

Catchment Leadership Network webinar series speaker biographies

Session 2: The enabling environment for catchment leadership

Date/time: 13 October 4-5pm

Gemma Cranston

Director, Business and Nature team, CISL



Gemma is the Director of the Business and Nature team, collaborating with companies to identify strategic approaches to address their dependencies and impacts on nature. She is leading a team who are looking to amplify business support for ambitious global action on reversing nature loss, articulate a view on what business leadership looks like in the face of the ecological crisis and identify sustainable and scalable solutions.

Gemma has fifteen years of experience in sustainability working with researchers, business and governments. Through the Natural Capital Impact Group, she has worked closely with companies wishing to measure and reduce their impacts on soil, water and biodiversity in supply chains. Gemma developed the Catchment Management Declaration with a group of multi-sector actors with the ambition to tackle the collective challenges through catchment management. She has been involved in a collaborative project analysing the risks and strategies for companies to respond to pollination deficit for key commodities.

She has been a long-standing member of the Natural Capital Coalition Advisory Panel and was involved with the development and testing of the Natural Capital Protocol with over 50 businesses. Gemma has developed programmes around sustainable cotton, the future of the UK dairy sector, resilience in commercial forestry, and the food/water/energy/environment nexus.

Tony Juniper, CBE

Chair, Natural England



Tony Juniper CBE is Chair of the official nature conservation agency Natural England and a Fellow with the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership. Before joining Natural England, he was the Executive Director for Advocacy and Campaigns at WWF-UK and President of the Wildlife Trusts.

Until 2017 he was an independent sustainability and environment advisor, including as Special Advisor with The Prince of Wales's International Sustainability Unit and previously to The Prince's Rainforests Project.

Juniper speaks and writes widely on conservation and sustainability themes and is the author of many books, including the multi-award winning bestseller 'What has Nature ever done for us?' published in 2013. Tony began his career as an ornithologist, working with Birdlife International. From 1990 he worked at Friends of the Earth, initially leading the campaign for the tropical rainforests, and from 2003–2008 was the organisation's executive director. From 2000–2008 was Vice Chair of Friends of the Earth International.

Tony was the first recipient of the Charles and Miriam Rothschild medal (2009) and was awarded honorary Doctor of Science degrees from the Universities of Bristol and Plymouth (2013). The Ladybird guide to climate change, co-authored with HRH The Prince of Wales and Emily Shuckburgh, was published in January 2017. His latest book, 'Rainforest', was published in April 2018. In 2017 he was appointed a Commander of the British Empire (CBE).

Arlin Rickard

*Chief Policy Advisory,
The Rivers Trust*



Arlin recently stepped down as CEO of The Rivers Trust after 25 years of playing a leading role in the movement. Arlin was the founding CEO of Westcountry Rivers Trust, from the Trusts' inception in 1994 until 2004, when he went on to establish 'The Rivers Trust', the umbrella body of the Rivers Trust Movement covering UK and Ireland.

A former Member of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management, Arlin has developed international partnership programmes covering freshwater fisheries, catchment management and most recently, 'The Catchment Based Approach' (CaBA).

Arlin has a small family hill farm on Bodmin Moor in Cornwall.

Ashley Holt

*Head of River Basin
Planning and Funding,
Water Quality Team,
DEFRA*



Ashley Holt leads Defra's work on River Basin Management Plans including the further development of the Catchment Based Approach. As well as participating in the Catchment Leadership Declaration Steering Group, he is a member of the Business in the Community Water Taskforce Technical Advisory Group.

Ashley has led work on innovative funding approaches for water in Defra and commissioned R&D to develop practical tools to for management focused on ecosystem services and natural assets. He has recently established a new water industry regulators' group to address barriers that affect the uptake and use of nature-based solutions by the water sector.

Damian Crilly

*Manager, Strategic
Catchment
Partnerships,
Environment Agency*



Over 20 year's international experience in catchment management research, policy and practice.

As national manager of the Environment Agency's Strategic Catchment Partnerships team the mission is to progress development of the Catchment Based Approach.

Current focus is on the application of systems approaches in these VUCA (volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous) times to determine intervention points for optimum delivery of public goods and services to improve catchment system resilience.
