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National Ecological Networks

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Speaker and Chair Biographies

SPEAKER/CHAIR	BIOGRAPHY
<p>Simon Milne MBE</p> 	<p>Simon Milne is Chief Executive of the Scottish Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>The Trust is a charity with over 32,000 members and 120 wildlife reserves, and campaigns at the local and national levels to advance the conservation of Scotland's biodiversity.</p> <p>Simon, a native of Dundee, is a graduate of the University of St Andrews and the Royal Naval College Greenwich. He has been appointed Chief Executive of the Scottish Wildlife Trust in 2004. He is a member of the Scottish Biodiversity Committee, The Wildlife Trusts Strategic Development & Research (UK) Committee, National Species Reintroduction Forum, and the Partnership Against Wildlife Crime Committee.</p> <p>Former roles include Director of the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum (Hampshire, England), and commissioned service in the Royal Marines. He is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and a member of Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms. He was made a MBE in 1996.</p>
<p>Dr Jane Smart</p> 	<p>Jane Smart is Global Director of IUCN's Biodiversity Conservation Group and Director of IUCN's Global Species Programme. The Biodiversity Conservation Group comprises the Global Species Programme, Global Protected Areas Programme, World Heritage Programme, as well as the Invasive Species Initiative and TRAFFIC. Jane also takes a lead role in facilitating work to implement the Valuing and Conserving Biodiversity Area of IUCN's Programme (2013-2016). As Director of the Global Species Programme, Jane is responsible for staff based in Switzerland, Washington DC, US and Cambridge, UK and is responsible for managing the compilation and production of The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. She is focal point for the Species Survival Commission.</p> <p>Jane trained as a botanist and began her professional life as a plant ecologist. In 1989 Jane founded Plantlife International, becoming its first Chief Executive. In 1993, she initiated Planta Europa, the network of organizations working for plant conservation across Europe. Prior to joining the IUCN Secretariat in 2005 Jane was Chair of the IUCN UK National Committee, as well as a long standing member of the IUCN SSC Plant Conservation Committee. In 2003 she was awarded the OBE for services to international conservation.</p>

<p>Stephanie Hilborne OBE</p> 	<p>Stephanie Hilborne OBE is Chief Executive of The Wildlife Trusts.</p> <p>Driven by concern for the future of the natural environment, Stephanie's conviction is that The Wildlife Trusts, which have more than 800,000 members, have a key role to play in its recovery. The Wildlife Trusts comprise 47 individual Wildlife Trusts collectively managing more than 2,000 nature reserves in the UK.</p> <p>Uniquely placed in local communities, Wildlife Trusts (in England) last year provided management advice to more than 5,000 landowners and reviewed over 70,000 planning applications. It was the only conservation organisation actively involved in all four stakeholder groups set up to consult on where Marine Conservation Zones should be sited around England.</p> <p>Stephanie secured a BSc in Biology and an MSc in Conservation and went on to facilitate the national coalition Wildlife & Countryside Link, before joining Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust in 1998 and becoming Chief Executive of The Wildlife Trusts in 2004.</p>
<p>Professor Bill Adams</p> 	<p>Bill Adams is a Geographer, and has been teaching at the University of Cambridge since 1983. He holds the Moran Chair of Conservation and Development, and lives in a village within cycling distance of Cambridge. He blogs at: http://thinkinglikeahuman.wordpress.com/.</p> <p>Bill's research focuses on the way society strikes a balance between conservation and development. He has studied both the environmental impacts of development projects, and the social impacts of conservation projects.</p> <p>His PhD concerned the downstream impacts of dams in Nigeria, which led to work on dams and irrigation schemes in Africa (described in <i>Wasting the Rain: rivers, people and planning in Nigeria</i>, 1992), and on dryland farmers (the basis of a book with Mike Mortimore, <i>Working the Sahel: environment and society in northern Nigeria</i>, 1999). Wider interests in sustainable development are discussed in the book <i>Green Development</i> (1990, third edition 2009).</p> <p>Bill's research on conservation has combined a focus on the UK (for example in <i>Nature's Place</i>, 1986 and <i>Future Nature</i> 1995, second edition 2003) and internationally (<i>Against Extinction: the story of conservation</i> 2004 and <i>Decolonising Nature</i>, edited with Martin Mulligan, 2003).</p> <p>Bill is currently studying the political ecology of landscape-scale conservation and ecological restoration (with projects in the UK and East Africa), and the implications of ideas of naturalness, novel ecosystems and synthetic biology for conservation practice.</p> <p>Website: http://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/people/adams/</p>
<p>Keith Geddes</p> 	<p>Keith has a background in local government finishing his career as councillor in 1999 as Leader of Edinburgh City Council and President of CoSLA.</p> <p>He has served on a number of public bodies including the Scottish Arts Council, Scottish Enterprise, the Accounts Commission and served on the Board of Scottish Natural Heritage from 2001-2009. He is a former chair of Greenspace Scotland and is the first Chair of the Central Scotland Green Network Partnership Board. In this role he has championed the development of the John Muir Trail which will run from Muir's birthplace-Dunbar-to Scotland's first National Park.</p> <p>He is a member of the John Muir Trust.</p> <p>His day job is as Policy Director with Pagoda Public Relations.</p>
<p>Dr Rob Jongman</p> 	<p>Dr Rob Jongman is a landscape ecologist with long experience in river ecology, nature conservation planning and biodiversity monitoring. He is leading the Wageningen UR-Alterra team on Biodiversity and Policy. He is the author and editor of a classic handbook on multivariate analysis in (landscape) ecology.</p> <p>Since 1990, he developed the concept of ecological networks at the European level as strategy for biodiversity conservation and nature planning. He has been involved in a large number of nature conservation planning and ecological network projects in Europe.</p> <p>From 1994-1997 he was seconded at the European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC), focusing on the Pan European Ecological Network (PEEN-PEBLDS). He worked on the PEEN projects</p>

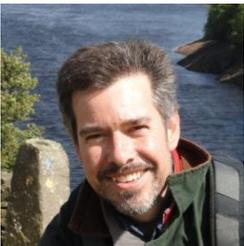
	<p>in Central and Eastern Europe and Western Europe. He published in 2004 the book “Ecological networks and Greenways” on the development and implementation of ecological networks worldwide and in 2011 an overview paper in <i>Landscape Ecology</i>.</p> <p>From 1995 until 2008, he worked on modelling river landscapes and the role of water in the Orinoco (Venezuela) and Pantanal (Brazil), and he guided PhD students in this field from Europe and China. He has been involved in many EU projects mainly in the field of biodiversity and land management. These include ecosystem functions of wetlands, transhumance and biodiversity, biodiversity monitoring and ecosystem services.</p> <p>He is co-lead of GEO BON, setting up a global biodiversity monitoring system (http://www.earthobservations.org/geoss_bi.shtml), and he coordinated the GEO biodiversity pilot project for Europe (EBONE, http://www.ebone.wur.nl).</p>
<p>Dr Roger Catchpole</p> 	<p>Dr Roger Catchpole is an international ecology and conservation expert with more than 20 years experience in ecological research, biodiversity conservation and protected area management. He originally trained in animal and plant ecology at the University of Leeds, where he gained a first class honours degree and a PhD in evolutionary ecology. He remained at Leeds and worked as a postdoctoral research fellow in population ecology for a couple of years before deciding to pursue a more applied career in conservation.</p> <p>His background in farming and ecological research stood him in good stead when he became a Conservation Officer for English Nature in Derbyshire, where he was responsible for a diverse range of statutory sites as well as leading biodiversity conservation in the wider environment. He then went on to work for the best part of a decade as a national science specialist for English Nature and then Natural England, where he was responsible for leading on the development, capture and implementation of spatially explicit methods to improve conservation delivery and targeting.</p> <p>In 2011, he left Natural England to pursue a more fulfilling career as a freelance ecologist and conservation expert in the company he founded in 2009, Aspen International, which specialises in bridging the gaps between science, policy and practice. He currently holds an honorary fellowship in the School of Geosciences at the University of Edinburgh where he researches – amongst other things – ecological coherence, climate vulnerability and ecosystem function mapping. He also teaches and supervises student dissertations within the School.</p>
<p>Dr Davy McCracken</p> 	<p>Davy joined SRUC – Scotland’s Rural College (formerly known as the Scottish Agricultural College) – in 1995 and is currently leader of the Sustainable Ecosystems Team within SRUC’s Land Economy & Environment Research Group, Reader in Agricultural Ecology and an Associate of SRUC’s Rural Policy Centre. The focus of all his research to date has revolved around obtaining a greater understanding of the complex ecological relationships between farm management practices and the improvement, or maintenance of the biodiversity value of UK and European farming systems.</p> <p>Davy is very aware of the important role that habitat networks have to play in helping meet the European goal of halting biodiversity loss by 2020. For example, he was a member of the Forest Research-led team which conducted a review of approaches to developing lowland habitat networks in Scotland for Scottish Natural Heritage in 2005.</p> <p>His SRUC team are also currently using the habitat network approach in a desk study investigating the implications of implementing biodiversity enhancement and diffuse pollution mitigation at a catchment scale in a dairy-farm dominated diffuse pollution priority catchment in Ayrshire.</p> <p>Davy has been a member of the UK <i>Biodiversity Research Advisory Group</i> (established by Defra and the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee) since 2003, and joined the Scottish Government’s <i>Biodiversity Science Group</i> (chaired by Scottish Natural Heritage) in 2009. His input to the latter has included participation in discussions on the need to develop ecosystem health indicators for Scotland.</p>
<p>Dr Alessandro Gimona</p> 	<p>Alessandro is a spatial ecologist and geographer with experience of both terrestrial and aquatic systems.</p> <p>Alessandro is based at the James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen. He is interested in understanding how climate, soil and land use shape the distributions of species and of ecosystem services, with a view to integrating them into land use planning for multi-functional landscapes. A more theoretical side of his research includes the use of Agent-Based and metacommunity models to investigate the effectiveness of conservation incentives.</p>

<p>Jonathan Hughes</p> 	<p>Jonathan Hughes holds a BA (Hons) in Biology and Geography from the University of Keele and a MSc (Hons) in Ecology from the University of Florence, Italy. Jonathan started his career with the Scottish Wildlife Trust as a seasonal warden at Loch Fleet National Nature Reserve subsequently going on to work for Westminster City Council, the Woodland Trust and the Forestry Commission England where he led on a landmark policy on England's ancient and native woodlands. Jonathan returned to the Scottish Wildlife Trust in 2006, taking up the role of Head of Policy before being appointed Director of Conservation in 2008.</p> <p>In 2010, Jonathan was appointed by Scottish Ministers to the Board of Architecture + Design Scotland, the Scottish Government's executive agency on excellence in planning, architecture and design in the built environment.</p> <p>In 2012, Jonathan successfully contested the elections at the World Conservation Congress in South Korea to become a Councillor for the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature). Jonathan is one of three elected Councillors to represent IUCN members in Western Europe.</p> <p>Jonathan has a lifelong interest in sustainable development, urban design and natural history. His many individual passions include the ecology of ants, mosses and whitebeam trees, along with a keen interest in the arts and architecture.</p>
<p>Duncan MacKay</p> 	<p>Duncan Mackay is currently Natural England's Principal Advisor for Green Space and Community Engagement, including work on the <i>Natural</i> Health Service. From 2006 to 2010, he was responsible for steering national policies in England on access to nature and green spaces.</p> <p>He was formerly: Director of the South East region of the Countryside Agency; an environmental Technical Director in the private sector with the Babbie Group (now Jacobs); Environmental Manager for Berkshire County Council (now abolished); and, Deputy Secretary of the Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society (Britain's oldest national voluntary conservation body, founded in 1865... and still going).</p> <p>Duncan was responsible for securing the designation of the long distance Thames Path by the Secretary of State in 1990 and writing Natural England's Access Policy in 2009.</p> <p>Duncan is: Rear Commodore of Henley Sailing Club; winner of the Henry Ford European Conservation Award; Millennium Award fellow and author of <i>The Secret Thames</i> (1992), <i>Apples, Berkshire, Cider</i> (1996) <i>Eat Wild</i> (2010) and <i>Bizarre Berkshire</i> (2011). He is currently writing, <i>Long, Slow and Wiggly</i>, the story of his journey on a folding bicycle following the longest straight line in Britain from the Isle of Wight to Cape Wrath.</p>

<p>Russell Galt</p> 	<p>Russell Galt is Program Manager of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability’s Cities Biodiversity Center, based in Cape Town, South Africa. He advises cities worldwide on the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. This entails developing, prescribing and promoting innovative tools and techniques for biodiversity and ecosystem management at the local level.</p> <p>His role spans a number of disciplines, from biodiversity informatics to food security and from raw science to global advocacy. Concurrently, Russell is a member of the Environment and Energy Commission of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) as well as the ICC Task Force on Green Economy.</p> <p>Previously, Russell worked for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Brussels, Belgium, where he co-authored a major renewable energy study for the European Union and helped to institute a work-stream on local governance. He has also worked in the Scottish marine renewable energy sector and has amassed substantial social-ecological field experience in Nepal, India, South Africa, Morocco, Peru and China.</p> <p>Russell holds a degree in Ecological Science from the University of Edinburgh and will soon attain an LLM in Natural Resources Law and Policy (by part time distance learning) from the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy, at the University of Dundee.</p>
<p>Matt Rayment</p> 	<p>Matt Rayment is a Consulting Director at GHK Consulting Ltd, a public policy consultancy and part of the ICF International Group. Matt is an economist with 20 years’ experience in environmental economics and policy, with particular interests in biodiversity and ecosystems. He has led numerous studies relating to the costs, benefits and economic impacts of protected areas, ecological networks and green infrastructure, especially for the European Commission and UK Government.</p> <p>In the EU, he has been involved in a variety of assignments examining the benefits, costs and financing needs of the Natura 2000 network and of green infrastructure projects and programmes. He recently directed a study for DG Environment to examine the demand, supply, cost and design elements of biodiversity offsets and habitat banking, and an analysis of the implications of EU biodiversity targets for employment and labour markets.</p> <p>In the UK, he examined the benefits of SSSIs for Defra, advised on a monitoring and evaluation framework for Nature Improvement Areas, led a series of analyses of the costs and funding of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, and examined the costs of implementing biodiversity offsets in England. He worked as economic advisor to the High Level Panel on resource needs for meeting the Aichi Targets, which reported to CBD COP11 in Hyderabad, October 2012.</p> <p>Before joining GHK he was Head of Economics at the RSPB, where he managed many projects related to the economics of biodiversity. Before that he was Research Manager at Ecotec, where he was involved in a major study to value the benefits of reducing acid rain.</p>
<p>Rob Gibson MSP</p> 	<p>Rob Gibson is MSP for Caithness, Sutherland and Ross since 2011. He is Convener of the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee. He is a species champion for Rusty Bog Moss [sphagnum fuscum] – rewetting our peat is a climate change imperative. Sphagnum is peat in the making. He was voted Best Politician at the Scottish Green Energy Awards last December.</p> <p>His interests include Scots song, organic gardening and gentle country walking. He launched in 2011 the Coigach and Assynt Living Landscape project which has a 50 year time horizon.</p>

<p>Paul Wheelhouse MSP</p> 	<p>Paul Wheelhouse is SNP MSP for South Scotland. Born in Belfast in 1970, Paul was raised in Edinburgh, attending Stewart's Melville College. He has an honours degree in Economics from the University of Aberdeen and an MBA from University of Edinburgh. He has lived in Berwickshire since 2000 where he served as a community Councillor for 10 years.</p> <p>Between May 2011 and September 2012, Paul served on the Scottish Parliament's Finance Committee, and the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, and was the Parliamentary Liaison Officer to the Cabinet Secretary for Parliamentary Business and Government Strategy of the Scottish Government.</p> <p>Previously, between May 2011 and Feb 2012, Paul served as Parliamentary Liaison Officer for the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Environment and the Minister for Environment and Climate Change. Prior to taking his Ministerial position, Paul was a member of cross-party groups on Epilepsy, Rural Policy, Armed Forces Veterans, Funerals and Bereavement, Boating and Marine Tourism and deputy convener of Sport.</p>
<p>Allan Bantick</p> 	<p>Now retired, Allan is a dedicated conservationist with twenty years experience working with wildlife in Scotland. He is currently Chairman of Council of the Scottish Wildlife Trust and Chairman of the Boat of Garten Wildlife Group, and has recently concluded his role as Chairman of the Scottish Beaver Trial Steering Group.</p> <p>Periodically, Allan appears in radio and television programmes dealing with Scottish wildlife, and he regularly gives public talks about his work. His main focus is on mammals but he is also interested in creating nesting opportunities for rare birds with special needs, such as crested tits and goldeneye ducks.</p>
<p>Keith Connal</p> 	<p>A geographer and cartographer by education, Keith worked for the Ministry of Defence in London and Washington DC before returning to Scotland in 1998 to join the Scottish Government. Keith's experience includes the development of the Scottish Freedom of Information Act, policy on public body governance, accountability and scrutiny improvement, and the passage of the Public Services Reform Act. Between 2002 and 2009, Keith worked for the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service as a Business Manager and Director of Estates. Since August 2011, Keith has been head of the Natural Resources Division, which is responsible for securing the sustainable management of Scotland's natural resources, with particular reference to landscapes, habitats, biodiversity and wildlife. The Division's policy responsibilities include Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy and Land Use Strategy, wildlife management, terrestrial protected areas, non-native species, outdoor access and the environmental aspects of the Common Agricultural Policy. The Division sponsors Scottish Natural Heritage, Cairngorms National Park Authority and Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority and is the Scottish Government's co-sponsor for the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee.</p>
<p>Alan Seatter</p> 	<p>Alan Seatter is the deputy Director-General of DG Environment, with a special focus on resource efficiency policies and instruments. He was formerly Director for EU Policy Coordination and Better Regulation in the Secretariat-General of the Commission, and Director responsible for relations with North America, East Asia and Western Europe in the External Relations Department of the European Commission.</p> <p>He has held several other posts in the European Commission, including Head of the division dealing with the Middle East in the External Relations Department, Deputy Head of the cabinet of the Commissioner responsible for science and technology policy, Head of division for policy and programmes for EU Enlargement, in the Cabinet of the Commissioner dealing with regional policy, as well as posts dealing with the budget, financial management and the structural funds. Before joining the Commission, he held posts in UK public service and at university.</p>

<p>Ronan Uhel</p> 	<p>Ronan Uhel has been the EEA's Head of Programme for Natural System and Vulnerabilities since 2009. He is responsible to the Executive Director for the strategic and operational activities on inter-connected topics, covering ecosystems and biodiversity, inland waters and marine environment, land and territorial issues and adaptation to climate change, including the coverage of the agriculture and forest sectors. He therefore has responsibility for several European Topic Centres of the EEA. He joined the EEA in October 1995 as Project Manager for SoE reporting, and was appointed Head of Group Land Use in 2003. With a background in Geography, Physical Planning and Oceanography, and a European Commission's trainee in EU environmental legislation and regional policies, Ronan has 25 years of professional experience in environmental and sustainable development information, analysis and assessments at the European and international level.</p> <p>His work bridges the gap between science (knowledge) and policy (actions), assessing the state-of-the-environment (SoE) and related policy effectiveness. He held coordination and editorial responsibilities for many studies, reports and publications on EEA-related topics with broad coverage, from economic sectors to technologies to education. He participates in many committees, working groups at European and international levels on environmental governance, speaker/discussant in conferences and workshops covering all aspects of environment/development issues.</p> <p>Before joining the EEA, Ronan Uhel worked for the French Institute for the Environment (1993-1995), in charge of the CORINE land cover programme, after several years of work (1985-1992) for EC Directorate General for Environment and Civil protection on EU state of the environment reports and the CORINE (Co-ordination of Information on the Environment) programme.</p>
<p>Dr Rebecca Badger</p> 	<p>I work as an environmental economist for the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). SEPA is Scotland's environment agency and is responsible for licensing activities that have potential to cause damage to the air, land and water environments. I have worked for SEPA for 7 years and in that time have contributed to the development of pragmatic ways of assessing sustainability and disproportionate cost for implementing the Water Framework Directive. I am now the lead economist working in the SEPA Embedding Ecosystem Services corporate work programme. I am also currently working on economic characterisation of the water environment for the Second River Basin Management Plans.</p> <p>In the past I have worked as Agriculture Policy Officer for RSPB Scotland, as a Senior Research Specialist in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre, and as Water Framework Directive Research Manager for SNIFFER. I hold a PhD in environmental economics from the University of Aberdeen and live in Carrbridge in the Highlands.</p>
<p>Jo Pike</p> 	<p>Jo Pike has been Director of Marketing & Business Development at the Scottish Wildlife Trust since 2010. She leads the marketing, communications and business development activities of the Trust, including the running of its three Visitor Centres.</p> <p>The Scottish Wildlife Trust's work is funded by a variety of income streams, including membership subscriptions, donations, legacies, grants and support from People's Postcode Lottery. Jo takes a particular interest in identifying potential new ways of funding conservation, including those involving the corporate sector, to complement traditional sources of income.</p> <p>Prior to joining the Scottish Wildlife Trust, Jo spent 15 years in fundraising for the voluntary sector. She began her career in the Czech Republic, after which she spent time fundraising in London before moving to Scotland in 2000, where she worked in the disability sector for 10 years. Jo maintains an active interest in the wider voluntary sector and is a Board Member for Turning Point Scotland. She is a graduate of Clare College, Cambridge.</p>

<p>Karen Fraser</p> 	<p>Since 2003, Karen has worked with Scotland Europa, providing EU policy and funding services to Scottish Enterprise, Scotland Europa members and other Scottish stakeholders. In 2009, she spent a year on secondment to the Energy Division, Scottish Government, to work on EU projects and establish the Scottish European Green Energy Centre. Karen has worked previously in local government in Clackmannanshire and South Ayrshire, in a variety of roles including planning and economic development, and was responsible for managing the Council's European funded programmes.</p> <p>Karen graduated from the University of Glasgow with Honours in Geography and Economics and a Masters in Town and Regional Planning.</p>
<p>Professor Chris Spray MBE</p> 	<p>Chris has research interests in wetland ecosystem services; particularly how emerging research on wetland ecosystem services can be translated in to policy and practice on the ground, with the focus on such ecosystem services as flood risk management, water quality improvements, habitat restoration and conservation of biodiversity - with a particular interest in swans and other waterfowl. Chris is interested in how to link the ecosystem service approach more directly to governance issues around how we value and protect the wetland environment for multiple benefits; and how this is communicated to and from stakeholders.</p> <p>25 years previous experience working in environmental regulation, and the water industry, incl. Director of Environmental Science for the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (2004-09), Director of Environment, Northumbrian Water Group; Conservation Manager for National Rivers Authority (Anglian region); and Research Fellow Aberdeen University. PhD in Zoology Aberdeen University; MA Cambridge University.</p>
<p>Dr Roddy Fairley</p> 	<p>Roddy has a long history of working for Scottish Natural Heritage. Between 2007 and 2009 he was acting Director of Operations for South Scotland following 10 years in Area Management, first in Argyll and Stirling (where key motivations were the establishment of Scotland's first National Park (Loch Lomond and The Trossachs), and the conservation of Greenland White Fronted and Barnacle Geese and of Chough) and then Strathclyde and Ayrshire (where abiding interests were the pursuit of strategies for green-space and green infrastructure across Central Scotland and, in addition, the continuing problems of hen harrier conservation. This followed several years in charge of corporate planning and organisational development. Before joining SNH in 1992, he was in charge of policy development in the Countryside Commission for Scotland, and before that he worked for the Nature Conservancy Council on a variety of surveys and aspects of nature reserve management.</p> <p>Between 1998 and 2008 he was a Director of, and for much of that time, chaired, Reforesting Scotland, the principal NGO in Scotland for ecological restoration and social forestry. Between 2007 and 2009 he was a Director of Paths for All, and sat on Scotland's National Access Forum. Between 2003 and 2011 he was a Director of the Central Scotland Forest Trust and since 2005 has been a Director of the Cairnhead Community Forest Trust which he now chairs. He is a member of the Forestry Commission's South Scotland Regional Forestry Forum.</p>
<p>Dr Lawrence Jones-Walters</p> 	<p>Dr Lawrence Jones-Walters is an international thought leader in the field of ecological networks, and has direct experience of the practical application of the ecological networks approach at international, national and regional level (and has been published on the subject).</p> <p>He is a regular contributor to international forums and conferences on ecological networks, including developing the international policy agenda in relation to ecological networks, green infrastructure and flyways.</p> <p>He has worked in nature conservation and sustainable development for 30 years, the last 6 of those for ECNC based in Tilburg, The Netherlands. Prior to that he worked for Natural England and its predecessors in the UK, and since 1994 he has combined this with work in Europe, North America and Central Asia. He has interacted extensively with governments, potential corporate and business sector donors and NGOs.</p>

<p>Willem Ferwerda</p> 	<p>Willem Ferwerda (1959) studied biology, environmental science and tropical ecology at the University of Amsterdam and Universidad Nacional (Bogotá, Colombia). He worked in Latin America, Africa and Asia in tourism, conservation and restoration projects. Between 2000 and March 2012 Ferwerda was executive director of IUCN Netherlands. During that period he founded the IUCN NL Ecosystem Grants Programme, which financed more than 1,500 local projects in 40 tropical countries. He put biodiversity on the agendas of business and government in The Netherlands, strengthened the Dutch IUCN network and introduced <i>The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity</i> in the Netherlands. In 2005 Ferwerda founded <i>Leaders for Nature</i>, a business network on biodiversity and ecosystems with 20 multinationals and recently started in India. In 2006 he convened 80 CEOs to sign an open letter to the Dutch government, which led to the creation of the governmental Taskforce on Biodiversity and Natural Resources. His efforts resulted in 2010 to an agreement on biodiversity between the Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers (known as VNO-NCW) and the majority of the Dutch nature organizations.</p> <p>In 2012 Ferwerda was appointed 'Executive Fellow Business & Ecosystems' at the Rotterdam School of Management - Erasmus University and 'Special Advisor Business & Ecosystems' at the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (Switzerland). He is now setting up a broker organization with the objective to scale up ecological restoration with business, as described in his recent publication 'Nature Resilience: ecological restoration by partners in business for next generations' http://www.rsm.nl/about-rsm/news/detail/2825-restoring-damaged-ecosystems-is-new-business-model/</p>
<p>Stuart Housden</p> 	<p>Stuart Housden is a Zoology graduate and was President of the Union at Royal Holloway College, London University. He joined the RSPB in 1976, and was involved in policy development on protected areas, forestry and farming. From 1989 until 1994, Stuart headed all the RSPB's policy work – including Government affairs, land use economics, planning and development casework, marine and species matters – with a department of 44 specialists working on UK and EU matters.</p> <p>In 1994, Stuart became the Director of RSPB Scotland, based in Edinburgh. He is a member of the RSPB's UK Board, where his role is to give strategic guidance on the development and delivery of all the RSPB's work, and be a part of the top management team overseeing strategy delivery. Stuart is involved in a number of strategic groups established by the Scottish Government looking at land use, biodiversity, CAP reform etc. He was awarded an OBE for services to nature conservation and biodiversity in 2004 and in 2009 was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) for services to agriculture and conservation. Stuart's team manage a conservation estate of over 70,000 Ha in extent – with active farming, forestry and land management programmes to deliver for people and biodiversity.</p>
<p>David Sim</p> 	<p>Scottish architect David Sim has made it his life's work to put the theories of Jan Gehl into practice. Working with Gehl Architects since 2002, David has worked all over the world with public and private sector clients in a wide range of projects, from Gehl Architects traditional Public Space Public Life surveys to major master-planning and design projects.</p> <p>Through public speaking and writing, exhibitions and publications, as well as developing workshop methods to improve dialogue between professionals and lay-people, David has worked towards better decisions and outcomes in planning processes.</p> <p>In the field, on site, in creative dialogue with colleagues and clients, David is most at home with a pencil in his hand, finding creative solutions to the many and often conflicting challenges of sustainable urban development and applying the Gehl philosophy to large-scale projects. These include the urban design and master-planning of new and existing places, such as the accommodating of urban infrastructure – railway stations, major public buildings etc.</p> <p>His master-plans include the first new town in a National Park at An Camas Mor in the Highlands of Scotland, selected by Government as part of Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiative. During 2011 David lived in Christchurch for three months to lead Gehl Architects collaboration with Christchurch Council on the post-earthquake Central City Recovery Plan.</p>
<p>Colin McLean</p> 	<p>Colin McLean has been Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund since its establishment in Scotland in 1999. His qualifications are in architectural history, business studies and in town planning. In his earlier career he was a planner in East Lothian, Depute Director then Director of the Scottish Mining Museum, and Assistant Director of the then Scottish Museums Council. It will be evident that none of this qualifies him to speak with any authority whatsoever on the subject of ecological networks. However, he has wide experience of funding heritage projects across Scotland, many of which have been in the natural environment and, as HLF enters the period of its new Strategic Framework, he will reflect on some past projects and look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead.</p>

