



2020

# 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.





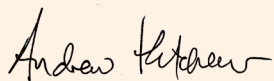


A photograph of a savanna landscape. In the foreground, a giraffe with a brown and white patterned coat is looking up towards a large acacia tree. In the background, another giraffe is visible, and the landscape is filled with green grass and scattered trees under a clear blue sky.

**“ Despite this difficult year, we engaged thousands more people with nature during lockdowns and significantly increased participation in home-based nature surveys. This was only possible with the help of our fantastic volunteers, supporters and staff. Thank you for standing up for wildlife with us. ”**

**Dr Andrew Kitchener**

**Chair, People's Trust for Endangered Species**

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

Andrew Kitchener

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



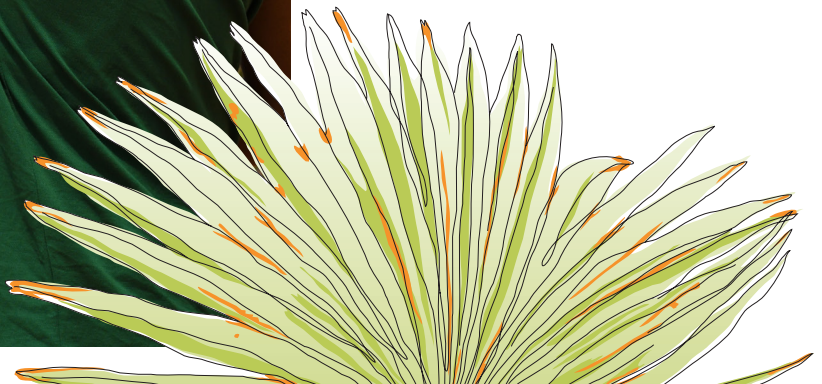


# Our approach

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.



# 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, continued to highlight declines in rabbits, but also a possible reduction in the decline of urban hedgehogs. Many more surveyors supplied data, inspired by the mammals seen in their gardens and neighbourhoods during lockdowns.
- ▶ We awarded research grants and internships to scientists at leading universities and conservation organisations, addressing a range of priority conservation challenges:
  - > could camera traps be a more cost- and time-efficient way to monitor Bechstein's bat and barbastelle roosts?
  - > are roads and traffic threatening isolated, rural, hedgehog populations?
  - > how does climate affect the hibernation patterns of dormice?
  - > can reintroducing wildcats and translocating red squirrels, both in the Scottish Highlands, secure a future for them?
  - > where are hedgehogs present and absent in South West London?
- ▶ We continued to support' The Rt Hon Chris Grayling, MP, as 'Species Champion' for hedgehogs in Westminster, The Rt Hon Matt Hancock, MP, for dormice, and The Rt Hon Hilary Benn, MP, for water voles.





## Focus on dormice

Hazel dormice declined by 50% in Britain since 2000. We published this worrying headline last year in *The State of Britain's Dormice*, drawn from the data supplied by hundreds of volunteers who help us run the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme. Covid restrictions prevented monitoring, and production of new dormouse boxes at HMP Humber this year.

The planned reintroduction of dormice to woodlands in Cumbria was postponed and the captive-bred dormice remain in captivity another year when we will resume the programme. Instead, we concentrated on adapting and delivering more training in woodland management.

### SUCCESSES AND PLANS

- > 1,250 premium boxes distributed to ecological consultants
- > 220 woodland managers attended our online woodland management training courses
- > Research funded into dormouse hibernation habits so we can provide the best advice to woodland owners
- > Completed a three-year project planting and restoring nearly 5km of hedge, connecting three reintroduced dormouse populations



## Focus on hedgehogs

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

Over 88,000 volunteer *Hedgehog Champions*, through the *Hedgehog Street* website, are making their neighbourhoods hedgehog friendly. We launched a *Hedgehog Street* app to encourage hedgehog conservation on-the-go, already downloaded by 20,000 people. *Hedgehogs after Dark* encouraged enthusiasts to tell us about hedgehog behaviours spotted after dark, which resulted in thousands of reports and video clips.

### SUCCESSES AND PLANS

- > 17,000 new *Hedgehog Champions* recruited in 2020
- > 32,500 sightings of hedgehogs logged on our *Big Hedgehog Map*
- > Over 3,300 'hedgehog highways' (holes in fencing) created to help garden hedgehogs roam freely to find food and mates.

**HEDGEHOG  
STREET**



**CITY OF WILDLIFE**





## SUCCESSES AND PLANS

- > Of 173 water vole sites monitored, 77 revealed presence or signs of water voles
- > Advised 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 support the mapping of water vole records to inform planning applications run by the Wildlife Trusts.

Sadly we had to cancel our spring season of water vole monitoring, due to the pandemic, but we did manage to gather data from some sites later in the year. Monitoring will resume next year.

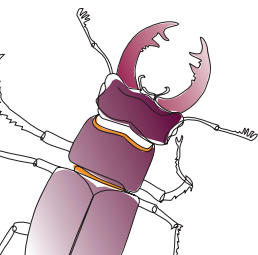






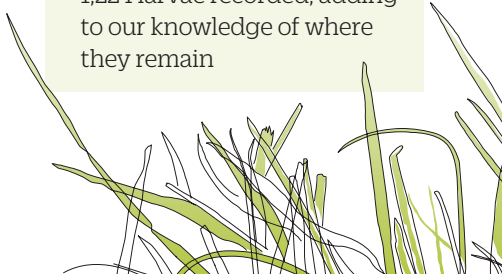
## Focus on invertebrates

In June, as part of the *Back from the Brink* project, we ran our first *Stag Weekend* over social media to promote our stag beetle survey season. Three new films about stag beetles were distributed across media channels, resulting in a bumper year of records for the Great Stag Hunt.



## SUCCESSES AND PLANS

- > First *Stag Weekend* held to promote stag beetles, called for sightings
- > 18,805 adult stag beetles and 1,224 larvae recorded, adding to our knowledge of where they remain



# Restoring landscapes

## SUCCESSES AND PLANS

> Surveys revealed 25 butterfly species including green-veined whites, ringlets and white admiral...

.....  
> ...and 14 dragonfly species, including a southern migrant hawker, found in one of the ponds we created. A first for the Isle of Wight!

## 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, bats, many birds, insects, amphibians and plants. We managed to carry on our woodland management with a few adjustments, but sadly couldn't welcome public groups to wildlife events this year.



Southern  
migrant hawker







## Focus on orchards

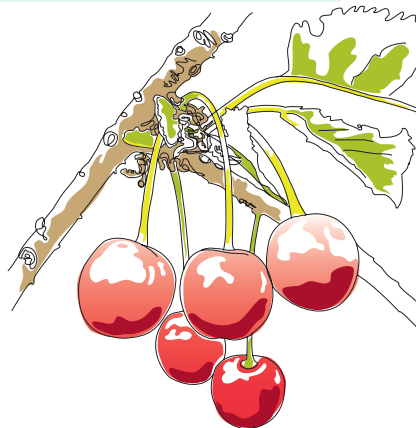
Traditional orchards provide refuge for many species, which elsewhere are scarce; from fungi, mosses and lichens, to sparrow hawks and lesser spotted woodpeckers. Additionally, orchards provide a source of healthy, locally-produced food for people.

We curate the national orchard inventories, working with orchard projects and people across Britain and Ireland, to increase, protect and improve this rich habitat. During lockdown we trained volunteers to improve the inventory maps using historical OS County Series maps. We also encouraged local and national government to ensure that fruit trees are not left out of tree-planting strategies.

We aim to practice what we preach at Rough Hill, our own traditional orchard in Worcestershire, but sadly our usual volunteer work parties were more limited in what they could achieve this year.

## SUCCESSES AND PLANS

- > Planted trees to restore traditional orchards through small grants for fruit trees
- > Logged planting locations of 27,000 trees of known fruit varieties on our website







## Focus on hedgerows, wood pastures and parkland

At best, only about half of hedges are regarded as in good structural condition nationally. Our *Great British Hedgerow Survey* carries out health checks on hedges and gives advice on how to improve them. Sadly, due to Covid, this work was curtailed this year. Instead we adapted our hedgerow management training courses online to make sure we lined up lots of surveyors for next year. We developed a partnership with The Tree Council, the Farming Wildlife Advisory Service, Moor Trees and University of Reading, to enhance hedgerow surveying and management to benefit wildlife.

And we continued to support the Wood Pasture and Parkland Network, another partnership of people and organisations conserving this habitat, contributing to government consultations and hosting its website.



### SUCCESSES AND PLANS

- > Awarded substantial funding from the Green Recovery Challenge Fund to work with farmers and landowners
- > Began development of a phone app for healthy hedgerow management











# Wildlife worldwide

Our Conservation  
Partnerships  
support  
exceptional  
conservationists  
working in  
challenging  
situations



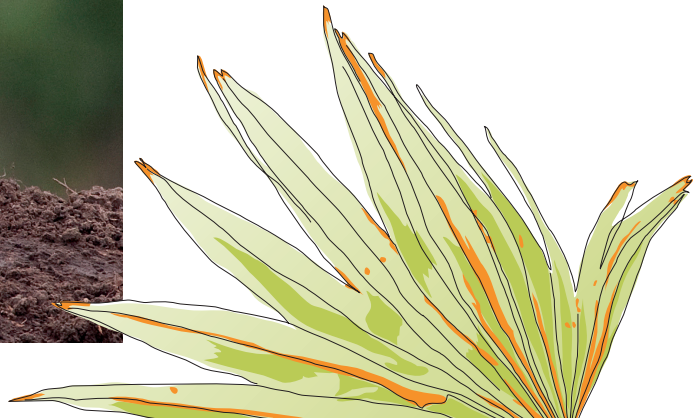
In Tanzania, **Amy Dickman** tackles human conflict with lions and other carnivores by engaging local villagers to defend livestock and monitor threatened wildlife in return for healthcare and educational benefits for their families.



**Mohammad Farhadinia** protects Persian leopards in Iran, 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.







**Bayarajargal Agvaantseren**

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



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





## SUCCESSES WORLDWIDE

**The pandemic made work even more difficult with local restrictions, but there's much to celebrate:**

- > Leopard rangers in Iran supplied with horses and motorbikes to patrol safely
- > The giant otters are reproducing in their protected oxbow lakes in Peru
- > Points awarded for camera trap sightings of lions and hyaenas earned Kisanga village, in Tanzania's Ruaha National Park, a new health clinic and primary school
- > The Tost Nature Reserve centre opened in South Gobi, Mongolia, an area roamed by at least 13 snow leopards
- > 82 radio-collared slow lorises in Indonesia revealed their intensely territorial nature



# Insight Awards

We support projects that offer real insight into a conservation problem – work that makes a lasting difference. We targeted some of the world's most endangered, and some lesser-known threatened species:

- > Andean bears
- > Albany adders
- > cheetahs
- > Northern river terrapins
- > giant tortoises
- > hirola
- > snow leopards
- > Persian leopards
- > slow lorises
- > lions
- > lemurs
- > Gorgon salamanders
- > Chinese pangolins
- > brown-header spider monkeys
- > tigers
- > golden langurs
- > El Rincon stream frogs
- > Grevy's zebras
- > tilapia





## SUCCESSES WORLDWIDE

- > Thousands of seedlings grown to create corridors connecting five forest patches for lemurs in Madagascar
- > Releasing thousands of tilapia fish fingerlings into the waters around Koome Islands in Uganda
- > Camera traps across the Neblina Reserve in Ecuador are gathering vital evidence on critical elevations for Andean bears
- > Our research was extensively published in the scientific press

## Standing up for wildlife

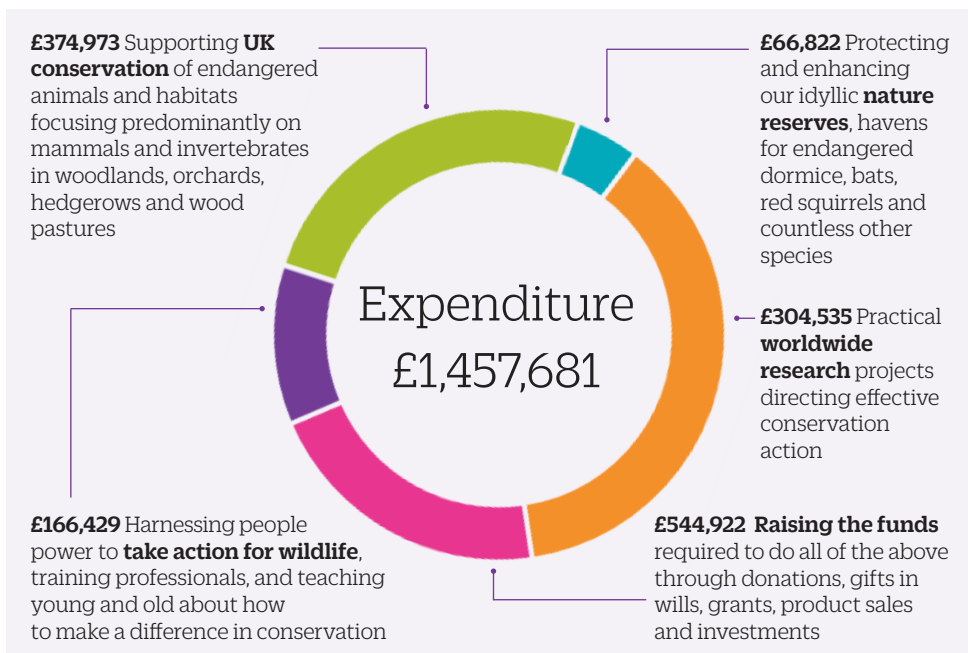
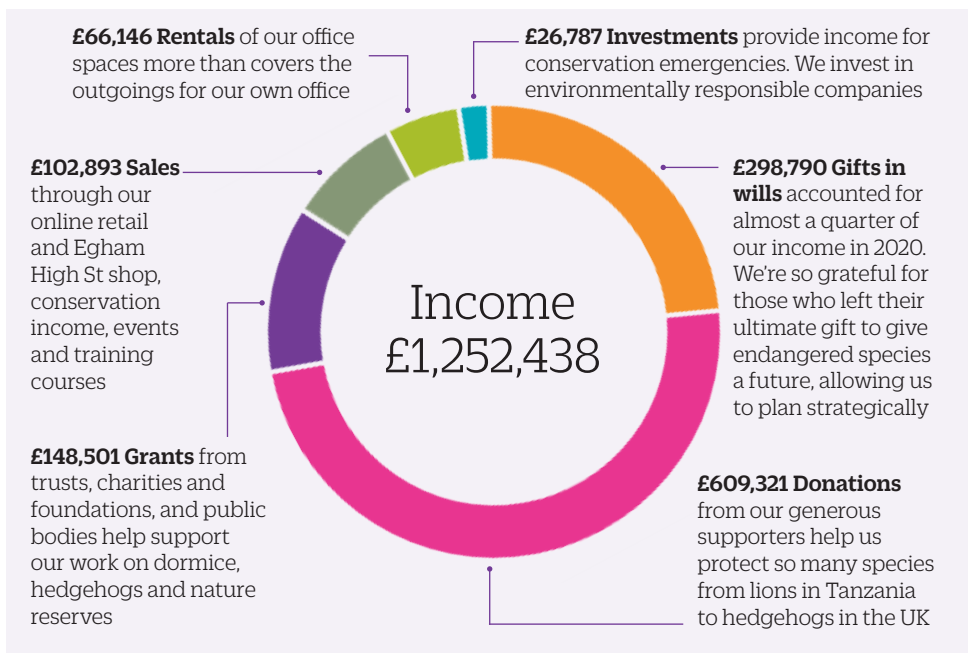
Volunteers, individual supporters, expert advisors and our committed staff and trustees are all critical to us making a real and lasting difference to wildlife.

Thank you to our volunteers in our shop in Egham, enduring recurring closures. Also volunteers at our nature reserves, doing wildlife surveys and supporting us through fundraising events. 1,047 news articles appeared in the press this year, over 80,000 people follow us across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

**Thanks to our corporate partners, charitable trusts and foundations during this challenging year. Finally, a sincere thank you to all our donors who give so generously and bequeath us legacies.**



# Financial overview 2020





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.



## 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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