

## Meeting Notes- Wildlife Group meeting 2 March (11:00am-13:00pm) via Zoom

**Attendees-** Craig Macadam (Buglife), Juliet Caldwell (LINK), Anne Funnemark (LINK), Beryl Leatherland, Allan Bantick (Scottish Badgers), Kathy Wormald (Froglife), Chris Charlton (SWBG), Chris Corrigan (Butterfly CT), Juliette Camburn (KSB), Darryl Cox (Bumblebee CT), Alistair Whyte (Plantlife), Amber Connett (CIEEM), Annie Robinson (CIEEM), Alan McDonnell (Trees for Life), Paul Walton (RSPB), Tessa Jones (BSCG), Andrea Hudspeth (British Dragonflies)

**Apologies** – Bruce Wilson (SWT), Helen Taylor (RZSS), Arina Russell (Woodland Trust)

**Chaired by** - Craig Macadam

### Summary of actions from previous 22<sup>nd</sup> January meeting

Action No.	Action	To be actioned by	Status
1.	Article/blog on raising the profile on INNS via FoS	Craig or Paul	Early 2021
2.	Lodge a PQ on what progress the SG INNS group has made on non-native species and how many meetings have taken place in 2020.	Arina	Completed
4.	Initiate meeting with Anna Brand (SPICe) for NBS briefing/workshop.	Bruce	February
5.	Send information pack on Quinquennial Review of Wildlife and Countryside Act to group members.	Craig	Completed

### 1. General Updates

- **Acceptance of Previous Minutes & Review of Actions**

Previous meeting minutes accepted, and actions updated.

- **Meetings Attended**

- Tomorrow (03/03) Butterfly Conservation Trust's State of Moths report will be launched. Following up with Species Champions – sending them over some content to make it relevant to their species. It is UK based and will have contrasts between Scotland and England etc.
- Paul Walton attended a joint LINK seminar with Scotland's Forum for Natural Capital. Deborah Long, Jo Pike, Wayne Powell (Scotland's Rural Colleges CEO), Hannah White & Alan Thornburn. There is synergy around the messaging of landscape scale and the way to deliver in the future. Deborah spoke about nature network. Colin Campbell (Head of James Hutton Institute) chaired the meeting. There are frustrations amongst people at the stagnation of the land use strategy. There may be high level inside track advocacy going on to make sure that does gets resurrected and brought into the next administration.

- Alan McDonnell – Cross over between Wildlife Group & Woodland Group with regards to natural regeneration. Meeting with Duncan Stone from NatureScot who has done some work on the scope for nature regeneration in Scotland. There is a lot of thinking going on in NatureScot on this – potential for nature regeneration and how that will affect the condition of existing woodlands as well as expansion. NatureScot are producing some data on natural regeneration expansion in Scotland – central and southern Scotland.
- Craig – Meeting of the Strategic Projects Alliance (formed by NatureScot and NLHF). Good LINK representation with 5 members and Deborah Long. Scene setting meeting. There were some discussions around making sure there are a whole range of projects.

## 2. Update on biodiversity process

### a. Post 2020 biodiversity delivery

- Structure & development of the next SBS will be brand new.
- The previous structures have been scrapped. The new structures are a simple twin process – production and delivery plan (equivalent of previous Route map to 2020) which was very influential in securing NatureScot funding. The Strategic Project Alliance will support this.
- Thinking is developing around what the SBS might look like - 2 additional major landscape scale projects – like Cairngorms Connect elsewhere in Scotland. They will require NGO input on this; however, we are still not being involved.
- National outcomes indicator is looking good and like State of Nature. It includes species distribution and abundance measures. Hoping to include habitats. This reflects the NPF4 indicator.
- Edinburgh Declaration sign up from sub-national authorities is looking impactful and the role of sub national authorities’ delivery to of CBD Route map to 2030. Getting a lot of sign up with regards to SPI 3.
- COP15 most likely in November – however, not confirmed yet.
- Deborah update – “Reminder of joint event with Environmental Funders Network – Life after LIFE. LINK have done previous events with them: *This is Scotland* in 2019, then the marine one with EFN in 2020. They worked so well that we have decided to do another one on a key theme for us all: replacing LIFE funding. This is an issue that is popping up in several groups so a joint LINK / EFN event is a good capacity efficient way to broker a conversation and start airing the issues we are facing as a sector.”
  1. 1.5-hour event chaired by Hugh Raven with a panel. Paul Walton on the panel and is happy to take any views/points from members to that meeting. Led by presentations and followed by Q and A with the audience.
  2. Wednesday 17th March 4-5:30pm
- Questions the event will tackle:
  1. What has Scotland gained from LIFE - examples of successful projects: Shiant isles, wildcats, rainforest.
  2. What does LIFE funding bring that is not delivered through other mechanisms? (longevity and value)?
  3. What are the options for Scotland going forward? (refer to Green Finance, but stay focused on grants)
- Invitations coming this week from Alice. If there are any funders you think we should invite, please let Alice know.
- Beaver translocation support statement: 14 signatories and went to Tom Bowser at Argaty Red Kites last night.

- Joint LINK / Scottish Forum on Natural Capital event last week went well with c 100 attendees. Informal feedback good. Meeting outputs coming out within next 3 weeks.

#### **b. Delivering the Goods Report**

- Launched on 24th Feb - <https://www.scotlink.org/publication/still-delivering-the-goods/>
- [Accompanying report](#) which explores the wider context in which biodiversity policy has developed in Scotland and at international level.
- Case studies in separate PDFs available on the website – members asked to share/tweet
- The case studies will be tied into Species Champions and FFSN in future comms. Infographics have been made which summarise the key statistics from the report.

### **3. COP26 Event – Stakeholder Involvement**

- Applications are open to organisations for event and exhibition spaces at COP26. The deadline is Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March. The four Links are putting in applications based on the following themes:
  - Emphasising the importance of nature in tackling the climate crisis (nature-based solutions and the importance of COP15)
  - How we can increase access to nature, and the benefits that this could generate for public health and wellbeing, as well as inspiring action against the climate crisis.
- There is expected to be a lot of interest in these opportunities and so collaborative applications have been encouraged where possible. An email was sent round members to ask who would be interested in working together on this.
- Because of the fast approaching deadline, the aim is to get general agreement on a couple of themes and apply to secure a space – then once this is secured LINK will be back in touch with those interested to create a detailed event plan.
- Froglife submitting an individual application to have a stand – virtual reality wildlife tunnel experience & exhibition (mock of a wildlife tunnel).
- Buglife looking to submit an application on pollinators and connectivity.
- Plantlife putting in application to do something on grasslands as NBS. Applications are for the green zone, blue zone, and wellbeing space. The partners on this are Regeneration International Earth Wisdom and British Ecological Society.
- Butterfly Conservation had a conversation with Bumblebee CT to submit a joint application.
- CIEEM putting in a joint application with the Environmental Policy Forum (network of professional bodies) for Green Zone, looking at action focused on science and expertise of environmental professionals
- RSPB has plans to apply with Birdlife – Green and Blue Zone applications around Revive our World campaign.
- Buglife discussed what if Green zone (public zone) didn't go ahead due to Covid restrictions. Initial discussion around creating virtual experience.

### **4. Update on targets work**

#### **a. Parliamentary roadshow**

- The RSPB international team, and the four Links are organising a series of Zoom sessions for parliamentarians about global nature and climate action in 2021, and how that's linked to domestic action. The sessions aim to achieve basic awareness raising of the CBD and the links between nature and climate & raising level of ambition and action around CBD. These will be 4 sessions – one for each country. The Westminster event will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> March.

- LINK has a small steering group which will meet after the Westminster event to discuss organising a session for MSPs.
- Isobel and Juliet leading on a workshop on 5<sup>th</sup> March to develop a LINK position on 30x30 in Scotland. This is part of the ELUK targets group plan – each Link is producing a paper on what 30x30 looks like in each country before producing a 4-country high level briefing.
- Woodland Expansion targets – there is an interest in the contribution that natural regeneration from existing native woodlands can make to woodland expansion targets. This goes hand in hand with new science from James Hutton institute which shows that when you plow ground and plant trees the carbon equations are not as simple as people have often assumed. Gaining carbon storage above ground but lose more below ground. This science is going to be very powerful in terms of biodiversity in Scotland and will be assisted by the progress we are expecting from Scot Gov in terms of response to recommendations from the deer group. Hope to see strengthening of management of deer in Scotland which will benefit natural regen.
- NatureScot have a report on this in the making and this is an opportunity for LINK to respond.

## 5. Species Champions

- LINK organising Nature Champion pledge for all Holyrood candidates. The pledge text can be read [here](#).
- Key points to the pledge:
  - Nature and climate crises inextricably linked
  - Need for long term ambitious measures for the recovery of nature
  - Supporting policies and strategies which deliver the recovery of nature
- On 8th March Juliet will be emailing public supporters signed up to the FFSN campaign to ask them to register their support for the pledge. A map will be displayed on the website, which will look [similar to this](#). In late March, Juliet will contact all candidates asking them to sign up and making them aware of the level of public support for the pledge in their region. There will be a page on the LINK website to show which candidates have signed up and after the election we will approach those who have been elected to make them aware of LINK's work and get them involved in Species Champions programme.

## 6. AOB

- RSPB have a vacancy for Principle Policy Officer for Woodlands - <https://app.vacancy-filler.co.uk/salescrm/Careers/CareersPage.aspx?e=LMo8nnTwYNYUF9J3gPGuLlICDWX9HibzQYkmngX5Pi3nmbZMM1hdRTHLWNrsA7GLVF6PAqhXfrc&iframe=True>
- Froglife circulated an email to call for information on freshwater habitats for a mapping exercise that they are doing for NatureScot. The person working on this is Eric Paterson.

## 7. Date for the next meeting TBC.

## Summary of Actions for 5 March Wildlife Group meeting

Action No.	Action	To be actioned by	Status
1.	Get update from Sarah McKain (BES) on their plans for 30x30 and feedback to group.	Andrea Hudspeth	March
2.	Initiate meeting with Anna Brand (SPICe) for NBS briefing/workshop.	Bruce	February
3.	Article/blog on raising the profile on INNS via FoS	Craig or Paul	Early 2021