

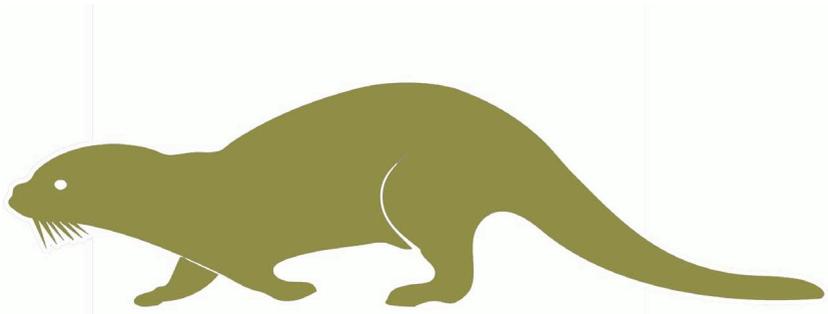
people's trust for  
**endangered  
species**



**Annual Report 2009**

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PTES, 15 Cloisters House, 8 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4BG

tel: 020 7498 4533

enquiries@ptes.org

fax: 020 7498 4459

www.ptes.org

registered charity number 27420

Front page photo credits: scrambling shrub Achille Assogbadjo; elephant Richard Kock;

noble chafer Matt Smith; hazel dormouse Andrew Shaw

## What we are about

We are an independent conservation charity that addresses the plight of endangered species worldwide. The loss of biodiversity has a direct impact on us all. It affects world food supplies and water availability; it limits the search for new medicines; it increases our vulnerability to natural disasters and heightens the effects of climate change.

The Trust pursues its charitable objectiveness by seeking solutions to conservation problems based on scientific assessment and putting those solutions into practice.

This year our work protecting precious and precarious habitats in the UK has grown further. Our well established work creating an inventory of the traditionally managed orchards in England has continued apace and we have a new and exciting project to protect hedgerows, a habitat of great importance to a wealth of species.

Through our grants programme we have helped to conserve dormice in Russia, snow leopards in Mongolia, echidnas in Papua New Guinea, orangutans in Indonesia and elephants in Kenya. We have supported work on many other species too including flower bees and beetles in the UK, crocodiles in the Philippines and the scrambling shrub of Benin.



Gail Angela Campbell Smith

## Supporting excellence in conservation

Our **worldwide grants** scheme for practical conservation of the whole range of endangered species continues apace.

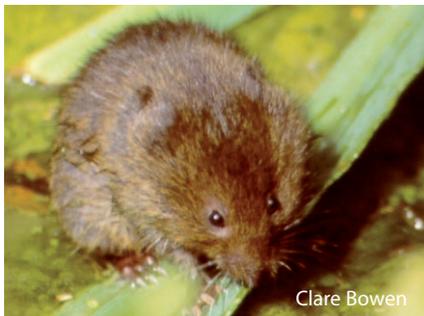
Through our special campaign fund for conservation work on **UK mammals**, we are also supporting projects on red squirrels, hedgehogs, bats, brown hares, dormice, harvest mice and otters and we continue to be closely involved with the national steering groups for the Biodiversity Action Plans for water voles and red squirrels. A full list of all the projects we have funded this year can be found on page 19.

We were delighted to support the re-introduction of **beavers** to the Knapdale Forest. The beavers will be tracked and data will be collected over five years to help

the Scottish Government in making decisions on the future of beavers in Scotland.

PTES also co-funded feasibility studies into the re-introduction of beavers to both England and Wales.

To encourage the highest quality people to set out on a career in conservation, we run an **internship programme**. Five UK internships were awarded to support young conservationists working on red squirrels, bats, water voles and badgers. This year for the first time, we also awarded two internships for invertebrate conservation to support our longstanding interest in these species. The projects focused on oil beetles and silver-studded blue butterflies.



Clare Bowen



Allard Martinus

## Priority species and habitats

Understanding the status of wildlife species is essential in setting conservation priorities and taking effective action.

We run two **annual surveys of mammal species**. *Living with Mammals* collected records from around 500 urban sites in 2009 and a new *Living with Mammals* website, built in-house, will be launched next year.

Financial support from Britpave this year allowed us to publicise our *Mammals on Roads* survey more widely. This resulted in 200 new volunteers taking

part. An online system is under development that will allow records to be submitted using interactive maps.

Data collected from all our species surveys and research are entered on the National Biodiversity Network gateway, the national repository of all monitoring records.



Christine Holloway

## Priority species and habitats

Our longstanding commitment to conserving **hazel dormice** continues: a species in steady decline and an indicator of the state of our woodlands and hedgerows. In 2009 the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme, celebrated its 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. For the past two decades volunteers have been collecting data at sites throughout England and Wales. Its longevity makes it a vitally important data set.

The achievement was celebrated by our *Go Nuts for Dormice* campaign. We sold dormouse cookie cutters and distributed dormouse collection boxes to encourage fundraising.

Analysis of the data revealed that the rate of decline in dormouse populations has slowed considerably over the last few years and it seems likely that better habitat management might have contributed.

A third *Great Nut Hunt* was launched in October. Over 3,000 people registered to take part. Twenty silver and one golden hazel nut pendant symbolising the 21 years were 'hidden' in woodlands for nut hunters to claim. The hunt resulted in potentially 70 new dormouse sites.

This year we secured an agreement with Doncaster Prison where the inmates are making nest boxes to use in monitoring sites, saving around 70% of the previous cost.

Dormice were released at a woodland in Warwickshire in June as part of our reintroduction programme. At the first nest box check in September, a litter of young were found indicating that they are reproducing in their new surroundings.

Our dormouse work is co-funded with Natural England.



## Priority species and habitats

**Hedgerows** provide vital living corridors for dormice and other species to live in and move between woodlands. With support from Natural England's Countdown 2010 scheme, our *Hedgerows for Dormice* project is now well underway. Using all the dormouse records we hold, dormouse hotspots, where we will concentrate our efforts, were identified in four counties.

Workshops on hedgerow surveying were held in these areas and volunteers were allocated local hedgerows to survey. Hedgerow management workshops were offered to

landowners and managers. The project will help re-plant missing hedgerows and gap up existing ones, transforming the health of the countryside.

As hedgerows are important in dormouse conservation we ran a *Reconnecting the Countryside* competition this year to encourage the creation of dormouse-friendly hedgerows. We awarded the first prize of £1,000 to Keith Allen in Monmouthshire for planting, laying and improving 500m of hedgerow.



## Priority species and habitats

Habitat fragmentation, intense agricultural practices, climate change and other human activities are threatening our **invertebrates**. We lead the national Biodiversity Action Plans for stag beetles, violet click beetles and noble chafer beetles.

Over the last two years members of the public have recorded nearly 2,000 **stag beetle** records, both online and through the survey forms. These will be incorporated into a report on this, the third *Great Stag Hunt* to be published in 2010. The data will also be collated with all other European

records and published to see how stag beetles in the UK are faring compared with Europe.

**Violet click beetles** are extremely rare and our work focuses on making sure there is suitable habitat in the few places where they might still exist. Ten artificial breeding sites were put in Windsor Great Park, the main site for the beetles, together with data loggers to find out more about the temperature, humidity and other conditions inside. Happily this year a violet click larva was found at Windsor.



## Priority species and habitats

Following our exciting recent find of a previously unknown **noble chafer beetle** population in Kent, we focused attention in the area. We have now found evidence of its presence in another site, about 10 miles from the first site, and thus likely to be a separate population.

Survey work was also commissioned in the New Forest where there is a discrete and little studied population of noble chafers.



To aid future surveying, we are funding research at Royal Holloway, University of London, into non-invasive methods of detecting the presence of beetle larvae.



## Priority species and habitats

Noble chafer beetles are restricted almost entirely to the dead and decaying wood of old fruit trees in **traditional orchards**.

Over several years now we have been very active in the conservation of traditional orchards. Our project to digitally map all the traditional orchards of England continues using aerial photographs verified by volunteer effort on the ground.

Maps of orchards in 23 counties have been completed and the data can be downloaded from the Natural England website. Butterfly Conservation, for example, has used the data to increase knowledge of the mistletoe marbled moth, an endangered priority species.

Volunteer survey work and liaison continued in all counties. A leaflet about orchard management was sent to orchard owners, orchard groups and other interested parties.

During the year we carried out a scoping study for producing a Welsh orchard inventory. This included the translation of the forms and instructions into Welsh to provide a bilingual survey pack.

PTES is represented on the national orchard Habitat Action Plan group and has been assisting in defining targets, condition assessments and other definitions.

Our orchard work is supported by Natural England and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.



## Protecting important habitats

PTES owns two nature reserves which we manage to protect the important species within.

**Bridlesford Woods** comprises 160 hectares of ancient broad-leaved woodland on the Isle of Wight. It is an internationally-recognised conservation area, home to a unique array of endangered wildlife including red squirrels, hazel dormice and several rare species of bat.

We are gradually restoring the Woods to their former glory. We employ a coppice rotation to maximise the diversity and availability of plants, such as bramble, for the dormice and red squirrels to feed on. This also allows light to the woodland floor to encourage the wildflower growth thereby attracting many insects.

This year we planted 50 new hazel trees and 230 meters of hedgerow. We also took a work party to the site to help with seed collecting so that trees of local provenance can be nurtured and then planted in the wood in the future.

In addition a number of 'box junctions' have been cut beside woodland rides which have been widened to increase light in the woodland for flowers and butterflies.

It is both useful and important to have accurate records of what we have done and where the important features are. Therefore we have used GPS to map fences, coppice areas and special trees that are host to rare lichen species.



## Protecting important habitats

Wildlife monitoring is essential and over 500 dormouse nest boxes are regularly monitored: 2009 was a 'good' year for dormice. In June we found that six of our 13 barn owl nest boxes contained barn owl nests.

We have added three new field ponds and many rare dragonflies and damselflies have moved in.

Parts of the woodland are open to the public and many people enjoy Briddlesford. We took parties of people into the restricted areas on a 'spring explorer' woodland walk and on one of the dormouse monitoring weekends.

We are grateful to all our advisors and surveyors, for the continued efforts of the Island Conservation Volunteers, who organise regular

work parties and to the volunteer students from Merrist Wood College.

We are also indebted to the Daise Rich Trust, the John Spedan Lewis Foundation and the Rowan Bentall Charitable Trust for their financial support.



## Protecting important habitats

At **Rough Hill**, our ancient orchard in Worcestershire on the banks of the River Avon, we received funding from D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust to make the orchard safe for grazing cattle.

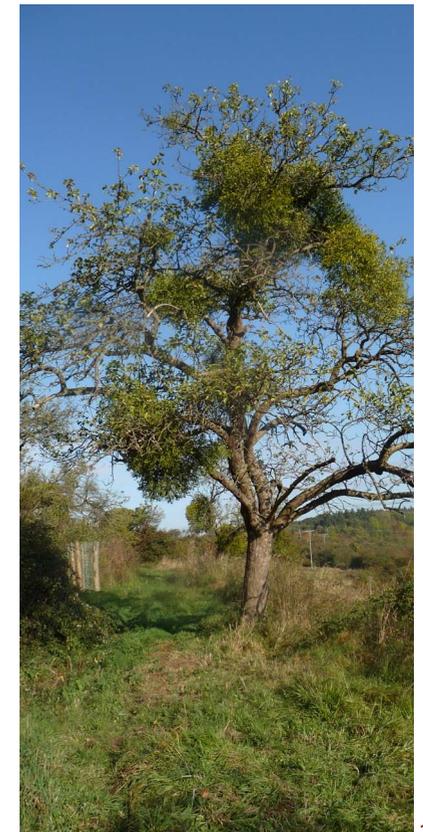
This will involve installing a drinking trough and a water supply, building a corral and making adjustments to the fencing and gates to allow controlled access to the site whilst keeping it stock proof. Any young trees will also need to be protected with tree guards to prevent the cattle from browsing them.



The Dexter cattle will help to control the scrub regrowth and add an extra interest to the orchard.

The terraces have been flailed to keep back the nettles and promote wildflower growth.

A twayblade orchid was found at Rough Hill in May - a new record for the site.



## Involving people in conservation

We regularly attend **public events** to promote our work to new audiences, spread the word about conservation and recruit new supporters. This year we focused on smaller events including the Brighton Science Festival, Southbank's *Pestival*, Epping Forest Festival, Bentley Weald Wood Fair and *Kent Goes Wild*. We reached a total of around 50,000 people resulting in a number of donations, new volunteers and e-newsletter sign ups.

Another way in which we involve many longstanding and new supporters in our work is through our programme of wildlife watching events, both in the UK and abroad. Over 600 bookings were made on

*Wildlife Encounters* in 2009, with about half of these being new to the events and the majority of those new to PTES altogether. Overseas trips went to Andalucia, the Bay of Biscay and India.

We now have our own **Facebook** and **Twitter** profiles through which we are gradually attracting new audiences.

We have continued to increase our **kids' club** membership by forming partnerships with Girl Guiding UK, the Scout Association and other organisations. We have developed the kids' area of the website and improved the printed activities.



## Fundraising and finance

The online shop was revamped in time for Christmas and included our new range of *Gifts of Nature* which are virtual gifts.

A new *Gift Republic* adoption box was created on elephants. These boxes are available in major retail outlets. This scheme has brought over 4,000 people to us and they join the over 20,000 people who regularly receive our e-newsletter and are being encouraged to become regular donors. There are now five wildlife boxes available and we hope to develop more.

We are convinced that working with others is the way to reach new people and as well as the partners mentioned above, we have working relationships with LookOutScout (a children's organic clothing website), Black Country Metal Works (that creates hedgehog products) and the Wicked Fruit Company.

In February, to mark the Darwin bicentenary, the Reed Foundation matched any donations made through the Big Give website, up to a given limit. PTES was one of five wildlife charities selected to benefit and we promoted the opportunity vigorously through our e-newsletter with an outstanding response. We raised well over £12,000 this way and found some new donors too.



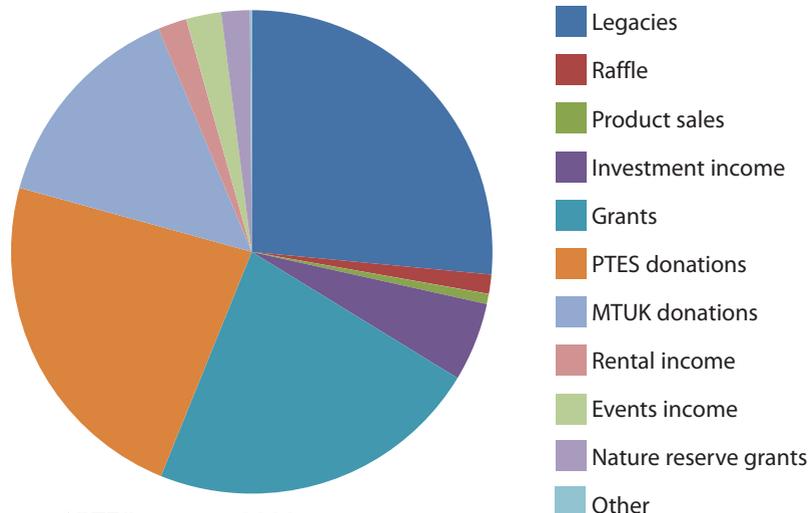
## Fundraising and finance

With regard to **finances**, 2009 was a challenging year as economic events around the world unfolded, but we managed to maintain our income through a series of innovative fundraising techniques, some much valued legacies and success with grant funding which enabled us to further expand our activities. 2010 also promises to be unpredictable financially but we remain optimistic and look forward to the challenge.

The income for the year amounted to £1,368,286 and the expenditure was £1,314,865. The total funds available, including fixed assets, were £2,484,463.

**Legacies** to the Trust are an enormously valuable addition to our funds and we benefited greatly from several such bequests in 2009 which have been especially important to us in such an unstable time in the financial markets. We are greatly indebted people who show such faith in our work.

In 2009 legacy income was £362,551, a little less than 2008 but still the highest source of income to the charity.



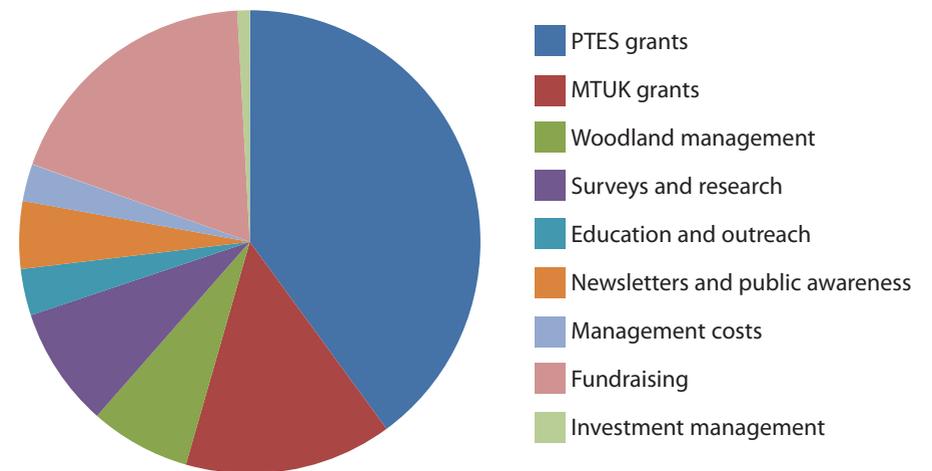
16 Sources of PTES' income 2009

## PTES people

Day-to-day management of the Trust is carried out by the Chief Executive, supported by thirteen full-time members of staff and one part time. The staffing level increased by one over the year to work on the *Hedgerows for Dormice* project. We continue to employ an experienced public relations company to enhance our media exposure, with considerable success.

The Trust is chaired by Dr Mike Richardson supported by trustees Ms Sheila Anderson, Sylvia Kahn-Freund and Dr Valerie Keeble.

PTES also benefits enormously from the hard work of volunteers helping us in the office with data entry and administrative tasks as well as out in the field recording sightings for our surveys.



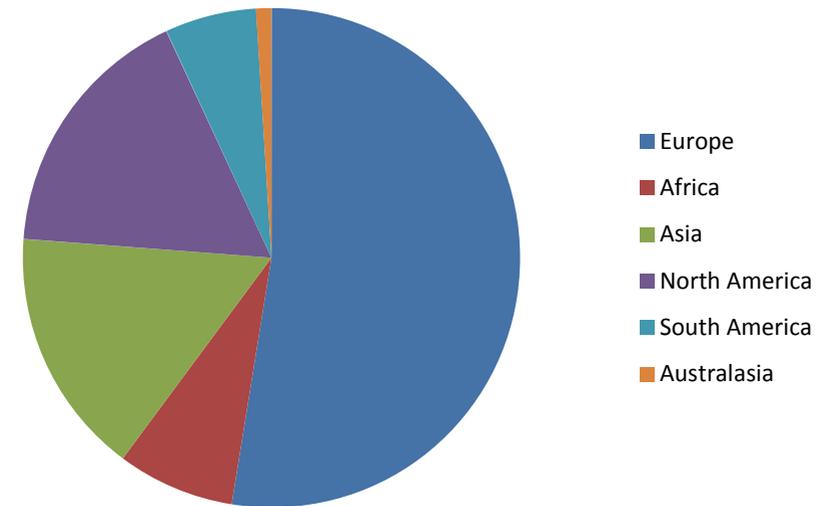
Expenditure of PTES 2009

## Grants awarded in 2009

Through our **worldwide grants** we have supported a number of interesting and varied projects this year:

- ANAI, Costa Rica - sea turtles £29,750
- CRICYT Mendoza, Argentina - Argentinian armadillos £3,000
- Durrell Institute for Conservation & Ecology (DICE), Sumatra - tigers £2,500
- DICE, Sumatra - sun bears £3,000
- DICE, Sumatra - orangutans £4,111
- Hymethus Ltd, UK - flower bees £8,308
- Institute of Biological Research, Papua New Guinea - long-beaked echidnas £3,000
- Institute for Ecological Research, Brazil - black lion tamarins £5,000
- Mabuwaya Foundation, Philippines - Philippine crocodiles £6,000
- Marine Conservation Society, Turks and Caicos Islands - sea turtles £6,314
- Natural History Museum, UK - beetles £3,000
- North Ossetian State Nature, Armenia - Armenian mouflons £4,535
- RASI Foundation, Indonesia - freshwater cetaceans £2,000
- Royal Holloway University of London (RHUL), UK - water voles £55,465
- RHUL, UK - hedgehogs £34,021
- RHUL, UK - violet click and noble chafer beetles £7,787
- Russian Academy of Sciences, Daghestan - forest dormice £3,004
- Scottish Wildlife Trust, Scotland - beavers £20,000
- Snow leopard Conservation Fund, Mongolia - snow leopards £6,500
- South East Mammals Group, UK - water voles £750
- University of Aberdeen, Scotland - water voles £3,815
- University of Abomey, Benin - scrambling shrubs £9,050
- Universtiy of Medicine and Pharmacy, Romania - dormice/saproxylic beetles £3,000
- University of Stirling, UK - bat species £2,800
- Veterinary Laboratories Agency, UK - red squirrels £2,958
- WildCRU, University of Oxford - general funding £50,000
- ZSL, Montserrat - moutain chicken frogs £5,000
- ZSL, Mongolia - long eared jerboas £6,883
- ZSL, Sardinia - Sardinian newts £7,275
- ZSL, Kenya - elephants £4,000

## Grants awarded in 2009



Geographical allocation of worldwide grants 2009



Maniella Superina

## Grants awarded in 2009

The following grants in support of mammal conservation in the UK were awarded:

- Bat Conservation Trust - bat species £16,607
- University of Aberdeen - water voles £833
- WildCRU, University of Oxford - harvest mice £20,073
- Suffolk Wildlife Trust - harvest mice £8,650
- Brecknock Wildlife Trust - red squirrels £15,000
- University of Exeter - hazel dormice £6,852
- University of Leeds - bat species £7,900
- North Wales Wildlife Trust - hazel dormice £13,956
- University of Bristol - lesser horseshoe bats £6,100

Internships were given as follows:

- Sussex Wildlife Trust - water voles £4,000
- Bat Conservation Trust - bat species £4,000
- University of Bristol - lesser horseshoe bats £3,960
- Zoological Society of London - red squirrels £4,000
- WildCRU, University of Oxford - badgers £4,000
- Centre for Ecology and Hydrology - silver studded blue butterflies £4,000
- Buglife - oil beetles £3,820



**If you have supported us  
in any way throughout  
2009 please accept our  
sincere thanks.**

*Thank you!*