



2019

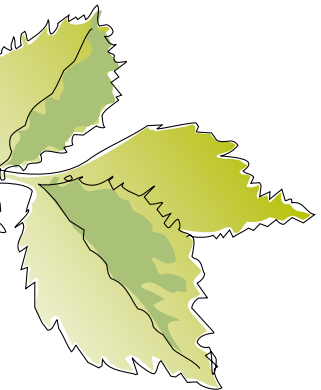
# Annual review

people's  
trust for  
**endangered**  
species

# What a difference a year makes

Our mission is to save our wildlife for the future.

Our wildlife is disappearing. Almost two thirds of species in the UK declined in the past 50 years. Over 65,000 species are on the international alert list. There's nothing natural or inevitable about this. It can be stopped. And we can all play a part. That's why People's Trust for Endangered Species exists.







## Our approach

Conserving endangered wild animals and the places where they live is a huge task. We make our limited resources work hard, using scientific evidence to judge where action's most needed and where we'll have the greatest impact.

We work with land owners, local communities, scientists and the public and take swift, sustainable action before it's too late. From hedgehogs and stag beetles in our gardens, to slow lorises in Indonesian rainforests, we work with passion to save them all.

We can't do it alone so we use our expertise and experience to inspire thousands of volunteers to monitor wildlife and improve their surroundings for nature.

**“None of our successes over more than 40 years would be possible without our fantastic volunteers, supporters and staff. Thank you for standing up for wildlife with us”**

**Dr Andrew Kitchener**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Kitchener".

Chair, People's Trust for Endangered Species

Our other trustees are Sheila Anderson, MBE, Sylvia Kahn Freund, Dr Tony Mitchell-Jones and Sandy Richardson.



# Wildlife in the UK

With one in five wild mammals threatened in Britain, it's vital we know how their numbers change over time so we can act to protect wildlife.



## Successes and plans for mammals

- > From March to September, the records we collected of wild mammals, as part of the *Living with Mammals* and *Mammals on Roads* surveys, highlighted declines in rabbits again but also a possible reduction in the decline of urban hedgehogs. More surveyors supplied data this year, many of whom used the *Mammals on Road* app. Just shy of 190,000 records from our volunteer surveyors across all species are now on the National Biodiversity Network, downloaded 1,681 times by ecologists, planners, developers and others during the year.
- > We targeted priority mammals through new research grants and internships awarded to scientists at leading universities and conservation organisations. Work undertaken benefitted water voles, hedgehogs, wildcats, hazel dormice, mountain hares, red squirrels and pygmy shrews. Beyond mammal species, we also supported internships working on adders and kelp. And we hosted our first intern, based in our offices, learning about life working in a conservation NGO.
- > We're delighted that The Rt Hon Chris Grayling, MP, continues as 'species champion' for hedgehogs in Westminster, The Rt Hon Matt Hancock, MP, for dormice, The Rt Hon Hilary Benn, MP, for water voles, and joined this year by Mr Sandy Martin, MP, for stag beetles.







## SUCCESSES AND PLANS

- > Checking nest boxes in over four hundred woodlands
- > Returning dormice to woodlands where they've gone extinct and bolstering the genetic diversity through subsequent releases
- > Building landscapes for dormice through hedgerow rejuvenation
- > Funding research into dormouse hibernation habits so we can provide the best advice to woodland owners

## Focus on dormice

Hazel dormice declined by 50% in Britain since 2000. This was the worrying headline finding from *The State of Britain's Dormice*, published this year, a summary of our huge databank of records collected by volunteer monitors.

Whilst preserving woodland and managing it carefully remains vital, our reintroduction programme is returning dormice to areas of their former range where they are locally extinct. And our research programme is progressively unlocking the secrets of this enigmatic species and informing its conservation.

These and other innovations featured at our dormouse conference for volunteer monitors and others at the University of Reading.



## Focus on hedgehogs

Through Hedgehog Street, our national campaign with the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, we're investigating the likely multiple reasons for the decline in hedgehogs by exploring their relationship with badgers, the effects of roads and wildlife tunnels, where they hibernate, and how they use gardens and other urban areas.

Our surveys are showing a slight slowing of the hedgehog decline but the loss of half the hedgehogs in rural areas over the last decade continues to be very worrying.



**HEDGEHOG  
STREET** 

**CITY OF WILDLIFE**

## SUCCESSES AND PLANS

- > Recruiting over 71,000 Hedgehog Champions through Hedgehog Street and creating hedgehog-friendly links between gardens and removing hazards
- > Targeting hedgehog-friendly management advice to building developers and to managers of public parks and other green spaces
- > And through the support of our hedgehog Species Champion, the Department of Transport introduced a new road sign, featuring a hedgehog, warning drivers to watch out for smaller mammals

## SUCCESSSES AND PLANS

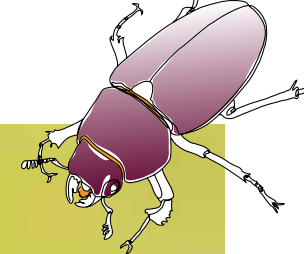
- > 129 of the 292 sites visited by our volunteer monitors had signs of water voles
- > Advising land managers on how to help water voles

## Focus on water voles

Accidental and deliberate releases of American mink and loss of healthy, protective riverbank vegetation almost eradicated water voles by the 1990s.

We're currently funding work measuring mink management and displacement, studying the curious urban grassland population in Glasgow, and mapping water vole records to inform planning applications.

Our annual monitoring programme is building a national picture of the state of water voles and is a vital tool in directing conservation activity and measuring its impact.



## Focus on invertebrates

Tidying gardens, woodlands and wood pastures of fallen wood threatens the survival of many animals, such as noble chafers and stag beetles, that depend on the dead wood.

For over a decade our *Great Stag Hunt* has collected sightings of stag beetles and their larvae, helping us conserve them effectively. And our education programmes encourage stag beetle-friendly gardens.

Testing of an innovative pheromone lure to attract live noble chafers, with Royal Holloway London University, promises much for surveying these particularly rare saproxylic (dead wood loving) beetles.

## SUCCESSSES AND PLANS

- > 8,264 stag beetles and larvae sightings this year adds to our knowledge of where they remain
- > And engaging volunteers in the UK arm of a European survey tells us how many may be left
- > New finds of noble chafers in East Sussex, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire using a chemical lure
- > Supporting scientific internships on artificial nests for solitary bees and on the European stag beetle survey



# Restoring landscapes

## SUCCESSES AND PLANS

- > Surveys reveal 350 moth species, including the nationally scarce mocha, and 50 bryophyte species including two new to Briddlesford
- > The first record for the Isle of Wight for tube spider, and discovery of a fungus previously unknown to science!
- > Woodland managers and ecologists learnt about managing for dormice at our woodland training centre trained at the reserve to manage woodlands for dormice

## Focus on ancient woodland

Our nature reserve, Briddlesford Woods on the Isle of Wight, is a prime ancient woodland, home to threatened dormice, red squirrels and bats, many birds, insects, amphibians and plants. Much helped by many volunteers, we've been coppicing hazel, planting and ride widening.



## Focus on hedgerows, wood pastures and parklands

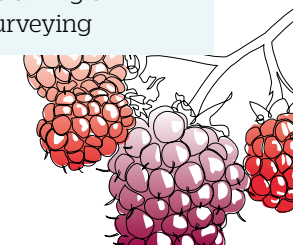
Healthy hedgerows provide food and protection for dormice, hedgehogs, bats and birds. While wood pastures and parklands teem with invertebrates and plants, many severely threatened.

Information about the state of these habitats is patchy, scattered and of little use when seeking to improve or restore this precious habitat. *The Great British Hedgerow Survey*, our innovative, new hedgerow hub to support hedgerow restoration nationwide is putting this right for hedgerows.

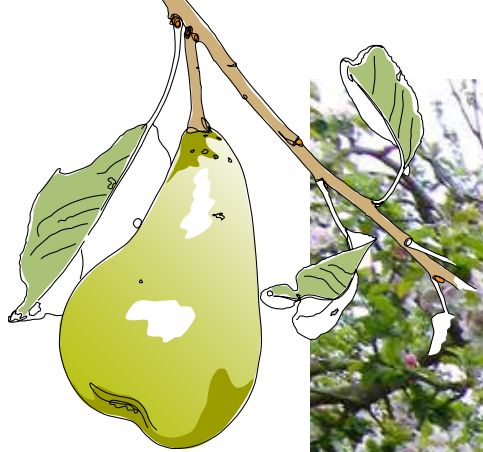
Video guides on our website introduce wood pastures and parkland, explain their wildlife value and history, and advise on managing them for wildlife, grazing and pollarding trees.

## SUCCESSES AND PLANS

- > A national record centre holding existing hedgerow survey information, with a user-friendly gateway for receiving new records
- > Providing instant feedback to hedgerow owners on the condition of their hedgerow, providing simple steps to improve it
- > Online resources and face-to-face training on hedgerow surveying







## Focus on orchards

Traditional orchards are important refuges for a wide range of wildlife, from mosses, lichens and fungi to birds and larger foraging animals, many of which are becoming increasingly scarce.

Orchards were another priority habitat lacking any systematic record of their current state or existence. We created and now manage the national orchard inventories of England, Scotland and Wales, and are increasing, protecting and improving the habitat.

### SUCCESSSES AND PLANS

- > Over 1000 community orchards now listed on our website, many the orchards of the future
- > Planting trees to restore traditional orchards through small grants for fruit trees
- > Leading by example at our own traditional orchard, Rough Hill, to support as much variety of life as possible



# Wildlife worldwide



In Tanzania, **Amy Dickman** tackles human conflict with lions and other carnivores by engaging local villagers to defend livestock and monitor threatened wildlife in return for healthcare and education benefits for their families.

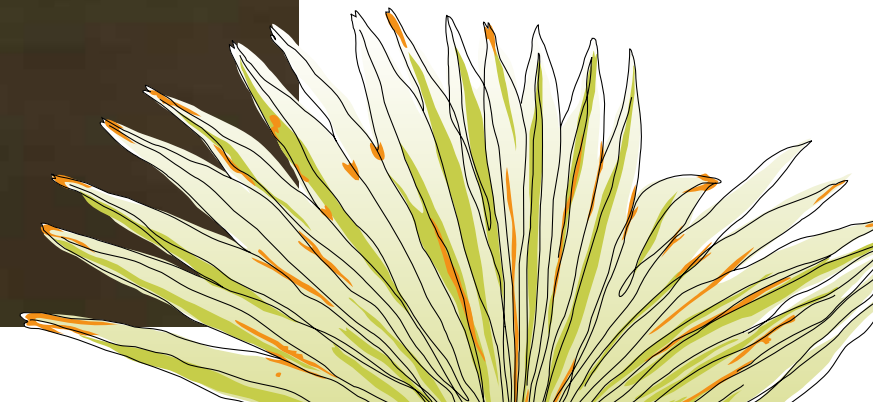


**Mohammad Farhadinia** protects Persian leopards through better law enforcement, anti-poaching effort and controlling contagious diseases.

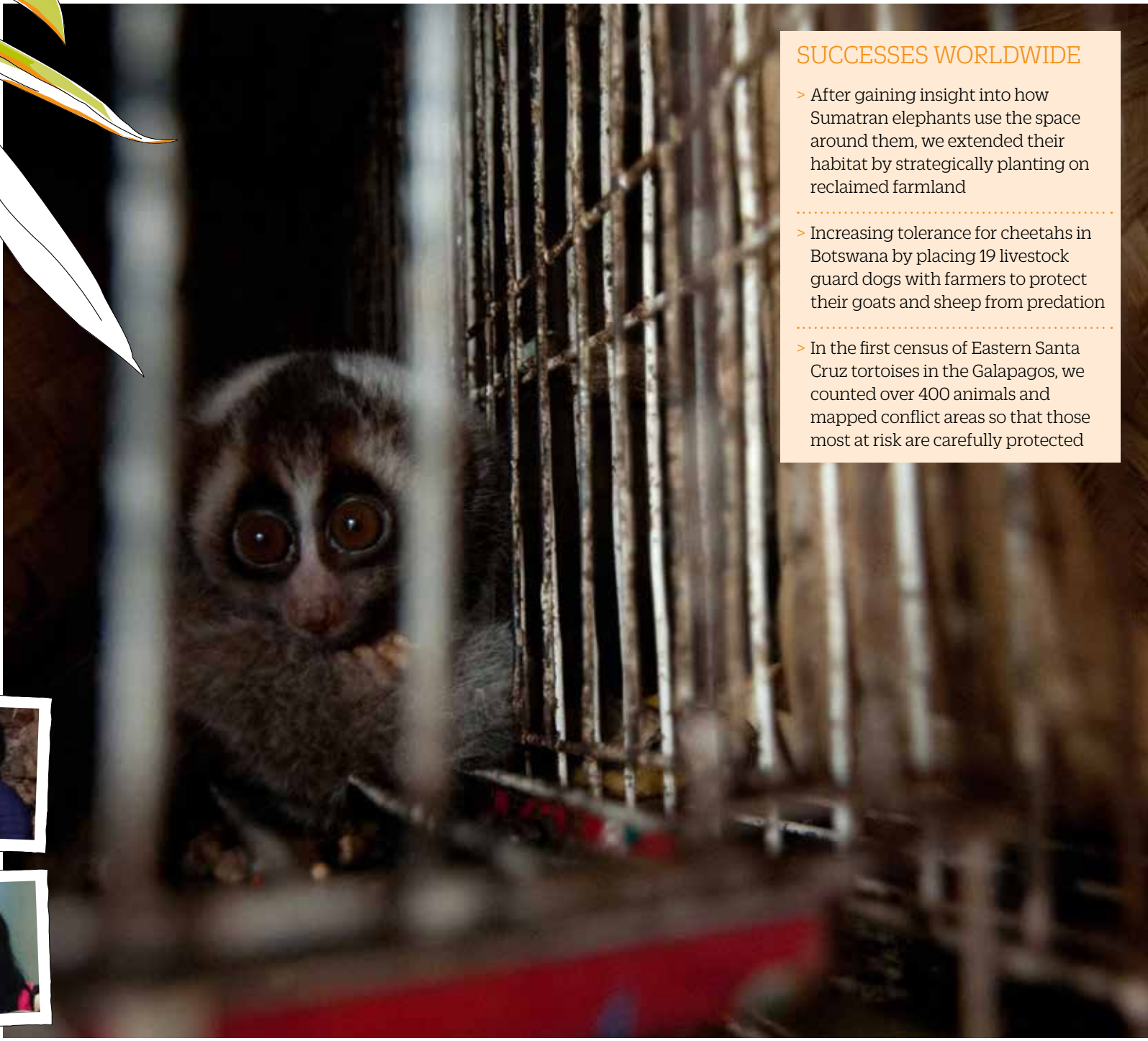


**Adi Barocas** collects evidence of the potentially disastrous impact on giant otters of mercury contamination and riverbank destruction from illegal gold mining in Manu National Park in Peru.

Our Conservation Partnerships support exceptional conservationists working in challenging situations







## SUCCESSES WORLDWIDE

- > After gaining insight into how Sumatran elephants use the space around them, we extended their habitat by strategically planting on reclaimed farmland
- > Increasing tolerance for cheetahs in Botswana by placing 19 livestock guard dogs with farmers to protect their goats and sheep from predation
- > In the first census of Eastern Santa Cruz tortoises in the Galapagos, we counted over 400 animals and mapped conflict areas so that those most at risk are carefully protected

### **Bayarajargal Agvaantseren**

secures protected land for snow leopards in Mongolia by harnessing active participation of local communities.



And in Indonesia, **Anna Nekaris** protects slow lorises for the wild pet trade and works with local farmers to counter habitat loss by planting organic coffee crops.





# Insight awards

We focus on the world's most endangered and often lesser-known threatened species, funding work that offers insight into a conservation problem – work that makes a lasting difference.

- > Andean bears
- > Albany adders
- > Cheetahs
- > Northern river terrapins
- > Giant tortoises
- > Siamese crocodiles
- > Hirola
- > Leopards
- > Slender lorises
- > Lions
- > Lemurs
- > Gorgan salamanders
- > Chinese pangolins
- > Black rhinos
- > Brown-headed spider monkeys
- > Tigers



## Standing up for wildlife

Volunteers, charitable trusts, individual supporters, expert advisors and the long-term commitment of our staff and trustees are all critical to us making a real and lasting difference to wildlife.

Thank you to all our volunteers helping in our retail shop in Egham, at our nature reserves, doing wildlife surveys, restoring landscapes for key species, helping in the office, making dormouse boxes, supporting us through social media and fundraising events.

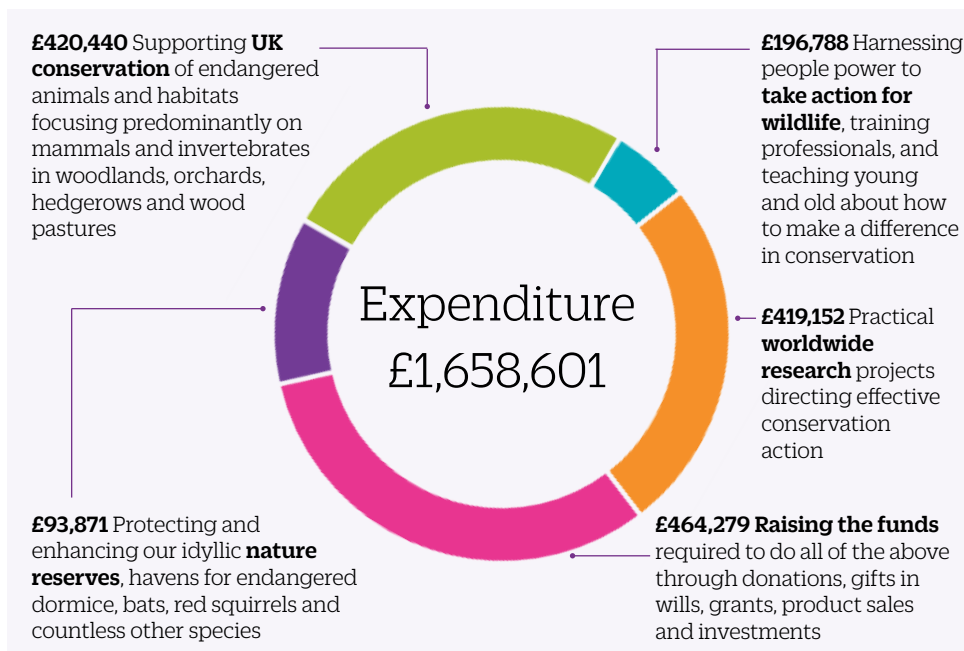
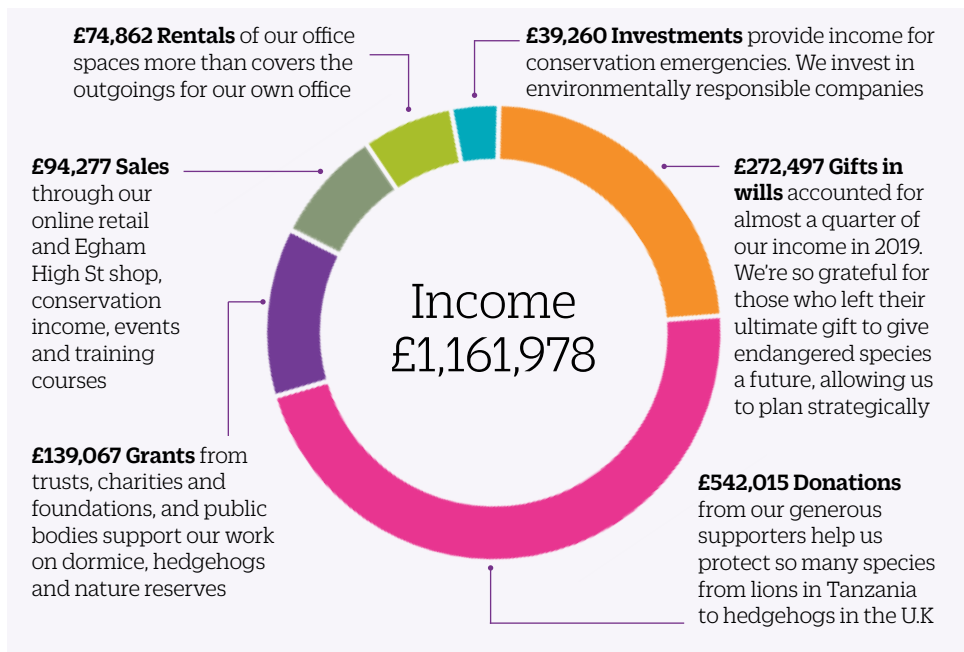
**Thank you to all our donors who give so generously and bequeath legacies, and to the 23 trusts that supported us over the last year.**

### SUCCESSES

- > Over 900 news articles and tens of thousands following us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
- > Reaching new people through our training courses, wildlife watching events, talks and visits to fairs and schools
- > Publishing in the scientific press and specialist newsletters
- > Sharing our thousands of biological records for use in research and assessing development proposals
- > Updating our supporters through *Wildlife World* magazine



# Financial overview 2019



A full list of people who left us gifts in wills, awarded us grants or were partners in our work can be seen in our full audited accounts. We remain ever grateful to them all.

We purposefully spent £496,623 more than our income in 2019, dipping into our financial reserves to advance our urgent work. We maintain these reserves so that we can meet our current conservation obligations including committed research grants, can respond immediately to sudden and unexpected conservation need, can fund our programme of higher-level research grants, and be responsible employers.

## Looking forward

### Over £7.5 million

There's sadly no shortage of urgent work to protect endangered species from the imminent threat of extinction. Just to maintain our effort at the current level we need to raise more than £7.5 million over the next five years. Please contribute if you can: [ptes.org/donate](https://ptes.org/donate)



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# people's trust for endangered species

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