

People's Assembly for Nature Speaker Biographies- First Weekend

Professor Nathalie Seddon



Nathalie Seddon is Professor of Biodiversity and Founding Director of the Nature- Based Solutions Initiative in the Department of Biology at the University of Oxford. She is also Director of the Agile Initiative and co-lead of the Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery. She trained as an ecologist at Cambridge University and has over 25 years of research experience in a range of ecosystems across the globe. As a University Research Fellow of the Royal Society, she developed broad research interests in understanding the origins and maintenance of biodiversity and its relationship with global change.

Her work now focuses on determining the ecological and socioeconomic effectiveness of nature-based solutions to societal challenges, and how to increase the influence of robust biodiversity science on the design and implementation of climate and development policy. Nathalie advises governments, UN agencies, and businesses on nature-based solutions, as a member of the Adaptation Committee of the UK Climate Change Change Committee, the Science Advisory Board of RBG Kew and the Science & Knowledge Committee of the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions.

Dr Radhika Borde



Dr Radhika Borde is a Lecturer at the School of Geography, University of Leeds, UK where she teaches and researches on sustainability and social justice. She has a long-term interest in Indigenous social movements centered on sacred natural sites in India, on which she has authored several publications. Another area of her research and intervention is water, sanitation and hygiene issues in rural India, as well as waste management, and she explores these with a focus on gender and vulnerability.

People's Plan for Nature

Tony Juniper



Tony Juniper CBE is Chair of the official nature conservation agency Natural England. Before taking up this role in April 2019 he was the Executive Director for Advocacy and Campaigns at WWF-UK, a Fellow with the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership and President of the Wildlife Trusts. Until January 2018 he was an independent Sustainability and Environment Advisor, including as Special Advisor with The Prince of Wales's International Sustainability Unit.

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. He 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. In 2017 he was appointed a Commander of the British Empire (CBE).

Sir John Lawton



Sir John Lawton is an environmental scientist. He retired as Chief Executive of the Natural Environment Research Council in 2005, and was the last Chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution until 2011. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society, President of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, and Vice-president of RSPB. He chaired the influential report on Making Space for Nature published in 2010 which advocated "more, bigger, better and joined up" wildlife sites.

People's Plan for Nature

Ruchir Shah



Ruchir Shah is responsible for leading the transformation of how the Scottish Wildlife Trust engages with external audiences in order to tackle the ecological crisis we face. This includes strategic responsibility for policy and public affairs, communications and marketing, and the Trust's engagement with its members and the general public.

Ella Saltmarshe



Ella Saltmarshe is an award-winning writer and founder, pioneering work at the intersection of culture and systems change. She has set up a number of organisations, communities and campaigns. Trained as an anthropologist, Ella has worked in international development, the creative industries and public policy. Working internationally in places like India, Afghanistan and Latin America, opened her eyes to the impact climate change was having over 15 years ago and tackling it has been a driver of her work ever since. Ella's burning question is how, as a species, we can create long, flourishing futures for all inhabitants of earth. And so, she has co-founded the Long Time Project - a movement inspiring individuals, organisations and industries to become better ancestors through collective action. She's the host of the Long Time Academy Podcast, which was recently awarded the best independent podcast of the year by The Radio Academy, and the Visionary Leadership Award at the International Women's Podcast Awards. She also advises governments, funders and civil society organisations on narrative, culture and systems change. International Women's Podcast Awards. She also advises.

Professor Bill Sutherland



William (Bill) Sutherland is a keen naturalist and practicing conservationist with a determination to improve conservation practice. He holds the Miriam Rothschild Chair in Conservation Biology at the University of Cambridge and last year was awarded a CBE 'for services to evidence-based conservation'. His open access book is out in November: *Transforming Conservation: a practical guide to evidence and decision making* <https://www.openbookpublishers.com/books/10.11647/obp.0321>.

Here is a video on his work starring David Attenborough, Iolo Williams and Gideon Henderson:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdrv15QoUUc>