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By email

Dear Ian

My thanks to you, Andrew and Richard for the very useful meeting on Thursday last. Here is a resume of what I think we agreed.

Financials: We will exchange submissions to the spending review and you want to hear our ideas on top priorities for SNH in the current financial situation. In the context of shrinking budgets we should explore 'different ways of working' between SNH and eNGOs and what they might mean in practice. We will gather ideas from colleagues across the network and send that to you, and it would be useful to consider progress at our next meeting.

Access: We discussed the general lack of momentum owing to limited capacity and some of the reasons for this, and SNH's and eNGO's ongoing roles, at national and local level. LINK's feedback on SNH priorities and on how we can work together differently (above) should help us to take this part of the agenda forward. LINK will be tackling some of the endemic issues through our work on environmental governance, which is taking forward some of the recommendations of Tamsin Bailey's environmental law report. SNH's study of core path plans will give some indications of barriers and drivers of good practice. LINK's Local Governance taskforce will ensure access gets well covered in its advocacy work.

Landscape: Andrew Bachell and John Mayhew will discuss how to build on recent positive noises about landscape with respect to development, particularly renewables, to help shift perceptions, particularly within

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Government. Good communications between LINK's Landscape taskforce and SNH staff will continue. The LTF will be discussing the financial drivers for onshore developments with counterparts in England and Wales and will keep SNH apprised of any joint work that may result. SNH's viewshed analysis of windfarms can be shared. You advised us also to liaise with Visitscotland. We will be interested in SNH contributions to the Natural Heritage Indicators plans to roll out the D&G NSA pilot across other areas.

Biodiversity: The issue of engaging language persists and we agreed it would be useful to liaise on the overall 'story', with the useful tools of the NEA and TEEB now available. We should agree what structures we want to deliver good outcomes. I will arrange a meeting with Roddy to progress ideas on the structures we want to promote, and on the engaging language issue. LINK will suggest that the Committee scrutinising the Budget Bill looks at preventative spend, as much as the figures. We agreed to share our contributions to the NPF indicators, and there is already good liaison on SOA indicators with Clive Mitchell.

We have agreed to meet again in 6 months' time, and that it would be useful to have Simon Pepper taking part in these meetings too. I would be grateful if your office would get in touch with LINK to suggest a date. Between times Lloyd and I will have a catch up meeting with Andrew Bachell.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Long".

Deborah Long
LINK Chair