

UKELA Wild Law special interest group

Not the Wild Law weekend Spring webinar – Friday 9th April 2021

Speaker biographies

Elsie Blackshaw-Crosby is Managing Lawyer at The Lifescape Project, a rewilding charity focused on ecosystem and biodiversity restoration and protection. With a background in commercial litigation, Elsie manages Lifescape's strategic litigation which currently focuses on the protection and reintroduction of wild species in the UK alongside a global litigation strategy aiming to end the treatment of forest biomass energy as zero carbon.

Mike Daniels is Head of Policy and Land Management with the John Muir Trust. Has been with the Trust for 13 years. He leads on policy development and advocacy for the Trust and oversees management of Trust land and partnerships. Prior to that Mike worked for the Deer Commission for Scotland, Scottish Agricultural College, Macaulay Institute and Scottish Natural Heritage. He did a PhD at the University of Oxford on the Biology and Conservation of the Scottish wildcat; a BSc in Ecology (Honours in Wildlife Management). Mike completed a one year Royal Society fellowship on wildlife management in Australia. 30 peer reviewed scientific publications.

Adam Eagle is CEO of The Lifescape Project, a rewilding charity seeking to balance human impacts on the natural world and allow nature to recover. He is a qualified lawyer with specific expertise in developing legal and financial mechanisms to aid rewilding projects, as well as leading species reintroduction projects. Adam is a member of the IUCN's Rewilding Thematic Group, an external rewilding PhD supervisor for the University of Cumbria, and co-author of numerous articles on rewilding published in academic journals. He has also advised multiple NGOs working in the field of wildlife conservation and rewilding.

Shehana Gomez is a former solicitor who practised children's social care law in local government. More recently, she worked as an associate lecturer at the Open University and completed an LLM in Environmental Law and Sustainable Development. She is currently undertaking a PhD at Cardiff University on the topic of indigenous people and biodiversity protection.

Louise Johnston is a partner in Turcan Connell's Land and Property team, having joined the firm in 2004. Throughout her career Louise has acted for the owners and managers of a diverse range of properties, including those who manage land for the benefit of flora, fauna and the environment more generally and for whom tailored legal advice is essential to achieve that management aim. With that background, Louise has acted for clients acquiring land specifically for the purpose of rewilding and in the purchase of carbon credits.

Jojo Mehta co-founded the Stop Ecocide campaign in 2017, alongside barrister and legal pioneer the late Polly Higgins, to support the establishment of ecocide as a crime at the International Criminal Court. Jojo co-ordinates between the fast-growing international campaign (teams in 8 countries, websites in 7 languages) and the lawyers, advocates and parliamentarians engaged in the core work of progressing the crime. She is Chair of the Board of the Stop Ecocide Foundation in the Netherlands, which now manages the campaign, and convenor of the Independent Expert Panel for the Legal Definition of Ecocide chaired by Philippe Sands QC and Dior Fall Sow. Jojo is Executive Director and key spokesperson for Stop Ecocide International and has contributed to law conferences, environmental summits, festivals and climate rallies as well as podcasts, interviews and articles for publications and broadcasters ranging from the Ecologist to the New York Times and from The Guardian to the BBC. She was a keynote speaker at the official side event "Investigating

and prosecuting ecocide: the current and future role of the ICC” in December 2019, hosted by the Republic of Vanuatu as part of the 18th Assembly of State Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Jojo is a graduate of Oxford and London universities and has a background in communications, entrepreneurship and on-the-ground environmental campaigning.