

Catchment Leadership Network webinar series speaker biographies

Session 3: Regulatory processes underpinning investment in nature

Date/time: 20 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.

Richard Hatch

Environment Planning & Programming Manager, Environment and Business, Environment Agency



Richard Hatch is leading the Environment Agency's preparations for the next water industry price review. As part of this, Richard and his colleagues are reviewing the Water Industry National Environment Programme to explore how it can contribute to wider environmental outcomes and better embrace more sustainable natural capital and nature based solutions. The work is being carried out jointly with Defra and Ofwat with advice from water industry and third sector organisations. Richard's other work areas include the governments green recovery initiative and the forthcoming update of the river basin management plans

Bart Schoonbaert

Director, Environment, Public Value and Governance, Ofwat



Bart is Director for Environment, Public Value and Governance at Ofwat. Bart has been with Ofwat for 5 years, and his work there has spanned across multiple areas with a focus on strategy and price control work. Prior to Ofwat he was in the Sustainable Development division at Ofgem, the energy regulator; before which he spent many years working with water and energy companies across multiple geographies.

Yvette de Garis

Head of Environmental Engagement, Thames Water



Yvette de Garis joined Thames Water in 1989 and, as Head of Environmental Engagement, now leads a team who work with environmental NGO's and catchment partnerships to co-design and deliver partnership projects to deliver business and wider environmental objectives. Yvette holds a first degree in Environmental Science from the University of East Anglia and a second degree in Environmental Economics from the University of London. She is a member of the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management.
