

## News Release

**For immediate release**

### **Scottish Gamekeepers Association Deer Report**

We refer to the launch on 2<sup>nd</sup> March of a report by the Scottish Gamekeepers' Association alleging "aggressive over-culling of deer" carried out by Government and Conservation Groups. This response is made on behalf of the LINK Deer Task Force comprising the under-signed organisations.

Duncan Orr-Ewing, Chair of the LINK Deer Task Force said;

"Native Scottish red and roe deer numbers are higher in some places in Scotland than they have ever been, whilst in other areas they have been reduced to meet a range of public and private land management objectives. Deer are not subject to "aggressive over-culling" on our properties, as wrongly suggested by the SGA in this press report.

Due to the removal of natural predators, deer management is required to meet a range of land management objectives, including sporting; conservation; protection of woodlands; and public safety. High red deer populations in some areas of Scotland are causing substantial damage to the natural heritage, and it is a legal requirement on landowners to improve the quality of certain habitats which are of international importance. On our properties, we recognise that deer species are a valuable part of the natural heritage, and maintain their populations at levels appropriate to the conservation of other species and habitats. Our approach to deer management is subject to population monitoring and adjustment of cull targets over time, as well as high welfare standards in terms of the control methods.

Those with an interest in the future of deer management in Scotland have recently signed up to support the Scottish Government's Code of Sustainable Deer Management. Far from the conflict that the SGA report portrays, there is increasing agreement on what needs to be done to manage deer populations sustainably for the benefit of our environment and the rural economy".

**LINK Deer Task Force:  
RSPB Scotland, John Muir Trust, National Trust for Scotland, and Scottish Wildlife Trust**

1<sup>st</sup> March 2012

*Contact details:*

For more information please contact: Duncan Orr-Ewing, 0131 317 4117

## ***Editors' Notes***

(1) Scottish Environment LINK is the network for Scotland's voluntary sector environmental organisations. LINK has over 30 member organisations spanning interests across the natural environment and associated cultural heritage and supported by around 500,000 people. Further information on LINK is available at [www.scotlink.org](http://www.scotlink.org)

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

Registered HQ office: 2 Grosvenor House, Shore Road, Perth PH2 8BD tel 01738 630804 email [enquiries@scotlink.org](mailto:enquiries@scotlink.org)  
Parliamentary office: 3rd Floor, Gladstone's Land, 483 Lawnmarket, Edinburgh EH1 2NT tel 0131 225 4345 email [parliamentary@scotlink.org](mailto:parliamentary@scotlink.org)