

2025 review of the year

people's
trust for
endangered
species



Our year in numbers

Thanks to our supporters ,
volunteers and partners we're
making a real difference for
animals and their habitats.

Investing in conservation



£100,000

given to support
five Conservation
Partners



£75,793

granted to nine
Conservation
Insight projects



£44,805

awarded to seven
early-career
conservationists



Three

UK mammal
grants
awarded



15

projects supported
on endangered
species around the
world

Helping threatened species



38

hazel dormice
released into
an ancient
woodland in
Leicestershire



17,715

dormouse
nest boxes
checked at 359
woodland sites
across England
and Wales



15

barn owl
boxes
installed on
our nature
reserve

People-powered wildlife counts



31

out of the
51 National
monitoring
sites
spotted
hedgehogs



9,245

wild
mammals
seen at 246
*Living with
Mammal*
sites



224

waterways
walked by
volunteers
monitoring
water voles



14,200

stag beetle
sightings
submitted by
13,900 Great
Stag Hunt
participants

Reaching further



28,700

hedgerows surveyed
by land managers who
received bespoke advice



OVER 600

farmers and landowners
engaged by conservation
staff, learning how to create
space for species

Saving wildlife for the future

Thanks to supporters like you, we're able to continue and expand our work, saving wildlife for the future. Wildlife is under real pressure. In the UK, almost two thirds of species have declined over the past 50 years, and nearly 50,000 species worldwide are threatened with extinction. There's nothing inevitable or natural about it, but it's not too late to make a difference. Your generous support does just that. It enables us to carry out practical action through bringing together grass-roots scientists, up-and-coming conservationists, landowners, and the public to help bring wildlife back from the brink.





Restoring species

Thanks to the support of many donors, and the help of our partners, we're continuing to recover hazel dormouse populations across England and Wales. In 2025, we released 38 captive-bred dormice into a woodland in Leicestershire. Dormice became locally extinct in the county many years ago but, thanks to our supporters, they're now breeding again in the county. By boosting their population and genetic diversity we're giving them a chance to recover, and thrive again.

We have continued collecting valuable data on dormice through our national monitoring programme. Hundreds of trained volunteers have checked thousands of boxes in over 350 woodlands sites across the country to see how they're faring nationwide. Encouragingly the data shows an upturn at the end of the year compared with recent trends. Evidence generated from the long-term monitoring helps us understand what hazel dormice need to recover.

Along British waterways, a vital habitat for countless species, we collected data at 123 water vole sites. We also helped advise landowners how best to manage their riparian habitat for this endangered mammal. Volunteers in Hampshire submitted the highest number of surveys, followed by Essex, Suffolk and Greater London. Worryingly, fewer than half the sites had water vole signs, but we're hoping this trend will change now that a wide group of partners, including PTES, are expanding mink eradication efforts.



We're also funding research into what makes a water vole translocation effective, so that we can produce best practice guidelines. This will ensure that future translocations have the greatest chance of success at returning water voles to sites where they'd disappeared.

We've been working very closely with our fellow hedgehog experts, the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS), to turn our shared National Hedgehog Conservation Strategy into practical action plans on the ground. We recruited a Rural Hedgehog Officer, who is now working with farmers, land managers and other countryside stewards to address the key threats to rural hedgehogs and create targeted actions on the ground. In urban spaces, our 'Go WILD for Hedgehogs' campaign, run in partnership with BHPS, launched in the summer of 2025 and ran for one year, with real-time seasonal tips being shared throughout, encouraging champions to make changes to their green spaces to support hedgehogs.

In Scotland, where we've been partnering with Saving Wildcats for the past five years, we've seen a remarkable and successful wildcat release come to fruition. The initial release was in 2023 where 19 wildcats were released into the Scottish Cairngorms National Park. The cats successfully made themselves at home in the highlands and released female wildcats gave birth to litters in the wild. This remarkable achievement helps make our nature depleted countryside a bit more wild again.



Our work with overseas scientists

Overseas, we funded some incredible grassroots conservationists who work with their local communities to protect many threatened, and often lesser-known, endangered species. So often the threats facing species around the world share common themes: habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict or wildlife trade. Thanks to PTES donors we were able to provide funding to help protect pangolins in Vietnam and Ghana, Madras hedgehogs in India, northern river terrapins in the Sundarbans, India, rare orchids in Colombia, whale sharks in the Mexican Pacific Ocean, Valcheta frogs in Argentina and Irrawaddy dolphins off the coast of Cambodia.

For those of you who have been with us for many years, you will know our five Conservation Partners who we funded over many years, working on specific conservation projects.



Dr Mohammad Farhadinia is protecting Persian leopards from conflict with livestock herders



Professor Anna Nekaris is restoring and expanding forest habitat to provide more living space for slow lorises in Java



Dr Jihuso Biswas trials different designs of wildlife friendly bridges for golden langurs in Assam, India



Pujii Lkhagvajav is protecting snow leopards and their mountain habitat in Mongolia



Elena and Olya Esipova are reducing poaching of isolated populations of saiga antelope in the Aral Sea, Uzbekistan



Thanks to donations reaching over £23,000 from individual donors, we were able to support the **African Wildlife Foundation's** work in Cameroon to help protect western lowland gorillas. This funding engaged the Bagyeli community and strengthened conservation efforts through training and joint patrols. Ten Gorilla Guardians were selected to carry out over 20 monitoring missions, identifying 253 ape nest sites. During the two-year monitoring period, no gorillas were killed by poachers, showing the powerful impact of community-based conservation and the vital role your support can play in protecting endangered wildlife.

Supporting up-and-coming conservationists

We've seen the value and impact of supporting the next generation of conservation scientists firsthand. Helping our future leaders begin their conservation careers is critical. It's increasingly difficult to gain the valuable work experience needed to develop from a bright graduate to a successful scientist, which is why PTES launched the Conservation Internship Awards programme. In 2025 we celebrated the programme's 25th anniversary. Since 2001, PTES has supported over 120 interns, here in the UK, working on many different species including water voles, dolphins, adders and choughs.

We award grants of up to £7,000 to several promising scientists and conservationists each year. In 2025 we supported seven early-career conservationists, helping them get their foot on the conservation career ladder. They undertook outstanding work focusing on a range of British species: wildcats, common toads, flapper skates, small mammals, harbour porpoises, hazel dormice and hedgehogs.

Read more about these diverse projects here:
ptes.org/grants/internship-projects





Protecting habitats

Almost all endangered species face the threat of habitat loss, and so it's crucial to work with those who own and manage land, to reduce the risks as much as possible, and restore the damage done in the past. Our staff have forged strong relationships and reputations with landowners all over the UK. PTES donors have helped us on the ground through their support.

We've partnered with **NatureSpace** to explore a more strategic way to protect hazel dormice in areas where development is taking place. This could mean developers would follow a similar process to the one already used for great crested newts which could help focus on restoring and connecting habitat at a landscape level.

Thanks to your support, we're helping protect wildlife on farmland. We're tackling the main threats facing rural hedgehogs and the habitat that they, and many other species, rely on. By speaking to farmer cluster groups and providing workshops and practical guidance to help repair and restore the nation's hedgerows, we're encouraging better landscape management. We also continued working with Defra and the Welsh Government to influence agri-environment schemes so they provide stronger support for hedgerows.

PTES also owns and manages two nature reserves. Briddlesford Woods Nature Reserve, on the Isle of Wight, is one of the last places in the UK where hazel dormice and red squirrels are both found, as well as rare barbastelles and Bechstein's bats. Thanks to generous support from our donors, especially in April 2025 when, for one week, donations were doubled by the **Big Give**, we have been able to carry out a huge amount of work at our reserve. We were able to begin a year-long project to restore habitat, plant trees, harvest tree seeds for the local community tree nursery and expand our wood pasture and parkland.





We also continued our regular programme of monitoring for hazel dormice and hedgehogs, and surveying for butterflies, dragonflies, bats and moths.

At our traditional orchard, Rough Hill, in Worcestershire, we've improved the different habitats found on the site. We coppiced and restored the hedgerow running along the northern edge of the reserve and controlled the scrub across the orchard so it doesn't take over. We welcomed a herd of Dexter cattle in spring to help manage the scrub and reduce the dominance of grasses, allowing other flowers to flourish. A new fruit tree enclosure was built and 11 plum trees were planted in March.



Working with landowners applies to our overseas work too. Our partner, **Professor Anna Nekaris**, is repairing forest habitats for slow lorises and other animals in Java. Anna's team is helping farmers plant wildlife friendly plants, fruit-bearing crops and tall trees that provide shade for the coffee shrubs on their farms. This restores some of the lost forest, providing cover for slow lorises. In turn, the lorises pollinate the trees providing shade and producing fruit and eat the larvae and insects that damage coffee crops, an incentive for the farmers to make their farms safe for slow lorises.

The power of the public

Members of the public are an amazing resource when it comes to collecting data on the native species we live alongside. It's only through mass-collection of data, over a long period of time, that we can spot when animals are under threat. It was through a previous survey, *Mammals on Roads*, that we first confirmed the decline in hedgehog numbers. Here's what our citizen scientists have been telling us:

National Hedgehog Monitoring Programme



Volunteers helped identify species in millions of camera-trap images, in combination with AI tools, for our National Hedgehog Monitoring Programme. The survey is the first of its kind to generate local population density estimates of hedgehogs across a wide range of habitats. Hedgehog Street, which we run in partnership with the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, now has over 133,000 registered Hedgehog Champions who have logged 203,000 hedgehog sightings.



Living with Mammals

Hundreds of people living in towns and suburban areas submitted 9,245 records of wild mammal species they spotted near their homes through our *Living with Mammals* survey. These sightings help us understand how wildlife is using the urban green spaces we share with them.



Great Stag Hunt

Our *Great Stag Hunt* survey has been running for over twenty years and, in 2025, we carried out the first ever national analysis of stag beetle population distribution. We analysed almost 83,000 records, collected since 1998, alongside data from historical museum collections, that one of our Conservation Interns studied, to spot any changes in the population distribution. Encouragingly, it looks as though the stag beetle distribution has remained broadly stable, but there were indications of a recent decline in the southwestern part of the species' range. Have you seen a stag beetle this summer?

How we raised our funds

Most of our income comes from individual donors through their regular gifts and cash donations. Their generosity and loyalty are boundless and invaluable, and particularly appreciated in these challenging times.

£1.61m

GIVEN IN SUPPORT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



£528,862 FUNDRAISING APPEALS

Kindly given by members of the public through our fundraising appeals and other donations.



£523,446 GIFTS IN WILLS

Generous gifts left to PTES in Wills by people who care about wildlife and our future.



£127,062 TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

Donations and grants from charitable trusts and foundations.



£8,445 CORPORATE DONATIONS

Kindly donated by businesses in support of our work.



£421,910 PROJECT GRANTS

Grants from organisations in support of specific project work on species and habitats.

A LASTING GIFT FOR WILDLIFE

Thanks to generous supporters who remembered PTES in their Wills, we were able to fund Alberto Garcia Baciero and his team to fit satellite tags to whale sharks off Mexico's Pacific coast.

The sharks' movements will be tracked across the Gulf of California and the data compared with that from vessel traffic, fishing effort and tourism activity.

This will help identify where whale sharks face the greatest risks and inform future conservation measures to keep them safer.



FUNDING CONSERVATION ON THE GROUND

The Swire Trust — The Swire Trust generously supported our hedgerow work, helping us reach more farmers through workshops around the country.

These sessions inspire landowners about the value of hedgerows and provide practical advice on how to manage them for wildlife. The funding also helped us update our popular hedgerow management guidance with new information and resources.

Defra — funding from Defra helped us begin restoration work at Little Lynn Common, part of our nature reserve on the Isle of Wight and the only site on the island where the rare greater broomrape is found.

We also restored 'Friday's field' by collecting seed from a local wildflower-rich meadow and scattering it across the field. This is helping establish species-rich grassland that will support a diverse range of plants, fungi and insects.

All of this wonderful support allows us to carry out the extensive work you have read about in this review. We are so fortunate to have the support of all our donors, people like you, who care about wildlife and trust us with your donations.

Our people and partners

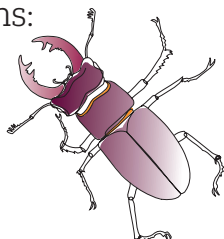
Our success relies on the help of so many. Volunteers, individual supporters, charitable trusts, expert advisors, and our committed staff and Trustees are all critical to making a real and lasting difference for wildlife. Thousands of volunteers also provide vital contributions to our work at our nature reserves, doing wildlife surveys and supporting us through fundraising events.



*Thank you to all our partners and supporters.
Our work would not be possible without you.*

TRUSTS

During the year we received very generous and valuable support from the following trusts and foundations:



Angela Humphery, Dacomb Charity Trust, Daisie Rich Trust, David Cutforth Charitable Trust, Foundation Scotland, Howard Williams, Mary Lady Fuller Charitable Trust, Mrs Jean S Innes Charitable Trust, Neil Bentley, R O Kinnison Charitable Trust, Sharegift, South Square Trust, Southern-Gee Trust, Swire Charitable Trust, The Antrobus Bewlay Charitable Trust, The Big Give Trust, The Carron Charitable Settlement, The Crystal Trust, The Dandelion Foundation, The Derek and Clare Stevens Trust, The Downton Banister Trust, The Leslie Mary Carter Charitable Trust, The Maxwell Trust, The Mullion Trust, The Richard Cadbury Trust, The Rowland Trust Fund, The Tisbury Telegraph Trust, The Walker 597 Trust, Walter Guinness Charitable Trust, and the William Haddon Charitable Trust.

GRANTS

PTES received valuable support from the following grant-giving organisations:



Natural England, the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, Natural Resources Wales, Countryside Stewardship Scheme, Farming in Protected Landscapes, Elgol Fund for Nature, Isle of Wight National Landscape and The Tree Council.

CORPORATE

Thank you to all of our corporate partners.



Birkdale, Easy Fundraising, Gabrielle Pollecoff, Gift Republic, Habitat Aid, Jenna Drury, Jenny Hannam, Kate Priestman Art, Kate Williams, Licensed to Charm, Making A Difference Cards, Martin J Webster, Penelope Kirk, Recycling for Good Causes, Richelle White, Seedball, Teemill Tech Ltd, Tracey Ward, Whittet Books Ltd, Wildcare, and Wildlife Drawing.



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