

Conference of the Parties on biodiversity (CoP15) and climate (CoP26): Scotland 2020

Introduction:

The eyes of the world....

The CoP meetings in 2020 will bring the world to Scotland: in April the Scottish Government is hosting an intercessional meeting in preparation for the CBD CoP15 in China in October on biodiversity. In November, the UK Government is hosting the 26th CoP on climate in Glasgow. LINK has been working with members to identify where LINK can add value to proposed activities.

Nature based solutions to climate change

With the climate and nature emergencies announced by the First Minister in April and July respectively, LINK member bodies agreed at Strategic Planning in December that a key theme to help us prioritise delivery in 2020 will be Nature based solutions to climate change. LINK Groups are now working out their 2020 Work Programme around this theme. Work at CoPs are expected to work along this theme. More detail will be published on the member section of the LINK website in February 2020. This work builds towards the UN Decade of Ecological Restoration from 2021 and aims to provide a suite of on the ground initiatives that the Scottish Government can use to promote action towards the declared emergencies at home and abroad.

Summary of action: Current thinking is that LINK can best add value to activities around the CoP15 in Edinburgh when we would hope to influence the proposed Edinburgh Declaration for Kunming and where we may be able to help facilitate space for members to take part in the proposed showcase event and activities in the lead up week. At the much larger CoP26, LINK is exploring with SCCS how the two networks could work together, although there are no LINK specific activities planned. Members bodies also have their own plans for CoP26 which LINK is delighted to support as appropriate. These include Nourish events looking at food systems and WWF plans.

CoP26: Climate Cop Glasgow November 2020

A joint meeting between LINK and SCCS explored areas of joint working and where both networks could add effective capacity and avoid overlap and inefficiencies.

Opportunities for joint working at CoP 26:

1. Events

(a) Momentum in build up

www.Climatefringe.org – SCCS website

Sea Scotland conference June 2020 – LINK coordination www.seascotland.scot

(b) November events

People's summit

Youth conference led by RSPB

Froglife exhibition at Kibble Palace

SCCS Civic soc hub in George Square

March and mass action by civic society organisations

Nourish - 4 events

(c) Hosting: SCCS focus

Providing physical space to act as a civic society hub: George Square. Also access to accommodation for international delegates.

2. **Policy advocacy** on issues where both networks operate: land use, marine and blue carbon; using leverage of CoP for policy.

(a) Influencing actual CoP negotiations: who would this be: tactic of using Scotland as good example / going further has been adopted to date but strategy becoming less useful because rate of progress too slow: the fastest snail. Role is supporting major civil societies acting around this issue – international and Scottish / UK.

Members involved in negotiations and influencing from within: WWF, Birdlife, FoE

ONGOING ACTION: for LINK and SCCS to share plans as they develop. Aim is to identify our priorities that relate to climate action and CoP26.

(b) Managing expectations of what CoP26 will be about / dominated by;

1. Pre 2020 actions: lack of action on commitments
2. Nationally determined contributions NDCs: revised NDCs submitted before CoP and signed off at CoP
3. Climate finance: target from Copenhagen missed;
4. loss and damage: not resolved at Madrid
5. Carbon markets not resolved in Madrid

Snags at international level: developed vs developing countries.

(c) Leveraging:

ONGOING ACTION: ALL: identify leveraging opportunities at next meeting (see below)

3. **Messaging:** bridging narratives on biodiversity and climate.

Nature based ask in messaging; need to work together to ensure clarity

Nature based solutions as a theme: we need define and be aware of green washing danger.

LINK thinking on what nature based solutions look like is ongoing; nature can't solve it all.

ACTION: LINK to collate thinking to date from across LINK; Woodland Group have started this.

Carbon markets, Red Plus, Carbon plus may become parallel themes in climate: SCCS thinking going on

ACTION: SCCS to share this thinking once developed.

Biodiversity CoP15: Kunming October 2020; intercessional meeting for sub national and regional governments Edinburgh 1- 3 April 2020

A meeting between WWF Scotland SWT, RSPB and LINK (DL):

1 – 3 April:

Structure of meeting still in planning. Most of time likely to be taken up by tasks that need to be done by Kunming. Events takes place in RBGE herbarium building with side events in John Hope Gateway and catering marquee. Main meeting observers will include RSPB as Birdlife and WWF. Paul exploring messaging with UK colleagues who will be at workshop in late Jan. WWF aiming to do same.

ACTION: cross check against key LINK messaging to maximise opportunities for impact. Key meeting output will be Edinburgh declaration, which currently aims to list what sub national govts can contribute to CBD to be taken to CBD by First Minister. However no LINK input to date either invited or given.

SG looking to host international events between 2 CoPs. Wanting to link CBD and Cop agendas. May – June summit type events.

Calendar of events in lead up:

28 – 29 March: RSPB Festival. RBGE. PW to confirm details

31 March: Scotland showcase event: SG and SNH. RBGE.

1 – 3 April: coP15 intercessional. RBGE. Output: an Edinburgh Declaration.

April: Edinburgh Science festival: theme this year is around the environment.

6 May: LINK Parliamentary reception: Natural Solutions to climate. Scottish Parliament

16 – 17 May; Big Nature weekend Panel debate hosted by LINK. Cairngorms details TBC but theme natural solutions to climate

8 – 9 June: Sea Scotland: Ocean recovery solutions to SDGs. Glasgow.

31 March: Scotland showcase event:

Stakeholder group for 31 March: Paul represents LINK on the organising committee convened by SNH. First meeting is 5 Feb. Des Thompson leads for SNH; Pete Hollingsworth for RBGE. Pete is positive about LINK potential to do parallel events eg SEFF film, talks.

Showcase day timetable currently: morning events in Edinburgh linked to workshops eg behind the scenes tours at zoo and National Museum, etc. Afternoon: show case conference; illustrating conservation work in Scotland at RBGE including NGO presentations. Evening: at John Hope Gateway: event with delegates and decision makers – displays, films etc at same time.

Other venues at RBGE: status not clear that week or weekend before but there may be opportunities for LINK members to take part.

Next steps:

Paul Walton represents LINK on the show case event committee and will keep the Wildlife Group and LINK Board informed of progress, challenges and opportunities.

NEXT UPDATE DUE: after 5 Feb meeting.

DL
20 January 2020