

**Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum Keynote Seminar:
Biodiversity and the Natural Environment: valuation, localism and engaging business**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 4th July 2013

Venue: Sixty One Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET

Draft agenda subject to change



**WESTMINSTER ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT &
TRANSPORT FORUM**

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Peter Aldous MP, Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Biodiversity
- 9.05 - 9.20 **The UK's biodiversity - 'investing in nature'**
What is the state of biodiversity, its policy framework and its public perception in the UK and how has it been affected by the last few years of economic austerity? How are the recommendations of the recently published Ecosystem Markets Task Force (EMTF) final report - including Biodiversity Offsetting and closing the loop on anaerobic digestion and bioenergy on farms - likely to affect businesses in the future? How far can new carbon and nature markets such as mandatory biodiversity offsetting be relied upon to internalise and make economically visible the value of a sustainably healthy ecosystem? How might reform of Pillar 2 (rural development) of the CAP affect the work of the Rural Development Programme for England and funding for farmers to embark on schemes to protect biodiversity?
Professor David Hill, Deputy Chair, Natural England and Chair, The Environment Bank
- 9.20 - 10.05 **Putting an economic value on biodiversity**
What are the most promising approaches to calculating the value of biodiversity, in ways that can provide greater certainty for businesses, communities and policy formulation? Are the current environmental and planning regulations set up in a way that can realistically value the cost of biodiversity loss whilst minimising bureaucratic red tape, and how has the 'assumption in favour of sustainable development' set forward in the National Planning Policy Framework affected the calculation? How widely is the work of the Natural Capital Committee and the EMTF being taken up into working practice by Government, businesses and interest groups? Are there any notable examples of business accounting for biodiversity from overseas that could be built upon here?
Professor Rosemary Hails, Member, Natural Capital Committee and Director, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Science, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Matthew Townsend, Partner, Environmental Law Group, Allen & Overy
William Evison, Associate Director and Environmental Economist, Sustainability & Climate Change, PwC
Hannah Mowat, Carbon and Ecosystems Campaigner, FERN
Questions and comments from the floor with **Professor David Hill**, Deputy Chair, Natural England and Chair, The Environment Bank
- 10.05 - 10.40 **Protecting and strengthening the country's forests - building on the work of the Independent Panel on Forestry**
With the Panel recommending that the role of the woodlands as one of the greatest sources of natural capital and biodiversity in the country be put into focus, how can awareness of this part of the ecosystem be raised? How will the role of the Forestry Commission change given the creation of a new public body for forestry and how will the two work together? How should the aim of creating a new woodland culture by highlighting the importance of the forestry industries to rural life and the wider UK economy be approached? What partner businesses and sectors of the economy are likely to be the drivers of increased demand for the woodland industries? What impact will the findings from the recently published final report by the Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity Expert Taskforce have on the development and implementation of forestry policy going forward?
Dr Peter Bonfield, Group Chief Executive, BRE
Simon Hodgson, Chief Executive, Forest Enterprise England, Forestry Commission
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 - 10.45 **Chairman's closing remarks**
Peter Aldous MP, Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Biodiversity
- 10.45 - 11.10 Coffee
- 11.10 - 11.15 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Anne McIntosh MP, Chair, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee
- 11.15 - 11.40 **International biodiversity and the Aichi 2020 targets**
What progress was made at last autumn's Convention of Biological Diversity meeting at Hyderabad? Is the UK on target to meet its obligations in the Aichi 2020 targets? How might the UK be affected by a global failure to meet the targets? What more can the UK Government, businesses and individuals do to protect biodiversity internationally?
Dr Matt Walpole, Head of Science, Economics, Policy & Partnerships, UNEP-WCMC
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 - 12.25 **Engaging with biodiversity: localism, business and communities**
How effective have the new decentralised authorities for biodiversity - such as Local Nature Partnerships and Natural Improvement Areas - been in providing a more customised and adaptable means of managing biodiversity? Is focused action on a local level more effective for engaging individuals and SMEs with biodiversity than ministerial campaigns or policies and are there some issues that need to be handled on a national level? Is there a risk to the viability of these local groups in terms of procuring the resources to follow through on their ideas; where might funding come from if local government cannot supply it? What might be the main factors - perhaps the potential for green growth, consumer demand or to get a head start on future regulation - that encourage businesses to take action on biodiversity? What are examples of best practice from companies engaging with biodiversity, from low impact farming to reducing waste and minimising retailers' environmental footprint?
John Atkinson, Environment Adviser, The Co-operative Group
Nicola Hutchinson, Head of Conservation for England and Wales, Plantlife
Neil Wyatt, Chief Executive, Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust
Begonia Filgueira, Co-Director and Founder, Environmental Regulation and Information Centre
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 - 12.55 **Progress towards Biodiversity 2020**
Robin Mortimer, Director for Sustainable Land Management, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**
Anne McIntosh MP, Chair, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee
Ben Goodwin, Senior Producer, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum