

# **WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE LINK**

**Company Limited by Guarantee no. 3889519 (England and Wales)  
Registered Charity no. 1107460**

## **REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011**



# WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE LINK

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## REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2011

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### CONTENTS

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	Page
Reference and administrative details	3
Report of the Management Committee	4
Independent examiner's report	14
Statement of financial activities	15
Balance sheet	16
Notes to the financial statements	17

## WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE LINK

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### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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#### Trustees

*Chair*

*Deputy Chair*

*Treasurer*

Paul de Zylva  
Victoria F Chester  
David Lind

David Bullock  
Jeremy Biggs  
Lucy Cooper  
Joan Edwards (resigned 7 December 2011)  
Sue Armstrong-Brown (appointed 7 December 2011)

#### Vice President

Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

#### Company Secretary

Jodie Bettis (resigned 21 November 2011)  
Elaine King (appointed 21 November 2011)

#### Registered Office

89 Albert Embankment  
London  
SE1 7TP

#### Company Registration Number

3889519

#### Charity Registration Number

1107460

#### Independent Examiner

Simon Erskine FCA FCIE DChA  
MHA MacIntyre Hudson  
New Bridge Street House  
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EC4V 6BJ

#### Bankers

The Co-operative Bank  
PO Box 101  
1 Balloon St  
Manchester  
M60 4EP

#### Solicitors

Russell-Cooke Solicitors  
2 Putney Hill  
Putney  
London  
SW15 6AB

## **WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE LINK**

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The Trustees submit their report together with the financial statements of Wildlife and Countryside Link for the year ended 31 December 2011.

### **REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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#### **Structure, governance and management**

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 7 December 1999 and registered as a charity on 5 January 2005.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In 2007 the Memorandum and Articles of Association were reviewed to ensure compliance with the Companies Act (2006) and Charities Act (2006) and following a number of years using the previous Memorandum and Articles of Association which had raised the need for further clarification. Under those Articles, the members of the Management Committee are elected by a postal vote in advance or by secret ballot at the Annual General Meeting. Members of the Management Committee must retire at the third Annual General Meeting after that at which he or she was first elected, and are eligible for re-election for a further term ending on the sixth Annual General Meeting after their first election. The Treasurer must retire at the Annual General Meeting every three years but may stand for re-election with no maximum term of office.

#### **Objectives and activities**

Wildlife and Countryside Link (Link) brings together environmental voluntary organisations in the UK united by their common interest in the conservation and enjoyment of the natural and historic environment. Our aim is to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of the voluntary sector through collaboration. We have over thirty five member organisations which collectively employ 11,000 full-time staff, have the help of 174,000 volunteers in the UK and the support of over 8 million people.

Established in 1980, Link exists to further the conservation, protection and enhancement of wildlife and landscape and to further the quiet enjoyment and appreciation of the countryside by the public by facilitating collaboration between voluntary organisations in the UK. It does this in the following ways:

- Provision of secretariat support for a number of working groups addressing various policy issues;
- Convening and coordinating joint meetings with statutory conservation agencies, Government officials, departments and ministries;
- Coordination of environmental non-governmental organisation (NGO) representation on external fora;
- Preparing and publishing joint policy statements and press releases;
- Organising events such as seminars and conferences on particular policy areas; and
- Facilitating exchange of information and ideas between members.

#### **Statement of public benefit**

The Trustees (members of the Management Committee) of Wildlife and Countryside Link confirm that the organisation has Charitable Purposes pursuant to the Charities Act 2006. The Trustees believe that there are clear and identifiable public benefits arising from the pursuit of Wildlife and Countryside Link's aims and objectives, and that these benefits are freely available to the general public without restriction.

#### **Link Strategy (2010-2012)**

In 2010 Link began working to its first ever collectively agreed strategy. Its long term goal is to ensure that the issues which Link and its members represent are recognised as part of good Government. This work continued in 2011, with Link addressing a set of strategic objectives built upon the desires and aims of Link's specialist working groups. Through our network of members, supported by a

## WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE LINK

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professional Secretariat, Link has taken forward its commitment to deliver bolder campaigns, selective policy work, greater political engagement, and clearer messaging.

To do this, Link's working groups cooperate more on campaigns, policies and skill-shares, the Management Committee thinks and acts more strategically, and the Director and Secretariat are more proactive in supporting and guiding members and advocating externally on behalf of Link and its aims.

Link's Strategy documents can be found at: <http://www.wcl.org.uk/our-work.asp>

Link's Annual General Meeting took place on 7 December at the British Ecological Society in London. The agenda included: a Working Group Chairs and Vice Chairs discussion session, 'Where next for voluntary initiatives?'; Link AGM official business; and, the post-AGM debate 'Hungry Nation: Is sustainable intensification good for wildlife, people and animals?', which addressed the sustainable intensification of the UK food supply. The session was chaired by Dr Sue-Armstrong Brown (RSPB) and resulted in a thought-provoking debate involving the following panel of experts: Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer (Link Vice President and Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Agro Ecology); David Baldock (Institute for European Environmental Policy), Helen Browning (Soil Association), Philip Lymbery (Compassion in World Farming); and, Henry Robinson (Country Land & Business Association).

### **Ways of working in 2011**

In 2011 Link provided support for eight working groups on the following policy areas:

- Agriculture
- Biodiversity
- Land Use Planning
- Legal Strategy
- Marine
- Water
- Whales
- Wildlife Trade

Link set up the Legal Strategy Group at the end of 2011 to bring together legal expertise from the Link membership. The group provides support and advice to working groups, while also addressing specific legal issues such as the Law Commission's review of wildlife law.

Link continued to support the Natural Environment White Paper Task and Finish Group, set up to influence the White Paper and its outcomes to empower the recovery of England's natural environment. Link also established a Task and Finish Group to respond to the review of the implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives, which seeks to input into Defra's consultation in early 2012.

### **Progress towards Link's Strategic Objectives**

As part of our Strategy for 2010-2012, Link is working towards strategic objectives built upon the desires and aims of its members. As a coalition of environmental organisations, Link is working together to achieve five objectives (1-5). As a service provider, Link is pursuing four objectives (6-9).

#### ***1. To present an integrated vision for sustainable land and water use that promotes effective mechanisms for supporting landscape-scale natural and historic environment conservation***

Throughout the year, Link has continued to use a variety of channels in working towards its aim for a sustainable, high quality, multi-functional environment. Key to this is a Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) that rewards farmers and land managers for delivering environmental public goods, such as clean water, healthy soil and wildlife conservation.

Link has maintained constructive dialogue with politicians, especially Ministers including the Rt Hon Caroline Spelman MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Rt Hon James Paice MP, Minister of State for Agriculture and Food.

## WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE LINK

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For example, a Joint Links' briefing on the future requirements of the CAP and the EU Budget was sent to all MPs and resulted in assurances from Lord Henley, Minister for Environment, that the Government was committed to "the effective delivery of environmental public goods." And after outlining our concerns regarding the EU Commission's proposals for greening the CAP, James Paice MP wrote to Link confirming that the UK Government would continue to place strong emphasis on agri-environment schemes.

The Minister for Agriculture and Food also delivered the keynote speech at the Parliamentary launch of the Joint Links' report 'Crunch time for CAP: Choosing the right tools for a richer countryside.' Published in November, the report focuses on the key tools needed to drive forward more sustainable, humane and wildlife-friendly farming and calls for stronger UK support for EU funding proposals. Hosted by Neil Parish MP, the event showcased Link's work and brought together MPs, farmers, industry representatives and key officials. In his speech, the Minister said, "We entirely agree with Link that the environment has to be at the heart of the CAP."

Other activities during 2011 included working with Joint Links to produce a briefing for MPs on CAP reform following the European Commission's announcement of its EU budget, which included a cut in real terms to the CAP.

In February, Link attended the Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE) Evidence and Monitoring subgroup. Link was encouraged by the Minister's calls for farmers to choose Environmental Stewardship options that best promoted wildlife and resource protection. In May, Defra published its Survey of Land Managed under the CFE, which showed that 76 per cent of farmers had not adopted voluntary environmental protection measures, which aimed to replace set aside abolished in 2007. Link subsequently wrote to the Minister and met him to discuss our concerns.

During 2011, Link participated in a number of meetings of the Rural Development Programme for England's (RDPE) Programme Committee. The opportunity was taken to present Link's views on progress with implementation of the RDPE and transition into the next programme period for agricultural stewardship. A meeting of the Making Environmental Stewardship More Effective Stakeholders Group gave Link members another opportunity to discuss the implementation of current Entry and Higher Level Stewardships.

The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) continued to be a high priority for Link in 2011. The NEWP Task Force began the year by writing to Secretaries of State across all Government departments, highlighting the potential for the NEWP to promote the importance of a healthy natural environment for all sectors.

In advance of the publication of the White Paper, Link maintained its engagement at a high political level, and held meetings with the Shadow Environment Secretary, Mary Creagh MP, and the Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries, Richard Benyon MP. And at a meeting with the Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP, Minister of State and Government policy advisor, Link members highlighted why the NEWP should be of high importance across the whole of Government, not just 'environment' departments. At the Minister's request, Link produced a paper on the institutional frameworks necessary to support nature's recovery.

Link also maintained productive relationships with Defra. Early in 2011, supported by 32 Link members, Link submitted a set of 'key tests' to Defra, designed as a helpful checklist for officials as they produce the final draft of the NEWP. Link was also invited by Defra officials to discuss the White Paper on several occasions during the year. Issues addressed included: strategic landscapes and access policies; delivery of Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) and Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs); criteria and guidance for LNPs; and, a NEWP implementation plan. A common theme was to explore opportunities for collaborative working.

Following publication of the White Paper, entitled 'The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature', in June, Link was approached by the Environmental, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Select Committee to give oral evidence on our initial reactions to the NEWP. Link, along with other

## WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE LINK

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witnesses, highlighted concerns over funding and delivery of the NEWP, the links between Local Nature Partnerships and guidance for reforms for the private sector.

In September, Link submitted evidence to the EFRA Committee's second inquiry into the White Paper, which focussed on actions required across Government for delivering a green economy and the resources needed to develop a practical programme sufficiently detailed to deliver the White Paper's ambition.

The Water Working Group continued to work under the banner of the Blueprint for Water coalition, and to advocate its 10 Steps to Sustainable Water. Much of 2011 was spent waiting for the publication of the Water White Paper, originally expected in June and finally published in December. In the latter half of the year, the group wrote to a number of existing and potential Parliamentary Champions and met with an existing champion, Martin Horwood MP, to discuss the Water White Paper.

In May, the Blueprint for Water coalition responded to Defra's consultation on River Basin Planning Guidance, Volume Three, emphasising the need for updated guidance and also addressing the approach to objectives and reporting, the involvement of stakeholders, strategic planning and regulation, and enforcement.

In June, the Chair and Secretary of the group attended the Wetland Future Conference, which looked at best practice in wetland management, the link with green infrastructure, a new tool for assessing the impacts of climate change on wetlands and forthcoming policy and regulatory developments. WWF provided a Blueprint presence at July's Future Water conference.

During the summer members also attended meetings with Natural England and Defra to support planning to mitigate the effects of the drought.

In September the group published *A Blueprint for a Sustainable Water White Paper*, which highlighted the need for good health of wetlands and rivers, fairly priced water and greater water efficiency. The Group met with the Water White Paper team at Defra in September and was also invited to meet Caroline Spelman MP and Richard Benyon MP to discuss the White Paper.

The Land Use Planning Working Group continued to engage strongly on the reforms to the planning system, promoting Link's vision of planning as an essential tool for managing the use of our natural resources and for minimising the impacts of development of the environment.

In 2011, Link continued to work through the Greenest Planning Ever coalition (GPE), which was established in 2010 and included non-Link members (the Campaign for Better Transport, the Environmental Law Foundation and the Town and Country Planning Association). The GPE lobbied throughout the year on the Localism Bill, publishing briefings for parliamentarians at each stage of the Bill's progress, focusing on sustainable development, neighbourhood planning, third party rights of appeal, strategic planning, the duty to cooperate and financial incentives. The GPE also provided over 50 amendments for tabling by MPs and met with the Minister for Decentralisation and Cities, Greg Clark MP, and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government, Baroness Hanham, as well as officials and opposition MPs throughout the Bill's progress. In June, the GPE hosted a briefing session for peers in the House of Lords to emphasize issues and strengthen support for our amendments.

The Land Use Planning Working Group also lobbied on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), seeking to input into the first draft through a roundtable meeting early in the year, followed by individual lobbying meetings with DCLG and Defra, a number of letters to and meetings with Greg Clark MP, and responding to the consultation on the draft NPPF. Link consistently argued for greater cohesion between the objectives of the Natural Environment White Paper and the NPPF, for a robust definition of sustainable development and a reinstating on the brownfield-first approach. We have also consistently argued against the strong economic focus of the proposed NPPF, and the related thrust of planning reform.



## WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE LINK

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### ***2. Help protect and connect marine species and habitats through the promotion of an ecosystem based approach to marine conservation***

In 2011, the Marine Working Group continued to closely monitor the progress of England's Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Project. Link met with Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee on a number of occasions to discuss the MCZ Regional Projects' Progress Reports and raised specific concerns with MCZ progress, including mobile species, sites being lost and the use of socio-economic data. At Defra's request, Link also wrote to both Defra and the Minister to reiterate these concerns and provide specific examples of where proposed MCZs are currently being lost throughout the network.

Link also met with Richard Benyon MP, to discuss the MCZ Project and the UK's commitment to establishing an ecologically coherent network of MPAs by 2012. And following statements made by Richard Benyon MP, to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Biodiversity, Link wrote to the Minister stressing that in order for the MCZ network to be truly ecologically coherent, it must protect examples of the entire range of habitats and species found in healthy UK seas, as well as rare, threatened, or vulnerable wildlife.

Representation on external groups continued to be an important part of Link's advocacy work. In February, Link was represented at a workshop on the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, where developments at the UK and OSPAR /EU level were reviewed. Link also contributed to a number of meetings of the Marine Management Organisation's (MMO) Stakeholder Focus Group, which brings together MMO staff, Defra and marine-users, including NGO and industry representatives.

In February Link submitted a response to the MMO's consultation on the East Inshore and East Offshore marine plan areas draft Statement of Public Participation, highlighting the importance of environmental consideration and the need for sustainable development, and was subsequently invited to sit on the MMO's Sustainability Appraisal Advisory Group.

Link also attended the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) stakeholder meeting, hosted by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and attended by Natural England, JNCC and Defra. Discussions focused on the progress of the MCZ project, in particular the designation, and effective monitoring and management of sites. Link restated ongoing concerns with the MCZ project, including the slipping timetable, the lack of protection for mobile species and the emphasis on socio-economic considerations.

In November 2011, Richard Benyon MP announced that England's MCZ project would be delayed by six months. The public consultation on the 127 recommended sites will now take place at the end of 2012, with the first designations in 2013. Although the Minister confirmed that all of the 127 recommended MCZs would go to public consultation, he stated that the process will be delayed while Defra commissions further work on the evidence base for MCZs.

Link published a statement in response to the Minister's announcement, expressing disappointment at the introduction of additional evidence requirements at such a late stage in the stakeholder-led process, especially in light of its original commitment to have an ecologically coherent network of MCZs in place by 2012. In addition to responding to consultations, attending meetings and the like, and Link has maintained a high level of communications through its regular Marine Parliamentary Bulletins, provided to Ministers, MPs and other interested parties.

One of the key objectives of Link's Whales Working Group is to ensure better protection of cetaceans, in part through the reform of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) into a conservation body. The group also addresses other issues relating to cetacean conservation and welfare, such as ocean noise.

A major focus for Link in 2011 was the 63rd Annual meeting of the IWC (IWC63). Once again, Link was awarded two Link/NGO places on the UK's delegation to the IWC. In advance of the IWC meeting, Link met with Defra and the new UK Commissioner, Richard Pullen, to discuss issues including the continued whaling of Iceland, Norway, Greenland and Japan. A subsequent meeting with

## WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE LINK

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Richard Benyon MP, Richard Pullen and a number of Defra officials, included discussion on: the continued whaling by a number of IWC member nations; Iceland's accession to the EU; corruption at the IWC; and, the need to strengthen the IWC's conservation agenda. The Minister and Defra both supported Link's concerns and outlined the governance reform proposals being put forward by the UK Government at IWC63.

In June, a number of Link members attended the IWC's Scientific Committee meeting. As the Committee's report was to be considered at IWC63 the following month, Link sent a briefing to Defra officials in advance, highlighting priorities and key areas of concern.

Several Link members attended the IWC63 meeting, along with two Link/NGO representatives on the UK delegation. Link was delighted that the UK-led governance proposal to improve the transparency and effectiveness of the IWC was adopted. However, a number of important issues including marine debris, small cetaceans, noise pollution and the conservation remit of the IWC were not discussed.

Cetaceans throughout the seas around the UK are increasingly facing huge pressures from overfishing and bycatch, pollution, offshore developments and climate change. In 2011, Link therefore focussed a great deal of effort in facilitating joint working and raising our concerns with decision-makers. On two occasions, Link brought together a wide range of members and other NGOs for meetings on the issues affecting cetaceans in UK waters. Link also sent a letter to the Chair of the Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Project Science Advisory Panel to highlight major concerns about the exclusion of cetaceans as features for which MCZs are designated.

### ***3. Raise the political profile of the ethical and economic value of biodiversity and the socio-economic and ecological impacts of its loss***

The Biodiversity Working Group continued its efforts to push biodiversity up the political agenda and give it the rightful recognition at the highest level. In early 2011, Link published its fifth and final annual biodiversity assessment, 'Halting Biodiversity Loss by 2011', which measures overall progress of the Government's commitment to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2010.

In advance of publication of the England Biodiversity Strategy (EBS), Link published its position statement on the EBS, which was shared with civil servants and subsequently discussed in meetings with Defra. Link's statement called for a new high-level group of Government and civil-society representatives, chaired by the Minister for the Natural Environment and Fisheries, to oversee implementation of the EBS and improve transparency and accountability. During this period, Link also met with Natural England to discuss the EBS and improvements to future baseline monitoring.

August saw the Government publish the EBS, 'Biodiversity 2020: Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystems Services' and a corresponding discussion paper. The EBS aims to halt biodiversity loss by 2020 in line with the international Nagoya 2010 agreement and the Natural Environment White Paper. Link subsequently met with Natural England to discuss the delivery plan for the EBS and also attended the England Biodiversity Group (EBG) meeting which discussed the need to improve baseline data, along with biodiversity offsetting and Nature Improvement Areas, as proposed by the Lawton Review.

Also in 2011, Link was represented at the UK Biodiversity Indicator Steering Group meeting, where the 18 UK indicators were evaluated to assess whether they were fit for purpose in light of the new EU and global 2020 biodiversity targets. In May Link attended the UK Biodiversity Partnership Standing Committee meeting, which included discussion on the future UK framework and governance structures. And Link welcomed publication of an updated version of the 'UK Biodiversity Indicators in Your Pocket', as a useful tool in assessing broad changes to the restoration and protection of the UK's species and habitats. Link also joined the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Biodiversity.

During the year, Link also published its critique of the EBS and responses to: a review of the horticultural use of peat in England; the Lawton review; and, the consultation on biodiversity indicators. Link also responded to Defra's consultation on biodiversity offsets and participated in Defra workshops on how biodiversity offsets might be used in conservation planning and development.

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### ***4. Promote the delivery of access to nature that is compatible with conservation of wildlife, re-connects society with the environment and enhances human health and welfare***

In autumn 2010 and into 2011, the Government came under criticism for its plans to sell off public forests. Link also came in for some criticism in the press for - it was claimed - failing to recognise the public's opposition to these plans. Following the Government's apology, in February 2011, for its handling of the proposals and the establishment of the Independent Panel on Forestry, Link brought together a group of members to respond to the Panel's call for evidence, which was submitted in July. The Link submission was supported by 14 members, and focused on what Link sees as the priorities and challenges for forestry and woodland policy in England, namely: protection and restoration of the native woodland resource; open habitat restoration; an increase in appropriate management of native woodland; sustainable woodland expansion; maintaining and enhancing public access for leisure and recreation; support for research and information gathering; and support for the public forest estate, which Link believes is a vital national asset, providing highly valued access to and reconnection with nature for the public. The Link response included a very wide range of recommendations for the Government, the commitment to which will be examined through this group when the Panel reports in 2012.

In 2011 Link also established regular meetings with the strategic landscape and access team at Defra, meeting in August and December. These meetings provided an opportunity for Link members to discuss a wide range of policy and practice issues from a landscape and access perspective. Issues raised have included: planning reform; the Local Green Space designation; the review of Town and Village Greens; the Green Infrastructure Partnership; the Natural Environment White Paper and policies stemming from it; National Character Areas; the Red Tape Challenge; the Rural Economy Growth Review; forestry; the Countryside and Rights of Way Act; coastal access; Rights of Way Improvement Plans; and byways.

### ***5. Raise the UK's commitment to wildlife protection, animal welfare and respect for animals***

In seeking to coordinate NGO views on threats to cetaceans in UK waters, Link hosted a workshop in September for our members and other NGOs including ORCA, the Sea Watch Foundation and the World Society for the Protection of Animals. Participants considered the present status of UK cetaceans in law, the designation of Special Areas of Conservation for cetaceans, chemical pollution, oil and gas developments, bycatch and marine renewables.

As part of our international work, Link's members identified and promoted recommendations for the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (CoP15) in Qatar in March, and Link continued to engage with Defra on trade issues through the Joint NGO Liaison Group (JLG) meetings of conservationists and traders.

In February, Link responded to the European Commission's consultation regarding the removal of shark fins onboard vessels. The response, supported by 11 Link member organisations, called for an amendment of the Council Regulation to require that all sharks are landed with their fins naturally attached. This amendment would reduce the current enforcement burden allowing the collection of species-specific landings data required for shark population monitoring and assessment.

Link recognises the important role played by the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) and is monitoring the potential implications for wildlife crime following the creation of the new National Crime Agency (NCA) to tackle organised crime. The Agency will include a new Border Policing Command division responsible for the prevention and investigation of wildlife crime, working with the NWCU. The NCA is likely to be introduced by spring 2012, leading to the NCA being fully operational by the end of 2013.

Link's Wildlife Trade Working Group met on a number of occasions in 2011 to discuss issues including: developments in CITES enforcement; the new National Crime Agency; and, plans to conduct an airport campaign that promotes dedicated space for dissemination of wildlife trade information to travellers. Members of the group also attended meetings of the Joint NGO Liaison Group on CITES in advance of the upcoming meeting of the CITES Standing Committee, as well as to make preparations for the 25th Animals Committee meeting, and address the UK's shortlist of

## WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE LINK

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species for Review of Significant Trade. At this time Defra also confirmed that the COTES reviews regarding enforcement and Ports of Entry and Exit would be taken forward, and that the associated regulation would be in place by autumn 2012.

In October, the Wildlife Trade Working Group met to discuss priorities for the next Joint Liaison Group meeting on CITES. The Humane Society International (HSI) UK was invited to attend the meeting and became members of Link the following month.

### ***6. Improve the advocacy of agreed collective messages from the environmental voluntary sector to those who can help us bring about the change we desire***

Link continued to facilitate opportunities for Link members to attend meetings with ministers. For example, Link met Caroline Spelman MP in November and Baroness Hanham in October, to discuss the Water White Paper and the Localism Bill, respectively. The Marine and Whales working groups met Richard Benyon MP on several occasions in 2011.

In April and September, Link convened the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> meetings of its Policy Directors to share political analysis and consider how Link and its members can best respond to ongoing political and economic challenges. Link's commitment to advocate clear and robust campaign messages was demonstrated by its publication in October of 'Nature Check: an analysis of the Government's natural environment commitments', supported by 29 member organisations and produced alongside the Green Alliance's Climate Check report. Nature Check developed an overarching, strategic analysis of whether the Government was living up to its claim to be the 'greenest ever.' The report was widely covered in the press when it was published, achieved a slot on Radio 4's Today Programme, with Caroline Spelman MP defending the Government's record. The report was also referenced at length in a subsequent opposition day debate on the Government's environmental record, and led to a Link meeting with Oliver Letwin MP.

Link representatives attended numerous external advocacy events throughout the year and Link proactively provided advice and comment to the UK Government, Commissioners and senior officials on a wide range of issues. In 2011 Link was represented on numerous external forums in England and the UK. As well as supporting member representation at the UK level, the Secretariat also assists the identification of the most appropriate Link representation for international advocacy. For example, two Link representatives joined the UK delegation at the 63rd Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission.

In September the Government's Red Tape Challenge threw the spotlight on all 278 pieces of environmental legislation with a public consultation conducted through the Cabinet Office website. Link, as a member of the Red Tape Challenge Sounding Board, met with Defra officials and stakeholders from the voluntary, business, and farming sectors to discuss the scope of the proposals and the process for decision-making.

### ***7. Add value to the work of members by facilitating consensus on policies and providing support in the production of joint positions on a wide range of issues***

In 2011, Link facilitated consensus between members on a number of policy areas where views differed, for example on forestry policy. The Nature Check report is also an example of where Link successfully achieved a very high degree of support for a document that covered an unusually wide number of policy areas. Some of these are areas where tensions exist within the membership and some, such as illegal timber, required the development of a new policy position.

Link has established a web-based timetable of consultations linked to our monthly members-only e-bulletin, in order to selectively respond in a timely manner. This year the Secretariat assisted the production of a large number of collective statements, including position statements, press releases, joint letters and consultation responses, each supported by a minimum of five members. Consultation responses are routinely followed up with meetings with the appropriate consulting department or agency and the Secretariat encourages joint work on UK-level policies of mutual interest between Sister Links' groups in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

## WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE LINK

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All four Sister Links regularly exchange information on a range of strategic and operational matters. During 2011, the Link Secretariat hosted and participated in three conference calls and senior staff from two of the Links met in London in conjunction with meeting Green Alliance. The meeting explored how to make better collective use of UK NGO memberships of the European Environmental Bureau.

Links have shared information on a range of issues including: ensuring equity in subscription policies across the range of large and small members; funding experiences; developments in environmental policy; the impacts of the recession; and strategic reviews.

The Links have continued to work jointly on a number of issues where a UK approach is relevant. The four Agriculture Working Groups lobbied collectively on reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which included production of a briefing in July for all MPs and the publication of 'Crunch Time for CAP: Choosing the right tools for a richer countryside' in November. The Links marine officers regularly updated each other, particularly on Marine Protected Areas and marine planning processes.

We are grateful to WWF for providing a grant for Joint Links activities in 2011.

Link has provided secretariat support to each of our eight working groups and convened at least two meetings of every group in 2011, involving at least four of its members.

Joint working between Link working groups in 2011 included: a response to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Biodiversity's planning and biodiversity inquiry; planning and water groups contributed to the England Biodiversity Strategy critique; and all groups contributed to Nature Check. In addition, chairs and vice chairs of working groups met twice and a joint marine/water meeting was held in August.

Link also sought collaborative partnerships and new members to help strengthen and broaden consensus among NGOs. In 2011 we formed and maintained collaborative partnerships with the Environmental Law Foundation, the Institute for European Environmental Policy, the Town and Country Planning Association and the Campaign for Better Transport. The British Ecological Society and the Humane Society International (UK) also joined as full members in 2011, along with Client Earth, who joined as an Associate member.

### ***8. Provide a safe forum for members to exchange information, and develop and promote action that could effect positive change***

Throughout 2011 Link maintained a watching brief on a broad range of environmental, access and recreation, and animal welfare issues that affect the delivery of Link's strategic objectives. We provided opportunities for members to explore new areas of policy, or areas of policy where consensus has not been forthcoming in the past.

To provide members with appropriate, accurate and timely information, all responses to Link letters were circulated to members within one week of receipt. The Secretariat ensured Link's protocols and procedures were followed, specifically around electronic communications and confidentiality, and we regularly reviewed and updated our mailing lists and databases of all Link contacts.

We maintained three internal governance-related mailing lists and three mini campaign sites on Link's website. Our monthly e-bulletin was retained as a Link member-only publication and the quarterly report was provided for members and non-member subscribers. Despite a freeze in member income from subscriptions, Link maintained a budget for hiring off-site meeting rooms when required for large or special meetings and used teleconferencing facilities as a way of cutting down on travel.

### ***9. Maintain a high standard of service whilst developing the Secretariat's capacity to meet the needs of the membership***

The Secretariat successfully maintained a high level of service in 2011, despite a range of staffing changes and additions to the workload (e.g. Nature Check, the response to the Independent Panel on Forestry and the new Task and Finish Group addressing the review of the implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives). Annual staff appraisals and day-to-day feedback from the membership

## **WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE LINK**

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suggests that the Secretariat is highly valued and recognised as approachable, effective and highly professional.

Link took the opportunity to reconfigure its personnel in March, following a member of staff commencing maternity leave. For the remainder of the year, Link employed three full time staff and two part time staff. Link worked with its members and donors to ensure receipt of funds to projected levels and managed to retain a staff training budget at 2010 levels, as well as seeking to provide low-cost internal and member-provided training opportunities, wherever possible. The Director convened weekly team meetings to discuss policy and operational matters, and maintained a regular schedule of staff one-to-ones and appraisal procedures.

Over the year, members of the Secretariat undertook a range of training to support their effectiveness, on subjects including: parliamentary process; European policy and advocacy; and networking.

Link continues to offer volunteering opportunities to people with a keen interest in Link issues. We maintain liaison with University College London and Secretariat staff delivered Link's annual lecture to students of the Masters in Conservation degree in December. We retain a pool of at least two volunteers at any one time and provide opportunities for volunteers to undertake discreet projects aligned to their interests and expertise.

This year our volunteers worked on gathering evidence and information for Nature Check as well as helping with the launch of the Joint Links Crunch Time for CAP report. Our volunteers were given the opportunity to contribute to Link's monthly e-bulletins and quarterly reports and help with the member survey and various Link meetings including the AGM. In addition, the Link Secretariat invited its regular volunteers to become involved in the activities of our working groups by supporting meetings and undertaking research for specific projects such as the Marine Policy Bulletins.

A review of the members' subscription structure was conducted in 2011 along with an examination of current subscription rates. The review resulted in two key resolutions being put to the AGM in December: that, following a two-year freeze on subscriptions, rates be increased by 2% in 2012; and that a new subscription structure be introduced in 2013. Both resolutions were approved by Link members.

In October, Link asked the membership to provide feedback on the way that we work together to achieve Link's aims. Members were positive about the value of Link's work and the clarity of its objectives, with further working across Link's groups identified as a main target for work next year. The survey results will be used to create work and advocacy plans for the working groups in 2012.

Link's Management Committee met four times during 2011, including its annual away day meeting in June. The Committee discussed forthcoming advocacy plans and developments in the political arena concerning the conservation agenda and our key policy areas. It also carried out a horizon scan of future policy areas, to prepare for the 2012 work plan, and reviewed Link's half-yearly accounts.

### **Link Personnel**

In March, Kate Hand joined Link as part time Policy and Campaigns Coordinator and Fiona Llewellyn, Link's Information and Office Coordinator (IOC), took up the role of Marine Policy and Campaigns Coordinator as Jo Fisher commenced maternity leave. Sam Bickerstaff joined Link to cover as IOC. Kirsten Loveday continued as Link's full time Policy and Campaigns Coordinator.

In November, Dr Elaine King was appointed to cover the role of Link Director whilst Jodie Bettis is on maternity leave.

### **Financial Review**

The 2011 accounts show an unrestricted deficit of £10,694 for the year compared to £5,616 in 2010. The unrestricted reserves at 31 December 2011 amount to £118,442 and are equivalent to approximately 10.9 months' total unrestricted expenditure.

## WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE LINK

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### **Reserves Policy**

Wildlife and Countryside Link shall maintain reserves equivalent to six months' operating costs. These funds shall be unrestricted and therefore available to fund all aspects of Link's operations in the event that they should be required. These reserves shall allow Link to plan against future uncertainties.

The target level for reserves shall be set at that required for six months operation of the organisation so that, should Link encounter financial difficulty, it may continue to provide its members with services at the same level for six months, thus giving members ample warning should the financial situation deteriorate further. It is felt that this is an appropriate amount of time for a small organisation such as Link, as it is likely that any additional or emergency funding would take some months to secure.

The reserve funds shall help to meet working capital requirements to cover Link's normal cash-flow operations throughout the year, and is reviewed on a regular basis. In 2011 Link's reserves were held in The Co-operative Bank and experienced no loss during the year.

### **Risk review**

The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed and systems established to mitigate those risks. In June 2011 the Management Committee updated the approved register of risks, which will be reviewed regularly as part of the charity's risk management strategy.

### **Members of the Management Committee**

Members of the Management Committee, who are Directors for the purpose of Company Law and Trustees for the purpose of Charity Law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report, are set out on Page 2.

### **Preparation of the report**

This report has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies exemption of section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

### **Independent Examiners**

A resolution to confirm the appointment Simon Erskine of Gotham Erskine as independent examiner to the organisation was passed at the Annual General Meeting in December 2011 and will again be proposed at the next Annual General Meeting.

By order of the Management Committee

Signed: .....

Position: .....

Date: .....

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE LINK**

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I report on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2011 set out on pages 15 to 22.

### **Respective responsibilities of Committee members and independent examiner**

As described on page 16 the Committee members, who are the directors of Wildlife and Countryside Link for the purposes of company law and the trustees for the purposes of charity law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The Committee members consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the Company is not subject to an audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43 of the 1993 Act);
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, as amended); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Company, and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Committee members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charitieshave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### **Simon Erskine FCA FCIE DChA**

MHA MacIntyre Hudson

Chartered Accountants

Friendly House

52 - 58 Tabernacle Street

London EC2A 4NJ

Date:



## WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE LINK

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating Income and Expenditure Account) For the year ended 31 December 2011

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2011 £	Restricted Funds 2011 £	Total Funds 2011 £	Total Funds 2010 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
Voluntary income		24,126	-	24,126	26,378
Grants for core funding		28,000	-	28,000	28,000
Investment income - bank interest		280	-	280	245
Incoming resources from charitable activities:					
Grants for project work	9	-	79,928	79,928	80,224
Subscriptions		77,865	-	77,865	74,249
Rent and service charges receivable		-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>130,271</b>	<b>79,928</b>	<b>210,199</b>	<b>209,096</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Charitable activities	2	137,902	74,050	211,952	199,630
Governance costs	3	3,163	-	3,163	3,737
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>141,065</b>	<b>74,050</b>	<b>215,115</b>	<b>203,367</b>
Net income/(expenditure) before transfer		(10,794)	5,878	(4,916)	5,729
Transfers between funds	9	575	(575)	-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		(10,219)	5,303	(4,916)	5,729
TOTAL FUNDS AT 1 JANUARY 2011		128,661	43,926	172,587	166,858
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 DECEMBER 2011</b>		<b>£ 118,442</b>	<b>£ 49,229</b>	<b>£ 167,671</b>	<b>£ 172,587</b>

The annexed notes form part of these financial statements

**BALANCE SHEET**  
As at 31 December 2011

	Notes	2011	2010
		£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible assets	6	1,283	1
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	7	7,467	5,628
Cash at bank and in hand		210,337	197,191
		<u>217,804</u>	<u>202,819</u>
<b>CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year</b>	8	(51,416)	(30,233)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>166,388</u>	<u>172,586</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>£ 167,671</u>	<u>£ 172,587</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Restricted funds	9	49,229	43,926
General fund (unrestricted)	9	118,442	128,661
		<u>£ 167,671</u>	<u>£ 172,587</u>

For the year ended 31 December 2011 the Company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- (i) The members have not required the Company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- (ii) The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008). They were approved, and authorised for issue, by the Directors on 19 March 2012 and signed on their behalf by:-

\_\_\_\_\_  
PAUL DE ZYLVA, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID LIND, Treasurer

The annexed notes form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2011**

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

***Basis of preparation of financial statements***

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" published in 2005, applicable accounting standards and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The effects of events relating to the year ended 31 December 2011 which occurred before the date of approval of the financial statements by the Management Committee has been included in the financial statements to the extent required to show a true and fair view of the state of affairs at 31 December 2011 and the results for the year ended on that date.

***Company status***

Wildlife and Countryside Link is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity.

***Fund accounting***

The General fund comprises the unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Statutory grants which are given as contributions towards the Charity's core services are treated as unrestricted.

***Incoming resources***

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Subscription income from full and associate member organisations is invoiced on a calendar year basis and is recognised accordingly.

Grants are recognised as income in the income and expenditure account in accordance with the terms attached by the grantor.

Recharged costs are accrued when the associated costs are incurred. Other donations and sundry income are recognised in the income and expenditure account when received.

***Resources expended***

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Support costs, which cannot be directly attributed to particular activities, have been apportioned proportionately to the direct staff costs allocated to the activities. Governance costs relate to external examination of the accounts.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
For the year ended 31 December 2011

***Tangible fixed assets and depreciation***

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives as follows:

Furniture/fittings	-	4 years
Office equipment	-	4 years

All fixed assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised.

***Operating leases***

Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period in which the cost is incurred.

**2. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES: FACILITATION, CO-ORDINATION & INFORMATION PROVISION**

	Unrestricted Funds 2011 £	Restricted Funds 2011 £	Total Funds 2011 £	<i>Total Funds 2010 £</i>
Staff costs	111,245	44,027	155,272	131,228
Other costs	26,657	30,023	56,680	68,402
	<u>£ 137,902</u>	<u>£ 74,050</u>	<u>£ 211,952</u>	<u>£ 199,630</u>

**3. GOVERNANCE COSTS**

	Unrestricted Funds 2011 £	Restricted Funds 2011 £	Total Funds 2011 £	<i>Total Funds 2010 £</i>
Independent examiner's fees:				
Independent examination	2,371	-	2,371	2,233
Other	600	-	600	-
Other expenses	192	-	192	1,504
	<u>£ 3,163</u>	<u>£ Nil</u>	<u>£ 3,163</u>	<u>£ 3,737</u>

**4. STAFF NUMBERS AND COSTS**

	2011 £	<i>2010 £</i>
Wages and salaries	134,582	112,921
Social security costs	13,615	11,531
Pension costs	7,075	6,776
	<u>£ 155,272</u>	<u>£ 131,228</u>
	<b>Number</b>	<i>Number</i>
The average number of employees during the period was:	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>

No employee received remuneration of more than £36,000 in the year or the previous year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2011

5. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

During the year, no trustee received any remuneration (2010 - £NIL). 2 trustees received reimbursement of expenses amounting to £194 (2010 - 1 trustee amounting to £176).

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixture and fittings £	Office equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 January 2011	17,725	1,308	19,033
Additions	-	1,709	1,709
At 31 December 2011	<u>17,725</u>	<u>3,017</u>	<u>20,742</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 January 2011	17,724	1,308	19,032
Charge for the year	-	427	427
At 31 December 2011	<u>17,724</u>	<u>1,735</u>	<u>19,459</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 December 2010	<u>£ 1</u>	<u>£ Nil</u>	<u>£ 1</u>
At 31 December 2011	<u>£ 1</u>	<u>£ 1,282</u>	<u>£ 1,283</u>

7. DEBTORS

	2011 £	2010 £
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Prepayments	6,421	5,628
Staff travel loan	1,046	-
	<u>£ 7,467</u>	<u>£ 5,628</u>

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2011 £	2010 £
Deferred grant income (see below)	47,807	28,000
Accruals	3,609	2,233
	<u>£ 51,416</u>	<u>£ 30,233</u>
<u>Deferred grant income</u>		
Balance at 1 January 2011	28,000	-
Amount released to incoming resources	(28,000)	-
Amount deferred in the year	47,807	28,000
Balance at 31 December 2011	<u>£ 47,807</u>	<u>£ 28,000</u>

**WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE LINK**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
For the year ended 31 December 2011

**9. STATEMENT OF FUNDS**

	Brought Forward £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Carried Forward £
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>					
1. Joint Links	-	5,000	(1,725)	(1,275)	2,000
2. Beyond the Pillars / Crunch time for CAP	178	8,350	(6,807)	700	2,421
3. Marine Bill Campaign:					
i. General	828	-	(556)	-	272
ii. Lisbet Rausing & Peter Baldwin	257	-	(257)	-	-
iii. MPCC project	40,035	65,678	(62,057)	-	43,656
iv. Marine Bill Fighting Fund	1,704	-	(1,704)	-	-
4. Blueprint for Water	609	-	-	-	609
5. Planning Coalition	315	-	(26)	-	289
6. Nature Check/ Greenest Government Ever	-	900	(918)	-	(18)
	<u>£ 43,926</u>	<u>£ 79,928</u>	<u>£ (74,050)</u>	<u>£ (575)</u>	<u>£ 49,229</u>

**SUMMARY OF FUNDS**

General fund	128,661	130,271	(141,065)	575	118,442
Restricted funds	43,926	79,928	(74,050)	(575)	49,229
	<u>£ 172,587</u>	<u>£ 210,199</u>	<u>£ (215,115)</u>	<u>£ Nil</u>	<u>£ 167,671</u>

**Purposes of restricted funds:**

*1. Joint Links*

The WWF Joint Links project grant allows the four Link organisations in the UK (Wildlife and Countryside Link, Wales Environment Link, Scottish Environment LINK and Northern Ireland Environment Link) to update each other on work programmes, key priorities, and operational matters, through meetings and conference calls. In 2011, the WWF donated £5,000 of which £700 was spent on the 'Crunch Time for CAP' report with WWF's agreement and £2,300 was distributed amongst the Joint Links for use in individual Joint Links' core work. The remaining £2,000 will be carried forward into 2012. The £1,275 transfers showed above includes £700 transferred to the "Crunch time for CAP" fund as noted above, with the balance of £575 representing funding from Link's own resources.

*2. FRD Beyond the Pillars / Crunch time for CAP*

This project was set up in 2008 to fund the publication and launch of the Farming and Rural Development Working Group's policy perspective on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy entitled 'Beyond the Pillars'. The 2011 report was entitled 'Crunch Time for CAP'. At the end of 2010, £178 was carried forward into 2011. In 2011 the project received a further £8,350 in member donations and £700 from Joint Link contributions as mentioned in the explanation under 1. above. During the year, £6,807 was spent on 'Crunch Time for CAP' report materials and activities. The remaining £2,421 will be carried forward into 2012.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**For the year ended 31 December 2011**

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*3. Marine Bill Campaign*

*i) General*

This fund has been in operation since 2005. £828 was carried forward into 2011 and £556 of this was used during the year to cover Marine Working Group project support costs. The remaining £272 will be carried forward into 2012.

*ii) Lisbet Rausing & Peter Baldwin*

In June 2007 Link received a one-off £10,000 donation from Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin towards the costs of Link's Marine Bill Campaign. £257 was carried forward into 2011 and during the year this was all spent on parliamentary activities to support the Marine Working Group's campaign work and the restricted fund closed.

*iii) Marine Policy and Campaigns Co-ordinator (MPCC)*

This relates to funding from the Tubney Charitable Trust and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation towards the costs of a full time Marine Policy and Campaigns Co-ordinator at Wildlife and Countryside Link. This project fund provides for the salary and all associated expenses of the MPCC post. The full cost recovery principle has been applied to this project and transfers from this fund are made to Link's core fund to cover all associated support costs.

*iv) Marine Bill Fighting Fund*

In 2010 Link received a grant of £3,000 from WWF to fund work on the implementation of the Marine and Coastal Access Act. £1,704 was carried forward into 2011, the funds were used for the publication of the Charting Progress 2 report and a parliamentary bulletin and the restricted fund closed.

*4. Blueprint for Water*

The Blueprint for Water project was set up in 2009 to fund the publication and distribution of the Blueprint coalition's third report. £609 was carried forward into 2011 and none of this was spent during the year. £609 will be carried forward into 2012.

*5. Planning Coalition*

The Planning Coalition fund was set up in 2010 to cover costs associated with the publication and distribution of the new Greenest Planning Ever Coalition's Vision for the Future of Planning document. £315 was carried forward into 2011 and £26 was paid to the Town and Country Planning Association. The remaining £289 will be carried forward into 2012.

*6. Nature Check / Greenest Government Ever*

The Nature Check / Greenest Government Ever fund was set up in 2011 to cover the costs associated with assessment, reporting and launch of project findings on the Coalition Government's performance on the natural environment, as part of its commitment to be the "greenest Government ever". The project received £900 in member donations during 2011. £918 was spent on the publication of the Nature Check report, leaving the fund in deficit by £18 at the year end. It is expected this will be reversed in 2012 though member donations.

## WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE LINK

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### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2011

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#### 10. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	General Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	1,283	-	1,283
Net current assets	117,159	49,229	166,388
	<u>£ 118,442</u>	<u>£ 49,229</u>	<u>£ 167,671</u>

#### 11. OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 December 2011 the Company had annual commitments under the non-cancellable operating lease on its premises as follows:

	2011 £	2010 £
Operating leases which expire: within two to five years	<u>21,483</u>	<u>21,483</u>
The cost of operating lease during the year was as follows: Office lease charges for the year	<u>£ 21,483</u>	<u>£ 21,483</u>