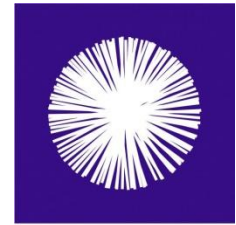


Inspire environment

Wildlife, and the natural world, support all life on this planet. Scotland's wildlife underpins our physical, mental and spiritual well-being. Despite its importance, nature is undervalued - both economically and for its important part in our aesthetics and culture. Our connection with nature is an essential part of being human.



Scottish
Environment

LINK

The aim of the Inspire Environment reception is to bring artistic, literary, political and environmental personalities together to celebrate the relationship between Scotland's fantastic environment and our culture and arts, linking this Year of Creative Scotland 2012 to the Year of Natural Scotland 2013. Scotland's wildlife is important to us and inspires us in our daily lives. LINK, and others, will do what we can to ensure a long-term future for it and all of us who depend on it.

What's so special about Scotland's wildlife and landscapes?

On the edge: Scotland and its people are edgy in many ways. Many of the guests at Inspire Environment are at the cutting edge of the arts, or the cutting edge of conservation. Physically, Scotland is also pretty edgy. We are on the edge of the Atlantic, which brings warm, wet conditions to our west coast. We are also adjacent to the biggest continent on earth, which brings cold and dry influences to our east coast. And the country is made up of fragments of the oldest rocks on Earth, alongside the newest sediments exposed along our coasts, still being created after the last ice age. 'Being on the edge' results in Scotland hosting a huge variety of habitats in which a pretty unique collection of species live. This is something to be proud of. In Scotland, you can see species that otherwise live in the Alps, the Himalayas, in Scandinavia, and in the Azores, for example. Go for a walk in Scotland and cross the world in one day.

"Let's be sensible and not destroy the natural world on which we depend, and let's be emotional and cultured and destroy as little of the remaining natural beauty of the world as we possibly can. If we do those things then sustainable development will be a reality. We will sustain our future on the planet and we will sustain the future of the beauty of the planet." Mark Avery, June 2012

Rio+20: Despite hopes for similarly high levels of achievement in 1992, this year's Rio earth summit does not appear to have produced anywhere near the same levels of energy, enthusiasm or commitment. The 1992 Earth Summit really did build a momentum that took us forward and started to place the environment where it should be, central to government, to resource use, and to the economy.

What is the Wildlife Proclamation?

On 26 June, one quarter of Scotland's MSPs had signed up to the LINK Wildlife Proclamation. We will continue to encourage people to ask their MSP whether they've signed up. We'll also be tweeting @Scotlink, to let everyone know about events, activities and opportunities to do more for Scotland's wildlife. Please follow us.

Scottish Environment LINK is the network of Scotland's voluntary environmental organisations, with over 30 member bodies.

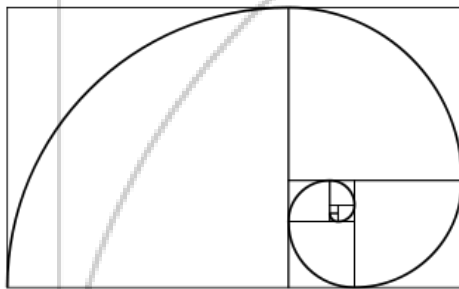
See www.scotlink.org/public/about/members for details. Our member organisations cross the full range of environment charities in Scotland from the largest to the smallest: all are engaged in inspiring current generations to value wildlife and our environment, and conserving it for future generations.

More information:

www.wildlifeproclamation.org.uk

www.scotlink.org

Twitter: @scotlink and #InspireEnviro



The Golden Ratio

Many artists and architects have proportioned their works to approximate the "golden ratio", in which the ratio of the longer side to the shorter is the golden ratio—believing this proportion to be aesthetically pleasing. It is found in the Great Pyramid of Giza and the Parthenon, for instance. Photographers express it by use of the 'rule of thirds'. It is also found in the arrangement of branches along the stems of plants and of veins in leaves, the skeletons of animals and the branchings of their veins and nerves, the proportions of chemical compounds and the geometry of crystals. German psychologist Adolf Zeising wrote in 1854 of a universal law "in which is contained the ground-principle of all formative striving for beauty and completeness in the realms of both nature and art, and which permeates, as a paramount spiritual ideal, all structures, forms and proportions, whether cosmic or individual, organic or inorganic, acoustic or optical; which finds its fullest realization, however, in the human form."