
INSTITUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



CHAIR'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR

As we meet under unusual conditions, I firstly have to say a huge thanks to the IES membership for their support, to my fellow Council members for their sage advice and wisdom and to Adam and his team for doing such a great job, not just over the last few months, but over the whole of the previous year. Without their efforts, we simply wouldn't be here today and the IES wouldn't be standing!

Gary Kass
Chair of Council, July 2020



So as we continue to live in 'interesting times', no discussion of the events of the last year could be complete without mention of two singularly transformative events; reinforcing the adage that surprises are inevitable!

The first, which happened only just over 6 months ago was the UK's departure from the European Union. And the second, which started around the same time, was the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic, with the first death recorded in China on 22nd January and reaching here all too soon with the UK's first death recorded on 5th March.

I'll get back to these two huge events soon, but we also have to remember that there was life before Brexit and before Covid-19... so I will also look back over 2019 and the key events occurring then.

On Brexit, the IES had set out its stall on this topic, along with other like-minded professional bodies and had argued that the environment had improved dramatically during the UK's membership of the EU. While we stand by that position, the decision to withdraw from the EU has now been enacted and we face the end of the Transition Period at the end of this year. The IES and its members find themselves faced with both opportunities and challenges arising from this seismic shift.

I remain hopeful that the UK will take the opportunities presented by Brexit to improve environmental outcomes such as those arising from new legislation on the environment, agriculture and fisheries. These bills have yet to become law but taken together, they have the potential to strengthen environmental protections;

safeguard our air, water, soil and wildlife; and to tighten the bonds between people and nature. But as ever, it is actions that matter more than words so IES will continue to engage in the development of policy and its implementation.

The Covid-19 crisis has only sharpened debate on these issues, with many, including the IES (through the UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development) calling for a green renewal, driven by a desire to make progress across the suite of sustainable development goals. Climate change is a key aspect of this, but we must not forget the myriad of other environmental and social justice issues we face; so the call is for a green, not just a clean, recovery.

But during the Covid-19 crisis itself, closer to home within IES we have seen some

remarkable people rising to some remarkable challenges. Firstly, you, our esteemed, valued and cherished members have kept us going and we thank you wholeheartedly for that. We hope very much that you will continue to do so as we work through the Covid-19 situation and we look toward our own recovery and renewal. But the second group of amazing people I want to champion are Adam and his team; not least the four brave souls (Ethny Childs, Dan Ward, Danielle Kopecky and Joseph Lewis) who joined the team in April under lockdown and have really hit the ground running under the most trying of circumstances! And Adam, Lisa, Rhianna and Rhiannon as the existing members of the team who have welcomed the new crew in with open arms and gelled brilliantly under trying conditions. I certainly hope to see them all in the flesh as soon as it's safe to do so.

CHAIR'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR

But as I said, we haven't just had Brexit and Covid-19 to deal with over the last year. Climate change has been another keystone issue that has made (and continues to make) a huge splash in the last year and a bit. While we clearly welcome the increased attention on this issue, for many this attention is not yet translating into action fast enough or deep enough. The failure of the 25th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP25) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was sad to see and much of this was put down to the deeply entrenched politics (with both a big and a little 'p') of climate change. Yet the science is clearer than ever before and we now know that action must be taken. And of course we had been looking forward to COP26 later this year but – as with so many other things – this has been pushed back to November 2021. And, as mentioned earlier, the political

momentum behind tackling climate change as a key aspect of the Covid-19 renewal programmes is very welcome. As environmental scientists, we should continue to remind people in objective and evidence-based terms about the nature of the problems, their causes and impacts, but increasingly importantly, also the solutions for tackling climate change.

But climate change is but a symptom of a greater problem: that modern society simply consumes too much of the earth's resources; in volumes and at rates that imbalance natural rates of restoration and jeopardise resilience. In November, IES was delighted to welcome Sir Ian Boyd, formerly Chief Scientific Adviser at the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, to give the 2019 Burntwood Lecture, our most popular event yet. Ian gave us a truly barnstorming performance,

watched by record numbers of people both in the delightful surroundings of the Institute of Physics in London but also web-cast to venues around the country. The lecture is available on YouTube.

Lastly, I wanted to mention something a little esoteric but hugely critical to us in the environmental sciences. The most recent Research Excellence framework (REF) exercise is underway and higher education institutions across the UK are setting out their stalls in terms of the quality of their research and research environments, as well as the reach and significance of the impacts of their research. This exercise affects funding for research over the next decade and significantly strengthens the focus on achieving impact from research. Never has this been more important in tackling environmental and sustainability challenges.

So, despite the challenges we faced, the IES has had another great year and membership levels continued to rise strongly, again achieving double-digit growth even as uncertainty and ambiguity reigned! The IES is in great shape for weathering the storm blown up by Covid-19 and we look ahead to another year which will bring its own challenges and, no doubt, its surprises. I want to end by repeating what I said last year by thanking all of the IES' members and supporters, my fellow Council members and, especially, Adam and his team. We all do what we do, driven by our mission to serve our members as we stand up for environmental science, scientists and the natural world.

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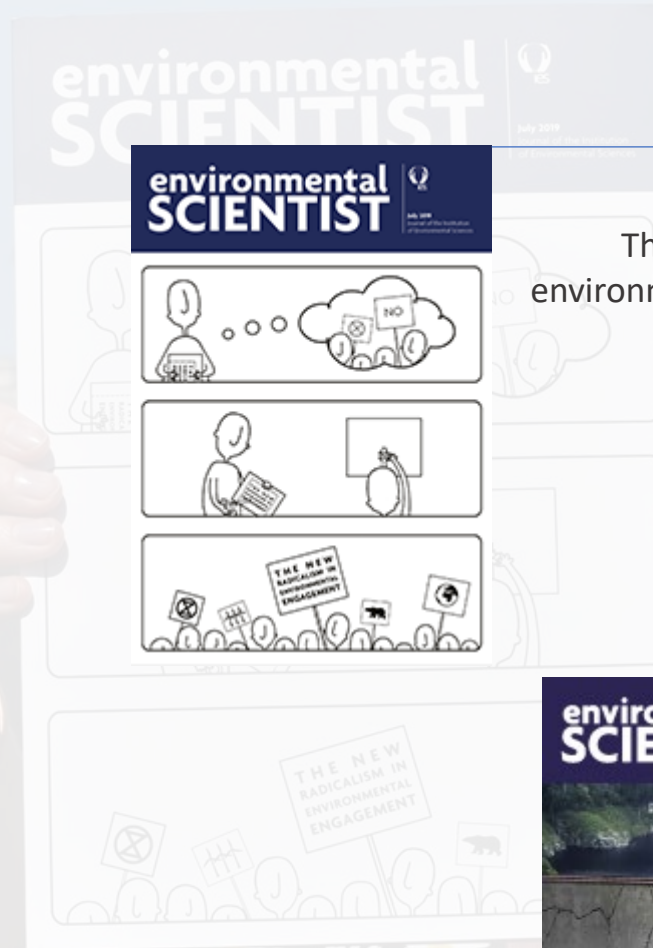
JOURNALS



April
Right Tree • Right Place



October
The search for tranquillity



August
The new radicalism in
environmental engagement

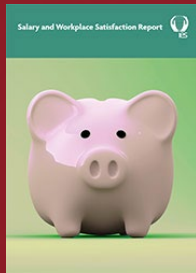


December
Reframing and responding
to natural disasters

REPORTS & GUIDANCE



April
Membership Survey 2019



September
Salary & Workshop Satisfaction Report



June
A guide to the assessment of air quality impacts on designated nature conservation sites



November
Experience and qualifications to demonstrate competence in different EIA roles



EMPLOYABILITY DAYS

Our new Environmental Employability Days, launched in 2019, provide tailored one-day workshops delivered in-house to our accredited universities. These days are designed to provide students with valuable advice and resources to assist them in finding employment once they graduate, and tackle key employability challenges such as how to write a CV, professional conduct, networking advice and understanding job descriptions, all from an environmental science perspective.

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS: Showcasing the breadth of events run by the IES

A walk through ancient woodland

To launch the first 2019 issue of the environmental SCIENTIST, Right Tree • Right Place, contributing author and Director of the Chiltern Woodlands Project, John Morris, led a small group of environmental scientists and nature enthusiasts on a guided tour through the depths of the ancient woodland in the Chilterns.



CHES conference: from primary to professional

CHES members and education professionals gathered at UWE, Bristol, to discuss the value of an environmental science education. The day covered the academic journey of an environmental science student from primary school to the profession, and included a workshop addressing the employability prospects of environmental science graduates, generating implementable ideas for institutions to enhance student's employability.



Burntwood Lecture

The Burntwood lecture, delivered by Professor Sir Ian Boyd, was the most popular to date, attracting over 200 environmental professionals looking to further engage in some of the key environmental challenges we face on a global scale. The lecture was also live-streamed on YouTube for those unable to attend in person.



2019

April

May

July

October

November

Monitoring Air Quality conference

A new IAQM conference 'Monitoring Air Quality: Making Sense of Measurements and New Techniques' took place in London, providing an opportunity for Air Quality professionals to share their experiences of new measurement techniques and explore ways to interpret data collected by analysers in a variety of environments.



Screening series

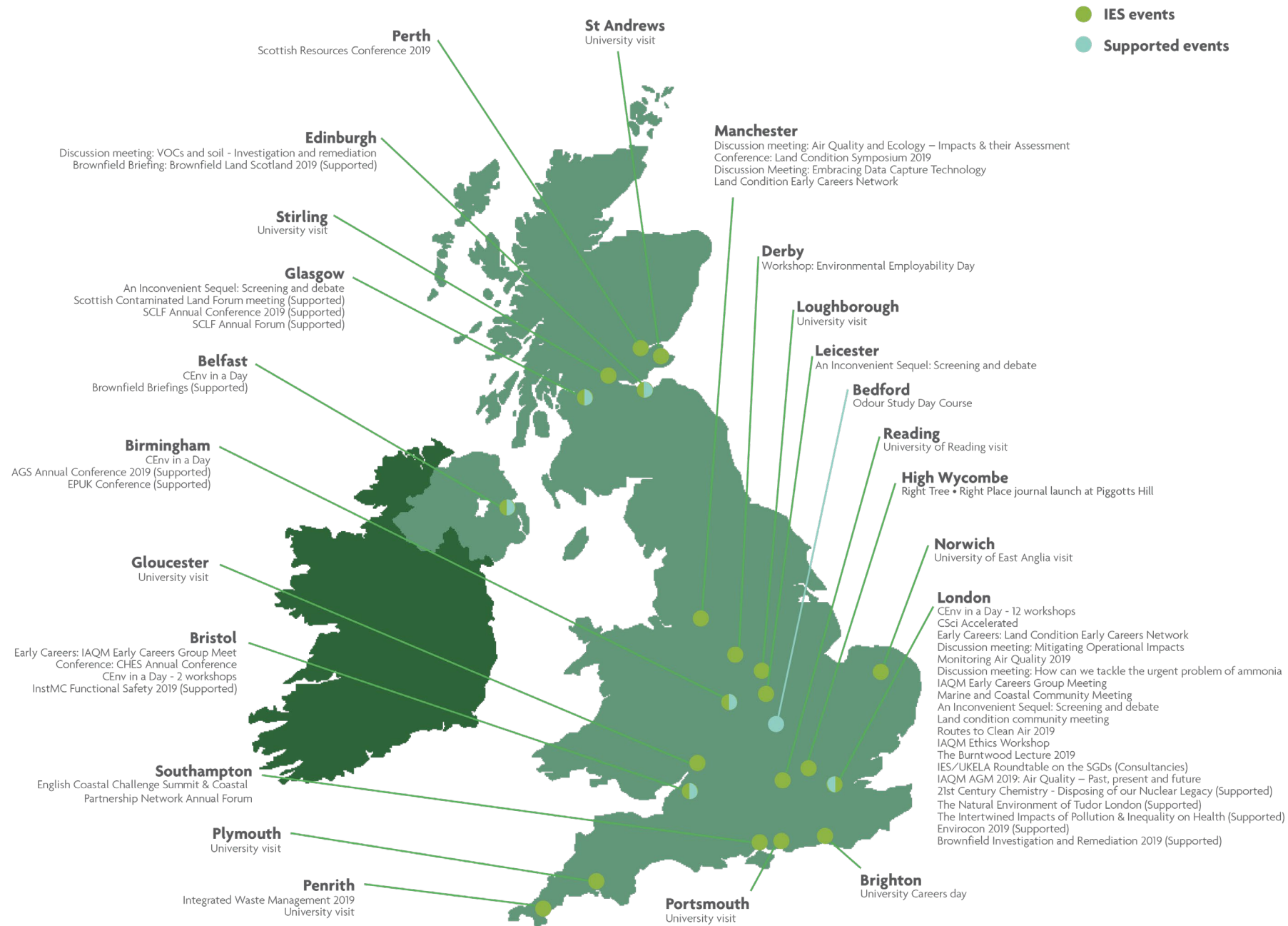
Over the summer, in partnership with Octopus Energy, the IES hosted a series of film screenings showing the documentary 'An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power' in Leicester, London and Glasgow. Each screening was followed by a panel debate where professionals discussed the science behind the headlines, explored solutions and engaged in a conversation on how we can effectively fight climate change.

Ethics workshop

In October, the IAQM held a one-day workshop in London, run in collaboration with the Institute of Business Ethics, delivering effective ethics training for air quality professionals, focusing on setting expectations of behaviour in a variety of contexts.

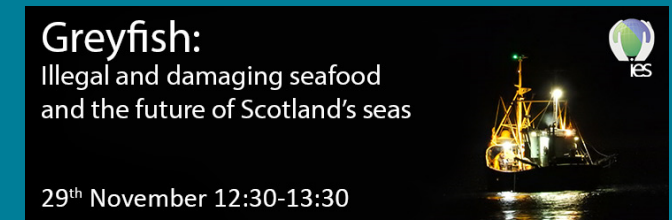


EVENTS



WEBINARS

Jan	Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR)
Feb	Entrepreneurship in the Environment with Simon Acland
Mar	The struggle & the glory - what's it like to be an IES trustee?
May	Your route to Chartership – CEnv vs CSci
Aug	Successful biostimulation and bioaugmentation treatment of DNAPL
Sep	Primate Change – How the world we made is remaking us
Oct	Increasing resilience to flooding in a changing climate Regulatory and commercial confidence: Smooth as SiLC Turning waves into rock: Protecting beaches from erosion
Nov	Greyfish – Illegal and damaging seafood and the future of Scotland's seas



MEMBERSHIP & CHARTERSHIPS STATS



↑ 18%

growth in IES membership



↑ 9%

growth in IAQM membership

CEnv

↑ 6%

increase in number of
Chartered Environmentalists



↑ 16%

increase in number of
accredited programmes

CSci

↑ 4%

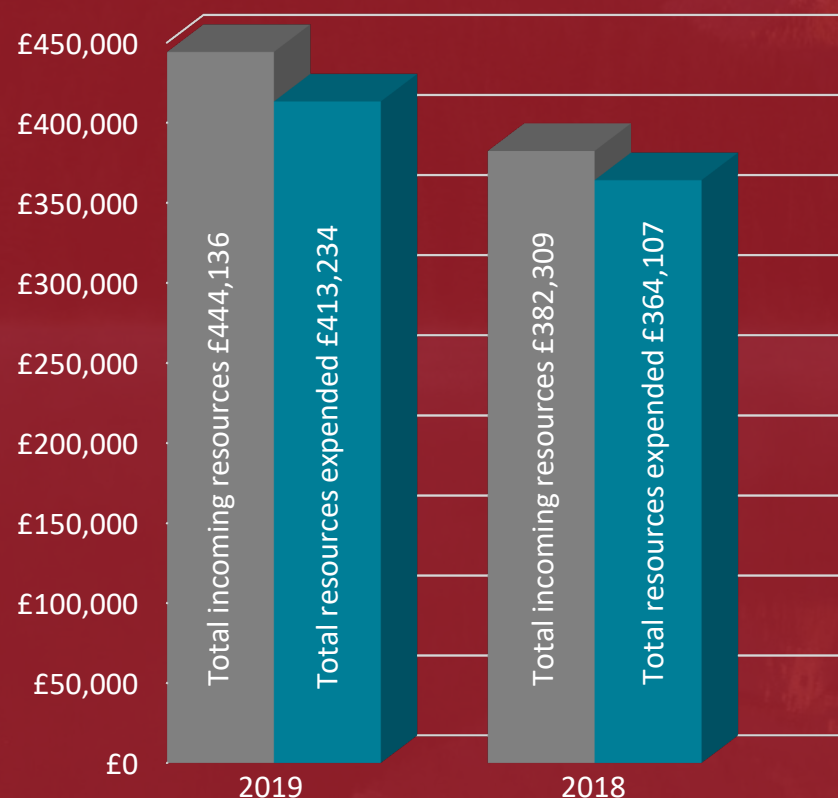
increase in number of
Chartered Scientists



TREASURER'S UPDATE

Increase in income: **14%**

Increase in expenditure: **12%**



Statement of financial activities

July 2018 - June 2019

	2019 £	2018 £
<i>Incoming resources</i>		
Voluntary income	444,059	382,273
Investment income	77	36
Total incoming resources	444,136	382,309
<i>Resources expended</i>		
Total resources expended	413,234	364,107
Net movement in funds	30,902	18,202
Fund balances at 1 July 2018	147,573	129,371
Fund balances at 30 June 2019	178,475	147,573

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

CEO'S REVIEW OF THE COMING YEAR

It seems strange to be undertaking a review of the 'coming' year having now already passed the half way mark. This year's AGM was scheduled to take place in April 2020, but Covid-19 delayed the meeting. Thankfully, in the meantime, virtual meetings have become commonplace and we felt confident to hold the AGM online. In future years, this may well be something we continue, allowing for membership engagement from a wider geographical spread.

Adam Donnan
CEO, July 2020



As we are seven months into the year, I hope you will permit my review of the 'coming year' to include some reflection on 2020 so far.

The last few months have been dominated by our response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The initial response from the IES focused on four themes: staff, volunteer and member safety; prioritisation and adaptation of activities; communications and engagement; and financial modelling of the impact on operations.

There is no doubt that lockdown, followed by social distancing restrictions with an unknown end date, provides a challenge to our business model. The IES derives a proportion of its income from physical events and from renting meeting

space in our office. Neither of these will be possible this calendar year. The effect on the economy – and therefore our membership recruitment and the number of members paying our reduced rate – is difficult to model.

Retrenchment might have been an understandable strategy, but I was very pleased that staff and our governance committee, Council, quite quickly coalesced around a vision that we would follow a policy of 'being there' for our members in a difficult period and increasing, rather than decreasing, our outputs.

In the early stages, we surveyed our members to find out how the pandemic was impacting them, and developed a suite of new services to respond to these

needs. This included blogs on understanding Government Covid-19 guidance and on home schooling, and a new webinar series examining some of the challenges presented by Covid-19. As the year progresses, we will be increasing our services for members who may find themselves facing redundancy or struggling to find work.

Rhianna Jarvis (Events & Training Lead) and Rhiannon Humphreys (Education & Professional Development Officer) did an incredible job of reorganising events, shifting our workshops online, and adapting our university accreditation; all completed with a few days of the declaration of lockdown! They even found time to launch our Chartership hotseat webinar series and our first entirely online conference, Indoor Air

Quality. Our two office administrators, Lisa Abbott and Alex MacNaughton, ensured that there was no interruption to our membership services during the shift to remote working, acting with their trademark calm, fortitude and unshaking commitment to membership care.

Four new staff, Danielle Kopecky (Publications Officer), Dan Ward (Programme Lead), Ethny Childs (Engagement & Communities Officer) and Joseph Lewis (Policy Officer), all joined the team in early April. Covid-19 restrictions meant that their induction was completed remotely, and even to this day they have not physically met each other. Despite this, all four have bonded well with each other and the existing team, and their impact has been felt in a number of areas.

CEO'S REVIEW OF THE COMING YEAR

Our policy output has increased considerably, as outlined in Figure 1. The IES has a long track record of consultation responses – and we will continue to do so – but our new policy strategy also aims to position us earlier in the policymaking process.

Communities have become an increasingly important part of our work and, with the creation of a new position to support our communities, we can accelerate this work. On top of the additional support this will give the IAQM and our Land Condition and Marine & Coastal communities, it has meant we have finally been able to launch our EIA community. A number of other new communities are also planned for the coming year.

I was secretly quite pleased to return to one of my previous roles at the IES in January, when a gap between employment for our Publications Officers meant that I was able to act as Editor for the journal 'The world wakes up to waste'. Fortunately, I was ably assisted by our Vice Chair, Julie Hill, an expert in this area. We recently published the second journal of 2020, 'Talking tactics: Environmental protection and armed conflicts', with Linsey Cottrell of the Conflict and

Environment Observatory acting as Guest Editor. The final two editions of the journal in 2020 will be 'Reconnecting society with its ecological roots' and 'The value of an environmental science education', to be published in August and November, respectively.

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I wanted to conclude by paying tribute to the hard work of our staff, trustees, volunteers and members who have helped steer us through these unprecedented times. I am convinced that, with your continuing support, the IES will emerge from this crisis as a stronger institution.

Figure 1. An overview of policy outputs to date for 2020.

