

The Species Recovery Trust Trustees' Annual Report 2015

The Species Recovery Trust
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Registered in England and Wales Charity 1146387

Summary Information

Reference and administrative information

Charity Name: The Species Recovery Trust

Charity Number: 1146387

Address: 37 Albany Road, Salisbury, SP1 3YQ

Trustees: Jed Hamblin-Boone, Nicholas Berry, Sally Eaton, Louise Stewart

Structure Governance and Management

Type of governing document: Charity Constitution, registered with the Charity Commission on the 1st March 2012. There shall be no fewer than three trustees. New trustees must be members of the charity and are elected by the members in general meeting. The trustees may also appoint any person who is willing to act as a trustee.

Objectives and Activities

Matching our goals

Our stated aims are as follows:

To promote the conservation and protection of species on the edge of extinction in the UK for the public benefit and to advance the education of the public on issues concerning the conservation and protection of such species.

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the charity commission on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

- In 2015 we took our species work forwards on fifteen species.
- Our training programme was very successful, with over 435 attendees this year and positive feedback received.
- Our profile continues to expand, through our work, our courses and online presence.
- We had a strong year financially, both through our commercial activities and fundraising work.



Conservation

Over the year we have made considerable progress on a number of our species recovery programmes, with work on Deptford Pink, Heath Lobelia, Field Gentian, Cosnard's Net-winged Beetle, Marsh Clubmoss and the Wart-biter Bush Cricket.

1. Habitat management for Deptford Pink carried out last winter proved successful, with 21 Deptford Pink plants recorded adjacent to the railway track in Saltash this August.
2. As part of our Saving Heath Lobelia Project, we kept a close eye on the 6 UK sites where this species is found and worked with landowners and managers to ensure that suitable management is implemented.
3. Over the summer we surveyed 19 sites for Field Gentian, five in Cornwall and 14 in the New Forest. In the New Forest, we found that Field Gentian continues to survive in eight of the 14 sites, but seems to have been lost from six of them. In Cornwall, more than 200 plants were found on the Lizard Downs, which meant that we were able to collect seeds for the Millennium Seed Bank.
4. Cosnard's Net-winged Beetle was rediscovered in the Wye Valley.
5. Rushmoor Borough Council awarded us a grant to help reverse the plight of Marsh Clubmoss at several sites in the Thames Basin Heaths.
6. We started work on a habitat corridor for the Wart-biter Bush Cricket at Lydden Temple Ewell, and on a model to predict habitat suitability for this species across Kent. This model will help to inform future translocation projects.
7. Our monitoring work on Spike Rampion and Starved Wood-sedge showed the largest overall population number seen in the last decade, which is partly attributable to our management work over the last 4 years, although both these species still face an uncertain future.
8. Our archaeophytes project has proved extremely challenging, with so far no populations of either Darnel or Upright Goosefoot established. However this year we were able to collect a significant amount of Darnel seed from the Arran Isles in Ireland, which Kew Gardens have managed to propagate.

Training

1. In 2015 we ran 38 training courses and taught over 435 people (130 in 2014) people.
2. This raised just over £23,700 for the organisation, to be used for our species recovery programmes. (This compares to £13,000 for 2014 and £9000 for 2013)
3. Our 'Golden Ticket' promotion, offering one person a free place on ten training courses received great acclaim.

Social Media and Press

1. The Butterfly Effect, an exhibition at the Greenhouse Gallery in Norwich, featured the work of the Species Recovery Trust with a particular focus on the Lost Life Project.
2. Our guide to the identification of grasses film was received well by the public. To date 678 people have watched it in four months
3. Our Facebook page has 775 followers (up from 383 in 2014 and 160 in 2013), and our most popular post reached 3,245 people (up from 2,001 in 2014 1,300 in 2013).
4. Our website had 9,451 sessions (up from 8,807 in 2014 and 5,554 in 2013).
5. Our Twitter feed has 934 followers (516 in 2014).

Fundraising

1. In total, fundraising has raised £37,570 this year (up from £10,500 in 2014 – part of this is due to three 2014 projects only being claimable in 2015).
2. The Archaeophyte project received £4,000 in funding from Natural England.
3. The Deptford Pink project received £9,391 funding from the SITA Trust.
4. The Starved Wood-sedge project received £3,689 funding from the SITA Trust.
5. The Cornwall Community Foundation contributed £639 to surveys for Field Gentian in Cornwall.
6. Rushmoor Borough Council provided £2,500 for work on Marsh Clubmoss.
7. Michael Marks Charitable Trust donated £5,000 for work on the Wart-biter Bush Cricket.
8. Diomed Pharmaceuticals (Bazuka) donated £10,000 to build a habitat corridor for the Wart-biter Bush Cricket.
9. Dover District Council provided £1,000 for work on the Wart-biter Bush Cricket habitat model.
10. Private donation and supporter subscriptions brought in a further £1,065 and we raised £286 from the sale of merchandise.

Summary Receipts and Payments accounts for the year ended 31 Dec 2015

Summary

Our income was £68,256, roughly double what we forecast. We spent £48,167, which was over what we anticipated, meaning we ended the year in a credit of £20,090, giving us an end of year bank balance of £60,541.

Reserves Policy

Our current reserves policy is to hold at least two years' running costs in our account, which is currently £64,200.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The total of the charity's assets is £79,658 and the total of the charity's liabilities is £5,324.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.



Signature

Full name: JED HAMBLIN-BOONE

Position: Chair of the Trustees

Date: 17 March 2016