



'The Nature of Conservationists', Do organisational and individual aspirations for nature conservation match? MSc project, The University of Edinburgh and Birkbeck College, London.

We are writing to you regarding our research project into the Nature of Conservationists. Through this study we are investigating how the inspiration to work with nature is sustained and re-created. This study, supported by VINE (Values in Nature and the Environment)¹ and developed in discussion with the steering group, will be exploring the aspirations of nature conservation organisations and their staff. We are carrying out this research as part of our MSc studies, Cara in Outdoor Environmental and Sustainability Education at the University of Edinburgh; and Gabi in Environmental Management at Birkbeck College, London.

In conducting this research, Gabi will be circulating an online questionnaire to gain a broad insight into our key motivations for wanting to be involved in nature conservation, and we will be holding in depth interviews with a broad spectrum of people who work in the field of Nature Conservation. The interviews will be semi-structured with the opportunity to explore your key motivations and attitudes and will last around 40-45 minutes. Privacy and non traceability of individuals' comments will be maintained in the subsequent reports and papers. Participants will be given the opportunity to check transcribed material to be used in the study. A summary of the findings can be made available to yourself along with publication details. We plan to conduct the interviews between February and April 2010. We are requesting permission to interview you or ask you to complete the online questionnaire as part of this process.

We hope you are able to help with this research. To confirm your participation or for further details we can be contacted by email at cara.j.roberts@education.ed.ac.uk or gabrielle_horup@yahoo.co.uk

Yours Faithfully

Cara Roberts & Gabi Overgaard-Horup

I confirm that Gabi Overgaard-Horup and Cara Roberts research has been developed in discussion with the VINE Steering Group. Fuller details of VINE's original research brief can be viewed at

www.vineproject.org.uk/news.html

Signed.

John Bacon, VINE Chair.

¹ VINE is a forum for nature conservation professionals, land managers and all people who care about nature. VINE believes that the process of thinking deeply about what we do and why we do it will help conservationists to be more creative and effective in their working lives.