



Trustees' Annual Report

for the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements and the Independent Financial Examiner's report for the above mentioned period.

Reference & Administrative Information

Charity Name: Skye and Lochalsh Environment Forum

Charity No: SCO40820

Address of Principal Office: The Old Police Station, Isleornsay, Isle of Skye, IV43 8QR.

Currently the Trustees are:

Eileen Armstrong
David Ashford
Roger Cottis
Lindsay Thatcher

All served as Trustees throughout the period with the exception of Lindsay Thatcher who was appointed on 19th July 2018.

The following served as Trustees for part of the period, but resigned on 19th July 2018:

Louise Love
James Merryweather
John Phillips
Mike Taylor

Structure Governance & Management

Constitution:

The Charity became a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 4th September 2013. It is governed by its SCIO Constitution which was adopted on 18th November 2013.

Appointment of Trustees

The Board of Trustees, which normally meets at least thrice annually, consists of the charity's Trustees. Trustees are elected at the Annual Members' Meeting. Under the constitution, there must be a minimum of three and not more than nine elected Trustees. The Trustees may co-opt a further three Trustees if they consider it would be in the interests of the charity to do so. Membership of the Board is open to all Members of the charity.

Management:

The Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction and governance of the charity, whilst day-to-day running is delegated to the Secretary.

Objectives & Activities

Charitable purposes:

To be a forum for members of the public and organisations in or associated with Skye and Lochalsh in order to promote and care for the landscape and biological diversity of natural and cultural habitats throughout for the benefit of present and future generations and to promote awareness, enjoyment, research, understanding and sustainable use of the Area's natural and cultural environment and biodiversity.

Activities:

There were two Trustees' resignations and the election of one new Trustee to the Board who became Treasurer.

The idea of inviting Members to attend Board meetings and keeping them informed of developments by circulating the Minutes, took hold. This helped with propagating news of progress with the Annabel Nature Project (ANP), the South Skye Seas Initiative (SSSi) and the Scottish Salmon Think-Tank (SST-T).

SST-T, remained active with objections to fish farms at Staffin and Loch Dunvegan, while promoting the formation of a local group. Links with Salmon Aquaculture Reform Network Scotland continued with compatible communities along the west coast and the promotion of alternative strategies to open-net fish farming. However, there has been a hiatus in the period while waiting the results of the Parliamentary Inquiries into salmon aquaculture by the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee and the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee.

SLEF's SCIO standing gave SSSi effective status in accruing funds. Interaction with bodies such as Marine Scotland, SEPA and SNH proved to be positive.

Work on the ANP moved from Sleat to Kyle & Kyleakin Primary Schools. An otter presentation was delivered to several different classes at each school. This was followed by a field trip for each school to show the children evidence of otter activity and mitigation measures allowing otters to access either side of the A87 Skye Bridge. A surge in promoting SSSi and a community based volunteer Underwater & Shoreline survey for south Skye sea lochs aimed at recording Priority Marine Features gained traction with new volunteers providing various areas of expertise. Funding was secured in part from the distribution of a donation the Scottish Wildlife Trust - Skye & Lochalsh Region Group had received from the USA but mainly from the William Grant Foundation and Scottish Natural Heritage; there were also generous local donations. This enabled the purchase of a Remotely Operated Vehicle (a drone) for underwater exploration and related equipment which will greatly enhance research into the condition of coastal seabeds and the location of Priority Marine Features. A Community Presentation of this acquisition took place in February and was covered by BBC Alba. The event was well attended, with new Members being recruited.

We continue to reach out to likeminded organisations to better improve engagement with the natural world. Above all, the need for Members to be better informed of the Board's endeavours was without question an imperative.

Approved by the Trustees on 4th September 2019 and signed on their behalf by:



David Ashford
Secretary