

## Rewilding Law Group

### News from our Call on – *Corridors and Connectivity*



Photo: [Andrea Zampatti](#)

Thank you to everyone who joined us on Tuesday 27 August 2024 for our most recent Rewilding Law Group call on “**Corridors and connectivity**”, especially to our speakers, **Pedro Prata**, **Ian Rogers** and **David Hunter**. Below is a recap of what we discussed with some useful links.

Relationship Building	
<i>Connecting</i>	We use the first half hour of our calls to connect in small groups. The aim is to allow members to get to know each other in the hope that we can build a network of people to share knowledge and experience around the topic of rewilding and law.
<i>Keep in touch</i>	If you want us to put you in touch with anyone you met, even if can't recall their name – please feel free to reach out and we will try to connect you.
Speakers – Pedro Prata	
<i>Rewilding Portugal is creating landscapes with greater abundance, biodiversity and connectivity</i>	<p><a href="#">Pedro Prata</a> of <a href="#">Rewilding Portugal</a> spoke about the work that he, <a href="#">Marta Calix</a> and team have been doing in the <a href="#">Greater Côa Valley region</a></p> <p>Rewilding Portugal’s vision for the Greater Coa Valley is to create a landscape more abundant in wildlife, more resistant to climate change, with greater connectivity between natural areas as well as supporting sustainable business models in the region to stimulate local economies and add value to local communities.</p> <p>Pedro explained that the majority of land is privately owned, which can make it challenging to identify landowners in order to coordinate with them, offer to purchase land that is no longer in use or seek to protect areas from hunting.</p>
<i>Land ownership as a barrier to creating wildlife corridors</i>	The absence of a single land registration system (there are three different systems and the records don't always match) has made it particularly difficult to determine who owns the land.

<p><i>Innovative solutions</i></p>	<p>Pedro suggested several innovative legal solutions which could benefit rewilding, including the possibility of abandoned land reverting to the state, or the state having first right of refusal for land that has been abandoned (rather than only neighbours having such a right).</p>
<p><b>Speakers – Ian Rogers</b></p>	
<p><i>Connecting Ashdown Forest and Knepp to the Sussex coast</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Ian Rogers</a> spoke about his pro bono work for the <a href="#">Weald to Waves</a> corridor, which he does in addition to his role as Head of Intellectual Property and Technology Law at the sustainable development consultancy, <a href="#">Arup</a>, also known for its work on the <a href="#">Knepp Wildland Carbon Project</a>. Ian’s post in LinkedIn about walking the Weald to Waves last year is what seeded the idea for this group, with encouragement from <a href="#">Alister Scott</a> of the <a href="#">Global Rewilding Alliance</a>.</p> <p>Weald to Waves seeks to connect core nature areas such as Knepp and the Ashdown forest, via a corridor dedicated to nature with buffer zones on either side. Knepp Wildland Foundation, together with James Baird of Home Farm, Climping, played founding roles in establishing the wildlife corridor, an idea alluded to in Isabella Tree’s book, <a href="#">Wilding</a>.</p>
<p><b>Speakers – David Hunter</b></p>	
<p><i>How to bring together multiple stakeholders around a shared purpose</i></p> <p><i>How to protect land in the long term – conservation covenants</i></p> <p><i>Managing risk and financing nature</i></p>	<p><a href="#">David Hunter</a> spoke about his work supporting the <a href="#">Adur River Recovery</a> in England. David is Senior Counsel at <a href="#">Bates Wells</a> and his thought-provoking and progressive writing can also be followed on his Substack page, <a href="#">The Uncertain Solicitor</a>.</p> <p>David spoke about how to bring parties to multi-stakeholder projects together, getting them to coalesce around a shared purpose and putting this at the heart of the project company and collaboration agreement.</p> <p>He discussed how to embed long-term commitments in the documentation whilst preserving appropriate flexibility and discussed <a href="#">conservation covenants</a> and responsible bodies (Lifescape has applied to become a responsible body in England – other <a href="#">responsible bodies can be found here</a>).</p> <p>David looked at how to identify and manage risks by identifying the right parties to manage particular risks and how to mitigate via insurance, cross-waivers and reserves. He also touched on how to finance landscape recovery and whether it is possible to use nature markets without succumbing to market logics - querying whether the Market’s tools can ever restore Mother Nature’s health, to paraphrase <a href="#">Audre Lorde</a>.</p>