



Scottish
Environment
LINK

LINK BULLETIN

JULY 2026



Image by Colin Hattersley

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES



- Monday 13 July – LINK Governance Group meeting
- Monday 13 July – LINK Land Use & Landscape Group meeting
- Thursday 16 July - LINK Advocacy Training - Session 1 - Who are the new MSPs – and how to engage them?
- Wednesday 22 July – LINK Woodland Group meeting
- Tuesday 18 August – LINK member gathering in Montrose

All staff from LINK member bodies invited!
Come connect, explore Montrose's natural environment, and enjoy nature-themed films and discussion. Places are limited so [Book your FREE ticket now!](#)

HELP US IMPROVE THIS BULLETIN!



Let us know what you think of the Bulletin by answering the questions here: [FEEDBACK SURVEY ON THE MONTHLY LINK BULLETIN – Fill in form](#)

Thank you so much!

LINK NEWS UPDATES



A message from Chief Officer Deborah Long:

The hot and uncomfortable last few weeks are an interesting case of watching some politicians pretend something isn't happening when it very clearly is and acting as a brake on action. With temperatures in the south of England breaking heat records, all set within the last few years anyway, it has felt ludicrous to witness continued pointless posturing, obfuscation and delays. We must restore woodlands and support nature friendly agriculture, create Nature Networks and streamline energy policies supporting local community and household scale renewable energy generation and energy efficacy measures, for example. While the arguments continue about how difficult this all is, the irony of watching broken heat records, wildfires and a disproportionate impact on those least able to cope, is not being lost on anyone in our sector. It is frustrating to witness the doubling down on a pretence in some quarters that it is not happening. We must also double down to battle against this and wider embattled and unambitious attitudes in Government. Not least because, these are resulting in apparent inabilities to fast-track policies that enable communities and individuals to do their bit, as well as companies and businesses.

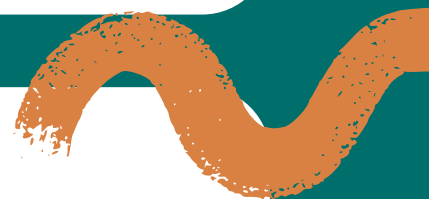


We all know, in all four-country Links, that the Governments across the UK must grasp the nettle. In Scotland this means delivering restored and enhanced biodiversity through all planning developments and supporting investment in nature restoration to rebuild the resilience of our ecosystems so they are better able to cope with extremes. As a result, we will be better able to cope with extremes too. Nature, as we all know, is fundamental to our future and it's time for the new Parliament to roll up its sleeves, work together and finally do what's needed.

We've submitted LINK suggestions for the Programme for Government, at the start of July, which will help us stay focussed and keep policy development and delivery focussed too.

LINK's Discretionary Project Fund update

The DPF pot for 2026 – 2027 currently stands at £10,530. It is currently funding bids from the Deer Group and the Wildlife Group. Your Group staff liaison can provide the Group with the form: please let the staff team know of any plans you have to bid for support as this helps us plan for demand.



OTHER UPDATES



One MSP, One Promise: A Challenge for Our New Parliament

Artist Ted Leeming has launched a call for action to every newly elected Member of the Scottish Parliament: to publicly adopt one single, tangible commitment for their term in office. The Call asks each MSP to become a personal champion for a specific cause that advances the wellbeing of people, the restoration of nature, and the long-term stewardship of our land. For more information visit [This Is The Time For Action on the exploring.place website](#).

Ted is asking every member organisation to consider making its own public pledge for this parliamentary term - a single (or more if you wish), clear commitment that reflects our shared mission. Members can also support his call for action too. Use the QR code below.





I will champion...

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ ...reversing nature loss | ☐ ...positive language for positive change |
| ☐ ...expanding environmental literacy | ☐ ...environmental justice for all |
| ☐ ...enforced nature protection (properly funded) | ☐ ...funding meaningful land reform and collaborations |
| ☐ ...collaborating across sectors and with communities | ☐ ...devolving decision-making (with trust and responsibility) |
| ☐ ...establishing a 7th generation ministry (long term thinking) | ☐ ...balancing people, planet and profit in corporate purpose |
| ☐ ...other [enter your cause] | ☐ ...ending subsidies that harm climate & nature |

To publicly commit to your answers...

Simply point your phone camera at the QR code and submit your response



LINK Advocacy Monitoring Report – alternative format

LINK can now provide an alternative format for the weekly Advocacy Monitoring Report if you are visually impaired. Please contact Rachael if you would like an accessible version of the report. Please note that it might take a few days to get the accessible version to you.



COMMS ACCROSS LINK



Our '[Protect Scotland's seas](#)' e-action, which asks people to write to their MSPs calling for the consultation on inshore marine protected areas to be launched in the first 100 days of this parliament, will be live until 7 August (although the 100 days ends later in August).

Please help us share it if you can!

[The comms pack is here, with links to a new short video.](#)



Image by Aidan McCormick | [rspb-images.com](https://www.rspb-images.com)



NATURE CHAMPIONS



Nature Champions are go!

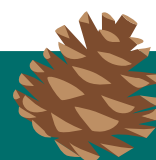
The initiative relaunched on 18th May and since then, more than 50% of the Parliament (65 MSPs) have become Nature Champions! You can follow the latest updates on the [Nature Champions webpage](#) and the [Nature Champions BlueSky](#).



This summer is all about getting Nature Champions out on visits to see their species and habitats in person and to build relationships before the Parliament is properly underway in the autumn. If you need any advice on organising site visits, then do consult the Nature Champions Guidance for LINK Members document or get in touch with Andy.



In other news, plans are moving forward for a Nature Champions group site visit in the autumn and other Parliamentary events are in the works! Find out more about what's on the horizon at the next Nature Champions drop-in session on Thursday 16th July, 3-4pm.





Over 10,000 emails have now been sent to MSPs through the Save Scottish Seas campaign to get the long-awaited inshore marine protected area management consultation launched within the first 100 days of this parliament.

Please keep sharing among your members and networks – every email is another voice that shows the Scottish Government how much people care about our seas.

- [The e-action](https://scotlink.org/100days) - <https://scotlink.org/100days>
- [Comms pack](#)
- Our latest [social media video](#)

There was a meeting of the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership on 2nd June, and later in June we received the good news that the final draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan has been approved for consultation by the Marine Directorate. Many thanks to Calum Duncan who has represented LINK on the Partnership for the last 10 years.



The Marine Group met on 16th June.

Members met with Nature Scot for a quarterly catch up on 24th June.

Liaison meetings with Our Seas coalition and the Coastal Communities Network have continued fortnightly.

The Marine Group responded to a consultation on 2 proposed Nephrops Fisheries Management Plans.

The full response is available [here](#), along with a plain English version [here](#).

Marine Group members, along with Our Seas members and the Coastal Communities Network, also wrote to the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs outlining our expectations for co-management on fisheries policy in the new parliamentary session.

The letter can be found [here](#).



A new report was published by Environmental Standards Scotland, which concludes that Scottish Ministers are failing in their legal duty to protect and restore the seabed and achieve Good Environmental Status.

This is a significant outcome and supports what the Marine Group has been saying for years.

The report and assessments can be found [here](#).

The Marine Group will be considering how to best use the outcomes of the report to support advocacy on MPAs and fisheries management.



A reminder that the [Sea Scotland](#) conference takes place on 27th October in Dundee and [sponsorship opportunities](#) are still open!



LINK OUTPUTS

Publications

Over the past month LINK has published briefings on a range of subjects:

- [LINK's response to a consultation on two proposed Fisheries Management Plans for North Sea and West Coast Nephrops](#)
- [Plain English version of LINK's response to a consultation on two proposed Fisheries Management Plans for North Sea and West Coast Nephrops](#)
- [Strengthening Delivery of the Scottish INNS Action Plan \(2026–2032\) Briefing](#)

Members only document

- [The case for natural regeneration of woodlands](#)
- [Letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs supported by LINK and Our Seas coalition members, and the Coastal Communities Network, on fisheries policy and co-management](#)
- [Response from Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs to Welcome Letter](#)
- [Response from Cabinet Secretary for Public Service Reform to Welcome Letter](#)

LINK Thinks

[Standing up for nature](#)

Press Releases

[Demonstrators demand action to restore Scotland's nature](#)



MEMBER NEWS

[John Muir Trust](#) - [Spotlight on Nevis](#) & [John Muir Trust Wild Places News - June 2026](#) & also, [shop, stay and support](#)

[Soil Association](#) - [Monthly Update](#)  and [Nature-friendly food and farming news and events from Soil Association Scotland](#)

More Pumped Storage Hydro (PSH) schemes are being consented and brought forward for consideration than ever before in the UK, predominantly in Scotland. PSH can play an important role in energy storage and the transition from fossil fuels but alongside the benefits, it is key to recognise the environmental impacts of proposals, which can be substantial.

[Buglife](#) has produced this [Planning Note](#) which highlights the key areas of impact from Pumped Storage Hydro schemes on invertebrates and provides some guidance on how these impacts can be assessed adequately.



Join Young Sea Changers Scotland for our community event of the year!

If you're 16-25, living in Scotland and interested in the sea, join other young people for a relaxed day of skill-building, advocacy planning and socialising in Edinburgh. Our annual gathering is the key moment of the year to get together IRL with the YSCS community, and an amazing opportunity to turn your passion for the underwater world into real action, with the help of the YSCS team and like-minded young people from across Scotland.

We'll hear what other members have been up to, meet a politician, take part in advocacy skills workshops, and have a chance to put our heads together to plan the next steps for youth-led ocean action.

You don't need to be an existing YSCS member to attend, we'd love to welcome new faces too!

Details: Saturday 5 September, Grassmarket Community Project Edinburgh, 10:00-16:00, Tickets sliding scale £0-£10 with support for travel costs if you need. All info, programme and get tickets via Eventbrite at: <https://bit.ly/yscs-gathering26>



YOUNG SEA CHANGERS SCOTLAND'S

Community Gathering



2026



Sat 5th Sept.

GRASSMARKET COMMUNITY
PROJECT, EDINBURGH

10am-4.30pm

Tickets sliding scale: £0 - £10

+ Support with travel costs

ACT
NOW!



Aged 16-25 in Scotland? Join us for:



Your chance to meet an MSP and ask them questions



Ocean advocacy skills workshops from experts



Connect with other like-minded young people

Book at: bit.ly/yscs-gathering26



CIEEM Fieldwork Futures: Innovations in Ecological Practice

29 September, The Studio in Glasgow

This year's Scotland Conference brings together practitioners at the forefront of ecological survey innovation to share practical guidance, real-world experience, and insights into challenges and successes.

Hear from expert speakers, including sessions on a new evidence-based approach to otter surveys aligned with NatureScot guidance, the growing role of conservation detection dogs in ecological practice, and a critical look at automated bat call classifiers and their place alongside expert analysis.

Booking link

We are pleased to be able to offer Scottish Environment LINK members an opportunity to buy a conference ticket at the CIEEM member rate.

Please contact training@cieem.net ahead of purchasing.

2026 Scotland Conference
**Fieldwork Futures:
Innovations in Ecological
Practice**

BOOKINGS OPEN

29 September | The Studio, Glasgow





OTHER NEWS

Updates from other links

Wildlife and Countryside LINK latest news including recent updates on campaigns.

Northern Ireland Environment Link news and NIEL Newsletter - June 2026

Opportunities

Scottish Forestry

Walking and Talking Farming in Woodlands: Managing pigs in a young woodland. With David Carruth of Brodoclea Woodland Farm, Dalry, Ayrshire, Thursday 23 July 10:00-13:00. Join us to explore how livestock can be integrated into existing woodlands and the range of benefits they can deliver. David will share his experience of managing 'woolly' Mangalitsa pigs within a young woodland system. He'll discuss how he integrated pigs for food production alongside wider objectives including timber, carbon sequestration and biodiversity enhancement. We'll hear about the benefits David has observed since introducing pigs and the challenges he's come up against along the way. We'll also have speakers from Scottish Forestry joining us to discuss funding and first steps to woodland creation. This event is free. Book your free place here. Find out about the Network, its hosts and useful info here.



New Tesco funding for projects supporting children and young people – Apply Now

Tesco Fruit & Veg grants is now open for applications. Schools, registered charities and not-for-profit organisations supporting children and young people can apply for up to £1,500 for projects that improve access to healthy food.

Projects can focus entirely on healthy eating (e.g. breakfast clubs, cooking projects, food growing projects or food banks) or just incorporate an element of healthy eating as part of other activities (e.g. healthy snacks as part of kids clubs, nutrition sessions as part of sports events, or incorporating some fruit trees or vegetable beds into a school garden refresh). We have some great examples of previous healthy eating projects on our website: [Tesco Fruit and Veg Grants | Greenspace Scotland](#). Here you can also find details for our team of friendly Community Enablers who can support applicants. We can also share the regions where we are currently short of applications.

You can apply via the link on our website, or directly on the Tesco Fruit and Veg grant page: [Fruit and Veg Grants - Tesco Fundraising | Tesco PLC](#). This page also has lots of additional information including the guidance notes. You can also nominate an organisation to consider applying: [Tesco Fruit and Veg for Schools Nomination Form](#). We even have a handy video showing you how to apply.



Publications

Newsletters

- [Forum for the Future of Agriculture \(ForumForAg\). Update on upcoming event on Ukraine and latest interview](#)
- [Southern Uplands Partnership \(SUP\) Newsflash: We are recruiting!](#) and [SUP Newsletter June 2026](#)
- [Seven Seas Ocean Jobs & Newsletter for June 11](#) and [Ocean Jobs & Newsletter for June 18](#) and [Ocean Jobs & Newsletter for June 25](#)
- [Save Our Seas Foundation Newsletter: Ocean Storytelling Edition](#)
- [Built Environment Forum Scotland \(BEFS\) Bulletin 399: SHEF, surveys and a BEFS vacancy!](#) and [BEFS Bulletin: 400 BEFS bulletins and counting](#)
- [Woodland Carbon Code - clarification released, cashflow annual update, HMRC tax guidance, get involved and more...](#)



IUCN UPDATES

As we move through 2026, we see partnerships and action on the ground driving conservation action across our Union and around the world. While the challenges facing nature remain significant, this month has provided reasons for optimism and renewed determination.

One of the highlights was the signing of a new Framework Partnership agreement between IUCN and the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi. This renewed partnership reflects Abu Dhabi's long-standing commitment to conservation, rooted in the UAE's heritage of stewardship and carried forward through sustained investment in science, biodiversity and international cooperation. It builds on EAD's long-standing support for IUCN, including its important contribution to the success of the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi. We are deeply grateful to the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi for its renewed commitment, which sends a strong signal of confidence in IUCN's mission and will help strengthen our work with Members, Commissions and partners to turn global ambition into measurable impact for nature.

In May, at the Monaco Blue Initiative, IUCN reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the implementation of the Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), a landmark treaty that will help safeguard marine biodiversity across nearly half of our planet. As Secretariat of the High Ambition Coalition for BBNJ, IUCN continues to work alongside governments, scientists, civil society and Indigenous Peoples to ensure that this historic agreement delivers meaningful outcomes for the ocean and future generations.



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At the end of the month, the global conservation community gathered in Samarkand for the 71st Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council meeting and GEF Assembly, where the focus was firmly on turning ambition into action, finance at scale, integrated action and stronger support for impact on the ground. From restoring landscapes and strengthening climate resilience to advancing biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, the discussions reinforced the importance of investing in nature as a foundation for human well-being.

IUCN was proud to contribute its scientific expertise and global experience while advancing new initiatives that – in collaboration with members and experts – will support countries and communities on the path to a nature-positive future. As an implementing agency, we also renewed our commitment to ensuring that global environmental finance reaches the people, communities and ecosystems where it is needed most, delivering measurable benefits for nature, climate and sustainable development.



IUCN News

- [IUCN Director General's statement on World Environment Day 2026](#)
- [IUCN to implement US\\$23 million GEF project portfolio to tackle biodiversity loss and boost climate resilience](#)
- [Climate-resilient reefs, ancient fish fossils and vast wetlands – IUCN supports five World Heritage nominations](#)
- [IUCN welcomes UN General Assembly affirmation of States' obligations to protect the climate system](#)
- [IUCN and UN Office on Drugs and Crime join forces to combat crimes that affect the environment](#)
- [New IUCN GEF grants programme is open for proposals: Calling on civil society organisations with proven environmental solutions](#)
- [Uzbekistan launches Nature4Health scoping phase to strengthen preventive One Health approaches](#)
- [Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan joins IUCN](#)
- [Celebrating World Oceans Day 2026 – Reimagine: Community-led ecosystem-based adaptation for ocean resilience](#)
- [On World Environment Day, IUCN's NAbSA initiative highlights why climate policy must catch up with women's leadership](#)
- [IUCN Mozambique leads discussions on resilience, partnerships and governance at ocean conferences in Maputo](#)
- [Launch of the Spanish Edition of a Guide for Conserving Rivers, Lakes, and Wetlands through Area-Based Conservation Approaches](#)
- [Great Blue Wall report showcases five years of impact on ocean regeneration across the Western Indian Ocean](#)
- [Advancing coastal restoration in Europe through the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions](#)
- [A tribute to Dr Robert C. Malpas](#)



Acting early against invasive alien species in Europe: IUCN Save Our Species has launched the European Invasive Alien Species Rapid-Response Fund to support early detection, rapid response and eradication efforts targeting biological invasions across Europe. [Apply now](#)

Six new projects scale up tiger conservation across Asia: Six new projects under the Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP) are strengthening habitat connectivity, restoring ecosystems and supporting coexistence between people and tigers across five Asian countries. [Read more](#)

New projects expand conservation action for Madagascar's threatened lemurs: Fourteen new projects under SOS Lemurs Phase II are expanding conservation action across Madagascar, supporting habitat restoration, species protection and community-led conservation initiatives. [Read more](#)

Read all the [latest IUCN News](#) here.



Events

Free courses offered at [IUCN Academy](#)

- [Introduction to Plastic Pollution Hotspotting Assessments](#)
- [Introduction to Mapping Biodiversity Priorities](#)
- [Introduction to Cities and Nature](#)

IUCN Academy Professional Certificates

- [Professional Certificate on Nature for Cities](#)
- [Professional Certificate on Finance for Nature](#)
- [Professional Certificate on the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions](#)

Other online learnings

- [GSAP SKILLS Online Knowledge Platform](#): Explore this one-stop-shop for conservation knowledge and action.
- Conservation training: [Birds and Power Lines](#)
- [Massive Online Open Course \(MOOC\) focused on 'Assessing tourism services in protected areas: value chain and economic analyses'](#).
- SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) trainings - [click here](#).
- IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence - [new training programme](#)

Newsletters



- [A voice for Nature #34](#)
- [Species E-Bulletin, May 2026](#)
- [Ecosystem Insider, May 2026](#)
- [IUCN WCPA Dispatch, May 2026](#)
- [PANORAMA - Solutions for a Healthy Planet update](#)
- [Common Ground: Nature, Food and Agricultural Systems](#)

Unite for Nature Issue 7 of brings the Nature 2030 Programme to life through a fresh storytelling format, highlighting the people, partnerships and practical solutions driving conservation forward. From restoring ecosystems and strengthening climate resilience to advancing action on the high seas, these stories show how collaboration across the Union is turning ambition into impact. Explore the full magazine for even more stories, insights and inspiration from across the Union using [this link](#).

Resolutions & Recommendations

From 8–18 June, the sixty-fourth sessions of the [UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Implementation \(SBI\) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice \(SBSTA\)](#) convene in Bonn. The sessions advance technical negotiations towards COP31, covering mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology, and capacity-building, including work on the Just Transition Mechanism from COP30.

This week was also marked by the [UN General Assembly high-level debate](#) on Preventing and Combating Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife and other Crimes that Affect the Environment (8 June 2026, New York), under UNGA Resolution [A/RES/80/229](#). The debate highlights the scale and complexity of environmental crimes and their impacts on security, sustainable development, and human rights.



These global discussions reflect and reinforce priorities established through IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations, including:

Resolution 8.033 – Port State measures regarding illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing calls for stronger implementation of port State controls under the FAO PSMA to combat IUU fishing as a form of environmental crime driving marine biodiversity loss and undermining ocean climate resilience. It calls for stronger enforcement, traceability, international cooperation and capacity building to stop illegal fish from entering global markets.

Resolution 8.039 – Mobilising the role of wild animals in ecosystems as a climate solution promotes recognition of wildlife as a contributor to ecosystem resilience and climate mitigation within international frameworks, including the UNFCCC, and ensuring that this science informs climate policy, NDCs and Nature-based Solutions initiatives.

Resolution 8.048 – Crimes that Affect the Environment (CAE) urges stronger global action against crimes that affect the environment, strengthened legal frameworks, engagement with UN bodies, protection for environmental defenders, and a new IUCN Strategy on CAE.

Resolution 8.138 – Welcoming the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on climate change affirms that climate change is an existential threat and that States have binding legal obligations to address it. It calls on IUCN and its members to implement the ICJ's findings through stronger climate mitigation, adaptation, and environmental assessments, linking climate action with human rights, biodiversity protection, and a just transition.



The 62nd session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC62), took place from 15 June to 7 July 2026 in Geneva, marking the 20th anniversary of the Council and featured a range of discussions and side events at the intersection of environment and human rights. Key highlights include the report on “Transforming food systems for a safe climate and health for all” ([A/HRC/62/44](#)); the report on “Agri-business, food security and human rights” ([A/HRC/62/36](#)); the addendum on “Indigenous Peoples Free, Prior and Informed Consent, Business and Human Rights” ([A/HRC/62/36/Add.2](#)); and the report on extreme poverty and human rights, incl. linkages with environmental sustainability ([A/HRC/62/42](#)).

The session also included the Annual panel discussion on climate change and human rights.

The 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress adopted several Resolutions and

Recommendations supporting these discussions, including:

Resolution 8.068 – Core human rights principles for private conservation organisations and funders calls for the adoption and implementation of the Core Human Rights Principles by private conservation organisations, funders, and IUCN Members, and requests IUCN to develop guidance, capacity-building programmes, and reporting mechanisms to strengthen rights-based approaches to conservation and climate adaptation.

Resolution 8.103 – Safeguarding biodiversity and human rights in energy transition mineral governance calls for biodiversity- and human rights-based governance of energy transition minerals, including stronger environmental safeguards, protection of ecologically and culturally significant areas, respect for Indigenous Peoples’ rights and FPIC, and inclusive, equitable decision-making.



Resolution 8.135 – Advancing biodiversity finance with a human-rights-based approach calls on IUCN, States, financial institutions, and conservation actors to ensure biodiversity finance is inclusive, equitable, and accountable by adopting human-rights-based practices, tracking and reporting financial flows, supporting Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, girls and youth, and promoting non-market-based approaches

Other

- Growing momentum: Tackling invasive alien species together
- Membership Information Guide
- IUCN Member magazine, Unite for Nature

The IUCN Europe Annual Report 2025 showcases a landmark year for the organisation, marked by the World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi and the adoption of a new long-term Strategic Vision and Programme toward 2030 and beyond. In Europe, IUCN advanced the implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation and launched the Nature-based Solutions European Hub in Bonn — further strengthening its role in bridging policy, science, and practice for impactful conservation across the region.

The achievements documented in this report reflect the collective efforts of our vibrant European network — over 400 Member organisations, thousands of Commission experts, and dedicated Secretariat teams in Bonn and Brussels.

If you would like anything included in future LINK bulletins, please contact information@scotlink.org