

Louise Johnson MSc F.RGS

KEY SKILLS

Developing & managing biodiversity and environmental projects, policy and programmes, focussing on avoidance and management of impacts related to oil & gas, mining and renewable energy. Independent expert for conservation NGO's, government & responsible businesses at the global, national & site level.

Topics: biodiversity & conservation, extractives industry & renewables, impact avoidance & management.

Products: technical review, advisory guidance, field operation audit & evaluation, capacity building.

Processes: extensive project management experience at the international, regional and local levels; monitoring compliance and encouraging good practice; programme facilitation and capacity building; representation on government/industry bodies, steering committees and trade associations; collaborative strategic planning and policy development; internal/external facilitation and relationship building; report writing/review/edit; performance analysis; media (articles/photography/film/web).

CAREER TO DATE

2004 - 2012 Partner, Wave Action - Consultant: Biodiversity, Conservation & Extractives

Projects for Wave Action clients include:

- D'Appolonia: Independent Environmental Expert (Biodiversity) providing technical advice and audit assessment for the PNG LNG Project (Papua New Guinea).
- Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS): Redesign and production of biodiversity & environmental impacts DVD training tool, building capacity in good practice assessment and mitigation for responsible oil/gas development (Uganda & Global).
- WCS: Manager of WCS Congo Zanaga Project. Biodiversity baseline field-survey management, compilation of sensitivity analyses on biodiversity impacts from mining/rail/port, pilot bushmeat study, developing wildlife/habitat-impact monitoring programmes & Pre-Feasibility and Feasibility stage studies (Republic of Congo).
- Business & Biodiversity Offset Program (BBOP)/Forest Trends: Co-Author of the BBOP Standard for biodiversity offsets, Chair of Assurance Working Group, development of assurance evaluation & verification protocols, trialling with BBOP pilot sites (Global).
- WCS: Independent evaluation & review of Ugandan oil development EIAs to assess progress in addressing biodiversity and wider environmental impacts since my previous EIA review (in 2006); recommendations for additional improvement and capacity building (Uganda).
- IUCN/E.ON: Editorial peer review of Making Blue Energy Green: managing offshore marine environmental risks and potential. Guidance document for the offshore renewable energy industry.
- Scottish Natural Heritage: Co-authored commissioned research report on [Basking Shark Hotspots in West Scotland: key sites, threats & implications for conservation](#) (UK).
- WCS: Development and facilitation of training courses and workshops on EIA and the oil industry, for local government, agency staff and EIA practitioners; a multi-stakeholder workshop to scope an Oil SEA; & workshops to improve civil society awareness of and input into the EIA process (Uganda).
- WWF/NORAD: Establishing a long-term mechanism to evaluate and monitor how environmental impacts from oil/gas & mining developments are managed, and how civil society is engaged in the process. Established and evaluated the current baseline for future trend assessment (Norway, Uganda, Madagascar, East African Marine Eco-region).
- The WiSe Scheme: supporting the development of the eco-tourism Standard in training & accreditation mechanisms for minimising impacts from marine wildlife-watching; development of independent evaluation and assessment processes (UK).
- WCS: Implementation of US-AID funded Oil Impacts Management programme focussing on good practice and relationship-building between government, business & conservation NGOs; raising capacity to minimise impacts; sensitivity atlas development; exploring offset opportunities (Uganda).
- The Green Blue: Commissioned research into opportunities for developing partnerships for managing the environmental aspects of the commercial and leisure marine sector (UK).

- WCS: Principle consultant undertaking independent review of EIAs & energy-related impacts; led energy-site reconnaissance fieldtrip for key government and NGO rep's; provision of in-country EIA training to statutory authorities & NGO's (development impact, mitigation & monitoring/evaluation).
- WWF: Member of both the UK and Irish 'Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)' Steering Groups, coordinated by government prior to the licensing of offshore blocks. Provided expert assessment and formal review of the Offshore SEAs and the government process.
- Natural England: Co-authored commissioned research report on [Basking Sharks in West Cornwall: key sites, threats and implications for conservation](#) (UK).
- WWF: OSPAR Offshore Industries Committee representative - official NGO observer status for marine environmental protection in the North East Atlantic area. Focus on minimising impacts from climate change & ocean acidification, CCS, chemicals discharge, cuttings disposal & produced water.
- General: Authored works on energy environmental impacts analysis (oil/gas, offshore renewable, mining, geothermal, hydropower), climate change impacts and biodiversity offsets in the marine environment, CO₂ capture and storage in geological reservoirs, oil & gas industry best-practice, and SEA.

2011 and 2004 – 2007 First mate, Research crew on marine conservation research surveys

- Co-managing basking shark research project aboard during 20-week summer seasons on sailing survey vessels. Coordination of volunteer-based research; observation and recording of species in-situ; identification of potential impacts to sharks and their habitat; photography, film and photo-identification; coordination of volunteer research tasks and data; yacht passage/transect planning.

2002 - 2004 Biodiversity Advisor - BP - Global Environment team, Group HSE

Strategy and policy development for BP's global biodiversity programme: including guidance and oversight on BP's operations in or near sensitive/protected areas, and facilitating key external conservation relationships & projects.

- Project manager on: site level and regional Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) initiation and development; monitoring policy compliance; development of initial external verification process for BAP assessment; development of a company-wide Environmental Standard and development of a standard methodology for determining environmental impact significance; linking biodiversity into sustainable development programs and environmental management systems.
- Vice-chair and BP representative on the IPIECA Biodiversity Working Group.
- Principle BP manager on the Energy and Biodiversity Initiative (EBI), an international NGO and energy company collaboration, resulting in the development and publication of guidance, evaluation protocols & tools to help organisations better integrate biodiversity into their day-to-day operations.
- Managed key external collaborative projects with international NGOs, Institutions and research projects e.g. UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Earthwatch, IUCN-Cardiff University, Fauna and Flora International, etc.

2001-2002 Biodiversity Advisor - Fauna and Flora International (FFI) / BP secondment

- Fifteen-month secondment from BP to FFI. Facilitated joint biodiversity policy opportunities between FFI and BP, identifying appropriate conservation opportunities for integration into BP operations, and in turn guiding FFI on corporate strategy and development of collaborative partnerships.
- Co-led the development of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) for the Caspian Sea, on behalf of the Caspian Environment Programme and Caspian national Governments. Joint responsibility for co-ordinating multi-stakeholder consultation workshops, project planning and the final BSAP framework report.
- Facilitated relationship-building between BP and FFI on joint projects at BP operations worldwide e.g. Angola, Caspian/Caucasus region, Indonesia, Vietnam, etc.

1999-2000 Environmental Performance Advisor - BP - Group Environment Dept

- Developing BP-wide guidance on environmental performance assessment, evaluation protocols and methodologies, indicator development, and performance compliance & reporting.
- Planning, writing and editing the annual BP Environment & Social Report (printed and web) at global Head Office, liaising with key collaborators and information reporters.
- BP environmental and safety performance assessment, analysis and benchmarking with other international companies and trade associations.

1997 – 1999 Environment Advisor – Amoco UK Exploration - North Sea UK

- Development of environmental management systems & EIAs for offshore exploration and production.
- Audit and review of offshore and onshore operations, and monitored environmental performance for compliance against company targets.
- Responsibility for ensuring operational regulatory compliance and obtaining key development permits.

1989 – 1997 Senior Production Technologist – Amoco UK Exploration – North Sea UK

- Development of best practicable environmental options on decommissioning of North Sea platform.
- Monitoring offshore drilling well-test operations. Evaluation of operational performance.
- Design and development of production information databases and well completion configurations.

QUALIFICATIONS

1998 – 2002 MSc in Environmental Management (Surrey)

- Thesis: Development of corporate biodiversity indicators through assessment of impacts and quantitative/qualitative reporting measures.
- Optional modules: Environmental Risk Assessment, Restoration and Conservation Ecology, Pollution Monitoring and Control, Water Quality and Assessment.

1984 – 1987 BSc Honours in Applied Geology with Geography (Plymouth)

- Thesis: The geological formation and structure of the Quaternary Peninsula, Brittany, France.
- Specialist modules: 'Hard-rock' option - Mining geology, Structural geology, Geophysics.
- Minor options: Geography (Years 1-3), Astronomy (Year 1).

Professional Qualifications & Achievements:

Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (F.RGS-IBG);

Associate Member of Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment;

RYA Yachtmaster Coastal, RYA Diesel Engine Maintenance, RYA First Aid at Sea, VHF/GDMSS Short Range Radio.

Trustee for the UK-based Shark Trust (2006-08).

Interests:

Sailing & exploring, diving, snorkelling & rock-pooling; conservation & wildlife, environmental issues and climate change; photography & film; live music, festivals & theatre, watching rugby (except when Wales lose).