

**Memo: To Karen Wright**  
**From: Alice Walsh**  
**Date: 11 May 2010**

At the SNH / LINK high level liaison meeting on 27 March we discussed SNH's Board's interest in peatlands as a future focus, and ways in which LINK could support this. As a result staff asked member bodies to report on recent and planned initiatives in relation to peatlands (please see separate document) to help inform SNH on what is happening in the ENGO sector. This process sparked interesting discussion among members which Clifton Bain, Director of the IUCN Peatland Programme, has drawn together, and some conclusions of which we put forward as our top suggestions for SNH Peatland work, as follows. LINK members and Clifton are happy to help in any ways possible.

- **Agree a budget and timetable for delivery of the Scottish element of UK BAP targets on blanket bogs and lowland raised bogs** and ensure peatland objectives are identified within Scottish Government Policy documents including the Land Use Strategy, Report on Proposals and Policies for Climate.
- **Promote and support the development of large, catchment scale multi-partner peatland restoration projects across Scotland** including the Flows, the Central belt, Scottish Borders and other areas to engage public and political interest. Identify sites that would help illustrate water quality and flood management benefits as well as biodiversity and carbon. In particular make the business case for Scottish Water to invest in peatland restoration.
- **Provide clear spatial mapping information on the location, and condition of peatland habitats** to help in strategic planning of peatland restoration and accommodate windfarm / forestry expansion without environmental harm.
- **Support and promote more coordinated research and survey on peatlands** with additional ring-fenced funding to improve the evidence base to guide management of peatlands and deliver the multiple benefits of biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration and storage, and water yield and quality.
- **Promote the use of peat – free composts and reduction of peat use through a planned campaign.**
- **Head up high level agency annual meetings with Forestry Commission and SEPA to agree a joint cooperative approach to peatland restoration.**
- **Support initiatives to provide advice and public awareness on the benefits of peatland restoration**, including management guidance for peatland landowners, promote show case examples and facilitate exchanges of experience from projects across UK and EU. Promote the beauty and wildness of peatlands, including access, enjoyment and involvement in recording and management
- **Take a lead in ensuring good peatland conservation and restoration practice** in windfarm and other developments such as commercial peat extraction. Facilitate a group to coordinate scientific survey and research into impacts of windfarms on peatlands.