

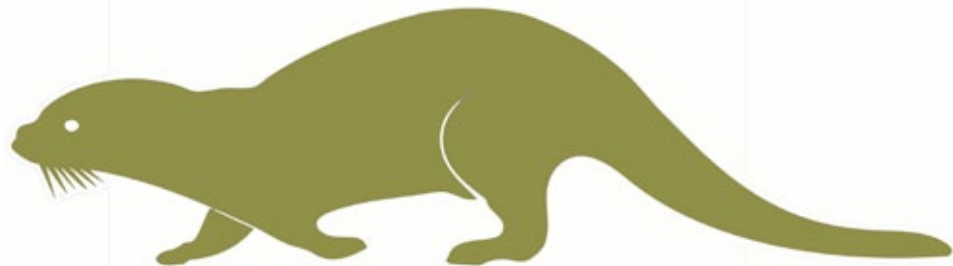
people's trust for
**endangered
species**



Annual Report 2010

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What we are about

At a meeting of trustees and staff in September to discuss strategy going forward, we reaffirmed our fundamental mission to safeguard endangered species and habitats. Conservation work strives for diverse, sustainable landscapes. The fate of any individual species reflects our success or failure in conserving landscapes and habitats. The well-being of all species, including our own, is intrinsically linked and our future is interdependent. To thrive, the natural world needs careful nurturing and people need a healthy natural environment. Our vision is for wildlife and people to flourish and share a healthy environment.

We continue to concentrate our effort on vulnerable species and habitats with the potential to highlight broad conservation challenges. Our success is built on the involvement of many people and we work with partners to maximise impact.

This year our continuing programme of supporting our own research projects and those of independent conservationists has continued apace. Our work to create an inventory of traditional orchards, and to reconnect and restore hedgerows, has developed significantly and our regular surveys have given us timely warnings of species in trouble. Plans are now developing fast for a major campaign to help Britain's hedgehogs which will be launched to the public next year. We have also continued to engage people in practical conservation projects in the firm belief that by taking part, even at a modest level, everyone can contribute to successful conservation.



Supporting excellence in conservation

We had an unusually high number of applications for **worldwide grants** this year, no doubt a reflection of the current economic times.

Among the world's many endangered species we supported work on hyaenas, giraffes, gibbons, guenons, gorillas, leopards, neotropical otters, wild dogs, lions, cheetahs, wolves, saiga antelope, sea turtles, spur-tailed tortoises, southern rockhopper penguins, medicinal trees, mountain chicken frogs, maras, river dolphins, and orang-utans. Species closer to home in the UK included pine martens, bats, brown hares, dormice, mink, harvest mice,

freshwater pearl mussels, stag beetles, noble chafers and violet click beetles.

We continued to support the beaver re-introduction in Scotland and were delighted to hear the exciting news that beaver kits were born this spring.

Four **internships** were awarded to support recent students who wish to launch careers in mammal conservation. This year the projects concerned bats and deer.

A full list of all the projects we have funded during 2010 appears on page 17.



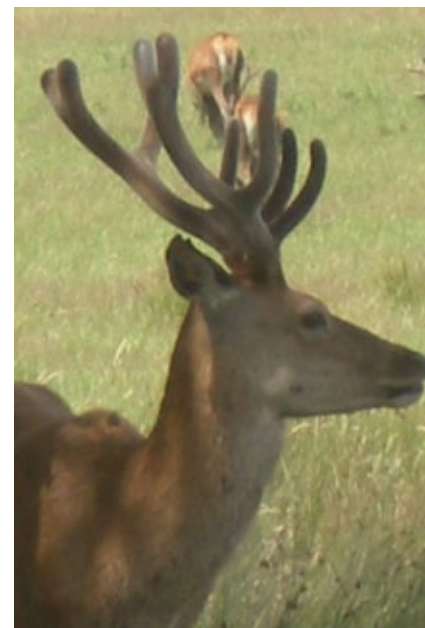
Priority species and habitats

Our two annual **surveys of Britain's wild mammals**, *Living with Mammals* and *Mammals on Roads*, both depend on volunteers to build an emerging picture of how our mammal species are faring. Together, these surveys describe the urban and wider landscapes, and are helping us to identify priorities for conservation action.

Over six hundred people took part in *Living with Mammals* 2010, with an increasing number doing so online. Financial support from Britpave supported an advertising campaign for *Mammals on Roads*.

An online facility for this survey is also being developed.

One very worrying emerging trend is the serious decline of hedgehogs. This prompted us successfully to urge the government to include hedgehogs on the list of conservation priority species and to plan a campaign to help the species (see page 6). This is exactly why regular monitoring of our wildlife is so important. It enables us to identify when a species is in trouble and take action before it is too late.



Priority species and habitats

A substantial legacy left by wildlife broadcaster Dilys Breese, who had a particular interest in and fondness for hedgehogs, generously matched by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, enabled us to work together to plan a campaign to help these much loved animals.

A scoping study identified the need to verify our data with other wildlife surveys to clarify the extent of the problem. We asked the British Trust for Ornithology to compare our information with their survey data and that of other conservation organisations so that we can publish a 'state of

hedgehogs' report next year. We also commissioned a series of practical research projects to find out more about how to monitor hedgehogs reliably (as they are shy and nocturnal) and how to assess which habitat features and food sources they prefer.

A further range of practical activities is also planned: a promotion to encourage urban and suburban garden owners to make their neighbourhoods hedgehog-friendly, management advice for farmers and other land owners, and support for hedgehog carers.



Priority species and habitats

PTES coordinates the national monitoring of dormice presence or absence with support from Natural England. Information collected over the year came from 1,424 visits to 254 dormouse sites by volunteer monitors. We are grateful to all the volunteer monitors.

A dormouse re-introduction programme is rebuilding dormouse populations in areas of their historical range where they have disappeared. There have now been 17 dormouse releases, with all but three being successful to some extent. Last year dormice were re-introduced in Warwickshire and this year we

released further animals at the same site and checks confirm that they are nesting.

This collaborative programme involves partners at ZSL, Paignton Zoo, the Common Dormouse Captive Breeders Group, private and public landowners, local dormouse groups, local mammal groups, local Wildlife Trusts and Natural England.

We continue to monitor the past re-introduction sites and encourage appropriate surrounding land management to persuade the dormice to spread from the release sites.



Priority species and habitats

Our *Hedgerows for Dormice* project is reconnecting isolated dormouse populations by gapping-up and planting hedgerows and encouraging good practice in hedgerow management. As well as restoring quality habitat for dormice, many other species will also benefit from the regeneration of hedgerows.

Within dormouse 'hotspots' we have carefully digitally mapped over 7,500 hedgerows. The top-priority hedgerows that connect isolated dormouse populations have been identified with the help of carefully trained survey volunteers. In partnership with local conservation groups, landowners and land managers, we are ensuring that these priority hedgerows are

managed to benefit dormice in particular and wildlife in general. Where hedgerows are in a less than favourable condition, we are training and working with conservation volunteers and landowners to gap up and create new hedgerow habitat and to manage it appropriately.

To reward the conservation efforts made by the farming and landowning community to restore hedgerows and woodlands and create wildlife-friendly environments, Simon Pain from the Vale of Berkeley and Tony Seymour from Lyminge were awarded joint first prize in our *Reconnecting the Countryside* competition for together creating over a kilometre of hedgerow habitat.



Priority species and habitats

Many **invertebrate** species are facing threats. We coordinate the national conservation effort for stag beetles, violet click beetles and noble chafer beetles.

Stag beetles are highly dependent on the availability of suitable habitat. If there is enough dead wood in the stump that the adult female emerges from, she will lay her eggs there. But when people remove dead wood and keep their gardens tidy, she needs to find somewhere else to lay. In the spring we launched *Stepping Stones for Stags* to encourage people to bury upright logs in the ground to create stag beetle-friendly habitat and many people took up the challenge.



Following some sightings of **noble chafer beetles** in the New Forest by one of our volunteers, we secured a grant from the New Forest National Park Authority to research further into the noble chafer population there.

The project will involve tree surveys where we know the adults frequent, and specialist entomological surveys to examine old trees with decay and rot holes, to determine where the larvae develop. The New Forest is the only currently known location for noble chafers in England that is not an orchard or fruit tree.



Priority species and habitats

Traditional orchards are an important habitat supporting noble chafer beetles and many other interesting and endangered species. Our project to digitally map all the traditional orchards of England continued throughout the year using aerial photographs verified by volunteer effort on the ground.

The work to date is available to download from the Natural England and Defra websites and the inventory has been regularly updated as new information from volunteer surveyors comes to us. By the end of the year over 30,000 traditional orchards had been identified covering an

area of about 16,000 hectares. About a fifth of these have been verified by volunteer surveyors or from information supplied by the orchard owner. Over half the orchards have been categorised as in excellent, good or poor condition.

PTES is represented on the steering group of the traditional orchard Habitat Action Plan which leads orchard conservation in England. Our orchard work is generously supported by Natural England and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. Next year we hope to raise sufficient funding to produce a similar inventory of the traditional orchards in Wales.



Protecting important habitats

PTES owns two nature reserves which we are carefully managing to protect the important species they contain.

Bridlesford Woods, on the Isle of Wight, is a particularly fine example of ancient woodland, supporting myriad rare and threatened species. We have been preserving and nurturing it for nearly 20 years.

We operate a continuous programme of coppicing hazel to maximise the ground and scrub for dormice and red squirrels. We have planted new hedgerow and hazel trees from saplings grown from hazel nuts collected from the woodland to make sure that we

are enhancing the natural flora of the woodland. The new trees were carefully mulched to give them the best chance of survival. 'Box junctions' cut beside woodland rides and general ride widening create extra open areas to increase light in the woodland for flowers and butterflies.

A butterfly survey recorded a diverse array of species including white admirals, a UK priority species. We are proud that our current management has been so good for them, encouraging clumps of bramble, their primary nectar source, to complement the great tresses of honeysuckle which their larvae feed on.



Protecting important habitats

PTES staff and volunteer parties visited the 500 dormouse boxes that are used to monitor dormice in the woodland four times, recording 23 dormice in May, seven in June, 73 in September and 74 in October.

All our work in Briddlesford is underpinned by professional and volunteer effort which we value enormously. We are grateful to all our advisors, surveyors and monitors, for the continued efforts of the Island Conservation Volunteers group and to volunteer students. We are also indebted to the Daisie Rich Trust and other trust funds for general financial support for the woodlands.

With the help of a grant from the National Trust we planted fruit trees and installed an information board at **Rough Hill**, our ancient orchard in Worcestershire on the banks of the River Avon. We planted local varieties of plum (such as yellow egg and purple Pershore) to provide future habitat for noble chafer beetles.

We are indebted to Harry Green and other volunteers who help us look after Rough Hill.



Involving people in conservation

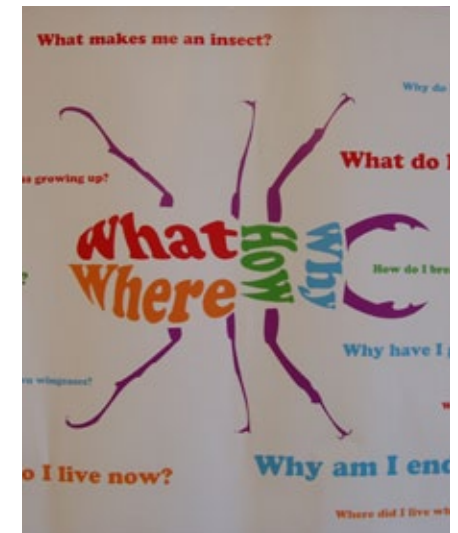
We attended a busy and varied programme of external **public events** to educate and raise awareness and get people involved with our surveys and projects. Thousands of people visited our stalls at a great variety of festivals, open days and fairs. To highlight our hedgehog work, we commissioned a sculpture of a hedgehog from recycled materials.

Over 800 longstanding and new supporters also took part in our diverse programme of *Wildlife Encounters* in 2010, over half of them for the first time and most new to PTES altogether.



The PTES kids club, *Kids Gone Wild*, is growing. Members receive quarterly magazines, seasonal activities, ask an expert email service and discounts on *Wildlife Encounters*. Many of these members regularly correspond with the 'Webster the Otter' mascot, and have raised funds for us through events such as cake and book sales.

Over 400 teachers, parents, youth leaders and others have registered to access our free online wildlife resources such as *Meet the Stag Beetle* and *Mammal Detectives* featured in the National Association for Environmental Education magazine.



Fundraising and finance

Our *Gifts of Nature* range of virtual gifts has been extended. These are a great way of donating to us when giving a gift to someone.

We continue to work with Gift Republic to sell wildlife adoption boxes through major retail outlets. Over 20,000 people regularly receive our e-newsletter and are being encouraged to become regular donors.

Two **publications** produced this year enhanced our profile – *The State of Britain's Mammals*, by Professor David Macdonald and Dr Dawn Burnham, has a special focus on invasive species, and *Britain's Mammals: a concise guide*, by David Wembridge and Clare Poland Bowen, showcases over sixty species of mammal. The former is primarily aimed at policy makers and the latter is for more general readers and available in retail outlets.



Legacies to the Trust are an enormously valuable addition to our funds and we benefited greatly from several such bequests this year which have been especially important to us in such a challenging financial climate. We are greatly indebted to people who show such faith in our work. Their gifts enable us to plan ahead and respond quickly to need where it arises. In 2010 legacy income was £473,313, considerably up on 2009 and the highest source of income to the charity.

people's trust for endangered species |

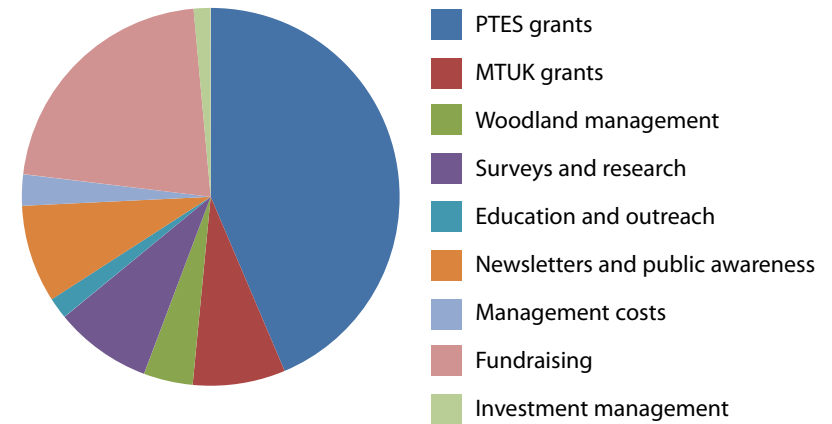


Britain's Mammals

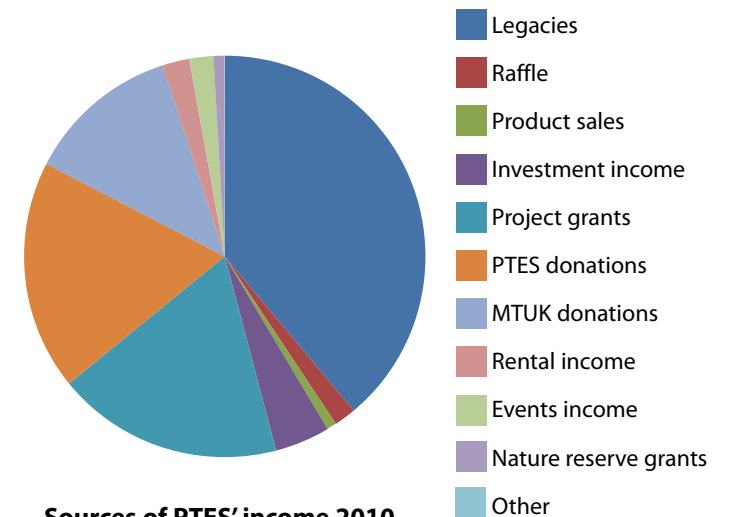


muntjac
mole
wildcat
pipistrelle
seal
badger
shrew
vole
fox
polecat
a concise guide
rabbit
otter
squirrel
dormouse
weasel
dolphin
hedgehog

Fundraising and finance



Expenditure of PTES 2010



Sources of PTES' income 2010

PTES people

The Chief Executive of the Trust is supported by thirteen full-time and one part time member of staff. We continue to employ an experienced and much valued public relations company to enhance our media exposure.

The Trust is chaired by Dr Mike Richardson supported by trustees Sheila Anderson, Sylvia Kahn-Freund and Dr Andrew Kitchener.

At the end of last year Dr Valerie Keeble retired from the board of trustees after five years of service as a trustee, preceded by 19 years as Chief Executive. Her service was exceptional and we owe her a great debt of gratitude.



PTES also benefits enormously from the hard work of volunteers who help us in the office with data entry and administrative tasks as well as out in the field recording sightings for our surveys. The interaction between our supporters and volunteers, our expert advisors and the long-term commitment of our staff is critical to our success and the trustees are grateful to them all.

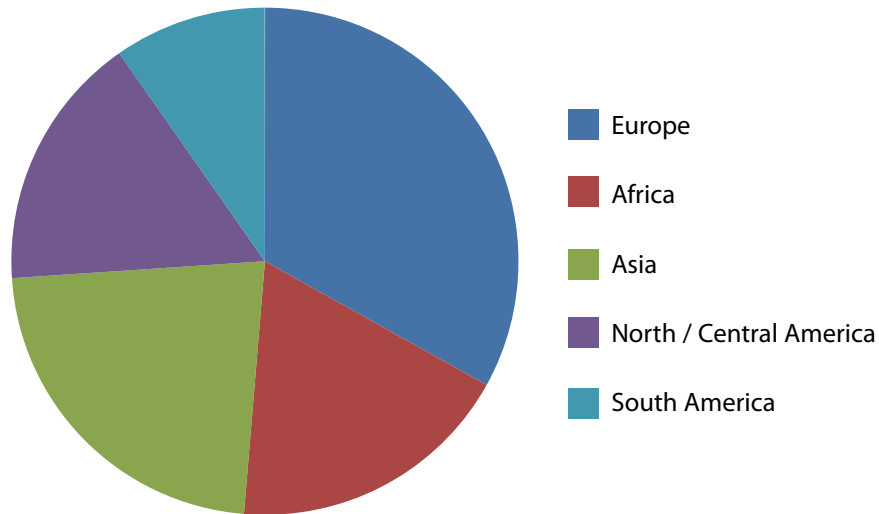


Grants awarded in 2010

Through our [worldwide grants programme](#), this year we have supported:

- ARPAF, Ukraine - barbastelle bats, pond bats £4,500
- Cheetah Outreach Trust, South Africa - cheetahs £5,000
- Community Action for Development, Cameroon - medicinal tree species £5,000
- DICE, Sumatra - orangutans £400
- Environment Agency, UK - otters £15,000
- Falklands Conservation Islands, Falkland Islands - rockhopper penguins £9,000
- Gea Chelonia, Bulgaria - spur tailed tortoises £3,852
- Gower Bird Hospital, University of Bristol, UK - hedgehogs £2,661
- Iranian Cheetah Society, Iran - Persian leopards £5,000
- Marine Conservation Society, Turks & Caicos Islands - hawksbill & green turtles £11,313
- National Museums of Kenya, Kenya - hyaenas £2,663
- NCSTRA, Argentina - maras £3,541
- Orang utan Information Centre, Indonesia - orangutans £5,997
- Primate Research Centre, India - western hoolock gibbons £7,800
- RHUL, UK - noble chafers, stag beetles and variable chafers £4,592
- RHUL, UK - violet click beetles & noble chafers £3,200
- RHUL, UK - violet click beetles £300
- Saiga Conservation Alliance, Mongolia - Saiga antelope £10,000
- Scottish Wildlife Trust, Scotland - beavers £30,000
- Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership, UK - stag beetles £600
- Tree Foundation, India - olive ridley, hawksbill and green turtles £5,000
- TRCCN, Nigeria - Sclater's guenons £1,890
- University of Bristol, Kenya - Rothschild's giraffes £3,000
- University of Cumbria, UK - freshwater pearl mussels £2,000
- University of Glasgow, Mexico - neotropical otters £5,550
- Widecast, Costa Rica - hawksbill turtles £6,000
- WildCRU, University of Oxford, UK - general conservation £40,000
- WildCRU, University of Oxford, Ethiopia - Ethiopian wolves £5,000
- WildCRU, University of Oxford, Tanzania - painted hunting dogs, lions, cheetahs £6,000
- Wildlife Conservation Society, Madagascar - Madagascar fossas, Malagasy civets £3,650
- ZSL, Montserrat - mountain chicken frogs £5,000
- ZSL, Nepal - rhinoceros, dolphins, tigers £4,500

Grants awarded in 2010



Geographical allocation of worldwide grants 2010



Grants awarded in 2010

We also helped mammal research closer to home in the UK through our special campaign fund. These grants for **British mammals** were awarded as follows:

- University of Leeds - barbastelle bats & Bechstein's bats £4,398
- Suffolk Wildlife Trust - harvest mice £8,650
- University of Exeter - hazel dormice £6,851
- Greater Manchester Ecology Unit - brown hares £4,700
- Bat Conservation Trust - Bechstein's bats £11,987
- University of Edinburgh - red squirrels £8,116

In addition we funded four **mammal internships**:

- University of Bristol - bat species £3,960
- University of Oxford - roe deer & bank voles £4,000
- University of Stirling - bat species £4,000
- University of Reading - bat species £4,000



Thank you

It has been a busy year for PTES in both conservation activity and fundraising in a continuing challenging climate. We are proud to have responded to the greater call on our funds and to help such an array of endangered species and habitats worldwide as well as achieving much in the UK. We have maintained our income by supplementing our fundraising with some welcome grant funding and much valued legacies, which enabled us to further expand our activities and start our new focus on hedgehogs.

2011 will bring its own challenges but we have exciting plans and remain optimistic for the future.

If you have supported us in any way throughout 2010 please accept our sincere thanks.



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Front page photo credits: tree planting - Martin Etone; western hoolock gibbon - Primate Research Centre, beaver - Allard martinus