



LINK e-bulletin August 2011

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LINK DIARY

17 August Advocacy Training, Melting Pot, Edinburgh
30 August Environmental Economics seminar, Edinburgh, followed by AGM
6 October Board Meeting, Edinburgh
17-18 Nov LINK Congress and Strategic Planning, Birnam
14 December LINK Festive Reception, Edinburgh

2012

26 January Board and Networking
26 April Board and Networking
26 June Board and Networking
18 October All day Board
22 November Congress
23 November Strategic Planning

LINK NEWS

Greening the Economy for a Prosperous and Sustainable Scotland – LINK's is hosting this Seminar on the 30th August at Sandeman House in Edinburgh. The aim is to provide an overview of current initiatives within environmental economics and from that determine how LINK can progress the debate within the Scottish context. Simon Pepper, LINK Honorary Fellow will chair. For more information and to register please contact [Kate](#)

LINK Annual General Meeting – LINK's AGM will take place at Sandeman House in Edinburgh on the 30th August after the Greening the Economy Seminar. LINK Member Reps and Trustees should already have received papers. For more details or to advise us that you plan to attend please contact [Kate](#)

[June's Board discussions](#) focussed round LINK's funding position and needs, trustee recruitment and particular skills needs to recruit for over the coming two years, developing the Organisational Supporter initiative, mapping LINK's connections across Scottish policy sector, following up June networking actions in particular the 30 August seminar and our governance paper/initiative. Andy is now revising the governance paper for wider Scottish distribution in mid-August.

Chief Officer Report

For Jen, July has included prep for the AGM with the Board, and follow-up of June Board actions including funding liaison, skills auditing, progressing our President search, and preparing the ground for the strategic review with members (details to follow in August). July also saw Rea Cris's appointment in the parliamentary office as LINK's Parliamentary Office Administrator. There has been collaboration with the Local Governance TF and Andy, to brief MSPs, prepare for meetings with others with an interest in the issues.



Meetings included the new Director FoES Stan Blackley for useful introductory discussion, the new NTS Head of Policy, Diarmid Hearn, who will represent NTS on LINK along with others on the Trust's policy team and together with Andy, met new Scottish Government contact, Gareth Heavisides, who has subsequently helped us to secure our first meeting with the new Minister (27 October). Gareth will also attend our economics seminar.

Liaised with Chair over priority issues for first meeting with Minister (October) amongst which are: Environment funding and Spending Review; Funding for LINK and eNGO sector; Future of Biodiversity. We'll be in touch with members with more information about the meeting, during August.

Diary Date reminder 17 and 18 November - LINK Members' Congress will take place on 17 November followed by the Strategic Planning Meeting on 18 November at the Birnam Institute (Thursday) and the Birnam Hotel (accommodation and Friday). The theme is sustainable development; and will build on the outcomes of the seminar on environmental economics on 30 August. The international dimensions include the Earth Summit in June 2012 - Jonny Hughes in his role on the SSDF is helping to instigate action in Scotland; and the IUCN seeks views in determining its future priorities globally. More information will be circulated from [Alice](#) shortly. Meanwhile please note the date and tell your colleagues, especially any of them new to the network.

[Local Government, Sustainable Development and Scotland's Environment](#) - LINK Parliamentary Briefing

[Joint Links briefing on the future requirements of the Common Agricultural Policy and the EU Budget](#)

[LINK response to the Scottish MPA project - least damaged more natural review](#)

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MEMBER NEWS

[Vote for Roy Turnbull of BSCG to win photo competition and help save School Wood at Nethy Bridge](#) Roy has entered an international photo competition for trail cameras with [a photo of a red squirrel](#) drinking from a burn in School Wood, Nethy Bridge. Despite being classified as ancient woodland and part of the Cairngorms National Park, the national park authority has continued to allocate part of the School Wood for building 40 houses and a business site. If the photograph wins the competition, BSCG can use the story for publicity to maintain pressure on the park authorities to preserve the area. Simply go to the [website](#) and follow the instructions to vote for International Picture number 43.

[Free Range Kids - Creating tomorrow's low carbon active travellers](#) - background report for Sustrans' new campaign to enable children to have the freedom and security to get out and about independently every day of the year. The campaign's aims are area-wide 20mph speed limits in residential and built up areas, investment in safe routes to make walking and cycling the norm for local journeys, particularly to school. [Free Range Kids website](#).

[RSPB Nature of Scotland Awards](#) - These new, annual awards will recognise and celebrate excellence, innovation and outstanding achievement in Scottish nature conservation. Scotland is



renowned worldwide for its beautiful wild places and abundant wildlife. We must work hard to preserve this precious natural heritage, celebrating success stories and protecting that which is under real threat. The closing date for entries is Friday 26 August, the awards are free to enter and the shortlist will be announced in November.

[Access to Environmental Justice Explained](#) – new briefing from Friends of the Earth Scotland which describes why access to environmental justice matters to all of us, and why it is essential to improve access to the courts to ensure good, responsible decision-making by public authorities.

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OTHER NEWS

North east marine surveys

This week a team of marine scientists from Scottish Natural Heritage, the British Geological Survey and the Northern Lighthouse Board, will begin a survey of the waters around Noss Head, near Wick, and the Southern Trench, a deep underwater channel in the outer Moray Firth. Using acoustic multibeam survey techniques to create a 3D image of the seabed, the information gathered will be used to identify marine habitats of high conservation value. This is one of a series of surveys being carried out around the coast of Scotland this year, the findings will be used to advise the Scottish Government and others on conservation and development in the marine environment. The area around the Southern Trench is frequently visited by minke whales and features a deep and distinctive gouge in the seabed, formed during the last ice age. However, relatively little is known about this area. A previous survey carried out off Noss Head for Scottish and Southern Energy in 2010, revealed a bed of horse mussels that maybe the largest in Scottish waters. Apart from this discovery, there is scant information on marine wildlife in the area. More details of SNH's draft list of priority marine features are [here](#).

[Edinburgh Centre on Climate Change](#) – The Centre, which has received £1.6m in funding from the Scottish Government, unites policy makers, business and civil leaders with experts in finance, law, management and urban design to develop solutions to deliver the low carbon industrial revolution.

[Woodland Carbon Code is launched](#) - This voluntary code will encourage a consistent approach to woodland carbon projects, and offer clarity and transparency to customers about the carbon savings that their contributions may realistically achieve.

[Scottish Government Announces £7 million for the Third Sector](#) - The Just Enterprise programme will provide business support to those looking to set up or develop a social enterprise. It also includes an on-line 'hub' where organisations can get support and assistance. The Enterprise Growth Fund will give grants of between £25,000 and £200,000 to third sector organisations that want to secure their long-term sustainability by developing organisational structures or income streams.

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EVENTS AND SEMINARS



Scottish Politics Explained – 31 August to 2nd September, Edinburgh. 3 day event organised by Holyrood conferences examining Scotland's entire system of government, and reflecting on the impact that a majority government will have on the legislative and public policy process.

Central Scotland Forest Forum - 6 September, Cumbernald. Organised by the Central Scotland Green Network. The main item on the agenda will be the relevance of the Central Scotland Forest to the Central Scotland Green Network and current mainstream government agendas.

Charity Seminar: Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIOs) – Wednesday 7th September, 6.00pm, Perth Museum Lecture Theatre. The Seminar, given by Colin Liddell of J. & H. Mitchell Solicitors, will explain the salient features of the SCIO and will compare a SCIO against each of a Guarantee Company and an Unincorporated Association to demonstrate the relative advantages and disadvantages of each. For more information and details of how to register please contact acml@hmittchell.co.uk.

Valuing Places: why, what, how? BEFS Annual Congress - Thursday 8th September 2011, Roxburghe Hotel, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh. £25 for members, £50 for members Congress. Please contact info@befsf.org.uk, 0131 220 6241

Taking stock and moving forward in Strategic Environmental Assessment - 15th September, Battleby. The first opportunity to take stock of what has been happening in the field of SEA in Scotland, based on sound research evidence. It will explore the findings of the research and recommend ways of addressing areas of concern. It will provide the opportunity to explore the solutions proposed and move forward to a more efficient SEA process. To take part please contact the Sharing Good Practice Team on 01738 458555 or email sgp@snh.gov.uk

Responding to extreme weather events on managed sites - Tuesday 20 September, Battleby. SNH Sharing Good Practice event aimed at developing a better awareness and understanding of the threats and opportunities presented by climate change impacts on managed sites across Scotland. To book a place please contact sgp@snh.gov.uk as soon as possible and no later than Friday 26 August 2011.

Nourish Scotland Annual Conference 2011 – 30th September and October 1st, Glasgow. 'The New Food Economy - Building a Sustainable and Secure Food System for Scotland' The highlight of day one will be a debate on the question 'Is Small Beautiful - the role of Small Producers in the Future of Food' to commemorate the centenary of Schumacher's book of the same name.

Sustainable Scotland Network 10th Annual Conference, 10th November, COSLA Conference Centre, Edinburgh. This year's conference theme is *Local Action for a Sustainable Scotland*. Speakers include Stewart Stevenson MSP, Minister for Environment and Climate Change and Dr Andy Kerr, Executive Director, Edinburgh Centre on Climate Change.

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PUBLICATIONS

The Scottish SEA Review - a review of the efficiency and effectiveness of SEA in Scotland. SEPA led this work on behalf of the three Scottish Consultation Authorities and with the support of the Scottish Government. It was informed by a project steering group comprising of SEA practitioners from across Scotland.



[The International Dimensions of Climate Change](#) - published by the UK's Foresight programme, an overview of the evidence of threats and opportunities to the UK from international climate change, which considers how these may be considered by policymakers to ensure the UK is able to remain competitive, secure and able to protect the wellbeing of the nation.

[Adapting to climate change in the UK: measuring progress](#) - Adaptation Sub-Committee Progress Report - July 2011. The ASC's 2nd assessment of how well the UK is prepared to deal with climate change impacts and risks. It sets out a range of indicators against which the UK's progress will be measured, and focuses on three priority areas of land-use planning, managing water resources, and the design and renovation of buildings as adaptation measures.

[National Statistician's Reflections on the National Debate on Measuring National Well-being](#) published by the ONS following the national debate on what influences people's well-being

[The Sustainable Lifestyles Framework](#) - published by DEFRA. A tool for organisations such as local authorities, civil society organisations and business to develop effective approaches to influencing behaviour.

[CNPASupplementary Planning Guide to Wildness](#) - The Cairngorms National Park Authority is the first in the UK to issue special planning guidance to help protect wild land. The new rules mean that future planning applications in the park will have to be considered against their impact on wildness. There is also recognition that wildness can be enhanced by removing redundant structures such as old electricity pylons.

[An analysis of the impact on the natural heritage of the decline in hill farming in Scotland](#) - report from SNH

[The Common Cause Handbook](#) - Published by PIRC, the Common Cause Handbook argues values and 'frames' play a key role in shaping our thoughts and actions, and must be taken into account when communicating issues such as climate change to others.

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CONSULTATIONS

Consultation on Fisheries Management in Luce Bay Special Area of Conservation

This consultation seeks the views of key stakeholders on the effective management of scallop fishing in Luce Bay and Sands Special Area of Conservation (SAC). For more details please contact Deborah Byrne (deborah.byrne@scotland.gsi.gov.uk), tel: 0131 244 6208.

Stakeholder Consultation for surveillance of forest management practices carried out by Bell Ingram Ltd. (Scotland)

Consultation surveying people and organisations who may have an interest in or be affected by Woodmark, the Soil Association's forest certification programme which is accredited by the FSC to evaluate forest management against the FSC's internationally recognised set of principles and criteria for responsible forest management. All comments remain anonymous though a summary of the main issues raised by consultees and how they are addressed will be presented in the certification report. The report can be accessed at www.soilassociation.org/woodmark once the evaluation is complete. For more information or to take part in the consultation please contact wmconsultation@soilassociation.org



Flooding in Scotland: A consultation on Potentially Vulnerable Areas and Local Plan Districts

from SEPA, seeks views on how the National Flood Risk Assessment identifies areas for flood risk management planning and was launched by the Minister for the Environment, Stewart Stevenson, at the Braid Burn in Edinburgh. Responses will help identify those areas in Scotland where public bodies should focus their efforts. Closing date is 15th August.

Crown Estate Inquiry – call for further evidence

– The House of Commons Scottish Affairs Committee is taking further submissions on the Crown Estate in Scotland, in particular: How revenues raised by the Crown Estate Commissioners in Scotland could be best used for the benefit of local communities in Scotland?; At what level might those revenues be best administered: UK Treasury, Scottish Government or local authority level?; What processes might be put in place for the distribution and allocation of those revenues, in order to secure the maximum benefit for the people of Scotland? Submissions should be received by 5 September 2011. View the Scottish Government's proposals for the devolution of the Crown Estate [here](#)

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IUCN (LINK is a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature)

Call for Contributions for the next IUCN World Conservation Congress

The Congress will take place from 6 to 15 September 2012, in Jeju, Korea. This Call for Contributions is an invitation to propose events to be considered for the Forum, the part of Congress which is open to all (from 7 to 11 September 2012). Click here www.iucn.org/congress for the latest updates and information about the Congress, and to access the Call for Contributions. You will also be able to see which proposals have already been submitted or to submit a new one. The call will remain open until **15 October 2011** and you will have until this date to identify partners and develop your proposal. LINK Members who would like LINK to propose an event, please contact [Kate](#)

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VACANCIES

John Muir Trust Property Manager - Skye and Knoydart (£25,000-28,000)

JMT are seeking a property manager to deliver conservation management over this spectacular wild area, and work with a range of local people and communities. The successful applicant will be responsible for all aspects of management of the properties and for promoting the aims of the Trust in the local and wider Skye and Knoydart areas. Applicants must have a proven commitment to the conservation of wild land and wildlife, relevant management experience and a track record of working with rural communities. An understanding of crofting, woodland and agricultural grants, as well as practical experience (for example, in forestry, deer management, habitat monitoring or footpath work) would be desirable. View full details at the [John Muir Trust website](#) Final date for applications: **Monday 22nd August**

Medal Routes Project Officer – Ramblers Scotland (£25,000 pa - 1 year contract)

Ramblers Scotland is looking for an enthusiastic and committed individual to develop an exciting new walking project. You will support the design and delivery of the Medal Routes project across Scotland which aims to encourage more people to use local outdoor access routes and adopt active lifestyles. This will involve working with local groups and communities to establish a series



of walking “hubs” with circular bronze, silver and gold “medal” routes (of 15-, 30- and 60-minutes) based on that hub, making use of existing paths and promoting their use more widely. The project will include partnership working and development, production of information material, working with the media and mobilising volunteers. This position is part of the Ramblers Promoting Walking Team. The post holder will be encouraged to be part of developing future ideas about the potential physical activity legacy of the 2014 Commonwealth Games. For more information please visit the [Ramblers website](#). Closing date for applications: **Friday 2nd September, noon.**

Director, Wildlife and Countryside Link, Fixed Term Contract: 12 months maternity cover, Full time position, Starting salary: £35,215 per annum, London

Wildlife and Countryside Link is England’s leading umbrella body for the environmental not for profit sector, with over 35 member organisations and 31 years’ experience. Link seeks a Director who is an experienced facilitator with proven knowledge of the environment sector and conservation and animal welfare policy. As a highly organised administrator with fundraising experience, you are at ease handling many tasks at the same time and delivering them to high standards including managing staff and projects, liaising with the Board of Trustees and members whilst implementing policy and identifying priorities for the organisation’s development. Meeting our members’ needs and advancing our environment and conservation aims also requires skills in strategic and forward planning and an ability to represent Link and its members to policy makers, funders and key contacts. The current post holder will be on maternity leave from December and Wildlife and Countryside Link is seeking a person to cover the full period of maternity leave. For more details please visit the [WCL website](#). Closing date for completed application forms is 2nd September.

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EUROPE (LINK is a member of the European Environmental Bureau)

[EEB calls on 44 parties to Aarhus Convention to make it a “gift” to RIO+20](#) - Addressing Environmental Ministers and other delegates in July during a high level panel discussion, EEB Secretary General Jeremy Wates said that it was important to remove obstacles for countries outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) area to accede to the Convention, and thus help increase environmental democracy globally. “This is a ground-breaking Convention which could dramatically improve the environmental rights of citizens globally. Ahead of next years Rio+20 conference, what better time than now is there to make it easier for non-UNECE countries to accede the Aarhus Convention? The parties should commit to adopting at their next session an amendment removing the requirement that accession by non-UNECE States is subject to approval by the MoP,” said Wates.

[Ministers back binding European forest agreement](#)

Ministers have agreed to back plans to introduce a legally binding agreement to protect Europe's forests. Delegates also agreed to adopt resolutions that would help shape forest policy over the next decade. The ministerial agreement was signed at the sixth Forest Europe conference in Oslo, Norway. The Norwegian host chairman, Rural Affairs Minister Lars Peder Brekk, said the signing of two ministerial declarations was a fitting end to Norway's four-year leadership of the Forest Europe process. As well as signing the declaration to begin negotiations to establish a legally binding agreement (LBA), delegates also agreed to set a number of targets to be achieved by 2020. These included all European countries implementing a national forest programme, which needed to contain climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.



European Commission's Budget Proposals plus commentary from CAP2020 The New CAP - The same but different The Commission College debated for a long day before agreeing their proposals for the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF). The CAP (€372 billion) remains a sizeable element of the Budget but now accounts for a fractionally smaller share of the overall MFF cake than the Cohesion Policy (€376 billion). The two Pillars remain and the basic structure of the CAP is not radically altered although the formal objectives now reflect the priorities of Europe 2020 much more explicitly. Indeed promoting resource efficiency has pride of place in the new objectives along with 'smart, sustainable and inclusive growth'....(more)

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If you would like to see news, information or upcoming events from your organisation featured in LINK's monthly bulletin, please contact Kate at Scottish Environment LINK.

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