

## Submission from World Wildlife Fund Scotland

In 2009, flood management in Scotland will take the sustainable approach. This views the management unit as the catchment, works with natural processes such as flood plains and wetlands and uses a whole suite of techniques to lower flood risk to communities, particularly in regard to riverine floods. This suite includes better flood warning, planning to avoid areas at risk, hard and soft engineering, flood resilience, flood mapping and natural flood management. Local Authorities will have a duty for working with other authorities to produce and implement a flood plan.

Renfrewshire Council is well placed to play a leading part in modern flood management. Having a wide mix of rural and highly urban areas provides a framework for a wide range of methods aimed at reducing flood risk from a number of flood-types. In addition, the work of Stephen Tingle and others, has shown the potential for creative solutions to flood problems. Certainly, the Council area and capacity offer excellent opportunities for long-term demonstration sites.

A particular subject that could be explored is how flood risk to urban communities could be lowered by actions taken to restore natural processes in watercourses upstream of the conurbations. For example, short and intense cloudbursts are predicted to occur more frequently in the summer months. These have a devastating effect on urban communities. Surface and sub-surface drains have not been designed to cope the consequences of such events. The result is that drains overflow and the foul water ends up in streams. We must begin to explore the solutions. Some of these will be centred on the urban area but others will be on rivers before they reach the area. Amongst many others, we have to look at preventing the mixing of clean and foul water. If we can allow drains to take clean water to watercourses, and that they can cope during these events, then we can ensure that sewers are not inundated. We need to explore the role of SuDS within this context. The Council has great experience in this subject.

Basically, with the modernisation of flood law in Scotland we need to start exploring how to make it work effectively. Renfrewshire Council are well placed to play a major part in that.