

Curriculum vitae

1	Family name	Simpson	
2	First name	Matthew Robert	
3	Address	COBRA Collective CIC, 21 Willson Road, Englefield Green, Egham TW20 0QB, UK	
4	Telephone	+44(0) 7712531437	
5	E-mail	matt@cobracollective.org	
6	Education		
	Dates	Institution	Degree/diploma
6(a)	1997-2002	Royal Holloway, University of London	PhD in Geography – A proposed Functional Classification of European Wetlands: Development and Testing
6(b)	1995-1996	Cranfield University	M.Sc. Degree - Environmental Water Management.
6(c)	1991-1993	Staffordshire University	B.Sc. (Hons)Degree - Geology and Geography
7	Membership of professional bodies		
	<p>Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) (President of Europe Chapter, Member of the Membership Committee, Vice Chair of the Ramsar Section)</p> <p>Committee Member of Constructed Wetland Association</p> <p>British Ecological Society</p> <p>Accredited Professional Wetland Scientist and President Elect for SWS Professional Certification Program</p> <p>Member of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Scientific and Technical Review Panel</p>		
8	Key experience		
	<p>Matthew has over 20 years' experience in delivering wetland-related conservation, research, assessment and management related projects. Matthew's experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - integration of indigenous traditional knowledge systems related to wetland management with scientific approaches for wetland monitoring and management - wetland biodiversity and ecosystem service identification, assessment and economic and non-economic valuation of structure, processes, functions and benefits of wetlands - wetland management planning and decision support tool development - habitat design and management - identification and delivery of livelihood opportunities and health management within natural resource management projects - community and stakeholder consultation and project delivery - design of constructed wetland treatment and sustainable drainage systems - design and management of eco-tourism and visitor centre projects - design and management of natural infrastructure within urban and rural areas - training and capacity building in wetland monitoring and management <p>Matthew has managed conservation, research, management and capacity building projects in Europe, Asia, South East Asia, Africa, South America and North America.</p> <p>Matthew is a Director of 35 Percent Ltd that delivers ecosystem assessment and management related projects around the world for clients ranging from private companies to governments to international agencies. Matthew is also a Director of the Cobra Collective that promotes and supports community owned solutions that recognise indigenous knowledge and best practice for the benefit of marginalised communities.</p> <p>Matthew's areas of technical expertise are the following: integration of indigenous knowledge into wetland monitoring and management through the use of participatory video and photography techniques to identify, share and implement community owned solutions; development of practical wetland management tools that integrate ecological, hydrological and biogeochemical assessment techniques with ecosystem service, socio-economic and health assessments of natural resource use; habitat management planning for conservation and livelihood generation purposes; community and stakeholder consultation and engagement within wetland management projects; wetland system assessment to determine structure, processes and function; economic and non-economic value assessments for wetland ecosystems; the design of habitats for key species, habitats and ecosystem service delivery; design and management of wetland treatment systems for domestic and industrial effluent; design and management of natural infrastructure within urban and rural areas; visitor planning and interpretation for integrated habitat creation and public access projects; hydrological determination in relation to ecological requirements within natural ecosystems; and hydrogeomorphic mapping to determine functional and ecological variation within natural ecosystems. Matthew can also carry out soil, ecological, water quality, hydrological, geomorphological and socio-economic field surveys.</p> <p>Matthew has undertaken wetland monitoring, management and habitat restoration projects in river, coastal and upland systems in UK, Spain, Portugal, Bulgaria, China, Japan, South Korea, India, Sri Lanka, USA, Caribbean and Abu Dhabi; managed projects developing decision-support systems for local management of natural resources, the identification of indigenous community owned solutions and the development of sustainable livelihoods within Laos, Vietnam, Guyana, Suriname, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil and French Guiana; managed the design of wetland treatment systems for sewage treatment and livelihood benefits in Laos and Kenya, and on a number of projects in the UK to treat domestic, industrial and agricultural wastewater; and worked on visitor centre, ecotourism and interpretation planning projects in Algeria, China, Sri Lanka and USA.</p> <p>Matthew has led training courses in UK, South Korea, China, Botswana, Laos, Bulgaria, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Guyana for local stakeholders, government, university staff and national park staff involved in the research and management of natural ecosystems and has extensive lecturing experience at a range of levels.</p> <p>Matthew routinely provides oral presentations of project and research findings at local, national and international workshops, conferences and seminars and has organised international workshops in many parts of the world. He regularly contributes to</p>		

	the development of best practice guidance for wetland management and monitoring having recently contributed to 'Good Practices Handbook for Integrating Urban Development and Wetland Conservation', the 'Designation and Management of Ramsar Sites – A Practitioners Guide' and 'How to find and share community owned solutions - A Handbook'. He is also currently an Associate Editor of Marine and Freshwater Research.		
9	Professional experience record		
9(a)	Location	Date	Organisation
	UK and International	2019 to present	35 Percent, Old Farmhouse, Hyde, Chalford, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL6 8NZ UK
		Director	
		Responsible for providing habitat design and management expert advice, green and blue space design, constructed wetland treatment system and sustainable drainage design, visitor facility design advice, community and stakeholder consultation, training and capacity building and project management of projects involving ecological monitoring and management, water resource management and habitat assessment, restoration, creation and management in the UK and internationally.	
9(b)	Location	Date	Organisation
	UK and International	2016 to present	Cobra Collective CIC, 21 Willson Road, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey TW20 0QB UK
	Position	Director	
	Responsibilities	Responsible for the management of the Cobra Collective and to provide technical guidance and input to projects that promote and support community owned solutions for the benefit of marginalised communities by providing training, project implementation, research and dissemination in the areas of social, environmental and economic development.	
9(c)	Location	Date	Organisation
	UK and International	2002 to 2019	WWT Consulting, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, GL2 7BT UK
	Position	Associate Director	
	Responsibilities	Responsible for providing habitat management expert advice and project management of projects involving ecological monitoring and management, water resource management and habitat assessment, restoration, creation and management within Europe, Africa, South-East Asia, South America and North America. Responsible for business planning, financial management and planning and resourcing of the company. Line managed staff and was responsible for their personal development and training programmes.	
9(d)	Location	Date	Organisation
	Vietnam	1999-2002	Royal Holloway University of London, Egham, UK
	Position	Tropical Projects Co-ordinator	
	Responsibilities	Responsible for leading tropical conservation projects and their management. Undertook original research investigating wetland ecological interactions, wetland functional assessment, wetland water chemistry and wetland hydrogeomorphic classification. Developed environmental monitoring programme, database, training package for local staff within South East Asia and GIS based decision support systems for management.	
10	Selected Publications		
		<p>McInnes, R.J., N.C. Davidson, C.P. Rostron, M. Simpson and M. Finlayson (In press). <i>Valuable insights or fake news? A citizen-science state of the world's wetlands survey</i>. Wetlands WWT Consulting (2018). <i>Good Practices Handbook for Integrating Urban Development and Wetland Conservation</i>. Slimbridge, United Kingdom. M. Simpson - Lead author and editor.</p> <p>McInnes, R.J., M. Simpson, B. Lopez, R. Hawkins and R. Shore (2016). <i>Wetland ecosystem services and the Ramsar Convention: An assessment of needs</i>. Wetlands (2017) 37: 123.</p> <p>Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia, WWT Consulting, 2017. <i>Designation and Management of Ramsar Sites</i>. Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia. South Korea. M. Simpson – Contributor.</p> <p>Tschirhart, C., J. Mistry, A. Berardi, E. Bignante, M. Simpson, L. Haynes, R. Benjamin, G. Albert, R. Xavier, B. Robertson, O. Davis, C. Verwer, G. De Ville, and D. Jafferally. (2016). <i>Learning from one another: evaluating the impact of horizontal knowledge exchange for environmental management and governance</i>. Ecology and Society 21(2):41.</p> <p>Project COBRA Consortium (2014) <i>How to find and share community owned solutions - A Handbook</i>. M. Simpson - Contributor and editor.</p> <p>Wetlands International (2010) <i>Wetlands and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) – Understanding the linkages</i>. Wetlands International, Ede, The Netherlands. M. Simpson - Main contributor and editor.</p> <p>Mistry, J., Berardi, A., Simpson, M., Davis, O. and Haynes, L. (2010). <i>Evaluating integrated conservation and development projects as viable social-ecological systems: assessing the impact of the North Rupununi Adaptive Management Process</i>, Guyana. Geographical Journal 176(3): 241-252.</p> <p>Mistry, J., Berardi, A., Roopsind, I., Davis, O., Haynes, L., Davis, O. and M. Simpson (2011) <i>Capacity building for adaptive management: a problem-based learning approach</i>. Development in Practice. Vol 21 Issue 2.</p>	