

Sebastian Dunnett, PhD

IPBES NEXUS FELLOW | NATURE ECONOMY | SPATIAL ECOLOGIST

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Summary

London-based intergovernmental biodiversity expert with published quantitative spatial research on global environmental change and proven experience engaging with corporate stakeholders to deliver biodiversity improvements within the conservation sector, business and local government.

Employment

UN Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre

Cambridge, UK

SENIOR PROGRAMME OFFICER, NATURE ECONOMY

2022-

- Providing technical leadership across a team of 40 staff, as well as developing a work programme supporting extractive and renewable energy companies measure and manage biodiversity impacts while delivering a green energy transition to meet ambitious climate targets.

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Bonn, Germany

FELLOW, NEXUS ASSESSMENT

2022-

- Working with over 150 other nominated experts globally to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity by synthesising the latest research and presenting options to deliver biodiversity conservation within the environmental nexus of water, food, health and climate.

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

London, UK

ECOLOGY LEAD - CLIMATE EMERGENCY

2020-2022

- Led the ecology theme in a new cross-cutting Climate & Ecology strategy, coordinating with service lines to embed across the organisation. Worked to strengthen the business case for private investment in green infrastructure projects through commercial partnerships.
- Ensured local government action contributes to international policy frameworks: became a signatory to the Edinburgh Declaration and now an active participant in CitiesWithNature, a partnership of ICLEI, The Nature Conservancy and IUCN. Responsible for one direct report.

UN Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre

Cambridge, UK

PROGRAMME OFFICER, BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY

2014-2016

- Managed the production of a feasibility report for multilateral finance institutions (MFIs) on marine “no net loss” of biodiversity. Provided policy support researching environmental oil and gas legislation in East Africa and seconded to BP in London to provide technical support.

2014-2014 CBRE, Energy and Sustainability Analyst

2012-2014 Researcher, Best Foot Forward (now Anthesis Group)

Education

University of Southampton

Southampton, UK

PHD: POTENTIAL SPATIAL TRADE-OFFS BETWEEN RENEWABLE ENERGY EXPANSION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

2016-2020

- Research published in *Nature Scientific Data* and *PNAS*, presenting a novel open access global solar PV and onshore wind database. Both papers ranked higher for media attention than 95% of 20m outputs tracked by *Altmetric*, with the data already downloaded >1,400 times.
- Developed excellent quantitative analysis skills using complex statistical modelling techniques. Teaching assistant for undergraduate and master's programming courses: Python coding for spatial analysis, advanced quantitative methods in R, and introductory statistics in Stata.
- Awarded 2022 Doctoral College Research Award (School runner-up) and selected as 2017 Caux Dialogue Emerging Leader.

2011-2012 Imperial College London, MSc Environmental Technology (Grade: Distinction)

2008-2011 University of Cambridge, BA Natural Sciences (Grade: 2.1)

Publications

1. **Dunnett, S.**, Holland, R. A., Taylor, G., & Eigenbrod, F. (2022). Predicted wind and solar energy expansion has minimal overlap with multiple conservation priorities across global regions. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 119(6). <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2104764119>
2. Delafield, G., Donnison, C., Roddis, P., Arvanitopoulos, T., Sfyridis, A., **Dunnett, S.**, Ball, T., & Logan, K. G. (2021). Conceptual framework for balancing society and nature in net-zero energy transitions. *Environmental Science & Policy*, 125, 189–201. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2021.08.021>
3. **Dunnett, S.**, Sorichetta, A., Taylor, G., & Eigenbrod, F. (2020). Harmonised global datasets of wind and solar farm locations and power. *Scientific Data*, 7(130). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-020-0469-8>