

Curriculum Vitae – Richard Burge

Richard David Arthur BURGE

Portfolio of advisory and non-executive roles

Principal skills and experience

- A career focused on leading, developing, and growing organisations with a strong principled purpose with diverse revenue-based operations (including professional services, retail, and fundraising) and working with a wide variety of stakeholders delivering significant public benefits on a for-profit basis.
- Chief executive of four organisations leading through periods of substantial and innovative change, especially in responding to external events that create major opportunities and in diverse cultural contexts
- An experienced “tri-sector” leader, having held top management and governance positions in private, public, and civil society organisations
- Senior non-executive Board roles for five multi-million pound organisations, including statutory bodies, charities, companies, and a Russell Group University; chair or member of Finance, Nominations, Remuneration and Ethics committees
- Major experience in a range of diplomatic and international relations roles; business, commercial, development policy and implementation (in Africa, Asia, and post-conflict locations)
- Principal personal foci on international policy and rules-based systems, conflict resolution, environmental impact, good governance, social accountability, development, and emerging economies
- Direct experience of working in over 55 countries
- Confident and experienced with the press and public appearances

Current Portfolio

Senior Partner and Founder of ESG Validation – a consultancy that advises the investment community on the assessment and validation of ESG performance and risk in their portfolios (www.esgvalidation.com)

Senior Adviser on Diplomatic Engagement to the City Corporation of London (part time remunerated post)

Non-Executive Director (and Chair-elect) LEBC Holdings Ltd – medium-sized IFA with over 20 branches throughout the UK (www.lebc-group.com)

Past employment

**Chief Executive of the
Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC)**

April 2017 – January 2019

A not-for profit company mandated by the Commonwealth Heads of Government to promote trade and investment between businesses based in the 53 member states. It is a new body but which already hosts two major biennial events; the Commonwealth Business Forum (held alongside the Commonwealth Summit) and the Commonwealth Trade Ministers' meeting with senior businesses leaders.

During my tenure we have;

- organised and delivered from scratch the 3-day Commonwealth Business Forum in London with 1400 participants from all 53 Commonwealth nations including 21 heads of state, and a further 40 Ministers of Trade, Foreign Affairs, and Finance.
- Increased our strategic partnership (the senior membership base) from 35 to 70 individual companies, and regional and city governments
- Doubled cash reserves to £ 1m.
- Opened up operations with country heads in Lagos, Singapore, and Kuala Lumpur, with India, Republic of South Africa, and East Africa to follow in 2019

Chief Executive of Wilton Park (FCO executive agency)

September 2009 – March 2017

The principal British government organisation for convening, leading, and delivering dialogue and conciliation on issues of strategic international importance to the UK.

In seven years, this institution was turned around from a loss-making body with little support in its sponsoring department to being a "frontline foreign policy asset" (Sir Simon Fraser, Head of HM Diplomatic Service). My tenure coincided with the 6 most successful years in Wilton Park's 70-year history. During 2016, we organised 70 events in 11 countries, and with 2900 participants from over 150 nations.

We targeted and achieved break-even with revenue that increased by 20%, despite a 65% cut in the FCO grant-in-aid. Our turnover was £ £6 m (increased from £3.5 million) with 35% from foreign governments (principally the US, Canada, Norway and Switzerland) and 75 staff (down from 82). In 2016, we successfully secured a renewable strategic programme grant for ODA-compliant funds of £1.4 m, that was renewed in 2017

I was a member of the senior staff at the FCO (grade SMS2).

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Portfolio engagement with advisory, consultant, and Board member roles

December 2003 – August 2009

I established my own company (Beyond Carbon Ltd) with three staff. We provided consultancy services on strategic environmental and social risks and opportunities for investors, but also serving a number of large charities and an overseas investment fund. I was also a non-executive director of the Property Merchant Group.

Additionally, I was Strategy Director of the African Parks Foundation, a revolving fund of US\$ 35 million established by the late Paul van Vlissingen to create sustainable economic operations for 5 national parks in Malawi, Ethiopia, Zambia, and the DRC. I was a Crown appointee on the Board of the Countryside Agency, and subsequently the Commission for Rural Communities.

I also established and sat as a member of a US not-for-profit (501(c)3) organisation.

Chief Executive of the Countryside Alliance

February 1999 – November 2003

I took over the Alliance just after it had come to public prominence with the first March in London but had also suffered through poor management and leadership. During my time, we built a campaigning organisation (including organising the largest demonstrations 8 of our cities had ever seen and the 500k Liberty and Livelihood March in London) that was considered by the Guardian to be the most effective in the UK, mainly on the issue of hunting. The Alliance played a significant role in negotiating between badly-afflicted rural areas and the government during the foot-and-mouth crisis. I was directly involved and led participation in UK government and parliamentary enquires on a range of rural economic and social issues (and an enquiry by the French Senate)

We grew the membership to over 120,000 and established a large chain of food cooperatives in poor urban communities in the north-west and in Wales. The turnover increased from £4 million to £8 million, and we generated operational surpluses from membership fees and insurance services.

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Director General of the Zoological Society of London

November 1995 – January 1999

I was the first full-time chief executive of the combined organisation in 180 years. It consisted of London Zoo, Whipsnade Wild Animal Park, Europe's largest academic conservation research institute, and overseas operations in 8 countries. On arrival, its lease on London Zoo had expired, it was making significant operational losses, and morale was very low following a difficult fly-on-the-wall TV series.

I turned it from a loss-making £14 million to a profitable £17 million organisation with a £1 million operational surplus, renegotiated the Crown lease on London Zoo; secured Millennium funding of £2.2 million for development in London matched by a commercial financing arrangement; reopened the derelict areas of London Zoo and invested £ 5m in Whipsnade; negotiated a new publishing deal with CUP which made a profit and launched a new academic journal; and expanded overseas operations to 8 countries. Gave a new direction for ZSL in developing countries by embedding rural development as an integral impact of all our projects, and restored a confident and admired charitable fundraising programme.

We revitalised the membership system that had been based solely on season-tickets to create a community much more engaged with the range of science and conservation work as well as the zoos. Total membership grew to around 45,000.

I sat on the boards of both the European and the International Zoo and Aquarium Associations.

British Council

May 1986 – October 1995

My roles were;

- Head of Africa and Middle East Development Operations (running a portfolio of government and internationally funded development contracts for the Council in 21 countries valued at £45 million per annum). I focused on post-conflict and transition environments
- Projects Director, Educational Contracts (pursuing and securing non-British funded contracts around the world, including one of the largest post- First Gulf War contracts awarded by the Kuwait Government)
- Assistant Director in Lagos Nigeria working on technical and agricultural training

Biology Teacher – King Edward's School, Witley (Bridewell Royal Hospital)

September 1980 – August 1983

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Pro-bono activity

International Technical Advisory Committee Global Trade Professionals Alliance	2019 -
Chair, Global Health Assurance Partnership (forensic investigation and intelligence organisation on falsified and illegal medicines in the humanitarian system)	Since 2016
Commissioner for Commonwealth Scholarships (selecting and awarding over 700 postgraduate scholarships a year – served on Finance and Evaluation committees)	20012-18
Member of Council, Durham University (also Chair of the Ethics Committee and Hatfield College Council, served on finance, nominations, remuneration committees, and on investment bond steering board)	2011 -18
Board Member of the FCO Diplomatic Academy	2014 - 2017
Vice Chair of Governors, Bridewell Royal Hospital (City of London foundation running a major secondary school)	2007 – 2014
Association of Chief Executives (of HMG arms' length bodies) Elected Board member (and former Vice Chair)	2011- 2015
Board Member of the Countryside Agency And subsequently the Commission for Rural Communities	2004 – 2009
Iwokrama Rainforest Research Centre, Guyana (Commonwealth Secretary General's Trustee on 1 million acre project)	2001 - 2006
Treasurer, St John-at-Hackney (inner-city Church of England parish)	1998 – 2004

Education

Visiting Fellowship Mammal Ecology Research Group, Cambridge University	January – April 1986
Commonwealth Research Scholarship Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka	September 1983 – December 1985
BSc Hons (2.2) in Zoology Hatfield College, Durham University Kitchener Scholarship	1977 - 1980
Adams' Grammar School, Newport, Salop, UK	1969 - 1976