

Scottish Environmental Fundraising Forum (SEFF)



This paper is a joint response to the BIG Consultation from the undernoted members of the Scottish Environmental Fundraisers Forum.

Archaeology Scotland
Bumblebee Conservation Trust
Butterfly Conservation Scotland
Marine Conservation Society
National Trust for Scotland
RSPB Scotland
Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society
Scottish Wildlife Trust
Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society
Woodland Trust Scotland
WWF Scotland

The paper is presented as a word document as it is not possible to submit a joint response via the online form and there is insufficient space to adequately answer a number of the questions.

SEFF was established in May 1997 and is a formal sub-group of Scottish Environment LINK, the umbrella body for Scotland's voluntary environment organisations. LINK represents a broad spectrum of environmental interests – including nature conservation, countryside access, and sustainable development – with the common goal of contributing to a more environmentally sustainable society. Together, the member organisations have over 450,000 members.

SEFF brings together fundraisers from the Scottish voluntary environment sector to:

- share information, experience and understanding of sources of funding for Scotland's environment
- improve the quality and quantity of applications from Scottish environment charities;
- encourage and facilitate partnership working
- make it easier for other organisations and agencies to contact the environment sector
- increase the funding available for the environment sector, in part by helping to demonstrate the demand within, and capacity of, the sector

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UK Questionnaire

UK 1.1) Yes

UK 1.2) Yes

UK 1.3 These terms are vague and depend upon the definition given to transitions & isolation

UK 2.1) b

UK 2.2) We would suggest the inclusion of an environmental focus. This would have many benefits for the environment and for people e.g. mental and physical health

UK 3.1) Within Scotland the environment sector already works well in partnership. To insist on partnerships could prove to be detrimental

UK 3.2) Why?

UK 3.3) There is a potential danger that this could lead to increased inflexibility among funding bodies. This could further disadvantage the environment sector in Scotland.

UK 4) b

UK 5) f & g

UK 6) b

UK 7) a

UK 8) No

UK 9) h. Communities should be involved in the creation and delivery of many projects however decisions concerning the suitability of projects to receive funding should be made at a strategic level by experts in the sector.

UK 10) No

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Scotland Questionnaire

S1) We are concerned that BLF in Scotland cannot be (seen as) independent when so much weight is being given to transient Scottish Government policy – specifically, that BLF is awaiting such policy directions before setting new funding programmes. This is of particular concern as the next Scottish election is likely to take place only shortly after the new BLF programmes are launched. We feel that Lottery funding should complement Government policy, not be led by it.

The Big Lottery Fund in Scotland, as a major funder, has a crucial responsibility to recognise the importance of, and to support, the natural and built environment (as BLF England did in the last funding round, through a ring-fenced programme).

We would also welcome a move to integrate natural environment issues as a cross-cutting theme across all grants, to help ensure sustainability (as, for example, with European Structural Funds).

S 2) In our view there is not a problem with the current outcomes – the problem occurs with the way the framework is applied. Scottish environmental NGOs have found it very difficult to meet BLF criteria despite having projects which contribute to a better and more sustainable society.

S 3) As it stands IIC is very restrictive to environmental charities. Scottish environmental charities have a great deal to offer Scotland's people, in both the natural and built environments as well as in rural and urban environments. There are many studies showing the direct links between the environment in which a person lives and their physical and mental well being. (A recent study being *Effect of exposure to natural environment on health inequalities: an observational population study* by Richard Mitchell, Frank Popham)

S 4) No

S 5) Public bodies in Scotland now have a duty to conserve biodiversity and we would like to see the Big Lottery Fund embrace this policy in all its grant-giving.

As a responsible funder, BLF should ensure that the three equal pillars of sustainable development – economic, social, and environmental – are supported. With its collective expertise across the environmental sector, SEFF would be willing to assist in advising the BLF on the environmental pillar.

S 6) Yes

S 7) No. Single Outcome Agreements and Community Planning Partnerships are not a proven mechanism for delivery at this time, and the Big Lottery Fund in Scotland should not facilitate the shifting of Scottish Government responsibilities onto the third sector.

Please see question S1 relating to our concerns on following Government policy.

S 8) No

S 9) No, it is not suitable for BLF to engage this way – other organisations do this already – Scottish Business in the Community for instance.

S 10) No - but BIG should continue with the Funders Forum for issues like common evaluation form.