme**

11.00 **Welcome** and aims of the day, Helen Todd, LINK Vice-Chair

11.15 **Scotland’s Environment in the Global Context** Professor Aubrey Manning

11.50 **Environmental Development in Scotland – a review** .
Uplands – Mike Daniels, John Muir Trust

Lowlands - John Thomson, Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland.

Urban - Paul Walton, RSPB.

Marine - Calum Duncan, Marine Conservation Society
Each speaker will cover within 10 minute slot: *Where we are at, where we want to get to, extent of agreement on this, assessment of challenges and opportunities.*

12.30 **Long-term sustainability – perspectives on rural & coastal Scotland** Alan Laidlaw, Rural & Coastal Portfolio Manager for the Crown Estate

12.40 **Discussion** - Further issues for the workshops and introduction to afternoon.

1.00 Lunch break

**2.00 workshops** on Upland, Lowland, Urban and Marine issues. *These will include the speakers on the topic areas.*

For each topic:

* Establish the extent of the common vision within the broad environmental sector.
* What are the issues for the particular ecosystem. What does the future hold without any intervention etc
* How to build common cause with other sectors – resource users, local communities, public.
* What do eNGOs need to do to strengthen our voice?

4.00 **Plenary discussion** - What do we need to do to make our voice more effective, and improve our influence with the various audiences. What are we trying to encourage interested parties to achieve in their respective landholdings, reserves, etc?

4.45. Summing up

5.00 Chair’s final remarks

Move to the Birnam Hotel for relaxation, dinner at 6.30 /7.00

**Congress 2014 Booking Form**

Please reserve a place for me at the LINK Congress 27/28 November 2014 at the Birnam Institute & Conference Centre, Station Road Birnam, Dunkeld PH8 0DS

Name:

Organisation: Email address:

Any special dietary needs (vegetarian options are routinely provided):

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| **For LINK Members**Workshop preferences: upland/lowland/marine/urban (please choose 2)Dinner……………………………………………………………………………………………Yes/NoAccommodation required overnight 27 November………………………Yes/NoSingle room (supplement applies)………………………………………………...Yes/NoAttending Friday LINK meetings (from 9.30) ………..………………………………Yes/No**Cost to members** for the 2 days including accommodation is £60. For a single room add £30. Thursday conference, dinner only £50. Conference only £30. Dinner only £30 |

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| **For LINK Supporters and Guests**Workshop preference: upland/lowland/marine/urban (please choose 2)Dinner ………………………………………………………………………………Yes/No**Cost** Conference only £30. Conference & Dinner £50. Please say if would like help with arranging overnight accommodation in Birnam. |

Please return the **booking form** and appropriate **payment** to: Alice Walsh, Scottish Environment LINK, 2 Grosvenor House, Shore Road, Perth PH2 8BD **by 30 October.**

You can pay by cheque to ***Scottish Environment LINK***or by BACS to sort code 16-58-10 Account no: 20041411 with ref: your surname and organisation.
**Payment must be received before the event.**

**Venue and transport** A bus will transport delegates from Perth railway station at 10.00 am (following arrival of trains from Edinburgh & Glasgow). [Birnam Arts & Conference Centre](http://www.birnaminstitute.com/index.asp?cookies=True), is accessible by rail and bus. See [Traveline Scotland](http://www.travelinescotland.com/welcome.do) for details. If you plan to drive, please advise and we will help you car share.