

# JONATHAN DRORI

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## Personal details

Jonathan Drori CBE FLS FRGS FZS MIET FRSA  
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## Present activities

Trustee, The Eden Project (since July 16)  
Trustee, Raspberry Pi Foundation (Oct 17)  
Syndicate (Board) Member, Cambridge University Botanic Garden (Mar 19)  
Member, Corporate Strategy Committee, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (Feb 20)  
Chairman, H. H. Wingate Foundation (Dec 07)  
Trustee, Cambridge Science Centre (June 20)  
Member, Council of Ambassadors, WWF (Feb 16)  
Ambassador, The Woodland Trust, (Feb 17)  
Investor, Adviser, Non-Exec in various start-up technology companies  
Independent consultant and event chairman (Apr 06)  
Author: *Around the World in 80 Trees*, pub. by Laurence King (May 18)  
Author: *Around the World in 80 Plants* (c. Feb 21)

## Some previous positions

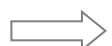
Chairman, Ravensbourne University London (2013-19)  
Visiting Industrial Professor, Bristol Univ. Sch. of Education (2004-19)  
Trustee, Internet Watch Foundation (2013-19)  
Trustee, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (2006-15), and Chair of its trading arm  
Trustee, The Woodland Trust (2008-17)  
Member, Science & Education Committee, The Royal Institution (2015 - 17)  
Member, Commercial Board, Royal Collections Trust (2011-19)  
Member, Innovation Committee, NESTA (2012-18)  
Chairman, UK Parliament Advisory Council on Public Engagement (2011-15)  
External Mentor to the UK Parliament Public Internet Project (2009-11)  
Founding Director, Culture Online, Dept. for Culture Media & Sport (2002-06)  
Trustee, Wildscreen and ARKive (2009-15)  
Trustee, Culture24 (formerly The 24 Hour Museum) (2005-11)  
Managing Director, Scient UK Ltd, a global e-business consultancy  
Head of Commissioning and Editorial Director, BBC Online  
Head of Digital Media and Learning Channels, BBC Education  
Executive Producer, Science, Business and Education, BBC

## Professional Memberships, Honours etc

CBE, 2006  
The Worshipful Company of Stationers, Member of Court  
BAFTA, (full voting member), Royal Television Society  
Hon. Fellow: Ravensbourne University London  
Fellow: Linnean Soc., Zoological Soc. of London, Royal Geographical Soc.  
Member: Institution of Engineering & Technology, International Dendrology Soc., British Mycological Soc., Botanical Soc. of Britain and Ireland

## Education

Univ. of Sussex, BSc (Hons) Electronic Eng;  
Stanford University Executive Program, California



## Biography

An experienced chairman, trustee and adviser, Jon helps organisations to develop strategy, drive performance and engage new audiences with services that they'll value. He is unusual in bridging disparate fields; public engagement and outreach, education, governance, technology, media, science and culture, and in being able to make valuable, senior connections across them. He is used to operating at Board and Ministerial level, building consensus in sensitive, intellectually demanding areas and he works with discretion as a critical friend to policy-makers and senior officials. (For example, he has chaired key strategic meetings for the Global Crop Trust in Bonn, Svalbard and online, and facilitated sessions involving organic growers and the agrochemical industry in Wilmington, Delaware.) He has served on public committees, (e.g. geo-engineering, intellectual property and public engagement) and has been a member of grant-making panels, (e.g. at the Wellcome Trust.)

At the DCMS, Jon was founding Director of Culture Online - a programme to extend the reach of science and arts using new digital and physical techniques and partnerships. He recruited and led a team of creative executives, producers and technologists, who developed new legal frameworks and public/private collaborations and won twenty-eight major awards (including four BAFTAs, the National Newspaper Awards and the UN World Summit E-Learning Award), as well as special citation from the National Audit Office for excellent management of risk and innovation. Jon spun out a successful commercial company from the project (since donated to a charity) and for the Secretary of State, he wrote *Encouraging Digital Access*, a report influential in the cultural sector for its practical advice, balancing commercial and public needs.

As a BBC Executive Producer, Jon was responsible for more than fifty popular science series and documentaries, winning many international awards. He was Head of Digital Media and Learning Channels for BBC Education, where he led the development of world-first services such as *GCSE Bitesize*, and supervised mass campaigns for numeracy and computer literacy. He was subsequently Editorial Director of BBC Online, leading public online services across the BBC.

Until October 2019, Jon was Chairman of the Board of Ravensbourne University London, which specialises in creative arts and technology, leading it to gain taught-degree awarding powers and university title. For 15 years to 2019, he was Visiting Industrial Professor at Bristol University's School of Education, fostering industry links and delivering seminars to trainee teachers about misconceptions in science.

Jon is a frequent public-speaker. His four talks at the international TED conference on science topics have been viewed >3 million times (see ted.com), and he has presented frequently to large (>1000) live audiences around the world. Author of *Around the World in 80 Trees*, a widely translated bestseller entwining science and culture, he has spoken at many literary festivals and has become an experienced radio and TV interviewee on plants. For the sheer love of it, Jon has been expedition film-maker and photographer with Kew in SW China, the Chilean Andes, Namibia and Madagascar. He was awarded a CBE in January 2006.