

LINK Members' eBulletin July 2008

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Chief Officer's Report Jen Anderson

New Members - BBCT

Following recommendation by LINK's Board in June and endorsement by at least two-thirds of LINK's members, the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust (BBCT) have now joined the LINK network. **Dr Bob Dawson**, Scottish Conservation Officer is the main representative and will be joining the Agriculture and Biodiversity taskforces. BBCT work in Scotland is particularly focused on the conservation of two UKBAP species *Bombus distinguendus* and *B. muscorum* and the within LINK, BBCT hopes to contribute their expert knowledge on bumble bee-friendly land management practices.

LINK 2020 Subgroup

In January the LINK Board agreed to convene a meeting of reps of erstwhile 2020 group, Board, Climate TF, SCCS and smaller member bodies. This group met in March, agreed we must continue to encourage Scottish Government to take lead in terms of process for tackling climate change; commissioned a brief audit of eNGO climate change activity from Michael Scott; and agreed to organise a LINK Gathering to review climate change issues and to clarify where as a network we see ourselves in relation in the coming year and more.

LINK Gathering, 28 August, George Hotel Perth, 9.45am - 4.30pm

A facilitated discussion for LINK member bodies about climate and behaviour change. Please see **Jen's** emails to members for more details.

Behaviour Change

The guidance for member bodies on **cutting emissions** and on **carbon auditing** commissioned from Jolin Warren is now complete and on the LINK website. Thanks to Clifton Bain, Duncan McLaren and Dan Barlow for advising on this.

LINK Climate Change Position Statement

A fully revised LINK climate change position statement was circulated in draft for members' feedback in June and the final three-part publication is now being prepared by Tamsin Bailey for circulation during September.

Climate Challenge Fund Grants Panel

The Government's Climate Challenge Fund of £18.8m will be administered by Keep Scotland Beautiful and a supporting alliance of interested organisations is being co-ordinated by the Sustainable Development Commission (Scotland) to lend support to the effective delivery of this fund. Lloyd Austin and Mike Robinson are LINK's representatives on the Climate Challenge Fund Grants Panel and the Alliance.

Operating Plan and Forward Planning Meetings

Staff and Board have been developing LINK's Operating Plan for 2008-09 pulling together all of the work areas and plans. This will be our planning tool in future. There are some minor changes to our forward planning cycle, including combining congress with annual forward planning starting this autumn.

We've also set key performance indicators for LINK's current strategy and have developed a brief for the consultant to undertake a review of strategy 2009-12.

Annual Members Congress and Forward Planning, 30-31 October, Birnam

The Congress theme this year is 'A greener Scotland – What will it look like?' - please put it in your diaries.

Diversity

The presentation by Taja Sidhu of the Black Environment Network has been re-scheduled for the Board and Convenors Networking Meeting on 22 January 2009.

In the meantime, if any members have developed a cultural diversity policy or statement and are willing to share it with other LINK member organisations, please email it to **Adean** and we will put it on the members-only pages of our website.

Comms Subgroup

The Board Comms Subgroup has reviewed our communications about the benefits of being part of LINK and paying a subscription.

Thank you very much to those who have completed our online **members' survey** on the information you receive from us - and if you haven't yet, please follow this link and give us your views - they are important to us.

Also, a short **web users survey** is currently running, available from the home page of the website. Please complete it too - thank you!

The LINK **Summer Newsletter** is available on website.

End of Year and AGM

End of year accounting, preparation of the trustees' **annual report** (available on the LINK website and ultimately for OSCR), and for AGM have been recent priorities. We will also compile a shorter 'annual review' to accompany the CD review of the year for circulation at the Members' Congress in October.

Parliamentary Officer's Report Eilidh Macpherson

Ministerial Liaison

The **notes of the quarterly LINK ministerial** meeting on 7 May summarise the discussions on Marine, Deer, Climate and funding for the environment. The next meeting is in September and more details will be circulated when available.

Parliamentary Training, 28 July, Edinburgh 10am-4pm

Organised by LINK Parliamentary staff and open to all the LINK members. The day will look at how to most effectively lobby and engage with the Parliament, and will include presentations from SPICe and parliamentary research staff. To book a place, please email **Eilidh** or **Susan**.

Notes of the Open Meeting with Jim Murphy MP, Minister for Europe, 26 June, Edinburgh

An informal meeting chaired by Stuart Housden (RSPB) to discuss Europe and the Environment. Invitations were sent to a range of organisations including LINK, and without an agenda, the meeting seemed to be more about giving a general feel for the Scottish situation.

Contact with Parliamentarians

Recently, LINK Parliamentary staff have prepared and run a training event on parliamentary lobbying for the Sustainable Development Education Network; attended the Climate Cross Party Groups; Renewable Energy Cross Party Group; and met with parliamentarians, parliamentary researchers and staff from SPICe. We have also been involved in discussions with SCVO about the implications of further devolution for the voluntary sector and attended SCVO's annual 'The Gathering' event.

Working together with Ylva, the LINK Marine Bill Campaigns Officer, preparations are well underway for summer actions to ensure public involvement with the Scottish Marine Bill consultation.

Spring Party Conferences

LINK staff and member representatives attended and had stands at the Labour, LibDems, SNP and Conservative party conferences in March, April and May. Fringe events on the Scottish Marine Bill Campaign were organised for the SNP and LibDem

conferences which helped raise awareness of LINK's key demands from the legislation.

Discussions at the Parliamentary Forum meeting in early June concluded that LINK needs to be strategic about type of involvement with party conference, with fringe events often more useful than stalls at. Also it is important that policy-focused staff and a wider spread of LINK member organisations attend.

Scottish Civic Forum

In early July, the Board of the Scottish Civic Forum reluctantly decided that the Forum will shortly cease trading. The Forum was set up as the intended third partner in the devolution settlement to work alongside the new Parliament and government in Scotland to find new ways for civic society to participate. However, we have to accept that political will to fund an organisation whose main aim is to increase plurality and debate in a non-partisan way no longer exists. The Board of the Forum still believes that there is a gap in Parliament and Government participation processes but with no funding the Forum is unable to bridge this. Isobel Lindsay, Convener of the Forum, expressed appreciation for the support received over the years.

IUCN

The IUCN-UK Committee are interested in receiving any news items for the news pages of the [IUCN-UK website](#). It can cover any issues, meetings or projects that relate to the mission and objectives of the IUCN, with a UK or European focus. If you have something suitable please send some introductory text and the full article to iucn@jncc.gov.uk.

Task Force Updates

Agriculture TF: Mandy Gloyer

SRDP: LINK is represented in the SRDP Implementation phase.

RDCs: the ATF has been involved in the ongoing development of RDCs which will provide the delivery vehicle for SRDP funding, including the agri-environment and forestry programmes. Work is ongoing to set up the regional priorities for 11 Scottish 'On the Ground' regions.

Less Favoured Areas (LFA): The ATF is heavily involved in the current LFAs consultation.

Climate Change and Agriculture: The report was not as hard-hitting or urgent as the ATF would have liked although there was some good environmental aspects to it.

CAP 'Health Check': The Scottish Government consultation on the future implementation of the CAP in Scotland is underway and will close on 7 October. The ATF are preparing a CAP Vision document with photographs and other illustrations which will be used as an advocacy tool.

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Biodiversity TF: Deborah Long

The report which the BTF commissioned on case studies of NGO conservation work is now finished and a launch is being planned. The Terms of Reference for the new structures for delivering biodiversity action in Scotland have been received and the

BTF will be meeting with the Scottish Government in July to discuss this and also ecosystems.

Climate TF: Clifton Bain

The CTF together with members from other taskforces met with SNH at the end of June to review SNH's Climate Action Plan and to take a strategic look at the whole climate change agenda. Regarding LINK, the main point is that all taskforces should be thinking about climate change and adaptation, with the CTF focussing on technical aspects of the Bill.

The CTF will coordinate a joint response to the current consultation 'Adapting Our Ways: Managing Scotland's Climate Risk' which will inform Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Framework. It seems that this will sidestep the actual production of a strategy and probably hoping to avoid putting a commitment to producing a strategy into the Bill.

The current Soils Framework consultation is important relative to peats and carbon storage.

Deer TF: Duncan Orr-Ewing

The DTF met with the Minister and raised need for new deer legislation, commented on the proposed DCS/SNH merger and sought reassurance on deer fencing issues. Several LINK members attended the DCS Deer Management Round Table in May, and we have agreed to participate in a joint initiative with ADMG and other partners to help oversee the effective implementation of the DCS/SNH merger.

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Freshwater TF: Andrea Johnstonova or Mike Donaghy

WFD implementation: Continuous involvement in the implementation of WFD in Scotland. The FTF has been engaged in the drafting of draft River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs), which are due for public consultation later this year. We are also expecting a number of consultations on WFD related topics, including phase 2 WFD environmental standards, policy on restoration and WFD classification.

Diffuse pollution: We are active members of the diffuse pollution implementation group, but there is no progress to report. We hope that the remit of the group will be agreed very soon, as it is widely recognised that immediate action to tackle diffuse pollution is required.

Flooding and sustainable flood risk management: Active contributions were made to the drafting of the Flooding Bill. The FTF has been engaged in the work on natural flood management, which will now be progressed through a focused working group. The final LINK commissioned report from Mountain Environments consultancy on the review of scientific basis for natural flood management will be available soon and it will further inform our policy on NFM.

The Environment and Rural Affairs Committee has released its report on Flooding and Flooding Management, and we support a number of recommendations. We have also submitted written briefing to the Parliament debate on flooding and flood management.

Coastal: The report on coastal flooding where LINK have been in the steering group will be released in the next couple of months.

Water Industry: Maintaining appropriate contacts with SW, Waterwatch and Waterwise. LINK met with Waterwatch to discuss future working together. Scottish

Water has published for consultation its Water Resource Plan for the next 25 year. LINK will be responding.

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Landscape TF: Helen McDade and Jonathan Wordsworth

The Scottish Landscape Forum, which the LTF has given high input into, has been instructed by the minister to complete its work by the end of 2008 and then disband. LTF work is continuing to produce a statement on what should be Scottish Government Policy on Landscape.

Following an SLF meeting with the minister, a Landscape and Culture celebration has been proposed for the coming year (see www.placebookscotland.org.uk) and LTF members expect to have a significant input to this project.

With the Strategic Review of Scotland's National Parks underway, the LTF is concerned that there may be a potential diminution of the park funding and duties. The LTF is therefore currently engaging with other LINK bodies and key stakeholders to promote a wide discussion of the issues.

Marine TF: Calum Duncan

Consultation begins on 14 July for a Scottish Marine Bill. The MTF had been hoping that English colleagues would support devolution of powers on nature conservation grounds - RSPB supported, and other UK NGOs felt that being 'not averse' was the best they could do.

The public action phase of LINK's Marine Bill Campaign is well underway with 50,000 leaflets being distributed over the coming months by over 20 organisations; with manned displays at some 30 events; and with a '**take action**' page on the campaign website. A joint meeting of the UK Links Marine Bill Officers was held in Belfast in early July.

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Planning TF: Anne McCall and Paul F Gallagher

Members of the PTF have been involved in the Trump planning inquiry during May and June.

Scottish Environmental Fundraising Forum (SEFF): Steven Gardner

SEFF members are networking with each other and with funders well. Next meetings are

3 September in Perth and 3 December in Edinburgh. Mike Robinson and Pam Judson are consulting to find out what members want from the training day. SEFF members would also like advice on how to engage more with Parliament on issues about funding for the environment.

Woodlands TF: Angus Yarwood

The WTF will be responding to recent consultation by FCS on Woodland Expansion in Scotland and hope to meet with the Head of Policy to discuss various points.

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Consultations

Sign up to **seConsult**, the Scottish Government weekly email alert service to tell you of new consultations and provides brief descriptions and web links.

In addition to the Scottish Government consultations

SEPA Water Pollution Consultation	SEPA consultation on the control of toxic, persistent and bioaccumulative substances, as defined under European Directives set to protect the surface water environment. The consultation paper defines SEPA's proposed policy and procedures for controlling discharges containing listed substances.
18 July 2008	Email comments to waterpolicy@sepa.org.uk or by post to Linda Van Heusden, Water Policy Unit, SEPA Corporate Office, Stirling.
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)	Consultation for a review of BBSRC research relevant to environmental change (including climate change). An independent review panel, chaired by Professor Alistair Hetherington, University of Bristol, invites views on potential research priorities.
	More information is available from huw.tyson@bbsrc.ac.uk
25 July 2008	
Commonwealth Foundation	17th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (17CCEM) will take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in June 2009.
31 July	Together with the Malaysian Ministry of Education, the Commonwealth Foundation is the leading Stakeholders' Forum, the largest of the parallel events, for participants from civil society, academia and the private sector to help form the themes of the Forum and give comments on the E-consultation on education .
	For further information contact Dr Casmir Chanda , Education Consultant, 17CCEM Stakeholders Forum.
Scottish Government and the Glasgow Caledonian University	The Scottish Government is funding an economic assessment of sea fishing in Scotland via Glasgow Caledonian University.
	Any one who has experienced any form of sea fishing in Scotland is encouraged to respond to the online questionnaire .
30 September	More information is available from Steve Bastiman of the SSACN - the Scottish Sea Angling Conservation Network www.ssacn.org
Scottish Government European Liability Directive	The second consultation on the transposition of the European Liability Directive is web-based, available at : http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/05/14161737/0
Second Consultation	The consultation document contains draft Regulations, draft Technical Guidance, revised draft RIA and a draft Quick-Guidance.
	Email your comments to ELD.consultation2@scotland.gsi.gov.uk .
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2008

- July 28** Parliamentary Training, Edinburgh.
- August 28** LINK Gathering, Climate and Behaviour Change, Perth.
- August TBC** LINK National Parks Review Workshop. Venue TBA.
- August TBC** Possible LINK Soils Framework Workshop. Venue TBA.
- September 26** LINK Strategy Workshop with Bruce Britton. Venue TBA.
- Autumn TBC** Possible LINK Workshop on SEA. Venue TBC.
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- October 23** Board meeting, morning Perth.
- 30/31** LINK Congress and Annual Review and Forward Planning, Birnam.
- December TBC** LINK Workshop on management of task force workload. Venue TBA.
- December 17** Festive Reception, evening, Edinburgh.

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Publications Received

The Sustainable Development Research Network (SDRN), funded by both DEFRA and the Sustainable Development Commission, sponsors research reviews.

This is a report of a workshop meeting held in Edinburgh in February 2008 to consider the environment and human health.



In March 2007 and 2008, the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC), with the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), ran a Stakeholder Assessment on aviation.

It found that there is widespread controversy over the basic economic, environmental and technological data on air travel in the UK, and that a new evidence base establishing the true benefits and impacts of aviation must be created before any decisions on major airport expansion can take place.



Energy Savings Trust, 'Generating the Future: An analysis of policy interventions to achieve widespread microgeneration in Scotland'.

This report is based on modelling work funded by the Scottish Government and consumer research.



A compilation of 26 articles looking at Northern Ireland's energy needs and various renewable technologies.

One of a series of from Northern Ireland Environment Link (NIEL)



Greenspace Quality - a guide to assessment, planning and strategic development.

Provides practical guidance to support local authorities in producing open space audits and strategies, as required by SPP11 Open Space and Physical Activity.



This Woodland Trust report summarises a world-wide literature review carried out by Forest Research and Newcastle University on the impact of woodlands on water resources.

Comments welcome to **Fran Hitchinson**, Woodland Trust Conservation Policy Officer.

