



# The Species Recovery Trust

## Trustees' Annual Report 2012

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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 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012

Trustees appointment: Trustees hold office for a maximum of three years before re-election. At present there is no maximum term of office.

## 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.*

To that effect we

1. Consulted with our partners to produce a dossier of species in need of conserving
2. Initiated and coordinated three species projects
3. Reached over 400 people and improved their understanding of nature

## Report

2012 has been a significant year for us. In January we were still very much a concept rather than an entity, and from that point we have now become fully established as a charity, built up our website and training programme and most importantly started work on the first cohort of species.

Our headline achievements were as follows:

### Development

1. Establishing, launching and developing our website. The website was viewed by 1701 people during 2012..
2. Publicity raising. Our organisation was featured in articles in British Wildlife Magazine, DEFRA Biodiversity News, and in blogs from two conservationists.
3. Setting up a Facebook page.
4. Over fifteen volunteers were recruited to carry out projects for us, of whom six have become long-term volunteers with ongoing work.

### Conservation

1. Over the year we liaised with the majority of conservation NGOs in the UK, and specialist taxonomic group about our existence and plans for joint working
2. We shortlisted 45 potential species to work on, and initiated species recovery projects on 13 of them
3. Three projects, on Spiked Rampion, Heath Lobelia and Saving Starved Wood-sedge were actively run, with surveys at 10 sites, woodland managed at one site and a steering-group report and a short film produced on the projects.
4. Six species specialists were recruited to the trust, to act as voluntary advisers at this stage and eventually to become employed project officers when the projects are fully operational.
5. 'Lost Life' – a major project tracking all the species thought to have become extinct in England in the last 200 years was devised and significantly progressed, and images tracked down for almost two-thirds of those species. In 2014 we hope to launch this project, with a short film, an online database of the images and awareness raising on species extinction.

### Education

1. In 2012 we ran over 20 training courses and taught over 400 people. Not only did this deliver our remit of increasing people's understanding of nature, but also raised just over £10,000 for the organisation, money which is now being used for our species recovery programme. We received some glowing reports from the courses, and feel we have really opened up conservation and ecology to the public.



## Summary Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 Dec 2012

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
<b>Income</b>			
Donations	£10,154	£0	£10,154
Endowments	£0	£0	£0
Grants	£0	£0	£0
Training	£5,470		£5,470
Consultancy	£6,901		£6,901
Supporter	£120		£120
Appeals	£0	£0	£0
Legacies	£0	£0	£0
Investment income	£0		£0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£22,644</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£22,644</b>

<b>Expenditure</b>			
Salaries	£2,250	£0	£2,250
Contractors	£250	£0	£250
Project Delivery	£0	£0	£0
Travel/Subsistence	£1,527	£0	£1,527
Marketing	£18	£0	£18
Equipment	£124	£0	£124
Consumables	£119	£0	£119
Various	£291	£0	£291
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£4,579</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£4,579</b>

<b>Totals</b>	<b>£18,066</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£18,066</b>
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## Rationale

In 2012 our policy was to build up our reserves to a point where we would start 2013 on a firm financial setting from which to pay salaries and running species projects. The low (zero) spend on conservation projects was wholly due to the amazing work carried out by our volunteers and interns, who between them have carried out more than 200 days work for the charity.

While income from membership and grant-giving bodies was slightly lower than anticipated the income from training courses and associated contracts brought in significantly more than expected.

## Reserves Policy

Our current reserves policy is to hold at least £5000 in our account, which represents the original endowment we were granted on formation.

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The Charity currently holds neither assets nor liabilities.



## Projects



Spiked Rampion (©Belinda Wheeler)



Heath Lobelia (©Gemma Neech)

### Spiked Rampion

Monitoring work carried out over summer 2012 revealed that five of the nine sites where the flowers grow are now supporting fractionally more plants following on from woodland management work the previous winter, which is hugely encouraging. Sadly two sites are continuing to decline and many sites are still 'critical' with fewer than ten plants. But this early success shows that with the correct work we should be able eventually to save this species.

Meanwhile at Kew Gardens in Wakehurst, the UK Native Seed Hub has managed to raise their first generation of captive plants. These are vital to the project, allowing us to both study the plants more closely, and also re-introduce them to sites only supporting one plant (Spiked Rampion cannot self fertilise so at present these sites are functionally extinct).

### Heath Lobelia

This plant is a spectacular native of boggy heathland, but we believe it is now confined to only six sites across southern England. Two of the sites are managed by wildlife trusts and are showing thriving populations, but the other four sites are in grave danger of becoming locally extinct. For the last twenty years the conservation of such species was led by UK Biodiversity Action Plans, but these programmes no longer exist, and species like this one, with scattered sites across several counties are sadly likely to suffer gravely as a result of this change of policy.

We are currently applying for funding to set up a nationwide monitoring programme and to start emergency habitat management work where it is most needed.



## Starved Wood-sedge

In December we carried out some essential woodland management work for the Critically Endangered Starved Wood-sedge (*Carex depauperata*). This plant is now known from only two native sites in the UK, neither of which is in optimal condition for it. This secret site in Surrey has already staged one spectacular recovery, as it was believed extinct until the great storm of 1987, after which it appeared for the first time in decades when seeds which had lain deep in the soil were exposed by a falling tree. The site is now in danger of becoming overgrown again, so we launched our own conservation 'storm' to create the open conditions needed. We are hugely grateful to Natural England for producing the funds for this, along with the helpful owner of the site.

We have made a short film about this work which is on the 'Projects' section of our website



The site before



The site after clearance work with the plants visible in the centre of shot