

Dr Humphrey Q P Crick

Nominated for Chair of the Cambridge Conservation Forum

I've been very lucky to have had a really varied career in conservation science – working for universities, NGOs and now Government. I work for Natural England on conservation ecology in the Chief Scientist's Directorate and, at the moment, I'm working on how we should design an ecological network for conservation and ecosystem services that will be resilient to the increasing pressures of climate change and other anthropogenic pressures.

I started life as a bird watcher – spending a lot of time on the magical Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour and ringing birds on an experimental nature reserve in Sevenoaks, Kent. After Oxford, I went to Aberdeen to study cooperative breeding in bee-eaters in Nigeria for my PhD. This was followed by work on the side-effect of pesticides in Scotland and Zimbabwe. I was then lucky enough to get a job at the British Trust for Ornithology, where I headed up the Nest Record Scheme and then more general work on avian demography and climate change. While at Natural England I have taken the opportunity to work in multi-disciplinary collaborations, with specialists in futures, economics, land management and social science to help tackle the complex problems that face the conservation community.

Thus, I have a strong scientific background, with 100+ publications and have established cooperative and positive relationships with a wide range of organisations over the years to develop or promote projects or initiatives of mutual interest. I have a good understanding of working in collegiate senior management teams and considerable experience of working in committees, both as member and chair, to make them efficient and purposeful. I have been on British Ornithologists' Union Council, was Chair of the BOU's Meeting Committee, was NE's representative on LWEC (Living With Environmental Change – a £1B programme funded by 22 government, research council and delivery bodies) and played an important influencing role as part of the In-House Expert Group advising the 1st National Climate Change Risk Assessment.

The CCF has gone from strength to strength over the years and there is a new era beginning, brought in by the consolidation of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative at the David Attenborough Building and the suggestions for closer working together between the CCF and CCI. I think my wide range of experience and skills could be put to good use in the next few years to further increase the value for members in being part of the CCF and the synergies that are the hallmark of this amazing forum. I would relish the opportunity to work with the rest of our brilliant Council to keep the CCF thriving as this unique grouping of local, national and international conservation organisations.


