

Speakers biographies

Emily Auckland

Emily Auckland is Network Director and Co-chair at UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development ([UKSSD](#)). UKSSD is a multi-stakeholder network which helps to facilitate the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the UK. Emily ensures that the network responds to the expertise of its 80+ Partner organisations, and that activities and projects continue to engage and support an extended network of over 900 Friends. Emily works for [Bioregional](#), the award-winning environmental charity, who helped to form UKSSD with others in 2015. Before joining Bioregional, Emily worked with various community development NGOs and gained an MSc in Development Studies. She has a Degree in Fine Art, is a former trustee at the [Foundation for Democracy and Sustainable Development](#), and a Fellow of the RSA.

David Johnson

David joined the Margaret Pyke Trust in July 2015 after eight years working in South Africa, where he brought together NGOs specialising in sexual and reproductive health and rights, women's rights and conservation. When in South Africa David designed and managed a project simultaneously combatting sexual and gender based violence and illegal wildlife activity, in a community bordering Kruger National Park where both forms of rural crime were rife. Ever since, David has been convinced of the power of cross sectoral working for communities and the environment.

Since becoming Chief Executive of the Trust David has been responsible for launching projects in Uganda and South Africa which are improving both human and ecosystem health. David is a qualified Field Guide and a former Environmental and Town & Country Planning solicitor, having practised at Stephenson Harwood before moving to South Africa.

Ann Finlayson

Ann has worked in the environmental and education field for over 30 years. After a stint as a countryside ranger in Scotland, she began travelling the world teaching, facilitating and consulting in places such as Papua New Guinea, Australia and Canada. She was Head of Education/Social Change at WWF-UK and the Commissioner for Education and Capability Building for the Sustainable Development Commission (2005-2010). Ann took on the job of revamping CEE, now SEEd in 2008 and has enjoyed seeing it grow back to national significance as well as sharing her expertise. She is passionate about the role of learning in sustainability and for it to be about real people, real opportunities and real responsibilities.

Joannah Metcalfe

Joannah has been a natural health therapist for over 30 years. During that time she has run her own natural healing centres, written five books on holistic therapies, and worked with the BBC, Granada TV and Anglia Television. She is also the founder and director of Greener Growth, a community interest company that delivers a new form of holistic therapeutic intervention. This rapidly expanding CIC works with a variety of different types of green spaces - to deliver conservation based initiatives – helping create biodiversity enriching gardens, delivering fresh-food growing projects with prisons, schools, specialist educational centres, businesses and private households. Based in

East Anglia, Greener Growth was founded in 2013 and uses permaculture principles and techniques to work in harmony with nature. Joannah was awarded 2017 Business Leader of the Year at the Bury Free Press Business Awards.

Liza Zogib

Liza is Co-Chair of IUCN's CEESP Specialist Group on Religion, Spirituality, Environmental Conservation and Climate Justice and founder and co-creator of DiversEarth, an NGO working at the special interface of nature, culture and spirit. As well as working to support local communities and their practices that benefit nature, DiversEarth also focuses on the protection, management and restoration of sacred natural sites and facilitating interreligious dialogue. Liza is a founding member of the Mediterranean Consortium for Nature and Culture and coordinator of their current project. DiversEarth's geographical focus is the Mediterranean, Asia (in particular the Himalayas) and Switzerland. Thematically, DiversEarth directs its energy towards supporting mobile pastoralism and spiritually inspired conservation initiatives. Prior to the creation of DiversEarth, Liza worked for 11 years with WWF International first within the global protected areas programme and latterly in the Global and Regional Policy unit where she coordinated an international team leading on the development and implementation of WWF's social policies. A long-time yoga practitioner/teacher and a dancer of Bharata Natyam, Liza's work is inspired by yogic and tantric teachings.

Andy Atkins

Andy is Chief Executive at A Rocha UK. Described as 'one of the leading environmentalists', Andy Atkins most recently led Friends of The Earth. He previously worked with Catholic international development charities CAFOD and Progressio, then set up Tearfund's policy and campaigns work. Andy was a founder of the 2005 Make Poverty History campaign.

Rianne C ten Veen LL.M MA MSc PGDip

Rianne C. ten Veen is a humanitarian aidworker with research and environment specialisms. Finances permitting, she would love to spend more time on a PhD on Islam & Environment: comparing the humanitarian aid principle of 'do no harm' with the Islamic principle of 'la darar' (do no harm) with regards to sustainable development. She is a member of the management team of Islamic Foundation for Ecology & Environment Sciences (IFEES) and self-published a 'save cash& planet' style book from Islamic perspective: '199 ways to please God, how to (re-)align your daily life with your duty of care to Creation' (ISBN: 978-1844266296) and set up Green Creation.

Thérèse Coffey MP

Thérèse has been the Member of Parliament for Suffolk Coastal since 2010. Thérèse is the Minister for the Environment having previously served as Deputy Leader of the House, Government Whip and Parliamentary Private Secretary to Michael Fallon. On entering Parliament, she was first a member of the Culture, Olympics, Media and Sports Committee.

Thérèse has campaigned on stopping the A14 toll, improving NHS experience for patients and better broadband. Ongoing priorities include fairer share of funding, Sizewell C, Felixstowe Port, preventing

coastal and estuary erosion, off gas grid consumers, rail improvements, agriculture, and improving skills and education.

Thérèse grew up in the North West and after graduating from UCL with a PhD in Chemistry, joined the international company Mars. Qualified as a chartered management accountant, she became Finance Director for a UK subsidiary and has also worked at the BBC.

Dr Sarah Thomas

Sarah joined the Zoological Society of London in 2011 and leads the Discovery and Learning teams at ZSL London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade Zoo. She's currently the chair of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Education Committee. She has a BSc (Hons) in Zoology, a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) and has recently completed a PhD through Lancaster University. The focus of her research was to explore the knowledge of, attitude towards and efficacy in the social dimensions of biodiversity conservation at the Zoological Society of London.

Vik Mohan

Dr Vik Mohan is a UK based practicing doctor, Medical Director to Blue Ventures Conservation and architect of their award winning Population, Health and Environment (PHE) programme, which integrates community based marine conservation, livelihoods and health activities. He has witnessed first-hand the multiple benefits of working in this integrated and holistic way, from improved natural resource management and community resilience, through to improvements in maternal and child health. Over the last ten years he has overseen the expansion of this approach throughout Madagascar, and is working to support partners to replicate this approach for coastal communities in Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, the Comoros, Indonesia and East Timor.

Judy Ling Wong_OBE. CBE. FRSA. HonFCIWEM. HonPhD. HonFIES. HonSocEnv

Painter, poet and environmentalist, Judy Ling Wong is best known as the Honorary President of Black Environment Network (BEN). For 27 years she was the UK Director of BEN, with an international reputation as the pioneer and creator of the field of multi-cultural participation in the built and natural environment. Under her leadership, BEN worked across diverse sectors to engage citizens in the context of sustainable development, integrating social, cultural and environmental concerns. Themes include natural conservation, urban design, history and heritage, identity, health, employment, and access to the countryside and urban green spaces.

Judy is a major voice on policy towards social inclusion. Her contribution has included membership of the DCMS Historic Environment Executive Committee, ODPM Urban Green Spaces Task Force, National Trust Council for England and Wales, Wales Assembly Government Environmental Strategy Reference Group, Scottish Museums Council National Access and Learning Steering Group..

Emily Connors

Emily is Head of Natural Capital Accounts at the Office for National Statistics. She has worked for HM Treasury and the British Council in Thailand, India and Indonesia where she taught English through the British Council Connecting Classrooms programme. Emily graduated with a degree in Economics has a MSc in Economics and Public Policy.