



## LINK e-bulletin October 2011

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### LINK Diary

#### 2011

<b>6 October</b>	Board Meeting, Edinburgh
<b>21 October</b>	Fringe Meeting, SNP Party Conference
<b>29 October</b>	Fringe Meeting, Green Party Conference
<b>16 November</b>	CNPA workshop with LINK members
<b>17-18 Nov</b>	LINK Congress and Strategic Planning, Birnam
<b>14 December</b>	LINK Festive Reception, Edinburgh

#### 2012

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

### LINK News

**LINK Congress and Strategic Planning 17 and 18 November** - LINK Members' Congress will take place on 17 November followed by the Strategic Planning Meeting on 18 November at the Birnam Institute (Thursday) and the Birnam Hotel (accommodation and Friday). Speakers are Hans Friederich of the IUCN, Alison Eliot who sat on the Christie Commission, and Dan Barlow of WWF Scotland. Iain Macwhirter of the Herald will then join the speakers for a panel discussion chaired by Stuart Brooks. Stuart Stevenson, Minister for the Environment and Climate Change has been invited to give the pre-dinner speech. More information for members and a booking form [here](#)

**SNH liaison** – A LINK Board meeting with Ian Jardine, Andrew Bachell, Richard Davison considered landscape, access/recreation, and biodiversity and next steps with these agendas. Preparation was also made for a Chairs-level meeting between Deborah and Andrew Thin in early October.

**Cairngorms** – Staff organised a meeting for interested members in early September on Cairngorms and National Parks issues. One of the outcomes has been the setting up of a new National Parks Taskforce, under convenorship of Bill McDermott SCNP, which meets for the first time on 11 October. LINK has also organised this month a workshop on 16 November between members and CNPA staff and some board members on a number of strategic issues and on Draft Park and Local Plan consultative issues. More detail from [Jen](#).

**Economics Forum** - a date will be arranged shortly for a first meeting of LINK's Economics Forum. If you have not joined, and wish to join this forum, please contact [Kate](#).



**Green Alliance Meeting** - Jen and Andy, together with Jodie Bettis of WCL, met with Green Alliance Policy Director Chris Littlecott in London to consider UK level engagement in the European Environment Bureau (EEB) and ways to improve coordination amongst NGOs in the UK to input more effectively to EEB.

### **LINK September Outputs**

[LINK Briefing for the Local Government and Regeneration Committee meeting of 14th September, 2011](#) – Local Governance Taskforce

[Letter to Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park re proposed Cononish Goldmine](#) – Planning Taskforce

[Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening and Scoping Report Sectoral Marine Plan for Wave and Tidal Energy in Scotland's Renewable Energy Zone](#) – Marine Taskforce

[Consultation on Fisheries Management in Luce Bay Special Area of Conservation](#) – Marine Taskforce

### **Parliamentary**

**Manifesto work & Local Government**– The refresh of LINK's rolling manifesto continues, as well as preparation by staff of a stand-alone 'Local Government Manifesto' to be launched in Edinburgh on 26 October. A draft will circulate in early October to members for comment. On behalf of several TFs Andy gave evidence to the Local Government and Regeneration Committee in mid September.

**LINK's Governance paper** is being finally revised with a view to publication in the next few weeks.

Andy Myles, will attend the Annual General Meeting of the European Environmental Bureau in Brussels on Saturday 22 October 2011 on behalf of LINK. This will be a fact-finding trip, to ascertain ways in which LINK can engage through the EEB.

LINK is hosting fringe events on LINK's upcoming Governance Paper at the SNP Party Conference in Inverness on the 21st October 2011, and at the Green Party Conference on 29th October at the University of Aberdeen. Joan McAlpine MSP will be the speaker at the SNP Fringe event, whilst Patrick Harvie will address the Green Fringe Meeting.

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## Member News

**Bumblebee Conservation Trust wins £340,000 from Heritage Lottery Fund** - the grant which runs over three years will help fund BCT's *Bees for Everyone* project which works to support rare bumblebees throughout the UK through active conservation work to safeguard, restore and create valuable bumblebee habitats and to raise public awareness of the importance of bumblebees and the problems that they face, inspiring individual action

[Viva El Salvador! From climate change to climate justice in El Salvador](#) a Friends of the Earth Scotland event, featuring Dr Ricardo Navarro, Director of CESTA / Friends of the Earth El Salvador, Tuesday 18 October, Cafe Camino, Edinburgh, 6.30pm In the last 30 years, El Salvador



has lived through brutal civil war, destructive earthquakes, numerous deadly hurricanes and a dictatorial political regime. Despite this, it is a country of hope. Even as climate change brings new challenges to the population, people are exploring how to adapt, survive and thrive.

**[Celebrate 40 years of FOE International with Friends of the Earth Scotland](#)** - Fundraising dinner at Henderson's vegetarian restaurant, Edinburgh, followed by an after dinner speech on 40 years of Friends of the Earth International on Wednesday 19 October, 7pm. There will be members of the FoEI Executive committee attending as guests as well, so lots of opportunities to discuss what is happening in the federation on an international level. Tickets cost £17 for two courses, tea/coffee and shortbread.

**[Scottish Wildlife Trust Briefing: Ecological coherence](#)** - A new briefing from SWT on Ecological coherence and why it is an important element in the work to halt the decline in Scotland's wildlife. For further information please contact: Tony King, Head of Policy [tking@swt.org.uk](mailto:tking@swt.org.uk)

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## Other News

**Scottish Climate Change Impacts Partnership** (SCCIP) has changed its name to Adaptation Scotland. The name change reflects an increasing focus on moving from identifying how climate change might impact Scotland, to building capacity within organisations and communities to better deal with these impacts. The website [www.adaptationscotland.org.uk](http://www.adaptationscotland.org.uk) will continue to be the hub of climate adaptation information in Scotland. Follow them on Twitter at @AdaptationScot

**[Wildlife responds fast to climate change](#)** Plants and animals are responding up to three times faster to climate change than previously estimated, according to new research led by the University of York. Reported in the journal Science, researchers found that on average wildlife moved to higher elevations at the rate of about 40 feet per decade. They are moving toward the poles at an average rate of 10.31 miles a decade, scientists reported in the journal Science.

**[Crowd funding comes to Scotland](#)** A new crowdfunding website for the third sector in the UK has been launched. The idea of crowdfunding is to allow groups or individuals to appeal directly to the public (or crowd) for funding for a specific project. SoLoCo have launched a website which aims to direct the power of crowdfunding (as used to support Obama's presidential campaign) into third sector projects. Seven Scottish projects have currently signed up and are pitching for funding, including the renovation of the Glenanisp walled garden in Assynt. You can access the website [here](#).

**The Prince's Countryside Fund** supports projects which improve the sustainability of British farming, rural communities and reconnect people with the countryside. Grants of up to £50,000 are available but the closing date for the current round of funding is October 14th, 2011. You can find further details [here](#).



**[A new Scottish Land Fund?](#)** Community Land Scotland (CLS), the umbrella body for community land-owning groups, have called for the establishment of a new Scottish Land Fund. The group have launched a policy briefing which looks at the case for a new Land Fund and how it could be administered.

**[Reform the Crown Estate?](#)** Community Land Scotland (CLS), the umbrella body for community land-owning groups, has suggested that the way the Crown Estate is run in Scotland should be overhauled. In a briefing paper, the group have called for a change in the way the Crown Estate reports to the Scottish Parliament. They've also suggested that locally accountable community landowners should take over the control of some assets which are currently managed by the Crown Estate. CLS have submitted evidence to both the Scottish Affairs Committee of the UK Parliament and the Scotland Bill Committee of the Scottish Parliament and you can read a copy of their briefing paper [here](#).

**[New EIA Calculator software package](#)** developed by Neil Cousins of Five Oceans Environmental Services Ltd which provides EIA practitioners with a consistent methodology for determining the significance of environmental impacts. The calculator is being made available for free on windows platform and it can be stored on desk tops for everyday use. For further information please contact Neil Cousins at [neil.cousins@5oes.co.uk](mailto:neil.cousins@5oes.co.uk)

**[Biodiversity monitoring project](#)** The impact of agri-environment funding on Scotland's biodiversity will be monitored through a new project. The three-year project will use remote sensing and field surveys to monitor changes to biodiversity, helping to assess how effectively the Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP) protects and enhances our natural heritage. The launch coincides with the publication of the first national [High Nature Value Farming and Forestry report](#), which shows that at least 40 per cent of both farmland and forestry areas in Scotland are managed in ways that provide high biodiversity value.

**[OSCR Announces new Chief Executive](#)** - Scotland's charity regulator will have a new chief executive from October. OSCR has announced that David Robb has been appointed Chief Executive, taking over from Jane Ryder in October. David Robb was appointed through an open recruitment process and is currently the Scottish Government's Head of Public Service Reform and Efficiency. He has previously worked with the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman and was Head of the Scottish Government's Public Bodies Policy Division.

**[Map of Scotland's urban green space is world first](#)** A new map has been published showing all the green spaces in urban Scotland. Greenspace Scotland gathered data from Scotland's 32 local authorities about parks, play areas, playing fields, gardens and allotments dotted up and down the country. No other country in the world is thought to have mapped its green space in this way. The results show Scotland has 1,112 sq km (429 sq mile) of urban green space - the area of 160,000 football pitches. Members of the public can search the interactive map using place names or postcodes and use simple navigation and zoom tools to find out about green space in their area. The tool can help councils develop planning and environmental policy and provides a baseline for future updates, allowing them to track changes in the amount and type of green space in Scotland's towns and cities.

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**[Woodland management for biodiversity](#)** Thursday, 6 October 2011 09:00 - 17:00, Battleby, A one day course being organised by Scottish Natural Heritage, which looks at the latest research on managing dead wood within woodlands. .

**BEFS Workshop - Consultation on Historic Scotland's Draft Corporate Plan** Thursday 6 October 2011, 1:00 to 3:00pm (Sandwiches provided at 12.30) BEFS has organised a workshop to collate a formal consultation response on behalf of BEFS Members. The Draft document is expected the week beginning 3 October and the consultation will last six weeks closing on or around 11 November. To book a place contact [BEFS](#) - priority is given to members of BEFS member organisations.

**[2011 Reforesting Scotland Annual Gathering](#)**. 7-9 October, Croy. This year's Gathering will be held at a rural but central location: the village of Croy in the Kelvin Valley, North Lanarkshire. The theme will be Renewal, looking at how reforestation has formed part of this area's efforts to reinvent and regenerate itself after the collapse of mining.

**[Climate justice - challenges and opportunities](#)** Friday, 7 October 2011 17:30 - 19:30 This 2011 Magnusson lecture at Glasgow Caledonian University will look at how climate justice can be delivered around the globe. The lecture will be given by Dr Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland. Tickets are limited and you can book [here](#). Glasgow Caledonian University, Glasgow.

**[World food day](#)**, 12.15pm, 16 October, Dalmeiy Street Edinburgh - Join WDM, Oxfam, Leith World Kitchen and the Take One Action film festival, plus a host of local food projects, to mark World Food day and to explore the impacts of international politics and economics on the food supplies and health of people in Scotland and around the world.

**[Biodiversity and paths](#)** Wednesday, 19 October 2011 10:00 - 17:00 A one day course which looks at how to enhance biodiversity through creative path construction and management. The course costs £90, but is free to volunteers involved in community path groups. For further details, see the [Paths for All website](#).

**[Trees a valuable resource, Woodland Management and Biomass](#)**, Tuesday 1st November, Forfar. A future proofing Scotland's Farming Event looking at trees from planting, pruning to processing, funding available, how to best manage existing woodland, opportunities for selling wood, wood fuel, what you need to know to commission a boiler and RHI. For more information or to book, please call Lyn Matheson on 0131 666 0847

**SEDA Energy Saving talks**, Thursday 3rd November 2011 - 5:30 pm, Start at 6:00 pm until 8:30pm, Institute for Sustainable Construction (ISC) seminar room - 42 Colinton Rd, Edinburgh, EH10 5BT. The talks will look into the topic of energy saving methods in the built environment. Both will mention different methods in which to reduce fuel poverty and energy in buildings and also how to deal with hard to treat properties in Scotland. Spacetherm has been implemented in many Historic Scotland pilot schemes and has been tested by the Edinburgh Napier University team at the Scottish Energy Centre. Contact [Julio Bros Williamson](#) or Tel: 0131 455 5139 & Mob: 0753 226 96 02

**Climate Change: Biodiversity and People on the Front Line**, 9<sup>th</sup> November Royal Society, London, organised by the RSPB, Natural England and WWF-UK. Just ahead of the latest UNFCCC talks in Durban and the run up to the Rio+20 United Nations conference on sustainable development it is an ideal time to bring the latest research to the forefront of thinking on climate change and human development. If you would like to attend on behalf of LINK, please contact [Kate](#)



**Scottish Woodland History Conference**, 10th November 2011, A K Bell Library, Perth. Community, Woodlands and Perceptions of Ownership: Historical Perspectives. To Register please contact: Alison Averis at [alisonaveris@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:alisonaveris@tiscali.co.uk) Registration closes 5<sup>th</sup> November.

**Sustainable Scotland Network's 10th Annual Conference**, 10<sup>th</sup> November. Supported by COSLA, SOLACE Scotland, Carbon Trust and the Scottish Government, *Local Action for a Sustainable Scotland* will focus on aligning public, private and community action to deliver on Scotland's sustainable development and climate change ambitions. Key speakers include: Stewart Stevenson MSP - Minister for Environment and Climate Change; Councillor Alison Hay - COSLA Spokesperson for Regeneration and Sustainable Development; Sue Bruce - Chief Executive City of Edinburgh Council / Scotland's 2020 Climate Group; Dr. Andy Kerr - Executive Director, Edinburgh Centre on Climate Change; David Wilson - Director of Energy and Climate Change, Scottish Government

**Cycling Scotland Annual Conference 2011** Wednesday 16th November, Glasgow City Chambers - building on the success of the 2010 event, the three main topics that will be discussed this year are *Strategy & Policy, On Road Segregation for Cyclists & Public Bike Hire Schemes* and to close *Glasgow's Strategic Plan for Cycling and 2014 legacy*.

**Historic Scotland Hosts World Heritage Conference**, 23-24 November, Edinburgh. Historic Scotland is hosting a three day conference for representatives from Scotland, England, and Germany to share experience and practice of managing a World Heritage Site which enriches and links the three countries. The Frontiers of the Roman Empire (FRE) World Heritage Site currently consists of Hadrian's Wall in England, the Upper German Raetian Limes and the Antonine Wall in Scotland. It is unique in being the first trans-national, serial World Heritage Site with potential constituent parts in several countries that are nominated separately by each country.

**Sustainable Estates for the 21st Century feedback workshops** – Researching land ownership and management in upland Scotland. Feedback workshops organised by the Sustainable Estates for the 21st Century research team from Centre for Mountain Studies, Perth College UHI. These events are being held at three locations in October and November 2011: Wednesday 26th October, 2-6pm. Braemar Village Hall, Mar Road, Braemar AB35 5YL; Wednesday 2nd November, 2-6pm. Lochinver Village Hall (opposite Assynt Visitor Centre), Main Street, Lochinver IV27 4LX; Thursday 3rd November, 2-6pm. Here We Are Centre, Clachan, Cairndow, Argyll PA26 8BH.

**The Gathering 2012**, 29<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> February, SECC, Glasgow - SCVO's annual Third Sector Event. If your organisation would be interested in hosting an event, please visit [The Gathering](#) website.

**Scottish Energy and Environment Conference** – Ayr Racecourse – 7 February 2012. The event is aimed at helping energy and environmental professionals meet their future challenges. SEEC 2012 is sponsored by Scottish Government, BAE Systems Surface Ships and powerPerfector and currently partnered by Energy Saving Trust and North Lanarkshire Council. The 2012 conference will be chaired by former Director of the Eden Project, Chris Hines MBE and the programme will feature the Keynote Address by Alex Neil MSP and topics such as; From Climate Change to Behaviour Change by Professor Guillaume Thierry of Bangor University and Sizzling Energy Sustainability by Ed Gillespie of Futerra Sustainability Communications among many others. SEEC are looking for partners for the event, if your organisation would be interested contact Alison Johnson at [alison@washingtondowling.com](mailto:alison@washingtondowling.com)





## Publications

**[Key Scottish Environment Statistics 2011](#)** – Annual Scottish Government publication containing summary of key statistics on environmental trends in Scotland.

**[Developing High Nature Value Farming and Forestry Indicators for the Scotland Rural Development Program](#)** - Scottish Government report of a Technical Working Group presenting baseline indicators on High Nature Value for the Scotland Rural Development Programme

**[Wind Farms: Planning and Approval](#)** - new briefing from SPICe

**[CALEDONIA – Scotland’s Heart of pine](#)** Published to coincide with the UN International Year of Forests, the new book CALEDONIA marries inspiring imagery by renowned photographer Peter Cairns, with wide-ranging essays by acclaimed nature writer Niall Benzie, that make the case for the expansion of Scotland’s native woodland. The book will undoubtedly appeal to forest lovers but it also talks directly to land managers and policy makers who are key to the restoration and reconnection of native woodland. It is a valuable and inspiring manifesto for rewilding our landscape.

**[Top Ten Green Behaviour Change Reports](#)** - Sylvia Rowley of the Green Alliance's 'Green Living' blog has recently published a list of her Top Ten pro-environmental behaviour change reports and resources. The list will be followed up soon with Top Tens on more specific aspects of behaviour change, including sustainable communications, energy, water and waste.

**[The Changing Nature of Scotland](#)**, a new book from Scottish Natural Heritage which assesses the country’s landscapes and wildlife in the light of changes in land use, climate change and economic uncertainties. The book brings together over 80 authors from a wide range of backgrounds, including industry, health, conservation, and government agencies, to give their perspectives on the present and the future.

**[Characterising Scotland's marine environment to define search locations for new Marine Protected Areas](#)**, Report from Scottish Natural Heritage. Part 2 of the report is the identification of key geodiversity areas in Scottish waters

**[Marine Protected Areas for Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises, A World Handbook for Cetacean Habitat Conservation and Planning](#)** – new book by Erich Hoyt published by Earthscan

**[2009 local authority carbon dioxide figures](#)** - estimates of emissions of carbon dioxide for Local Authority (NUTS4) and Regional (NUTS1) areas for the years 2005-2009 from the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

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## Consultations



**Sound of Barra possible Special Area of Conservation (pSAC) consultation** (SNH 16/09/11) [Consultation](#) and [Press release](#). Consultation period 16 September - 9 December 2011.

**Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Works on Scheduled Monuments** (SG 27/09/11) Historic Scotland is consulting on a new leaflet in the 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment' series. The leaflet aims to give owners, occupiers, land managers and land users clear guidance on the requirement for consent for works on scheduled monuments, and the consequences of conducting unauthorised works. Consultation period 26/9 - 31/10/11. [Read more](#).

**Amendments to the Marine Licensing Exemptions Orders** (SG 21/09/11) Amendments to the Marine Licensing Exemptions Orders: Of the three issues that have arisen since the orders were implemented, the first relates to the licensing of small scale removals such as sediment sampling. The second relates to the use of chemical and oil treatment substances below the surface of the sea. The third relates to the retrieval of objects accidentally deposited on the seabed. Consultation period 22/09/2011 to 03/11/2011, [read more](#).

**[Delivering Scotland's River Basin Management Plans: An Integrated Approach to the Protection of Shellfish Growing Waters](#)** This consultation sets out a range of proposals for the continued protection of water quality from the effects of pollution in designated shellfish waters around Scotland. Taking these steps to support the shellfish industry will safeguard jobs in local communities as well as protecting human health and the environment.

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## Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

### **[Draft Budget fails to adequately fund climate change action](#)**

**[Support SCCS Draft Budget Action](#)** – From the 10<sup>th</sup> October onwards please ask your supporters to contact their MSPs asking for the Scottish budget to adequately fund climate change action. Top priority constituencies are Clackmannanshire and Airdrie and Shotts, plus Perthshire North, Cunningham North, Caithness, Sutherland and Ross, Aberdeen South and North Kincardine, Lothians (regional list). For more information contact [Gail](#) at SCCS.

SCCS submitted evidence on preventative spending to Finance Committee:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s4/committees/finance/General%20Call%20for%20evidence/SCCS.pdf>

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

### **[2010 IUCN Annual Report](#)**

**[IUCN's vision for an Intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES\)](#)**

**[IUCN addresses food, water and energy security at UN meeting](#)**

**[Report from IUCN European Conservation Forum](#)**





[Draft IUCN Programme for 2013-2016](#) (comments required by 10<sup>th</sup> October)

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## Vacancies

### **Scotland's Environment Web recruiting**

A range of new posts, to support Scotland's Environment Web (SEWeb), are being advertised and only be open to staff from all organisations involved in the delivery of the SEWeb project. The posts will cover Public Engagement, Technical Lead for the project, Communications and System Administration. SEWeb is a partnership of Scottish Government, its environmental agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The partnership, chaired by Scottish Government, is planning to launch a website in autumn 2011 which houses "Our Environment"; pages detailing the state of Scotland's environment written collectively by the partnership. The project plans to increase influence through making better use of our data, working with the wider science community, and promoting citizen science. By 2015 the aim for Scotland's Environment Web is to be engaging a wide range of individuals, groups and organisations who will be collecting information on the Scottish environment and using collective understanding to improve it through behaviour change and an increasing sense of stewardship. The site will use web-based interactivity by GIS and also a comprehensive report catalogue.

The jobs are: Senior Specialist Scientist (State of Environment Unit) ref SS308454; Principal Policy Officer (SEWeb) ref SS307900; Communications Officer ref CEO309068; Principal Scientist (SEWeb Public Engagement) ref SS309068. For more information on each vacancy and an application form, please contact [hr@sepa.org.uk](mailto:hr@sepa.org.uk). These positions are currently only being advertised internally through organisations taking part in the project.

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## Europe (LINK is a member of the European Environmental Bureau)

### **[Best LIFE Environmental Projects 2010](#)**

**[NGOs urge Barroso to tackle biofuel concerns](#)** Environmental groups have written to European Commission President Barroso urging him to take action on further concerns over biofuels.

**[EU scientists confirm bio-energy accounting error](#)** A major carbon accounting flaw in EU legislation whereby biofuels used in transport and biomass used for power generation are counted as 'zero emissions' will have "immense" consequences for the environment.

### **[CAP to keep pumping cash into EU's most environmentally harmful farms, reveals leaked proposal](#)**

Together with green NGOs and farmers, the EEB condemns plans to greenwash the Common Agricultural Policy.

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

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