

The Harrison Institute's Board of Trustees is drawn from a wide range of backgrounds

James Stephen BSc, MRICS, FAAV (Chairman) studied Zoology at the University of Aberdeen before re-qualifying as a Chartered Surveyor. He is a partner at Carter Jonas where he heads up its rural team in the south west of England. Combining a scientific background with extensive professional experience in land management and business, he brings practical insight and strategic guidance to the Harrison Institute. Having supported the Institute for more than twenty years, he is committed to its long-term success and to ensuring that it continues to advance internationally recognised biodiversity research and capacity building programmes.

Dr Nichola Mary Hammond (née Thomas) BSc, PhD is a zoologist and educator whose career has combined research, teaching and international capacity building. Following travel in Africa, she joined the Harrison Institute, where she completed a PhD on bat taxonomy and phylogeny in collaboration with the University of Aberdeen. Alongside a distinguished teaching career, where she championed widening participation and encouraged pupils from under-represented backgrounds to pursue higher education, she contributed to training a new generation of biodiversity researchers in India, reflecting her longstanding commitment to education, scientific excellence and conservation.

Dr Christopher Michaels, BA (Oxon), MA, PhD, FLS is a biologist who conducts peer-reviewed research in ex- and in-situ conservation, animal behaviour, and statistics. He also develops and delivers capacity building in field, ex-situ and quantitative methods, and has substantial experience of living and preserved collections management. He is engaged in active projects with, inter alia, the Harrison Institute, Zoological Society of London, Natural England/Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Project Chimps, and freelance quantitative work through the consultancy Wild Animal Health. He is an Honorary Research Fellow in the School of Biological and Marine Sciences, University of Plymouth, and a member of the IUCN SSG Amphibian Specialist Group. For a complete list of publications, see [here](#).

Dr Nigel Pyke BSc PhD has a background in both scientific research and international business leadership. After completing a PhD in collaboration with Shell Research on the effects of herbicides on invertebrates, he has built a distinguished career in marketing, communications and business development, holding senior leadership positions with Deloitte, Cushman & Wakefield and KPMG. He brings extensive experience of organisational strategy, governance and stakeholder engagement to the Harrison Institute, helping to ensure that its scientific excellence is matched by effective communication, strong partnerships and long-term organisational sustainability.

Professor Paul Racey BA MA PhD DSc FRSE FRSB FZS is one of the world's leading authorities on bat biology and conservation. Over a distinguished career spanning more than fifty years, he has combined pioneering research with an exceptional commitment to conservation, international collaboration and the mentoring of young scientists. Emeritus Regius Professor of Natural History at the University of Aberdeen and Honorary Visiting Professor at the University of Exeter, he has helped shape global bat conservation through his research, leadership of organisations including the IUCN Bat Specialist Group and the Bat Conservation Trust, and the development of research capacity across Africa and Asia. As one of the Harrison Institute's principal scientific advisers, he provides exceptional expertise in research strategy, postgraduate training, university partnerships and competitive grant development, drawing on decades of experience in securing research funding and leading internationally recognised research programmes.