

## LINK Work Programme 2019-20 Group reports.

This **Work Programme** outlines all planned *activities* of each LINK group and subgroup, as well as plans for broader LINK meetings, workshops, receptions, initiatives and liaison.

It is gathered in a single document so that all involved in LINK can see intentions of the network and help to identify where integration between work areas is needed, to strengthen impact, prevent duplication and contradiction.

The intention is that we report on progress, to the Board and to the Network, every 6 months in April and October.

### KEY to ACRONYMS

MBs	Member Bodies (of LINK)			<b>Work Areas</b>
Reps	The main Representatives appointed to LINK by the member organizations			Economics
GC/GVC	Conveners and Vice Conveners of the Groups			Governance
				Land Group (integration function)
CO	Chief Officer (Deborah Long)			Marine
DO	Development Officer (Alice Walsh)			Planning
AM	Advocacy Manager (Daphne Vlastari) until July. Vhairi Tollan from September.			
FOM	Finance & Office Manager (Karen Paterson)			
AOA	Advocacy Office Administrator (Lisa Webb)			Aquaculture (part of Marine Group)
AO	Advocacy Officer (Dilraj Watson)			Brexit Subgroup (part of Governance Group)
MPEOs	Marine Policy and Engagement Officer (Esther Brooker)			FFSN Campaign (part of Governance Group)
SEO	Sustainable Economics Officer (Phoebe Cochrane)			Deer
FFSN CO	Fight for Scotland's Nature Campaign Officer (Miriam Ross)			Food and Farming
SCC	Species Champions Coordinator (Calum Langdale) until October. Juliet Caldwell from January 2020			Hilltracks
HF	LINK Honorary Fellow			Landscape
StrG	Steering Group (Projects, Congress etc)			Land reform, land use
				Legal Strategy (formerly subgroup of Governance Group)
				Wildlife group incorporating Species Champions project, and National Ecological Network.
PSR	Political Strategy Report			Woodlands
OS	Organisational Supporters			Wildlife Crime
				<b>Forums</b>
				Media Forum (not regularly meeting).
				Scottish Environmental Fundraisers Forum (meets quarterly)

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<p><b>Economics Group</b></p> <p>Vision: influence the current debate on economics in Scotland</p>	<p>The Circular Economy project is directed at creating new policy and legislation and ensuring implementation</p> <p>It will also significantly improve the capacity of the network to contribute in a policy area with which many member organisations are concerned but none have much capacity</p>	<p><b>CEFF project:</b></p> <p>Develop more detailed knowledge of and plans for our work in the three sectors: agriculture, plastics and carbon.</p> <p>Assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the different policy measures which can promote circularity and their use in Scotland.</p> <p>Prepare a position on the content of an ambitious Scottish CE Bill with reduced material consumption as a target.</p> <p>Agree remit for an Advisory Group and invite membership</p> <p>Develop relationships with organisations outwith LINK to be allies in our advocacy</p> <p>Hold an event in parliament to raise awareness about the importance of a CE (June)</p> <p>Work with other LINKs on UK policy areas and consultations such as EPR, tax on plastic bottles with less than 30% recycle, position paper on plastics.</p> <p>Engage with SG on their consultation on 're-use of other materials' as in Programme for Government Investment for a Just Transition.</p> <p>Influence the design of the Scottish National Investment Bank to make sure it is aligned to a core purpose of a sustainable/low-carbon and equitable economy.</p> <p>Support advocacy for a statutory Just Transition Commission with sufficient powers and resources. National Performance Framework.</p> <p>Monitor use of NPF and seek to use it to advocate for LINK policies</p> <p>Contribute to Round Table and in other relevant forums in particular critiquing the primacy given to 'sustainable economic growth'.</p> <p><b>Timetable</b></p> <p>There was a workshop at in December 2018 for LINK and externals to brainstorm priorities for shifting our economy towards circularity. There will be a concrete outcome to this event in the form of a shared position statement to be finalised by Spring 2019.</p> <p>Event in parliament to follow above plus MSP engagement (June)</p> <p>Consultation responses – exact timings not known</p>	<p>GC Matthew Crichton (FoES)</p> <p>VC Bruce Wilson (SWT)</p> <p>FoES, SWT, HWDT, MCS, APRS, RSPB.</p>	<p>SEPO – LINK's 3-day week dedicated post funded by Friends Provident Foundation.</p> <p>Also drawing on and linking to work carried out by others, in particular ZWS.</p> <p>Advice on advocacy will be sought from the Advocacy Manager as and when required.</p> <p>HF James Curran attends some meetings and is very available for advice via email.</p>	<p>Work on Plastics crosses over with Marine.</p> <p>Work on NPF overlaps with Governance.</p> <p>Consideration of powers regarding Circular Economy overlaps with Governance.</p> <p>The intention is that the CEFF project will have a focus/ campaign on a yet to be decided area of interest to LINK members. This is likely to have cross-over with another LINK Group. For example, if the focus was on better use of on-farm waste, it would be relevant to the Food &amp; Farming subgroup.</p>	<p><b>Key Targets:</b></p> <p>SG and MSPs. Also account managers in HIE and SE, business associations, investors. There will be a need to brief Committees at opportune times depending on timings of White Papers/Bills.</p> <p>Likely to be opponents amongst some business quarters.</p> <p>Zero Waste Scotland is one of the key organisations of relevance to the CEFF project due its expertise contacts &amp; networks it can access. Meetings have been constructive and they are willing to continue to engage with the project.</p> <p>SEPA also key. Efforts made to meet with the key individual on CE &amp; we will continue to seek dialogue.</p> <p>SGovt is key as we hope to engage with them in their deliberations on what to do next re CE, after deposit return. A meeting was held with the key official &amp; agreement to keep in touch.</p> <p>There is a loose grouping of Scottish based organisations interested in &amp; campaigning on plastics. We have an agreement to meet every 6 months &amp; share information in the interim.</p> <p>We have developed relationships with CRNS, which gives us links to grassroots enterprises working on re-use. RSA Scotland &amp; SCDI have been allies in the past and we need to re-establish relationships.</p> <p>We are seeking broad support for our ask that CE initiatives should seek to reduce material consumption. In the coming months we will meet with reps</p>	<p><b>April to October report</b></p> <p>Scottish National Investment Bank – Consultation <a href="#">response</a> sent May 2019 and <a href="#">briefing</a> for Stage 1 debate Sept 2019.</p> <p>Circular Economy for a Fairer Footprint – various outputs are on the website.</p> <p>There was a meeting in Parliament hosted by Angus MacDonald in June which coincided with the launch of our <a href="#">paper calling for a strong CE Bill</a></p> <p>37 organisations signed up to paper calling for a Strong CE Bill, forming the basis of our informal coalition. Including Project Heather, Oxfam, SMaSH, KSB, Soilutions, Ricardo Energy and Environment, Circular Edinburgh, IBioIC, EAUC Scotland, Wellbeing Economy Alliance, Remade Network, Green Alliance, CRNS.</p> <p>Two meeting were held with coalition members, discussed the content of the paper calling for a strong CE Bill, areas of expertise and interest, capacity to take part in a 'campaign', how to work together.</p> <p>Outcomes – coalition members spreading comms through social media, a google drive platform for sharing information, an agreement to work together.</p> <p>Meetings with MSPs (env spokespeople) and party researchers held (all were receptive of our asks)</p> <p>Meeting with CE civil servants – discussed timeline of CE consultation / bill; and what we would like to see in it.</p> <p>Meetings with Zero Waste Scotland – information sharing.</p> <p>Press releases put out for the launch of our 'Call' and for the first coalition meeting – both were picked up.</p> <p><b>Ahead:</b> An event for LINK members plus wider coalition linked to the CE consultation – mid November</p> <p>Event in parliament 14th January, by invitation.</p> <p><b>October – March report:</b></p> <p>SG published their proposals for a CE bill on 7 November with a deadline for the consultation of 19/12. Our press release: <a href="#">Circular economy proposals need top-level targets</a> was taken up by Holyrood.</p> <p>Our paper <a href="#">A Call for a strong CE Bill</a> continued to attract signatories, with a total for 40 organisations supporting. These organisations make up our informal coalition who receive regular updates about developments relating to CE.</p> <p>We held a 'Framing workshop' delivered by Ralph Underhill for coalition members, attended by 18 people, to help us with CE comms. A paper of suggested comms sentences / paragraphs has been shared for coalition members to add to / use, and useful for reaching out to encourage consultation responses.</p> <p><b>Scottish Government consultation on proposals for a circular economy bill:</b> <a href="#">The LINK response</a> was supported by 15 LINK members. In addition to our own response, we encouraged other individuals and organisations to respond through directing people to our 'how to</p>

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		<p>Coalition building – on-going</p> <p><b>Policy background:</b> Per project proposal to funder.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> Our main ask is that economic activity in Scotland becomes more circular and that this results in reduced material consumption.</p> <p>Media dep. on hooks We need to influence SE and HIE so that business support is aligned to CE ambitions. Media may be useful for this. Advice will be sought from the AM.</p> <p>We are expecting the first material flow data for Scotland to be available in the early spring. This will be an opportunity for some media work. Also when UK data updated, ELUK opportunity.</p>				<p>of the Scottish Environmental Services Association &amp; also seek meetings with SE, HIE, Scottish Remanufacturing Institute, Centre for Engineering and education development, &amp; other bodies suggested to us.</p> <p>There is likely to be a SG stakeholder engagement on the CE by early 2019. We anticipate engagement.</p> <p>Working with ELUK on plastics position paper &amp; will also work together on other UK issues, including consultation on Extended Producer Responsibility.</p> <p>Engaging with EEB groups on Waste and Eco-design. Currently trying to follow up interesting thread on eco-design.</p>	<p>respond’ guides on the LINK website. We promoted this through social media and coalition members. It is hard to know how many additional responses this generated, but we had positive feedback on it and know that it was used by a number of our coalition members.</p> <p><b>Consultation event, 3rd December:</b> We arranged this for MBs and our ‘Circular Scotland’ coalition. SGovt presented their proposals and Richard Dixon spoke about why we need a footprint reduction target. The event was well attended, feedback was positive and SG found it useful.</p> <p>During this period, SEPO attended one of the Zero Waste Scotland organised consultation events and spoke at the CRNS consultation event.</p> <p>Subsequent meetings with officials implied that the campaign asks had been heard loud and clear by Govt. This was helped by the e-action organised by FoES based on our key asks.</p> <p>A Parliament event <b>Circular Economy Priorities for Scotland</b>, was held on 14 January, hosted by Angus MacDonald MSP. Audience c30, including academics, ZWS, LINK MBs, Coalition members and others. Unfortunately, the SG representative could not come due to illness. Slides were made available to participants and follow up meetings offered with the MSPs attending. Feedback indicated that the event made a strong impact on the audience. It was great to have John Barret there – the leading UK expert on consumption reporting, talking about the latest research and the link between climate change ambitions and the need to reduce our raw material consumption. We can use the film footage to come back to key issues in due course. The presentations made a strong case for our key asks, building on the advocacy to date. We know that at least one of the opposition MSPs was persuaded by the event. Angus MacDonald MSP was keen to sponsor a further event once the Bill is published. Due to Covid 19, the Bill is shelved.</p> <p>Public Poll: Questions with Survation were developed, to be tweaked in the light of the shelving of the CE Bill.</p> <p>A series of blogs were prepared from Feb on various aspects of the CE, yet to be posted.</p> <p><b>MSP engagement on CE:</b> Meetings held with: Claudia Beamish MSP, S Labour Party. We are confident Labour will support our asks. Maurice Golden MSP, S Cons Party. He is not leading on the Bill for the Conservatives, but is likely to be asked for advice. He is open to discussion about our key asks, thinks it is the direction we need to be going in; but favours other key targets for CE. Roseanna Cunningham, Cab Sec: She was clear that she did not want to bring in additional targets under this bill. However, she did listen to our arguments and agreed that a working group on appropriate targets for the future would be a good start.</p>

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							<p>Annie Wells, Shadow Cab Sec, S Cons Party; new to this portfolio and very much in listening mode. She said she understood and agreed with our proposals and would discuss them with colleagues.</p> <p>We are also confident of the support of the S Greens, and will arrange another meeting with the Lib Dems.</p> <p><b>EEB and Europe:</b> Working with EEB on a future event to inform the transposition of the amended Waste Framework Directives. Generally keeping abreast of developments in the EU. CE featured strongly in the Green Deal and a new CE Action Plan was published in March – ambitious and relevant to the UK despite Brexit.</p> <p>SEPO has ongoing engagement with key people in ZWS who help with background information, including person responsible for construction / infrastructure hoping they can take forward thinking in a <a href="#">new report</a> which looks at the infrastructure needs of a CE. SEPO is contributing this an more to LINK’s NPF 4 Call for Ideas response</p> <p>FoES is leading on a call for a new <b>Economic Strategy/</b>. A final draft of a paper was supported by several LINK members and external bodies. In the changing climate, the Group will need to reconsider how to use it.</p> <p><b>A response was coordinated</b> and submitted to SG consultation on a replacement fund to the EU Structural Funds.</p>
<b>Governance Group</b>	<p>Continuing to pursue all issues raised in Governance Matters as and when opportunities occur.</p> <p>Would coordinate LINK effort on manifestos and elections at UK, Scottish and Local levels</p> <p>Coordinating LINK Brexit effort</p> <p>Monitoring Lobbying legislative context</p> <p>GG comprises:</p> <p>Brexit Subgroup – this correspondence group has been set up to ensure members are engaged and contributing to LINK work on Brexit as it goes forward</p> <p>Brexit Campaign Steering Group – see opposite</p> <p>Legal strategy subgroup - There is a standing item on the GG agenda for an update from this subgroup.</p>	<p><b>Brexit</b> – The Governance Group will continue to monitor development and impacts of Brexit. We will do this as LINK and with ELUK and Greener UK colleagues.</p> <p>We will deliver the LINK ‘Fight for Scotland’s Nature’ campaign which will call for a Scottish Environment Act. Through the campaign, LINK aims to raise awareness among the public and decision-makers of the potential impact of Brexit on the environment, fisheries and agriculture. The campaign will focus on (i) environmental principles &amp; governance (ii) framework for future environmental policy (iii) nature protection (future of Birds &amp; Habitats in Scotland) and (iv) post-CAP rural funding and post-CFP fisheries management. The campaign will launch to coincide with ScotGov’s consultation on environmental principles and governance.</p> <p>We will continue to liaise with ScotGov officials on development of statutory instruments. In general, on Brexit and related issues, we will maintain dialogue with relevant Ministers, MPs and MSPs as well as other key decision-makers as necessary. This includes Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Mike Russell MSP, Minister Ian Duncan, Ian Jardine and other Government and elected officials.</p> <p><b>Legal Strategy Subgroup</b></p>	<p>GC: Lloyd Austin HF. VC Sheila George WWFS RSPB, WWF, SWT, WTS, NTS Brexit Subgroup (from March 2020 Continuity Bill Subgroup): Lloyd Aust, RSPB, WWF, WTS, SWT, NTS  (Brexit )FFSN campaign group: RSPB, WWF, SWT, WTS, RS, JMT, MCS.</p>	<p>CO, AM and AOA attend meetings, secretariat by AOA. Much of the GG work programme is directly linked to the AM’s role and thus she is heavily involved with the GG work programme. Miriam Ross recruited Jan 2019 18 hours a week as FFSN campaign co-ordinator. President input may be sought for media opportunities surrounding the FFSN Campaign.</p>	<p>Yes, governance issues cut across the work of all groups so we involve others as relevant. On the FFSN campaign, there is liaison with all groups as the campaign messages will highlight LINK issues across the board (Land, Marine, Wildlife). Brexit Subgroup – set up as correspondence group to ensure members engaged and contributing on Brexit as it goes forward. Telecalls are set up monthly to allow any issues to be discussed if needed.</p> <p>Brexit Campaign Subgroup – also a</p>	<p>We would like to continue to be represented on Govt’s Environment Strategy fora. No action needed at present as there are already LINK reps on the Env’t Strategy External Reference Group. Legal experts (contacts have been made through the legal strategy subgroup and are ongoing) Scottish Universities Legal Network on Europe (SULNE) - good contacts established and communication is as required SCVO – ongoing communication through regular meetings.</p> <p>There is already regular liaison and collaboration with ELUK and Greener UK on Brexit issues. Potential to explore closer working relationship with EEB. Brexit subgroup has sought to make use of IUCN connections</p>	<p><b>April to October report:</b> <b>Brexit:</b> All GG MBs continue to input and monitor Brexit developments. Daphne (to July), Deborah/ Vhairi, Lloyd &amp; Paul Walton are involved in ELUK and Greener UK discussions. They take part in regular ELUK/ GUK calls. All working to ensure that any UK outputs from GUK are devolution-proofed.</p> <p>LINK is continuing to liaise with Govt officials on Brexit related issues, in particular in relation to SIs/ SSIs and env’tal principles &amp; governance (EPG). There is regular contact with officials who work in these areas. LINK submitted its <a href="#">response</a> to the Government’s EPG consultation in May 2019.</p> <p>Via the <b>FFSN campaign:</b> more than 22,000 people called for a Scottish Env’t Act. 97 organisations signed <a href="#">our letter</a> to the First Minister, calling for a Scottish Environment Act. 49 MSPs signed our <a href="#">Stand Up for Nature</a> pledge. The ScotGovt Programme for Government went some way towards meeting the asks of campaign, stating an intention to include EU environmental principles and environmental governance measures in the Continuity Bill.</p> <p>A research project brief to explore env governance models was developed, awarded to Prof Campbell Gemmell. A draft version of the report was presented to a workshop of stakeholders and decision-makers on 6/9, the <a href="#">final report</a> &amp; <a href="#">summary</a> published in October 2019. LINK continues to input into Scottish Parliament inquiries on Brexit related issues &amp; provide briefings for MSPs &amp; decision makers. GG MBs have planned their presence at Autumn party conferences in Oct and Nov to highlight the FFSN campaign &amp; our asks around env governance.</p>

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		<p>Environmental rights centre for Scotland – The Legal Strategy Subgroup will pursue the establishment of a centre, with input from a number of individuals who support the case and are willing to support the initiative. Fundraising to coordinate the establishment phase is going ahead. The work involves setting up a SCIO, development of strategy and business plan, a future fundraising strategy and set of policies including case selection criteria.</p> <p>The Subgroup continues to advocate with others for the establishment of environmental courts, not least in relation to the implications of a UK exit from the EU, seeking dialogue with Justice Minister, MSPs and others.</p> <p>Continuing to work through the Scottish Civil Justice Council on policy around Protected Expense Orders.</p> <p>With ELUK, Subgroup monitors UK's compliance with Aarhus and submits evidence or follows up in ways as needed.</p>	<p>Mary Church FoES leads Legal Subgroup.</p> <p>FOES, RSPB, PD from mid year. others contribute or supporting.</p> <p>Mark Lazarovicz (HF), Guy Linley-Adams (Independent), Ian Cowan, Ben Christman.</p>	<p>HFs M Lazarowicz assists on legal strategy subgroup, Andy Myles &amp; James Curran are supportive. Lawyers Ian Cowan and Ben Christman inform the work and this is likely to continue until the centre is established.</p> <p>Seeks DPF support for coordination phase of establishing ERCS. Some DO support for fundraising for the ERCS</p>	<p>correspondence group set up to take forward the FFSN campaign. Includes members' communications staff and key policy staff.</p> <p>Legal Strategy subgroup is active and each GG meeting carries an update from this subgroup.</p>	<p>to set up meeting on common frameworks with 4 UK administrations.</p> <p>Working with other coalitions on justice and courts issues.</p>	<p>There have been meetings with MSPs &amp; good take up of our messages around envtl principles and governance. A roundtable in Parliament 3 April to discuss env governance issues was attended by 5 MSPs, a Special Adviser &amp; researchers.</p> <p>PQs were asked relating to environment and Brexit; EG one about non-regression principle in relation to keeping pace and envtl standards by Mark Griffin in May, a series of PQs on env governance by Mark Ruskell in July, in October, Claudia Beamish asked what immediate environmental governance mechanisms will be put in place in event of no-deal Brexit.</p> <p>DV spoke to R Cunningham at the April SNP party conference reiterated our asks relating to Environment Act &amp; the FFSN campaign. Vhairi joined a civil society meeting with Michael Russell in Sept and was able to discuss Continuity bill, Keeping pace and EPG. LINK is seeking further meetings with M Russell and R Cunningham (28/11 in diary with RC)</p> <p>LINK <a href="#">welcomed some parts of the P f G</a>. However, we said it failed to detail steps that will give Scotland's environment adequate protection from Brexit, with no detail about EPG and whether there would be an independent watchdog.</p> <p>MBs continue to sit on the Environment Strategy External Reference Group to raise issues relating to envt strategy and EPG.</p> <p>LINK signed a letter to the PM coordinated by the Brexit Civil Society Alliance. It expressed serious concerns about impact of a no-deal Brexit:</p> <p>Communications are ongoing between LINK's Governance Group &amp; other groups and subgroups about Brexit &amp; related issues. The FFSN campaign is gathering input from all groups &amp; subgroups to develop stories and case studies.</p> <p>GG met SGov officials 1/10 to discuss EPG consultation follow up. Discussed env principles and whether a non-regression principle could be legislated for. Also heard ScotGov's ideas for various governance models and we reiterated our preference for a Parliamentary Commissioner model.</p> <p><b>Votes, legislation &amp; processes impacting environmental governance</b>  <b>.Progress:</b> The group has been extremely active on env governance issues related to Brexit in past 6 months as above</p> <p><b>Lobbying regs implementation</b> we will input views to the Lobbying Register review due in early 2020. On agenda for GG meeting 12/11.</p> <p><b>Legal Strategy Subgroup:</b> Funding was successfully secured to set up the ERCS (Joseph Rowntree CT; a private donor and DPF). All member bodies were contacted for their support of the ERCS in various ways. Recruitment for 2 3-day week posts of Development Manager &amp; Programme Manager in Sept/Oct.</p> <p><b>October – March update:</b>  The focus continued to be on Brexit-related issues and our call for no weakening of environmental standards following the UK's departure</p>

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							<p>from the EU. The asks are: ensuring retention of the four key environmental principles and keeping pace with EU environmental law and policy, ensuring there is an adequate system of environmental governance, and having clear nature recovery targets with funding to meet them.</p> <p>GG MBs have been working alongside the FFSN campaign to pursue these asks.</p> <p>Activity since October includes:</p> <p>LINK attended party conferences (Scottish Greens, 12 October and SNP 13-15 October) to convey FFSN messages</p> <p>Regular contact and meetings with SGovt officials working on EPG and the continuity bill.</p> <p>Regular contact and meetings with MSPs and researchers which has resulted in useful PQs being asked about EPG</p> <p>Publication of LINK's <a href="#">manifesto for the General Election</a>, which called on all parties to tackle the climate and nature emergencies and to ensure no weakening of environmental protections following Brexit.</p> <p>Photocall at Parliament 28 November for MSPs who signed the Stand Up for Nature pledge. At the end of March, 58 MSPs have signed.</p> <p>9 articles in Scottish newspapers (Herald, Scotsman and National) resulting from FFSN campaign, including a Herald front page and a Herald double page spread.</p> <p>4 FFSN press releases and 3 FFSN blogs See <a href="#">news page</a></p> <p>Workshop held 16 January to discuss how to develop the nature recovery targets 'ask' of the FFSN campaign. c 30 people attended from across LINK.</p> <p>Impact: We believe LINK's activity has contributed to positive progress on EPG. We expect our EPG asks to be covered by the upcoming Continuity bill. On 25/2, the SGovt published its Environment Strategy and announced it will set up an environmental watchdog. This announcement was <a href="#">welcome</a> although we will continue calls for it to be independent and properly resourced. GG members are currently considering how to get commitment to nature recovery targets via the bill, and will seek amendments to achieve this.</p> <p><b>Legal strategy group:</b> LINK recruited two 3 day week posts for the Environmental Right Centre for Scotland (ERCS) in the autumn. Ian Cowan (Programme Manager) and Shivali Fifiield (Development Manager) began work on 20 January 2020. They are working to establish a stand-alone SCIO with its own Board of Trustees, and ran 2 workshops with LINK members to inform development of strategy, workplan etc.</p>
<p><b>Land Group</b> Vision: Land management which meets SD goals.</p>	<p>The Land Group has an overview and integrating role for the 3 Priority focusses opposite and for the other related Subgroups' interaction.</p>	<p><b>1. Land ownership and use</b> – influencing land reform to integrate principles of sustainable land use &amp; promoting the LUS.</p>	<p>GC Vicki Swales (RSPB), VC Diarmid Hearn NTS Active members –</p>	<p>Core staff support ongoing for secretariat (DO) AM input needed throughout the year.</p>	<p>The agenda crosses with Planning (land use); Marine and Governance (post-Brexit structures) Priority Subgroups:</p>		<p><b>April to October report</b> Met 19 September. Subgroups appear to be delivering on their workplans, given finite resources, and government attention in this area limited by Brexit. Subgroups are conscious of connections between their respective strands within the Land group, and of the work of relevant LINK</p>

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	The Group meets to review this twice a year.	<p><b>2. Future of Scottish Agriculture</b> – Influencing the future of rural development funding, post Brexit</p> <p><b>3. Mainstreaming Biodiversity</b> – through Species Champions advocacy and pursuance of the NEN and the post-2020 advocacy (see Wildlife below).</p> <p>Meets September and March.</p>	SWT, WTS, RSPB, NTS, SB, Nourish, APRS, Ramblers, SCNP, SWLG, TFL.		Land Use & Reform, Food & Farming, Wildlife  Others are Woodland Deer, Wildlife Crime, Hilltracks		<p>groups elsewhere, e.g. Planning, Governance or Economics. There appear to be no conflicts between these different agendas.</p> <p>Coordination between subgroups is largely coming from shared membership across groups – i.e. member organisations being represented on different subgroups.</p> <p>For the next period, there are opportunities for synergy on: 1) national environmental protections – depending on how Brexit plays out; and 2) on reform of agricultural/forestry subsidies, along with a revitalised Land Use Strategy. For this second strand, there is potential for collaboration outside LINK with land reform advocates, and with the Scottish Land Commission.</p> <p>The S Govt recognition of a climate emergency is welcomed, but there is apparently less interest or commitment at gov level to biodiversity. There may be a need for LINK to encourage a similar level of SG commitment to nature, in order to drive positive change across the various Land subgroups. Rhetoric from the Conservative govy in WM may help raise expectations here.</p> <p>More detail in the reports from Subgroups.</p> <p><b>October – March update:</b></p> <p>Meeting held 12 March with reps from most land-based groups to look at impact, priorities ahead and integration needs. These are no longer Subgroups. All are Groups.</p>
<p><b>Marine Group</b></p> <p>Vision: healthy, well-managed seas, where wildlife is flourishing, ecosystems are protected, connected and thriving, and coastal communities are sustained.</p>	Focussed on securing robust implementation of UK and Scottish legislation with all that entails including the opportunity for recovery of Scotland’s seas to ‘healthy’.	<p>Campaign for effective management of remaining inshore MPAs by securing public support for the measures via an e-action and responding to the Scottish Government consultation expected in early 2019.</p> <p>Secure designation of four outstanding nature conservation MPAs by supporting member led e-actions, responding to the consultation expected in early 2019 and using Save Scottish Seas website and social media channels to raise public support for the sites.</p> <p>Publish briefing report on MPA management framework, using OSPAR criteria, from commissioned work.</p> <p>Publish Seafloor Integrity report 2018 - launched in November 2018 at the MASTS ASM (David Bailey keynote), with corresponding press release and social media (LINK and LINK member channels).</p> <p>Engage with ScotGovt ongoing process to review protection for Priority Marine Features outside of MPAs, including responding to the second consultation on this process expected in early 2019.</p>	GC: Calum Duncan (MCS) GVC: Sarah Dolman (WDC) Members: NTS, SWT, RSPB Scotland, WDC, HWDT, RZSS, MCS. Fidra (N.B. WWF Scotland now working with reduced capacity on marine with no direct input onto the MG in Scotland).	Funding for 1 FTE MPEO ended 2019. Carryover allowed retention at 4 dpw to end June.  Core staff involved in admin, HR, fundraising.  AM inputs to advocacy strategy and policy development over next 6 months.  Species Champ Coordinator will input on relevant aspects	Fisheries work will continue to involve cross over with Governance group and Brexit Subgroup.  MPA and PMF work may overlap with Species work of wildlife subgroup.  There will be overlap with Species Champion initiative	<p>Next phase of project work likely to include closer working with marine tourism sector and continuing contact with coastal community groups.</p> <p>Working with ELUK Marine group on UK dolphin and porpoise conservation strategy. In contact about other topics (MPAs etc).</p> <p>Fisheries work – discussion with ELUK staff and G-UK members to ensure consistency of messaging, sometimes joint sign up.</p> <p>Some members may be involved with WCL Plastics position paper, though not directly an MG output.</p> <p>Other allies for environmental sustainability are: Scottish Inshore Fisheries Trust; Scottish Creel Fishermen’s Federation; FFI Marine Community Support Project; Open Seas; COAST;</p>	<p><b>April to October update:</b></p> <p>Through late spring and summer, the MG have contributed several major outputs. The MPEO and Convenor worked with ELUK Marine reps to develop <a href="#">a response</a> to the UK Marine Strategy assessment, indicators and targets, along with providing devolved perspectives on several media outputs (including press and social media) expressing disappointment in the UK’s failure to achieve Good Environmental Status for 11 out of 15 indicators. MG members also contributed to Scottish Climate Bill amendments, focusing on blue carbon as a nature-based solution.</p> <p><a href="#">Sea Scotland conference 2019</a> was held in June, with several MG MBs in attendance (two of which are active on the steering group – MCS and RSPB) and helping run workshops. Led by RSPB, the Group produced a collective <a href="#">response</a> to the Scot Govt’s Future of Fisheries Management national discussion paper and the convenor attended Glasgow stakeholder event and gave presentation at the final FFM stakeholder event at Edinburgh Zoo which was held conference-style. A <a href="#">response</a> to the ECCLR Committee’s call for written evidence on the progress of Regional Marine Plans was also submitted, led by SWT. July and August had a major focus on the public consultation detailing proposals for 4 new nature conservation MPAs for mobile species and seabed habitats. MBs (MCS/SWT collaborating on one and WDC another) led public campaigns with e-actions, and the <a href="#">Save Scottish Seas</a> platform was used to signpost these campaigns via a new video produced with an MPA Fighting Fund grant. In parallel the MG also engaged in advocacy on North <a href="#">sea cod stock collapse</a> and the repeal</p>

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		<p>Engage with the ScotGovt Future of Fisheries management process and upcoming consultations.</p> <p>Engage with ECCLR Committee inquiry into marine issues to secure commitment to address inconsistencies in National Marine Plan and encourage support for a roll out of Regional Marine Plans. Sea Scotland conference Maintain a coordinating role, along with Marine Group members and SNH, on the Sea Scotland steering group to engage decision-makers, marine policy professionals, industry, local communities and other stakeholders in marine planning and wider seas policy.</p> <p><b>Aquaculture subgroup:</b></p> <p>Will advocate for tighter regulation of salmon farming in Scotland.</p> <p>Will meet regularly with SEPA following their consultation on the proposed Sector Plan for aquaculture.</p> <p>Will meet regularly with Marine Scotland's aquaculture team.</p> <p>Will engage, where possible with Marine Scotland's 'Farmed Fish Health Framework' Working Groups and attend meetings of the Working Group on 'Wild Salmon Interactions'.</p> <p>Will organise meetings with industry, in particular the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation.</p> <p>Will review SE LINK's internal policy and advocacy on finfish aquaculture in Scotland.</p> <p>Will develop a joint LINK position on the use of acoustic deterrent devices in Scottish waters.</p>	<p><u>Aquaculture Subgroup</u> leader: Sam Collin SWT Depute: Dawn Purchase MCS SWT, MCS, NTS (until Richard Luxmoore's retirement autumn 2019) WDC, HWDT, Fidra</p>		<p>Aquaculture – MBs active there also active cross co-ordination within the MG</p>	<p>Scottish Fishermen's Federation and SWFPO. Community Alliance/Planning <u>Aquaculture</u>: SEPA; Marine Scotland; Crown Estate Scotland; Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation Scope to work with England, NI and Wales Links to provide support and advice for aquaculture concerns that arise in England, Wales or Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>of the Windssock cod recovery area, which overlaps with an offshore MPA.</p> <p><b>October to March report:</b></p> <p>The Group has been doing a lot of strategic planning in the last few months. With the delayed Phase 2 inshore MPA management consultation and review of PMF protection outwith MPAs now being amalgamated into one process, we have reconsidered our original approach to public campaigning at the consultation stage. This has also been influenced heavily by the dramatic change to the evidence base for the global conservation narrative that resulted in climate and nature crises being declared. The Group's concerns are that the SGovt's approach to marine policy does not reflect these crises and with increasingly vocal fishing interests opposing some conservation approaches, we need to push for more than just <i>de minimis</i> measures.</p> <p>The Group, along with the other Links (through the ELUK Marine liaison group) now have a clear direction in its development of an Ocean Recovery Plan for Scotland, which will form the basis of the marine aspect of the on-going Fight For Scotland's Nature campaign and can be integrated into LINK's Scottish Election Manifesto later this year and early next. This plan, and various activities around it, will form the basis of our work over the summer and through it we hope to put pressure on SGovt to take a stronger approach to marine policy implementation processes currently ongoing, as well as future policy development (e.g. targets for conservation).</p> <p>Supported and coordinated by the LINK MPEO role, planning for <b>Sea Scotland 2020</b> with the steering group has proceeded with a focus on the Sustainable Development Goals, although alternative plans for an online webinar will now be made, with the full conference postponed until very late 2020 or just to run one in 2021 (depending on sponsorship options).</p> <p>Group MBs have also engaged with FMAC on the developing response to the cod emergency, and were acknowledged by Fergus Ewing in his speech in Parliament on the fisheries negotiations.</p> <p>Convenor gave evidence to REC Committee about the impact of EU exit on fisheries, emphasising the need for ecosystem-based management, regardless of the constitutional arrangements, and demonstrating common cause with industry by supporting the importance of a theoretical future industry levy supporting science for sustainable management.</p> <p><b>Aquaculture Subgroup:</b> <b>April to October update:</b> Sam Collin is a member of the Salmon Interactions Working Group. - Dawn Purchase (through MCS) is a member of the Farmed Fish Health Framework – Licensing Working Group. Sam Collin and Richard Luxmoore (now retired) attended the Salmon Interactions Working Group</p>

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							<p>Dawn and Sam attended SEPA workshop on new regulations and waste modelling and a SEPA and Marine Scotland Science workshop on a new wild salmon hazard modelling approach.</p> <p>The subgroup and wider Marine Group mbs have put together a statement on the use of acoustic deterrent devices (and their impact on marine mammals) in preparation for expected discussions with Marine Scotland on this subject.</p> <p>Sam and Richard met Alan Wells at Fisheries Management Scotland to discuss the future management of salmon farming with regards to wild Atlantic salmon and sea trout.</p> <p><b>October – March update:</b></p> <p>Sam Collin (SWT) is a member of the Salmon Interactions Working Group, which is now in the process of concluding final recommendations and report for ministers. Four meetings have been held over last six months.</p> <p>Dawn Purchase (MCS) is a member of SEPA’s aquaculture advisory panel, which has met twice.</p> <p>Group prepared a position statement on the use of acoustic deterrent devices in preparation for future discussion on/changes to regulation regarding their use in Scotland.</p> <p>Clare Cavers (Fidra) organised a workshop with key retailers in January to discuss the role retailers can play in improving the salmon aquaculture industry (attended by both S. Collin and D. Purchase).</p> <p>Submitted a LINK <u>response</u> to SEPA’s consultation on proposal to replace farm biomass limits with feed limits.</p>
<p><b>Planning Group</b></p> <p>Vision: that the Scottish land use planning system contributes to a more environmentally sustainable society</p>		<p>Close engagement with Planning Bill to its conclusion to ensure it helps contribute to a sustainable Scotland.</p> <p>Taking forward LINK action, including written submissions, a public e-action, coordination of amendments, and liaison meetings.</p> <p>After the Bill passes we will work to influence secondary legislation and the detailed design of implementing the new system.</p> <p>Engagement with the upcoming National Planning Framework 3.</p> <p>The Group is considering a longer term plan to challenge the way the planning system is run.</p>	<p>GC: Aedán Smith RSPB, GVC: Clare Symonds PD</p> <p>Members: RSPB, PD, FoES, SWT, NTS, WTS, APRS, SCNP, SWLG, BSCG,</p>	<p>Ongoing advocacy support from AM, for the Bill and more</p> <p>Secretariat by DO.</p>	<p>Govt’s stated intention is for planning to take on more of a leadership &amp; coordinating role across govt; there is some cross-over to all other groups.</p> <p>Most subgroups are relevant to an extent, particularly Hill Tracks, NEN, Landscape.</p>		<p><b>April to October update:</b></p> <p>The Group and MBs were very active preparing for Stage 3 at the end of June. The e-action on ERA hosted by FoES was re-activated. Meetings were held with MSPs of all parties on a raft of amendments, and a <a href="#">briefing for the Stage 3</a> debate. Key amendments on ERA and Hilltracks were unsuccessful (see Hilltracks report), and there were other losses too, primarily on strategic development planning, combination of shift to a 10 year cycle and loss of Main Issues Reporting and regional plans (though regional land use planning subsequently featured in Sept Prog for Govt).</p> <p>Group is scheduling a meeting before the year end to look at next steps.</p> <p>Members and CO contributed to Govt commissioned research for NPF4 over the summer.</p> <p><b>October – March update:</b></p> <p>At the November meeting Aedan Smith stepped down as Convener, as he moved post within RSPB. Clare Symonds, formerly vice convener, was unanimously elected Convener, and Charlie Nathan RSPB as vice Convener (confirmed at January meeting). Priorities were NPF 4, and engagement with stakeholder events around it and on other parts of the Govt’s programme for rolling out the Planning Act. Reps attended</p>

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							<p>several meetings in response to SGovt outreach, including a bespoke meeting about Permitted Development Review consultation. (Also see Hilltracks).</p> <p>RSPB's planning team led on LINK responses to 2 consultations: <a href="#">Response to the Permitted Development Rights</a> consultation, and <a href="#">Planning Performance and Fees</a>.</p> <p>A meeting with Planning Dept officials was held on 21 Feb, on the NPF 4 consultation. Officials were in 'listening mode', unwilling to give any steer. Co-incidentally the decision on Coul Links was announced at the start of that meeting.</p> <p>The 12 March workshop scoped out LINK's response to the <b>Call for Ideas</b> consultation integrating input from Land Use, Wildlife, Food &amp; Farming, and Economics Groups, being fleshed out by different members/groups until early April for submission by end April.</p> <p><b>Impact:</b> Early days. Given collective disappointment about the provisions of the Planning Act, and distinct lack of join up so far between Govt's planning agenda with other parts of its agenda, notably on equalities, land reform, and responding intelligently to the climate and biodiversity crises, our response will challenge endemic neo-liberal assumptions and business as usual approaches. The NPF4 will be adopted after 2 years, with several opportunities for parliamentary scrutiny, so much to play for ahead.</p>
<p><b>Deer Group</b></p> <p>Vision: Ensure sustainable populations of native deer species which play positive roles in Scottish ecosystems &amp; contribute to rural economy</p>		<p>Contribute to work of Land Group insofar as deer management is relevant.</p> <p>Contributing to Independent Deer Management enquiry. Evidence and attendance at stakeholder workshops.</p> <p>Preparing for SNH report to ScotGovt on DMG performance</p> <p>Contribute to deer management aspects of forestry strategy/management via LINK and other channels</p> <p>Attend SNH Deer Management Round Table.</p> <p>Timescales:</p> <p>Key milestones in 2019 will be publication of independent review of deer management now expected September, and publication of Deer Management Group progress report expected October.</p>	<p>Duncan Orr-Ewing, Leader</p> <p>MBs: RSPB, NTS, RS, Tfl, WTS, JMT.</p>		<p>Work sits within the focus of the Land Group and interlinks with LINK work on land management and forestry.</p> <p>We develop consensus around all outputs, usually either face to face or by email. We have a good track record of producing agreed evidence for Parliamentary &amp; other committees, delivering real impact.</p>	<p>Scottish Government, Ministers and Deer Management Enquiry</p> <p>SNH</p> <p>ADMG</p> <p>Forestry Policy Group</p> <p>Routine engagement with SNH (Wildlife Management), Scottish Government (Habitats and Species).</p>	<p><b>April to October:</b></p> <p>Preparing for publication of DMG assessment, review of Deer Code and Independent Deer Review all expected November 2019.</p> <p>Advocacy lines have been agreed for above.</p> <p>Joint leaflet prepared and will be issued</p> <p>Application to LINK fund for background piece of work on DMG assessment.</p> <p>Meetings held:</p> <p>21 May SNH Deer Mgt Round Table</p> <p>29 May SNH Wildlife Management Principles</p> <p>26 June SNH Wildlife Mgt Principles</p> <p>3 July ADMG and SNH Meeting</p> <p><b>October – March update</b></p> <p>We pulled together and published a <u>position statement</u> signed up to by 14 Link bodies and widely circulated to relevant politicians. Also published <u>FAQs</u>.</p> <p>We commissioned 2 LINK DPF funded <u>short research</u> pieces to inform the debate. These provided a very useful lobbying tool tying deer management with climate change priorities.</p> <p>We developed and implemented an advocacy plan among the group meeting key politicians and stakeholder as well as issuing press releases, radio interviews etc.</p>

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<p><b>Food &amp; Farming Group</b></p> <p>Vision: Working for sustainable agricultural systems that produce supplies of safe healthy food, protect natural resources &amp; enhance wildlife, habitats &amp; cultural heritage, &amp; provide jobs in rural areas, contributing to a diverse rural economy</p>		<p>The Group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to develop shared detailed policy positions for post-CAP rural and land use policy. Working with SNH to look in more detail at the impact of funding mechanisms for delivering public goods.</li> <li>- Continue to develop and carry out an advocacy plan for post-CAP policy principles, transition arrangements, and future policy.</li> <li>- Continue to engage with civil servants on transition plans and post-CAP advocacy</li> <li>- Potentially doing something more agenda setting on agro-ecology.</li> </ul> <p>Advocacy Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Set up a series of meetings with MSPs to discuss principles and ideas for post-CAP policy (several have already happened) others in diary).</li> <li>- Continue to advocate for transition arrangements through meetings above.</li> <li>- Make MSPs aware of LINK 'Stability and Simplicity' submission</li> <li>- Request a high-level meeting of directors with Fergus Ewing to discuss above issues.</li> </ul>	<p>Leader: Pete Ritchie (NS) Depute: Anna Brand (RSPB) then Scott Leatham (SWT)</p> <p>Members: WWF Scotland, RSPB Scotland, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Nourish Scotland, Soil Association Scotland, National Trust Scotland</p>	<p>Advocacy support from AM will continue to be needed, incl. for MSP and civil servant meetings, letters etc.</p> <p>Potentially a request for DPF depending on outcome of discussions on October 10<sup>th</sup>.</p>	<p>Members Pete Ritchie, Vicki Swales are on the Land Group.</p>	<p>Good relationship with SLE, Tweed Forum, and other organisations actively involved in Land Use Strategy policy.</p> <p>Good initial discussion at Land Group Workshop in September 2018. No current plans for follow-up.</p> <p>Led session at ELUK conference 10/18 on Sustainable Development Goals with ELUK interest in keeping in touch.</p> <p>Opportunities to engage with WCL during Agriculture Bill process, keeping an eye on Scotland's position in this.</p>	<p><b>April to October:</b></p> <p>The key development is the S Government Food and Farming Production Future Policy Group, announced in June Highland Show, on which LINK CO sits, with RSPB, Soil Association, among others. One meeting has been held. The Subgroup's main focus is feeding into these reps.</p> <p>LINK CO also sits on the Farming 1.5 enquiry sponsored by Nourish and NFUS. This group is getting beyond technical efficiency to the bigger changes needed that are more difficult.</p> <p>There is a new Govt directorate, Sustainable Land Use and Rural Policy, headed by Andrew Scott, to bring forward policies.</p> <p>The Subgroup is involved in an SNH-led project on <i>Preparing the Evidence Base for Post-Brexit Agriculture in Scotland – Case studies on alternative payments</i>. Anna Brand, now left RSPB, was on the steering group. The project aims to analyse the financial situation and public goods delivery of case study farms in each farming sector under both current and future policy and funding scenarios. LINK &amp; RSPB have contributed to the funding of it. We hope this research will show that farmers and crofters can earn comparable amounts of money under a new policy, but will be doing so in exchange for enhanced delivery of environmental public goods. This should provide a robust argument for a public money for public goods approach also being able to underpin farm viability and farmers' livelihoods, while enhancing environmental outcomes.</p> <p>The subgroup put down a marker on the convergence funding for agriculture that is coming back to Scotland. The aim is to write an open letter, published in the media, detailing how we think that money is best spent, given the climate and nature emergencies. For publication mid-October.</p> <p><b>October – March update:</b></p> <p><b>Agriculture Bill</b> : LINK <u>written</u> and oral evidence at Stage 1 – coordinated among members, wide sign up. Committee report suggested changes substantially in line with these asks. Follow up has been meeting with relevant SPAD to explore Stage 2 options from Government side. Also exploring amendments from opposition side.</p> <p><b>Convergence funding:</b> Briefing on the use of £160m (that Scottish Government secured as previously due money for Scottish agriculture) for use on public goods and environmental measures. Also sent a parliamentary briefing on this.</p> <p>First tranche of £80m not spent according to these or similar principles; second tranche unlikely.</p> <p><b>Agriculture Transformation Fund:</b> Current work in progress – exploring uses for the Agriculture Transformation Fund to help reduce absolute emissions on farms (versus relative).</p> <p>CO has represented LINK members on the Scot Govt-created stakeholder group 'Farming &amp; Food Production Future Policy Group</p>

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							(FFP-FPG)', for which this group have been the main group briefing Deborah.
<b>Hilltracks Group</b>	<p>In Sept 18 we published a report which evaluated the success of the prior notification system, based on 3 years of monitoring planning authority websites and engaging with stakeholders. Our activities over the following period have been focussed around discussing this report with other stakeholders and building support for our recommendations.</p>	<p>Strategy depends to some extent on outcome of A Wightman MSP's Stage 3 amendment to the Planning Bill. If successful, the outcome of the amendment would require some monitoring of delivery in future legislation and activities associated with that. If not will pursue our concerns to a forthcoming review of GPDO which the government will be carrying out in late 2019.</p> <p>We need to consider other issues around penetration of landscape by unsightly tracks of various types [wind farms, transmission lines, hydro schemes] and wish to meet with other LINK members and selected externals to inform strategy for action in future. This would involve an assessment of capacity to engage, resources needed, bodies to engage with, and the advocacy around the forthcoming publication of our Recommendations.</p> <p>Should the current campaign not be ultimately successful then our Recommendations (2 Annexes - dealing with improving the current system of prior notification and issues relating to track construction, including those within the planning system) will be used for advocacy in order to effect desirable changes.</p>	<p>Co-leaders Helen Todd &amp; Beryl Leatherland.</p> <p>Members: NEMT, APRS, SCNP, JMT, NTS, BSCG, RS, SWLG, RSPB, CC</p>	<p>If support is needed this should be requested by March (or further ahead in the case of the GPDR review)</p>	<p>Relevant to Planning Group and Land Group (via Land use/reform/landscape sub groups)</p>	<p>Politicians, national parks, SG officials, SNH, other organisations outside the LINK network [Mountaineering Scotland, JMT], "opponents" [these can be useful], the general public and the hill-going public, various media as appropriate and as opportunities arise etc</p> <p>We have no definite plans at this stage. We have maintained good relationships with all the above and will endeavour to continue to do so.</p>	<p><b>April to October update:</b></p> <p>Following publication of our <a href="#">report</a> (Sept 2018) and extensive media coverage, an amendment to stage 2 of the Planning Bill was tabled by Andy Wightman MSP on 31 Oct. This wasn't successful but led to further publicity for the campaign, mainly led by the Scot Green Party, &amp; a commitment by Andy to table another similar amendment at stage 3, again unsuccessful.</p> <p>The minister advised at both stage 2 and 3 debates that the review of permitted development rights which would follow the passage of the bill was a more suitable option to discuss hilltracks regulation. As a result several actions have been progressed:</p> <p>We shared Annex 1 with Andy Wightman and met him to discuss our future options and to ensure we still have his support [we do!]</p> <p>The Annex was shared with David Reekie (SG Planning Dept) and a meeting arranged, which gave a few pointers for future action.</p> <p>Relevant local authority planning authorities have been communicated with, sent Annex 1 and offered a meeting – no success as yet, not even with planners with whom we have some level of engagement, but we may seek to engage with specific LAs at the permitted development review. National Park authorities were sent report.</p> <p>The Revive Coalition Conference in August gave an opportunity to raise the profile of Hilltracks further. Helen &amp; Beryl gave a presentation &amp; responded to questions as part of a panel. There was a great deal of interest in issues around Hilltracks &amp; estates.</p> <p>Subsequent to 2018 report <i>Changing Tracks</i>, we produced two annexes; Annex 1 illustrating the problems &amp; deficiencies of the Prior Notification process &amp; Annex 2 recommending alternative procedures &amp; approaches. Annex 1 was widely circulated but we will reserve Annex 2 to use as an advocacy tool during the PD review process. All Subgroup member have signed up to both Annexes.</p> <p>Continuing to carry out limited monitoring of planning authority websites &amp; respond to members of the public. This activity helps to contribute to maintenance of our case history records.</p> <p><b>October – March update:</b></p> <p>Steering group (RS, SWLG, JMT, NEMT) met in November to discuss future plans for the group, this fed into our updated advocacy plan and other actions arising from that.</p> <p>In November the group <a href="#">wrote to Planning Minister</a>, Kevin Stewart MSP, asking for a meeting. This was subsequently turned down.</p> <p>Beryl and Helen &amp; RSPB met with Scot Govt planners in December to discuss forthcoming PDR review and Hilltracks consultation. Resulted in submission of a LINK Hilltracks <a href="#">response to PDR review</a> setting out our position to feed into subsequent hilltracks consultation.</p>

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							<p>In February Beryl and Helen attended Landscape group liaison meeting with Simon Brooks of SNH and updated him on hilltracks campaign to ensure he understood the context for PDR review/our position.</p> <p>In March, we congratulated CNPA on the success of an appeal regarding an illegal hilltrack in Glen Clova. We previously sent out a <a href="#">press statement</a> in December at the start of the appeal and then in March published a <a href="#">press release</a> on the result, both of which were widely picked up in the press. It is important to keep this issue in the public domain as this is the reason why the government has committed to a consultation on track PDRs.</p> <p><b>Ongoing</b> – we are continuing to monitor planning authorities in the major areas where tracks are an issue to maintain an overview of the situation and respond to any particularly troubling cases.</p>
Landscape Group		<p>Consider how best to review and promote the Landscape and Wind Energy Statement of 2016 in a suitable context.</p> <p>SNH will organise a half-day workshop to bring MBs and renewable industry reps together to improve mutual understanding and explore common ground in planning for further development of the sector.</p> <p>We have contributed to development of the wider Scottish Landscape Alliance (launch 25/4), to promote landscape interests and raise profile and importance of and commitment to Scottish landscapes. We will evaluate how useful it might be after the launch and formation of its working groups, and consider how we take forward actions and advocacy with them.</p> <p>This is a problem area as several SG areas of interest and policy are relevant and we are aware that maintaining momentum is crucial: LUS, mooted Vision for the Uplands, moorland management, grouse issues, importance to health, tourism, culture, recreation.</p>	<p>Leader: John Thomson Depute: Beryl Leatherland, Members: APRS, NTS, RS, SCNP, SWLG, JMT, CC, NEMT,, Bob Aitken Hon fellow participates</p>	<p>President could support advocacy. No staff support needed yet, but we may need some support from Advocacy team and officers on a consultation basis, not ongoing</p>	<p>Relevant LINK Groups are Land and Planning, together with the Land Use Subgroup, which also has landscape policy within its brief</p>	<p>Allies: SNH Landscape Institute Scotland (LIS) In future, links with the EEB and IUCN may be appropriate but not ready at this stage. We are aware of a need to be better informed on the landscape and related work and initiatives undertaken by these groups, some feedback from GB interests at the IUCN could be very helpful especially in the short term.</p>	<p><b>April to October</b></p> <p>Very much a work in progress at this stage. With the support and participation of our SNH contact Brendan Turvey, we tried to set up a workshop with Scottish Renewables to explore the extent of common ground on renewable energy development ahead of NPF4, but were rebuffed.</p> <p>We are contributing to the Scottish Landscape Alliance and will evaluate how useful this might be after the launch planned for spring 2020. In the meantime, all members are active across the three Working Groups and we have at least one representative in each.</p> <p><b>Ahead:</b> Scottish Landscape Alliance major event is planned for Spring 2020.</p> <p><b>October – March update:</b></p> <p>With most of the activity on landscape policy being taken forward, with wider participation beyond LINK, in the Scottish Landscape Alliance, the group has opted largely to observe from the sidelines. The February meeting did, however, undertake an extensive tour d’horizon with our SNH contact, Simon Brooks. This allowed members to discuss the opportunities and threats for landscape interests inherent in the current policy flux, which is driven by a combination of Brexit and the climate and biodiversity emergencies. Although the current Covid-19 crisis has for now largely stalled the relevant policy debates, this discussion has helped to alert members to the need to engage and contribute when they resume and to prime them on some key issues. Once again, the SLA may prove to be the key vehicle for garnering wider support and securing attention for these views.</p> <p>The convener maintained contact with Brendan Turvey at SNH with a view to establishing a dialogue with the renewable energy sector over the future expansion of renewable generation in Scotland, and especially onshore wind. Despite Brendan’s best efforts, however, this effort has yet to bear fruit – essentially due to a regrettable reluctance on the industry’s part to cooperate in a quest for common ground.</p>

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							Members of the group participated in the LINK NPF4 workshop/preparation for a LINK submission to the call for ideas on 12/03/20 and a small group [JMT, NTS, SWLG] liaised over a contribution to this on landscape concerns and asks.
<p><b>Land Reform &amp; Land Use Group</b></p> <p>Vision: taking a bigger look at these issues in the round</p>	<p><b>Objectives:</b> Get SG to deliver Policy 7 and Proposal 1 of the LUS - support establishment of regional partnerships and roll out of regional land use frameworks</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To ensure that environmental interests and goals receive adequate attention in the implementation and further development of the land reform agenda.</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To ensure that landscape interests and goals are adequately recognised in the development of land use thinking and policy, both within LINK and more widely, and are integral to any approaches proposed.</p>	<p><b>Land Use Strategy:</b></p> <p>Will pursue contact established with Katriona Carmichael, who is organising a meeting with Welsh reps with experience of taking forward regional land use partnerships.</p> <p>Difficult to predict outcome but LINK members will pursue work programme which brings together action and proposals developed previously across several Groups &amp; Sub-Groups, including Food and Farming, Landscape, &amp; the Planning Group, as well as the Land Use Subgroup. Ideally it will involve both some regional rolling-out of the LUS and some more localised “pathfinder” projects, all designed to illuminate and illustrate during the “transition” period to a post –Brexit regime how a more environmentally benign land use policy might operate.</p> <p><b>Land Reform:</b> The Subgroup debated the Land Reform Commissions on land ownership concentration at its March 2019 meeting, considering how far its possible for LINK to take a collective view, as opposed to individual members, not resolved. There are some issues for landowning bodies to discuss between themselves, which they will do. Land management is of interest to all. Within the next few months the recommendation is for a bigger LINK discussion around land reform questions on the back of the report. Some analysis of the report is needed first. May require development of a more explicit plan for promoting and defending MB interests. Not clear how much joint effort is needed. Likely to focus on positive elements of the SLC report, than the potentially more problematic (eg mgt of NGO land holdings). The Subgroup will meet Hamish Trench and also MSPs.</p>	<p>Leader: John Thomson</p> <p>Composition of Subgroup will vary with the topic(s) under discussion (Key contributors on land reform are RSPB, NTS, WTS, APRS, SCNP, RS, SAGS; on LUS same plus Buglife, Plantlife &amp; SWT; &amp; on landscape APRS, NTS, SCNP, SWLG.</p>	<p>Ongoing involvement of AM on the advocacy aspects.</p>	<p>The Subgroup reports to the Land Group.</p> <p>Planning and Governance Groups may also be consulted as required.</p> <p>Any work in the field of land value taxation would involve collaboration with the Economics Group.</p>	<p>Targets: Scottish Government, MSPs and Holyrood Committees. Land Commission, SEPA, SNH, NFUS, SLE, potentially Crown Estate Scotland.</p> <p>Allies: The other organisations involved in the stakeholder meeting are all potentially valuable allies, and include bodies such as SLE, who have in the recent past worked constructively with us in this broad field.</p> <p>Ongoing liaison over emerging plans for post-Brexit policy in other parts of the UK will be valuable. The stakeholder meeting highlighted in particular the lessons that could usefully be learned from current practice and emerging thinking in Wales.</p>	<p><b>April to October update</b></p> <p><b>Land reform:</b> The Subgroup considered &amp; prepared a response to the Scottish Land Commission’s report on the Scale &amp; Concentration of land ownership, which supported many of its recommendations but countered accusations of poor community engagement on the part of eNGO landowners. It is still too early to say how effective these representations have been in influencing future SG policy &amp; legislative proposals.</p> <p><b>Land Use Strategy:</b> After a lengthy period of inactivity on SG’s part, the Subgroup urged Ministers to include a commitment to rolling out Regional Land Use Frameworks in the Prog for Govt &amp; was delighted when it appeared in it. At its September meeting it developed ideas for pushing the agenda forward, which it is now pursuing with the Land Commission &amp; SG. A definite success – as far as it goes.</p> <p><b>Landscape policy:</b> The Sub-Group noted and was kept informed of progress in establishing and taking forward the work of the Scottish Landscape Alliance (launched on 25th April).</p> <p>Members of the Subgroup met ScotGov officials responsible for the Land Reform agenda on 24th June for an update on progress, including the guidance issued on community engagement. They also took the opportunity to underline the need to link the land reform and Land Use Strategy agendas, which have been brought together within the ScotGov staffing structure but have yet to be adequately aligned in practice.</p> <p>John and Deborah met Hamish Trench, CEO Scot Land Commission, on 8/4 to discuss the SLC’s current work programme, relay feedback on the Scale and Concentration of Landownership report &amp; press for co-operation in pursuing roll-out of the Land Use Strategy; an encouraging exchange, revealing considerable common ground &amp; highlighting the scope for further collaboration.</p> <p><b>Ahead:</b> The Subgroup will organise a workshop to bring together those with experience of and ideas about on-the-ground indicative land use planning and integrated land management with a view to influencing ScotGov thinking about the implementation of the commitment in the PFG. Hamish Trench has indicated that the Land Commission could well be interested in co-operating in arranging and resourcing such an event. Also updating LUS briefing.</p> <p><b>October – March update:</b></p> <p>We have maintained close liaison with Hamish Trench and the Land Commission now that they have been tasked by SG with advising them on the way forward on Regional Land Use Planning. We issued a <a href="#">briefing note</a> on RLUP to LINK members and are currently developing our own thinking to input to the Land Commission exercise. Group will</p>

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							discuss 9 April how far we can identify a consensus on some of the key issues. Ahead meeting in April with the new SG lead on land reform, (Philip Whyte). A Friends of the Scotsman blog on land use was <a href="#">published</a> in Jan.
<p><b>Wildlife Group</b></p> <p>Vision: Scotland's natural heritage (land &amp; sea) is complete in its diversity, with fully functioning ecosystems &amp; resilient to accelerated environmental change.</p>	<p><b>Species Champions</b> (relevant to all groups) - Liaise with member organisations to determine the priorities for the initiative going forward, to look ahead towards biodiversity target deadlines and to integrate species champions more across the board, eg with the Environment Act campaign and Climate Change bill as it makes its way through parliament. Also have the Species Champion Initiative more involved with the Scottish Youth Parliament and look at sustained funding for the co-ordinator role.</p> <p><b>Biodiversity post 2020</b> (relevant to Marine group) - Subgroup to think about what we would like to see for the post 2020 target route map, with a focus placed on the NEN being the framework. Start discussions with key advocacy targets (ie SNH).</p> <p><b>NEN/Protected Areas</b> (relevant to Land, Planning and Marine Groups)- Create a conceptual map to help visualise the NEN and incorporate the NEN into different sectors, policy areas and bills/acts going through Parliament. Paper to be finalised and submitted on what the NEN is due April. Parliamentary event sponsored by Claudia Beamish MSP for 25 June.</p> <p><b>Climate Change</b> (relevant to all groups) - The LINK/WWF report Scotland's Nature on Red Alert published January to influence the Climate Change Bill has been the basis of discussions with various Species Champions MSPs about how they can support that work, and they are keen.</p>	<p>Leaders: Craig Macadam, Paul Walton RSPB. VC Alistair Whyte.</p> <p>Buglife, Plantlife, RSPB, SWT, ARC, NTS, WTS, Froglife, WDC, RZSS, Scottish Badgers, MCS</p>	<p>Support from: 3-day Species Champions Coordinator</p> <p>Support from Advocacy Officer on secretariat and advocacy</p> <p>Several HFs on mailing list and Subgroup engages with them as necessary on issues.</p>	<p>Species Champions – across the range of LINK groups and subgroups, in support of our asks</p> <p>NEN - Land, Planning and Marine Groups</p>	<p>Audiences: Scottish Government, MSPs, SNH, SEPA.</p> <p>Allies: LINK members, Species Champion MSPs, LBAP officers(?)</p> <p>Species Champions initiative is being operated in Wales and England. We regularly keep an eye on UK (English) initiatives to see how they might interact with our work in Scotland. An example is Michael Gove's plan for a Nature Recovery Network in England and the parallels with the NEN.</p>	<p><b>April to October update:</b></p> <p>At its last meeting the Subgroup reviewed advocacy priorities in the next 6 - 12 months which are: National Ecological Network (NEN), including work on Protected Areas, Climate Change/Biodiversity Strategy for 2020 and beyond, Biodiversity Route Map and Species Champion initiative.</p> <p>A short life working group for the Climate Bill steered Climate Bill advocacy. In late 2018 members agreed to form a smaller Wildlife Advocacy Working group so immediate priorities could be met timely. WAW first met in May 2019 &amp; then every 3 weeks over Zoom.</p> <p>Progress:</p> <p>Biodiversity: National Ecological Network (NEN): The Subgroup with support from the Advocacy team organised a NEN roundtable event at the parliament 25/6, Nature Connections hosted by Claudia Beamish, the <a href="#">event</a> looked at current examples of ecological network in practice and academia. This was followed by a meeting between Claudia and staff, to discuss next steps on the LINK NEN advocacy WAW is steering development of a public facing NEN resource which will be contracted out to Scottish Big Picture, for which a DPF bid was submitted.</p> <p>LINK supported the launch of the <b>State of Nature report</b> on social media. The <a href="#">Scottish publication</a> was supported by DPF funds. Lewis MacDonald MSP was asked to lodge a motion on the publication of the SoN report. The production of the report was a key step in winning SNH (in effect SGovt) sign-up to the State of Nature Report for the first time (previous SoN reports were produced in 2013 and 2016).</p> <p><b>Climate Change Bill:</b> LINK gave evidence to ECCLR on Stage 2 and MSPs briefings for LINK amendments were produced at Stage2 and Stage 3 of the Bill.</p> <p><b>Species Champion:</b> A review of the initiative was conducted among MBs involved with constructive feedback on what's working and what needs to be improved, including the need for better communication among LINK, member bodies and MSPs, more structure in forward planning and more guidance on Champions' engagement, especially as they are increasingly being used in LINK-wide advocacy. From this, a set of project aims, and metrics were produced, the protocol document refreshed and a new document "Making the most out of your Species Champions" produced.</p> <p>Several new Champions joined the initiative over the summer, making the total now 106 MSPs Championing 112 species.</p> <p>Species Champions have been engaging in LINK-wide work following on from a focus towards more targeted advocacy, including climate, wildlife crime and the Fight for Scotland's Nature Campaign. Calum Langdale, SC coordinator, left LINK in October.</p>	

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							<p><b>Ahead:</b> CBD (Beijing) and COP (Glasgow) in 2020. Staff exploring what MBs are doing for COPs will further inform the LINK actions in the coming months.</p> <p><b>October – March update:</b>            Published <u>State of Nature</u> Scotland Report, with SNH/ScotGov sign-off – this reversed the growing SG narrative that ‘nature is doing great in Scotland and that sets us apart in the UK’. We have agreed with SNH CEO that this is the ‘shared evidence base’ required by SNH management before LINK is allowed strategic engagement in developing the next SBS to 2030. This latter move has not materialised. WG is represented on the new SBS Stakeholder Engagement Group.</p> <p>Promoted LINK engagement and core involvement in CBD Thematic Workshop planned for RBGE in April – negotiated a weekend of LINK-led events utilising all Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) venues. COVID19 has derailed these plans -but RBGE has agreed to reschedule in the summer to feed into COP 26 (which now has been postponed to 2020).</p> <p>Promoted NEN – produced <u>LINK briefing</u>, attended and contributed to ESCOM NEN conference (March) as a follow-up to the LINK NEN Parliament event which took place in 2019.</p> <p>Contributed to internal LINK Fight for Scotland Nature, Nature Based Solution Workshop 16 Jan.</p> <p>Contributed to internal LINK NPF4 workshop 12 March.</p> <p>Contributed to internal LINK Land Group meeting 12 March.</p> <p><b>Species champion initiative-</b> Juliet Caldwell joined the staff team as SC coordinator on 20 January.</p> <p>Members’ business debate led by John Finnie MSP was held the Scottish Parliament 15 January to discuss the importance of Scotland’s wetlands as sites of important biodiversity. All nine MSPs who participated in the debate were Species Champions.</p> <p>Gillian Martin MSP, Species Champion for yew tree and grey seal with WTS &amp; WDC, lodged a motion in celebration of World Wildlife Day on 3 March. The motion highlights the importance of this year’s theme ‘Sustaining all Life on Earth’ which encompasses all wild animal and plant species as key components of biodiversity.</p> <p>Kate Forbes MSP, Species Champion for the otter with SWT, visited the International Otter Survival Fund in Broadford on the Isle of Skye in February to learn more about otters and the threats they face. KF was accompanied by members of the Ullapool Sea Savers, including their otter ambassador Poppy, as well as representatives of SWT.</p>

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	<p><b>Wildlife Crime Group</b></p> <p>1) Considering the response from the Police Scotland lead on Wildlife Crime, Det. Chief Supt Mclean, on questions raised at the February 2019 meeting (still awaited)</p> <p>2) Supporting the new PAW PDG (Priority Development Group) for badgers, and encouraging both BCT and SWBG to push for similar PDGs for bats and beavers</p> <p>3) Working towards the proposed LINK round table on Advocacy on Wildlife Crime Prevention, planned for September 2019</p> <p>4) Co-ordinating action on wildlife crime amongst the various relevant Species Champions, i.e. MSPs for badgers, beavers, bats and freshwater pearl mussels</p>		<p>Leader: Eddie Palmer. Liz Ferrell from Summer 2019.</p> <p>Members: RSPB, Scottish Badgers, Bat Conservation Trust, SRSG, SWLG, SCRA, WDC, SWBG.</p>	<p>Subgroup keeps in touch with Advocacy Manager over advocacy strategy</p> <p>Otherwise not expected to have to involve any LINK staff</p>		<p>Scope to work at UK level not known, as Scotland is ahead of rest of UK in wildlife crime reporting</p>	<p><b>April to October update:</b></p> <p>MBs continued to build relationships with MSP Species Champions. All MSPs were invited to a LINK Parliamentary event 1 Oct Wildlife Crime Prevention: (1999-2019) a 20-year review. Several SCs have engaged where they attend meetings, pledge support, speak up in Parliament, undertake site visits and engage in LINK campaigns.</p> <p>Collaborative working with the National Wildlife Crime Unit: MBs participated in its 'Undisturbed' campaign to raise awareness amongst the public, wildlife waters and photographers of the risks and dangers to disturbing wildlife. WDC and BCT involved in campaign to varying degrees through tweets and media campaigns.</p> <p>Seeking collaborative working with Scottish Sentencing Council: The SCS are producing an environmental and wildlife crime sentencing guideline. Subgroup drafted a letter to Stephen O'Rourke QC offering assistance in the production of these guidelines in line with the business plan. We understand that the SCC will undertake a public consultation on a draft guideline, we hope it useful to offer our input early.</p> <p>Organisation of Parliamentary roundtable event: Subgroup successfully organised the event Wildlife Crime Prevention: (1999-2019) a 20-year review for 1 October. MSPs, Parliament officials, SNH and NGOs briefed on wildlife crime issues, the challenges and barriers in effectively reducing and preventing wildlife crime in Scotland as well as exploring the potential solutions with minuted actions to take forward in the coming months. MSPs used information communicated with them at this roundtable event to create questions and discussion during the evidence session (10 December) around the stage 1 Animal and Wildlife Bill.</p> <p>LINK responded to Alison Johnstone's Consultation on the Proposed Protection and Conservation of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Bill; and the Consultation on Wildlife Crime Penalties Review.</p> <p><b>Ahead:</b> Subgroup drafted 2 year plan with agreement from all its members to be obtained during January 2020 meeting.</p> <p><b>October – March update:</b></p> <p>Organised <u>the event</u> at the Scottish Parliament on 1 October: "Wildlife Crime: (1999-2019) a 20-year review", this roundtable was hosted by Colin Smyth, MSP. The aim was to give a platform to Environment NGOs and Police Scotland to share their perspectives on current issues around wildlife crime and exploring solutions to help reduce such crime. The roundtable fulfilled its aims of bringing together stakeholders from different sectors: MSPs, eNGOs and SGovt officials to share examples of current challenges and successes. The event also succeeded in its aim of providing a platform to discuss learning from LINK members' experience of engaging in wildlife crime and exploring potential solutions in addressing some of the identified challenges.</p> <p><u>Responded</u> to Animals and Wildlife (Penalties, Protections and Powers) (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1 Call for Evidence. Members of the</p>

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							<p>ECCLR Committee are clear on the LINK standpoint and have received a united singular voice response using evidence-based approach to arguments from the WCG.</p> <p>In December Group Members input to the ECCLR committee's evidence session, taking questions from MSPs. This further emphasised the LINK response that more stringent sentencing, including unlimited fines for more serious wildlife crime offences, are included within the bill. Committee members were <u>well briefed</u> on our evidence base for the proposed inclusions within the bill. All of our LINK asks were included within the stage 1 report from the committee.</p> <p>In Feb, RSPB led on the production of a letter to be sent to the Cabinet Secretary responding to the Grouse Moor Management Review. It highlights our support for many of the recommendations but also highlights some recommendations we do not agree with. This letter has not been sent yet due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Due to the Covid-19 outbreak, the group are re-assessing timelines for work and reviewing priorities in workload at this time.</p> <p>We <u>responded</u> to the ECCLR evidence session on the 2017 Scottish Governments Annual Wildlife Crime Report. Committee members are aware of LINK's standpoint.</p>
	<p><b>Woodland Group</b></p> <p>Next focus of work is the Implementation and Monitoring Framework of the Forestry Strategy between now and Spring 2020.</p> <p>There will be a stakeholder group which LINK would like 2 or 3 NGO places.</p> <p>Two new executive agencies of the Scottish Government deliver forestry and land management functions:</p> <p>Scottish Forestry, which is responsible for regulatory, policy, support and grant-giving forestry functions; and</p> <p>Forestry and Land Scotland, which is responsible for managing the Scottish Ministers' land known as the National Forest Estate.</p> <p>Both will have work plans that will be consulted upon. Woodlands will liaise with the Forest Policy Group, to look at what all want to see in the implementation strategy</p>	<p>Leader: Charles Dundas WTS.</p> <p>Depute: Sian Williams RSPB</p> <p>Members: WTS, TfL, RSPB, Plantlife, BCS, NTS, SWT</p>	None			<p>Scottish Forestry, Forestry and Land Scotland, Scottish Government, SLE, NFUS. Forest Policy Group.</p> <p>Our concerns are domestic to Scotland.</p>	<p><b>April to October update:</b></p> <p>Forestry Act came into force 1 April.</p> <p>Forest &amp; Land Scotland, the successor to Forest Enterprise, consulted on its corporate plan, unsatisfactory and we submitted a forthright response. Expect a consultation on the plan for the policy and regulatory side soon along similar lines, Its CEO, Jo O Hara will step down at Christmas. The Forestry strategy came into effect on 1 April, minus the action plan and monitoring framework. These are due to be in place by 1 April 2020. This will contain the detail. The first Stakeholder reference group was held during the summer (V Swales attended). It is a blank sheet. MBs have been coming up with ideas and discussions will be extended to the other members of the subgroup, to get some solid and ambitious asks into it.</p> <p>Ahead: November meeting scheduled.</p> <p><b>October – March update:</b></p> <p><b>Forestry Strategy Implementation Plan</b> engagement via Scot Gov chaired Fixed-Life Stakeholder Reference Group - final plan to be published but there are actions for individual eNGOs there around things we as LINK want to see supported in practice (urban forestry, Caledonian Pinewoods and Atlantic Woodland)</p> <p>Almost agreed on <b>principles for the role of woodland expansion</b> in the nature-based solutions for nature and climate emergency. The impact of this will be: agreement between eNGOs, which will also provide a starting point and guidance for future work we have</p>

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							planned (for example a position statement) and also to help inform the work of other LINK groups where woodlands are relevant. Comment on <b>Confor's draft report</b> on commercial forestry management and biodiversity - final report to be published but we have shown engagement with Confor and willingness to communicate with the sector.
<b>Media Forum</b>	Forum for exchange of intel and experience among staff/volunteers across LINK network who deal with media. Builds capacity & aims to influence agenda.	Forum has not met for over a year.	Around 18 MBs The intention is that leadership rotates among those interested	None		Media channels, political commentators	<p><b>April to October update</b> There were no meetings. Members of the Forum helped to shape the LINK Media Training Day on 17 September. A meeting of the Forum is scheduled for 6 November. CO convening.</p> <p><b>October – March update:</b> CO convened the November meeting which some members attended, to take forward some of the ideas. Capacity is an issue. LINK blog editorial board established involves AM, CO and trustee Kevin Lelland.</p>
<b>Scottish Environment Fundraisers Forum</b>	Facilitate partnership between fundraisers in LINK to share info, experience & understanding of sources of funding for Scotland's environment.	<p>Meetings are quarterly, normally with one or two external speakers per meeting from statutory, lottery, Trust, corporate streams, as well as some who can offer fundraising advice, information and support.</p> <p>All MBs with staff with fundraising responsibilities are welcome to participate.</p> <p>Continue to provide funders with opportunity to engage with whole sector rather than individual charities by attending SEFF meetings, therefore reaching a wider cross section of general funding streams and increasing ENGO advocacy opportunities for the environment and for environmental funding.</p> <p>SEFF has commissioned a video (<i>This is Scotland</i>) to take forward the findings of the funders' report <i>Where the Green Grants Went Scotland</i> and make the case for increased funding to support Scotland's environmental sector. A steering group was established to take forward advocacy strategy and comms plans.</p>	<p>Leader: Steven Gardner (SWT) Depute: Alison Connolly (RSPB) Minutes: Dianne Laing (SCAPE/AS) Varies. SWT, RSPB, WTS, WWFS, NTS, SB, Froglife, FoES, SCAPE, SAS, TFL, P,life.</p>	<p>DPF support was given towards the video in 2018.</p> <p>Possible support in coordinating the launch and further distribution of the film.</p>		Scottish funding bodies (Trusts & Foundations), UK Charitable Trusts, Scottish Government, HLF, BIG, SNH.	<p><b>April to October update</b> Two meetings were held in June and September. SEFF subgroup planned the event <i>This is Scotland</i>, for 10 October where speakers from the Environmental Funders Network, National Lotteries Heritage Fund and LINK discussed the opportunities for environmental funding in Scotland, and launched the film. Attendees were from funding bodies, SNH, LINK members.</p> <p><b>Ahead:</b> A follow up discussion with SNH, EFN, NLHF and LINK.</p> <p><b>October – March update:</b> Two meetings were held.</p> <p>1) December 4th 2019 at SWY HQ Leith where Jane Cabutti from EFN discussed the WTGGW Scotland report, shared EFN's new WTGGW7 research and explained their strategy for growing funding for Scotland's environment</p> <p>2) March 4th 2020 at RZSS Edinburgh (this was a Stronger Stories workshop). This enabled SEFF to access a day of pro bono training. The invite was extended to all member organisations on the SEFF contacts list and 15 member organisations signed up to attend. An allocation from LINK DPF covered the trainer travel costs.</p> <p>The SEFF produced film – <b>This Is Scotland</b> will be at Charity Film Awards which will be broadcast on The Charity Film Awards website, Facebook and YouTube at 7pm on 21 April 2020.</p>

## LINK Work Programme 2019-20 Group reports.

<b>Work area</b>	<b>Action towards objectives: improvement of national policy and implementation; improved capacity of network to contribute; &amp; effective network.</b>	<b>Specific tasks, targets, timings and indicators of progress where provided</b>	<b>Leadership and support</b>	<b>Staff roles/ Funding</b>	<b>Integration within LINK</b>	<b>Wider allies and liaison</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<p><b>Network meetings 2019</b></p> <p><b>AGM 2018</b></p> <p><b>AGM 2019</b></p>	<p>2 p.a. 9 May &amp; 12 December, updating between members, Groups, Subgroups; horizon scanning aided by PSRs; review priorities; evaluate effort, integration; sometimes with theme.</p> <p>Final prep and circulation of papers for: December 2018- Elect trustees, appoint President &amp; HFs, present annual report &amp; accounts, ratify subscriptions proposal</p> <p>Determine date, advance prep, rotation, appointments.</p>		<p>CO with input from Chair and other staff</p> <p>CO &amp; FOM, with Treas &amp; Chair</p> <p>Ditto</p>	<p>Various in the preparation</p>	<p>Across the range of work</p> <p>Part of annual gathering</p>	<p>Occ. invited audience.</p> <p>AGM open to members</p>	<p>The May meeting was well attended and included sessions to input to the next Corporate Strategy, and planning for the next 1-3 years by Groups and Subgroups.</p> <p><b>October – March update:</b></p> <p>The 12 December meeting focussed on the new LINK strategy, on horizon scanning, and on developing the forward work plans of groups.</p> <p>The AGM held directly afterwards elected new trustees, Honorary Fellows and ratified subscriptions.</p>
<b>Dialogue with LINK Member Bodies</b>	Re-start fresh dialogue from Mid-2019, to inform future LINK strategy (new strategy due mid-2020) and to ensure members' satisfaction and engagement are understood and concerns are being addressed.	Board dialogue, coordinated by Chief Officer. Incoming CO offering all members an initial meeting Feb/March/April.	CO		Aim is contact with every member body over the year of dialogue		<p>Deborah continued her programme of meetings with members over the period, the findings have fed into the new LINK Strategy.</p> <p>Further meetings held by CO with MBs.</p> <p>New strategy launched on 6 March. A very well attended event with MBs and partners.</p>
<b>Congress 2019</b>	Determine date and theme for annual event for building community among member bodies and informing network on issues of overarching interest.		DO with steering group of trustees	Delivered by staff.	Theme stems from key priorities.	Externals invited as relevant to theme.	<p>Congress 17 September was on the theme of Storytelling. The sold out afternoon training session included a keynote speech from Matt Locke, Storythings on Storytelling; followed by workshops on storytelling (Matt &amp; Deborah), films on phones (Catherine Gemmell, MCS), budget social media campaigning (Rebecca Curtis Moss, FoES) &amp; traditional media (Alan McCombes JMT) Over 50 members came to the evening session for dinner and speed talks on successful storytelling on Climate (Mike Robinson), Economics (Matthew Crighton), Marine Litter (Catherine Gemmell) Access/social justice (Helen Todd), followed by general discussion.</p> <p>No plans made yet for Congress 2020.</p>
<b>Fundraising</b>	Ongoing overview and planning for future of core enterprise and of key projects.	Overview via Funding Subgroup for core. CO and DO maintain overview of project needs. Fundraising is ongoing for Marine and ERCS. Reporting to funders.	Several staff & group leads				<p>SNH and SG funding the same rate as last year. SG element confirmed July. Meetings held with SG to discuss future core funding, verbal assurance Feb from SNH and SG for 20/21. Success with application for ERCS to JRCT and a private donor.</p> <p>Applications for Marine and Species Champions posts submitted, unsuccessful.</p> <p>Meetings held with Foundations (WGF, JRCT, EFF) on progress and future funding.</p> <p>Reports prepared etc</p> <p>Discussions held with EFN for a Marine Funders event in Scotland later 2020.</p>

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							CO led discussions between SNH, NHLF, EFN and LINK following up October 2019 meeting with funders.
<b>Workshops</b> on topics prioritised by members and/or Board	Scope views on where collective work can address gaps identified by strategic planning. Keep watching brief for topics needing 'work-shopped' and add these to plan as agreed.	Land has identified need for wider meeting on Scottish Land Commission's March report.	Staff organise & pursue as resources allow	Delivered by staff with Group leads.	Open to all members	Topic specific, and for organisers to determine	Circular economy workshop held in September to which members and allies invited. CE Framing training November Workshops held on nature targets (16 January), NPF 4 consultation response (12 March), Freedom of Information training (10 March). SEFF training (4 March).
<b>LINK Receptions 2019</b>	With audiences across the sectors to celebrate work in which we are all involved, providing networking and soft lobbying opportunities.	Scottish Environment Reception in Parliament – Date 5 June. Festive Reception December 2019 – Date 12 December.	AOA & DO	Sponsorship & organisation	Open to all members	Relationship - building	Well attended Environment Reception on 5 June on theme of citizen science, sponsored by SEPA, included handover of FFSN materials to Minister by school children. <b>October – March update:</b> Festive reception following the AGM on 12 December, many members and guests. Election day so no MSPs. Included a send of for Joyce as President. Breakfast networking event held 6 March in Edinburgh to launch the new strategy. Well attended by members and partners. May 2020 reception has been postponed due to Covid 19. SPEN, the sponsors, are keen to be involved in it next year.
<b>Strategic liaison</b>	Board / President level development of relationships with wider policy community.	Review at spring 2019 the Board's thinking on relationships to be developed/nurtured across sectors, players and key bodies	Board, Groups, Staff, with support of HFs and President as needed			Relationship-building for stronger advocacy. Strengthening ENGO profile.	CO involved in wide range of meetings with key contacts which will feed into new corporate strategy. SNH and LINK Boards meeting due 2/10. SEPA LINK meeting held 19/9. CNPA meeting held August on its Economic Strategy. <b>October – March update:</b> CO continued outreach meetings with key contacts. CO and trustees meeting with SNH CEO held 26 Nov; LINK & SNH board to board meeting held
<b>LINK's series of events in Parliament</b>	Programme of events over the year linked to priorities, supported by Advocacy Team. Addressing cross-party parliamentary audiences on issues prioritised by LINK Groups	Up to 4. Topics to be identified. Timing – across the year NEN June Circular Economy June	AOA & AM with input from others				CE event held June. NEN event 25 June. Wildlife Crime event held 1 Oct. <b>October – March update</b> CE event held 14 January.

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<b>Environment Links UK</b>	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. Also connecting with Irish Environmental Network	Federal collaboration on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brexit (via ELUK BNC &amp; Greener UK coalition)</li> <li>- Marine (via Links' marine groups)</li> <li>- Circular Economy, Climate – loosely via staff and some members</li> </ul> Directors sharing info and intel on operations, funding, protocols, political contexts	CO, AM, 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	Regular liaison between directors continued via zoom. Also see under Governance and Marine. Chair and CO attending ELUK meeting in Birmingham, October. <b>October – March update:</b> Regular calls continued. Exploring potential of a joint bid to NHF.
<b>EEB, IUCN and other international bodies</b>	Use / develop LINK use of these bodies in relation to post-Brexit needs	2 networking dinner October and November 2018 considered Scottish needs of national and international networks, post-Brexit. Actions emerging from that – to be confirmed.	CO, AM, Trustees, Fellows, President LINK delegates			Relationship-building for stronger advocacy	CO attended IUCN meeting in Rotterdam early July, and will attend November EEB meeting in Berlin. <b>October – March update:</b> CO attended November EEB meeting in Berlin. Lloyd Austin as UK Board member attended.