



## LINK e-bulletin May 2011

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### LINK DIARY

<b>3 June</b>	Networking Meeting/post-election discussion, Quaker Meeting House, Edinburgh
<b>28 June</b>	Board Meeting
<b>30 August</b>	AGM and TEEB workshop for members
<b>20 October</b>	Board Meeting
<b>17-18 Nov</b>	Link Congress and Strategic Planning

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### LINK NEWS

**The Election Result: LINK Discussion**, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Edinburgh - this meeting will discuss LINK's new Governance Paper and also the outcome of the Scottish Parliamentary elections and likely impact on LINK and task force plans and strategies. All members and task forces are invited to send representatives to this important meeting in order to facilitate the broadest possible discussion of our strategy. Please contact [Kate](#) if you plan to attend.

Welcome to **Froglife Scotland**, LINK's newest members. A ballot of members was unanimous in approving their application. Kathy Wormald, Froglife's Chief Executive, will be Froglife's main representative to LINK with Professor Roger Downie of Glasgow University acting as her deputy.

LINK's **President search** continues with approaches to shortlisted individuals. Contact [Jen](#) for more details.

**Scottish Environment Week 2011** has been reviewed by a steering group with agreement that it's a significant initiative which promotes environment, and is now an institution at Holyrood. LINK will continue to run the Week, to profile work by members and volunteers, ensuring variation from year to year for freshness. Plans for 2012 are in hand including a Friday element, with site visits for MSPs, if enough members are interested. Andy will be in touch with details soon.

**SNH and LINK** chairs met at the beginning of this month to discuss various strategic priorities in common. The parameters on SNH's work, set down in its grant-in-aid letter from Scottish Government are worth noting; these appear to allow for much less agenda-setting by SNH than in the past; SNH's work will be measured against indicators outlined in the letter. A further Chair level meeting will be planned after the election, and a meeting with SNH senior staff in September is being planned, to consider access/recreation, biodiversity and other priorities.

**[SNH new organisational structure](#)** – SNH have published their new organisation structure, effective from April 2011, on their website. Please can TF Convenors contact relevant SNH programme managers to arrange introductory meetings.

**SEPA Liaison meetings** - The senior level SEPA meeting scheduled for 1 June has been postponed by SEPA until August at the earliest. Another meeting is arranged for 25 May with Jo Green of SEPA and the civil servant working on the Better Regulation Agenda to discuss the outcomes of that consultation. SEPA considers an environment bill is needed to enable them to take forward better regulation, and see possibilities for it widening beyond that narrow remit. Members who had signed up to the LINK consultation response were sent information about it. Attending the meeting are WWF, RSPB and FoES, with Lisa Webb (convenor of Freshwater TF) and



Andy Myles. If other members are interested or would like to contribute beforehand, please contact [Andy](#). The meeting is at FoES from 12.00 noon on 25 May.

April **Board & Networking meetings** considered strategic relationships, the financial situation for LINK and projects, the draft governance paper, the political strategy report, TF evaluations and lessons learned, carbon accounting and more. [LINK operating plan for 2011/12](#) was signed off. In advance of the AGM the Board is reviewing skills needs and will be in touch with members to ask them to consider people to nominate who could provide important skills on the Board in coming years ahead.

**[Single Outcome Agreements and Action for People, Places and Community](#)** - An independent report from sustainability consultant Tim Birley on the seminar on Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs), held on 21 February in Edinburgh. The seminar brought together 50 delegates from 35 organisations to explore how action on local priorities by local government and community planning partnerships (CPPs), through the outcomes based approach between central and local government, can maintain and enhance progress on sustainable development, tackling climate change, and the environment. The seminar was held in the wake of LINK's earlier report, [Delivering for the environment in our communities: an audit of Single Outcome Agreements](#).

**Request to TF Convenors** - could convenors please send us now and keep us posted in future of TF dates please for our shared diary. Many thanks.

Callum Sinclair of RAFTS is the new Deputy Convenor of the Freshwater Taskforce.

**Royal Zoological Society of Scotland** will not be renewing their LINK membership for 2011-12.

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## MEMBER NEWS

**Soil Association Scotland** has appointed a new Head of Scotland, Laura Stewart. Laura joins the Soil Association after 6 years in various roles at the Marine Stewardship Council. She was responsible for developing and managing the education initiative, Fish and Kids, designed to encourage use of certified MSC fish on school menus and to raise awareness of sustainable seafood with children, teachers and parents. In 2007, Laura moved back to Scotland to open the MSC Scotland office. Recently, she has been part time in the MSC Standards and Licensing team running a trial online assessment for restaurants in the UK and Netherlands. Laura grew up on a farm in the Scottish Borders, now managed organically by her parents. Laura's email is [lstewart@soilassociation.org](mailto:lstewart@soilassociation.org)

**[RSPB Nature of Scotland awards](#)** - these new annual awards will recognise and celebrate excellence, innovation and outstanding achievement in Scottish nature conservation. The award categories are Marine, Sustainable development, Politician of the year, Innovation, Outstanding contribution to nature conservation and the RSPB species champion award. The closing date for entries is **Friday 26 August**

**Friends of the Earth Scotland** are hosting a Land Rights Conference on 28<sup>th</sup> May at the Out of the Blue Drill Hall in Edinburgh. Keynote speaker is Andy Wightman. More details [here](#)

The **Woodland Trust** has completed the purchase of Maryland Farm a 240 hectare (600 acre) site, the first step in its plan to create the largest new native woodland on Glasgow's doorstep at Lang Craigs near Dumbarton. The Trust aims to plant 200,000 native trees including Scots pine,



rowan and birch, of which 50,000 will be planted by local school children and the public. More details [here](#)

Visit a bluebell wood this weekend: LINK members, the **Woodland Trust Scotland, National Trust for Scotland, RSPB Scotland and Scottish Wildlife Trust** have created what is believed to be the world's largest searchable database of bluebell woods at [www.visitWoods.org.uk](http://www.visitWoods.org.uk).

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## OTHER NEWS

**[Scottish Green Awards 2011](#)** are now open for nominations. The Campaign/Activist, Community Initiative, Young Campaigner, Public sector and PR campaign categories have not had many entries in past years, and nominations are encouraged for these categories.

**[Valuing Nature Network](#)** - An NERC Interdisciplinary Network for Valuing Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Natural Resource Use.

**[Sust Funding Directory](#)** pulls together information about Sustainability Grants available in Scotland: what grants are available, their criteria, funding levels, application processes and much more.

**The Daily Mirror's Welcome to the Weekend 'do good feel good' feature** is looking for conservation volunteering ideas in the UK to suggest to its readers each weekend during the summer. If your organisation is planning projects from the end of May onwards please contact Adrian Monti at [adrian@montimedia.co.uk](mailto:adrian@montimedia.co.uk) by Wednesday 25 May.

**SSDF** has moved to new home at Keep Scotland Beautiful in Stirling after the closure of the Sustainable Development Commission Scotland at the end of March. New contact details: Email: [ssdf@ksbscotland.org.uk](mailto:ssdf@ksbscotland.org.uk) Telephone: 01786 468 767. Evan Williams has stepped down as Chair, with Linda Dunion taking on the role of interim Chair until a successor is appointed.

**Climate Challenge Fund changes** - Caroline St Johnston will transfer to join the CCF team at Keep Scotland Beautiful from the 1st April where she will co-ordinate the Community Action Support Programme (CASP) over the next year. Her new email is

[Caroline.stjohnston@ksbscotland.org.uk](mailto:Caroline.stjohnston@ksbscotland.org.uk)

Shelagh Young has decided not to transfer, she can be contacted at [shelaghayoung@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shelaghayoung@yahoo.co.uk)

**Scotgold** have been conducting a **pre-application consultation** for their next planning application for their proposed gold mine at Cononish Farm in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. More details [here](#)

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## EVENTS AND SEMINARS

**Scottish Biodiversity Week**, 21 - 29 May, coordinated by SNH. Information about the week and details of events across Scotland [here](#)

**The Trustees' Toolkit**, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm at the Thistle Hotel, Inverness, organised by J. & H. Mitchell, W.S. A free seminar for charity trustees which aims to provide Trustees with practical



guidance and an insight into various hands-on aspects of their role, actions and responsibilities; it will also include an introduction to the new SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation). Contact [j@hmitchell.co.uk](mailto:j@hmitchell.co.uk) for more information or to reserve a place.

**[Making change happen: Doing Things Differently for a Better Scotland](#)**, 26<sup>th</sup> May, Edinburgh, organised by SCVO and Holyrood Conferences - this one day conference will be the first opportunity for the third sector to examine the changed policy context after the Scottish Parliamentary elections.

**[Forest Education Initiative Scotland Networking Event](#)**, 26<sup>th</sup> May, Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry. The theme for this year's event will be International Year of Forests.

**[14th European Forum on Urban Forestry \(EFUF\) Conference](#)** - Glasgow, 1–4 June.

**[Sir Patrick Geddes Commemorative Lecture 2011](#)**, 8 June, Edinburgh - Carolyn Steel, the architect and author of the book *Hungry City* will be giving the lecture on "Food and Cities" at the Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, The National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh.

**[Planning Reform in Scotland](#)**, 21<sup>st</sup> June, Edinburgh – Holyrood conference, a key opportunity to express views on Scottish Planning policy moving forward and how to work to ensure that planning and the built environment is a key priority for the Scottish Government.

**[IUCN 'Investing in Peatlands - Delivering Multiple Benefits' Conference](#)**, University of Stirling, 20th - 22nd June 2011

**Launch of Sustainable Behaviours Research Groups**, 17th June - 1:30-3.30, Victoria Quay. Funded by Scottish Government, Defra and the Economic and Social Research Council, the two groups, with hubs at Manchester and Surrey Universities and academic links at Edinburgh University, are conducting a range of research about sustainable behaviours in order to contribute to effective policy making. This launch event features presentations on each research group's programme of work. The event also sees a formal launch of the International Review of Behaviour Change Initiatives, which was written by the Sustainable Practices Research Group and the Sustainable Consumption Institute at the University of Manchester, and recently published by the Scottish Government - a link to the report is available [here](#). To reserve your place, or for more information, please contact Jonathan Waite [jonathan.waite@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.waite@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) tel: 0131 244 0093.

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## PUBLICATIONS

**[Land Reform: The Way Ahead](#)** – new report commissioned by the Scottish Community Alliance and written by researcher Andy Wightman, which analyses what has happened to the programme of land reform, launched in 1999 at the beginning of the Scottish Parliament, and offers recommendations provide the Scottish Government with a new framework within which to pursue land reform.

**[First Annual Report on the Operation of Section 72 of the Climate Change \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#)** – A Scottish Government report on the operation of the provisions contained within section 72 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act (introduced as section 3F of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997).



**[The A9 Project: Climate Change in the Central Highlands Appraisal Report](#)** - from the SCCIP, summarising and reviewing its 8-month 'A9 Project' which concluded in March. The project worked with Perth and Kinross and Highland Councils and 23 other organisations, using an area-based approach (in this case focussing on the A9 corridor) to identify local climate change vulnerabilities and to develop integrated adaptation strategies.

**[Demographic Change and the Environment](#)** – report from the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution

**[World Resources Report](#)** - provides policymakers, government, civil society, and business with analysis and insight about major environmental and development issues. It is the product of a 20-year partnership among the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and the World Resources Institute.

**[Beyond GDP Newsletter](#)** - The Beyond GDP Newsletter keeps its readers up to date on important developments related to measuring progress, true wealth and the well-being of nations.

**For Clean Air Everywhere** – pamphlet from the EEB addressing what can be done to decrease air pollution in cities (one copy available in the LINK office, contact [Kate](#))

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## CONSULTATIONS

### **[Cairngorms National Park Local Plan: Supplementary Planning Guidance Consultation](#)**

The CNPA is producing a suite of supplementary planning guidance documents which expand on the detail of some of the policies in the Local Plan. It provides additional information and guidance to help everyone understand the policies in the Local Plan, ensuring that all development in the Park meets the requirements of the policies. The final date for responses to the consultation has been extended to the **13<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

**[Cabinet Office "Red Tape Challenge"](#)** – including 278 regulations that relate to the environment which the UK government is considering scrapping. The default assumption is that regulations will go, unless ministers can make a good case to keep them.

### **[Consultation on the Draft Code of Practice on Non-Native and Invasive Non-Native Species](#)**

- This Code provides practical guidance in respect of the release, keeping, sale and notification offences contained in the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill. Closing date **9<sup>th</sup> June**.

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

The **IUCN UK AGM** will take place on 31<sup>st</sup> May in Burton upon Trent. Dr Jane Smart, IUCN Global Director, Biodiversity Conservation Group and Dr Hans Friedrich, Regional Director for Europe will giving a presentation on the proposal to establish an IUCN charity in the UK. Jonny Hughes of SWT will be attending the meeting as LINK's representative.

[IUCN Species e-bulletin March 2011](#)

[IUCN Ecosystem Newsletter March 2011](#)

[IUCN Union Pulse April 2011](#)



IUCN Building Bridges e-update: news & views on conservation & the private sector, April 2011

For copies of IUCN documents which aren't linked, contact [Kate](#)

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## European Union (LINK is a member of the European Environmental Bureau)

**EEB says EC's Biodiversity Strategy lacks bite** - The European Commission's new biodiversity strategy appears to fall short of delivering what is needed to protect Europe's valuable natural resource base, says the EEB. The report, titled [Our Life insurance, our natural capital: an EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020](#) was released on 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

### EU carbon tax back on Commission's agenda

The European Commission will renew its bid for EU-wide carbon taxes when it initiates its overhaul of the rules on energy taxation. Algirdas Šemeta, the European commissioner for taxation and customs has outlined proposals calling for separate carbon dioxide and consumption taxes on fuel, to help Europe meet its climate-change targets and bring more "fiscal coherence" to the internal market. EU member states would be obliged from 2013 to set minimum rates of CO2 taxes at €20 per tonne for fuel for transport and for heating.

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## Stop Climate Chaos Scotland Latest

The Stop Climate Chaos Scotland AGM will take place from 2-4pm on Tuesday 7th June at the Augustine United Church on George IV Bridge, Edinburgh. All coalition members are warmly encouraged to attend.

[SCCS's online Election Climate Debate](#) with the five main political parties is now available to watch online.

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## LINK Delegates

Janice Gray, Living Streets is LINK's new delegate to the **Healthy Environment Network**

Dan Barlow, WWF, LINK's representative on the **Zero Waste Programme Board** reports that the consultation recently closed on proposed measures to support delivery of Scotland's Zero Waste Plan, and parliament is expected to consider these measures later in 2011. A waste prevention programme is currently being drawn up.

Tony King of SWT, LINK's representative on the **UK National Ecosystem Assessment User Group** reports that his focus over the past year has been on making the Assessment a usable set of documents from a policy advocacy perspective and on tightening up the understanding of biodiversity, ecosystems and the ecosystem approach. Publication is expected to be this month.

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*If you would like to see news, information or upcoming events from your organisation featured in LINK's monthly bulletin, please contact Kate at Scottish Environment LINK.*

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