



LINK eBulletin February 2010

[Link Diary](#) | [Link News](#) | [Member focus](#) | [Calls for Action](#) | [Publications](#)
[Consultations](#) | [Events and Seminars](#) | [UK Links](#) | [Other News](#)

LINK DIARY

February 22-26 Scottish Environment Week, Holyrood. Programme details at <http://www.scotlink.org/public/work/sew.php> The theme this year is "Scotland's Environment... It's Great!"

February 23 – Ministerial meeting. Details from jen@scotlink.org

February 24 Scottish Environment Week midweek reception, evening, Holyrood. Invitations to follow shortly

April 22 – LINK Networking Meeting, please commit to your diaries

Party conference dates - contact Susan (Susan@scotlink.org) for more information

LINK NEWS

Single Outcome Agreement: the LINK report is being published very soon. Key audiences we are targeting are local authorities, Scottish Government and the Improvement Service.

Wildlife and Natural Environment Bill: This bill has a varied elements, the two largest being deer management and Invasive non-native species (INNS). LINK submitted a comprehensive [response to the consultation](#) back in September 2010, and the government analysis of the consultation is expected imminently - hopefully next week! Once this has been launched a meeting of the Stakeholder forum will be held. Representative of the LINK WNE group met with Roseanna Cunningham and officials briefly in January (see [note](#)), and were able to reinforce our views on the need for statutory deer management planning, and raise concern over new introductions of INNS. For more info contact susan@scotlink.org

Fundraising Training: the training day on 18 January was very much appreciated by members. If you missed out and would like a copy of the training handouts please contact Alice (alice@scotlink.org).

January Board Meeting: the Board noted good progress towards our Key Performance Indicators, on quarter three operations:

http://www.scotlink.org/files/internal/OperatingPlans/Operating_Plan_09-10_Jan10.doc

The Trustees approved in principle a draft budget for 2010/11 (<http://www.scotlink.org/files/internal/FinancialReports/LINKBudgetDraft2010-11.pdf>) and a recommendation to hold membership subscriptions at 2008/09 rates for a third year 2010/11. Despite leaner budget scenarios, a discretionary project fund of £15,000 for 2010/11 was approved in principle for projects LINK and Task Forces may want to carry out.

The Board is discussing proposals for an additional category of affiliation - 'Organisational Supporter' offering no membership or voting rights - for companies and other organisations involved in environmental work and likely to have an interest in existing LINK services such as our newsletter, parliamentary monitoring, LINK receptions, trainings. The Board will consider the business case for this at their April meeting. Details from Alice (alice@scotlink.org).



January Networking Meeting: minutes and actions are on the [website](#)

Dates in early March are being canvassed for a meeting of any members interested in aspects of **urban sustainability**, with a view to clarifying the value of any collective work. If you are interested, contact Jonny Hughes SWT (jhughes@swt.org.uk) or Judy Wilkinson SAGS (chrisandjudy@atlas.co.uk).

Friends of Loch Lomond have withdrawn from the LINK network for the time being. They have indicated that they have valued their LINK membership very much, but unfortunately are not in a position to engage with us at present and gain value from their membership. They hope that the situation is only temporary, and that in a couple of years or so they will be able to rejoin and re-engage with us. They send best wishes to everyone in the LINK network, and 'all strength' to our arms...

LINK Financial Report for quarter ended 31st December is now available for members to read at <http://www.scotlink.org/members/finance/reports.php>. Also on this page we have published our draft budget for financial year 2010-11, which the Board examined and approved on 21st January.

MEMBER FOCUS

Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society are organising a "Pod plod" from August 27-30, a 26 mile sponsored trek along the Moray Coastal Trail from Findhorn to Spey Bay to raise funds to protect Scottish dolphins. Contact Pete or Mandie at podplod@wdcs for more information.

Friends of the Earth Scotland are holding a fundraising Valentine's Ceilidh on Saturday 13th February at the Roxy Arthouse, Roxburgh Place, Edinburgh. Music will be provided by the fantastic Hud Yer Wheest, and there will be an organic bar, snacks and a raffle. For more details see www.ceilidhcollective.org.uk or contact FoES on 0131 243 2700.

National Trust for Scotland: Dick Balharry has been confirmed as interim Chairman of the Trust. He will act as interim Chairman until a permanent successor is appointed.

The **Soil Association** is the official charity promoter for Food Inc. which is being released through selected UK cinemas from February 12th. For more information, dates and venues please visit <http://www.soilassociation.org/Takeaction/Supportus/FoodInc/tabid/597/Default.aspx>

CALLS FOR ACTION

Parliamentary – Reps are reminded to respond to Andy Myles' recent e-mail requests for volunteers to a) draft subsections of the LINK manifesto and b) organise or contribute to the organisation of hustings across the country for the upcoming General Election.

There are opportunities for members at Spring party conferences – contact Susan (susan@scotlink.org) for details



PUBLICATIONS

Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey 2009, a National Statistics publication for Scotland. One copy is available from the LINK office (contact kate@scotlink.org) or from Scottish Government Publications, Blackwell's Bookshop, South Bridge, Edinburgh (ISSN 0264-1143, ISBN 978-0-7559-7802-1)

Governance and Accountability in Scottish Charities, a report from the School of Accounting and Finance and Dundee University. Access it online at www.icas.org.uk/research.

CONSULTATIONS

Sign up to [seConsult](#), the Scottish Government weekly email alert service for new consultations.

Scottish Government	Golden Eagle proposed Special Protection Areas The proposed creation of up to six additional SPAs for golden eagles. The Scottish Government has asked SNH to undertake a consultation on behalf of these proposals. More information at: http://www.snh.org.uk/strategy/GE_consult01.asp Proposed sites: http://www.snh.org.uk/strategy/GE_consult05.asp	13/01/2010 to 7/04/2010
Scottish Government	Transposition of Directive 2008/50/EC on the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/01/25153504/0	26/01/2010 to 20/04/2010



EVENTS AND SEMINARS

At SCVO's *The Gathering in Edinburgh International Conference Centre on February 19th* there are two 'Green' events which you might be interested to attend:

February 19 From 9 to 12:30: **Positive spin: making sense of climate change.** This half day event aims explore how the work of the voluntary sector in Scotland can support grassroots efforts to catalyse engagement in climate change. See more details at: <http://www.gatherscotland.org.uk/Programme/ViewEvent.aspx?EID=2426&al=t&ISSCVO=N&f=&from=Home>

February 19th From 2 to 3:30pm: **Getting green: supporting practical action.** How can your organisation be more energy efficient? Can you improve your waste management? How do we encourage staff to be carbon savvy? Your questions on 'greening' your organisation answered. Hugh Green from LINK will be talking about implementing Carbon Accounting. See more details at: <http://www.gatherscotland.org.uk/Programme/ViewEvent.aspx?EID=2427&al=t&ISSCVO=N&f=&from=Home>

24th March, Scottish Natural Heritage, Battleby – Paths for All: an opportunity for community groups and agencies who are developing, managing or promoting paths to meet, share experiences and ideas and plan ahead. For more information go to: <http://www.pathsforall.org.uk/outdooraccess/event.asp?id=236>

The 18th **Natural Environment Statistics Advisory Committee meeting** will be held on Monday 29th March between 11am and 3.30pm in Conference Room 3, Victoria Quay. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/scotstat/committees/NatEnvMeetings/Q/editmode/on/forceupdate/on>

Royal Statistical Society - Scottish Environment: Now and in the Future, Wednesday 31 March 2010, 2-5pm The University of Glasgow, Room 203, Mathematics Building. A joint meeting between the SG Environmental Statistics Section and the Glasgow Local Group of the RSS. For full details please see the RSS Env Stat website at https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/filearea.cgi?LMGT1=ENVSTAT&a=get&f=/meet_1003.html

The University of Stirling: The 2010 Stirling Lectures on the Environment in the Highlands and Islands. Including *Aquaculture, Fish Farms and the Environment, Environmental Heritage in the Highlands and Islands and The Economics of the Wild*. <http://nm.stir.ac.uk/documents/stirling-lectures-0910-leaflet.pdf> for more information and dates.

Scotland's Wild Landscapes – a new way forward 13 - 14th May 2010, SNH Battleby Centre, near Perth: A conference organised by the Centre for Mountain Studies, Perth College UHI, in collaboration with Leeds University (Wild Land Research Institute), Lochaber College UHI, the Scottish Wild Land Group (SWLG), Scottish Natural Heritage, the Cairngorms National Park Authority The John Muir Trust.

The conference will include presentations across a wide spectrum of interlinked themes relating to wild landscapes: biodiversity and rewilding; renewable energy and climate change; cultural and



recreational perspectives; the importance of wild landscapes to the general public; and innovative research and policy development. http://www.wildlands.info/Event_information.html

UK LINKS

In Autumn 2010, the four UK Links plan to hold the third in our biennial series of Joint Links seminars, probably in Birmingham. At this stage we would appreciate indications of interest in principle from members, to allow us to take the plan further.

Our last seminar, held in Birmingham in 2008 on the subject of devolution, gave our members an opportunity to share intelligence about the developing political cultures in the four countries and the impact of devolution to date on the environmental agenda and eNGOs.

We do have WWF UK funding available to cover much of the costs and there will be good opportunity to influence the programme. Please contact Kate for more details (kate@scotlink.org)

OTHER NEWS

The Open University is launching an online short course on Sustainability and Sustainable development in Scotland, starting in May 2010, examining key themes from the sustainability agenda, including how we manage waste, how we produce and use food, our choice of energy sources, how we use information technology, and transport issues. For further information www.openuniversity.co.uk/sustainable-scotland