

President IESF (British Section):  
Roger Venables CEng CEnv FICE MCIM FCGI

Honorary Secretary:  
Andrew Graham BSc, PhD  
drandrewgraham@gmail.com

## Lecture on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025

### “CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE FUTURE OF LIFE ON EARTH”

#### Professor Alex Pigot BSc, MRes, PhD

The Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DR

Coffee and tea at 17:30, lecture 18:00

To book your place at the lecture, please email [events@iesf.co.uk](mailto:events@iesf.co.uk)

Should you wish to join us for the dinner that follows as well, please request a dinner booking form from [events@iesf.co.uk](mailto:events@iesf.co.uk)

#### Synopsis

The most remarkable thing about our planet is that it supports Life. And the most remarkable thing about Life is its diversity. We share our planet with millions of species, each of which forms a cog in the vast and bewilderingly complex machine that is the biosphere. For thousands of years, the expansion of the human enterprise has been transforming the biosphere and driving species to extinction, to the point where Life may now be entering a 6<sup>th</sup> mass extinction event. Set against this background, a new threat has emerged: human driven climate change that over the course of the next few decades could (depending on our actions) push millions of species, and the ecosystems they form, beyond the limits of their resilience, threatening the functioning and stability of the biosphere on which our complex human societies—and our ability to combat climate change—utterly depends. In this talk Professor Pigot will discuss what we know (and don't know) about the Earth's biological diversity, how biodiversity is now changing on our rapidly warming planet, why this matters, and what we can do to fix it.

#### Speaker

Alex Pigot is a Professor of Biodiversity in the Department of Genetics, Evolution and Environment at University College London. His research aims to understand the fundamental rules governing the evolution and distribution of biological diversity and the functioning of ecosystems. Professor Pigot's research is supported by a Royal Society University Research Fellowship and by the Natural Environment Research Council. He is a contributing author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report and sits on UCL's Climate Crisis Grand Challenge Executive Committee.



**Ingénieurs et Scientifiques de France**

7 rue Lamennais  
75008 PARIS  
Tél. : 01 44 13 66 88

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**IESF British Section**

One Great George Street  
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