

Scottish Environment LINK
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 March 2019

Scottish Charity number SC000296
Company number SC250899

Scottish Environment LINK

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Scottish Environment LINK

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Scottish Environment LINK

Scottish Charity Registration Number: SC000296

Company Registration Number: SC250899

Registered and Principal Office: 13 Marshall Place
Perth
PH2 8AH

Trustees: Charles Dundas – Chair (re-elected 12 December 2018)
Craig Macadam – Vice Chair
Tim Ambrose - Treasurer
Sam Gardner
Lucy Graham (re-elected 12 December 2018)
Beryl Leatherland (re-elected 12 December 2018)
Clare Symonds
Paul Walton
Helen Watson

Company Secretary: Jennifer Anderson (resigned 25 January 2019)
Dr Deborah Long (appointed 28 January 2019)

Solicitors: J&H Mitchell WS
51 Atholl Road
Pitlochry
PH16 5BU

Independent Examiner: Emma Marshall CA
Geoghegans
Chartered Accountants
6 St Colme Street
Edinburgh
EH3 6AD

Scottish Environment LINK

Chair's Foreword

2018 – 2019 has been another year of activity driven by the external context of climate and biodiversity emergencies and the need to act now. LINK has risen to the challenge admirably.

LINK has been able to allocate significant resources to continued work on Brexit: providing advice and support to the network, working with government and Parliament to make sure there is no regression from European standards of environmental protections. This is thanks to support from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and William Grant Foundation. This work has been amplified through the launch of the new dedicated LINK campaign Fight for Scotland's Nature which is supported by 37 members and 30 non member campaign supporters.

LINK has also been exploring the potential to provide some space for thought leadership in these uncertain times where challenges of climate and biodiversity emergencies are significant. Furthermore, we continue to build on a decade's worth of work on environmental rights as LINK is supporting the establishment of an Environment Rights Centre for Scotland.

Priorities within the network include marine protection, which continues through the Save Scottish Seas project, continuing to press for legislation to protect and restore the ecological integrity of Scotland's seas through Marine Protected Areas, regional planning, fisheries management and aquaculture regulation. Furthermore, we were delighted to secure further funding from Friends Provident Foundation to develop LINK's work on a circular economy, which enables LINK to take forward policy work on a circular economy bill.

On land, LINK's priorities include planning and hilltracks in particular as well as wider land management. A significant contribution was the LINK survey of public attitudes to farming subsidies, which showed overwhelming public support for subsidies that deliver for the environment and reduce climate impact. A continuing strength in LINK's work both on land and at sea is the Species Champions Initiative now in its fifth year, and celebrated through the 100 day challenge in the summer of 2018. This engaged over half of our MSPs and culminated in a celebratory event in Parliament with MSP Species Champions and guests.

LINK has seen some big changes in the last year to the team: the network was sad to see Jen Anderson, LINK's Chief Officer for over 30 years, leave. Her smooth handover to our new Chief Officer, Deborah Long, was appreciated. We have seen expansion in our Advocacy team with Dilraj Sokhi Watson and Miriam Ross joining the advocacy team and Phoebe Cochrane returning. Esther Brooker also returned as we said goodbye to Emilie Devenport. Contract extensions for Calum Langdale mean we retain him in the staff team. With this strong team in place, LINK is very well placed to continue to contribute effectively and efficiently to ongoing work ensuring Scotland does what it needs to do for the environmental challenges the world is facing.



Charles Dundas
LINK Chair

2019

Scottish Environment LINK

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Trustees are pleased to present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019, prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and complying with the charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, Companies Act 2006 and Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", effective from January 2015.

Overview

Focus and priorities

2018 – 2019 has been a busy year, full of challenges and opportunities for LINK, as the network for Scotland's environmental NGOs. LINK members continue to demonstrate the benefits of working together to achieve much more as a collective voice, speaking up for Scotland's environment, holding politicians and policy makers to account, and building wider public support for nature and the environment. Together, our members advocate on a wide range of policies to achieve truly sustainable action, and by combining effort and pooling resources, see even greater levels of impact and success. The LINK network in doing this work is representing over half a million people who support one or more of our member organisations.

This has been a third year in which Brexit impacted on the concerns, advocacy and operations of Scotland-based eNGOs and on the work programme of LINK as their intermediary. The extreme uncertainty which this has brought to the UK, Scotland and the environment has brought challenges, although notwithstanding those, some successes have been apparent. LINK members' years of advocacy around future governance, principles, common standards and even better protection beyond Brexit, culminated in the LINK-wide campaign launched in November, *Fight for Scotland's Nature*, which is a unifying advocacy thread across all of our work areas.

Elsewhere, high-level discussions in the second half of the year with Fellows and other thought leader individuals involved in environmental research and advocacy in Scotland convinced LINK's Board of the need for a new level of operation to develop its existing 'think-tank' function for Scotland. Between October 2018 and March 2019, LINK coordinated 3 evening dinners, enabling discussions at which it was agreed that LINK is home to the environmental players, ideas and proactive approach needed. What is now required is support for wider cross-sectoral, high level thought leadership, which LINK can foster. LINK is now pursuing this development.

Priorities in LINK continue to focus around environmental justice and governance, strategic coherence between environment and climate and resource use and management, implementing mechanisms to restore health in the marine environment, supporting more ecologically coherent land use, increasing appreciation of the importance of landscape and modifying planning to support sustainable development.

Scottish Environment LINK

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Overview (continued)

The LINK network

LINK is fortunate in drawing on its growing cohort of Honorary Fellows, who bring diverse skills and knowledge and are keen to inform and support the network's thinking and advocacy. In December, LINK welcomed four new Fellows to the network. However, Simon Pepper's sudden and too early death in September was a sad blow to his family, to LINK, and for Scotland's environmental expertise. Simon was among the founders of LINK (then Scottish Wildlife and Countryside Link) in 1987. His belief in the power of the collective, instinct for advocacy and understanding of people and what they can do to influence change contributed greatly to the vision and confidence of the early LINK. His contribution continued over the years and his wise counsel is very much missed.

Member organisations are very active across LINK in Brexit advocacy, the priority work areas and a wide range of sub-groups. As the year closed, the John Muir Trust's intention to re-join the network after a five-year break was being welcomed by the membership.

This year saw the departure of Jen Anderson from the Chief Officer role, after 30 years at the helm for a new role within the voluntary sector. She gave the Board plenty of notice so succession was managed with minimum impact on operations. Dr Deborah Long was appointed Chief Officer in October, starting at the end of January. Deborah has extensive senior leadership experience in natural and cultural heritage in Scotland, as well as leadership of a multi-partner international consortium working in citizen science across Europe. As a former representative of Plantlife on LINK, a former LINK Chair as well as former convenor of Wildlife and Land work areas, she brings an exceptionally well-informed perspective that will stand us in good stead for the next phases of LINK's development.

LINK's impact

LINK contributions to public policy development through consultation responses, evidence to Parliamentary Committees, briefings, reports and campaigns were well supported by members who consider it clearly adds value to work together. Our positions are appreciated by those developing public policy and new legislation, and in many cases, adopted. The difficulties are in translating good policies into practice, the continual gap between rhetoric and reality. We have been steadily building support with other sectors across LINK's priority areas of Economics, Governance, Land, Marine and Planning, and are exploring further ways to build more cross sectoral support.

Achievements and performance

A sustainable Scotland

Priorities in LINK continue to focus around:

- environmental justice and governance,
- coherence among strategies affecting the environment and climate and resource use and management,
- putting in place the means to restore health in the marine environment,
- encouraging more vibrant and ecologically sensitive land use and an appreciation of why landscape matters, and
- modifying planning so that it will support Scotland's trajectory to sustainability.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT

Achievements and performance (continued)

To address these at country level becomes increasingly more complex as we operate in a sharp-edged and challenging world-wide context of climate and biodiversity emergencies, political and economic uncertainties and the impact this is having on societies and local communities. Struggles to decarbonise the future with particular respect to energy generation and a continued investment in oil and gas resources despite the climate emergency and a decline in support for renewable technologies provide further challenges.

The Scottish Government has made important commitments towards environmental protections and LINK is looking for action on those commitments. The Government has indicated it would bring forward new legislation to ensure Scots law continues to align with EU law; it will strengthen environmental protection, including seeking opportunities to legislate; and it will look at how best to safeguard important EU human rights values. We look forward to more detail in the next Programme for Government.

A strong voice

Improving Scotland's environmental governance

Brexit was the focus for LINK's Governance Group who worked with Scottish Government on Scotland's plans and input to UK processes and with UK environmental NGOs through the Environment Links UK and the Greener UK Coalition. LINK also contributed to developing EU policy through our membership of the European Environment Bureau. Following the Scottish Government's welcome commitments not to roll back on its environmental obligations and to keep pace with the EU on its developments, LINK has advocated for legislation to underpin these commitments. Recognising the need to amplify the environmental voice in wider Brexit discussions we developed the network-wide campaign, [*Fight For Scotland's Nature*](#), drawing on both members' expertise and professional support. We launched the campaign in November to excellent press and social media coverage, which have been followed up with regular blogs and articles from members and supporters, keeping up the momentum. We ran an e-action to coincide with the Scottish Government's consultation on Environmental Principles and Governance in Scotland (February to May 2019) which encouraged over 22,000 individuals to respond, calling for a Scottish Environment Act. This e-action provided an excellent basis for the next phases of the campaign.

LINK's high level of engagement with Scottish Government on Brexit related issues over the year included work on Statutory Instruments and Scottish Statutory Instruments, on the Environment Strategy and on environmental principles and governance. LINK contributed to Parliamentary Inquiries on Brexit related issues, including the Finance and Constitution Committee on the UK Trade Bill, and on Common Frameworks, and submitted evidence to the House of Commons inquiry on the draft UK Environment Bill in January, highlighting points about its relationship to the Scottish Continuity Bill, environmental principles and governance. LINK participated in Scottish Government stakeholder meetings during the Environmental Principles and Governance consultation period.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Achievements and performance (continued)

There has been progress this year with development of an **Environmental Rights Centre** for Scotland, the culmination of over a decade of slow-burn thinking and advocacy within LINK around Scotland's environmental governance, following up the scoping and feasibility report published in March 2018, and LINK's 2009 publication *Governance Matters*, and advocacy around environmental courts, civil rights, and the potential loss of recourse to European Court of Justice. The Legal Strategy Subgroup has developed a constitution for a new organisation, has identified and approached potential trustees and advisers for it, and taken forward fundraising to establish the Centre.

LINK was represented on the reference group for the First Minister's Advisory Group on **Human Rights** leadership, set up partly in response to the threats of Brexit. The group's findings included a recommendation for a right to a healthy environment. LINK's briefing for the subsequent Parliamentary debate highlighted the need for this right to be developed and implemented in line with the Aarhus Convention, the international agreement on environmental democracy to which Scotland is bound, and which has found Scotland wanting, a contributory factor in founding the Environmental Rights Centre. The recommendation acknowledges the fundamental importance of our environment to health and wellbeing, and the impossibility of a fairer Scotland without a clean and healthy environment.

A fairer footprint

LINK received new funding from the Friends Provident Foundation for the Economics Group project **A Circular Economy for a Fairer Footprint**, funding employment of a part-time Sustainable Economics Policy Officer. The first six months was focused on scoping and research issues around the circular economy to inform the network and to prioritise network interests and establishing links with others involved in aspects of circular economy policy and practice. A seminar - *Pathways to a Circular and Resource Efficient Economy* in December 2018 informed the next stage of the work. At the year-end LINK was preparing its own call for a strong Circular Economy Bill and preparing a meeting hosted by Angus MacDonald MSP in Parliament on 12 June. LINK worked with colleagues across the UK on Westminster's consultation on the Extended Producer Responsibility and Plastic Packaging Tax consultations. In line with Scottish Government's commitment to keep pace with EU developments we will be pressing for implementation of its circular economy package, waste framework revisions and eco-design directive. Circular economy thinking can usefully be brought into other areas of policy so we are developing ideas around more circular food and farming for the forthcoming Agriculture Bill, and proposing that the Climate Plan considers carbon footprint emissions globally as well as territorial emissions.

LINK has been represented on the **National Performance Framework (NPF) Round Table** since its inception, representing views on the need for a more environmentally sustainable society. The NPF is Scotland's key means of translating the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into domestic policy and we have welcomed good progress so far in aligning NPF outcomes with the SDGs, and their reflection in the Programme for Government. This year we contributed to Scotland's SDG network's call for evidence on progress towards the SDGs as part of the UK's voluntary reporting mechanism. While LINK welcomes the inclusion of SDGs into Scotland's Performance Framework, there is still progress to be made, particularly in relation to environmental commitments and requirements.

Scottish Environment LINK

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Achievements and performance (continued)

Recovery of Scotland's seas

LINK's **Save Scottish Seas** project, currently funded by the John Ellerman Foundation, continued its programme of work to ensure implementation of marine legislation fulfils its obligations of bringing about ecological recovery in Scottish waters through the completion of an ecologically coherent, well-managed network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and ensuring Scotland's National Marine Plan and subsequent Regional Marine Plans, are able to deliver on these objectives. The funding provides additional capacity to the Marine Group.

The work included:

- preparation for expected consultations on four new Marine Protected Areas for mobile species and an associated public facing campaign;
- organisation of the annual Sea Scotland conference in 2018 and preparations for the 2019 event;
- close engagement with agencies, Ministers and MSPs, community groups and commercial stakeholders on consultations;
- input to the ECCLR Committee;
- briefings for MSPs;
- participation in a wide range of stakeholder groups;
- contributions to UK consultations;
- and commissioning of reports to address gaps in the evidence base.

The report on [Seafloor Integrity](#) which LINK commissioned from Glasgow University and published on the website in November sought to understand whether current conservation measures, such as MPAs will be sufficient to recover Scotland's depleted seabed and meet targets for Good Environmental Status set under EU and domestic law. The report concluded that we simply do not know yet if current use is sustainable or not, which further underlines the need for monitoring and for a precautionary approach to harmful and potentially harmful activities. LINK welcomed roll-out of the MPA network, has commented on management measures for tranche 2 MPAs and welcomed further work to protect Priority Marine Features outside of MPAs, including prompt Government action to protect the Loch Carron flame shell beds after they were damaged by mobile fishing gear.

Marine Group members are contributing to Scottish Government's thinking on **fisheries management** and have contributed to Westminster's Fisheries White Paper consultation. The case for system change is abundantly clear from the evidence in Scottish Government's own *Marine Atlas* and the findings of the UK Marine Strategy (May 2019) that the UK has met only four out of 15 indicators required for healthy oceans.

Members of the Marine Group have been working together on **aquaculture policy**, concerned at plans to expand the industry and its impact on MPAs. LINK contributed to Parliament's Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee's Inquiry into salmon farming in April 2018, and was broadly satisfied with its conclusions.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT

Achievements and performance (continued)

Sea Scotland 2018, on the theme of **Sea, Soul and Society**, was held at Kinghorn on 21-22 June, the third in this national series dedicated to the field of Scottish marine planning and related marine management and conservation policy. It is overseen by a partnership and delivered by LINK. This year's programme was set in the context of change for marine stewardship for community empowerment, including the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, Islands (Scotland) Bill 2018, Crown Estate Scotland Local Asset Management Pilots Scheme and more. Marine planners, decision makers, scientists, community representatives, industry representatives, community councils, NGOs, along with members of the Scottish Youth Parliament and other youth participants, joined to share perspectives on the opportunities these changes present for society. Sea Scotland 2019 in June 2019 has stayed with the theme of Sea Soul and Society, with a focus on Adapting to Climate Change.

Championing better standards for land use, public goods and wildlife

The Planning Group continued its engagement with **Scotland's Planning Bill** which was at Stage 2 at the end of this reporting period. LINK's input included meetings with researchers, civil servants and MSPs, a briefing for the Stage 1 debate in May 2018, and a well-attended fringe meeting at the SNP's Autumn conference on a fairer and more inclusive planning system to deliver a more sustainable Scotland. The role of equal rights of appeal was a central theme and the aim was to raise awareness among SNP members and supporters of the importance of a fairer planning system and the role of limited equal rights of appeal in this context.

The Bill as introduced was very regressive in sustainable development terms, with proposals to remove perceived barriers to development including reduced safeguards and scrutiny, downgrade measures for regional integration and remove Main Issues reporting (a key means of bringing planning into the wider contexts in which it operates). The Group's contributions helped restore some positive elements, although 'it could have been worse' is the general verdict after four years of close engagement since the Independent Panel was appointed by Government. At Stage 2 amendments were introduced for the Bill to have a purpose tied to national outcomes; Parliamentary scrutiny of the National Planning Framework; and certain biodiversity and climate provisions. Efforts to rebalance the rights of communities with developers and bring hilltracks into the planning system were ultimately unsuccessful. The **Hilltracks campaign** published the comprehensive report [Changing Tracks](#) in September 2018, setting out the results of three years of monitoring the current system of prior notification for new or improved tracks for agricultural purposes that fall outside the planning system and recommending a requirement for full planning applications for such tracks. Government's opposition to bringing Hilltracks into the planning system, and to provide a limited equal right of appeal for communities in planning, sit uneasily with its commitments on fairness and empowerment. LINK and its members' work has helped to bring these dichotomies into the public realm and to build momentum for change.

The Land Group keeps an overview of LINK's land-based policy and advocacy taken forward by subgroups. The **Food and Farming Subgroup** continued to build support for sustainable development principles to be the basis of future rural support, post Common Agriculture Policy.

Members want to see farming thrive in Scotland, as part of a sustainable rural economy and cohesive rural communities.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Achievements and performance (continued)

Farming can increase biodiversity, deliver positive animal welfare for farm animals, support nature tourism, create good jobs and deliver a wide range of public goods such as clean water, flood protection, locking up carbon and iconic landscapes. This can be best achieved by ensuring that public policy on farming is part of wider policy debate on the sort of Scotland we want to live in – linked in to commitments on the Sustainable Development Goals, on biodiversity, on climate change, on land reform, and on reducing poverty and inequality. To that end LINK has worked with other stakeholders to find common ground. This involved holding a workshop in June 2018 which brought together sectors with different views and needs for positive discussions; and hosting a seminar in September on future steps for the Land Use Strategy (LUS) which involved officials from the Scottish Government and agencies, senior staff from land management partners, with members and regional groups including the Tweed Forum and the Southern Uplands Partnership. This focused very positively on how the Land Use Strategy and land reform agendas might together drive a future approach to land use policy based much more firmly on the principles of integrated, multi-benefit management and payment for the delivery of public goods identified through an inclusive, participative process.

Last year LINK commissioned a poll to see what Scottish people thought **future public subsidy for farmers** should deliver, finding overwhelming support in favour of a farm subsidy system that delivers for the environment. The results, published in April 2018, were positively covered in the media and referenced by government groups including the Agriculture Champions: the panel of four industry experts advising Scottish Government on the development of a strategy for the sector. Over the course of the year LINK has put more flesh on the bones of what public goods means in this context, proposing ten principles that should underpin future policy and funding. These have been widely supported. At the Parliament's debate in January 2019 LINK was pleased by commitments to set up a new group to inform the direction of agriculture policy, this time involving environmental NGOs and we will be engaged in that over the coming year. LINK has joined with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) on research looking at how farms in different parts of Scotland might plan their businesses to maintain incomes in light of new policy designs.

The **Landscape Subgroup** met over the year, including discussions with SNH on the future of National Scenic Areas and its work with the renewables industry. Several members were involved in wider discussions leading to establishment of a new Landscape Alliance launched in April.

The **Deer Subgroup** met regularly, contributing to SNH's review of the deer code, to meetings of the Deer Round Table and preparing for SNH's report to Government on Deer Management Groups' performance which is expected next October. They have connected with the Independent Review of Deer Management which is expected to report in September.

Championing Scotland's nature

The Wildlife Subgroup had a very busy programme covering the Species Champions initiative, contributions to the Climate Bill, the National Ecological Network (NEN) as a mechanism for improving connectivity and building resilience for nature, funding for biodiversity, and new targets to halt biodiversity loss from 2020.

Scottish Environment LINK

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Achievements and performance (continued)

LINK's 100 day challenge for **Species Champions** - Members of the Scottish Parliament who champion an endangered or iconic species - ran from June to September 2018, organised by LINK's Species Champions Coordinator. It was very successful, engaging over half the MSPs, involving excellent cooperation between member bodies and some cross party engagement by MSPs. An event at the Parliament in September with 33 MSPs and 70 guests celebrated the success of the challenge. We have been working with Champions to build support for nature across the wider LINK agenda with notable interventions on the Climate Bill, on Wildlife Crime among other issues.

From 2020, Scotland will have a new biodiversity strategy to follow **the UN targets (Aichi 2011-2020)**, and, LINK hopes, ambitious targets and an action plan robust enough to meet the nature emergency. LINK has worked alongside Scottish Natural Heritage, government officials and the Environment and Climate Change and Land Reform (ECCLR) Committee to get consensus on the kind of action needed. A significant barrier is the still prevalent perception that environmental and economic goods must be in conflict. One important mechanism with potential is the National Ecological Network (NEN), a key plank of the Biodiversity Routemap for several years. It has remained mostly conceptual and needs to be realised on the ground and through improved policy integration. LINK has worked with SNH to come to a common understanding of what it will mean for various sectors and gain wider support for it. It was the topic for a Parliamentary event hosted by Claudia Beamish MSP in June. Funding for Biodiversity is also a key priority which the Subgroup has highlighted in all discussions with SNH, MSPs and the Parliament's (ECCLR) committee.

LINK's contribution to the **Climate Bill** were primarily on the biodiversity aspects, complementing the work of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland which focusses mainly on mitigation. LINK has contributed evidence briefings during the passage of the Bill which is expected to conclude later in 2019. LINK and WWF Scotland jointly commissioned a report on the climate change impacts on Scottish Biodiversity [*Scotland's Nature on Red Alert*](#) which was widely shared and very helpful in raising the issues with the ECCLR committee and with Species Champions.

The **Coul Links planning application** and public inquiry have been high on members' agendas. After Scottish Government published a new policy note in January which apparently weakens protection for Scotland's internationally important Ramsar sites below the level of protection for wetland habitats in the rest of the UK, LINK wrote to the First Minister with concerns.

The Woodlands subgroup submitted a comprehensive response to the **draft Scottish Forestry Strategy** in November, concerned about its lack of content in comparison to the previous 2006 strategy. The strategy as published was disappointing in failing to point the industry clearly in an environmentally sustainable direction. The subgroup will be engaging with Forest and Land Scotland's consultation on its Corporate Plan.

The Wildlife Crime Subgroup have been pressing for more consistency in the basics of **wildlife crime recording and reporting** and met Scottish Government, Police Scotland and MSPs to discuss ways forward. A briefing was sent to the ECCLR committee on publication of *Wildlife Crime in Scotland: 2017 report*, in March 2019, outlining concerns and calling for improvements. Several Species Champion MSPs are interested in helping and plans for an autumn Parliamentary event are in progress.

Scottish Environment LINK

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Achievements and performance (continued)

An effective and efficient network

Building UK alliances

There has been excellent liaison among the 4 country Links and with the Republic of Ireland network around Brexit, which increased this year in terms of networking meetings, developing joint strategy which is devolution-sensitive, mutually informing the advocacy plans of Environment Links UK (ELUK) and the Green Alliance coalition. The secretariat was shared by LINK and Wildlife and Countryside Link this year. As always, Links Directors continued to keep in touch with one another over operational issues.

The 6th biennial ELUK conference was held in London in October 2018, hosted by Wildlife & Countryside Link. It gave ELUK members the opportunity to explore how we can work effectively together, and with our Governments, to facilitate effective delivery of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in the context of the UK's exit from the European Union and the Voluntary National Review of progress to which UK Government is committed in 2019. The meeting heard from Government representatives from Wales, England and Scotland about measures in each country, and from the UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development - the network committed to driving forward action on the SDGs in the UK - which produced the landmark report on the UK's progress, *Measuring Up*. This report rather starkly shows how much there is to be done. The afternoon focussed on the SDGs most relevant to the environmental sector: Biodiversity, Sustainable Agriculture, Climate Action, Circular Economy, and Marine. With the SDGs the most significant driver of sustainability across the UK there is the opportunity for NGOs to do a lot more in terms of public communications, education and forming new partnerships, and more to be done to articulate the role of the SDGs in our work with Government, so that they become better embedded across departments and policies.

The network in Scotland:

LINK held its annual evening reception in Parliament on 17 April. To coincide with Year of Young People 2018, the '**Generation Earth**' reception highlighted the work LINK members do to connect young people to nature and featured inspiring work from young environmental campaigners. The reception was well attended by parliamentarians, government and civic society, and 20 MSPs joined us on the evening.

The **Members' Congress** held in Perth on 31 August was on the theme of successful environmental campaigning and how to get more of it. It followed a day of campaigning training which 40 people attended. The evening gathering of 70 members and guests heard short presentations from five campaigns; anti-fracking, Have you Got the Bottle?, Don't Take the P (out of MPAs), Beaver reintroduction, and the Refit of the EU Natura Directives, followed by a panel discussion teasing out the vital lessons for future campaigning. Thanks to all the members who took part and to Joanna Dick, Perth & Kinross Greenspace Ranger, who led an interesting wildlife walk along the banks of the Tay between sessions.

The **Festive reception** on 12 December was used not only to reflect on the achievements of the network in the past year but also as a timely opportunity to say a fond farewell to Jen Anderson.

Scottish Environment LINK

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Achievements and performance (continued)

Capacity development

Efforts to deepen relationships with our funders have had a significant impact with new unrestricted funding from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation combined with continued core support from the William Grant Foundation, enabling the recruitment of additional advocacy capacity in the form of new posts. LINK's Fight for Scotland's Nature (FFSN) campaign work was generously supported with an additional grant from WWF Scotland this year enabling recruitment of a part-time dedicated coordinator.

The year has seen welcome developments in the staff team with a new Advocacy Officer post, supporting LINK's work on climate and wildlife in particular; a new Campaign Coordinator amplifying effort on Brexit through the FFSN campaign, plus extension of the Species Champion Coordinator contract.

The change in Chief Officer brings opportunities to lead the development of thought leadership for the environment, which, along with a focus on building wider alliances beyond the sector, are key tasks for the CO going forward. The latest 4-year evaluation of jobs and salaries at LINK was carried out pro bono by Ian Findlay, Honorary Fellow, in summer 2018. This confirmed that all staff have a high level of job satisfaction, believe in the vision of the organisation and are of the view that they are fairly remunerated, including salary. The high level of informal flexibility and trust within the organisation are greatly and universally valued. LINK salaries generally compare favourably with salaries elsewhere in the Third Sector.

The LINK Scottish Environmental Fundraisers Forum (SEFF), which aims to increase funding to the sector as a whole, coordinated the commission of a short film (*This is Scotland*) in order to highlight the funding gap for the Scottish environment. A communications plan has been developed including a launch screening planned for October 2019.

Financial review

The charitable company had net income in the year of £82,044 (2018: £38,945). There was a net increase of £65,557 (2018: £23,524) in the year in the level of unrestricted funds, leaving unrestricted funds carried forward at the year end of £326,143 (2018: £260,586). There was a net increase of £16,487 (2018: £15,421) in the year in the level of restricted funds, leaving restricted funds carried forward of £71,799 (2018: £55,312).

LINK's membership subscriptions remains the biggest contribution to LINK's finances, which protects LINK's independence and integrity. For this period, member support through fees and income in kind supported 60% of LINK's core costs, meeting a Key Performance Indicator.

Scottish Environment LINK

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Financial review (continued)

The improvement in unrestricted funds is largely attributable to an award of £83,000 from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the first of three years of a grant totalling £250,000 to meet core costs and the challenges of Brexit over the period from 2018 to 2021, which will enable additional expenditure on advocacy for the Scottish environment and additional related projects. LINK also received the second instalment of £20,000 of a three-year award from the William Grant Foundation. Public sector support from Scottish Natural Heritage and Scottish Government remained level again, which is very welcome given the wider financial context. These grants support LINK's functions as an intermediary body that co-ordinates, supports and strengthens the voice of the sector through provision of a forum that shares information, discusses issues affecting the environment and works together to advocate for a sustainable Scotland.

With core funding relatively stable LINK's effort focussed on fundraising for priority projects, including establishment of an Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland and capacity to support collective work for Oceans Recovery from 2020. As of August, 2019 we are happy to report funding has been awarded by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust for establishment of Environmental Rights Centre.

Reserves policy

LINK Board has determined that unrestricted funds held by the charity, not designated or invested in tangible fixed assets ("the free reserves" i.e. general reserves less fixed assets) should aim to be enough to cover 12 months of operation in a scenario where LINK were to sustain significant loss in one or other of its funding streams; also, that this should include enough funds to close the organisation down if it were to prove unviable to continue. The Board estimates this as approximately £280,000 in unrestricted funds. At present LINK's free reserves amount to £324,746 comfortably exceeds this target, and the generous grants receivable over the next two-three years are likely to enable LINK to avoid unfavourable financial constraints during this period. The trustees are very conscious of the need to ensure this additional income is spent wisely and effectively, and also to ensure that LINK is prepared for the inevitable substantial decline in income when the life-spans of these grants expire in 2020 and 2021. The trustees maintain a 5-year forward funding projection and are well aware of the need to ensure that they keep a firm control on fixed and establishment costs.

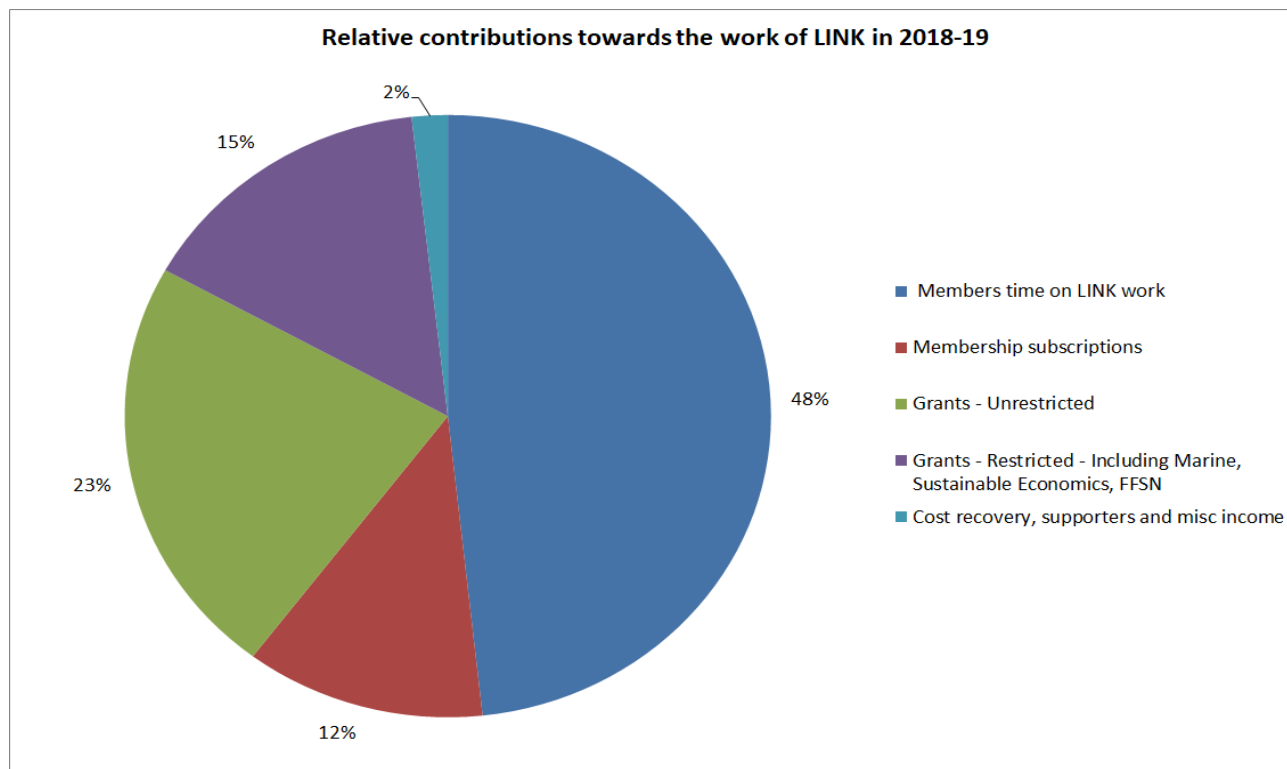
Funding and support

LINK would be nothing without the support and active engagement of its [member organisations](#). Besides paying subscriptions these organisations engage actively in LINK policy advocacy, representing the network on [stakeholder forums](#) and giving evidence and at relevant events. Members determine direction of the network and lead LINK's policy Groups and Subgroups, making considerable commitment to joint endeavour and to the network's impact and reputation. LINK trustees' time on the Board and Board subgroups is freely given by their employers - often member bodies of LINK. A big thanks to all who contributed over the year: Trustees, Group and Subgroup leads, Fellows, President and LINK's excellent staff team.

Together with membership subscriptions, total member organisation contributions account for 60% of all contributions to LINK (comparing with a 62% contribution in 2017-18). The time voluntarily committed by member organisations on collective work carried out under LINK auspices over the year equates to around £372,000, or 1,360 days.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Funding and support (continued)



LINK is also very pleased to acknowledge and thanks its various non-member funders for the year to 31 March 2019:

Funding type	Funder	Support for
Core	Member subscriptions	Core funding and support
	Organisational Supporters	Core funding and support
	Scottish Natural Heritage	Core funding and support
	Scottish Government Energy and Climate Change Directorate	Core funding and support
	Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	Support to LINK's core costs and the challenges of Brexit over the next three years
	William Grant Foundation	Core work
	Craignish Trust	Core work
Restricted	Mamas & Papas	Core work
	Friends Provident Foundation	LINK's Circular Economy for a Fairer Footprint work
	John Ellerman Foundation	Saving Scottish Seas

Scottish Environment LINK

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Funding and support (continued)

	WWF Scotland	Sea Scotland 2018; LINK's FFSN campaign, Climate advocacy and the production of Scotland's Nature on Red Alert ; 'This is Scotland' promotional fundraising film
	Scottish Natural Heritage	Sea Scotland 2018
	Crown Estate Scotland	Sea Scotland 2018
	Scottish Wildlife Trust	Sea Scotland 2018; LINK's FFSN Campaign; 'This is Scotland' promotional film
	Heriot Watt University Institute of Life and Earth Sciences	Sea Scotland 2018
	Marine Conservation Society	Sea Scotland 2018
	RSPB Scotland	LINK's FFSN campaign and advocacy; 'This is Scotland' promotional film; LINK's Food and Farming subgroup work with Scottish Natural Heritage 'Preparing the Evidence Base for Post-Brexit agriculture in Scotland - Case studies'
	Woodland Trust Scotland	LINK's FFSN campaign; 'This is Scotland' promotional film
	National Trust for Scotland	'This is Scotland' promotional film
	Scottish Wild Land Group	Hilltracks project
	Marine Protected Areas Fighting Fund	Save Scottish Seas
	Scottish Mountaineering Trust	Hilltracks project
	WWF UK	Environment Links UK liaison

Risk management

Risk is reviewed at least annually at Board level, with some responsibilities delegated to senior management staff. In autumn 2018, LINK's risk register was restructured and updated and includes a summary page flagging the status of areas of highest likelihood and greatest potential impact. In addition, Trustees consider a political strategy report every six months which flags issues for discussion and is shared with member organisations. Succession planning needs are assessed every 12 months for Board and plans exist for key staff, Group leads and President.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Structure, governance and management

Structure

LINK is a Scottish charity and company limited by guarantee. Incorporated on 10th June 2003. LINK was originally founded as an unincorporated association by fourteen Scottish third sector organisations in 1987 as the forum for Scotland's voluntary environment sector. Its role has not changed, and its core function remains to exchange information and enable discussion and concerted action around issues of particular common interest among the members. LINK's [Articles of Association](#) adopted in June 2003 were most recently amended in 2017 and a comprehensive set of [Operating Principles](#) last updated in Spring 2018 guides those engaged in LINK on how the network operates and how they can derive benefit from their involvement. Should the Company be wound up its Trustees (directors) must contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Governance

LINK's AGM of 12 December 2018 saw members re-elect trustees Charles Dundas, Beryl Leatherland and Lucy Graham and approve the re-election of Charles Dundas as Chair, Craig Macadam as Vice-Chair and Tim Ambrose as Treasurer. Members re-appointed Joyce McMillan for a final year as [President](#) and supported the Board's recommendation to appoint as Honorary Fellows Lloyd Austin, Coralie Mills, Pat Monahan and Campbell Gemmell.

Four Board meetings during this period maintained oversight on LINK's priorities, budget, risk register, policies and procedures with staff leading on implementing updates and processes. The Board welcomed the strength of LINK's finances thanks to new trust funding support for core work on Brexit implications over the next 3 years and are considering exit strategies beyond this funded period. Members were consulted over proposed options to LINK's subscriptions policy and adoption of a smoothed model of subscription with a 20% cap was approved. The Discretionary Project Fund (DPF) application procedure has been renovated following discussion at the board on ensuring that DPF funds contribute to LINK's strategic priorities to maximise its impact.

Management of the network on a day-to-day basis is the responsibility of the Chief Officer and senior staff team. Brief bi-weekly calls are held to overview progress among the staff, with full team meetings every 2 months. Annual appraisals of staff inform work plans, personal development and training objectives and this is backed up by regular staff-to-manager contact.

Marking a decade of carbon accounting, LINK's tenth [carbon emissions](#) report was issued in May 2019. This year reported an increase in carbon emissions, the first since 2012, but it was still the second lowest in terms of emissions over the 10-year period. LINK continues to look for opportunities to further reduce its emissions with recent investments in video conferencing to facilitate remote participation and cut travel

Public Benefit

LINK exists to provide a voice for Scotland's environment in policy making and advocacy to build a sustainable future. The ultimate beneficiaries of LINK activity are the public, who gain where LINK is successful in gaining improvements to policy in Scotland and the UK, contributing to the positive direction of travel for the environment and environmental governance, and where LINK works to extend people's ability to inform and influence decisions relating to environmental and development policy at UK, Scotland and local levels.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Structure, governance and management (continued)

LINK has continued its proactive role in policy development and advocacy at Scottish, UK and international levels, making a point of seeking allies and of engaging with other sectors to help to identify positive solutions for challenges facing us, and working to influence decision-making at all levels. LINK retains its strong and constructive relationship with parliamentarians and political parties in Scotland and at Westminster and is highly respected as the channel for Scotland's third sector environmental voices.

Looking ahead to 2020 and beyond

2020 is going to be a significant year for the environment and for LINK and our member bodies. The political space being opened up by other organisations including Extinction Rebellion and the School Climate Strikes provide a significant opportunity for LINK to facilitate, enable and support effective action by politicians to address the concerns being made. This is going to make significant demands on the network. LINK's new Corporate Plan will place the network in a strong position going forward, through the identification of priorities and a parallel streamlining of procedures will enable the network to increase efficiency in delivery. There will undoubtedly be continued strain on resources and capacity given the range and number of political developments that will affect the environment. Of these, the implications of Brexit will loom large and LINK's Fight for Scotland's Nature campaign will remain the focus of LINK's work both with government and with a wider audience and partners.

There will be considerable attention given to 2020 as the year of the next Conference of the Parties where the biodiversity targets, and the biodiversity crisis, will feature strongly. LINK will continue to work through the Wildlife and Governance Groups and with partners in IUCN and elsewhere to maintain a strategic vision of what is required in terms of targets, objectives, vision and outcomes. LINK's priorities will remain biodiversity targets, funding and the National Ecological Network. Aligned to this will be ongoing work on future subsidies for land management.

Marine work will continue to be a focus with the ongoing and delayed consultations implementing a Marine Protection Area network and protection of marine resources. Support for the current Marine Advocacy Officer post in LINK comes to an end in 2019 and considerable effort is required to maintain our capacity through that post.

LINK's key input into wider strategic thinking at national and international level will be through two opportunities: the ongoing development of a thought space to seed effective action for Scotland's environment and people both from within and outwith the environment sector. LINK will be building capacity for this through reaching out to build on the work in 2018 – 2019 to scope and develop mechanisms for such thinking to take place and in building wider and stronger partnerships. Key partnerships to develop include within the land management sector, the business sector, civic society and human rights and the international networks of IUCN and wider LINK networks.

LINK will continue to drive forward plans for an Environmental Rights Centre in Scotland for which funding bids are in place to secure staffing and set up costs in 2019 – 2020. This will increase capacity to address planning issues including rights to appeal which remain a frustration with little progress having been made to date through the 2019 Planning Bill.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Looking ahead to 2020 and beyond (continued)

Also in the next 12 months, LINK will be looking for a new President as Joyce McMillan steps down in 2019. LINK also continues to build our membership network and to welcome new Honorary Fellows to the network who are invaluable in providing LINK with expertise, significant donations of their time, and access to wider high level networks.

Trustee selection, induction and appraisal

LINK member organisations can elect up to nine Trustees while the Board has an option to co-opt two further trustees to secure key skills with reference to the skills audit which is reviewed annually. Trustees must declare any interests at election and a register of interests is reviewed by the Board at the first meeting after the AGM. Trustees are inducted by the Chair and Chief Officer and training opportunities are brought to the Board's attention. A three-yearly appraisal between Chair and trustees took place in 2018. This confirmed that there were no current or upcoming issues. Strategic alignment continues to be a concern, which will be addressed through preparation for the next Corporate Plan, due in 2020.

Trustees and President

Charles Dundas (re-elected 12 December 2018) (Chair)

Craig Macadam (Vice-Chair)

Tim Ambrose (Treasurer)

Beryl Leatherland (re-elected 12 December 2018)

Paul Walton

Sam Gardner

Lucy Graham (re-elected 12 December 2018)

Clare Symonds

Helen Senn

President: Joyce McMillan (re-appointed 12 December 2018)

Key Management Personnel

The Trustees consider that they, together with the Chief Officer, comprise the key management personnel. The Trustees give their time freely and the pay and remuneration of the key management personnel is set by the Board and is kept under annual review.

Staff

Jen Anderson, Chief Officer, resigned January 2019

Deborah Long, Chief Officer, appointed January 2019

Alice Walsh, Development Officer

Daphne Vlastari, Advocacy Manager

Karen Paterson, Finance and Office Manager

Lisa Webb, Advocacy Office Manager

Calum Langdale, Species Champion Co-Ordinator

Dilraj Watson, Advocacy Officer, appointed April 2018

Phoebe Cochrane, Sustainable Economics Policy Officer, re-appointed May 2018

Emilie Devenport, Marine Policy and Engagement Officer, resigned September 2018

Esther Brooker, Marine Policy Officer, re-appointed October 2018

Miriam Ross, Fight for Scotland's Nature Campaign Coordinator, appointed January 2019

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Honorary Fellows

LINK appoints Honorary Fellows whose expertise is recognised by the LINK membership and with whom LINK wishes to retain a close working relationship. In 2018 – 2019, LINK had 27 Honorary fellows. On 12 December 2018, Lloyd Austin, Coralie Mills, Pat Monahan and Campbell Gemmell joined LINK's group of [Fellows](#).

Group Conveners and Vice-Conveners

Economics – Matthew Crighton, Friends of the Earth Scotland and Bruce Wilson, Scottish Wildlife Trust
Governance – Lloyd Austin, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland
Land – Vicki Swales, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland and Charles Dundas, Woodland Trust Scotland
Marine - Calum Duncan, Marine Conservation Society and Sarah Dolman, Whale and Dolphin Conservation
Planning – Aedán Smith, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland and Clare Symonds, Planning Democracy

Subgroup Leaders and Deputies

Aquaculture - Sam Collin, Scottish Wildlife Trust and Dawn Purchase, Marine Conservation Society
Brexit – Lloyd Austin, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland
Deer - Duncan Orr-Ewing, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland
Food and Farming - Pete Ritchie, Nourish Scotland and Anna Brand, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland
Hilltracks - Helen Todd, Ramblers' Scotland and Beryl Leatherland, Scottish Wild Land Group
Land reform, Land use, landscape - John Thomson, Scottish Campaign for National Parks
Landscape - John Thomson, Scottish Campaign for National Parks and Beryl Leatherland, Scottish Wild Land Group
Legal Strategy – Lloyd Austin, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland and Mary Church, Friends of the Earth Scotland
Wildlife - Craig Macadam, Buglife and Elizabeth Ferrell, Bat Conservation
Wildlife Crime – Eddie Palmer, Scottish Badgers and Ian Thomson, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland
Woodlands – Charles Dundas, Woodland Trust Scotland and Sian Williams, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland

Membership

Membership is strong and healthy with proactive engagement by the range of NGO members listed below. High levels of satisfaction with LINK were evidenced in a round of liaison between member organisation and LINK trustees (ending summer 2018) and through contact meetings between incoming Chief Officer Deborah Long and members through 2019.

Salmon and Trout Conservation resigned from the network in spring 2018, having decided that despite a welcomed joint approach to the Rural and Environment Committee, their advocacy strategy on aquaculture needed to go further than LINK's approach.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Member organisations 2018-19

Amphibian and Reptile Conservation	Friends of the Earth Scotland
Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland	Froglife Trust (Scotland)
Badenoch and Strathspey Conservation Group	Hebridean Whale & Dolphin Trust
Bat Conservation Trust	Marine Conservation Society
British Ecological Society – Scottish Policy Group	National Trust for Scotland
Buglife	North East Mountain Trust
Bumblebee Conservation Trust	Nourish Scotland
Butterfly Conservation Scotland	Planning Democracy
Cairngorms Campaign	Plantlife Scotland
Royal Zoological Society of Scotland	Ramblers Scotland
Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland (resigned June 18)	RSPB Scotland
SCAPE Trust	Scottish Raptor Study Group
Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society	Scottish Wild Beaver Group
Soil Association Scotland	Scottish Wild Land Group
Scottish Badgers	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Scottish Campaign for National Parks	Trees for Life
Scottish Countryside Rangers' Association	Whale and Dolphin Conservation
Scottish Farming and Wildlife Advisers' Group	Woodland Trust Scotland
Scottish Geodiversity Forum	WWF Scotland

Organisational supporters

Crown Estate Scotland
Keep Scotland Beautiful
Paths for All Partnership
Scottish Power
University of Edinburgh, Department for Social Responsibility & Sustainability
In December 2018 Revive: The coalition for grouse moor reform – became a Supporter.

The support of LINK's Organisational Supporters is appreciated

Scottish Environment LINK

TRUSTEES' REPORT

LINK outputs 2018 – 2019

Brexit subgroup

[LINK's response to the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee call for evidence on EU Environmental and Animal Welfare Principles](#)

Economics

[LINK response to Scottish National Investment Bank Consultation Pathways to a Circular and Resource Efficient Economy, 5th December 2018](#)
[Finding our way to circularity](#)

LINK Economic Group [response to the Scottish Government UN Sustainable Development Goals Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) to inform development of the UK Government VNR (specific to Scotland's progress on UN SDG 12)

[LINK Briefing on a Scottish National Investment Bank Parliamentary Debate Evidence to the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee on the construction sector](#), from LINK's Economics Group

Food & Farming

[Response to the consultation on Stability, Certainty and Simplicity in Rural Support by Scottish Environment LINK Food & Farming Subgroup](#)
[Future farm support in Scotland – a very muddy picture: LINK response to Ministerial statement on CAP](#)
[77% of Scots want farming to deliver for our environment and climate, poll suggests](#)
[Environmental NGOs urge MSPs to support bold changes for a fairer Scottish planning system, ahead of critical debate in Parliament](#)
[LINK Response to Agriculture Champions Report](#)
[LINK response to report by the National Council of Rural Advisers "Discussion document: a rural conversation"](#)
[LINK Response to the consultation Stability, Certainty and Simplicity in Rural Support](#)
[LINK Parliamentary Briefing on Future Rural Policy and Support in Scotland Debate](#)

Governance

[LINK Parliamentary Briefing: Revoking Article 50 Debate](#)
[LINK Parliamentary Briefing on EU Birds and Habitats SSI](#)

Hilltracks

[Changing Tracks – LINK Hilltracks report](#)

Land

[10 Principles for Future Land Management Support in Scotland](#)
[LINK response to the draft Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029](#)
LINK Land Group [response to the Scottish Government UN Sustainable Development Goals Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) to inform development of the UK Government VNR (specific to Scotland's progress on UN SDG 15 – Life on land)
[LINK Briefing ahead of Environment Committee evidence session with Scottish Land Commission](#)

Marine

[LINK Marine group response to the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee – Salmon Farming in Scotland](#)
[Environmental Impacts of Salmon Farming in Scotland. LINK evidence to the ECCLR Inquiry](#)

Scottish Environment LINK

TRUSTEES' REPORT

LINK outputs 2018 – 2019 (continued)

[Letter to Cabinet Secretary Roseanna Cunningham on marine wildlife tourism](#)

[LINK Marine Group response to the Scottish Government consultation on Offshore Wind Sectoral Marine Plan Scoping.](#)

[Response to Environment Climate Change and Land Reform Committee regarding the National Marine Plan](#)

[Response to the Wild Seaweed Harvesting Scoping Report by Marine Biopolymers](#)

[LINK Marine Response to the consultation on protection for Priority Marine Features outside the Marine Protected Area network](#)

[Seafloor Integrity Report](#)

[Letter to Fergus Ewing on inshore fisheries management](#)

[Climate Change Impacts on Marine Species](#)

[Response to the Scottish Government consultation on the Loch Carron Marine Protected Area Sea Scotland 2018 – conference report](#)

[LINK Marine Group submission to the Scottish Affairs Committee on the UK Fisheries Bill](#)

[UN SDG Delivery in Scotland – Call for Evidence, SDG 14 – Life below water](#)

[Letter to Mairi Gougeon, Minister RANE](#)

Planning

[LINK Planning Bill Stage 1 Briefing](#)

[LINK Stage 1 Debate on the Planning \(Scotland\) Bill \(25/5\)](#)

[Scottish Environment LINK welcomes Holyrood committee's call to improve Scottish planning system](#)

Wildlife

[LINK welcomes Scottish legislation giving Eurasian Beavers European Protected Species status](#)

[Scotland's Nature on Red Alert: climate change impacts on biodiversity](#)

[Climate change impacts on terrestrial species](#)

[LINK response on post-legislative scrutiny of the Biodiversity Duty](#)

[Scotland must step up efforts or risk missing global biodiversity targets, say environmental charities](#)

[Over 100 MSPs Champion Scottish Biodiversity for 100 Days under the banner of Scottish Environment](#)

[LINK's Species Champions Initiative](#)

[Submission to ECCLR on annual review of Route Map to 2020 and Scotland's Biodiversity Progress to 2020 Aichi Targets Interim Report](#)

[LINK response to the ECCLR Committee inquiry into biodiversity funding and implementation](#)

[Scotland is in urgent need of laws to protect its natural beauty](#)

[Environmental Charities Demand Concrete Action for Scotland's Nature](#)

[Scottish Environmental NGOs call for more ambitious climate targets as report highlights increasing climate change pressures on Scottish biodiversity](#)

Wildlife Crime

[LINK Briefing: Scottish Government's Wildlife Crime in Scotland 2017 Annual Report and Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee's Wildlife Crime Evidence Session](#)

General

[Letter to First Minister re Scottish Government Ramsar Sites Policy](#)

[LINK response on revised National Performance Framework provisions](#)

[LINK position paper on Protected Areas Working Group \(PAWG\) vision and strategic objectives for protected areas](#)

[Letter in response to the Culture Strategy to the Cabinet Secretary, Fiona Hyslop](#)

Scottish Environment LINK

TRUSTEES' REPORT

LINK outputs 2018 – 2019 (continued)

[Scottish Environment LINK members respond to Report by the Roundtable on Environment and Climate Change on Environmental Governance in Scotland on the UK's withdrawal from the EU](#)

[LINK Response to ECCLR Call for Evidence on Stage 1 of Climate Change \(Emissions Reduction Targets\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

[LINK's response to the Scottish Government consultation "Investing in and paying for your water services from 2021" Submitted September 2018.](#)

[LINK submission to Finance and Constitution Committee on Common UK Frameworks](#)

[LINK consultation response on a deposit return scheme for Scotland](#)

[LINK additional evidence on Climate Bill to Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee \(ECCLR\)](#)

[First Minister's Advisory Group call for a right to a healthy environment fundamental for a Fairer Scotland, say Scottish Environmental NGOs](#)

[LINK response to the Scottish Government's Strategic Environmental Assessment and partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment on the Preferred Policy Position of 'no support' for UOG](#)

[LINK Briefing on Climate Bill Stage 1 Debate](#)

[LINK Parliamentary Briefing: Climate Emergency Debate](#)

ELUK joint responses

[ELUK Response to Defra's consultation on 'Environmental Principles and Governance after the United Kingdom leaves the European Union'](#)

[ELUK letter on Single-Use Plastics and Energy and Resource Efficient Products](#)

Press releases

[Scottish Environment LINK announces new Chief Officer, Dr Deborah Long](#)

[Call for Scotland to safeguard EU environmental laws to protect people and nature after Brexit!](#)

[Written evidence for the Scottish Government's Tourism Tax discussion](#)

[evidence on the draft UK Environment Bill in response to the joint call by the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee and the Environmental Audit Committee](#)

Scottish Environment LINK

TRUSTEES' REPORT

LINK's representation on external Stakeholder forums

Cross Cutting Forums

ScotRail Stakeholder Advisory Panel, Mike Robinson, LINK Honorary Fellow

Climate

Climate Change Bill Technical discussion group: Dilraj Sokhi Watson, LINK Advocacy Officer

Climate Change Plan Monitoring Framework: Dilraj Sokhi Watson, LINK Advocacy Officer

Deer

Association of Deer Management Advisory Groups: Duncan Orr-Ewing RSPB

Deer Management Round Table, Duncan Orr-Ewing, RSPB

Economics

Scottish Forum on Natural Capital: Economics Group fields rep as appropriate

Scottish Government Roundtable to review the National Performance Framework: Daphne Vlastari, LINK

SEPA International Innovation Panel – Matthew Crighton, FoES

Food and Farming

Agricultural and Rural development Stakeholder Group (formerly CAP): Pete Ritchie, Nourish Scotland, Vicki Swales, RSPB.

National Programme Assessment Committee (Agri-Environment Climate scheme) John Thomson, SCNP, Vicki Swales RSPB.

Joint Programme Monitoring Committee: Vicki Swales, RSPB

Rural Development Operational Committee: Vicki Swales, RSPB

Monitoring and Evaluation Steering Group (sub-group of RDOC): Vicki Swales, RSPB

Climate Change and Agriculture Strategy Group: Jim Densham, RSPB

NFUS Farmed Environment Forum: Pete Ritchie, Nourish Scotland

Governance

Reference Group of the First Minister's Advisory Group on Human Rights Leadership – Lloyd Austin, RSPB

Marine

Clyde Marine Planning Partnership: Calum Duncan, MCS

Marine Monitoring Network Project Steering Group: Sarah Dolman, WDC, Charles Nathan RSPB

Marine Protected Areas Sustainability Appraisal Project Advisory Group: Calum Duncan, MCS

Marine Strategic Studies Forum: Sarah Dolman, WDC

Marine Strategy Forum Lloyd Austin, RSPB, Calum Duncan, MCS alternate

Offshore Renewable Energy – Project Advisory Group: Sarah Dolman, WDC, Charles Nathan, RSPB

DECC SEA Steering Group: Richard Luxmoore, NTS, Sarah Dolman, WDC

Scottish Coastal Forum: Calum Duncan, MCS

Scottish Bathing Waters Review Panel: Calum Duncan, MCS

Scottish Government Sectoral Plan for Offshore Wind: Charles Nathan, RSPB

Marine Scotland UK Fisheries Improvements Projects: Marine group rep

Scottish Marine Renewables Research Group: Sarah Dolman, WDC

Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group – Fisheries: Calum Duncan, MCS / Sarah Dolman, WDC, WWF & RSPB attend.

Scottish Environment LINK

TRUSTEES' REPORT

LINK's representation on external Stakeholder forums (continued)

Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group – Marine Tourism and Recreational Boating: Marine group Rep Wave and Tidal Energy Sector Plan, Habitats Regulations Appraisal Steering Group: Sarah Dolman, WDC, Charles Nathan, RSPB

Ministry of Defence Advisory Forum: Sarah Dolman, WDC (watching brief only)

Scottish Government Inshore Fisheries Management and Conservation Group (IFMAC): Calum Duncan, MCS

Marine Scotland – Renewables Sectoral Engagement Strategy: Sarah Dolman, WDC, Charles Nathan RSPB Scotland

The Crown Estate – offshore renewables: Sarah Dolman, WDC, Charles Nathan RSPB Scotland

Marine Protected Area Monitoring and Management Plans (MarPAMM) project advisory group – Esther Brooker

COMPASS advisory group – Sarah Dolman WDC

Project UK Fisheries Improvement Projects steering group (Nephrops) – Richard Luxmoore NTS

Project UK Fisheries Improvement Project steering group (scallops) – Calum Duncan MCS

Scot Parliament CPG (recreational boating and marine tourism) – Esther Brooker, LINK, Sarah Dolman, WDC

Aquaculture

Wild Salmon Interactions working group: Sam Collin, SWT

Farmed Fish Health Framework – Licensing Working Group: Sam Collin, SWT

SEPA National Aquaculture Stakeholder advisory panel: Dawn Purchase, MCS

Planning

Scottish Forum for Planning – Aedan Smith, RSPB

DPEA Stakeholder forum – Clare Symonds, Planning Democracy

Wildlife

SBS Non-Native Species Action Group – Paul Walton RSPB Scotland, Craig Macadam Buglife

SBS Habitats and Species Group – Paul Walton RSPB Scotland, Craig Macadam Buglife

ELUK Brexit Nature Coalition – Daphne Vlastari, LINK

SBS Co-ordination Group – Paul Walton RSPB Scotland

Woodland

Forestry Commission Customer Reps Group: Jill Aitken, WTS, Sian Williams. RSPB

Scottish Tree Health Advisory Group: Matt Elliot WTS, Sian Williams, RSPB (sharing representation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees (who are also directors of Scottish Environment LINK for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of trustees on 17 September 2019 and signed on their behalf by:



Charles Dundas
Chair

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT LINK

I report on the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2019 which are set out on pages 28 to 42.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and Independent Examiner

The charitable company's trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the financial statements as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiners' statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charitable company and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements.

Independent examiners' statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respects the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations; and
 - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations;have not been met; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Emma Marshall CA
Independent Examiner
Geoghegans
Chartered Accountants
6 St Colme Street
Edinburgh
EH3 6AD

17 September 2019

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	112,250	-	112,250	114,348
Charitable activities	3	196,782	145,974	342,756	240,721
Investment income	4	1,239	-	1,239	1,119
Total income		<u>310,271</u>	<u>145,974</u>	<u>456,245</u>	<u>356,188</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	<u>(244,477)</u>	<u>(129,724)</u>	<u>(374,201)</u>	<u>(317,243)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(244,477)</u>	<u>(129,724)</u>	<u>(374,201)</u>	<u>(317,243)</u>
Net income	6	65,794	16,250	82,044	38,945
Transfers between funds		<u>(237)</u>	<u>237</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		65,557	16,487	82,044	38,945
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds at 1 April 2018	13	<u>260,586</u>	<u>55,312</u>	<u>315,898</u>	<u>276,953</u>
Total funds as at 31 March 2019	13	<u><u>326,143</u></u>	<u><u>71,799</u></u>	<u><u>397,942</u></u>	<u><u>315,898</u></u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure is derived from continuing operations.

Scottish Environment LINK

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 March 2019

	Notes	2019 £	2018 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	<u>1,397</u>	<u>111</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	10	35,718	51,004
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>384,401</u>	<u>295,562</u>
		420,119	346,566
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(23,574)</u>	<u>(30,779)</u>
Net current assets		<u>396,545</u>	<u>315,787</u>
Net assets		<u>397,942</u>	<u>315,898</u>
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds	12,13	326,143	260,586
Restricted funds	12,13	<u>71,799</u>	<u>55,312</u>
		<u>397,942</u>	<u>315,898</u>

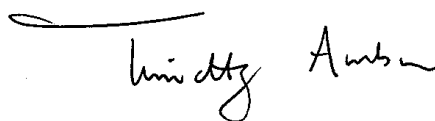
For the year ended 31 March 2019 the charitable company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Trustees' responsibilities:

- The members have not requested the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 17 September 2019 signed on their behalf by:



Tim Ambrose
Director – Treasurer FCA

Company Registration No: SC250899

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

1 Accounting policies

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to the financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Companies Act 2006, Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 (as updated through update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Scottish Environmental Link meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charitable company and rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis which assumes that the charitable company will continue its operations for period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Income

All income is recognised once the charitable company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Donations, legacies and similar incoming resources are included in the period in which they are receivable, which is when the charitable company becomes entitled to the resource.

Income from charitable activities includes grant income which is recognised when the charitable company has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grant have been met, it is probable the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. It also includes membership income which is recognised over the period to which the membership relates.

Investment income relates to bank interest which is recognised when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably; this is normally upon notification of the interest payable by the bank.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 March 2019**

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Expenditure (continued)

Expenditure on charitable activities includes costs incurred in supporting the charitable company in meeting its objectives. It comprises both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them. Support costs are allocated between governance costs and other support costs. Governance costs comprise these costs including the public accountability of the charitable company and therefore include the cost of independent examination.

Other support costs relate to the administrative costs of managing the charitable company.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life, as follows :

Fittings and equipment - 33% straight line

Minor fixed asset additions costing less than £250 are written off in the year of acquisition.

Debtors

Debtors are measured at their recoverable amount and included when reasonable certainty exists over their receipt.

Cash at bank

Cash at bank includes cash and highly liquid short term investments with the maturity of twelve months or less from the date of opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors and Provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charitable company has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured reliably.

Financial instruments

The charitable company has only financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Pensions

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are charged in the statement of financial activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Due to its charitable status, Scottish Environment LINK is exempt from tax on income and gains to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charitable company.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 March 2019**

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Operating Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charitable company. Where designated, these are unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees for specific future purposes or projects. Restricted funds are funds subject to specific conditions imposed by the donors.

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Donations				
Scottish Government	37,725	-	37,725	37,725
Scottish National Heritage	50,500	-	50,500	50,500
William Grant Foundation	20,250	-	20,250	20,000
Craignish Trust	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
Other donations	775	-	775	3,123
	<u>112,250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>112,250</u>	<u>114,348</u>

Income from donations in the year was £112,250 (2018: £114,348) of which £112,250 was unrestricted (2018: £113,848) and £Nil (2018: £500) was restricted.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 March 2019

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Projects				
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	83,000	-	83,000	-
John Ellerman Foundation	-	50,000	50,000	50,000
Brexit Communications	-	32,800	32,800	2,000
Sustainable Economics	-	30,729	30,729	-
Marine MPA Fighting Fund	-	11,024	11,024	3,709
Sea Scotland	-	6,135	6,135	11,404
SEFF Film	-	5,000	5,000	-
Climate Change	-	5,000	5,000	-
Food & Farming Workshop	-	2,500	2,500	7,847
Lloyd Austin Support	-	1,400	1,400	-
SNP Fringe	1,141	-	1,141	-
Hilltracks Campaign	-	800	800	-
LINK Liaison	-	586	586	-
EEB	-	-	-	55,600
WWF UK	-	-	-	3,000
Other project income including from member bodies	10,150	-	10,150	8,734
Other income				
Subscriptions – member bodies	92,691	-	92,691	89,555
Subscriptions – organisational and business supporters	6,875	-	6,875	6,500
Rental income	90	-	90	1,010
Other income	2,835	-	2,835	1,362
	<u>196,782</u>	<u>145,974</u>	<u>342,756</u>	<u>240,721</u>

Income from charitable activities in the year was £342,756 (2018: £240,721) of which £196,782 (2018: £99,146) was unrestricted and £145,974 (2018: £141,575) was restricted.

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Interest on cash deposits	<u>1,239</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,239</u>	<u>1,119</u>

Investment income in the current and the previous year was unrestricted.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2019

5 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities	Unrestricted	Restricted	2019	2018
	Funds	Funds		
	£	£	£	£
Direct costs				
Employment costs (note 7)	182,484	53,655	236,139	187,022
Project expenditure	10,733	76,069	86,802	82,370
Other supporting costs	21,716	-	21,716	11,930
Establishment costs	25,886	-	25,886	31,751
Depreciation	358	-	358	820
Governance costs: Independent examiners' fee	3,300	-	3,300	3,350
	<u>244,477</u>	<u>129,724</u>	<u>374,201</u>	<u>317,243</u>

Expenditure on charitable activities in the year was £374,201 (2018: £317,243) of which £244,477 (2018: £190,589) was unrestricted and £129,724 (2018: £126,654) was restricted.

6 Net income	2019	2018
	£	£

This is stated after charging :

Independent examiner's fee	3,300	3,350
Depreciation	358	820
	<u>3,658</u>	<u>4,170</u>

7 Staff costs and numbers	2019	2018
	£	£

Salaries	206,440	162,624
Social security costs	14,319	11,206
Pension costs	15,380	13,192
	<u>236,139</u>	<u>187,022</u>

Average number of employees:	No.	No.
Core	6	6
Project	3	2
	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>

No employee received emoluments greater than £60,000 in the year (2018: None).

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £43,467 (2018: £41,831). The key management personnel are considered to be the trustees and the Chief Officer.

During the year a total of £130 (2018: £68) was paid to one trustee (2018: one) in respect of reimbursement of travel, subsistence and other business related expenses. None of the trustees received any remuneration during the period.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 March 2019

8 Pension scheme

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension charge for the period represents contributions payable by the charitable company to the scheme and amounted to £15,380 (2018: £13,192). An amount of £2,224 (2018: £1,953) was included within creditors at the year end.

9 Tangible fixed assets

Fixtures,
 fittings &
 Equipment

Cost

At 1 April 2018	13,508
Additions	<u>1,644</u>
At 31 March 2019	<u>15,152</u>

Depreciation

At 1 April 2018	13,397
Charge	<u>358</u>
At 31 March 2019	<u>13,755</u>

Net Book Value

At 31 March 2019	<u>1,397</u>
At 31 March 2018	<u>111</u>

10 Debtors

2019 2018
 £ £

Trade debtors	31,226	28,106
Prepayments and accrued income	2,294	2,898
Other debtors	<u>2,198</u>	<u>20,000</u>
	<u>35,718</u>	<u>51,004</u>

11 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

2019 2018
 £ £

Trade creditors	8,264	17,756
Taxation and social security costs	4,259	3,900
Pension fund	2,224	1,953
Other creditors	1,311	1,638
Accruals	<u>7,516</u>	<u>5,532</u>
	<u>23,574</u>	<u>30,779</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 March 2019

12 Funds analysis

2018/19	At 1 April 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	At 31 March 2019 £
General funds	<u>252,186</u>	<u>310,271</u>	<u>(234,154)</u>	<u>(21,483)</u>	<u>306,820</u>
Designated funds:					
Legal Governance Support	-	-	(2,468)	3,150	682
Legal Strategy	-	-	(236)	236	-
Food and Farming Event	4,000	-	-	700	4,700
Brexit Communications	4,400	-	-	6,400	10,800
Planning Event – SNP conference	-	-	(659)	1,800	1,141
‘This is Scotland’ promotional film	-	-	(4,500)	6,500	2,000
Wildlife – Climate change impacts on biodiversity	-	-	(2,460)	2,460	-
	<u>8,400</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(10,323)</u>	<u>21,246</u>	<u>19,323</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>260,586</u>	<u>310,271</u>	<u>(244,477)</u>	<u>(237)</u>	<u>326,143</u>
Restricted funds:					
LINK Liaison	-	586	(774)	188	-
Save Scottish Seas	51,514	67,159	(63,636)	49	55,086
Food and Farming Event	-	2,500	(1,200)	-	1,300
Brexit Communications	2,000	32,800	(19,817)	-	14,983
EEB Conference	336	-	(336)	-	-
Legal Governance	-	1,400	(1,400)	-	-
Wildlife – Climate change impacts on biodiversity	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Hilltracks	1,462	800	(2,183)	-	79
A Circular Economy for a Fairer Footprint	-	30,729	(30,378)	-	351
‘This is Scotland’ promotional film	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Total restricted funds	<u>55,312</u>	<u>145,974</u>	<u>(129,724)</u>	<u>237</u>	<u>71,799</u>
Total funds	<u>315,898</u>	<u>456,245</u>	<u>(374,201)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>397,942</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 March 2019

12 Funds analysis (continued)

2017/18	At 1 April 2017 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	At 31 March 2018 £
General funds	<u>234,809</u>	<u>213,394</u>	<u>(186,617)</u>	<u>(9,400)</u>	<u>252,186</u>
Designated funds:					
LINK Liaison	-	719	(719)	-	-
Legal Strategy	1,253	-	(2,253)	1,000	-
Food and farming	-	-	-	4,000	4,000
Brexit Communications	-	-	-	4,400	4,400
Hilltracks	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>2,253</u>	<u>719</u>	<u>(3,972)</u>	<u>9,400</u>	<u>8,400</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>237,062</u>	<u>214,113</u>	<u>(190,589)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>260,586</u>
Restricted funds:					
Save Scottish Seas	36,647	65,613	(50,746)	-	51,514
Flourishing Scotland	2,644	-	(2,644)	-	-
Food and Farming	-	7,847	(7,847)	-	-
Brexit Communications	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
EEB 2017 Conference	-	55,600	(55,264)	-	336
Species Champion	-	615	(615)	-	-
Legal Strategy	-	6,000	(6,000)	-	-
Hilltracks	<u>600</u>	<u>4,400</u>	<u>(3,538)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,462</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>39,891</u>	<u>142,075</u>	<u>(126,654)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55,312</u>
Total funds	<u>276,953</u>	<u>356,188</u>	<u>(317,243)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>315,898</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2019

12 Fund analysis (continued)

Designated funds represent funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the Board for specific purposes.

Legal Governance Support

Lloyd Austin, former Head of Conservation policy at RSPB Scotland has been contracted for 10 days to support LINK across a range of areas including Governance Group Brexit issues and involvement with Greener UK & Environment Links UK regarding Brexit.

Legal Strategy

LINK's Legal Strategy Subgroup continues work towards establishment of an Environmental Rights Centre and held a workshop in October 2018 (with funding from the LINK DPF Fund) to explore next steps with various individuals who have expressed interested in helping to get the centre off the ground. The subgroup is currently fundraising to establish the centre as an independent SCIO.

Food & Farming Event supported by RSPB Scotland

LINK's Food and Farming Subgroup hosted a workshop along with other stakeholders to begin to clarify policy outcomes for agricultural and rural funding. The workshop aimed to contribute to the ongoing debate and to include current thinking from the National Council of Rural Advisors and the Agriculture Champions as well as other stakeholders.

Brexit Communications supported by WWF Scotland and other members

Work on the Brexit campaign focused on accentuating the positive environmental outcomes we have seen in Scotland and asking people to support for these protections to be maintained and enhanced as the UK leaves the EU. The campaign was launched on 13 November with over 35 environmental charities from across Scotland coming together to '[Fight for Scotland's Nature](#)' and gather support for a Scottish Environment Act. The campaign is coordinated by a steering group which, following additional financial support from WWF Scotland recruited 18 hours per week Campaign Coordinator, Miriam Ross from January 2019. The campaign included a series of actions focusing on proactive media stories, an [e-action](#) launched on 16 February until 11 May. It is anticipated the work will continue throughout 2019/20.

Planning Event – SNP Conference

LINK's Planning Subgroup received support to host a Fringe meeting at the SNP Autumn 2018 Party Conference on a fairer and more inclusive planning system to deliver a more sustainable Scotland. The role of equal rights of appeal was a central theme of the event. The aim of the event was to raise awareness among SNP members and supporters of the importance of a fairer planning system in Scotland and the role of equal rights of appeal in this context during the passage of the Planning Bill through the Scottish Parliament.

This is Scotland' promotional film

LINK's Scottish Environment Fundraising Forum, with support from Scottish Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust Scotland, WWF Scotland, National Trust for Scotland and RSPB Scotland (who also secured funding from [Turcan Connell](#)), commissioned a short promotional film about Scotland's wildlife and habitats, the lack of environmental funding it receives (compared to rest of UK) and the opportunities for more funders to become involved in helping to conserve and enhance it.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2019

12 Fund analysis (continued)

Wildlife - Climate Change Impacts on Biodiversity supported by WWF Scotland

LINK's wildlife subgroup produced a desk-based research project to bring together existing evidence on the climate change impact on Scottish biodiversity. The aim was to draw the attention of policymakers and other stakeholders to climate change pressures on Scotland's biodiversity, and where possible highlight the likely impact of 1.5°C and 2°C temperature increases on Scotland's biodiversity and push for more ambitious targets within the current Climate Bill. The report, [Scotland's Nature on Red Alert](#), was launched in January across social media and other platforms, and shared with the wider network, MSPs and members of the ECCLR committee to raise awareness during the passage of the Climate Bill.

The purpose of each restricted fund is as follows:

LINK Liaison supported by WWF UK

Links Liaison – The regular contact and communication between secretariats of the four Link networks across the UK, allowing exchange of information and good practice, and of advice on issues in common. This includes support for a joint conference held every two years in a different part of the UK.

The 4 Links continue to demonstrate broad support for federally approached, collective effort on environmental issues needing a UK-wide perspective. Joint work is badged as 'Environment Links UK' and informed by a joint strategy and memo of understanding.

Save Scottish Seas - supported by John Ellerman Foundation

The John Ellerman Foundation is funding the Save Scottish Seas project employing one full time Marine Policy and Engagement Officer, Esther Brooker, working to the Marine Group to support its collective vision of achieving healthy, well-managed seas, where wildlife and coastal communities are flourishing and ecosystems are protected, connected and thriving.

The LINK Marine group successfully campaigned for the Marine (Scotland) Act which came into force in March 2010. The Act radically alters the governance of Scotland's seas, and places important duties on Scottish Ministers to, amongst others, protect and where appropriate recover our seas, develop Scotland's first ever system of marine planning, and create a network of Marine Protected Areas. The project focusses on ensuring the Act fulfils its promise. The funding commenced in November 2017 and will run for 2 years.

Food & Farming Event supported by RSPB Scotland

LINK's Food and Farming Subgroup hosted a workshop along with other stakeholders to begin to clarify policy outcomes for agricultural and rural funding. The workshop aimed to contribute to the ongoing debate and to include current thinking from the National Council of Rural Advisors and the Agriculture Champions as well as other stakeholders.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2019

12 Fund analysis (continued)

Brexit Communications supported by WWF Scotland and other members

Work on the Brexit campaign focused on accentuating the positive environmental outcomes we have seen in Scotland and asking people to support these protections being maintained and enhanced as the UK leaves the EU. The campaign was launched on 13 November with over 35 environmental charities from across Scotland coming together to '[Fight for Scotland's Nature](#)' and gather support for a Scottish Environment Act. The campaign is coordinated by a steering group which, following additional financial support from WWF Scotland recruited 18 hours per week Campaign Coordinator, Miriam Ross from January 2019. The campaign included a series of actions focusing on proactive media stories, an [e-action](#) launched on 16 February until 11 May. It is anticipated the work will continue throughout 2019/20.

European Environmental Bureau (EEB) 2017 Annual Conference

LINK was invited in winter 2015/16 to co-host the 2017 annual conference of the EEB of which LINK is member. The 2017 conference was the second to be held outside Brussels. Importantly, the event took place at a critical time for Scotland, the UK and the EU, as discussions and options regarding Scotland's and the UK's future relationship with the EU are gathering pace. The conference provided Scotland with an excellent opportunity to showcase its credentials at a European level, demonstrate our success in progressing EU environmental policy particularly on conservation and biodiversity as well as climate change, marine, agriculture and the circular economy. The event was also a platform for Scottish Government, its agencies, and the wider policy community to explore with UK and EU stakeholders how we can continue to pursue ambitious environmental policy in a time of change, to benefit Scotland and the EU. This project was jointly funded by the EEB, LINK, Scottish Government's Environment and Climate Directorates, SEPA, SNH, Historic Environment Scotland, The European Commission office Edinburgh and SEFARI.

Legal Governance Support

Lloyd Austin, former Head of Conservation policy at RSPB Scotland has been contracted for 10 days to support LINK across a range of areas including Governance Group Brexit issues and involvement with Greener UK & Environment Links UK regarding Brexit.

Wildlife - Climate Change Impacts on Biodiversity supported by WWF Scotland

LINK's wildlife subgroup produced a desk-based research project to bring together existing evidence on the climate change impact on Scottish biodiversity. The aim was to draw the attention of policymakers and other stakeholders to climate change pressures on Scotland's biodiversity, and where possible highlight the likely impact of 1.5°C and 2°C temperature increases on Scotland's biodiversity and push for more ambitious targets within the current Climate Bill. The report, [Scotland's Nature on Red Alert](#), was launched in January across social media and other platforms, and shared with the wider network, MSPs and members of the ECCLR committee to raise awareness during the passage of the Climate Bill.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2019

12 Fund analysis (continued)

Hilltracks work supported by Scottish Mountaineering Trust, British Mountaineering Council and Scottish Wild Land Group

The LINK Hilltracks subgroup published its report, [Changing Tracks](#), which sets out the results of 3 years of monitoring the current system of prior notification for new or improved tracks. The report recommends removing permitted development rights from vehicle tracks which are built for agricultural purposes and requiring full planning applications for these tracks. They also launched a [campaign](#) seeking support from the public to ask their MSPs to support stronger control of vehicle tracks.

A Circular Economy for a Fairer Footprint supported by Friends Provident Foundation

This is a three-year project running from April 2018 to March 2021 employing a 3-day week Sustainable Economics Officer, Dr Phoebe Cochrane to support LINK's Economic Group. The LINK project will:

- Engage in the Circular Economy Bill process to ensure that it is a comprehensive and strong bill.
- Monitor and highlight progress / lack of progress with regard to existing targets and advocate for new targets on material consumption and material flows.
- Research and campaign to increase circularity in a specific sector / area of activity which is of interest to LINK members, to be determined.
- Work with colleagues at UK and EU levels on relevant policy areas.

The project will seek to build a coalition of organisations to add weight to advocacy.

'This is Scotland' promotional film supported by member organisations

LINK's Scottish Environment Fundraising Forum, with support from Scottish Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust Scotland, WWF Scotland, National Trust for Scotland and RSPB Scotland (who also secured funding from [Turcan Connell](#)), commissioned a short promotional film about Scotland's wildlife and habitats, the lack of environmental funding it receives (compared to rest of UK) and the opportunities for more funders to become involved in helping to conserve and enhance it.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 March 2019

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2019 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,397	-	1,397
Net current assets	<u>324,746</u>	<u>71,799</u>	<u>396,545</u>
Net assets at 31 March 2019	<u><u>326,143</u></u>	<u><u>71,799</u></u>	<u><u>397,942</u></u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2018 £
Tangible fixed assets	111	-	111
Current assets	<u>260,475</u>	<u>55,312</u>	<u>315,787</u>
Net assets at 31 March 2018	<u><u>260,586</u></u>	<u><u>55,312</u></u>	<u><u>315,898</u></u>

14 Operating lease commitments

	Buildings	
	2019 £	2018 £
Total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows :		
Expiry date:		
Within one year	8,971	11,450
Between one and five years	<u>4,800</u>	<u>10,800</u>
	<u><u>13,771</u></u>	<u><u>22,250</u></u>

15 Related party transactions

During the year the charitable company received subscriptions from nine (2018: eleven) organisations associated with nine (2018: eleven) of the charitable company's trustees amounting to £42,821 (2018: £46,783). Subscriptions are paid at the same rates available to other members. The charitable company also received grants and donations from four (2018: five) of the organisations totalling £39,750 (2018: £6,590). Payments of £38 (2018: £38) were paid to organisations associated with one trustee (2018: one) in the year.