

Cross-Party Group on Nature and Climate

Monday 8 December 2025, 11:30am – 12:00pm

Minute

Present

MSP Members

Maurice Golden MSP, Monica Lennon MSP, Mark Ruskell MSP

Non-MSP Group Members

Andrew Marks (Scottish Environment LINK)

Apologies

Finlay Carson MSP, Mercedes Villalba MSP

1. Welcome and CPG Review

Maurice Golden MSP invited reflections on CPG meetings held over 2025. The CPG meetings held to date are available to view via the CPG Nature and Climate webpage on the Scottish Parliament website.

MSP Members acknowledged the challenges that the Group faced this year with conflicts between scheduled CPG meetings and official Parliamentary Business, in addition to difficulties in securing MSP attendance in CPG meetings due to capacity limitations.

MSP Members proposed methods to help overcome these challenges in the new Parliament, including: i) managing stakeholder expectations of MSP commitments; ii) combining the CPG on Nature and Climate with other related CPGs in the next Parliament; iii) ensuring CPGs have clear aims and outcomes; iv) leading themed CPG meetings and visits outside of the Parliament Building for Members; v) encouraging further opportunities for dialogue and debate within meetings.

2. Appointment of Office-Bearers

The following MSP Members were nominated as Office-Bearers:

- Maurice Golden MSP was nominated as Co-Convener of the CPG by Mark Ruskell MSP and Monica Lennon MSP.
- Monica Lennon MSP was nominated as Co-Convener of the CPG by Mark Ruskell MSP and Maurice Golden MSP.
- Mark Ruskell MSP was nominated as Co-Convener of the CPG by Monica Lennon MSP and Maurice Golden MSP.
- Scottish Environment LINK was nominated as Secretariat of the CPG by Mark Ruskell MSP, Monica Lennon MSP and Maurice Golden MSP.

3. Confirmation of Membership

The MSP Members of the CPG beyond Office Bearers include: Finlay Carson MSP, Beatrice Wishart MSP, Meghan Gallacher MSP, Tim Eagle MSP and Mercedes Villalba MSP.

A list of new non-MSP Member applications was circulated in advance by the Secretariat. All MSP Members agreed to all new non-MSP Member applications.

Following this vote, the Non-MSP Members of the CPG now include:

Individuals:

Andrew Heald
 Babette Hoogakker
 Michael Grant
 Richard Harris
 Sharon Kessler

Organisations:

Atlantic Salmon Trust
 Buglife
 Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland
 Fife Coast and Countryside Trust
 John Muir Trust
 Marine Conservation Society
 Nature Friendly Farming Network
 Plantlife Scotland
 RSPB Scotland
 Scottish Environment LINK
 Scottish Wildlife Trust
 The Bat Conservation Trust
 The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)
 Woodland Trust
 WWF Scotland

4. Future Meetings

The next meeting of the CPG on Nature and Climate will take place on Tuesday 20th January 2026, 18:00-19:30, in Committee Room 3, Scottish Parliament (with the option to join online). The Office Bearers agreed that this meeting will be the final meeting of the CPG for this Parliament.

The MSP Members agreed to discuss the future of the CPG and any outputs at the next (and final) meeting of the CPG.

5. AOB

No other business.