



Scottish Environment LINK

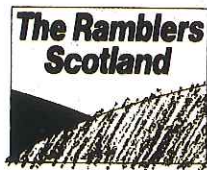
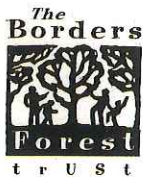
Annual Report
June 1999 – May 2000
Summary of Accounts
1 April 1999 – 31 March 2000



SCNP



PLANTLIFE



SCAC



Association of Regional and Island Archaeologists



sustrans
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Scottish Environment LINK

Scottish Environment LINK is the liaison body for Scotland's voluntary sector environmental organisations. Established in 1987, LINK provides a forum and network for its member organisations, facilitating information exchange, informed debate, and assisting co-operation within the voluntary environmental sector, and communication between the sector, government bodies, and other interests.

Regular publications are

- The *LINK Newsletter*, published quarterly for member bodies and the network of Supporters and Subscribers, carrying reviews of recent work and information on initiatives by member bodies and guest contributors
- *Holyrood Highlighter*, a weekly digest of Scottish Parliamentary news relating to environmental issues in Scotland and to environmental NGOs
- *Parliamentary Briefing*, a monthly summary of Parliamentary news relating to Scotland's environment and likely to be of interest to environmental NGOs
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For further copies of this *Annual Report* or information about LINK contact:



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Management Team

Membership of the Team during 1999-2000 was as follows:

President	Professor Seaton Baxter
Chair	Vacant during the year
Vice-Chair & Acting Chair	John Pringle
Treasurer	Walter Simpson
Members	Ian McCall
	John Mayhew
	Hilary Maxfield
	Joan Geddes
	Michael Scott

Staff

Manager	Jen Anderson
Deputy	Alice Walsh
Parliamentary	Elsbeth Alexandra
Administration	Andy Colledge
	Melanie Nicoll
Policy Support	Rosalind Pearson
LEARN Officer	Ruth Anderson

Foreword

In his foreword to LINK's report a year ago, the outgoing Chair highlighted the challenges presented by recent political changes within Scotland. He also drew attention to the work that had been done in reviewing LINK's structure and repositioning our policies to meet those challenges.

Members of the Association will be acutely conscious of the volume of information and consultative material that has been circulated since the formation of the Scottish Executive. One of LINK's primary concerns over the past year has been to ensure that we react appropriately to that material and grasp the opportunity to advance our aims in the new political environment. The contributions of the LINK Scottish Parliamentary Group and our Parliamentary Officer have been key factors in meeting this particular challenge.

Examples of the areas in which work done by LINK in the recent past has now borne fruit include the introduction of National Parks and the movement for land reform. LINK's 1998 National Parks conference in Inverness and the work of both the Special Areas and Land Reform Task Forces represent major contributions to the debates on both subjects. More detailed accounts of the work of those and the other task forces are given elsewhere in this report and, taken together, they indicate LINK's strength as a significant component of our civic society.

The recent work programme review was part of the continuing process of development of the Association's policy, strategy and organisation of work. In addition to such re-examination of its role, any organisation needs to evaluate its effectiveness in meeting the aspirations of its members, and to this end LINK has commissioned an independent assessment of members' views.

None of the activities outlined in this report would have been possible without the commitment and enthusiasm of the staff whose ability to cope with the increasing demands imposed externally and from within LINK is a source of amazement to many of us.

The past two years have seen substantial changes to LINK's structure that were necessitated by external and internal forces, not least the growth in the size of the Association and the increasing diversity of interests represented. The name change (from Scottish Wildlife and Countryside Link) has been followed by the adoption of a new constitution at a Special General Meeting on 25 January 2000, and this was accompanied by the introduction of a set of operating principles governing LINK's day to day business. With these "housekeeping" matters behind us, we have the opportunity to build on past successes and to continue to add value to the work of member organisations.

John Pringle
Vice-Chair