

BIOGRAPHY

Mary was a successful researcher and academic in developmental biology, genetics and molecular biology. She was head of Cell and Molecular biology at the University of Edinburgh and became Senior Vice Principal with responsibility for strategic leadership in postgraduate education, scholarships, sustainability and social responsibility, widening access, public engagement and fundraising. She was co-opted onto the board of RZSS in 2015, and elected in 2017.

Mary has been on the board of Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the Scottish Association for Marine Sciences, and has been chair of the BBSRC strategy panel for research. At the Royal Society of Edinburgh she has been the young people's committee convenor and program convenor.

She established the Scottish Institute for Biotechnology Education to provide support to schools in the emerging fields of biotechnology, and the Edinburgh Beltane for public engagement for all the universities in Edinburgh which supports researcher engagement with the wider public. She developed partnerships between the University of Edinburgh and various Scottish institutions, including RZSS.

On a more personal note Mary loves Edinburgh Zoo and Highland Wildlife Park. She has travelled extensively to see wildlife and is very concerned by the loss of species diversity and natural habitats for plants and animals around the world.

She is now an emeritus professor at the University of Edinburgh and is committed to serve the wider community, especially relating to conservation of our cultures, history and biodiversity and enabling the wider community to engage with this.

STATEMENT

I will use my research, public engagement and governance experience to support our core values, looking after our animals and our staff, develop our conservation profile, at home and internationally, and ensure the sites provide informative safe, fun experiences. I will encourage RZSS to share our research, work in partnership with other like minded organisations and reach out to our members, volunteers and our communities through our education and engagement programs, whilst remaining financially robust.