

Media News

4 November 2008

Embargoed until 0001, Wednesday 5 November 2008

Investing in the environment makes sound financial sense

Scotland's environment movement today (Wednesday 5th November) called on government to ensure Scotland's environment is properly protected in order to secure the economic gains it provides. A new report, 'Valuing our Environment', launched today, shows that sustainable use of our environment underpins the economy by £17.2 billion a year, or more than a tenth of the country's economic output.

Welcoming the report, John Mayhew, Chair of Scottish Environment LINK said :

"It is quite clear that investing in our environment is more important than ever in these difficult financial times. Scottish Government must demonstrate its commitment to protecting our natural heritage, worth £17 billion a year to the economy. This might involve tough policy decisions at times, but the choice for Scotland is not between the environment and jobs. Protecting and enhancing the environment increases employment and inward investment. Scotland's environment is our finest asset and a key source of the nation's wellbeing and wealth. We must look after it properly or risk losing these benefits for future generations."

Ends.

For more information/interviews/images, please contact RSPB Scotland's National Media Officer Davey Fitch on 0131 311 6500, 07894 173 116.

Notes.

Valuing our Environment - The Economic Impact of Scotland's Natural Environment was commissioned by a partnership led by Scottish Natural Heritage, and with input from the Scottish Government, Forestry Commission, Scottish Enterprise, Cairngorms National Park Authority, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and Scottish Environment Link.

Scottish Environment LINK is the forum for Scotland's voluntary environment organisations - 31 member bodies, with a combined membership of almost half a million people - representing a broad spectrum of environmental interests with the common goal of contributing to a more environmentally sustainable society. For a list of members see http://www.scotlink.org/About_LINK/members.php

The economic impact analysis was undertaken by Cambridge econometrics, and other analysis by RPA Ltd.

Scottish Environment LINK is a Scottish charity under Scottish Charity No SC000296 and a Scottish company limited by guarantee and without share capital under Company No SC250899.

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Scottish Environment

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The report is available at www.snh.org.uk or by contacting SNH's Rural Development Team on 01463 725 000.

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