



# ENSURE 2026

Global Systems for Sustainable Futures

18, 19 May 2026

University of Exeter



University  
of Exeter



香港中文大學  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

# Welcome!

The University of Exeter is delighted to host the **2026 Environmental Sustainability and Resilience (ENSURE) Joint Centre Workshop**, welcoming colleagues from across Exeter and The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). The Workshop will be held at the Living Systems Institute (LSI) on Monday 18 May and then at the XFI on Tuesday 19 May, both located at the University of Exeter's Streatham Campus in the City of Exeter.

Under the theme ***Global Systems for Sustainable Futures: Designing Resilience for the SDGs***, this landmark two-day event will bring together researchers, senior leaders, early career scholars and strategic partners to advance interdisciplinary collaboration in climate, biodiversity, energy, food, water and human systems research. We welcome participants from across disciplines and with an interest in sharing best practice in behavioural change, climate resilience, nature-based solutions, biodiversity, energy and more.

## Workshop focus areas

The 2026 Workshop will provide a dynamic platform to showcase progress across ENSURE-funded projects, catalyse new partnerships and identify future opportunities for impactful, externally funded research aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Combining keynote plenaries, themed TED-talk style moderated panel/audience discussion, breakout sessions and site-based engagement activities, the 2026 Workshop is designed to foster collaboration and future programme development. Through the Workshop, we will focus on:

- Strengthening engagement with enterprise, policy and external partners
- Sharing best practice in project design, delivery and impact from ENSURE projects past and present
- Identifying emerging funding opportunities aligned with ENSURE themes
- Designing and implementing campus sustainability policy and practice
- Facilitating cross-cutting engagement between academic leaders and ECRs across disciplines, with networking and excursion opportunities

## ENSURE Grand Challenges

The workshop is structured around ENSURE's six Grand Challenges, each directly contributing to delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals:

### **GC1. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience**

Conserving biodiversity and optimising societal benefits from genomic to ecosystem scale.

### **GC2. Climate Monitoring and Forecasting**

Enhancing monitoring and forecasting capability of climate extremes, particularly in the developing world, to support economic and societal adaptation.

### **GC3. Ecosystem-Based Solutions**

Promoting, managing and financing nature-based solutions to climate change, maximising co-benefits across multiple SDGs.

### **GC4. Sustainable Energy Systems**

Building and financing efficient, equitable and low-carbon energy systems.

### **GC5. Food and Water Security**

Ensuring food and water security for vulnerable communities from local to regional scales.

### **GC6. Behavioural Change and the Food–Water–Energy Nexus**

Facilitating behavioural and societal transformations to address interconnected climate and sustainability challenges.

# Day 1 / Monday 18 May

**Location:** Living Systems Institute, Streatham Campus

## 09:00 – 09:30 / Arrival and refreshments

**09:30 – 09.45 /** Opening Remarks

- **Prof Richard Follett**, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice President (Global), Exeter

**09:45 – 10:00 /** Opening remarks and housekeeping

- **Prof Stephen Sitch**, Co-Director of ENSURE
- **Prof Amos Tai**, Co-Director of ENSURE

**10:00 – 10:45 /** Grand Challenges Main Grant / The next-generation probiotics for marine bivalve aquaculture

- **Prof Haiwei Luo**, Associate Professor, School of Life Sciences, CUHK
- **Dr Robert Ellis**, Senior Lecturer, Biosciences, Exeter

## 10:45 – 11:15 / Refreshments and networking

**11:15 – 12:00 /** Panel 1 / Grand Challenges in Biodiversity (GC1) and Climate Extremes Forecasting (GC2)

- **Prof Apple Chui**, Assistant Professor, School of Life Sciences, CUHK
- **Prof Jennifer Catto**, Director of EDI, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Exeter
- **Prof Francis Tam**, Associate Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, CUHK
- **Prof Jean-Francois Mercure**, Professor of Climate Policy, University of Exeter Business School

**12:00 – 12:45 /** Panel 2 / Grand Challenges in Ecosystem-based Solutions (GC3) and Sustainable Energy systems (GC4)

- **Prof Lucy Rowland**, Professor of Ecology, Exeter
- **Prof Benoit Thibodeau**, Assistant Professor, CUHK
- **Dr Lucy Hawkes**, Associate Professor, Department of Biosciences, Exeter
- **Prof Ye Chen**, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, CUHK

## 12:45 – 13:45 / Lunch Break

**13:45 – 14:30 /** Panel 3 / Grand Challenges in Food and Water Security (GC5) and Behavioural Changes (GC6)

- **Prof Alex Chow**, Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, CUHK
- **Prof Dan Bebbler**, Professor, Department of Biosciences, Exeter
- **Prof Francisco Cisternas Vera**, (Senior Lecturer, CUHK Business School
- **Prof Stephan Harrison**, Professor of Earth and Environmental Science, Exeter

**14:30 – 15:15 /** Exeter as Case Study: Challenges and Solutions for University Campus Sustainability

- **Jo Chamberlain**, Director of Campus Sustainability, Exeter

**15:15 – 15:30 /** Review and Looking Forward

- **Prof Stephen Sitch**, Co-Director of ENSURE
- **Prof Amos Tai**, Co-Director of ENSURE

**15:30 – 16:30 /** Campus Tour (from Northcote House Reception)

- **Jess Evans**, Nursery and Assistant Horticultural Manager, Exeter

# Day 2 / Tuesday 19 May

**Location:** XFi Building, Streatham Campus

**09:00 – 09:30 / Arrival and refreshments**

**09:30 – 09:45 /** Opening remarks and housekeeping

- **Prof Stephen Sitch**, Co-Director of ENSURE
- **Prof Amos Tai**, Co-Director of ENSURE

**09:45 – 10:15 /** Plenary Address

- **Prof Peter Cox**, Director of Global Systems Institute, Exeter

**10:15 – 10:30 / Refreshments and networking**

**10:30 – 10:50 /** ENSURE PhD Engaged Project 1: Glaciers, rock glaciers and future water supplies in the High Mountain Asia

- **Prof Stephan Harrison**, Professor of Earth and Environmental Science, Exeter
- **Prof Lin Liu**, Associate Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, CUHK
- **Lin Peng**, ENSURE Split Site PhD Student, Exeter

**10:50 – 11:20 /** ENSURE PhD Engaged Project 2: Investigating Nature Based Solutions for Climate, Air Pollution and Health (Co-benefits, health inequalities and future research directions)

- **Prof Shelly Lap-Ah Tse**, Professor, JC School of Public Health and Primary Care, CUHK
- **Prof Tim Taylor**, Director of the Centre for Net Positive Health and Climate Solutions, Exeter
- **Natalie Tang**, ENSURE Split Site PhD Student, CUHK

**11:20 – 12:00 / ENSURE ISC Forward Planning Meeting [closed list]**

**11:20 – 11:40 /** Funding and business engagement: Opportunities and best practice in engaged environmental sustainability research

- **Fiona Raffael**, International Research Development Manager
- **Alex Huke**, Head of Environment and Clean Growth

**11:40 – 12:00 /** Group Work

**12:00 – 12:15 /** Closing Remarks

- **Prof Mai Har Sham**, Pro Vice Chancellor and Vice President (Research), CUHK

**12:15 – 13:00 / Packed Lunch**

**Excursion (subject to pre-registration and availability)**

**13:00 – 14:00 /** Transport to Haytor, Dartmoor National Park

**14:00 – 16:30 /** Guided Tour

**16.30 – 17.00 /** Travel to Riverford Field Kitchen

**17:00 – 19:00 /** Dinner at Riverford Field Kitchen

**19:00 – 20:00 /** Return to Exeter