



The Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change
The House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

From Lord Lindsay, Chairman
Mobile: 07768 840715
E-mail: JLindsay99@Lineone.net

16th November 2012

Dear Minister,

Wetland Drainage and Rewetting Activity - Greenhouse Gas Reporting

I am writing to you on behalf of Scotland's Moorland Forum to express support for the UK Government to include wetland drainage and rewetting activity in its greenhouse gas reporting under the next Kyoto Protocol commitment period.

I have been closely involved with the work of the IUCN UK Peatland Programme and the Commission of Inquiry on Peatlands, which had the support of Defra, public bodies, NGOs and land management interests. Whilst further scientific work is important, it is clear from the evidence in the UK and internationally that peatlands have a key role to play in climate change. Restoring peatlands is an urgent priority for helping to mitigate climate change as well as delivering biodiversity and water quality benefits.

Scotland's Moorland Forum currently has 29 member organisations (see below) and can claim to represent a broad range interests. Members have recognised that more must be done to address the problems facing our peatlands particularly under a changing climate. UK peatlands represent a huge carbon store; a loss of just 5% of this store would equate to the total annual greenhouse gas emissions from human activity in the UK.

The inclusion of wetland drainage and rewetting as a voluntary accounting activity under the Kyoto Protocol was an important global signal on the importance of peatlands and presents a huge opportunity to stimulate increased effort to manage peatlands and secure additional private funding to augment current public funds.

I understand that the UK Government has to inform the UN within the next month whether the wetland drainage and rewetting category will be included in our national greenhouse gas reporting under the next Kyoto commitment period. I would like to encourage you to take this option.

c/o The Heather Trust, Newtonrigg, Holywood, DUMFRIES DG2 0RA

web site: www.moorlandforum.org.uk e:mail: info@moorlandforum.org.uk

Tel: 01387 72320

Chairman: Lord Lindsay

Director: Simon Thorp

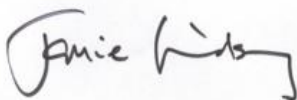
Administrator: Anne Stoddart

Although the science retains some uncertainty about the implications of adopting the wetland drainage option, there is strong support within the Forum for this move.

The inclusion of rewetting would give an important signal to the business community that peatland restoration is supported at the highest level for the contribution it can make to the achievement of climate change targets. Investment by the business community could bring much needed resources to fund more peatland restoration, and the location of extensive peatland areas means that this investment often takes place in remote and economically disadvantaged areas. There is considerable peatland restoration activity underway, which with current support from Defra is rapidly improving our scientific knowledge and should allow adequate reporting within the timeframe of the next commitment period.

I would be pleased to provide additional information if this would be of interest.

Yours sincerely



Lord Lindsay
Chairman

Members of Scotland's Moorland Forum – November 2012

<i>Association of Deer Management Groups</i>
<i>British Association for Shooting and Conservation</i>
<i>British Deer Society</i>
<i>British Trust for Ornithology (Scotland)</i>
<i>Cairngorms National Park Authority</i>
<i>Crofting Commission</i>
<i>Forestry Commission Scotland</i>
<i>Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust</i>
<i>Game Conservancy Scottish Research Trustees</i>
<i>Heather Trust</i>
<i>James Hutton Institute</i>
<i>John Muir Trust</i>
<i>Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority</i>
<i>National Farmers Union Scotland</i>
<i>National Trust for Scotland</i>
<i>Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in Scotland</i>

<i>Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland</i>
<i>Scottish Association for Country Sports</i>
<i>Scottish Countryside Alliance</i>
<i>Scottish Environment Protection Agency</i>
<i>Scottish Gamekeepers' Association</i>
<i>Scottish Government</i>
<i>Scottish Land & Estates</i>
<i>Scottish Land & Estates Moorland Group</i>
<i>Scottish Natural Heritage</i>
<i>Scottish Raptor Study Groups</i>
<i>Scottish Rural College (SRUC)</i>
<i>Scottish Water</i>
<i>Scottish Wildlife Trust</i>
Applying for membership Nov 12
- <i>Scottish Renewables</i>
- <i>Confor</i>