



LINK eBulletin - April 2010

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LINK DIARY

22 April LINK Board Meeting
22 April LINK Networking Meeting
4 May LINK-SEPA liaison meeting
22 June LINK Board meeting, LINK Networking meeting and LINK AGM
15-16 Sept Joint LINKs Seminar, Chester (more details to follow soon)

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LINK NEWS

Marine (Scotland) Bill/Act

Stage 3 of the progress of the Marine (Scotland) Bill continued into January 2010. After receiving a record response to our second joint Scottish e-action alert (kindly hosted by WWF Scotland on behalf of LINK) asking MSPs to vote in favour of a crucial amendment to the Scottish Marine Bill – 1,066 people sent 6,710 letters and emails - we are delighted to report that this amendment was voted through unanimously by MSPs at the final debate on the bill on Thursday 4 February.

Thanks to LINK lobbying the Scottish Marine Bill now includes a duty on Scottish Ministers to protect and, where appropriate, enhance the health of Scotland's seas. Taken together with other crucial duties delivered during stage 2 - including on marine planning, environmental targets in plans and a network of marine protected areas that also contributes to the UK network – and others at Stage 3 – including marine plans to state policies on the contribution of MPAs and other sites to the protection and enhancement of the plan area ie. enshrining the three-pillar approach to nature conservation - the final Marine (Scotland) Bill as passed by the Scottish Parliament contains most of the major amendments pushed for by LINK Marine taskforce.

One concern was that s.59(5) remained as amended at Stage 2 (*"In considering whether to designate an area, the Scottish Ministers may have regard to the extent to which doing so will contribute to the mitigation of climate change"*). However, this was not entirely surprising and when welcoming the Royal Assent given to create the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, the Scottish Government said the following in their press release: *"All Scottish MPA proposals will be established using science-based selection criteria, or equivalent information on features of historical importance. However, social and economic impacts will be taken into account where two or more alternative sites equally meet the scientific criteria and when making decisions concerning the management of specific sites."* (at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/03/10150214>) which was of some assurance.

The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 received Royal Assent on 10th March 2010. The consensus is that this piece of historic legislation, if robustly implemented, is a huge step forward in putting in place the tools to protect, and where appropriate, enhance the health of Scotland's seas and contains many key provisions for which LINK lobbied for.



Marine Funding - the Esmee Fairburn Foundation has confirmed that it will continue to fund our LINK's marine project jointly with the Tubney Trust. LINK is now recruiting a new member of staff to work alongside Alan Wells. Details of the post [here](#).

LINK Networking Meeting: We will shortly be sending out papers for LINK's Networking meeting on April 22nd in Perth which is open to all members and taskforce reps. We hope you will be able to participate.

LINK General Election Hustings – Badenoch and Strathspey Conservation Group are organising environmental hustings on Friday 16th April at 7.30pm at Tulla Nan Ross in Kingussie. Scottish Environment LINK and St Columba's, Crieff eco congregation are organising hustings on Thursday April 22nd from 7.00-9.00pm at St Columba's church in Crieff. All welcome. For further details and information on other environmental hustings around Scotland please see the [LINK website](#).

SNH Liaison Meeting - LINK's President and members of LINK's Board and met with Scottish Natural Heritage on 18th March. Issues discussed were new funding priorities, biodiversity, sustainable land use strategy, marine renewables and SOAs. Notes of the meeting are [here](#)

Taskforce Updates (Jan–March 2010)

Agriculture - The last three months have been dominated by activity surrounding the 'Pack review' of agricultural support and giving evidence to George Lyon MEP who is reporting on the future of the CAP. Progress with both is predictably slow and difficult but absolutely necessary.

[Future Agriculture Support Inquiry: Interim Report Response](#)

Biodiversity - The Biodiversity taskforce was represented on the SBS Action Co-ordination Group, the SBS Science Group and the Scottish Biodiversity Committee and the UK Biodiversity Reporting and Implementation Group. The Taskforce was also represented on some of the SBS ecosystem groups and on the SEL SOA group. Members of the taskforce also contributed to SNH's assessment of priority species for SBS. Several members had an informal chat with Susan Davies of SNH about the biodiversity process and how we can help to improve it.

Deer – Attended meeting with Roseanna Cunningham the Environment Minister - deer legislation on the agenda. Main priorities remain WANE Bill and deer legislation, as well as DCS/SNH merger. Correspondence also with Robbie Kernaghan of DCS regarding DCS action for capercaillie in Deeside.

Landscape - Robin Turner (NTS) represented the taskforce at LINK's Ministerial meeting, asking why Minister had declined to sign Scotland's Landscape Charter (SLC). Approval of Beauldy-Denny exercised most members of the Landscape TaskForce, but reactions were co-ordinated by BDLG rather than LTF. LTF provided mechanism for members to support MCoFS and JMT initiatives on upland vehicle tracks and wild land designation respectively.

Marine - Marine Renewables Invitations to tender to develop a LINK marine renewables advocacy document were sent to four consultants, three of whom tendered. The successful consultant was Simon Pepper who, following a telecon to clarify the remit, organised an initial workshop at LINK offices Perth attended by LINK, MCS, MCoFS, RSPB, SWT, WWF, WDCS and Tom Leatherland and circulated subsequent draft. Following discussions with key representatives in LINK, SNH, Scottish Government and Scottish Renewables. SP held another LINK workshop at The Gateway Centre, Perth attended by LINK, MCS, RSPB, SWT, WWF and WDCS and provided a final draft for fine-tuning on 29th March 2010. The consensus is that the advocacy document well meets the brief and that a good job was done by the consultant.



Marine Protected Areas Management criteria - With money available in the interim phase Marine Bill campaign budget, invitations to tender were sent to five consultants to produce a piece of work setting out criteria for MPA management that LINK can advocate with. No tenders were submitted by the deadline, although there is one interested, subject to the tender submission deadline being put back.

[Aquaculture debate briefing:](#)

Planning: After all of the Planning taskforce's input to SPP in the previous three months, the new SPP was finally published in February 2010. There was general satisfaction regarding the Sustainable Development section, although other issues still remained.

Wild land - and the planning system. This issue was brought up by Hebe (McofS). She summarised the MCoFS proposals on tackling upland vehicle tracks via a review of permitted development (PD) rights, to be the subject of a campaign to be launched on 24 February. Most of the taskforce were supportive of the campaign to review PD rights, but there was less clear consensus regarding the wider issues of wild land protection. MCoFS and JMT would keep the rest posted regarding further developments and opportunities for support.

Public Local Enquiries – JMT summarised lessons learned from the Beaulieu-Denny and Muaitheabhal Inquiries, wondering joint action was the way forward. It was hoped that the new system would prove more useful, with its emphasis on more hearings rather than adversarial inquiries.

Cairngorms National Park Local Plan - Badenoch and Strathspey Conservation Group: Gus Jones & Tessa Jones attended the PTF in February to update the task force regarding the Cairngorms National Park Local Plan (CNPLP) progress. One important issue was to what extent the CNPA was at liberty to ignore the Reporters' recommendations.

SEFF – SEFF held its regular quarterly meeting with guest speakers from HIPP & BLF

Single Outcome Agreements - Agreed goal, objectives and work plan for this new task force. Publication, press release and dissemination of report. Obtained good press coverage in Herald's focus on local authority reform. Attended SOA meeting at South Lanarkshire Council. Meeting with Audit Scotland on report. Contact with SDC regarding their forthcoming assessment of SOAs. Article in LINK newsletter and on website. Shared member organisation's briefings on key outcomes (eg footprint).

Sustainable Land Use Strategy – The taskforce met with Scottish Government in January to discuss land use, which was a positive meeting - finding out more about proposals and timetables. LINK was encouraged to identify a small number of priority issues it would wish to see the Government focus on in the strategy, leading to the SLUS Taskforce producing a briefing paper "Sustainable Land Use, 5 Key steps to success" which was distributed to Scottish Government, SNH and other stakeholders. Taskforce members attended Scottish Government Land Use regional workshops in Edinburgh and will be attending other regional workshops across Scotland.

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MEMBER FOCUS

The Marine Conservation Society has published the results of Beachwatch, its 2009 beach litter survey. Litter has increased by 77% since the first BeachWatch in 1994 and plastic litter has increased by an enormous 121%. Read the report of the survey [here](#)



Scottish Campaign for National Parks AGM, 16th April 2010, Smith Art Gallery and Museum, Dumbarton Road, Stirling, FK8 2RQ. Includes a presentation by Fiona Logan, Chief Executive of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority on the ways forward for further national parks in Scotland. If you would like to attend please contact [Kate Walsham](#) for papers.

Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society Annual Conference – Day 1 - *Thinking outside the plot: how the public sector can use community cultivation to fight inequalities tackle deprivation and cut costs*. 18th June, Parish Halls, Glasgow. Day 2 - *Thinking Inside the Plot: Sustainable gardening for allotments*, Saturday June 19th 2010' in the Victoria Halls (opposite Railway Station) Dunblane See [here](#) for more information.

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CALLS FOR ACTION

Scottish Hill Tracks Campaign: the Hill Tracks Campaign, supported by both MCoS and JMT, is campaigning to persuade the Scottish Government to listen to concerns over the damage caused to Scotland's wild lands by unregulated hill tracks. Sign their petition at <http://www.hilltrackscampaign.org.uk>

Scottish Government Sustainable Transport mapping exercise: On behalf of the Scottish Government's work on climate change, SEPA is putting together a list of organisations with an interest in sustainable transport issues. If your organisation is involved with or has an interest in these issues could you fill out their short questionnaire at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CNZHZF2> by **April 16th**.

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PUBLICATIONS

[Making the most of Scotland's seas: turning our marine vision into reality](#) Sets out a framework for actions to achieve the Scottish Government's vision of clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse marine and coastal environments

[Global Trade and the Environmental Impact Study of the EU Biofuels Mandate](#) A study from the International Food Policy Institute, commissioned by the European Commission, showing that more than 5.6 percent of biofuel in road fuels is likely to damage the environment. The EU's current target is that 10 percent of transport fuels should come from renewable sources by 2020 – mainly biofuels.

[Consideration of Climatic Factors within Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\)](#) – A publication from the Scottish Government providing guidance on the consideration of climatic factors within strategic environmental assessment.

[Making Good Society](#) – Carnegie UK Trust. The final report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Future of Civil Society, explores how civil society activity can help to grow a more civil economy; enable a rapid and just transition to a low carbon economy; democratise media ownership and content; and grow participatory and deliberative democracy.



[Future proof: an electricity network for the 21st century](#) – a report from the Green Alliance outlining the changes we need to make to electricity networks if we are to successfully decarbonise our energy system and introduce low carbon technologies such as electric vehicles and small scale renewable generators

[Scottish Natural Heritage Sharing Good Practice Programme of Events 2010-2011](#)

[SNH Commissioned Report 280: What paths do for Scottish society: An economic and social impact study of local path networks](#)

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CONSULTATIONS

Cairngorms National Park: consultation on draft order to modify designation order - to address the proposed boundary extension into Perth and Kinross and also Ministers' proposal to reduce the size of the CNPA Board. Consultation documents [here](#). Responses must be made by **31st May 2010**

Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan – Main Issues Report Consultation

The LDP will set out policies and proposals to help guide land use change and development over the next 10-15 years and will be used by the Comhairle to determine planning applications. The Main Issues Report sets out: a proposed land use vision and objectives for the area; 6 main planning issues covering spatial/settlement strategy, siting/design, croft land minerals, aquaculture and natural/built heritage; and key development proposals particularly potential housing sites. For further information go [here](#). Consultation ends **23 April 2010**

SEPA guidance for developers of run-of river hydropower schemes - This consultation seeks your views on SEPA's guidance for developers of hydropower schemes. The guidance describes how SEPA intends to achieve Scottish Ministers' policy objectives with respect to striking the right balance between protection of the water environment and renewable energy generation. More information [here](#). Closing date **30th April 2010**.

JNCC - selection of 10 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and 2 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in inshore waters of England and Wales, and in UK offshore waters off England and Scotland. This consultation has been extended to April 30th. For consultation documents please contact [Kate](#)

Call for views on the relationship between transport and land use planning policies – the Scottish Parliament's Transport, Information and Climate Change Committee is holding an inquiry into the relationship between transport and land use planning policies. The Committee is keen to hear views from all interested individuals and organisations. Details of the Inquiry and how to respond [here](#). Closing date for responses **7th May 2010**.

UK Tentative List for nomination to UNESCO World Heritage Lists: The UK government's Department for Culture, Media and Sport is preparing a new tentative List of natural, cultural and mixed sites for potential nomination for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List, to be submitted to UNESCO in 2011, with a view to putting forward nominations to the World Heritage Committee from 2012. Download application pack [here](#). Closing date **11th June 2010**.



Defra's Draft Updated Guidance on Green Claims - promoting the use of clear, accurate and relevant environmental claims on products, services or in marketing and advertising, outlined [here](#).
Ends **15 June 2010**

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EVENTS AND SEMINARS

Trellis Networking Event, Saturday 17th April, 11am to 3pm at Rubha Phoil Forest Garden, Isle of Skye. A networking event for anybody involved or interested in community and therapeutic gardens. Please contact [Chris Conniff](#) for more information.

Carbon in the Uplands Conference, 20th April, Moffat House Hotel, Moffat. How should we be managing our uplands in light of climate change? Conference programme and booking details [here](#). Closing date for registration is April 12th.

Sir Patrick Geddes Memorial Lecture - *Sustainable Economic Development: towards the emerging Ecological Age*, 21st April 5.45pm – 7.30pm. A lecture by Peter Head, Director of Arup the Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, National Galleries of Scotland, The Mound, Edinburgh. Register online at [RTPI](#).

All-Energy - the UK's largest renewable energy exhibition and conference, 19-20th May, Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen. [Website](#)

Archeology Research in Progress Glasgow 2010 – Friday 28th May to Sunday 30th May
A conference examining recent and ongoing archaeological projects in Glasgow and the surrounding regions. For further information contact [Archaeology Scotland](#).

First World Congress on Cycling Science - 10-12 June 2010, Edinburgh Napier University. The Congress will present, debate and discuss the latest research in the science of cycling as applied to elite performance, cycling for health, cycling injuries and active transport. To register please go [here](#)

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OTHER NEWS

Changes to Scottish Government Director responsibilities

The Scottish Government is restructuring its Directorates, following the recent Shaping Up report, which recognised that the delivery of the Low Carbon Economy and statutory Climate Change targets were the key areas in the organisation that needed greater resources and dedicated focus. The changes are as follows:

A Business Directorate led by John Mason, reporting to DG Education, covering business, enterprise and Scottish Water responsibilities and climate change for a short transition period of no more than 6 months;

A Natural Resources Directorate (working title), led by Peter Russell, reporting to DG Rural Affairs and Environment & Services, covering the existing Rural Directorate plus a new (working title)



Environmental Improvement Division (merging the Water and Pollution Reduction Division with the Water, Air, Soils and Flooding Division with the exception of Scottish Water) , Greener Scotland Unit and Drinking Water Quality Division/Regulator

An Energy Directorate, reporting to DG Economy, which David Wilson will lead. Co-ordinating delivery of action on climate change will move from the Business Directorate to this Directorate at the end of a short transition period.

For a diagram of the details of the new Directorate structures please e-mail [Kate](#) at LINK

Scottish Green List 2010 - The judging panel are looking for Scotland's sustainable development champions - the people who have made a real difference in Scottish businesses and communities. The Scottish Green List top 20 will be published by the SSDF, and featured in the Scotsman. Deadline for nominations is 9 am, Monday, April 12th. Nominate on line [here](#)

The Scottish Community Foundation is looking to start work with four groups of community members who want to explore an issue relevant to their community. They will offer mentoring support to groups over 12-18 months combined with access to a budget that can help the group learn more and get things done. Groups do not have to already be constituted to get involved. For more information and to apply, contact ocof@scottishcf.org. The closing date for initial expressions of interest is 30th April 2010.

Nourish, Scotland's new sustainable food network. Set up by a group of enthusiasts and activists interested in promoting local food. See their new website [here](#)

SCVO Credit Union – offers an alternative high street banking. Paid and unpaid staff (and family members living at the same address) of member organisations are eligible to join the SCVO Credit Union. It has over 1000 active individual members from voluntary organisations across Scotland. It also works in partnership with 80 leading third sector employers, many of whom provide a payroll deduction service. It is run by members for its members. For more information contact [Tom McVay](#) at SCVO.

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VACANCIES

LINK is recruiting a **Marine Policy Advocacy Officer** to work on our Marine team advocating robust implementation of new marine legislation for Scotland's seas. More information on LINK's [website](#), closing date 29th April.

Woodland Trust are seeking to appoint a **Scotland Director** in Perth to lead their team and to head up the drive to double native woodland cover in Scotland. Details [here](#), closing date 18th April.

The **Marine Conservation Society** is recruiting a **Head of Conservation** to work at their Ross on Wye headquarters. More information [here](#), closing date 26th April.

BEFS is seeking to appoint a **Director** to champion the built and historic environment in Scotland, to develop the strategic direction for BEFS and develop a sustainable future for BEFS. For more information visit their [website](#). Closing date 26th April.



The **Mountaineering Council of Scotland** is seeking nominations from individual members and members of clubs to stand for election to their board of directors at their AGM in Aviemore on September 4th. Please visit the [MCofS website](#) for more information.

The Southern Uplands Partnership is looking for enthusiastic individuals to join its Board. They are especially keen to find people with experience in renewable energy, green building technologies, rural tourism, local food production, community engagement and micro business support. For more information please call Pip on 01750 725154 or email piptabor@sup.org.uk

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IUCN

IUCN documents received by LINK. For copies of any of these, please contact [Kate](#)

IUCN Grievance Procedure

IUCN Director General's Report, February 2010-04-07

IUCN Newsletter