From the Conservation Optimism team

Conservation is inherently challenging. The struggle to preserve our natural world and its inhabitants against the myriad threats can often seem overwhelming. In both the academic literature and the popular news, headlines are filled with stories of loss and dire predictions about the future.

Conservation is also inherently inspiring. Around the world, people from all backgrounds, disciplines, and cultures are winning victories both large and small each day. At this year’s Conservation Optimism Summit, we are delighted to have brought together a diverse selection of these voices to share their stories and build unique collaborations.

We look forward to sharing the next few days with you, as we are educated, entertained, inspired and empowered to build on each other’s successes and make a positive impact for conservation.

Special thanks to our sponsors:
WELCOME TO OXFORD!

CONSERVATION OPTIMISM SUMMIT
ST CATHERINE’S COLLEGE
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FILM FESTIVAL
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MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

BS Lecture Theatre

REGISTRATION
9.00am

WELCOME
9.30am
10.45am

SESSION 1
11.15am

LAURIE PARMA
2.00pm

SESSION 2
3.00pm

BRISETHA HENDRICKS
9.45am

9.00am

12.45pm
MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

MEET THE PRESENTERS
4.30pm

DRINKS RECEPTION
7.00pm

FILM FESTIVAL PANEL DISCUSSION
8.00pm

SHORT FILM SCREENINGS
8.45pm

AWARD CEREMONY
10.00pm
EXPLORING HOW COMMUNITIES DEFINE CONSERVATION SUCCESS IN NAMIBIA

"Communities are intricately connected to the wildlife with which they coexist, today and always. In remaining optimistic, it is imperative that we acknowledge that there was a time where conservation efforts trampled the interests of these local communities."

Brisetha has been an activist for the better part of her adult life and has taken on numerous leadership roles in varying areas specifically in her local community in Khorixas. With her work in conservancies, she seeks indulgence and recognition of the life stories she represents. Ultimately her mission is to empower these communities and to amplify their voices.
SESSION 1
Monday 11.15-12.45am

Choose a panel/workshop

Click for more information about each session

WORKSHOP

Live storytelling:
An old tool for new conservation
PDR Breakout Room

PANEL

Meet the changemakers of today:
An intergenerational discussion of the future of nature in the UK
BS Lecture Theatre

WORKSHOP

Failure opportunity:
How to be optimistic about fails
BS Room C

WORKSHOP

An emerging ocean ethic:
A new generation of marine citizens
BS Room A
PLenary Speaker

Monday 2.00-3.00pm
BS Lecture Theatre

LAURIE PARMA

Founder of LifeCloud
Wellbeing Researcher (Neuropsychologist)

SUSTAINABLE WELL-BEING:
THE CHALLENGE OF ALIGNING
PEOPLE, PLANET AND PURPOSE

“If the science of well-being has taught us one thing it is that happiness, vitality, and well-thinking are precursors of performance and success. This has nothing to do with the absence of problems, it is about the ability to deal with them.”

A neuropsychologist by training, Laurie strives to bring the science of well-being to the workplace. Her work addresses the challenge of how to thrive in a world of perpetual transformation, change and urgency, which is particularly acute in conservation. She asks the hard question of reaching organisational performance and delivering on the bottom line with agility but without coming at the expense of people and planet.
SESSION 2
Choose a panel/workshop

WORKSHOP
Changing the 2020 outcome for nature: Policy, advocacy and campaigning
BS Room A

PANEL
The Green List of Species: A high-profile assessment of conservation success stories
JCR Lecture Theatre

WORKSHOP
Are you optimistic? Measuring optimism in conservation
PDR Breakout Room

WORKSHOP
Visualising community conservation in Nicaragua
BS Lecture Theatre

WORKSHOP
Bottlenecks to breakthroughs: Reasons for optimism
BS Room C
Monday 7.00-10.15 pm

FILM FESTIVAL
OXFORD UNIVERSITY
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Come have a drink at 7pm and get the chance to stroll around the museum while interacting with artists Jane Mutiny and the Under The Skin team.

JUDGES

The evening will kick off with a panel discussion between our judges around the importance of film making to raise awareness of conservation issues.

Lucie Muir
Chief Executive, Wildscreen

Prasenjeet Yadav
Explorer & Photographer, National Geographic

Peter Venn
Programme Leader MA Wildlife Film-making
Monday 7.00-10.15 pm

FILM FESTIVAL

OXFORD UNIVERSITY NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

SCREENINGS

We will then screen an array of excellent short films belonging to the following categories:

Super Shorts
Animation
Student film

People & Nature:
Communities, Heroes & Wellbeing

Conservation Works:
Learning from Success & Failure
Tuesday 3 September

Session 3

Alex Dehgane

9.00am

Session 4

Robin Moore

12.00pm
Tuesday 3 September

Meet the Presenters
3.30pm

Speed Talks
4.00pm

Not a Poster
5.00pm
"New tools such as machine vision and learning, powerful low cost sensors, and robotics can increase the leverage and power of conservation to better monitor and protect rare species. Conservation needs reframe itself, and draw in new solvers, new disciplines, and new solutions to create a new class of conservation innovators, engineers, and entrepreneurs."

Alex was the founding country director of the Wildlife Conservation Society Afghanistan Program and helped create Afghanistan’s first national park. Alex is the author of the book, The Snow Leopard Project, which describes the effort. Alex holds a Ph.D in Evolutionary Biology from The University of Chicago.
SESSION 3

Choose a panel/workshop

WORKSHOP

Think BIG:
An optimistic approach to conservation
BS Room C

PANEL

How emerging conservation technology is providing optimism in conservation
BS Lecture Theatre

WORKSHOP

Cultivating joy:
Finding and sharing the joyous stories of conservation work
PDR Breakout Room

PANEL

Lost and found:
Rediscovered species as flagships for conservation optimism
JCR Lecture Theatre

WORKSHOP

Catastrophe or transformation?
The relationship between hope and hopelessness
BS Room A
Robin Moore
Director of Communications, Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC)
Senior Fellow, Intl League of Conservation Photographers

THE ART OF SURPRISE: ENGINEERING THE UNEXPECTED TO ENGAGE AND INSPIRE

“How do we tell hopeful stories that spread? Changing the frames through which we tell our stories can generate surprise to win the attention of a distracted audience and engage action-oriented emotions.”

Robin uses visual storytelling to challenge prevailing narratives and offer new and hopeful ones.

In 2010 Robin spearheaded the innovative ‘Search for Lost Frogs’ which dispatched teams to find some of the world’s missing amphibians. The campaign formed the inspiration for GWC’s successful ‘Search for Lost Species’ campaign. In Bolivia his team partnered with Match.com to help find Romeo, the world’s loneliest frog, a Juliet.
SESSION 4

Choose a panel/workshop

WORKSHOP

Innovative approaches for reducing by-catch in small-scale fisheries
PDR Breakout Room

PANEL

Small but mighty:
Small groups can make a difference
JCR Lecture Theatre

WORKSHOP

Creating an effective conservation behaviour change programme
BS Room A

PANEL

For optimism to be unleashed, conservation must transform
BS Lecture Theatre

WORKSHOP

7 storytelling tips for conservation communicators
BS Room C
SPEED TALKS
Tuesday 4.00-5.00pm
BS Room A

The art of conservation storytelling

The “Pride of Amboseli” project

‘Reel’ stories of change

Toad vs. hydroelectric power plant
SPEED TALKS
Tuesday 4.00-5.00pm

Using beavers and community partnerships for restoration

Conserving clams and culture

The comeback of Europe’s large mammals

Honey monitoring: The golden flow of citizen science

BS Room C
SPEED TALKS
Tuesday 4.00-5.00pm

- Emotions-based Planning Tool for conservation collaboration
- BioGeoArtBlitzes: interventions for the love of nature
- Restoration of the European native oyster
- The return of the Great Bustard: Once again the pride of Wiltshire
- A tale of scaling up pangolin conservation in Nepal
THE WORLD IS YOUR OYSTER

This session will showcase the widespread national efforts to restore the UK’s only native oyster population back from the brink, and encourage attendees to help build a conservation optimism oyster reef.

CONSERVATION, COLLABORATION AND CATCHING COLDWATER PRAWNS

Participants will be invited to play ‘tricky trawling’; a ‘flappybird’esque game, learning how to avoid sensitive habitats and species.

THAT ONE JAGUAR PASSING BY MY BACKYARD, MEANS MY WELFARE

A puzzle will summarise a process to generate benefits for rural towns to coexist with jaguars and pumas in Costa Rica. Can you solve it?
LIVING IN HARMONY

Be a penguin who needs to catch enough krill to feed their chick, a seal trying to eat the penguins, or the researcher wanting to get foraging data and make a trip to the rather isolated toilet without getting bitten by the seal in this board game set in the Antarctic Peninsula!

WHAT’S THE DEAL?

BLANDING’S TURTLE HEADSTART PROGRAM

Schoolchildren and teachers raise threatened Blanding’s turtles in their classrooms, giving them a headstart before they are released into the wild. Learn about the success of this project using playing cards and toy turtles!

VISUALISING CONSERVATION SUCCESSES DIFFERENTLY

This session is about interpreting milestone moments of a women-led conservation enterprise project for Snow Leopard conservation in India through visual storytelling.
NOT A POSTER
Tuesday 5.00-7.00pm
JCR Bar

ROLLING WITH THE TIDES
Try ‘Rolling with the Tides’, a game designed to teach students in Scotland and Honduras about the possible adaptations of corallith corals in the face of climate change.

BRITISH ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY
The British Ecological Society is an innovative and inclusive community with membership opportunities for everyone involved in ecology. Come and learn more about what we can do for you and try your hand at the People and Nature buzz wire game to win a year’s free membership.

SHOCK, WONDER AND OPTIMISM – THE ENGAGING STORY OF OYSTERS
This session will discuss how balancing the pessimism and optimism can build an enticing narrative. Using history, imagery and video, delegates will learn about a communications strategy for diverse audiences who didn’t even know they cared about oysters.

LET’S MAP OUR NETWORK
What does your network look like? How does that help you to gain inspiration and share your passion? Draw your personal network with you as one of the nodes, mapping your connections with others who work in conservation.
WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

ALICE BELL

9.00am

FUTURE VOICES

10.30am

CREATIVE SESSION

11.30am

RETURN TO THE WILD!

10.00am

1.00pm
ARE WE APPROACHING A TIPPING POINT FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH CLIMATE CHANGE?

"New protest groups are forming. Television specials are being commissioned. New people are pouring into the movement from a host of directions. Old orthodoxies about how we talk about global warming (or is it heating now) are being smashed. Climate emergencies are being declared across the globe.

"To some extent, we’ve been here before; in the run-up to the Copenhagen talks in 2009. That crashed and burned quite quickly."

Climate change communications and campaign expert Alice Bell asks how we can weather the inevitable fluctuations in public concern over climate change, and ensure this wave is one that sticks.
Our panellists will discuss how they are working towards reframing the conservation narrative in their countries and their involvement with Conservation Optimism, chaired by Conservation Optimism’s Founder E.J. Milner-Gulland.

**CHEN PELF NYOK**
Freshwater turtle researcher and conservationist (via Skype)

**MUNIB KHANYARI**
PhD student
(Wildlife conservation and livestock health)

**OLYA ESIPOVA**
Community conservationist
(saiga antelope)

**ELLIOT NEWTON**
Youth and community conservationist

**CALEB OFORI-BOATENG**
Herpetologist and founder of Herp Conservation Ghana
CREATIVE SESSION
Wednesday 11.30am-1.00pm

- Wildeverse - Exploring the rainforests with mobile games
  Outdoor
  Meet-up: JCR Bar Annex

- Mammal tour - wildlife of Oxford
  Outdoor
  Meet-up: BS Lecture Theatre

- Empowering HOPE Through the Arts
  BS Room A

OR
PICK & MIX

- Igniting the Wonder of Quiet Ecosystems with Animation
  BS Room C

- Making space for the future
  BS Room C

- Play: Our Adaptive Wildcard
  Outdoor
  Meet-up: JCR Bar

- Naturehood - connect with the wildlife on your doorstep
  Outdoor
  Meet-up: JCR Bar
THANK YOU
for joining us for
CONSERVATION OPTIMISM SUMMIT 2019
WHAT'S NEXT?

Tell us what you thought!  
contact@conservationoptimism.org

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