

LINK Bulletin – end July 2006

Work Areas - updates and look ahead

LINK Access Network (LAN): *Convenor Ian McCall* <mailto:ianM@scotland.ramblers.org.uk>

No news since the last Bulletin.

Agriculture TF: *Convenor Mandy Gloyer* <mailto:mandy.gloyer@rspb.org.uk>

LINK's response to the Scottish Rural Development Plan consultation and accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment was submitted on June 29th. Detailed work is being undertaken to develop agri-environment measures for inclusion in Tiers 2 and 3 of Land Management Contracts (LMCs). The ATF is constructing alternative proposals for the Less Favoured Areas interim scheme, in partnership with other organisations, including SCF, HIE, SNH, and FWAG. The ATF and Freshwater TF have sent a joint letter to Ross Finnie on possible changes to sheep dip regulations. We have, as usual, had frequent stakeholder group meetings (including LMC group, LMC sub-groups, Organic stakeholder group, SRDP group, LFA group, Rural Dialogue Group, Rural Land Use Working Group), as well as some bilateral meetings with SEERAD officials.

We will continue work on the Rural Development Strategy, the Scottish Rural Development Plan and LMCs through stakeholder groups, bilateral meetings and submissions, and a letter to Ross Finnie is planned outlining concerns with SRDP and LMC progress and funding.

The ATF has overlapping interests on the development of agri-environment options for LMCs-with, in particular, the Freshwater TF, Woodlands TF, and the Climate Change TF.

Biodiversity TF: *Convenor Sam Gardner* <mailto:sam.gardner@rspb.org.uk>

Representatives of the Biodiversity Task Force attended the last meeting of the Scottish Biodiversity Committee (SBC). This was an opportunity to highlight the importance of UK wide coordination and monitoring of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and the need for new species on the list to have SMART actions. In addition to this, the TF has been working to support the UKBAP and progress the targets review. The task force has participated in the last two WCL Biodiversity Task Force meetings. We propose to carry out a small review of the recently published DEFRA Costings Report of the UKBAP and the Scottish data from the UKBAP reporting round. The TF is also looking to 'recruit' a suitable MSP as a biodiversity champion. We will also be preparing for the first meeting of the SBC sub group on the next round of Scottish Biodiversity Strategy implementation plans. Deborah Long will represent LINK on the GB Strategy Working Group on Non Native Invasive Species.

Campaign Delivery Team (CDT): *Convenor Julia Harrison* <mailto:julia.harrison@rspb.org.uk>

(Report from Ylva) The campaign delivery team has been working together with the marketing and communication agency Leithal Thinking, to develop its communication strategy for the upcoming **everyone** campaign. This process included a communication workshop led by Leithal Thinking, at the campaigning event for LINK organisations on the 20th of June – a good number of LINK reps took part. The event also included a presentation on previous **everyone** campaigns and plans for the 2007 Scottish elections campaign. Preparations for the launch of the campaign are underway, with a provisional date set for November. Further work on the communication strategy and campaign plan will take place in the near future.

As part of the preparations for the 2007 election campaign, the CDT is organising a Media Training Day on the 11th September. This is open to staff of all LINK member organisations, who would like to learn more about dealing with the media, how to write press releases, etc. Anyone who is interested in coming along, contact the campaign co-ordinator, Ylva: ylva@scotlink.org or on 0131 225 4345

Climate TF: *Convenor Clifton Bain* <mailto:clifton.bain@rspb.org.uk>

No report.

Transport Subgroup of the Climate TF *Convenor John Lauder* <mailto:johnl@sustrans.org.uk>

LINK has joined the many other organisations that have submitted comments on the draft National Transport Strategy. The Transport sub-group of the LINK Climate Change TF made its submission following a meeting between Clifton Bain, chair of the CTF, John Lauder, who chairs the transport sub-group, and the Scottish Executive team who are writing the strategy: Dianne McLafferty, Helen Cameron and Pamela Gidney. A meeting is now planned for the autumn between Tavish Scott, Transport Minister, and LINK, most likely Clifton, John and one other.

Deer TF: *Convenor Duncan Orr-Ewing* <mailto:duncan.orr-ewing@rspb.org.uk>

No action since last Bulletin.

Freshwater TF: *Convenor Andrea Johnstonova* <mailto:andrea.johnstonova@rspb.org.uk> or **Mike Donaghy** <mailto:mdonaghy@wwfscotland.org.uk>

The FTF joined with the ATF to write to Ross Finnie to express concerns over sheep dip pollution in Scotland and the possible removal of the recent ban on cypermethrin based sheep dips. We are continuing to input into the development of LMCs and measures on diffuse pollution and flooding. The FTF also wrote to SEPA to express concern over the exclusion of small water bodies from the characterisation process under the Water Framework Directive. The FTF is meeting with the Water Division of the Scottish Executive to discuss WFD implementation, including marine aspects, small water bodies, and diffuse pollution.

FORGE: *No convenor*

Next meeting September.

Landscape TF: *Convenor Helen McDade* <mailto:policy@jmt.org>

John Mayhew and Helen McDade gave evidence to the Communities Committee on incorporating National Scenic Area revised legislation into the Planning Bill. LINK's two reps, Bill Wright and Helen McDade, attended the first Landscape Forum meeting at which Rhona Brankin made an appearance and which scheduled the programme for the next nine months (it is initially intended to be time-limited). The TF is focused on the Forum as the way to get proper discussion of how the European Landscape Convention, now ratified by UK, should be incorporated into government decision-making. The Forum is also looking at the revision of the landscape part of NPPG14, the planning guidelines on natural heritage, and considering how landscape can be valued in economic terms. The Agriculture TF will wish to keep abreast of the Landscape Forum's activities.

Marine TF: *Convenor Calum Duncan* <mailto:scotland@mcsuk.org>

Recent News:

- *Joint Links:* LINK MTF has received £7,000 funding from WCL from Charitable Trusts to help support campaign work for a Scottish Marine Bill over the next 6 months
- *UK Marine Bill:* LINK MTF submitted their 34-page response to the UK Marine Bill consultation to Defra, copying in Fiona Harrison at the Scottish Executive. Defra has confirmed receipt of the response. No confirmation received from SE
- *Advisory Group on Marine and Coastal Strategy (AGMACS) subgroup on the Marine Biodiversity Strategy (MBWG):* Becky Boyd drafted an AGMACS paper on Marine Nature Conservation (MNC) which was discussed at the first MNC meeting, chaired by Michael Scott, on 6/7/6 at LINK Offices in Perth. MNC workstream members are sending comments to Becky for next meeting on 1/8/6, again at LINK, Perth
- *Marine Nature Conservation:* Still awaiting first draft of Christine Howson's short paper giving a snapshot of some of the most significant marine species, habitats and landscapes of national importance to Scotland (nationally important marine features) not currently afforded adequate protection, using case studies
- *Aquaculture:* Nothing to update

- *Fisheries*: Nothing to update

Plans include:

- *LINK Bulletin 3 on Marine Spatial Planning* still to be circulated. Following bulletins on Marine Nature Conservation and other relevant topics to be produced
- *Scottish Marine Bill* asks to be within fabric of **everyone** 2007 and marine to feature in hustings (possibly with LINK marine display being used). MTF convenor to input MTF position to CDT as necessary
- Informed by Christine Howson's paper, *produce colourful report on need for new MPA legislation* (Marine Bill for Scotland) to protect nationally important marine species, habitats and landscapes
- *Displays* still need to be designed and produced for Holyrood Communications Marine Bill conference, to be held possibly in October or November

Work on coastal and marine national parks requires co-ordination with Landscape and Access interests. Work with the Planning TF is needed on the Marine Spatial Planning and Planning Bill (29th August is a key date when AGMACS will consider Marine Spatial Planning and ICZM).

Parliamentary: *Jane Herbstritt Parliamentary Office* <mailto:jane@scotlink.org>

Scottish Environment Week has now been put into the parliamentary diary. It will run from **5th – 12th February 2007**. Will Task Force Convenors please get in touch with me before 23rd August if they are interested in organising an event in the parliament (or outside it) during that week?

Parliament is currently in recess. A meeting to discuss manifesto issues with SNP researchers went well. I have also had six-monthly meetings with Steve Burgess/Mark Ruskell of the Greens and Julia McIntyre (Conservatives'researcher). A LINK response to the Labour party manifesto consultation has been prepared and sent off. The parliamentary forum met in mid-July to discuss the possibility of an end of term report assessing how well the Executive had done on the environment as part of the **everyone** campaign.

Planning TF: *Convenor Anne McCall* <mailto:anne.mccall@rspb.org.uk>

(Report from Jane as Anne is on holiday) The planning bill is being considered at stage 2. Unfortunately, amendments that would make a public inquiry on the National Planning Framework statutory have been rejected. Third party rights of appeal will likely be discussed in September, so we want to get as much attention on the issue over the summer as possible. See July's update on the campaign on the **everyone** website: http://www.everyonecan.org/tpa_updates.html and please contact your MSP from the website to raise the issue of third party rights of appeal, if you have not done so already.

Sustainable Scotland TF: *Convenor Dan Barlow* <mailto:dbarlow@wwfscotland.org.uk>

We met with the Exec SD team to discuss progress on developing the strategy implementation plan and SD indicators, as both documents have now been released. Indicators did not include footprint. Indicators of social justice / environmental equality and well being are being developed / investigated further at UK level and may be introduced in Scotland later. The delegate also attended the SE Waste Liaison Group meeting, and was highly concerned at the next phase of the Strategic Waste Fund in which groups of local authorities are compiling 'Strategic Outline Cases' setting out proposals for waste infrastructure. Many of these contradict commitments made in the National Waste Plan, suggest lower recycling rates and are proposing the development of numerous 'energy from waste' facilities.

Plans include:

- Following publication of SD implementation plan, we intend to send a letter to the First Minister and Deputy First Minister highlighting the need to drive it across all departments
- Meet Kim Fellows who is due to take up the post of Head of SD and Biodiversity at the Exec following Joanna Young's departure
- Set up a meeting with Future Scotland about the 'Sus It Out' project

Professor Jan Bebbington has been appointed to the Sustainable Development Commission as Vice Chair (Scotland).

Woodlands TF: No Convenor

Other LINK News

LINK meetings coming up: please check your diary

2006

- 4 Sept** - eNGO meeting with Environment Minister – agenda likely to include SEA, environmental courts, environmental liability consultation, SD and landscape
- 11 Sept** – LINK Media Training Day, NTS Edinburgh
- 24 Oct** - Board meeting Perth
- 31 Oct** - Annual Review & Forward Planning Meeting, Edinburgh
- 15-16 Nov** – Joint Links seminar on devolution, Cardiff
- 24-25 Nov** – Congress, Birnham
- 4 Dec** - eNGO meeting with Environment Minister
- 12 Dec** - Christmas Reception, Edinburgh, early evening

2007

- 25 Jan** - Convenors Networking and Board meetings, Perth
- 5-12 Feb** - Scottish Environment Week, evening reception 7 Feb
- 29 March** - Mid term review and forward planning, Edinburgh
- April** - Election campaigning
- 26 April** – Board meeting Perth
- 3 May** - Holyrood and local elections
- 28 June** - Board and Convenors' Networking meeting
- 25 Oct** – Board meeting Perth

Consultations

You can sign up to **seConsult** <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/seConsult>, the Executive weekly email alert service to tell you of new consultations and provides brief descriptions and web links.

Independent review of regulation, audit, inspection and complaints handling of public services on Scotland, will be on <http://www.scrutinyreview.org.uk>, letter available from Perth office, no response date given. See <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/06/07153428>

Supporting wave and tidal energy in Scotland - a consultation on amending the Renewables Obligation (Scotland) Order - 2006, SE consultation, **3 August**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/05/10153327/ConDocsHTML>

Joint Nature Conservation Committee members, Defra is seeking 2 new independent members for JNCC, **10 August** <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/appointments/index.htm>

Cairngorms National Park draft outdoor access strategy, views by **11 September**
<http://www.cairngorms.co.uk/access>

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Plan Environmental Report consultation **11 August** <http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org>

Implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, Scottish Buildings Standards Agency consultation **11 August**

http://www.sbsa.gov.uk/current_standards/consul_energy.htm

Scottish Ports Policy Review, SE consultation, **16 August**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/07/ports-policy>

Cairngorms Visitor Management Plan proposed amendments to conditions for the Funicular Railway, SNH consultation, **17 August** <http://www.snh.org.uk/strategy/sr-pc03.asp>

Asset Management and Sustainability Strategies, Glasgow Housing Association consultation, **18 August** <http://www.gha.org.uk>

Historic Scotland's Support for the voluntary sector, Historic Scotland consultation, 31 August <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/consultations.htm>
Cairngorms National Park Authority draft Outdoor Access Strategy consultation 11 Sept <http://www.cairngorms.co.uk/access>
Scottish Planning Policy 6: Renewable Energy Consultation Draft, SE consultation, 6 Oct <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/07/10150621/0>
Proposals for a Coastal and Marine National Park, SE consultation, 16 Oct <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current/Q/rowId/0#conRow0>
The Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitats (Extraction of Minerals by Marine Dredging) (Scotland) Regulations 2006, SE consultation, 15 Oct <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current/Q/rowId/0#conRow0>

Publications, letters received, etc.

Centre for Mountain Studies Five-year Review, 2000-2005 and Annual Report 2005, Perth College UHI Millennium Institute <http://www.cms.uhi.ac.uk>
Scotland's Voluntary Sector Manifesto: the voluntary sector's vision for Scotland, SCVO. Katherine Duncan <mailto:Katherine.duncan@scvo.org.uk>
An Economic Review of SRDP Options by Andrew Moxey of Pareto Consulting for RSPB Scotland
Sustainability Scotland: a vision for water in Scotland conference report from Water UK, http://waterukfiles.banzai.emsystem.co.uk/57460_sustainability-scotland-report.pdf
The Sustainable Development Strategy Implementation Plan and SD Indicators, available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/SustainableDevelopment/progressreport> and <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/SustainableDevelopment/revisedindicators>
Inquiry into Energy Issues for Scotland: summary report, The Royal Society of Edinburgh, June 06 http://www.rse.org.uk/enquiries/energy/summary_report.pdf
E.ON Netz - Wind Report 2005, http://www.eonnetz.com/frameset_reloader_homepage.phtml?top=Ressources/frame_head_eng.jsp&bottom=frameset_english/law_eng/law_windenergy_eng/ene_win_windreport_eng/ene_win_windreport_eng.jsp
The Sustainable Development Education Network is the new name of the Education 21 Network <http://www.sdenetwork.org>
Reports from the EEB <http://www.eeb.org/Index.htm>

- EEB Position on the 6EAP Review Based on IEEP Study, May 06
- Drowning in Process? The Implementation of the EU's 6th Environmental Action Programme, IEEP report for the EEB, April 06

Events

Paths for All Training and Development Programme for 2006-7 <http://www.pathsforall.org.uk/training.shtml>
Greenspace: doing it in the mainstream conference 2006, Edinburgh 6 Sept <http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/default.asp?page=261>
Making Coalitions Work, Holyrood conference Edinburgh, 8 Sept <http://www.holyrood.com>
Paths to Health National Networking Event, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 21 Sept <http://www.ruralgateway.org.uk/cgi-bin/course.cgi?show=848&b=3>
The Participant: how was it for us? how was it for them? Involving communities in environmental action and decision making: third annual event, SNH, Battleby Perth 13 Sept <http://www.snh.org.uk/ww/sharinggoodpractice/sgp2006/sgp-1st10.asp>
Planning in Scotland: the National Planning Framework conference Dynamic Edinburgh, Holyrood Magazine in association with FoES, 19 Sept http://www.holyrood.com/nav/conference/future_events/conf_planning07/conference.asp?content=contents
Scottish Executive guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment conference Edinburgh 26 Sept <http://www.holyrood.com/conference.asp>

SEPA's State of the Environment 2006 conference, Edinburgh International Conference Centre 2-3 Oct <http://www.sepa.org.uk/changetomorrowtoday/index.htm>
Phenological Changes: causes and consequences, Association of Applied Biologists, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 20 October
<http://www.aab.org.uk/contentok.php?id=27&basket=wwsshowconfdets>
Scottish Green Energy Awards, Royal Museum Edinburgh, 7 December
<http://www.scottishrenewables.com/gea/default.asp>
The future of biodiversity in the uplands, Battleby Centre near Perth 8 December
jeremy.milne@perth.uhi.ac.uk