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Board of Directors

James Curran (Chair)

James Curran originally researched in hydrometeorology and oceanography and then served as an environmental regulator of industry and land managers. He later specialised in policy and strategy development, including horizon-scanning, futurology and management of research portfolios. He has often provided end-user input to UK research steering groups and reviews. At one point he also created and ran an eco-retail and catering business, then returned to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency as Director of Science & Strategy and subsequently as Chief Executive and Board member where he led on transformation. He has served on Ministerial groups including biodiversity, green growth, hydronation, and zero waste, and on expert panels including fracking. He has experience of governing boards such as the Foundation for Water Research and was elected chair of the Scottish Sustainable Development Forum. Currently he is an honorary professor at Stirling University and serves on the advisory board to the Management School. He is a non-executive member of the Scottish Government's climate change delivery board.

Ian Gambles

Ian Gambles is the Director of Forestry Commission England and an executive Forestry Commissioner. Previously, Ian was Director of National Infrastructure at the Planning Inspectorate, and Director of Operations at the Infrastructure Planning Commission. His career has spanned both the public and private sectors, including HM Treasury and management consultancy firms KPMG and Deloitte. He also ran his own consultancy business for a number of years, focusing on strategy and business management within the public sector. Ian is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

Joan MacNaughton CB

Joan MacNaughton is an influential figure in energy and climate policy on which she has held a variety of roles. Joan has extensive board experience in the public and private sectors. Currently she chairs the annual assessment of countries' energy policies for the World Energy Council, the 'Trilemma'. She is Chair of the International Advisory Board of the Energy Academy of Europe; a trustee of The Climate Group; and a member of the Council of Warwick University, as well as serving on other academic advisory Boards in Europe and the United States. Before her career in business, Joan was the most senior official in the UK Government responsible for energy policy as Director General of Energy in the then Department of Trade and Industry (2002–2007). In that role she played a key role in shaping UK energy policy, as well as leading a major change programme. She was a major contributor to international energy policy, overseeing the energy agenda during the UK Presidency of the EU in 2005 and leading the work on the Clean Energy Action Plan agreed at the G8 Gleneagles Summit that year. From 2004 to 2006, she was non-executive Chair of the Governing Board of the International Energy Agency, leading a review of the IEA's strategy and the activation of the emergency response arrangements to the oil supply disruption caused by Hurricane Katrina – for only the second time.

Marian Scott

Marian Scott has been Professor of Environmental Statistics at the University of Glasgow since 2000. She has a BSc (Hons) in Statistics from the University of Glasgow, and her PhD was in radiometric dating (jointly with Chemistry and Statistics). She is a chartered statistician, an elected fellow of the International Statistical Institute and in 2005 was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. She was until 2006, chair of the Royal Statistical Society, Environmental Statistics Section, and is a member of the Environmetrics Society and a trustee of Statistics in Public Resources, Utilities and Environment (SPRUCE). She has been active in promoting the cause of interdisciplinary research particularly with regard to Statistics within the Environmental Sciences. Her research interests comprise environmetrics (the application of statistical and numerical methods to the observation of the environment), spatial data analysis, uncertainty and sensitivity analysis, radiocarbon dating, modelling of long-lived radio-nuclides, and aerial monitoring of radiation fields. Current research projects include modelling river and sea loch water quality, the impact of climate change on eutrophication (and in general modelling trends), the role of Statistics in providing evidence based environmental policy, and modelling long-range transport of atmospheric pollutants.

Stephen Hall

Stephen Hall is Director General of The World Fish Center, a leading international research institute, headquartered in Malaysia and devoted to reducing poverty and hunger in developing countries. Previous leadership roles include CEO of the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) and Professor of Marine Biology at Flinders University, Australia. Stephen has served on several international advisory panels and in 2010 was a member of a global team overseeing the reform of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), a USD600m consortium dedicated to addressing reducing poverty, improving food and nutrition security and protecting the environment. Recognised as a leading scientist in his field he has contributed over 80 scientific publications on fisheries ecology and environmental issues, and a highly cited book on the environmental effects of fishing. In 2004 Stephen was awarded a Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation and he continues to investigate and write on the roles and potential of fisheries and aquaculture for supporting international development objectives. In 2005 he was awarded the Australian Public Service Medal for leadership of AIMS.

Deborah Keith

Dr Deborah Keith has over 30 years of experience in the science and technology sector, most recently in corporate R&D strategy in Syngenta, a world-leading agribusiness company. Following an early career in academic research in plant genetics, and in international development in Bhutan to improve local farmer cash crop productions, she has spent the past sixteen years focused on the commercialisation of R&D innovation. In her most recent role in Syngenta as Head of external Collaborations, she headed global teams to build strategic partnerships with academia and commercial enterprises in order to deliver integrated crop strategies, and headed the crop protection research portfolio to deliver global products to development. Deeply experienced in the innovation process, corporate culture and organisational change techniques, she has led corporate teams in the development of global R&D strategies.

Iain Reid

Iain is an experienced Chartered Accountant who was Chief Financial Officer of Sunergos Innovations Ltd, a subsidiary of the University of Edinburgh which identified and facilitated opportunities for commercialisation of innovative research. Prior to this he was Finance Director of the National Trust for Scotland and within his role as FD he also had responsibility for IT, legal, procurement, HR and facilities. Before joining NTS he worked in the software and property sectors helping a French company prepare for a potential flotation and guiding an Edinburgh based property company through the early stages of the most recent recession. Prior to these roles Iain was Finance Director of Newell & Budge Ltd, an IT Services company with offices throughout the UK. He was part of the management team which grew and developed this business with the support of venture capitalists 3i culminating in the sale of the company to Sopra Group. Earlier in his career Iain held a number of strategy and corporate development roles with Scottish Widows. He was Company Secretary of the company during its demutualisation and sale to Lloyds and, following the successful conclusion of the demutualisation project became Chief Operating Officer of Scottish Widows Investment Partnership.

Archie Gibson

Archie Gibson is the executive director of Agrico UK Ltd, a company dedicated to the introduction and multiplication of potato varieties for all industry segments. He is also chairman of the Food and Drink Federation of Scotland and a member of the FDF Executive Committee. Between 2013 and 2016 he was Director of the Scottish Food & Drink Skills Academy, as well as Group New Development Controller for Baxters Food Group from 2002 to 2008. He was an advisor on Rural Development Forum for Perth and Kinross Council, and has recently been appointed as one of four Agriculture Champions by the Scottish Government. The Agriculture Champions will help develop an Agriculture Strategy to guide the long-term sustainable future for Scottish agriculture, by increasing

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George Lawrie

George has farming interests in the Kinross area, Perthshire. He is a past board member of NFUS, where he served as treasurer and past chair of the Land Use and Environment Committee. He is currently on the board of AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds and is chairman of their Research and Knowledge Transfer Committee. He is also on the board and chairman of The Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society (SAOS), a trustee and chairman of The Royal Highland Educational Trust (RHET) and a board member of Scottish Agronomy.

Susan Davies

Susan Davies is currently Director of Conservation with the Scottish Wildlife Trust. Prior to this Susan spent over 25 years in the public sector, latterly as the acting CEO of Scottish Natural Heritage, working on international, UK and Scottish nature conservation policy and practice. She led the science advisory teams of Scottish Natural Heritage and took a secondment into Scottish Government to oversee the management and development of the rural affairs, food and environment science programme. Susan is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology.

Andrew Millar

Andrew Millar is an interdisciplinary biologist with a longstanding interest in 24-hour biological rhythms and over 120 peer-reviewed publications. Andrew was elected an EMBO member, FRS and FRSE in 2010–2013 for his research on the biological clock in plants, which integrates experimental genetics and molecular biology, plant physiology, 'omics, mathematical modelling and computer science. Andrew grew up in Luxembourg and studied Genetics at Cambridge University, followed by a Ph.D. in Plant Molecular Genetics at The Rockefeller University, New York. After postdoctoral research at the NSF Center for Biological Timing in Virginia, he joined University of Warwick. Growing interest in Systems and Synthetic Biology contributed to a move to the University of Edinburgh in 2005, where he co-founded and directed the SynthSys research centre (2007–2012; www.synthsys.ed.ac.uk). His past roles include serving as Director of Systems Biology for the Scottish Universities Life Science Alliance (2007–2009; www.sulsa.ac.uk), and P.I. for GARNet (2004–2009), which represents roughly 200 laboratories of the UK's Arabidopsis research community. He currently serves as Director of Research for Biological Sciences at the University of Edinburgh, and his interests include research data management and macro-economic impacts on science.

Elizabeth Wade

Liz Wade is a fundraising, investor relations and communications professional with over thirty years experience across a broad range of sectors, geographies and organisations. Her most recent work has been within the sphere of higher education; she was Development Director and a Fellow of Girton College, Cambridge between 2010 and 2015, and is currently working alongside a number of organisations, including Swansea University, to advise on fundraising strategy. Prior to working in higher education, Liz held a number of senior roles in the commercial sector, including Group Communications Director and Head of Investor Relations at Barclays PLC, where she was also a member of the Group's Executive Committee, and Head of Investor Relations and Senior Vice President at DaimlerChrysler AG in Stuttgart. Between 2008 and 2014 she was a non-Executive Director of Berry Gardens, the UK's largest soft fruit co-operative. Liz began her career in banking, spending time as a financial and investment analyst in the oil and gas and pharmaceutical sectors.

Alyson Tobin

Professor Alyson Tobin is a plant physiologist and biochemist with research interests in plant nitrogen assimilation and in mitochondrial and plastid development and metabolism. She has held senior academic positions at the University of St Andrews as Dean of the Faculty of Science, Professor of Biology and Acting Vice Principal (Learning and Teaching) and is currently an Honorary Professor in Biology at St Andrews. Alyson is the former Deputy Vice Chancellor at York St John University, a post she held for 4 years with responsibility for the university's academic strategy and leadership of the university's successful bid for research degree awarding powers. Alyson has a first class honours degree in Plant Biology, and a PhD in Plant Biochemistry from Newcastle University. She has held academic posts at the universities of York, Sussex, Manchester and St Andrews and has held two personal research fellowships from The Royal Society – the ICI Alfred Spinks Fellowship for research in Plant Biochemistry and a Royal Society University Research Fellowship. Alyson has published over 100 articles in academic journals, edited books, conference proceedings and popular articles and is co-author of an advanced Plant Biochemistry textbook. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology.

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A Scottish charitable company limited by guarantee. Registered in Scotland No SC374831. Registered office: The James Hutton Institute, Invergowrie Dundee DD2 5DA. Charity No SCO41796

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The James Hutton Research Institute is the result of the merger in April 2011 of MLURI and SCRI. This merger formed a new powerhouse for research into food, land use, and climate change.

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