



LINK eBulletin - June 2010

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LINK DIARY

22 June LINK Board meeting, LINK Networking meeting and LINK AGM
23 June LINK Ministerial Meeting
13 July LINK Advocacy Training, Melting Pot, Edinburgh
15-16 Sept Joint Links Seminar, University of Chester
21 October LINK Board meeting, LINK Members Networking
18-19 Nov LINK Annual Congress and Forward Planning

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LINK NEWS

Avoiding Conflicts in the Marine Environment – LINK will be launching this new LINK report, co-ordinated by the Marine Taskforce on 17th June. The report's recommendations focus on dealing with the tension between wanting urgent development in marine renewable energy and the requirement to be aware of its potential impacts. The aim is to safeguard the environment and thus bolster the sustainability and reputation of the burgeoning industry. The report was already been predistributed to key stakeholders in May. More details from [Andy](#)

SNH and Peatlands: at LINK's March meeting with Ian Jardine advised that SNH was considering its role in relation to peatlands as a focus for biodiversity and more and asked for information on members' work and peat related initiatives. LINK has now supplied this and also a list of suggestions for SNH action on peatlands, developed by Clifton Bain, Director of the IUCN Peatlands Programme, with input from members. Both documents are on the members' website: [Peatlands initiatives](#), [Suggestions for SNH peatlands work](#)

A LINK-SEPA high level meeting was held on 4 May, which was action oriented. Top items for LINK were SLUS and SOAs where further cooperation was agreed (also Freshwater) which the task forces will pursue. Subsequent discussions were about Climate & Energy, the Better Regulation Agenda, SEPA as a champion of sustainable development, and SEPA's plans for State of the Environment Reporting were also agreed. Please contact [Alice](#) if you have an interest in taking part in any of the next meetings with SEPA planned for these topics, or if you want to feed in to the follow ups. Notes of the meeting are [here](#)

Duncan McLaren of FOES will be LINK's delegate to the Zero Waste Scotland Board, with Dan Barlow of WWFS acting as his depute.

Lindsay Roberts joined LINK on 1st June as Marine Policy and Advocacy Officer, working alongside Alan Wells with the Marine Taskforce. Lindsay will be working out of the RSPB Edinburgh office, full-time. Lindsay's degree was in law and politics with a specialism in environmental law, and more recently she worked with the Green Party, first on media relations, then as a researcher, then as Senior Research and Policy Officer at the time that the Marine and Climate Change bills were going through parliament. Lindsay's e-mail is Lindsay@scotlink.org

LINK's Annual General Meeting will be held on 22nd June in Perth at 5.15pm in the AK Bell Library (buffet at 4.45pm). Please contact [Kate](#) if you plan to attend.



Organisational Supporters – details of LINK's new category of organisational supporters and roll-out plans for the project are available to read [here](#)

Parliamentary

May saw the Westminster General Election and the emergence of a new Liberal/Conservative coalition government. The government has started cutting borrowing already and in the Queen's speech has introduced an Energy Efficiency bill and measures which will affect Scotland's constitutional position, including implementation of the Calman report.

Advocacy Training, 13th July, the Melting Pot, Edinburgh - Learn about how to help your organisation shape and achieve its strategy through advocacy. We will look at the role of government and the Scottish Parliament and how best to interact with them. Contact [Andy](#) or [Susan](#) at LINK's Parliamentary Office for more details.

Taskforce Reports

Agriculture

Jointly sent letters with WCL to George Lyon on CAP report in April. LINK represented at PMC, CAP stakeholder group and LFASS technical working group. Developing ideas on a follow up to the CAP vision. The taskforce is working with other LINKs to lobby MEPs on report on future of the CAP.

Freshwater

RAFTS and RSPB attended the NAG meeting on 10 May. RSPB and SWT attended the Scottish Freshwater Group meeting on 8 April at Stirling Uni. RSPB currently participating in FRMG subgroup to explore land management opportunities and CAP/ SRDP funding for natural flood management.

Landscape

The LTF remains concerned at SG reluctance to sign up to the forthcoming Scotland's Landscape Charter (SLC). LTF is working with SNH to promote the Charter which will be launched later this summer. We will be encouraging other LINK member bodies to sign up to this charter.

SNH will be developing a stakeholder group to take forward implementation of the principles of the SLC and members of the LTF are contributing to this process and have offered to be on the group. If other LINK members wish to join this forum please contact the LTF Convener.

SWLG held a very successful 2 day conference on Wild Land at Battleby on 14th/15th May. Several LTF members contributed to the presentations and discussion.

The UK Landscape Conference (<http://www.landscapecharacter.org.uk/node/400>) will be held on the 10th/11th November 2010 in Liverpool.

APRS and SCNP have joined forces to launch a 3 year strategy (http://www.ruralscotland.btik.com/attachments/National_Parks_Strategy_Project_Summary_3.pdf) for increasing National Park coverage across Scotland.

Marine

MPA meeting with SNH & JNCC regarding draft MPA guidelines that are open for public consultation. Outcome is lobbying effort on MSPs (with meetings booked with all parties) to have the guidelines amended, to ensure they fully protect EU Habitats & Birds Directive species.



Marine renewables paper 'Avoiding Conflicts in the Marine Environment' has been finalized and is to be launched in Parliament on 17th June.

LINK contributed to the debate surrounding World Oceans Day.

LINK provided public comments on the Scottish MPA Guidance and on the marine nature conservation strategy.

Single Outcome Agreements

Terms of reference for an audit of SOAs have been drafted and a bid for LINK funding of audit put to Discretionary Fund; internal assessment of Scottish Government annual report of SOAs; there has been a comparison of LINK 10 outcomes with Improvement Service outcomes and SNH proposals; the taskforce has made contact with SDC about planned assessment of SOAs – with an invitation expected for LINK to participate as stakeholder.

Taskforce met with Scottish Government team leading LUS process. We submitted views on a number of issues including regional stakeholder workshops and SEA Scoping Report and received updates on progress from SG. Agreed to keep in touch as work progresses.

Sustainable Land Use Strategy

Submitted LINK comments to Scottish Government on Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report, produced as part of LUS process. LINK TF members attended regional stakeholder meetings and also an update meeting with Scottish Government. These activities are seeking to influence the content of the draft Strategy due to be sent to the Minister in June and to be followed by a public consultation in the Autumn. Conference is being planned for early November.

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MEMBER FOCUS

WWF Scotland published its report '*Street by street, house by house, area-based retrofit for low carbon homes*' in April. Download [here](#)

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PUBLICATIONS

One Scotland: One Geography: One Information Network: *Creating Scotland's Spatial Data Infrastructure: Cookbook 1 - How to serve a Scottish SDI and INSPIRE conformant Web Map Service.* Scottish government publication, details [here](#)

The first annual report to the Scottish Parliament on the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. Scottish government publication available [here](#)

Public attitudes towards estates in Scotland: Report of quantitative research commissioned by the Scottish Estates Business Group. [Link](#)

The Offshore Valuation Report - the first full economic valuation of Britain's offshore renewable resource. Details [here](#)

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CONSULTATIONS

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 2010: Consultation Paper

This consultation paper sets out the Scottish Government's proposals for the consolidating and updating Part II of the Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 1999 (the 1999 EIA regulations), the regulations which apply the EIA Directive to the Scottish planning system. Consultation period 21 May - 27 August 2010. [Details](#)

Tree Preservation Orders To make amendments and update secondary legislation for the serving, varying and revoking of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). [Details](#)

The Royal Commission for Environmental Pollution is considering topics for investigation for its next study. The shortlisted topics are: environmental noise; managing air pollution; sustainable use of phosphate; the environmental impact of pharmaceutical products; the environmental impact of products and services – the case of embedded water; the impacts of low carbon energy generation on the environment. The Commission would welcome views from stakeholders before it makes its final decision. Please contact cleo.eastabrook@rcep.org.uk for more information. The closing date for responses is **Friday, 30th July**.

Climate Change, public behaviour and communities – a framework proposal. *Creating a supportive framework to guide community practitioners, partners, funders and decision-makers in Scotland.* Simon Pepper is seeking input from LINK members on this proposal document. For more information please contact [Simon Pepper](#)

SCVO Strategic Review - SCVO's Strategic Review is being undertaken in the context of a new UK government, the prospect of a Scottish election in May 2011, and the most severe public expenditure restraint of recent times. In this new environment SCVO wants to know how best it can help its members, the wider sector and our partners to meet the challenges of the months and years ahead. Please complete their [online survey](#). The survey will remain open until 6 August 2010.

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EVENTS AND SEMINARS

STEP Forum – LIFE Programme Workshop, Wednesday 16th June, Falkirk Town The LIFE+ Programme funds activities devoted exclusively to the protection of the environment. The fourth call for proposals has recently been published (4 May 2010), with up to €243 million available for projects under the themes of: nature and biodiversity; environment policy and governance; and information and communication. With the call closing on the 1 September 2010, now is the time for Scottish practitioners keen to benefit from the opportunities of the LIFE Programme to find out if their project ideas are suited to the Programme and get engaged and begin developing future project ideas. The aims of the day are to explore the opportunities in the LIFE+ Programme for Scottish organizations, inspire new ideas for future successful LIFE+ projects in Scotland. Registration details [here](#)

Delivering on 2020: Putting Scotland at the forefront on climate change policy, action and jobs, 16th June, Edinburgh - This conference will examine how Scotland, the UK and the rest of the world can work together to meet climate change targets. Keynote Speaker: First Minister, Alex Salmond. More information [here](#)



Scotland's Housing Expo, Inverness 1-31st August. [Website](#)

Investing in Peatlands: the Climate Challenge – IUCN Conference 28-29th September, Durham University. The conference will have a strong focus on climate change, and will be an opportunity to discuss early findings of the IUCN UK Commission of Inquiry on Peatlands. This is part of a series of IUCN UK 'Investing in Peatlands' conferences over 2010-2012. Further information to follow [here](#)

Institute of Fundraising Scotland, 2010 Scottish Conference - 26th October, Glasgow. Details [here](#)

Sustainable Scotland Network Conference 2010 will take place on Thursday 4th November at Our Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh. If your organisation would be interested in contributing to the SSN Conference, booking an exhibition space or being a conference sponsor, please contact Anna Hunter on anna.hunter@ksbscotland.org.uk or 01786 468768.

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IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)

(IUCN documents received by LINK. For copies of any documents which aren't linked directly, please contact [Kate](#))

Conference report from the "Nature – What's in it for me?" event in April. [Link](#)

IUCN 2008 World Conservation Congress Resolutions and Recommendations are available [here](#) for members to view and contribute to the follow-up. Contact [Kate](#) for username and password.

IUCN Position Paper on the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

IUCN document on preferred options, based on the working document prepared by UNEP for the Bussan conference, presents the options for an efficient and cost-effective multistakeholder platform.

Joint statement WBCSD/IUCN on IPBES presents the value added of engaging business in IPBES

Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM), Commission on Environmental Law (CEL) and the Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) newsletters

IUCN [Science Bulletin](#)

Commission on Environment Economic and Social Policy [Newsletter](#)

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OTHER NEWS

2020 Climate Change Group website - The group of experts tasked with helping to ensure the full realisation of Scotland's Climate Change Delivery Plan and the 42% emission reduction target have launched a [website](#) to report on the work they are undertaking.



Marine Spatial Planning MSc at Heriot-Watt University: The employment focused course will be of particular interest for those working in or planning to work in the diverse range of industries which utilise the space and resources of the marine environment. These include; maritime trade, ports and harbours, fisheries, oil industry, aggregate extraction, naval military requirements, aquaculture, conservation, marine renewable energy production, tourism and recreation. More details [here](#)

Central Scotland Green Network Development Fund Forestry Commission Scotland, as one of the lead partners for the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN), is inviting applications to a new fund to support early CSGN delivery projects. Woodland and/or tree planting and/or management must be a significant part of the proposal. £500,000 is available in 2010/11. The closing date for applications is 30 September 2010 and applications will be considered on a first come first served basis. More details [here](#)

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