

# Louise Johnson MSc F.RGS

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## **KEY SKILLS**

Developing and managing conservation and environmental policy, programmes and projects, from regional to national to site level biodiversity action planning, within business, government and conservation NGO's.

Topics: environment impact minimisation, extractive industry & renewables, marine conservation.

Products: technical report writing & review, advice, workshops and training, photo-journalism.

Processes: extensive project management experience at the international, regional and local levels; representation on steering committees, government/industry bodies and trade associations; capacity building and workshop facilitation; collaborative strategic planning and policy development; internal/external relationship building; report writing/editing, performance analysis and web-reporting.

## **CAREER HISTORY**

### **2004 - 2009 Environmental Consultant - Partner, Wave Action**

Projects for clients include:

- Forest Trends: Chair of Assurance Working Group, Business and Biodiversity Offset Programme. Research & development of assurance mechanisms, towards a future standard in offset projects.
- WCS: Design, development and production of a modular, interactive DVD tool, targeted to build capacity around environmental impacts and mitigation for responsible oil/gas development.
- 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 for Uganda; and a workshop to improve civil society awareness of and input into the EIA process.
- WWF: Establishing a long-term mechanism to assess, document and monitor how environmental impacts from oil and mining development are managed, and how civil society is engaged in the process. Collation and presentation of a current baseline assessment, from which to build future trend information (Norway, Uganda and Madagascar).
- WCS: Initiate implementation of the WILD – Oil Impacts Management programme (Uganda) focussing on development of a sensitivity atlas to minimise impacts, explore opportunities for offset projects, relationship building between Govt, companies, and conservation NGOs).
- The Green Blue: Partnership development research to manage the environmental aspects of the commercial and leisure marine sector (UK).
- WCS: Principle consultant undertaking review of EIAs & energy development impacts within Albertine Rift, western Uganda for government and NGO collaboration. Provision of in-country EIA training to statutory authorities & NGO's, focussing on oil & gas development impacts and monitoring.
- Natural England: Co-authored commissioned research report on [Basking Sharks in West Cornwall: key sites, threats and implications for conservation](#) (UK).
- WWF: Member of UK Oil & Gas Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Steering Group, coordinated by Dept. of Trade and Industry, UK Government. Participation in process development and expert assessment workshops, plus commissioned work on SEA review.
- WWF: Member of Irish Oil & Gas SEA Steering Group, coordinated by Irish Government, including commissioned work on SEA Environmental review. Minimising impacts as Government opens up continental offshore areas for energy licensing.
- 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.
- Authored works on climate change impacts in the marine environment, carbon dioxide capture and storage in geological reservoirs, energy environmental impacts analysis (oil/gas, geothermal, hydropower), oil & gas industry best-practice, and offshore strategic environmental assessment.
- Contribution to development of marine eco-tourism 'WiSe scheme' (wildlife watching training and accreditation scheme); development of international outreach and independent evaluation and assessment processes.

#### Summers 2004 - 2007 **First mate, Research crew aboard marine conservation research vessel**

- Supporting basking shark research project aboard S/V "Forever Changes" during 20-week summer seasons. Focussing on management of volunteer-based research; photography, film and photo-id of sharks; observation and recording of species in-situ; identification of potential impacts to individuals and their habitat; coordination of volunteer research tasks; yacht and dinghy handling.

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

- Strategy and policy development for BP's global biodiversity programme, including guidance on sensitive and protected areas operations, and facilitating key external NGO collaborations.
- Project manager: site level and regional Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) initiation and development; progressing an external verification process for BAP assessment; development of a company-wide Environmental Standard and development of a standard methodology for determining environmental impact significance; and linking biodiversity into sustainable development programs.
- Vice-chair and BP representative on the IPIECA Biodiversity Working Group.
- 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.
- 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 and tools to help organisations better integrate biodiversity into their day-to-day operations.

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

- Fifteen-month secondment from BP to FFI. I facilitated joint biodiversity policy opportunities between FFI and BP, ensuring appropriate conservation opportunities were integrated into BP operations, and in turn helped guide FFI with their corporate strategy development.
- Primary role was to co-manage the development of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) for the Caspian states, on behalf of the Caspian Environment Programme and the national Governments. Jointly responsible for co-ordinating and running multi-stakeholder consultation workshops, project planning and BSAP document writing.
- Facilitated relationship-building between BP and FFI on collaborative projects at BP operations worldwide e.g. Angola, Caspian/Caucasus region, Indonesia, Vietnam, etc.

#### 1999-2000 **Environmental Performance Advisor - BP - Group Health Safety & Environment**

- Developing BP-wide guidance on environmental performance assessment, indicators and reporting.
- Planning, writing and editing the annual BP Environment & Social Report at global Head Office.
- Performance analysis and benchmarking with other international companies and trade associations.

#### 1997 - 1999 **Environment Advisor - Amoco UK Exploration - North Sea UK, EH&S**

- Development of environmental management systems for offshore platforms & onshore facilities.
- Performed offshore environmental reviews and audits, and monitored environmental performance.
- Responsible for ensuring operational compliance and obtaining development permits.

#### 1989 - 1997 **Senior Production Technologist - Amoco UK Exploration - North Sea UK**

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

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

#### **1998 - 2002 MSc in Environmental Management** (Surrey, part-time)

- Thesis: Development of corporate biodiversity indicators through assessment of impacts and quantitative/qualitative reporting measures.
- Optional modules taken: Restoration and Conservation Ecology, Environmental Risk Assessment, 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 (RGS-IBG); Associate Member of Inst. of Environmental Management and Assessment; RYA Coastal Skipper, RYA Diesel Engine Maintenance, RYA First Aid at Sea, VHF/GDMSS Short Range Radio.

**Interests:** Conservation & wildlife, environment & climate change issues, sailing, photography, diving & snorkelling, hiking & exploring, live music & festivals, arts & theatre, watching rugby (except when Wales lose). Trustee for the UK-based Shark Trust (2006-08).

**Computing skills:** MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Project & Access; Aperture; Photoshop; Dreamweaver.