

LINK eBulletin – April 2011

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LINK DIARY

21 April	Board and Networking Meetings
5 May	Holyrood Election
June	Board and Networking Meetings (date tbc)
30 August	AGM
20 October	Board Meeting
17-18 Nov	Link Congress and Strategic Planning

LINK NEWS

[Making the Case for Sound Management of Marine Protected Areas in Scotland](#) – launched by LINK's Marine TF at a presentation at Holyrood in March. The report, written for LINK by independent scientists from the Scottish Association for Marine Science, sets out a series of innovative management measures. It makes clear that management of human activities in and around MPAs is fundamental to their success.

[LINK's response to the Christie Commission](#) – on the future delivery of public services argues for a broader definition of public services to include services provided by the voluntary sector e.g. the arts and environmental campaigning. Public services can play a major part in contributing to a sustainable society. (See also [SCVO's submission](#)).

LINK Strategic Review – will be taking place in spring/early summer. Members will be surveyed during as part of LINK's review of strategy. Trustees and staff will carry out the internal review while an independent consultant will scope external perceptions of the network and its influence.

Relationship building with SNH – LINK Trustees and staff have had a first meeting with Kenneth Fowler (Head of Communications at SNH) exploring where two organisations relate. Kenneth will address LINK's June networking meeting. An early May meeting is planned between SNH and LINK Chairs on strategic priorities where the two organisations can complement each other, including marine recovery, 'beyond GDP', and the ecosystem approach (contact [Jen](#) for more details). There are plans to set up a September meeting between trustees/convenors and SNH's senior SNH staff team to explore future aspirations/options for access and recreation, and biodiversity. [Simon Pepper](#) encourages members to contact him about any issues they can't resolve in terms of relations with SNH at any level – in his SNH board capacity of relationship building with NGOs. He would welcome contact. Task Forces are encouraged to contact or keep in active contact with the relevant policy counterparts in SNH and to introduce themselves (if appropriate) to SNH's new Programme Managers.

Single Outcome Agreements – following the election the Taskforce has agreed to take a wider focus on governance of local communities; convenorship passed from Elizabeth Leighton of WWFS to Maggie Keegan of SWT. The report on the SOA seminar which involved various public sector and NGO players will shortly be published on LINK's and other websites. It evidences broad support around a number of issues and concerns with the process. SNH is keen for input to the developing environmental indicators framework.

Carbon Accounting – the Survey of members’ carbon accounting arrangements/practice is ongoing, with results to be reported back at April Board. Please contact [Hugh](#) if your organisation has yet to take part in the survey.

Board and President - Succession planning has begun for the LINK Board and in relation to role of President. Contact [Jen](#) for more details.

Farewell to Susan Guest, our former Parliamentary Administration Officer, who has moved to a job in the Lakes. LINK is taking the opportunity for some review and at this stage aims to appoint someone to succeed Susan in the parliamentary office by the summer.

Core meetings/opportunities ahead

12 May	discussion with SNH (pm, Edinburgh) w.r.t. their next strategy – Contact Jen
31 May	Parliamentary Forum post-election review (pm, Edinburgh) - Contact Andy
TBC June	Networking meeting including presentation/discussion with Kenneth Fowler, SNH
30 August	all day (venue to be confirmed) – LINK AGM and workshop on TEEB, The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity

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SCOTTISH ELECTIONS (see also [SCCS](#))

[LINK’s Rolling Manifesto](#) is available to read on the LINK website. Visit party websites to read their manifestos – [Scottish Conservatives](#), [Scottish Green Party](#), [Scottish Labour](#), [Scottish Liberal Democrats](#), [SNP](#), [SSP](#). The Centre for Public Policy Scotland also has a [manifesto](#) that gives prominence to environmental matters.

[Environment hustings](#) – see our list of election hustings organised by environmental and other third sector organisations on LINK’s website. For organisations who would like to host an election hustings LINK has developed a [hustings pack](#).

[Save Scottish Seas](#) – LINK’s Marine Taskforce’s campaign to make sure the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 delivers healthy, productive and biologically diverse Scottish seas. Parliamentary candidates will be asked to support effective implementation of the Act. Follow the campaign on [Twitter](#)

[Wildlife Proclamation 2011](#) – 10 LINK Members are calling upon prospective MSPs for to pledge to make Scotland a better place for wildlife.

Woodland Trust are asking voters and candidates to support their [Woodland Manifesto](#)

RSPB is running an election blog [here](#) written by their Parliamentary Officer, Julia Harrison. Also see [RSPB’s election pages](#).

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MEMBER NEWS

New report questions wind power's ability to deliver electricity when most needed – a report from Stuart Young Consulting, with support from the John Muir Trust, which examines the ability of wind power to make a significant contribution to the UK's energy supply concludes that the average power output of wind turbines across Scotland is well below the rates often claimed



by industry and government. Read the report, [Analysis of UK Wind Power Generation November 2008 to December 2010](#)

Friends of the Earth Land Rights Conference – 28th May 2011, Edinburgh. Land Rights Conference, free to the public. Keynote speaker is Andy Wightman, Scotland's leading land rights expert. Workshops on Biofuels, Indigenous rights, and Ethiopia's land rush: Feeding the world. [Book your place](#)

Hill Tracks Consultation Launched

Scottish Government has launched a consultation on non-householder General Permitted Development Order (GPDO), specifically including hill tracks. One of the functions of this legislation is to permit hill tracks for a certain range of purposes without any need to apply for planning permission and no requirement to inform the planning authority. This has resulted in uncontrolled proliferation of hill tracks with no monitoring or knowledge of where the tracks are and no monitoring of whether they are being legitimately constructed under these already permissive regulations. Details of the petition, campaign and issues are available at www.hilltrackscampaign.org.uk. It is urgent that the Scottish Government takes seriously the impact of this uncontrolled development-creep and takes full cognisance of the recommendations of the 2006 Heriot Watt report referred to in the consultation. The closing date for responses is **1st July 2011**.

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OTHER NEWS

Scotland's nature on the up

Woodland, freshwater, coast and urban green areas have improved in Scotland in the last decade, according to a new study from SNH. Scotland is the first country in the world to publish a detailed account of changes in natural capital, based on evaluating ecosystems. SNH's pilot **Natural Capital Asset index** is the first of its kind to take the idea of economic capital and apply it to the environment in this way. SNH is also asking for feedback on the pilot index, which will be refined over 2011. Contact Ralph Blaney (ralph.blaney@snh.gov.uk) for more information.

Central Scotland Green Network 2nd Development Fund

The Forestry Commission has just launched the second 'Development Fund' for the Central Scotland Green Network (£750,000). Deadline for submissions is **31st May**.

European funding for environmental projects

The European Commission has announced that the 2011 call for proposals under the Life + Programme is open. The Life + programme is the EU's main fund for supporting environmental projects. **Scottish Information Day, Glasgow 4th May**. Application deadline is **18 July 2011**.

You've been Trumped

New film from Montrose filmmaker Anthony Baxter about what happened when Trump's bulldozers rolled into Balmedie, which will be launched at the Toronto International Film Festival. The makers are now fundraising for post-production costs.

New rules for Scottish Charity Incorporation

From April 1st, charities will be able to apply to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) to be registered as corporate bodies with limited liability. The new set-up will allow charities to be corporate bodies without also needing to register at Companies House.

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EVENTS AND SEMINARS

Putting Nature on the Map Nature Conservation Designations Workshop, 13th April, Cardiff. A workshop organised by the IUCN to debate and make recommendations on the status of SSSIs and ASSIs, and non-statutory nature conservation designations, in relation to the IUCN definition of a protected area and the application of the IUCN Categories to them. For more information contact Helen Miller helen.naturemap@middlemarch-environmental.com

People and nature – reaching new audiences, SNH Sharing Good Practice Event, Wednesday 20 April, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Headquarters, Balloch

IUCN Category V Workshop, 3rd May, Temple Quay House, Bristol – workshop to: analyse the Protected Area definition and criteria, as set out in the revised IUCN Protected Area Management Category Guidelines (2008), in a UK context; examine the basic characteristics of Category V as set out in the revised guidelines in a UK context; consider the applicability of the IUCN guidance to areas that have been, or might be, categorised as Protected Landscapes (Category V) in the UK; consider, where appropriate, changes that could be made to bring a potential Category V area within the IUCN protected area definition. For more information contact Helen Miller helen.naturemap@middlemarch-environmental.com

Climate Connections – Linking Climate Change Research, 13 May, Battleby, Perth - A participative seminar to explore the role that climate-related knowledge networks play in shaping the understanding of, and responses to climate change, within a rural context in Scotland.

Scottish Biodiversity Week, 21-29 May, co-ordinated by Scottish Natural Heritage. This year's theme is "*Biodiversity is Life - Biodiversity is Our Life*"

Meeting the Global Food Security Challenges of the Future Through Science and Innovation, 28th June 2011, Central London, 9:00 - 16:10

IUCN 'Investing in Peatlands' conference, University of Stirling, 20-22 June. Hosted by the IUCN Peatlands Programme, this year's conference theme is '*Delivering Multiple Benefits*'.

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PUBLICATIONS

Blue Seas – Green Energy

From Marine Scotland - the strategic planning document for the development of offshore wind energy in Scottish Territorial Waters. Containing proposals for development at the regional level up to 2020, 2030 and into the longer term.

Scotland's Marine Atlas: Information for the National Marine Plan

Featuring maps, graphics and information about Scotland's seas, the Atlas: supports the new marine planning framework that is being created following the introduction of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010; provides an assessment of the current state of Scotland's seas, to fulfil the legislative requirements of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the EU Marine Strategy Framework and informs and educates people about the marine environment and marine issues in general.

The State of Scotland's Soils report has been published and can be downloaded from the [SEPA website](#) listed under External Land Publications. The report identifies that the most important

pressures affecting soil are climate change and changes in land use and land management practices. Furthermore, it suggests that the principal threats to soil functions are loss of soil organic matter, changes in soil biodiversity, and erosion and landslides.

Local Matters: Delivering the Local Outcomes Approach

Scottish Government Overview commentary on Single Outcome Agreements and the local outcomes approach

Climate Change Adaptation: Sector Action Plans and Progress Report

The Scottish Government has published 12 Sector Action Plans which sit underneath Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Framework. The Sector Action Plans look to existing sources of information and research, to identify the key impacts of climate change on each sector and appropriate actions which can build resilience to these impacts. At the same time the Scottish Government published its first Progress Report on climate change adaptation in Scotland.

Getting the best from our land - A land use strategy for Scotland

The Strategy sets out a framework of national objectives and principles to guide policy and decision making, in a bid to start to develop an integrated approach to achieve sustainable land use across Scotland. An analysis of the responses to the strategy consultation is [here](#)

Bringing it Home: Using behavioural insights to make Green Policy Work

A report from the Green Alliance analysing existing and proposed UK government policies from a behavioural science perspective which shows why existing policy is failing to drive the change needed for greener living and which suggests how flagship coalition policies such as the Green Deal and smart meters will not be enough on their own to change this situation.

Progressing Scotland's CO2 storage opportunities

A report from the Scottish Centre for Carbon Storage showing that rocks deep beneath the Moray Firth are capable of storing decades of CO2 output from Scotland's power stations. This emerging Carbon Capture and Storage industry could create at least 13,000 new Scottish jobs by 2020

Know your environmental limits: A local leaders' guide

This report from the SDC proposes a definition of environmental limits and examines seven 'key' environmental areas under OECD's 'Pressure-State-Response' framework, highlighting existing legislative limits and where these do not exist. We have considered 'land use' and 'soils' as particular areas for government action as there is currently little or no action taken to recognise environmental limits in these areas.

Towards a New Paradigm for the Ecology of Northern & Western Scotland: A Synthesis of Issues

A new publication from ecologist, James Fenton, which takes a landscape-scale approach to suggest that a new understanding of the natural ecology of the north and west of Scotland is needed.

Grow Your Own Working Group Recommendations Report

Report to the Environment Minister from the GYOWG. The 27 recommendations listed cover planning, legal, skills, guidance, funding and community land.

Biodiversity and Farming, Sustainable Upland Management, Woodland Biodiversity

Three booklets produced by the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute to summarise some of the key findings and research outputs from the Scottish Government's Environment – Land Use and Rural Stewardship research programme.



Organic Futures: An Action Plan for organic food and farming in Scotland

Scottish Government publication setting out government priorities for the sector and providing an overview of the sector and its future.

Wetlands Matter: Valuing wetland ecosystems in a changing climate

Communique from an International Symposium held on the 24th February in Edinburgh.

Measuring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions - a DfT guide to work-related travel

How to count your organisation's carbon emissions from work travel.

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CONSULTATIONS

Consulting on Consultations

Scottish Government survey for respondents to its online consultations.

Budget 2011 and environmental taxes inquiry

The House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee is launching an inquiry into the environmental impact of Budget 2011 and green taxes. The Committee will examine how well green taxes are being used to deliver environmental goals and aid the transition to a low carbon economy, and whether Budget 2011 strikes the right balance between these aims and broader economic objectives. The Committee also wishes to examine sustainable development and environmental protection aspects of 'The Plan for Growth' published alongside the budget. Submissions should be sent to the Committee by **20 April 2011**.

Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011 - Consultation on Draft Regulations

This consultation seeks comments on four draft Statutory Instruments which have been prepared under certain delegated powers in the Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011. Closing date is **14 June 2011**.

Sustainable Framework for UK Aviation - UK Government Consultation. This scoping document begins a dialogue with stakeholders towards developing a long-term high level sustainable framework for UK aviation. Closing date for responses: **30 September 2011**

Consultation on Non-Domestic Elements of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992 - consultation on potential revisions of general permitted Development Orders (see also item on the Hill Tracks Campaign in Other News). Closing date - **1st July 2011**.

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

For copies of IUCN documents which aren't linked, contact [Kate](#)

IUCN World Conservation Debate – Nature to die for? – have your say at the IUCN website
IUCN Union Pulse March 2011

Arborvitae: Attending to Gender - focuses on the critical role that women play in the sustainable management of the world's forests

Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) newsletter



[Commission on Environmental Law \(CEL\) newsletter](#)
[Species Survival Commission newsletter](#)
Highlights of the report from the Director General

Invitation to IUCN meeting of NGOs in Brussels to discuss the EC BEST announcement

IUCN Europe in collaboration with CI Europe and Birdlife Europe propose to convene a one day meeting of NGOs working on EU overseas, end of April early May in Brussels. This main purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the recently approved European Commission BEST initiative and provide feedback to the Commission on future directions and implementation. A copy of the Commission Decision can be found [here](#) If you would be interesting in attending on behalf of LINK please contact [Kate](#)

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European Union

[Commission sets out Roadmap for building a competitive low-carbon Europe by 2050](#)

The Roadmap describes the cost-effective pathway to reach the EU's objective of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% of 1990 levels by 2050. Based on the cost-effectiveness analysis undertaken, the Roadmap gives direction to sectoral policies, national and regional low-carbon strategies and long-term investments.

[The European environment – state and outlook 2010](#) - provides a set of assessments of the current state of Europe's environment, its likely future state, what is being done and what could be done to improve it, how global megatrends might affect future trends. Includes assessments on Climate Change/Adaptation/Mitigation, Soils, Biodiversity, Land Use etc.

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Stop Climate Chaos Scotland Latest

[SCCS Scottish Elections page](#)

Climate Day online debate, Wednesday 13th April, 7.30-9pm.

Hosted by SCCS, anyone from anywhere in Scotland (or beyond for that matter) will be able to watch the debate over the internet and can post questions online while the event is taking place.

Taking part: Sarah Boyack for Scottish Labour; Patrick Harvie for the Scottish Green Party; Iain McGill for the Scottish Conservatives; Shirley-Anne Somerville for the SNP; Mike Crockart MP for Scottish Liberal Democrats. The web address for the debate is

<http://www.livestream.com/stopclimatechaosscotland>

Scottish Government's Report on Proposals and Policies (RPP)

The final version of the RPP has now been published and the Climate Change Minister made a statement and answered questions on this in Parliament on 16th March. You can read what she said here:

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/apps2/business/orsearch/ReportView.aspx?r=6188&mode=html#iob_55994

Final Report on Policies and Proposals 2012-22:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/344868/0114766.pdf>



Written statement to Parliament on RPP:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/344967/0114789.pdf>

RPP technical appendix: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/344670/0114708.pdf>

Scotsman Article - [**SNP accused of breaking key promises on emissions**](#)

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Vacancies

[**Head of Policy, National Trust for Scotland**](#)

This post is key in developing the Trust's external advocacy agenda; leading on the development of internal policy programmes in close association with senior staff, Trustees, Trust partners and decision makers; and making significant contribution to the development of the Trust's strategic and corporate documentation, ensuring alignment to the Trust's core purpose, principles and policies. **Closing date 11th April 2011.**

[**Promoting Walking Coordinator, Ramblers Scotland**](#)

Ramblers Scotland are looking for an enthusiastic and committed individual to coordinate their work in Scotland to promote walking amongst all sectors of society for enjoyment and the maintenance of good physical and mental health. The work will be focussed on the development and implementation of plans in Scotland to promote walking as part of the legacy of the 2014 Commonwealth Games as well as the 2012 Olympic Games. It will include the influencing of decision makers, working with the media, making funding applications and delivering those projects which are successful, and working in partnership with other organisations. **Closing date 26th April 2011.**

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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