



LINK eBulletin - August 2010

[LINK Diary](#) | [LINK News](#) | [Member focus](#) | [Publications](#) | [Consultations](#)
[Events and Seminars](#) | [IUCN](#) | [Other News](#) | [Joint Links](#) | [Vacancies](#)

LINK DIARY

15-16 Sept Joint Links Seminar, University of Chester
21 October LINK Board meeting
25 October Fred Edwards Trust Launch, Edinburgh
18-19 Nov LINK Annual Congress and Forward Planning, Dunblane
15 Dec LINK Festive Reception, Edinburgh

[<<back to top](#)

LINK NEWS

LINK 2010 Members Congress will take place on 18th November in Dunblane. The theme will be *Environment and the Law*, exploring how legislation and law are used to protect the environment and advance environmental sustainability with the emphasis on examining experience in Scotland since devolution, and using this to inform future NGO action. Please pass this date on to colleagues throughout your organisation. Further details from [Alice](#)

LINK 2010 Strategic Planning Day, will take place on 19th November in Dunblane. We hope your organisation will be represented. We will shortly be asking LINK Taskforces for their forward plans for November 2011 to March 2012, and members for their annual priorities.

Joint Links Seminar, Chester, 15-16 September. There are still a couple of places open for LINK members to take part in this seminar. If you would like to attend, please contact [Kate](#)

The Fred Edwards Trust, the charity established to commemorate LINK's former president, Fred Edwards, is holding its launch event on 25th October at the Playfair Library in Edinburgh. Professor Aubrey Manning will be giving its inaugural lecture: "*Only connect: is a sustainable human ecology possible?*". More information to follow.

Wildlife and Natural Environment Bill - Stage one is now under way at Holyrood. The bill is being scrutinised by the Rural Affairs and Environment Committee who have put out a call for evidence, with a deadline of 1st September. In addition, Scottish Environment LINK has been invited to provide a panel of four experts to provide oral evidence to the committee on the 15th September. We are expecting the evidence gathering portion of stage one to be completed by Autumn recess. The LINK WaNE group is meeting to discuss our approach to the bill on the 12th August at LINK offices in Perth at 3pm. Interested members are welcome to attend, please contact [Susan](#)

LINK's Single Outcome Agreement Taskforce has put a brief for an audit on SOAs in Scotland out to tender. The audit will evaluate how sustainable development and environment are being addressed by each Community Planning Partnership in the Single Outcome Agreements 2009-12, to determine emerging trends in the lead up to the next local and national elections.

The **Sustainable Land Use Strategy Taskforce** has fixed a date for a one day conference during the consultation period for the draft strategy – 8th November at the Scottish Storytelling Centre in Edinburgh.



Climate Adaptation – [Jim Densham](#) of RSPB has offered to convene this new Taskforce and will contact interested members shortly to arrange its first meeting.

Meeting with Environment Minister LINK members met with Roseanna Cunningham on 23rd June. Notes of the meeting are available on LINK's [website](#)

Parliamentary

Manifesto - Members' work on LINK's rolling Manifesto continues. Progress so far, including consultation drafts in various sections, can be viewed [here](#)

Independent Budget Review - LINK has produced a brief summary of this Report published by the Scottish Government at the end of July, together with major questions that may arise behind the debate on the manifestos for next year's elections. The note is available [here](#) and the Scottish Government is inviting feedback to the Review which can be submitted [here](#)

Sustainable Development Commission in Scotland – Following the announcement by the UK Government to close the SDC in London, LINK has written to the Cabinet Secretary John Swinney, underlining the importance of SDC's role in providing independent scrutiny and assessment on Government progress, and urging the Scottish Government to work with SDC to ensure that these functions are maintained in Scotland. LINK's letter is [here](#). See also a letter from Jan Bebbington, SDC Commissioner, on the future of SDC in Scotland [here](#)

Advocacy training day in July went well, with twelve people from a range of LINK member organisations taking part.

[<<back to top](#)

MEMBER FOCUS

WWF Scotland is hosting a Festival of Politics Event, **Zero-carbon Scotland of the Future** at the Scottish Parliament on 19th August 1:30-2:30pm. The session, chaired by environmental journalist Rob Edwards, will paint a picture of life in a zero-carbon Scotland. Featuring transport behaviour expert John Pinkard from Transform Scotland, low-carbon community practitioner Rachel Nunn from Going Carbon Neutral Stirling and energy expert Stuart Haszeldine from Edinburgh University. More details [here](#)

Bumblebee Conservation Trust have reached the finals of the National Lottery's Best Environmental Project awards, decided by public online vote, and are looking for as much support as possible. To vote for BBCT to receive funding from the National Lottery and to see a short video about their work visit [here](#) (please pass on the link to anyone you think would be interested).

Sustrans together with the Transform Scotland Trust has produced a new report, '*Civilising the Streets: How strong leadership can deliver high quality of life and vibrant public spaces*' which draws on the experience of 13 European cities to show how active travel can be advanced in Scottish cities towards achieving sustainable transport goals. Download [here](#)

[<<back to top](#)



PUBLICATIONS

Reservoir Safety in Scotland: An Analysis of Consultation Responses Scottish Government publication. Download [here](#)

Central Scotland Green Network Report on Consultation Responses Available [here](#)

Managing Scotland's Deer from SNH, sets out the actions SNH proposes to take to take following their merger with the Deer Commission this month, exercising their new deer remit and continuing the work of the DCS. [Download](#)

Estimating Marginal CO2 Emissions Rates for National Electricity Systems – study from Grantham Institute for Climate Change at Imperial College London shows that the figure used by government advisors to estimate the amount of carbon dioxide saved by reducing people's electricity consumption is up to 60 percent too low. Available [here](#)

British Attitudes to the Environment, Climate Change and Future Energy Choices Ipsos Mori's recent survey on climate change and energy supply shows that despite a decline in concern about climate change, the majority of the British public still believe the climate is changing and say they are prepared to act on this. Download [here](#)

The Right Tree in the Right Place from the Forestry Commission provides guidance to planning authorities on the multiple benefits that can be derived from well-planned and well-managed woodlands and encourages them to prepare new forestry and woodland strategies to guide future woodland expansion. It also provides advice on how to prepare a new strategy and how forestry and woodland considerations can be incorporated into development planning and management. Download [here](#)

[<<back to top](#)

CONSULTATIONS

Visitor Management Plan Consultation from CairnGorm Mountain Ltd. Interested parties are invited to consult with the Company on the Visitor Management Plan in operation at CairnGorm. The objective of the consultation is to establish current opinion on the existing arrangements and any future changes (if any) users would wish to see considered in this review. CairnGorm Mountain is interested in hearing from: neighbouring landowners, mountain users, business organisations, conservation groups and community groups. Closing date 30th September. Further information [here](#)

Consultation on Directive 2009/33/EC of the European Parliament on the promotion of clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles Scottish Government Consultation. Closing date 27th September. Details [here](#)

Permitted Development Rights for Microgeneration Equipment on Non-Domestic Properties – Scottish Government consultation on proposals for permitted development rights for microgeneration equipment on non-domestic properties. Closing date 10th October Details [here](#)

Resourcing a High Quality Planning System: A Consultation Paper. Scottish Government consultation seeking views on how the planning service can be more effectively resourced and focused on quality of service. The paper also seeks views on options for amending the fee structure for planning applications. Closing date 15th October 2010. Details [here](#)



Speak Up for Rural Scotland, a consultation document from the Scottish Government containing advice provided by the Rural Development Council. Consultation runs until 25th October. More details [here](#)

Listing and marketing of conservation and amateur varieties of vegetables: FERA is inviting views on the implementation of Commission Directive 2009/145/EC on conservation and amateur varieties of vegetables and its impact on unlisted vegetable varieties. The overall aim of the Directive is to promote the sustainable use of plant genetic resources, that is traditionally grown varieties and landraces and varieties of 'no intrinsic value for crop production but developed for growing under particular conditions'. In practice, this means encouraging the marketing of conservation (or heritage) varieties and of varieties intended specifically for amateur gardeners. Closing date 29th October. Details [here](#)

Marketing of Amateur and Conservation Varieties of Vegetable Seed: Scottish Government consultation on Commission Directive 2009/145/EC. More information from Carol Scott at croppolicy@scotland.gsi.gov.uk Closing date 27th October.

[<<back to top](#)

EVENTS AND SEMINARS

Big Lottery Fund: Investing in Communities is holding a series of information days throughout Scotland in August, an opportunity to speak to staff about project ideas. More information [here](#)

RSA Scotland Conference - Food for Thought, 4th September, Stuart's Melville College Edinburgh. This conference will examine the influence of market forces on the availability, affordability and accessibility in our society of food. Speakers include Matthew Taylor, Chief Executive of the RSA, Sheila Dillon, Presenter of BBC Radio 4's The Food Programme and Ian Ivory, Chair of Scottish Agricultural Colleges. Register [here](#)

World Green Roof Congress 2010: Green roofs for a changing climate 15-16 September 2010, London. With leading green roof experts from 15 nations, presenting over 50 papers, the event offers a platform to share information on green roofs as well as communicating the latest policy initiatives driving their uptake. It will demonstrate how the benefits of green roofs and green walls can be realised and how they can be effectively integrated into our built environment within the context of green infrastructure. To find out more and to book visit their [website](#)

Eurosite Annual Conference, Dunblane, 13-16 September 2010, hosted by Scottish Natural Heritage. The conference will address why site networks matter in adapting to climate change; the challenges of managing sites in the face of climate change; and making links between sites and projects to develop integrated solutions. Registration page [here](#)

Paths for all National Networking Event 2010, Perth Concert Hall, September 23rd. The theme for this year's event is '*Celebrating diversity*' showcasing the range of settings and people we work, and walk with. [Book here](#).

Developing NHS greenspace: health, well-being and hospital grounds, 28 September, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. SNH Sharing Good Practice event. For more information contact sgp@snh.gov.uk



IUCN Investing in Peatlands: the Climate Challenge Conference, 28th and 29th of September, Durham. Full conference programme, including speaker abstracts, is now available [here](#). More details and registration [here](#)

[<<back to top](#)

IUCN (LINK is a member International Union for Conservation of Nature)

(IUCN documents received by LINK. For copies of any documents which aren't linked directly, please contact [Kate](#))

IUCN Highlights of the report of the Director General - June 2010

Overview of the IUCN's 74th Council available [here](#)

IUCN Species Survival Commission newsletter

IUCN Commission on Environmental Law bulletin

IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) newsletter

IUCN Science Bulletin available [here](#)

IUCN Union Pulse [download](#)

Collaborative Agreement between IUCN and Rio Tinto web page for members to share their opinions on the agreement as well as the responses from the IUCN Director General. [Link](#)

Rio Tinto Information for IUCN Members

IUCN report on the 3rd intergovernmental and multistakeholder meeting on the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

[<<back to top](#)

OTHER NEWS

UK Landscape Award - Nominations deadline 27th August - The Award is a great opportunity for organisations to showcase their best landscape work, highlighting its role in making good places and establishing greater community involvement in making tomorrow's local landscapes. The winner will be announced on 8 November 2010 at the European Landscape Convention Conference in Liverpool. [Find out more](#)

SROI Database – The Scottish Government-funded SROI project has launched its SROI database, an indicator and financial proxy database which can be used in measuring social impact using the Social Return on Investment method. Details [here](#)

Scottish Hillphones 2010 provides information for hillwalkers over the red deer stag stalking season about where stalking is taking place - www.hillphones.info

[<<back to top](#)

JOINT Links Reports – April to June

WildLife and Countryside Link

Following the General Election Link attended two meetings with the new Secretary of State for Environment, Caroline Spelman MP, taking the opportunity to outline some of Link's key priorities. This quarter Link has responded to a number of consultations, including the [public debate](#) on the future of the CAP after 2013, Defra's consultation on [European pesticides legislation](#), and the Department for Communities and Local Government consultation on [Planning for a natural and](#)



[healthy environment](#). We also submitted a [Joint Links response](#) to the pre-consultation discussion paper on the draft UK Marine Policy Statement.

In May Link's Land Use Planning Group hosted a workshop on the future of planning and the Marine Legislation Group published a new leaflet; [Marine Planning Principles](#).

Link produced a [briefing on mobile marine species](#) and in the lead up to [The 62nd Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission](#) (IWC62) in June, sent briefings to Defra officials on [Key issues for the 62nd meeting of the IWC](#) and [NGO Priority Issues for IWC62](#). A number of Link members attended IWC62 and two Link/NGO representatives joined the UK IWC delegation.

At the Defra Joint NGO Liaison Group meeting of conservationists and traders in May, the Chair of Link's Wildlife Trade Group made a statement on behalf of Link, thanking the UK delegation for efforts during CoP15, and recognising the difficulties that were faced around EU coordination.

Link's Management Committee held an action-packed away day in June at Plantlife's offices in Salisbury, where discussions focused on up-coming work priorities for Link, including the Natural Environment White Paper and our response to the spending cuts.

Northern Ireland Environment Link

This is NIEL's 20th anniversary and we celebrated at our AGM and annual conference on 'Northern Ireland's Freshwater Environment; Rivers don't run free!' Held on 23 June. In preparation we had our Annual Report, but also prepared a major report for funders on the last five years of our work and are nearly finished developing a new Strategic Plan for the next three years.

In addition and in support of this we are undertaking significant work on improving our efficiency and effectiveness in the way we run the office and the organization. We are submitting funding applications for both NIEA and Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, and have submitted an application to the Building Change Trust on facilitating the eNGO sector to evolve to deal with funding pressures and deliver improved messages to promote societal change in behaviour. We have commissioned a report on the eNGO sector in Northern Ireland which is moving along slowly which will also help in our efforts to ensure that the sector thrives despite funding pressures and is able to deliver improved environmental outputs.

We are also 'coordinating lead author' for the Northern Ireland chapter of the UK National Ecosystem Assessment which is a major piece of work but which should ultimately be a strong tool for environmental protection. The NI Sustainable Development Strategy has finally been adopted, and work continues on an Implementation Plan which will be consulted on over the summer. The Forestry Bill is now law, and the Wildlife and Environment Bill is progressing, with further deliberations planned for the autumn; hare coursing is to be banned, but the hare will not be granted additional protection and snares will not be banned. Numerous other legislation is progressing, although the Review of Public Administration is 'suspended' and will not proceed in its entirety by the target time of 2011.

[<<back to top](#)

Vacancies

Marine Policy Officer, WWF Scotland, Dunkeld: This post is a key member of the Scottish team, but also contributes to the WWF-UK marine team and will work with UK and European colleagues to deliver WWF's UK, European and international sustainable fisheries goals and contribute to WWF on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. The post holder will also have



responsibility for managing wider marine issues within the Scottish team and working with colleagues both in Scotland and the UK to support effective implementation of the Scottish and UK Marine Acts. Contract: fixed term for 12 months, Salary £26,509 - £28,166 per annum. Closing date is 9.00am 23 August 2010. More information and a full job description [here](#).

[<<back to top](#)