

Name: Simon Wills

Current Position: Associate
ConsultingWhere Ltd

Key Skills:

- Earth observation data
- Business Strategy Development
- Spatial Data Infrastructure Design and Implementation
- Statistical analysis of spatial data
- Team building and leadership
- Strategic ICT systems advisor
- Programme Management



Profile

Simon has over twentyfive years of experience in the development and use of information systems, specialising in the management of earth observation data, location-enabled applications and statistical modelling of spatial data. He has held senior management positions in both the public and private sector in the UK and Southern Africa, including as regional manager for a raster data software supplier covering Europe, Africa and the Middle East. In a previous role in the UK public sector, he managed a large team developing business cases for integrating specialist business applications for large local and central Government departments within the healthcare sector.

He has undertaken strategic assignments in Southern Africa, North America and Central Asia. He has been involved in applying the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework in Mongolia as part of a multi-disciplinary World Bank team.

He is currently an associate and consultant of ConsultingWhere, an independent IT consultancy established in 2008, specialising in the provision of strategic information technology and business advice. He is also a director and principal consultant of MW & Associates and an academic researcher at the Natural History Museum, London.

He has been involved most recently in helping develop the socio-economic case for investment in a national Spatial Data Infrastructure for Mongolia, working to the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the World Bank. He has also provided support and advice to the Republic of Guyana around earth observation data collection and is currently working with several UK based geospatial organisations.

His expertise in economic assessment and business case development including Return on Investment studies stretches back to establishing the local ESRI distributor in Botswana in 1995. In a previous role at ERDAS Inc / Leica Geosystems, he was responsible for the distributor sales channel covering ERDAS remote sensing products across Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

More recently he has worked in the UK public sector as ICT director for part of the National Health Service. In this role he managed teams of over 100 staff, developing and integrating business applications, providing core ICT support services and advising on digital transformation for clients including NHS bodies, other public sector organisations and the private sector.

Simon is a practical consultant, with a good understanding of “state of the art” information technology and a keen eye for detail. He is equally comfortable working with C-level executives and technical experts. He excels a building trust and consensus. His academic work has been widely presented at international conferences and published.

Professional Experience

2019 - to present, Associate, ConsultingWhere Ltd

ConsultingWhere, an independent IT consultancy, specialising in the provision of strategic information technology and business advice to public and private sectors. Simon provides support to clients in the areas of earth observation data, socio-economic and Return on Investment (RoI) appraisal, and programme management.

Achievements

- **Economic consultancy** for the World Bank on the Mongolian Integrated Geospatial Information Framework;
- **Earth observation consultancy** for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Republic of Guyana;

2013 - 2020, ICT Director, NELCSU

Simon was responsible for financial, operational and strategic management and development of NELCSU's ICT business development directorate. NELCSU is part of the UK National Health Service providing both operational ICT support and bespoke ICT services to both the public and private sector operating in the healthcare arena.

Achievements

- Developed a new business unit for the ICT directorate generating close to £7 million new income per year;
- Established NELCSU as the leading provider of ICT services, business change and digital development for the Health and Justice sector in England. This culminated in NELCSU providing specialist services to all prison establishments in England and to 60% of the English police forces.
- Delivered day to day operational ICT services to around 30% of the GP practices in England with an annual budget in excess of £25 million.

2013, Associate Director Prison Health, Whittington Health.

Responsible for day to day operational delivery of healthcare services to all inmates at HMP Pentonville, a large male prison in north London.

2012 - 2013 Deputy Head of Healthcare, HMP Pentonville, Whittington Health.

2008 - 2012 Practice and business manager, HMP Pentonville, Whittington Health and NHS Islington.

Achievements

- Delivered a challenging operation within budget (£7 million pa.) over a period of sustained organisational change for the NHS and Prison Service.
- Developed effective partnership working between NHS providers, Prison Service operational management and NHS commissioners.
- Designed and implemented quality assurance, risk management, governance and audit functions for the prison healthcare service.

2003 - 2008 Practice Manager, St Pauls Road Medical Centre, Islington, London.

Responsible for day to day operational delivery of healthcare services at a large inner London GP practice.

2001 - 2003 Regional Sales Manager, Europe Africa and Middle East, Leica Geosystems GIS & Mapping.

Responsible for the distributor sales channel covering ERDAS remote sensing products across Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Achievements

- Delivered a new distribution channel for ERDAS remote sensing products for Leica Geosystem following the takeover of ERDAS Inc. by Leica.
- Delivered annual growth of over 15% across the distributor channel in 2001/2 and 2002/3.
- Led on the delivery of technical training and technology improvement across the distributor channel and key international customers.

1995 - 2001, Managing Director Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana.

Founded a GIS and remote sensing technology consultancy company based in Gaborone, Botswana. The company supplied spatial technology (ESRI and ERDAS products), remote sensing products and consultancy services for a wide range of clients and sectors. Clients included all the main international donor organisations operating in Botswana, the Government of Botswana, NGO's and the private sector.

Achievements

- Lead GIS and remote sensing consultant, the Botswana Range Inventory and Monitoring Programme. Department for International Development (UK) / Ministry of Agriculture (Botswana).
- Spatial data and technology advisor, the Forestry Inventory and Monitoring Programme, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (Germany) / Ministry of Agriculture (Botswana).
- Spatial data and technology advisor, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Botswana.
- Remote sensing and GIS consultant, Luangwa National Park wildlife monitoring programme, USAID / Government of Zambia.
- Geospatial consultant, Botswana Power Corporation, Gaborone, Botswana.
- Geospatial consultant, Okavango Delta Tsetse fly monitoring programme. Department for International Development (UK) / Ministry of Agriculture (Botswana).
- Technical advisor, National Spatial Data Infrastructure & Architecture, Department of Survey and Mapping, Government of Botswana.
- Remote sensing and GIS consultant, Department of Town and Regional Planning, Government of Botswana.
- Remote sensing and GIS consultant, Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Government of Botswana.
- Remote sensing and GIS consultant, International Union for Conservation of Nature (Botswana).

1990 - 1995 Senior Geologist, De Beers Prospecting, Botswana.

Qualifications

1998: Southampton University; B.Sc Hons. Geology 2:1
1989: Leicester University; M.Sc. Mining Geology & Mineral Exploration
Current: University of London / Natural History Museum; Ph.D. candidate, Vertebrate Palaeontology

CV last updated: January 2020