

This **Work Programme** replaces previous *Network Plan* and sits below the new **Strategy** (2016-19) and **Operational Plan**.

The **Strategy** sets out in broad terms what the Network aims to do.

The **Operational Plan** sets out what is required to achieve our strategic objectives over 3 years; identifies the responsible players (members, groups, Board, staff); the relevant KPIs and baseline targets, and, via feedback from key players in the network, assesses strategic progress for the Board's overview and for Members' information, every 6 months.

This annual **Work Programme** sets out the planned *activities* each LINK group and subgroup, and the regular cycle of meetings, workshops, receptions and strategic liaison. Progress is reported every 6 months.

The Strategic Planning in November 2015 agreed to move from the older Task Force model to a new **Group & Subgroup** structure with 2016-17 as a transition year. Some of the previous TFs have become Groups, others have become subgroups contributing to 1 or more of the 6 Groups. All outputs will be released under the auspices of one of these Groups.

Forums continue to operate as before as a valuable means of information sharing and capacity building for their members, and may be consulted by Groups for input and expertise. Forums do not need to submit plans if no action is planned, and are included for information.

KEY to ACRONYMS

MBS	Member Bodies (of LINK)		Strategic Groups	
Reps	The main Representatives appointed to LINK by the member organizations		Ecs	Economics Group
GC/GVC	Conveners and Vice Conveners of the Groups		Gov	Governance Group
SGL/SGLD/FL/FD	Leaders and Deputies of the SubGroups and Forums		Land	Land Group
CO	Chief Officer (Jen Anderson)		Marine	Marine Group
DO	Development Officer (Alice Walsh)		Plan	Planning Group
AO	Advocacy Officer (Daphne Vlastari)		SJ	Social Justice (grouping advising on how LINK can contribute to this agenda)
FOM	Finance & Office Manager (Karen Paterson)		Subgroups	
AOA	Advocacy Office Administrator (Lisa Webb)		Aq	Aquaculture Subgroup
MOs	Marine Officers (Nick Underdown – Marine Policy and Engagement Officer, and Esther Brooker - Marine Policy Officer)		Dr	Deer Subgroup
SEO	Sustainable Economics Officer (Phoebe Cochrane)		FoodFarm	Food and Farming Subgroup
HF	LINK Honorary Fellow		HT	Hilltracks Subgroup
StrG	Steering Group (SEW, Congress etc)		Lsc	Landscape Subgroup
TI	Temporary Interns (funded by LINK), Bella Crowe (Ag) and Eleanor Harris (WLfe)		LS	Legal Strategy Subgroup
PSR	Political Strategy Report		UFF	Unconventional Fossil Fuels Subgroup
OS	Organisational Supporters		WLfe	Wildlife Subgroup incorporating Species Champions work, Freshwater Subgroup and Wildlife Crime Subgroup and Woodlands Subgroup
BS	Business Supporters		LRUS Subgroup	Land Reform/use/scape Subgroup. New group covering these topics in integrated way.
			Forums	
			Med	Media Forum
			SEFF	Scottish Environmental Fundraisers Forum

Current work area	Work planned towards LINK objectives: improvement of national policy and implementation; improved capacity of network to contribute; effective network.	Specific tasks, targets, timings and indicators of progress where provided	Leader-ship and support	Staff roles/ Funding	Integration within LINK	Wider allies and liaison - Audiences	Progress
Economics Group Vision: influence the current debate on economics in Scotland	National Performance Framework – ongoing development and advocacy work	<p>Fundraising work to extend LINK’s Flourishing Project which feeds into this Group and employs the Project Officer Phoebe Cochrane.</p> <p>NPF – contribute to the revisions of the NPF and to how it is used in policy development and scrutiny. Specifically advocate for indicators relevant to the circular economy. Additionally raise awareness about the limitation of GDP and the importance of other metrics.</p> <p>Circular Economy – seek opportunities to promote adoption of circular economy principles and practices, particularly where this will have the greatest environmental impact. Investigate cross-sector mechanisms, such as procurement policy and fiscal incentives, to promote adoption of CE practices.</p> <p>Investment gap – explore amount of investment needed to change our economy to ‘low carbon’ and what SG plans are with regard to this. Further investigate types of innovative funding mechanisms that might be used to contribute to the investment needed. Building on and adding value to WWF and FoES work in this field.</p> <p>Ongoing media work around limitations of GDP.</p> <p>Build understanding of differing positions on various economic areas. If there is demand from LINK members, we will organise a workshop on Biodiversity Offsetting. We will develop a position statement on Natural Capital to identify a common ground that members agree on.</p> <p>Support other LINK work areas in terms of economics from time to time (marine economy, economics of land use, etc).</p>	GC Matthew Crighton (FoES) GVC Bruce Wilson (SWT) Plantlife, RSPB, SCNP, HWDT, WWF.	<p>SEO funded via Flourishing Scotland project to end 2016.</p> <p>Advocacy & comms support needed</p>	<p>Food production is one of the areas identified by SG for circular economy focus. We will work with LINK sub-group on this.</p> <p>NPF work is relevant to all Groups and we will make sure all members and Groups are aware of how it relates to their work</p>	<p>Scottish Government – developed relationships with Performance Unit and Zero Waste. Would be good to develop relationship with Economic advisors SCDI – positive first meeting. Need to follow up.</p> <p>Insight Institute upcoming initiative on Circular Economy – contact made.</p> <p>On-going collaboration where fruitful with allies such as Oxfam, NEF, Trades unions, Scottish Forum on Natural Capital.</p> <p>Phoebe has registered with two EEB groups but has been advised that they are dormant. We would welcome advice on how to pursue any such scope.</p>	<p>Secure Funding for continuation of project: Polden Pukham bid submitted and declined. Will reapply to JRCT (August) – proposal in prep. Have developed a proposal brief for potential joint project with RSA Scotland, to think on funding sources</p> <p>Next Friends Provident Foundation deadline 3 May. SEPO reduced 2-day week til end contract mid-May.</p> <p>National Performance Framework: Joint briefing (Oxfam & STUC) signed up to by 15 MBs, widely distributed. Attended stakeholder workshop as part of review of outcomes. Attended roundtable in Autumn. Next meeting June.</p> <p>Investment gap: Work on-going. Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Ctte asked about funding in their response to the draft Climate Change Plan. Have a willing contact who has developed thinking and proposal about how Green Bonds could work.</p> <p>Narrative: EG autumn conference was used to take our narrative into public debate about the economy.</p> <p>Just Transition: EG member, FoES, held workshop on Just Transition & developed joint statement with Unions. Planned input has not taken place yet on Warm Homes Strategy and review of National Infrastructure Strategy.</p> <p>Circular Economy: Maintained contact with Zero Waste Scotland who spoke at our Conference & been in touch since.</p> <p>Continue learning about different ways of integrating environmental issues and criteria into investment and spending decisions: EG member, SWT leading on this. EG autumn conference had session on Natural Capital and the Woodland Code.</p> <p>Consensus building: Draft joint statement on valuing nature prepared and under discussion.</p> <p>Engagement with business – Group members have found the 3-year project has helped to inform their engagement. The Group held a workshop with interested members in March 2017 to assess.</p>

<p>Governance Group</p>	<p>Continuing to pursue all issues raised in Governance Matters as and when opportunities occur.</p> <p>Coordinating LINK effort on manifestos for UK, Scottish and Local Elections</p> <p>Coordinating LINK effort on EU Referendum</p>	<p>Inform upcoming votes and follow up votes as appropriate through:</p> <p>May elections – manifesto, manifesto meetings, hustings, welcomes to incoming cabinet, committee leds, MSPs;</p> <p>June UK EU Referendum – issue challenge document and publish the two responses;</p> <p><i>Brexit – monitor development and impacts of Brexit into 2018 and beyond, as necessary. Inc. working with ELUK colleagues in joint Group monitoring Brexit and legislation in particular. Also, monitoring wider ENGO work through Greener UK Coalition (London based). Also speaking and advocating as SE LINK on Scotland-specific issues. Want to ensure effective protections are maintained for natural and cultural heritage. Playing what part we can in relevant subgroup discussions of the Scottish Standing Council set up to focus on Brexit and implications for Scotland. Are liaising with Scottish Brexit Minister, Mike Russell. Will develop dialogue with Scottish MPs and MEPs. Are inputting to academic study informing needs of a ‘Scotland outside the EU’.</i></p> <p><i>Votes, legislation & processes impacting environmental governance - 2017 local elections – If we have the resources to address, we will liaise with LINK Groups on this. Local governance flagged as a concern by Congress.</i></p> <p>2017 Local elections – spark debate re: central govt versus local Govt in lead-up around what is needed but lacking (often because of under-resourced aspirations of national government for local authorities to deliver; sometimes because local government is not using its powers).</p> <p>Increase awareness about participation in decision making and about Scotland’s scrutiny of environmental management by identifying opportunities to input to public debate on Holyrood's effectiveness in the lead-up to its 20th anniversary (2019).</p> <p><i>Environmental justice & Legal strategy – the Legal Strategy subgroup is active & GG convener also sits on the legal strategy subgroup. Subgroup is organising an event on 14 December which will explore the potential and the breadth of support for an Environmental Law Centre in Scotland. Outcomes from those discussions will be taken forward thereafter.</i></p> <p>Help establish pressure for Scotland’s legal strategy re environment to be strengthened: via responding to the 2016 ‘environmental justice’ consultation (which we have secured) and via discussions & seminar about an environmental law centre for Scotland.</p> <p>Liaise with Scottish decision makers about governance arrangements for the environment (RAFE meeting with SG officials April 2016; assess proposals for new Land Commission later 2016; other areas as these cross LINK Groups’ agendas.</p> <p>Overview governance aspects of eg: REFIT, Protected Areas Review, future of forestry in SG’s governance structures, role of Scottish Land Commission.</p>	<p>GC Lloyd Austin (RSPB). VC vacant (FOES), WTS, WWF, others have signed up to outputs.</p> <p>Also Mark Lazarowicz HF (legal strategy)</p>	<p>AO and AOA will support this Group and many actions fall to advocacy staff in LINK supported by those in MBs.</p> <p>President roles overlap. HF M Lazarowicz assists on legal strategy.</p>	<p>Planning re: ERA campaign which crosses with focus on environmental justice; also re stronger integration of Land re: Land Commission remit; outcome of REFIT; outcome of SNH special areas review.</p> <p>Marine re: join-up of strategies; full implementation of legislation.</p> <p>All Groups – re concerns about governance structures on a range of policy areas</p> <p>Economics and SJ re – inputting to the debate around jobs transition.</p>	<p>Legal practitioners, legal academics, NGOs – on legal strategy.</p> <p>SCVO, Electoral Commission, others in civic sector – on Votes and lobbying</p> <p>Broad cross-section of Scottish society - wrt. scrutiny and public participation.</p> <p>EEB – will be cc’d into referendum activity.</p> <p>We will pair work with EEB on their 2017 conference in Scotland.</p> <p>Other Links – we inform LINK’s input to the MOU for Environment Links UK work, focussing on the federal aspects and relationship-building which would deliver strong and sound UK-level statements and positions.</p>	<p>Brexit et al: Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All GG members continue to monitor Brexit developments. Daphne, Lloyd, Robin & Paul Walton are closely involved in ELUK and Greener UK discussions. Working to ensure that any outputs from G-UK are devolution-proofed. ELUK and G-UK submitted evidence to House of Lords Committee inquiry on Brexit and devolution. • LINK will issue an assessment of the White Paper on the Great Repeal Bill. • LINK is maintaining relationships with academics working on Brexit issues via SULNE (Scottish Universities Lawyers Network on Europe). LINK’s 2016 Congress featured a panel made up of key members of SULNE and Paal Frisvold who provided a Norwegian perspective on Brexit. • LINK contributed to the “Rights at Risk” report, published in March 2017, which collected perspectives from a variety of Scottish civil society organisations on the potential impact of Brexit on our rights. • Communications are ongoing between Governance and other groups and subgroups where Brexit is relevant to work areas eg Marine, Land (food and farming). <p>Elections work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GG has agreed that we could use a FoS piece to highlight some key local governance issues for the May 2017 elections, co-ordinated by Daphne, with input from Group Conveners. • LINK made a submission to the Commission on Parliamentary Reform & used the opportunity to reinforce some of the key issues set out in Governance Matters. <p>Lobbying legislation:</p> <p>GG monitoring situation and informing LINK members.</p> <p>Legal Strategy Progress:</p> <p>Following the successful seminar on an Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland on 14 December, the Subgroup prepared a Project Brief to Develop a Prospectus for an Environmental Rights Centre. The Brief draws together our vision for an Environmental rights Centre, work carried out to date by the subgroup & the outputs from workshops at that seminar. The Prospectus will build on & flesh out ideas from the subgroup & the seminar about structures, governance & funding for a Centre, & will be used to put to potential funders and partners to help get this initiative off the ground. The Project Brief has been circulated to potential contractors to submit expressions of interest to take this work forward, by deadline 30 April. We have also circulated to LINK members for information & to</p>
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Land Group Vision: Land management which meets SD goals.	Subgroup convenors met 14 Jan to determine key priorities areas stemming from subgroups & gaps identified at the meeting. A further meeting in Feb will refine the Actions.	Detailed plans (see annex) on biodiversity, farming and land ownership & land use subgroups as follows: 1. Land ownership and land use – Follow up to Land Reform Act (Land Rights and Responsibilities, Land Commission and Community consultation guidance); Follow up to LUS (2) including regional planning and upland vision; Action to promote landscape objectives (specific actions tbc). 2. Future of Scottish Agriculture including developing a vision and also CAP reform via Food & Farming Subgroup. 3. Biodiversity – ScotGov’s ambition to mainstream biodiversity delivery. LINK needs to ensure they deliver on this ambition. To do this we need to priorities on the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (Species Champions), biodiversity duty and related policies via Wildlife Subgroup. All priorities for action. A number of other issues will be pursued as required by Topic Groups: wildlife crime, woodlands, deer, freshwater.	Co-conveners Deborah Long (P’life – to Dec) Vicki Swales (RSPB sole convenor since Dec), VC Charles Dundas, (WTS), Active members – Plantlife, RSPB, Buglife, WT, SCNP, Soil AS, APRS, Scot Badgers, Nourish, SWLG, SWT and RS, Trees for Life	Core staff support DO for secretariat functions. Advocacy support needed.	The Land and Landscape agenda crosses over with Planning in places. Agriculture should integrate with aquaculture & Marine. Deer Wildlife (incorporating Wildlife Crime, Woodlands & Freshwater) Food and Farming Hilltracks Landscape		<p>1. Land Reform and Land Use: Have engaged with a number of Land Reform, Land Use and Landscape officials at SGovt, & are now seeking a meeting with the new Land Commissioners. We responded to the consultation on Land Rights and Responsibilities urging a better integration with the Land Use Strategy and a recognition of the general right to a healthy environment. We have also highlighted the need for a Code of Responsible Stewardship which would promote best practice beyond the minimum legal requirements for land managers. Capacity for LUS work has been reduced due to the effects of changes to staffing within MBs, but there is still an ambition to carry forward the work of the LUS pilots with LINK guidance on regional land use strategies, which may require wider discussion within LINK about resourcing.</p> <p>2. Food and Farming: Brexit offers a chance to totally reshape the system of land management payments, & build a model which better enhances the environment. The subgroup have produced a paper which outlines a vision for a more environmental replacement for CAP. SWT and Scottish Land and Estates have also produced their own visions, which can be seen as generally complimentary to the LINK one.</p> <p>First consultation on the Good Food Nation Bill is anticipated in Autumn 2017 with the Bill process in 2018/19. This is hoped to provide a vehicle for implementing some of the changes we want to see in our food and farming system. It is possible though that this may get pushed back due to Brexit and IndyRef2 proposals i.e. Government is otherwise occupied.</p> <p>3. Wildlife and Biodiversity: at the end of Eleanor Harris’ internship, 90 Species Champions. Member bodies now need to move from recruitment to using this network of champions. A very successful reception was held with the Champions in November.</p> <p>A working group looking at a National Ecological Network established & responses have been submitted to the new National Rhododendron Approach & Scottish Pollinator Strategy.</p>
Marine Group Vision: healthy, well-managed seas, where wildlife is flourishing, ecosystems are protected, connected and	Will continue to advocate for: effective management measures for the	Priorities ahead for the Group are: 1. Sea Scotland Conference (June 15th- 16th) –	GC: Calum Duncan (MCS) GVC: Sarah Dolman (WDC)	2 MOs funded to October 2016. Seeking future Project funding to existing level.	Wildlife Subgroup (via some MG members)	Each org vital in developing case for effective Regional Marine Planning Partnerships that	<p>MPAs: Responding to consultations on management and designation of MPAs (a revised Marine Conservation Order for the Small Isles ncMPA, responding to ‘small c’ consultation on fisheries management measures in enormous Offshore ncMPAs and SACs, 10 inshore marine bird SPAs and</p>

thriving, and coastal communities are sustained.	MPA network (inc MPAs, SACs, SPAs, SSSIs with intertidal components) to ensure the protection & recovery of Scotland's seas (including designated features, key non-designated features and ecosystem function)	<p>Relates to Strategic Outcome 1: Scottish public policy and its implementation are improved by expertise and evidence from the LINK network. KPIs: 1.6, 1.7, 1.10, 1.11, SNH6</p> <p>2. Maintain proactive advocacy around fisheries management in (and potentially outwith) MPAs, specifically via publication of Scottish Seafloor Integrity report</p> <p>Relates to Strategic Outcome 1: Scottish public policy and its implementation are improved by expertise and evidence from the LINK network. KPIs 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 1.9, 1.10, SNH7, 2.1, 2.3, 2.5</p> <p>3. Fundraise and plan for continuation of the Save Scottish Seas (working title) project:</p> <p>Relates to Strategic Outcome 3: Operational capacity and processes meet network needs and goals. KPIs 3.3, 3.5, 3.10</p>	Members: HWDT; MCS; NTS; RSPB; RZSS; SOC; SWT; WDC; WWFS	Core staff involved for project management and fundraising, and AO occ. Inputting to advocacy strategy	<p>Agriculture & Food (via some MG member)</p> <p>Species Champions (Via some MG members)</p>	<p>deliver sustainable development</p> <p>Audience: most reps on Marine Strategy Forum. With specific focus on:</p> <p>Marine Scotland, Scottish Renewables, SNH, Crown Estate, Scot Fishermen's Fed (or members), Scot Creel Fishermen's Fed, Scot Salmon Producers Org (members). In addition: FFI (to coordinate on who is providing what resources for communities); Planning-focussed networks & local community orgs (eg Scottish Community Alliance/Planning Democracy); Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust; COAST.</p>	<p>five offshore marine bird SPAs) and planning e-advocacy campaign and co-ordinated LINK response to the 2nd tranche inshore MPA/SAC fisheries management consultation, thought to be due May, but could be as late as Sept/Oct.</p> <p>Marine Planning: Supporting MPAO leading on organising the second Sea Scotland (2017) conference. Project staff also reviewed and provided detailed input in to the Clyde Marine Region Assessment. LINK attended the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership meetings 5/10/16 and, subsequent to the Ministerial Direction for the CMPP being signed, 22/3/17. There is much to still iron out to achieve consensus on what a Regional Marine Plan is and should do (workshop to be held 18/4/17).</p> <p>Inshore Fishing: Responded to the consultation on legalising razorclam electro-fishing. Produced a draft 'shopping list' of LINK asks/requirements of the proposed Inshore Fisheries Bill which was submitted to Marine Scotland Fisheries team (Jim Watson) & receipt of acknowledged. Drafted a LINK vision/Future of Fisheries briefing and shared with Marine Scotland EU Referendum co-ordinator (Caroline Cowan and colleague Richard McLeod).</p> <p>Other: Created a new aquaculture sub-group in response to concern from group members regarding ScotGov targets for increasing aquaculture production & the expansion of aquaculture sites within MPAs. An updated LINK Aquaculture policy statement is being produced & LINK Marine Group responses have been submitted to proposals to expand 3 salmon farms, particularly highlighting the concern about over-use of Emamectin benzoate ('Slice').</p>
Planning Group Vision: that the Scottish land use planning system contributes to a more environmentally sustainable society		<p>Meeting on 6 May agreed priorities are:</p> <p>Groups work plan – tasks and actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A vision for the Planning System. Planning bill engagement (timescale unknown yet). Respond to draft advice on Net Economic Benefit with Economics Group. <p>Support PD on ERA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEA – contribute to wider LINK work on it, how it can be used better to further LINK's aims – start the ball rolling with other Groups. 	Aedan Smith, RSPB, convener, Clare Symons PD, vice-convener, BSCG, APRS, RS Buglife, FoES, NTS, Froglife WTS, SCNP, SWT SWLG, SBT	Secretariat support for organising & minuting Group meetings	<p>All other LINK Groups.</p> <p>Hilltracks, UFF, Land Use etc Subgroup.</p>	<p>Scottish Government, political parties, RTPI, developers, local communities, any organisations with an interest in spatial use of land. Collab with UK, EEB etc limited due to devolved nature of planning.</p>	<p>The Group had 2 meetings over the period. Helen McDade joined the October meeting to share the lessons from its Stronelairg case. The main focus was on the Planning white paper, agreeing the key LINK issues. The response was drafted close to the 4 April deadline – capacity within the Group is very ltd. While there is some good rhetoric, there is much concern at the level of ambition, lack of join up with other strategies, and rejection of right of appeal for communities. A Planning event on a sustainable vision for a new planning system, organised as part of SEW, with RTPI, LINK and Coastal Forum speakers was hosted by M Golden MSP, lead of the envt & Planning Cttee, was well attended. This Group is also contributing to the NEN work (Wildlife Subgroup led).</p>
Social Justice Group LINK network prioritised this in 2015. Since then a	The main driver for this is for	<p>Political interest, cross-party, is increasingly focussed on social justice; advocacy advice points to value of our framing environmental needs and asks in the context of, and demonstrating</p>	Convened by rotation.	Staff support to organise/minute.	Group developing a framing of LINK	<p>Various orgs identified which work at policy level with which to</p>	Congress addressed SJ among other themes.

grouping of members has been reviewing how LINK as a whole can contribute meaningfully to, and demonstrate the important role of the environment in, the social justice agenda which is developing as a priority across the political parties in Scotland	environmental sustainability to be seen as relevant to Government's fairness agenda.	<p>their contribution to, social agendas. The proposed plans would strongly inform that direction of travel.</p> <p>Framing LINK work already being carried out in the context of its contribution to improving social justice – Building on mapping of relationship of LINK Groups and Subgroups' links to social justice, developing an overarching workstream around social justice. Connecting to National Performance Framework and focussing around Government's Fairer Scotland Action Plan.</p> <p>Explore extent of common ground and complementarity between what LINK Groups and Members are doing with other organisations working at policy level and connecting with social justice agenda– In bilaterals, informal seminars, at Congress – or a mix of the above.</p> <p>Planning Congress 2016 – To improve understanding within LINK of how our work relates to SJ and help us to ensure that environmental matters are included within agendas which focus on SJ – whether those agendas are of other organisations, or government policy areas. A steering group from the Group will support planning of Congress and of a session at Networking (May).</p>	Active members: NTS, RSPB, MCS, Ramblers, Soil Association, Nourish, Friends of the Earth, Wildland Group	<p>AO coordinates planned tasks (mapping and survey of member work areas). AO support needed to help guide this area of work at a strategic level for foreseeable future.</p> <p>This is identified as key area of work for LINK by network and Board though no single member prioritises SJ (poss except FoES as an area of work. Therefore, possible need for LINK financial support for specific outputs due to lack of member capacity. To be confirmed.</p>	<p>Groups' connection to social justice; ensuring that opps taken to highlight extent to which existing LINK work contributes to SJ agenda.</p> <p>May be more crossover with Economics given its similar underlying relevance to all other areas of LINK work as a plank of sustainable development. Likewise, work of Food Coalition, while not simply a LINK initiative, will be relevant (includes strong SJ element, is a coalition of orgs, some outwith LINK).</p>	<p>meet in next months to discuss this area, consider who to invite to take part in Congress. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NGOs working in social justice area, eg Oxfam, Poverty Alliance, SCVO, Scottish Community Alliance, CAB, STUC, Transform - Government departments/agencies like NHS Health Scotland, SEPA - academics/researchers like Glasgow Centre for Population Health 	<p>Assessing network capacity across LINK work areas strategic planning in November agreed SJ should continue as a cross-cutting comms theme in network activity and outputs, LINK advocacy staff carrying out key actions and providing read-across but SJ grouping members are active within other LINK groups.</p> <p>Made links to SJ in Economics conference (late Nov) on a sustainable and low carbon Scottish Economy.</p> <p>Board supported wording of a LINK pledge (encouraged in Fairer Scotland Action Plan) in January which will be used in comms. It would be fair to say that with work on Brexit, staff capacity for the coordination of SJ opportunities across the work programme is stretched.</p>
Deer Subgroup Vision: Ensure sustainable populations of native deer species which play positive roles in Scottish ecosystems & contribute to rural economy		<p>Main focus is on the Land Reform Bill and deer components.</p> <p>Our advocacy approach is focussed on LRB and 2016 deadline for environmentally effective DMPs to be in place. We are discussing approach & how we prepare ground for the latter.</p> <p>SNH review of Deer Management Planning progress. RACCE and Ministerial engagement</p> <p>Authorisations responses. Made by individual organisations rather than LINK Deer TF.</p> <p>Removal of lead ammunition from deer management.</p>	SGL Duncan Orr-Ewing, RSPB, NTS, SWT, WTS, Ramblers, Trees for Life. Works closely with Mike Daniels of JMT.	<p>None required at the moment.</p> <p>Working with AO on LRB advocacy.</p>	<p>Good consensus among Dr MBs.</p>	<p>Regular Liaison with SNH Wildlife Management team (Robbie Kernahan)</p> <p>Attend SNH Deer Management Round Table chaired by SNH (Susan Walker, SNH Board). Have regular bi-lateral discussions with SNH on deer mgt issues.</p> <p>No scope id'ed for working with Links, IUCN, EEB.</p>	<p>Main activity has been around contributing evidence to ECCLR Review of Deer Management on 13 December. There has been significant advocacy around this point. Simon Pepper was employed using partner contributions and LINK DPF grant to support products for our advocacy including ECCLR submission. We await ECCLR report to Minister.</p>
Food & Farming Subgroup (formerly Agriculture) Vision: Working for sustainable agricultural systems that produce supplies of safe healthy food, protect natural resources & enhance wildlife, habitats & cultural heritage, & provide		<p>1. Scottish Governments Vision for Food & Farming – primarily Land, and possibly Economics</p> <p>Actively engage in and follow up to the Scottish Governments Vision for Agriculture, being proactive and trying to ensure it goes somewhere, with clear markers for success. Timescale Summer, early Aut, Advocacy Plan submitted.</p> <p>2. Future CAP – primarily Land</p>	<p>Leader: Pete Ritchie</p> <p>Depute: Amy Corrigan</p> <p>Member bodies (currently active ones in bold): Nourish, RSPB, Plant Life, BC,</p>	<p>Key for CAP and SFC work will be access to Ministers and this has been taken forward as a wider LINK issue – requiring request for new</p>	<p>Pete Ritchie & Vicki Swales sit on the Land group and are the link in/communication channel there. The Land group will communicate</p>	<p>Using Scottish Food Coalition to develop and extend relationships with a wide range of stakeholders across interests which will allow us to make a</p>	<p>As decided in the seminar on a vision for agriculture held in September, 2016, the subgroup has finalised a paper on 'Renewing Scotland's Rural Areas: A Role for Future Farming and Rural Land Use Policy'. The paper was sent to parliamentary clerks ahead of the RECC evidence session on 22/3/17 where Pete Ritchie represented LINK. The paper has been signed off by Nourish Scotland, Plantlife Scotland, RSPB Scotland, SWT, Soil Association Scotland, NTS,</p>

jobs in rural areas, contributing to a diverse rural economy.		<p>Identify and act on any opportunities to improve implementation of existing CAP – greening and funding flexibility. Start now in developing a strong and coherent Scottish multi-stakeholder view on the next round of CAP, to contribute to a UK wide view, consistent across the 4 Links on principles. For EEB conference in autumn 2017.</p> <p>3. Scottish Food Coalition – primarily LAND and possibly ECONOMICS and GOVERNANCE</p> <p>Continue to support the Scottish Food Coalition and use this wider grouping and their work as context for more focused LINK activities.</p> <p>4. SRDP – LAND</p> <p>Continue to engage in and try to influence for the benefit of wildlife, public access, landscapes etc the implementation of the current SRDP.</p>	BCS, Soil Association, APRS/SCNP, Badgers, BES, Buglife, WTS, NTS, WWF, MCS, SWT, SAGs, Ramblers	arrangements for access, equal to that gained by other stakeholder bodies i.e. NFUS	regularly with the other groups. Pete Ritchie & Amy Corrigan will be responsible for comms with other sub group leaders when necessary but we have tried to draw in other interested parties to the sub-group, for example MCS.	local/rural economy & social justice case for environmental sustainability. Lots of opportunity here on CAP and Food Coalition building. Already plans to develop UK wide position on CAP and have next years EEB conference in Scotland hosted by LINK.	<p>Woodland Trust Scotland, APRS, SCNP, and will shortly be circulated more widely.</p> <p>Decision was taken to broaden ask for a future agriculture policy to a future policy for rural land, in recognition of a move towards integrated land use, and wide-reaching effects of agriculture and wider land use. Paper has integrated messages with climate change asks.</p>
Hilltracks Subgroup	Continue to monitor and evaluate the success of the hill tracks prior notification system in terms of how far it has reduced the construction /improved the standards of new hill tracks, or those tracks which are being ‘improved’.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to monitor planning authorities’ websites for prior notifications, prior approvals and planning applications relating to hill tracks so we can gather data on how the legislation is working. Continue to highlight any cases of bad practice by landowners or indeed by planning authorities. Gather more information on track construction by requesting member organisations and their members to send us photos of any new tracks this summer. <p>We may need to hold a meeting late spring to consider our future actions once the government’s review is published.</p>	<p>Co Convenors Helen Todd (RS) & Beryl Leatherland (SWLG)</p> <p>MBs involved: RS, SWLG, NEMT, CC, APRS, SCNP, NTS, RSPB and BSCG. Huge support given by George Allan of NEMT in particular.</p>	Currently we do not require any LINK support beyond occasional discussion with Advocacy Officer. However, we have discussed potentially trying to raise some funding to employ a member of staff who could carry out the monitoring of planning authorities for us. We are not yet at the stage of putting together a work programme or funding application (eg, to SMT), but this may happen during the summer.	Planning Group – this is a landscape/environmental issue being resolved through planning system so need to consult with Planning Group for guidance in terms of planning system and lack of democracy inherent in process. Land Group – hill tracks particularly affect landscape, biodiversity, amenity, etc, and are an example of land management not taking into account sustainable land use. Relevant to land reform/land use agendas so keeping Land Group informed of our activities.	<p>Scottish Govt, SNH, FCS, national parks and key local authorities are all relevant to this area of work, plus forestry bodies like CONFOR and landowning interests SLE, NFUS. We will work with them on an ad hoc basis.</p> <p>No scope to work with bodies beyond Scotland really. There are similar hill track problems in parts of uplands in England and Wales but this hasn’t become a campaign yet for these Links.</p>	<p>Gathering of information on PN submissions continued via our team of monitors. There is a detailed collation of findings covering forestry, agricultural tracks & hydro schemes & tracks [the latter included since Sept 2016]. Potential case histories are identified. There are 15 monitors [trackers] having recruited 5 new ones via the JMT January e-newsletter; 4 members of the subgroup are included in the monitors. New submissions are screened & scrutinised for issues, problems & suitability for case histories. Occasionally there is communication with the planning authority either as LINK or as separate member orgs. Emerging issues are recorded.</p> <p>Recent fundraising was successful resulting in £2K from SMT, £2K from BMC [ACT] & £1K from LINK DPF. 5 member orgs of the subgroup have each donated £200, total of £6K.</p> <p>We are recruiting a consultant for a few hours a week for a year to take over the collation & volunteer liaison work & to work on case histories for submission in a report. This will be used as a lobbying/advocacy tool.</p> <p>We are changing our advocacy effort from seeking to achieve a further change in the legislation & planning regime to addressing Hilltracks as part of a wider Land Use and Land Rights and Responsibilities issue, in order to align more closely with SG priorities. A consultant remit has been drawn up; there has been advertising via usual LINK channels, and we are ready to sift applications and make an appointment, followed by induction and performance monitoring/appraisal will be put in place.</p>
Land Reform and Land Use Subgroup, including Landscape Subgroup. Vision: taking a bigger look at these issues in the round	Detail to be confirmed late April	<p>?Autumn 2016 and potentially ongoing.</p> <p>Land Reform Develop LINK proposals for the content of the planned Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement to be embedded in the</p>	John Thomson (APRS/SCNP) convener. Sheila George (RSPB) vice-convener.	The Sub Group is likely to require some help and advice from the Advocacy Officer	Advise Land Group. Liaise with Planning Group.	Land Reform: Its highly political nature means that public bodies are unlikely to work closely with	<p>Land Reform: Sub Group met the SG officials responsible for preparing the Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement at its Oct 2016 meeting to discuss and give LINK’s views on the Statement’s nature and content. At its March 2017 meeting the</p>

		<p>land reform agenda. Develop similar proposals for the agenda and priorities of the Scottish Land Commission.</p> <p>These proposals would be fed through the Land Group but on the Land Commission it would be important to liaise with the Governance Group, which is to consider its composition and operation.</p> <p>May/June</p> <p>Landscape: Prepare plan setting out how landscape objectives (government sign-up to Scotland's Landscape Charter, re-establishment of landscape forum, better management of NSAs and Regional Parks) are to be pursued in light of outcome of Holyrood election and stances of relevant political parties in run-up to it. (more detail to come).</p> <p>Feed through Land Group; liaise with Landscape Sub Group (which will continue as predominantly information exchange body)</p> <p>Summer/Autumn (at least two meetings likely to be required)</p> <p>LUS Mark 2: Assess to what extent and how best it is worth pursuing opportunities arising from revised LUS and in particular how to develop and promote a LINK vision for the uplands as an input to government thinking. Scale of activity in this field to be determined.</p> <p>Advise Land Group. Liaise with Planning Group.</p>	<p>Composition of Subgroup will vary with topics</p> <p>Key contributors are likely to be RSPB, NTS, WTS, APRS, SCNP, Ramblers Scotland, SAGS. plus Buglife, Plantlife and SWT. On landscape APRS, NTS, SCNP and SWLG.</p>	<p>in devising and implementing advocacy plans.</p> <p>If it is decided to devote significant effort to developing a vision for the uplands additional resources may well be required – possibly in the form of a short-term project.</p>		<p>eNGOs. Helpful to explore extent of pot'l common ground wi other vol/rep orgs approaching it from predominantly non-env'l standpoints.</p> <p>LUS: SNH & SEPA could be valuable allies, also the Nat'l Parks & other initiatives with a focus on better integrated land use, ie Biospheres in SW Scot & Wester Ross. The need to better integrate forestry with other land uses suggests FCS should be a key target, esp wrt to the proposed new Forestry Strategy & any further regional Forestry & Woodland Strategies.</p> <p>Landscape: SNH (within limits of its role as a NDPB), HES (likewise), Landscape Institute Scot.</p> <p>This agenda is Scottish, tho' obviously of wider relevance (much interest elsewhere in the LUS as means of stimulating more conscious planning of land use). Helpful to be aware of comparable initiatives elsewhere & on the landscape front in particular the European Landscape Convention provides a context (& to some degree a driver) for work in Scotland. The Council of Europe operates a monitoring regime which requires ScotGov to report through the UK.</p>	<p>Sub Group considered the draft LRRS as it had been issued for consultation and a joint LINK response was then prepared, signed off and submitted.</p> <p>The Sub Group will also be seeking early engagement with the Land Commission, in an attempt to influence its priorities and work programme to take on board LINK concerns and objectives. The Land Group was informed of these developments at its March meeting.</p> <p>LUS Mark 2: The Subgroup has been monitoring the (so far disappointing) progress in taking forward SG's proposals for the next phase of the LUS. Local authorities have been surveyed to establish their appetite for the establishment of Regional Land Use Partnerships & the preparation of Regional Land Use Frameworks of the type envisaged (but not committed to) in LUS2. In the absence of significant SG action, the Sub Group agreed to press ahead with the preparation of guidance on these tasks, drawing upon the pilots in Aberdeenshire and Scottish Borders & other relevant experience. Members of the SG have also highlighted the relevance of activity of this kind to the development of new land use policies post-Brexit and have fed into the Agriculture Sub Group's work on this topic.</p> <p>The Sub Group has also suggested that there could be value in LINK itself preparing a paper setting out cogently the case for better integrated land management – in effect its own version of the LUS. This activity and the proposals stemming from it has all been reported to and discussed with the Land Group.</p> <p>Landscape: The Sub Group has received and considered feedback from the Landscape Sub Group, which met on 23 February. This meeting included the required annual liaison with SNH (Simon Brooks). This highlighted a number of consultations to which members agreed to try to respond, including ones on wild land and on revised guidance on local landscape designations.</p>
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Unconventional Fossil Fuels Subgroup	<p>To inform and influence the Scottish Government's moratorium process</p>	<p>Principal purpose is to coordinate environmental NGO input to the current unconventional gas review that will take place throughout this year and into 2017.</p> <p>The intention is to bring in expertise from the relevant groups when possible and appropriate, and offer opportunities to participate in relevant parts of the consultation and public review process.</p>	<p>Leader: Mary Church</p> <p>Depute: Alexa Morrison</p> <p>Member bodies: FoES, RSPB Scotland, WWF Scotland (supporting, not active member), participation by SWLG and Buglife</p>	<p>Currently coordination support from Daphne. Also participation by Phoebe in economic impacts element of consultation.</p>	<p>Potentially most relevant to Economics and Planning Groups, though there are implications for other some subgroups, too.</p>	<p>Allies – potentially, community groups, SCCS.</p> <p>Audiences - decision makers, informed public, relevant coalitions, communities.</p>	<p>The subgroup met Feb to review the 6 studies commissioned by ScotGov on fracking, & agree a process for responding to the 'Talking Fracking' consultation. A draft response is being reviewed by the subgroup at present and will be ready to share with the LINK network for further input / comment & sign up by the end of April. Our hope is to get broad sign up from within the LINK network to the consultation response, & to encourage individual member groups to submit their own responses by the 31 May deadline.</p>
Wildlife Subgroup <p>Intends to incorporate freshwater, wildlife crime, woodland, concerns, rather than pursuing these separately</p> <p>Vision: Scotland's natural heritage (land & sea) is complete in its diversity, with fully functioning ecosystems & resilient to accelerated environmental change.</p>	<p>We plan to continue to engage with species champions in the run up to the Holyrood election in May 2016.</p>	<p>Species Champions aims:</p> <p>All MSPs Species Champions with a strategy for action by 2020.</p> <p>Promote republished Wildlife Proclamation.</p> <p>All Species to have an updated info sheet</p> <p>Publish re-launch of Species Champions. Agree which MSPs to target with which species. MSPs invited to become new Species Champions</p> <p>Initial meetings between MSPs and Wildlife Forum members.</p> <p>Briefings and publicity.</p> <p>Biodiversity strategy & targets.</p> <p>Wildlife crime.</p> <p>Review and re-present outstanding recommendations from LINK's 'Natural Injustice' papers 1 & 2.</p> <p>Meet with Environment Committee and Colin Smyth, MSP, Badger Species Champion.</p> <p>Circulate whole group, and Land Group with updates</p> <p>Consult with both Police Scotland, and Crown Office</p> <p>Send above report/recs to Cabinet Secretary for Environment possibly by Christmas 2016</p> <p>Review appropriate contact with Rural Affairs Committee</p> <p>Freshwater issues (None arose).</p> <p>Woodland issues: Activated over Summer with the Future of Forestry consultation</p>	<p>Wildlife Crime</p> <p>Leader: Eddie Palmer (SB)</p> <p>Depute: Ian Thomson (RSPB)</p> <p>Members: SWLG, SRSG, SCRA, Froglife</p> <p>Concern re absence of SWT and NTS</p>	<p>Intern; Subgroup member resources; LINK website</p> <p>Wildlife Crime</p> <p>AO advice will be sought.</p>		<p>MPS key target. No specific opponents, but widespread lack of awareness of biodiversity as an important environmental and political issue.</p> <p>Other stakeholders are SNH, RACCE, public, media</p>	<p>Species Champions</p> <p>We now have 90 Species Champions and are nearing capacity within the Parliament. All Labour and Green MSPs are now involved. We are looking to now move on from recruitment of champions to using these champions to support our advocacy efforts on the full range of LINK activities.</p> <p>Biodiversity Strategy</p> <p>We are continuing to pursue implementation of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy in a number of ways. A separate subgroup has been established on plans for the National Ecological Network. The Wildlife subgroup has helped to develop the Scottish Pollinator Strategy and continues to be involved in the Non-native species group where the development of a Rhododendron control strategy has been discussed. The SBS delivery groups have been moribund over the past 18 months however a meeting in March was organised by SNH to bring together stakeholders involved in the groups to reinvigorate the process. Unfortunately only two NGO representatives were present.</p> <p>Wildlife Crime:</p> <p>SWT are on board as observers.</p> <p>AO advice sought</p> <p>Met with both Convenor separately, and gave evidence to ECCLR Committee in January 2017.</p> <p>Due to this up-and-coming meeting, did not write to Cabinet Secretary for Environment, due to in March 2017.</p> <p>Subsequent to ECCLR committee, both EP and IT involved in more detailed meetings with Police Scotland, and also requesting meeting with new staff member at Crown Office.</p> <p>Long-running debate with PS and CO over annual Wildlife Crime figures, and incidents and crime definitions.</p> <p>Various forums for speaking to, and training WCOs</p> <p>Woodlands:</p>

							Consultation response submitted as planned. Now looking to influence over the consequent forthcoming Forestry Bill. This was discussed at the meeting on 3 rd March.
Media Forum	For staff/volunteers in the network who deal with media, to exchange information, build capacity & influence agenda.	Meetings currently loosely organised by Nick Underdown separate to his MO role. If useful to MBs hope it that it will become self-running along lines of SEFF. Next forum may consider how to use social media more to improve our overall impact – in next session.	18 MBs on list				<p>Since Nick's departure, chairing is rotating, with the Dec meeting managed by Rory Syme SWT and the next to be chaired by another member.</p> <p>Nick's 'Midweek Medori' initiative – open to all after work drinks in Edinburgh on the 1st Weds of each month, is being managed (secretarially speaking) by Lisa.</p>
Scottish Environment Fundraisers Forum	Facilitate partnership between fundraisers in LINK to share info, experience & understanding of sources of funding for Scotland's environment.	Meetings are quarterly, normally with a guest speaker. All MBs with staff with fundraising responsibilities are welcome to participate.	FL: Steven Gardner (SWT). FLD: Alison Connolly (RSPB). Many MBs on the email list.				SEFF met in December and March.

<i>Other work / initiatives / events involving Member Bodies and Task Forces Forums/Groups, Trustees, Staff</i>								
<i>Work area</i>	<i>Action towards objectives of: improvement of national policy and implementation; improved capacity of network to contribute; & effective network.</i>	<i>Specific tasks, targets, timings and indicators of progress where provided</i>	<i>KPIs relevant</i>	<i>Leadership and support</i>	<i>Staff roles/ Funding</i>	<i>Integration within LINK</i>	<i>Wider allies and liaison</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Networking meetings	3 per year. Updates between members, Groups, subgroups, horizon scanning, PSRs, review priorities, evaluate effort, integration, etc.	19 May 2016 22 November 2016 Annual strategic planning discussion.		CO	Various in the preparation	Across the range of work	Occ. invited audience, eg SNH board members	Strategic Planning meeting on 22 November had adequate turnout from Groups, Subgroups members. Work Programme was amended in light of discussions. Note circ'd & on website.
AGM	Elect trustees, appoint President & HFs, present annual report & accounts, ratify subscriptions for coming financial year.	21 November 2016		CO	Various in the preparation	Part of annual gathering	Open to members	AGM on morn of Congress sparsely attended, decisions ratified by email and timing of the AGM being reviewed for 2017. An EGM coinciding with 4 May Network meeting has been called to update the M&A in a process supported by lawyer.
Scottish Environment Week 2017	To be reviewed for 2017's event Week-long programme aims to demonstrate to MSPs/Parliamentarians integration of environment and SD with social and economic wellbeing, and provide networking and soft lobbying opps for MBs to follow up over time	Steering group agree theme, May 2016 Staff Invite MB engagement June 2016 and seek sponsorship around theme & outline programme July 2016 Programme agreed by September, invitations completed by December when members, MSPs, externals know what's needed After action review, compile report for members & funders (by 04/17).		AO & AOA with input from CO, DO, and steering group.	Delivered by staff & MBs Extent of programme depends on sponsorship.	All MBs consulted & invited to input at various times over the year.	Historic Environment Scotland, the NPs, SNH, Parl Events Team.	Very successful SEW held over 20 to 24 February on 'Environmental Futures' theme. Poster exhibition was popular & a good focus for the Reception. Poetry night (replacing the comedy night) a surprise hit. 4 seminars held. Funding from HES (the last year of 3), Calor, KSB and RTPI and MBs covered hard costs & 1/3 of LINK staff time & o'heads. Report available on the website.
Congress 2016	Annual event to build community among member bodies, with half-day conference on theme of overarching interest to members and invited audience, followed by social event	21 November 2016 Theme will be social justice related, steering group id'ed from Group. Developed early 2016. Speakers invited, programme prepared, circulated internally & to relevant externals. Sponsorship to be sought for elements.		DO with steering group of trustees	Delivered by staff.	Theme stems from key priorities.	Externals invited as relevant to theme.	Scotland, UK, International: keeping the environment on the political agenda during the Brexit years, mix of Brexit planning and integration with others agendas. Good turnout, good discussions, potential to work more closely with other sectors partic health. Report circ'd & on website.
LINK Local	Trialling by LINK of a matchmaking service between local/community groups focussed on environmental issues. Aim to gauge value of and interest in service in future; then take stock.	Delayed trial launched by spring 2016 Review Summer 2017						Newsletter done by Intern circ'd end Jan, well received by groups, creating bit of appetite for more newsletter. Membership now at 49. FO continues to Facebook and Tweet relevant updates, opportunities. One LL group came to Congress. Discussions held with HEN regarding potential merger of both networks on hold pending changes at HEN.
Workshops on topics prioritised by members and/or Board	Scope views on whether collective work can address gaps identified by strategic planning in Nov 2015. Keep watching brief for topics needing 'work-shopped', and add these to plan as agreed.	Amongst those mooted: - Sea Scotland (Mar Group led) – 15-16 June 2016 - Advocacy/Negotiations Training - Summer) - A Scottish Land Agency (Gov Gp led) – Autumn - Cross-international-border working in a BREXIT situation (Gov Gp led) - Autumn, and dep. outcome UK's EU vote - Economics Symposium (Econ Group led) - Vision for Agriculture (Food & Farming led). - Vision for Uplands? Tbc.		Staff organise & pursue as resources allow	Delivered by staff in conj with Group leads.	Open to all members	Topic specific, and for organisers to determine	Environment Links UK Seminar held 3-4 Oct in Cardiff. Various attended from LINK. Economics Group conference 28 November. Legal Governance seminar on 14 December. Marine Group plans in hand for Sea Scotland conference June 2017. Potential workshop on agriculture ahead (F&F) Potential workshop for members on Climate Bill ahead.
Festive Reception 2016	With audiences across the sectors to celebrate work in which we are all involved	Organise for 14 December 2016 with relevant players. Sponsorship to be sought.		AOA & DO	Sponsorship to be sought.	Open to all members	Relationship building is the intent	Event on 14 December was very well attended and convivial, included several participants from Legal Gov seminar held earlier same day.

<i>Other work / initiatives / events involving Member Bodies and Task Forces Forums/Groups, Trustees, Staff</i>								
<i>Work area</i>	<i>Action towards objectives of: improvement of national policy and implementation; improved capacity of network to contribute; & effective network.</i>	<i>Specific tasks, targets, timings and indicators of progress where provided</i>	<i>KPIs relevant</i>	<i>Leadership and support</i>	<i>Staff roles/ Funding</i>	<i>Integration within LINK</i>	<i>Wider allies and liaison</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Development of Supporter affiliation	Identifying appropriate organisations, making approaches	Blend of response to enquiries and proactive seeking of eligible organisations to support LINK		DO			Relationships & broader funding base	Approach to Confor (who were at Congress) successful. All existing OS have renewed their subscriptions for 2017-18.
Strategic liaison	Board & President level development of relationships with others across the wider policy community	Revised LINK Strategy underlines the need for more relationship building in future, building on LINK's policy mapping. Also includes annual meetings with RAFF family.		Board, Groups, Staff			Relationship building for stronger advocacy	Liaison meetings with CNPA, MSPs, SPADs, political parties at conferences, contact with SCVO & more over period. Request to meet new SNH Chair logged. Meetings with SEPA and Environment Dct in prep. Meeting with Brexit Minister requested, and request for further meeting Fergus Ewing being submitted.
Environment Links UK –	Federal working with the other 3 Links on UK issues. Informed by MOU and ELUK strategy, this involves regular liaison designed to help each Link improve services & to support all the Links in their relationship building & advocacy at country-level, & with UK and EU audiences	Joint effort to secure UK funding for Links core roles. Federal work on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - REFIT (via WLife subgroup in Scotland) - Marine (via Links' marine groups) - UK's EU Referendum (via Governance Group in Scotland) - Peat and Wildlife Crime resolutions to IUCN World Congress Joint Conference September 2016, poss also with Irish ENGO Network		CO, AO, GCs, SGLs & Trustees	Delivered by staff, some Groups players, trustees	Network kept informed of joint initiatives, and progress at strategic level	WCL, NIEL, WEL are the main allies. Irish Environmental N/W perhaps?	Much of the recent liaison among the 4 Links has focussed on Brexit (ELUK Brexit coalition) and on developing a working relationship with Greener UK for Brexit purposes (good progress – involves calls with GUK personnel). The Links continue to exchange updates on policy areas, operational issues, fundraising and more.