

ENVIRONMENT BANK APPOINTS FIRST CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Swindon, 19 April 2011: The Environment Bank Ltd has appointed Dr Tom Tew, until recently Natural England's Chief Scientist and on the Executive Board, as its first Chief Executive to develop eco-markets for coastal flood management and habitat banking.

Tom Tew has 20 years' experience in nature conservation. He has led projects on local, regional, national and international stages, ranging from Cambridgeshire's Great Fen, through national SSSI programmes and European Directives, to global trade agreements.



Dr. Tom Tew, CEO Environment Bank

The Environment Bank, the first organisation in the UK to deliver 'mitigation and compensation' schemes associated with planned development, has just been chosen as a partner by the Environment Agency to pilot a 'Conservation Credits' scheme on the Essex and Suffolk coasts. The approach is supported by the Government and expected to be announced in the forthcoming Natural Environment White Paper.

Conservation credits will be used to manage Essex and Suffolk coastal land to enable sea level rises to be accommodated, provide flood risk mitigation and create substantial habitat creation schemes. Sustainable development will also be encouraged by a speeding up and streamlining of the planning process for planners and developers.

Professor David Hill, Chairman of the Environment Bank, said: "Tom is the best person to lead the Environment Bank through a critical period for environmental conservation, given his background and experience. For the first time, there will be significant scope for private investment in the environment."

Tom Tew commented: "It's thrilling to be part of this ground-breaking initiative. Recognising both the ever-increasing pressure on nature, and the importance of a healthy natural environment to society, conservationists keep talking about the need for a 'step-change' in what we do, but state and charitable funding is simply insufficient for the challenge ahead. We should no longer see the conservation of the natural environment as solely a charitable exercise. The Environment Bank will deliver that step-change by mainstreaming the environment into the way we do business in the UK. We are here to make a difference".

ENDS