

Cross-Party Group Annual Return

Name of Cross-Party Group
Cross-Party Group on Nature and Climate
Date Group Established
22 November 2022
Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)
08 December 2025
Date Annual Return Submitted
9 December 2025
Date of Preceding AGM
07 November 2024
Group Meetings and Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 08 December 2025, 11:30-12:00 – AGM. This meeting was the AGM, which focused on reviewing CPG activities and re-electing Office Bearers. <p>MSP Members in Attendance: Maurie Golden MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party), Monica Lennon MSP (Scottish Labour) and Mark Ruskell MSP (Scottish Green Party).</p> <p>Non-MSPs in Attendance: Scottish Environment LINK (Secretariat)</p>

- **04 November 2025, 18:00-19:30** – This meeting of the CPG was postponed due to official Parliamentary Business. The meeting has been rescheduled for 20 January 2026.
- **20 August 2025, 10:30-11:45** – This public event was hosted by the CPG on Nature and Climate as part of the Scottish Parliament's Festival of Politics. The session was titled, 'Who gets a say? Environmental justice and the law' and featured a panel discussion hosted by Sarah Boyack MSP. Panellists included: Professor Jill Belch, Dr Shivali Fifield, David Lintott and Henry Swithinbank. There was an opportunity for members of the public to participate in the discussion and ask questions to the panellists.
- **18 June 2025, 18:00-19:30** – This meeting of the CPG was cancelled due to official Parliamentary Business. This meeting was due to focus on 'Community engagement in marine governance and policymaking', with speakers from Scottish Environment LINK, NatureScot, Coastal Communities Network and the Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation.
- **19 February 2025, 18:00-19:30** – This meeting focused on 'The role of forestry in the climate and biodiversity crisis', with speakers from the following organisations: National Trust for Scotland, Resilience Constellation, Forestry Policy Group and Scottish Forestry. There was an opportunity for members of the CPG to participate in the discussion and ask questions [[Minutes](#)].

MSP Members in Attendance: Mark Ruskell MSP (Scottish Green Party), Monica Lennon MSP (Scottish Labour), Mercedes Villalba MSP (Scottish Labour) and Maurice Golden MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party).

Non-MSPs in Attendance:

Scottish Environment LINK, National Trust for Scotland, Mike Grant, John Muir Trust, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Environmental Rights Centre Scotland, NatureScot, Royal Society of Edinburgh, SPCA, CNPA, Community Woodlands Association, Plantlife and University of Stirling.

MSP Members of The Group

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

Finlay Carson MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party), Tim Eagle MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party), Meghan Gallacher MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party), Maurice Golden (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party), Monica Lennon (Scottish Labour), Mark Ruskell MSP (Scottish Green Party), Mercedes Villalba MSP (Scottish Labour), Beatrice Wishart MSP (Scottish Liberal Democrats).

Non-MSP Members of The Group

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

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 Scotland, WWF Scotland

Group Office Bearers

Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.

Co-Conveners	Maurice Golden (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party), Monica Lennon (Scottish Labour), Mark Ruskell MSP (Scottish Green Party)
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Deputy Convener	N/A
Secretary	Scottish Environment LINK
Treasurer	N/A

Financial Benefits or Other Benefits

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) the Group anticipates receiving from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.

N/A

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CONVENER

COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 6 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT (Please tick all boxes that apply)

I, Convener of the Cross-Party Group on Nature & Climate, hereby declare that, in line with the requirements of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct, this CPG has:

5 MSP Members from 3 different political parties	X
Held at least 2 quorate meetings in the last 12 months	X
Held an AGM within 11-13months of the date of registration or the last AGM	X
Submitted an annual return form within 30 calendar days of the AGM	X
Provided Standards Clerks with 10 calendar days' notice of all meetings	X

Provided minutes of all meetings		X
Signed	Maurice Golden	
Date	09/12/2025	