



giving
nature
a home

Annual review

2018-2019



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Turtle dove by Andrew Marshall (rspb-images.com)

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Front cover:

Turtle doves are beautiful birds, but sadly they are facing possible extinction in the UK. A shortage of food sources, and loss of places to nest, means turtle doves are in sharp decline. No bird in the UK is declining faster.

We need to act now to save them.





Welcome



Our Chief Executive Mike Clarke reflects on the year 2018–2019, which is also his last with the RSPB.

Working with others, we've achieved great things for nature this year.

We completed Europe's largest coastal wetland creation project in Wallasea Island (see page 6) and started an ambitious habitat restoration project for the "Celtic Rainforest" (page 8). Cyprus bird trapping hit a record low (page 18). Storm petrels returned to the Shiant Isles (page 26). White-tailed eagles nested successfully on Orkney for the first time in 145 years (page 26). And, we're restoring the fortunes of marsh fritillaries, Irish damselflies and Irish ladies tresses orchids at Montiags Moss in County Antrim, as part of Co-operation Across Borders for Biodiversity in the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland (see page 10).

But, also in 2019 the first global assessment of the state of nature was published since 2005. Nature is in a growing crisis the world over. In the last 3–4 decades, we've lost more than 40 million birds in the UK alone, and 70% of our insect population across Europe. The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change also injected greater urgency to the need for action within the next decade, to curb catastrophic impacts on the planet's life support systems.

Our children and their children have the right to choose the future they want, and we share a responsibility to give them that choice. The good news is that we know much of what needs to change. There are solutions out there that work with nature, not against it. Put simply, decision makers need to give greater priority to the environment.

That's why, in 2018–19, we directed our efforts into campaigning for governments to make the changes needed – not just halt declines, but to drive the recovery of nature. We have campaigned for our existing nature protection laws to remain at least as strong as they are now, and for common environmental standards to be maintained in the UK's future relationship with the EU. We have called for new laws and plans to drive nature's recovery in all countries of the UK. And, we are helping shape the agenda for 2020, when governments will meet at the UN Convention of Biological Diversity to agree global action for nature.

The challenge is too big for any one organisation. The RSPB has a duty to ensure it makes the best contribution to this collective mission. Over the last year, we've taken steps to improve both our effectiveness, by focusing our resources on the work that will have the greatest future impact; and our efficiency, through changing the ways we work, making savings to increase financial resilience, and investing further in partnerships.

None of RSPB's success over the year could have been achieved without our members, supporters, volunteers and partners – thank you! The public groundswell of concern over the environmental crisis is growing, and supporters of charities like ours can be at the forefront of making change happen. We can choose to have personal impact now. Individually these may feel like small steps, but collectively we can make a difference at scale, and make our voice heard for a world richer in nature.

Mike Clarke



All over the UK

Here's an overview of our work, from the Highlands of Scotland to Wales, from NI to southern England.

RSPB England

England may be crowded, but it's packed with outstanding landscapes and important wildlife sites. There are millions of people, which provides a myriad of opportunities for inspiring them. A great example is the famous Sherwood Forest (see page 10).

But a large population generates pressures. We've worked hard to protect important wildlife sites right across England. This included successfully defending Lodge Hill in Kent, a nationally important site for nightingales (see page 42) and our #LoveMinsmere campaign which aims to protect this reserve from the impacts of a proposed new nuclear power station (see page 38). In both cases, we benefited from the support of thousands of RSPB supporters. Thank you!

Nest protection resulted in a better breeding season for hen harriers in Bowland, we had record numbers of roseate terns and puffins on our Coquet Island reserve off the Northumberland coast, and rare adonis blue butterflies put on a spectacular show at our Winterbourn Downs reserve in Wiltshire, where we've restored beautiful flower-rich chalk grassland.

We must work in partnership if we are to save nature in England at scale. A great example is "Back from the Brink", a partnership of eight organisations which aims to save 20 species from extinction and benefit 200 others (see page 28). As part of our contribution we helped field crickets at Pulborough Brooks, black-tailed godwits at the Ouse and Nene Washes and willow tits in South Yorkshire.

All this was possible thanks to our wonderful funders and thousands of supporters and volunteers.

RSPB NI

More than twenty years after the Good Friday Agreement was signed, 2018–19 saw heightened uncertainty, with the two-year anniversary of the cessation of an NI Government. Combined with the potential impacts of Brexit, it is easy to become despondent, but RSPB NI has continued to strive to improve the fortunes of nature, securing some remarkable outcomes (see Portmore Lough and Montaigns Moss, page 10).

As part of the Nature Matters NI coalition, we raised awareness and rallied supporters to demand future domestic policies and legislation do more for nature (see page 40), especially on agriculture policy, hugely important to us as more than 75% of NI is farmed.

Nature knows no borders, and that's why we continued to work in partnership with Manx Birdlife on the Isle of Man and BirdWatch Ireland in the Republic of Ireland. EU funding has been particularly important for cross-border projects, including the Interreg-funded Co-operation Across Borders for Biodiversity, a six-partner conservation project to improve habitats across Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Scotland's west coast. We were also delighted to lead the Lough Erne Landscape Partnership to help protect and enhance Lough Erne (see page 42).

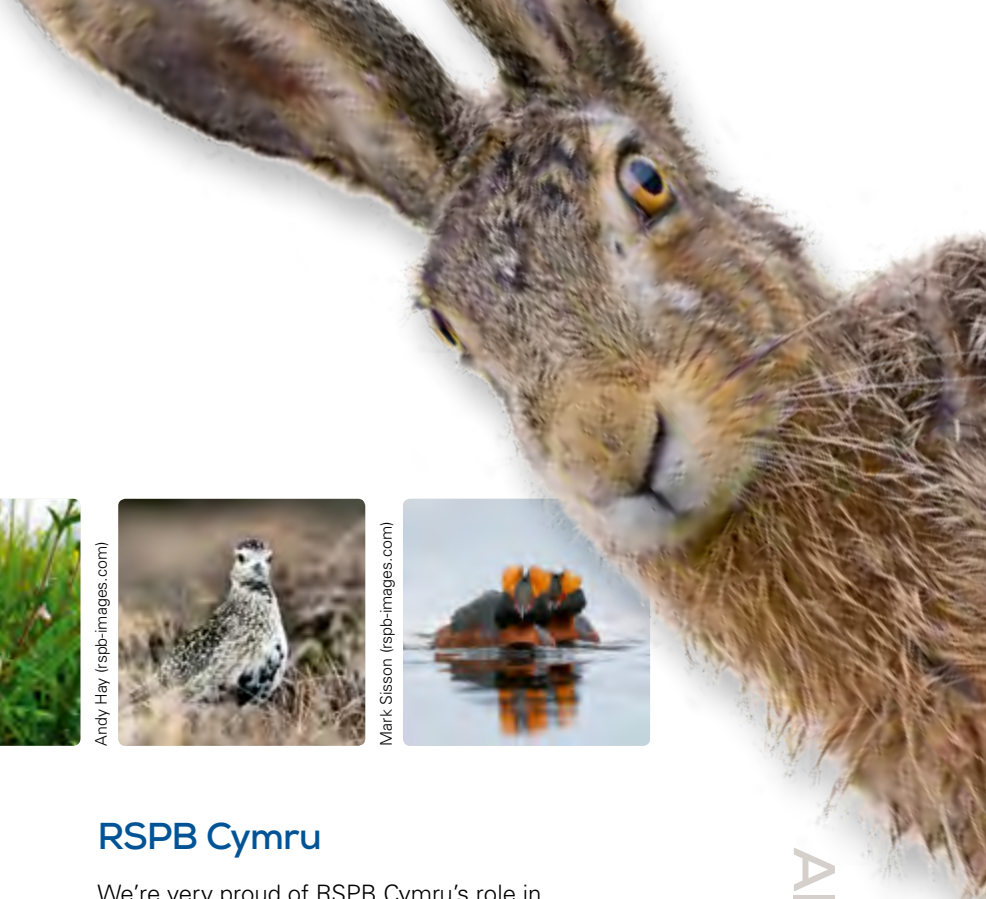
The support from people keen to make a difference for nature is always a massive boost, and we're extremely grateful to our partners, funders and supporters for the role they've played in our successes. This year, we were enthused by a group of young campaigners whose RSPB research placements inspired them to push for change. They demonstrated their passion and enthusiasm in an amazing range of ways. See more on page 34.

All over the UK

Curlew by Richard Bedford (rspb-images.com),
flowers by Shutterstock

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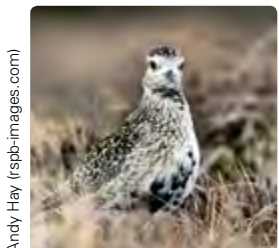




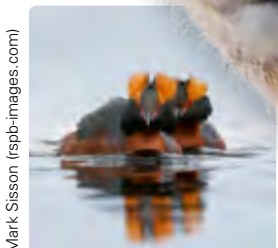
Sue Kennedy (rspb-images.com)



Morgan Vaughan (rspb-images.com)



Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)



Mark Sisson (rspb-images.com)

RSPB Scotland

We have a firmly-established reputation for successful landscape scale conservation projects in Scotland, but 2018–19 was particularly successful, thanks to the support of our partners and funders. Starting the Orkney Native Wildlife Project was a milestone for island restoration, at a global scale (see page 21), while the ongoing peatland restoration by the Flows to the Future Project on behalf of the Peatland Partnership is only part of the story for this climate critical project (see page 11). We were delighted to secure support enabling us to begin the “Cairngorms Connect” project from the Endangered Landscape Programme (ELP). This is a habitat and species enhancement partnership project with a 200-year vision over 231 square miles (600 square kilometres). Find out more on page 11.

A heartfelt thank you to all our partners and funders, including the National Lottery Heritage Fund, EU funds, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Peatland Action Fund and ELP. We’re confident we can deliver because we’re building on previous successes such as the Shiant Isles where, after a 4-year restoration project, we were delighted to have the first breeding storm petrels since the islands were declared rat-free (see page 26).

We’re also grateful to the thousands of individuals who have supported us this year, whether that’s campaigning to save Coul Links (see page 37), looking after a pin badge box, influencing the political environment through the Fight for Scotland’s Nature campaign (page 40) or becoming an ambassador for the Good Food Nation Coalition (see page 34).

RSPB Cymru

We’re very proud of RSPB Cymru’s role in stimulating and leading landscape-scale collaborations for nature’s recovery. Years of planning, partnership building and funding applications go in before we get boots on the ground. Our Celtic Rainforests partnership, tackling invasive rhododendron and restoring grazing in the Western Atlantic Oak woodlands of Wales to benefit rare lichens, pied flycatchers and wood warblers is one example – read more on page 8.

The Living Levels Landscape Partnership is reconnecting local communities in southeast Wales with their environment, discovering and restoring the heritage of the Gwent Levels (see page 41). After 400 years, cranes are breeding in this unique wetland again, giving special weight to our campaign against the building of the M4 relief road. The plans have now been scrapped, due to their potentially adverse impacts on nature.

The Celtic Rainforest and Living Levels partnerships have benefited from EU funds, alongside support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Welsh Government. We’re grateful for support from Visit Wales in helping us to redevelop the visitor centre at South Stack, following extensive storm damage.

With Brexit on the horizon, we’ve worked with stakeholders to understand the risks and opportunities for the environment in Wales. Our supporters have been actively campaigning to strengthen legal protections for nature (see page 39) and calling for increased funding for nature’s recovery, while Welsh farmers in the Nature Friendly Farming Network have been making the case for future public finances that support farmers to be based on sustainable land management objectives (see page 30).

All over the UK

Brown hare by Shutterstock

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Aerial view of part of the area of mudflats and lagoons created on Wallasea Island.



Malcolm Ausden
RSPB Principal Ecologist,
Rachel Fancy
Wallasea Island Site Manager
Chris Tyas
Wallasea Island Project Manager



RSPB

We've done it!

The UK's largest ever coastal wetland creation project is complete

Twice the size of the city of London, Wallasea Island has been designed to provide valuable habitat for wildlife both now and in the future.

In autumn 2018, the last large expanse of shallow, saline lagoons, was completed, finalising the restoration of a massive 670 hectares of coastal wetland in Essex and creating a vast complex of wildlife habitat.

The long view

The vision for RSPB's Wallasea Island Wild Coast Project was first formed almost 20 years ago, when its potential was identified in 1999. The complex of coastal lagoons, marshes, mudflats and islands that it now provides is rare: such intertidal habitat has been lost through past land-claim, and more is expected to go as sea levels continue to rise.

Big ambitions

Work to transform Wallasea Island's reclaimed arable landscape to coastal wetland began in 2009, with the partnership between Crossrail and the RSPB. Crossrail's new rail route, that crosses London from East to West, is one of Europe's largest civil engineering projects, and it was the material excavated from beneath London as part of this, that enabled the various habitats to be created. A total of three million tonnes of material was transported to the site – where it was used to build a new sea wall and create landscaped islands and lagoons in an area known as Jubilee Marsh.

At its heart, the restoration of Wallasea has always been about maximising the area of valuable habitat for wildlife. While a core focus has been about re-creating mudflats and saltmarsh, we've also provided other wetland features for wildlife.

For example, we've created shingle, sand and cockle shell ridges for nesting terns and

ringed plovers. And we've also created the types of shallow waterbodies that support the small fish and shrimps favoured by spoonbills. Importantly, we've designed the areas of wetland so they should continue to provide valuable habitat for wildlife under a range of higher sea levels.

A wetland rich in wildlife

So far, all the early signs point to Wallasea's success: avocets, a wide variety of other waders, brent geese, merlins and short-eared owls are all commonly sighted on Wallasea Island today. Spoonbills have been recorded in 2016, 2017 and 2018 and a black-winged stilt was sighted in 2017.

Wallasea has also earned the accolade of now being the best place to see birds of prey in winter in Essex. Flocks of wintering waterfowl and farmland birds have proved particularly attractive to peregrines and other raptors including hen harriers, and even rough-legged buzzards have been seen.

The best is yet to come

Notwithstanding these successes, Wallasea Island is yet to reach its full potential. Given time and ongoing management, this new coastal habitat is in a good position to become richer still in wildlife. With the new saline lagoons looking set to evoke the salinas of the Mediterranean, Wallasea is capable of producing a bird spectacle quite unlike anywhere else in the UK.

Thanks must also go to our project partners, Crossrail, DEFRA, Enover Community Trust, the Environment Agency, Natural England, Viridor Credits Environmental Company and our many volunteers.

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Wallasea aerial shot by David Wootton, spoonbill by Richard Brooks (rspb-images.com)



The Celtic rainforest is an ideal home for pied flycatchers, who migrate here from Africa each spring.

Amy Vanstone
Conservation Officer
Julia Harrison
Celtic Rainforest Project Manager



Restoring Celtic rainforests

An ambitious new project is underway to return Welsh woodlands to their former glory.

If you're asked to imagine a "rainforest," the chances are your mind's eye will conjure up images of a steamy, faraway forest, filled with exotic and colourful creatures. But closer to home, along the western edge of the UK, are pockets of an equally special, and even rarer, ecosystem – the Celtic rainforest.

Like their tropical counterparts, Celtic rainforests are damp and humid, and provide homes for an impressive array of species. Rare lichens, mosses and liverworts cloak tree branches; lesser horseshoe bats sleep away the day in the nooks and crannies of ancient trees; and migrant birds, such as pied flycatchers and wood warblers, wing their way here from Africa each spring to raise a family.

These temperate woodlands once covered vast areas in the west of the UK, but now just a scattering of sites remain, many of which are in a poor and deteriorating state. Invasive plants are rapidly out-competing native species, while inappropriate grazing, a lack of management and atmospheric nitrogen pollution are also taking their toll.

Now, thanks to €9.5 million of funding from the Welsh Government and the EU Life programme, work is underway to return five areas of Celtic rainforest to their former glory. The seven-year project is being led by the Snowdonia National Park Authority and also brings together RSPB Cymru, Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Water and the Woodland Trust. We are responsible for delivering the project at the southern sites that lie outside Snowdonia National Park, as well as at a number of our woodland nature reserves, including Mawddach Valley and Gwenffrwd Dinas.

Pied flycatcher by Ben Andrew (rspb-images.com)

Bigger and better

Amy Vanstone, a core member of the team working to restore the forests, is brimming with ambition for the project:

"Celtic rainforests are incredibly rare and support wildlife that can't survive elsewhere. Without intervention, we would risk losing them. However, this project recognises their importance and will transform them, providing bigger and better spaces for nature."

One of the main aims of the project is to eradicate rhododendron from the woodland, and to create "buffer zones" to prevent it from spreading in the future. This non-native species alters the condition of the soil, prevents sunlight from reaching the woodland floor and outcompetes native plants, creating conditions that are unfavourable to other wildlife. There are also plans to replace conifer plantations and non-native broadleaf trees with native trees, in order to improve habitat for wildlife.

Another core part of the project is to improve woodland management, and we are playing a leading role in the introduction of grazing as a management tool. We intend to introduce cattle, sheep and ponies to certain areas and to promote best practice by showcasing this work through case studies and events.

There is also a strong community element to the project, with plans to involve local people through a variety of events and activities. By involving local communities and generating interest in the forests, we hope that people will feel inspired to promote and look after the Celtic rainforests for generations to come. See celticrainforests.wales

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Stephen Morgan (rspb-images.com)



Giving Robin Hood a home

August 2018 saw the official opening of the brand-new visitor centre at Sherwood Forest National Nature Reserve. Opening just a week before the annual Robin Hood Festival, which sees 40,000 people visit the forest over seven days, the opening showed incredible effort and tenacity from the whole team.

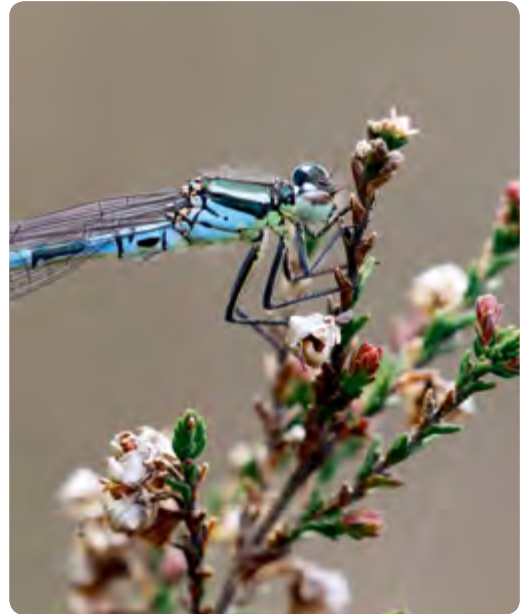
The forest, home to the famous 1,000-year-old Major Oak, boasts another 996 ancient oak trees, as well as some incredible wildlife. Couple this with folklore and the tales of Robin Hood, and you've got a legendary landscape that attracts up to 350,000 visitors per year.

Our vision is to deepen the connection our faithful Sherwood audience have with the site and with nature. Many of our visitors love Robin Hood and are familiar with the Major Oak, but we want them to know how precious and special the wildlife of Sherwood is too.

The team is steadily building on what is already there: increasing visitor numbers, understanding how visitors are using the forest, as well as creating management plans for each of the ancient oaks.

As custodians of the Robin Hood legend, we're also excited to be learning from visitors and partners on how to reinvent the Robin Hood Experience, a brand new area for the RSPB but a project the team is proud to lead.

hansh (shutterstock.com)



Bogs, butterflies and birds

Work to improve and return a mosaic of habitats into favourable condition continues at RSPB Montiaghs Moss, County Antrim, benefiting a wide range of invertebrates including butterflies, damselflies, moths, water beetles and bugs. The site also supports some rare and notable plants.

Montiaghs Moss is a Special Area of Conservation and RSPB NI is managing one-third of the site, on behalf of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, to protect several rare and threatened species including marsh fritillary butterflies, Irish damselflies and Irish lady's tresses orchids.

Past extensive peat cutting, followed by land abandonment when peat cutting stopped during the 1960s, had taken its toll. However, this work will see Montiaghs Moss returned to a healthy mosaic of habitats, including wet woodland, peat pools, wet grassland, hay meadows, fen and fragmented areas of wet heath. As well as improving the habitat for wildlife, we are working to improve public access with a view to it being fully open to the public by 2022.

The habitat management programme is part of the Co-operation Across Borders for Biodiversity five-year project that spans Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Scotland.

Kevin Arrowsmith (rspb-images.com)



News from Forsinard Flows

It has been another busy year for the Flows to the Future project, with continued restoration work at RSPB Forsinard Flows. The five-year project, which is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and other partners, aims to restore vast swathes of blanket bog that were planted with non-native conifers, providing better habitat for wildlife. The project is also providing improved opportunities for people to enjoy and appreciate the special landscape. Blanket bog plays an important role in carbon storage and sequestration, and work is underway to gain greater recognition of its role as a natural tool to tackle the climate crisis.

Habitat restoration and management work will continue after the project ends in late 2019, enabling the return of peatland plants and animals including carnivorous sundew plants and rare aquatic invertebrates.

Scotland's Flow Country is internationally important for its blanket bog and several key bird species. The work will benefit breeding birds including common scoters, black-throated divers, golden plovers, dunlins and greenshanks, as well as raptors like merlins, hen harriers, short-eared owls and golden eagles.

Mark Hamblin (rspb-images.com)



Leaps forward for Cairngorms Connect

Cairngorms Connect is a partnership of four land managers: RSPB Scotland (at the Abernethy and Insh Marshes reserves), Wildland Limited, Scottish Natural Heritage and Forestry and Land Scotland.

The partnership covers 60,000 hectares within the Cairngorms National Park and the group has a bold 200-year vision to restore habitats and to build awareness and understanding of the area and its wildlife - locally, nationally and internationally.

In October 2018, the project was awarded a £3.75m grant from the Endangered Landscapes Programme (a partnership between the Cambridge Conservation Initiative and Arcadia – a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin). ELP funding was awarded to only eight projects across Europe – so it's a real accolade that Cairngorms Connect was one of these.

The money was received in January 2019 and since then, the team have been recruiting staff and preparing to start the project in earnest.

The project area has a wide range of habitats and rises to 1,309m above sea level – to Ben MacDui, the second-highest summit in the UK. This habitat diversity supports over 5,000 recorded species, of which 20% are Nationally Rare or Scarce.



3,000 bars of Gola Rainforest chocolate were sold in the first four months!

GOLA RAINFOREST CHOCOLATE

DARK

GOLA RAINFOREST CHOCOLATE

MILK

EAT CHOCOLATE SAVE A RAINFOREST

By buying this chocolate bar, you are helping to protect Sierra Leone's threatened wildlife and support the Gola Rainforest communities

70% DARK CHOCOLATE
Craft quality, bean-to-bar chocolate made in the UK

giving nature a home
rsqb

FAIR TO FARMERS | FOREST-FRIENDLY
ORGANICALLY GROWN | PALM OIL FREE
rsqb.org.uk

EAT CHOCOLATE SAVE A RAINFOREST

By buying this chocolate bar, you are helping to protect Sierra Leone's threatened wildlife and support the Gola Rainforest communities

60% MILK CHOCOLATE
Craft quality, bean-to-bar chocolate made in the UK

FAIR TO FARMERS | FOREST-FRIENDLY
ORGANICALLY GROWN | PALM OIL FREE
rsqb.org.uk

A sweet treat that's helping save a rainforest

Forest-friendly chocolate bars created for the RSPB have been flying off the shelves since they were launched in January 2019.

When the RSPB launched Gola Rainforest chocolate, it initially ordered 5,000 bars, confident that this would last the first year. But RSPB shops have been doing such a great job promoting the chocolate in store, via word of mouth and on social media, 3,000 bars were sold in the first four months!

A second order was promptly placed to replenish stocks in our shops, because Gola Rainforest chocolate is good for both the people and the wildlife of Sierra Leone.

An area worth protecting

The Gola Rainforest is a biodiversity hotspot, playing host to bird species, including cuckoos, wood warblers, pied wagtails and nightingales. It is home to more than 60 globally-threatened species including elephants and pygmy hippos and it is one of the few forests in West Africa that can still sustain large mammals, including Western Africa chimpanzees and pangolins.

The RSPB has been working in the Greater Gola landscape for 30 years. They have supported local partners and forest-edge communities, encouraging them to promote ways of living and working that protect the rainforest.

To look after the forest and its diverse wildlife, areas of protected community forests need to be managed, and connected, to allow wildlife to move easily throughout the landscape. Cocoa farms are one way this can be done.

Cocoa traditionally grows under the shade of forest trees. When grown in this way, cocoa farms provide forest-like habitat which can support significant forest wildlife and provide corridors of habitat between areas of high-quality rainforest.



Sadly, most of the chocolate we consume is made from cocoa beans not grown in this way. To keep up with demand for cheap cocoa, farmers across the world have been driven to clear rainforest to create plantation-style cocoa farms. In fact, cocoa production continues to be one of the leading causes of deforestation in West Africa.

In Gola, farmers still grow cocoa in the traditional way. The RSPB and partners have been working with them to help improve the quality and yield of their shade-grown cocoa, and to access the international market so they can be rewarded for their efforts. The RSPB has also become a buyer of their cocoa, and has turned the beans into delicious chocolate.

The emphasis is on more money for less product; farmers need to be incentivised to continue growing shade-grown cocoa and not clear the forest to make more money.

Looking to the future

The RSPB and partners are also working with forest-edge communities to help them designate their land into areas that have the highest conservation value and should remain as forest. Areas that have lower conservation value can be used for more intensive subsistence farming, with areas of shade-grown cocoa helping support the forest ecosystem in the landscape.

Our plan is to continue building up the reputation of Gola Cocoa, the RSPB's chocolate bar playing an important role in this. We're looking forward to Gola Cocoa becoming a self-sustaining business for the forest-edge communities in the future.

Rosie Miles
Conservation Officer



Increasing the area of land well-managed for nature

Pygmy hippo by Michael Leach & Mariel Land (NHPA). Chocolate by RSPB.

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The Tana River Delta in Kenya is home to a vast array of amazing wildlife, including rare species such as the green turtle, listed as Endangered by IUCN.

The Tana Delta Project – two years on

We've been working with residents in Kenya to create livelihoods that also help the natural environment.

The Tana River Delta in Kenya is a spectacular – and vital – place. Covering 130,000 hectares, it's home to a vast array of amazing wildlife. There are five species of threatened marine turtles, lions, elephants and three species of monkey - including two of the world's 25 most endangered primates. There are rare fish and reptiles, 350 bird species, internationally-important populations of 22 waterbirds and 280 plant species. However, since the Tana River Primate National Reserve was annulled, none of the primate habitat is legally protected, even though their population is now fewer than 100 individuals.

Working together

But help is on hand. The Tana Delta Project is a four-year project to balance water services for development and biodiversity. It is led and directed by the RSPB and co-ordinated by Nature Kenya, who lead on all local activity and budget management of the project delivery. Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forest Service, Tana River County Government, Lamu County Government and Tana Delta Conservation Network are also involved.

The first challenge the project team faced was the need to find ways to improve the livelihoods of the people living within the Tana Delta Community Conservation Area (CCA). They needed to create ways for the villages to communicate and collaborate with each other, as there is a history of significant tribal conflict.

Targeting our help

The team began by selecting the poorest and most vulnerable of the 35,000 people living inside the CCA – 220 households, around 1,320 people – and empowering them to build livelihoods that support the long-term conservation of the Delta's natural resources.

These livelihoods include keeping fish ponds, small-holder chicken rearing, new and improved agricultural methods for leafy vegetables, fruits, rice and mung beans, bee-keeping, honey production, and wildlife guiding. This work has been a huge success. In the last year, 80% of the 220 participating households have developed and diversified their livelihoods as a result of training they have received.

Across all delta communities, conflict has drastically reduced, and communities have started advocating for CCA recognition in county planning and budgeting.

Good results

The numbers helped through this project are very encouraging. The Livestock Production Department supported 228 beekeepers through hands-on training in honey production, and the Department of Agriculture provided technical support to farmers in greenhouse vegetable production and rice farming, reaching 259 farmers. Pastoralists were supported to purchase 92 goats using a business model of fattening and selling. Within the reporting period cumulative sales amounted to 201,600 Kenyan shillings (£1,539) with a net profit of 48,300 Kenyan shillings (£369). The community has since opened a new butchery to slaughter and sell the meat.

Kenya Wildlife Services trained 21 wildlife guides, while Kenya Forest Service trained 125 people in participatory forest management planning and the need for the forest management plan.

As part of energy saving technologies work, 850 energy-saving stoves were installed. A spot assessment indicates by using the stoves, communities saved 39% on time spent cooking and reduced their wood usage by 44%.

Chris Magin
Head of Partner Development Section



Increasing the area of land well-managed for nature

Green turtle (FLPA-images.co.uk)

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Sadly, 15 of the world's 22 albatross species are at risk of extinction. With the Albatross Task Force, we're fighting to protect what's left.

Keeping albatrosses off the hook

Nina da Rocha
Albatross Task Force Project Officer



Seas well-managed for nature

Opposite: Salvin's albatross by Oliver Smart (rspb-images.com)

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More than a decade since its launch, we're celebrating the fantastic work of the Albatross Task Force.

With their enormous wingspans and epic ocean wanderings, there are few birds as awe-inspiring as albatrosses. But each year more than 100,000 meet tragic ends tangled in fishing gear or caught on baited hooks, known as bycatch. As they are extremely slow breeders, raising a single chick every one or two years, they simply can't compensate for these massive losses. Sadly, 15 of the world's 22 albatross species are at risk of extinction.

To combat this, we teamed up with BirdLife International to form the Albatross Task Force (ATF). The ATF is on a mission to reduce seabird bycatch by 80% in some of the deadliest fisheries for albatrosses. Our first team started working in South Africa in 2006, and ever since, our international team of seabird bycatch mitigation experts has been working alongside governments, communities and fishers to help protect seabirds in some of the worst bycatch hotspots in the world.

Simple but effective

The idea behind the ATF is to use simple, inexpensive activities and tools, known as "seabird bycatch mitigation measures", that can be easily incorporated onto boats and routine fishing operations. These include bird scaring lines (with colourful streamers that scare foraging birds away from areas with potentially lethal fishing gear), fishing under the cover of darkness (as most seabirds are less active at night), and adding weights to longlines, so they sink more quickly, thus narrowing the window of opportunity for birds to get caught on them. Since starting work in South Africa in 2006, we have expanded our work to cover other areas south of the equator, including Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Namibia.

This year, we are particularly pleased that in Argentina, regulations requiring the use of bird-scaring lines on trawl vessels came into force (in May 2018), largely thanks to ATF activities. To spread the knowledge gained from this experience, ATF instructors from Argentina visited Chile to demonstrate the use of mitigation measures on board a government vessel. This took place in August 2018, and we're hoping to continue this transnational collaboration into 2019.

Moving forward

In South Africa, the ATF is working with fishers to design bird-scaring lines that are adapted for smaller longline vessels and thus easier to use at sea. And in Brazil, the team will continue to train port inspectors and fishers to ensure they are equipped with the necessary information to enforce and comply with existing seabird bycatch mitigation regulations.

The future sustainability of the reductions secured to date relies on ensuring local people have the skills and desire to continue protecting seabirds. Moving forward, our focus will be on training individuals within governments and the fishing industry, so that they know how to keep seabird mortality rates low for good. This is a major focus of current work in Namibia, where we're building the capacity of key government agencies to monitor and tackle seabird bycatch as a core part of standard fisheries management. As well as working with today's fishers, we're also helping the next generation by delivering an educational outreach programme in schools, universities and national fisheries schools. In Argentina, we're targeting schools surrounding key ports, where approximately 30% of students have family members in the fishing industry.



It's been illegal for more than 40 years, but Cyprus is still a hotspot for industrial-scale bird trapping.



Cyprus bird trapping hits record low

Every year, an estimated 25 million birds are illegally killed around the Mediterranean, including on Cyprus, where the UK has two Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs). We've been working hard with our partners to end this senseless slaughter.

Despite it being illegal there since 1974, Cyprus sees some of the most intense killing in the whole of the Mediterranean. Here birds are trapped on an industrial scale to fuel the demand from local restaurants for a dish called "ambelopoulia" – cooked songbirds. Traditionally, trappers used lime (glue) sticks to ensnare birds, but the situation escalated in the 1990s with the introduction of mist nets and the use of loudspeakers to lure birds to their deaths. Trappers have even planted huge areas of non-native acacia shrub to place their nets and provide cover for the birds on the Eastern SBA (ESBA).

In 2002, the RSPB set up a monitoring programme to track the levels of trapping, which was later taken on by BirdLife Cyprus. Initially, thanks to enforcement, trapping fell significantly. However, this reduction was short-lived and by 2007 trapping was increasing again. In December 2014, an acacia removal programme began in ESBA, but protests from local trappers eventually brought this work to a halt in 2016. In the autumn of that year, trapping levels in the ESBA peaked at 183% above the 2002 baseline.

Stopping the killing

In response, the RSPB's Investigations Team and the SBA police began a covert surveillance operation to obtain footage of trappers catching and killing birds. This graphic evidence has led to convictions involving substantial fines and lengthy suspended jail sentences.

The SBA authorities have also taken more steps to ratchet up the pressure on the trappers.

This has included exclusion orders, vehicle seizures, and revoking farming leases and EU subsidies. With support from the RSPB, the police have also purchased a surveillance drone to add to the arsenal of deterrents.

Although acacia removal is still on hold, the military have been actively removing the associated irrigation infrastructure and as a result, large areas of acacia are dying back, reducing their attractiveness for trapping.

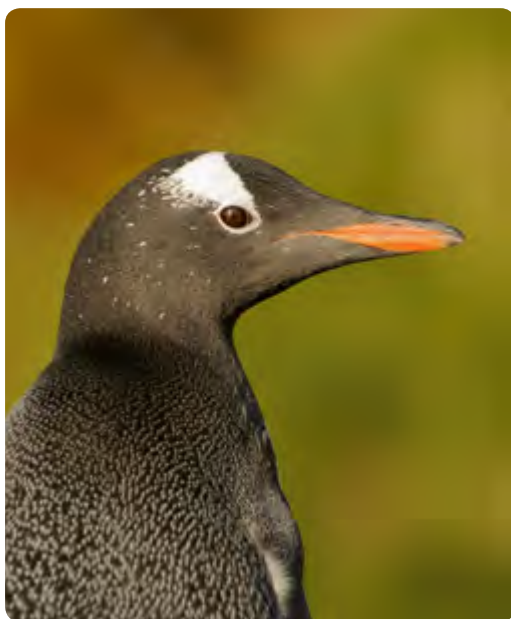
Making progress

In March 2019, BirdLife Cyprus published the autumn 2018 trapping survey, which estimated that 250,000 birds were killed within the survey areas. Whilst still shocking, this is 90% below the 2002 baseline, and the lowest level since the survey started, which clearly shows that our partnership work is having a positive impact, with thousands more birds flying free.

Although trapping levels have fallen, the demand for ambelopoulia remains and without sustained enforcement, trapping is likely to increase again. That's why, alongside BirdLife Cyprus, we're calling for the Cyprus authorities to strengthen enforcement agencies, tackle the restaurant trade and amend legislative loopholes. The SBA authorities must also draw up a plan for the eradication of acacia.

The RSPB will continue to work on Cyprus and support our partner BirdLife Cyprus' efforts to rally support for an end to trapping through awareness-raising and education projects.

Alastair Wilson (rspb-images.com)



Gentoo get more protection

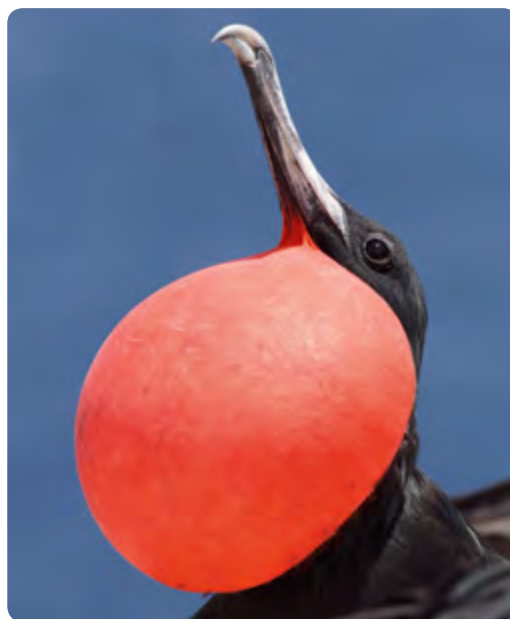
Lying 808 miles (1,300 km) south-east of the Falkland Islands, South Georgia is home to important colonies of gentoo penguins. The Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands set up a 665,000 square mile (1.07million km²) "sustainable use" Marine Protected Area (MPA) here in 2012.

As part of this MPA, krill fishing around South Georgia does not take place during the summer breeding season. Fishing resumes in winter, when most of South Georgia's marine wildlife is in the wider oceans.

However, gentoo penguins remain resident all year. While the number of breeding king penguins has been growing on South Georgia, the gentoos did not appear to benefit. The RSPB initiated a tracking study with British Antarctic Survey in 2018 to understand where the gentoo penguins feed. The data shows the birds regularly forage in an area used by the krill fishery.

With this vital new evidence, the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands decided that the "No-Take" fishing zone around the island should be extended to 18 miles (30km) to protect the gentoos: amounting to 2,800 square miles (4,500 km²) of additional protection.

Displaying male frigate bird by Sam Weber



Ascension Island MPA

Ascension Island is a small volcanic island in the South Atlantic Ocean, 1,000 miles (1,600km) off the coast of Africa. It's a UK Overseas Territory, which means it is under the jurisdiction of the UK.

Ascension is one of the most important tropical seabird sites on the planet and was identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by BirdLife International. Ascension also has its own endemic species, the Ascension frigatebird. Unique fish species, such as the resplendent angelfish and marmalade razorfish, swim close to the shore.

We've been campaigning to get the waters around Ascension Island designated as a Marine Protected Area since 2013.

In March 2019, the Chancellor announced he would support Ascension's call for the biggest highly-protected marine reserve in the Atlantic, around 171,000 square miles (440,000 square kilometres).

This is the largest protected area the RSPB has ever initiated and will ensure safeguards for the Atlantic's second-largest green turtle population, feeding grounds for one of the world's most important tropic seabird breeding sites, and swordfish, sharks, tuna, marlin, frigatebirds and terns.

Nigel Blake (rsob-images.com)



Biosecurity for LIFE



Celebrating Orkney's rare wildlife

Orkney is an incredibly important home for wildlife, including many species that are rare or declining across the rest of the UK.

We continue to protect and celebrate Orkney's wildlife. We co-ordinated the sixth annual Orkney Nature Festival in May. In August, two white-tailed eagle chicks fledged in Hoy – the first in Orkney in 145 years! We also took over the farming operation on our Onziebust nature reserve to help waders, corncrakes and bees, including the rare great yellow bumblebee.

Most importantly, we began the Orkney Native Wildlife Project. A partnership between the RSPB, Scottish Natural Heritage and Orkney Islands Council with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, EU LIFE and others, it aims to safeguard the unique and internationally-important native wildlife of Orkney by addressing the threat of stoats.

Stoats are an invasive non-native predator in Orkney and threaten the future of the Orkney vole and internationally-important populations of ground-nesting birds including hen harriers and curlews.

The project is working with local communities to eradicate stoats from Orkney and ensure measures are in place to prevent re-invasions in the future.

Protecting seabird islands

There are 41 seabird island Special Protection Areas (SPAs) around the UK, and the team from the Biosecurity for LIFE project is on a mission to protect the birds on these islands from the arrival and establishment of invasive predators – known as “biosecurity”. Invasive predators include rats, mice, stoats and mink which don't form part of island ecosystems, and feed on seabird eggs, chicks and even adult birds.

The four-year project, which started in August 2018, will work to raise the level of biosecurity protection across all of our seabird island SPAs, and raise awareness of the importance of biosecurity for the protection of island wildlife. So far, the team has interviewed site managers for 39 of the islands, to assess the biosecurity measures they have in place, and develop recommendations and a workplan. An awareness-raising campaign was launched in May 2019, and work has started with communities living on seabirds island SPAs.

The project is a partnership between the RSPB, the National Trust and the National Trust for Scotland, with the RSPB as a lead beneficiary. It's funded by a 60% contribution from the EU LIFE Governance and Information fund, with co-financing from Scottish Natural Heritage, Natural England and the Northern Ireland Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, and contributions from project partners.



Sadly, the complete loss of turtle doves as a breeding bird in the UK is a very real possibility.

How we're creating a brighter future for turtle doves

We're working both at home and abroad to tackle the threats facing one of the UK's rarest birds.

The gentle purr of turtle doves was once an evocative sound of summer, but the UK population of these birds has crashed by 94% since 1995, and by more than 30% across Europe since 1998; their complete loss as a breeding species in the UK is a real possibility.

Turtle doves spend two-thirds of their time outside the UK and face a range of threats along their migratory route to their wintering grounds in West Africa. As a part of the Operation Turtle Dove partnership, which includes Fair to Nature, Pensthorpe Conservation Trust and Natural England, we're working to improve the fortunes of these beleaguered birds.

"We need a bigger restaurant"

Research shows that a major cause of population decline here in the UK is a shortage of suitable seed food during the breeding season. That's why we're working with farmers, communities, landowners and volunteers in key areas to ensure turtle doves have access to the right seeds in the right places – close to suitable dense scrubby nesting habitat and accessible drinking water.

The right seeds can be made available by encouraging a range of annual seed-bearing plants to flourish, but also by a more "hands-on" method of supplementary feeding – putting out seed directly for the doves. Our research has shown that supplementary feeding can be safe and effective, if carried out according to a carefully-designed protocol, and can be used as a first-step emergency measure in addition to longer-term management to provide food. As Dr Guy Anderson, the RSPB's UK Migrants Programme Manager explains: "We've got a good menu of conservation options for turtle doves in the UK now, and we know how to serve them. We just need a bigger restaurant."

Working along the flyway

May 2018 saw the launch of the Turtle Dove Species Action Plan, developed by the RSPB as part of a LIFE EuroSAP project, led by BirdLife International. This 10-year plan marks a significant step forward. It combines a set of detailed actions to tackle illegal killing, unsustainable (legal) hunting, and habitat loss and degradation – including the key issue of food supply shortage affecting the UK and elsewhere. And it does this for the entire flyway of turtle doves. The challenge now is to ensure the actions become a reality on the ground.

In winter 2018, we completed the fieldwork for a study into the habitat preferences of turtle doves wintering in Senegal, and we have also worked alongside the French Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS) to analyse turtle dove satellite tracking data to identify key migration stopover sites.

As well as investigating the habitat needs of turtle doves, we have also been involved in research on turtle dove hunting in Europe, which has revealed that current levels are unsustainable. In addition, research by Lara Moreno-Zárate, whose PhD thesis is funded by our Migrants Programme, shows that a reduction in the daily hunting bag limit is unlikely to result in a significant decrease in the total number of turtle doves killed in several parts of Spain.

These findings have been used by our research partner in Spain, IREC, to officially recommend to the Spanish authorities that a reduction in the number of hunting days is the only effective way of reducing hunting pressure on turtle doves.

By working together, we're hoping to improve the fortunes of turtle doves all along the flyway.

Carles Carboneras

International Migrants Programme Manager

Guy Anderson

UK Migrants Programme Manager



RSPB

Saving threatened species

Turtle dove by RSPB.

Annual review



Around 27% of the global curlew population breeds in the UK.



Partnership working for curlews across the UK

Our work to improve the conservation prospects of one of our largest wading birds.

Eurasian curlews are one of the UK's most distinctive wading birds. This is due to their large size, their distinctive downward-curving bill, and their unmistakable "curl-eee" call, which has inspired people to write music, literature and poetry for hundreds of years.

The UK is the third most important country in the world for breeding curlews, hosting up to 27% of the global breeding population. Since the mid-1990s, their population has dropped rapidly, by 48% across the UK. Sadly, the decline is so serious in Northern Ireland, we believe there are only around 250 pairs remaining, and we only have 10 years to turn the situation around.

The curlew declines are attributed to low nesting success, and a reduction in good-quality habitat, caused primarily by changes in land use.

We launched a five-year programme to improve the conservation prospects of curlews in 2015, and Phase 1 is due to end in 2020. The aim of the work is to better understand the land management practices that are needed in order to stabilise the breeding population here, and to ensure that, as an organisation, we are doing all we can for the species.

An ambitious landscape-scale trial management project: six sites across four countries

A main component of the first phase is the curlew trial management project. This is one of the RSPB's most ambitious research projects, involving six landscape-scale sites in four countries (one in Wales, two in Scotland, one in Northern Ireland, and two in Northern England), in areas both on and off our reserve

network. The project is testing what levels of habitat management and predator control are required, to stabilise the breeding population.

On each site, two areas of 10 square km have been identified. One is an area where we're testing the interventions of habitat management and predator control. The other is a control area where we are not undergoing any new management, to assess whether our actions are making a difference. The impacts on curlews are measured every year by our research assistants, who walk the equivalent distance from Land's End to John O'Groats to collect the curlew data. We've now completed three years at all sites, but we haven't undertaken the interventions for long enough to see strong trends. The good news is that we've just been granted extra time for the project.

In 2018, our Reserves Ecology team audited 25 priority curlew reserves, and found a total of 454 pairs of curlews. Curlew populations are increasing or stable on 79% of these key reserves, and 19 out of 25 of them scored 8 or more out of 12, showing that they have good or ideal curlew habitat.

Curlews are widely dispersed across the landscape, so if we are to make any difference, we must work in partnership with farmers, land managers and other conservation organisations at scale. In collaboration with the Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership, Working for Waders and Gylfynir Cymru - Curlew Wales, our future focus is on 11 priority landscapes and 25 key reserves, ensuring the right land management policies are in place, and developing strong partnerships to deliver for this species. Working together, we can make a difference to ensure that future generations continue to hear the beautiful but haunting cries of the curlew.

Chris Gomersall (rspb-images.com)



Success for Shiant's storm petrels

The Shiant Isles are a tiny group of islands, around five miles east of Harris in the Hebrides. While these islands have ideal nesting habitat for storm petrels, the continued presence of black rats discouraged storm petrels from colonising the Shiant's.

In 2018, the island was declared rat-free following a successful four-year EU LIFE+-funded eradication project.

Following the eradication, the next job was to attract storm petrels. This was done by putting loudspeakers playing storm petrel calls directly out to sea, and placing another selection at ground level, to mimic a colony. Bird calls were played overnight during the breeding season in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

After the third rat-free summer, a storm petrel chick was recorded calling on the Shiant's, the islands' first known breeding of these seabirds here. This isn't just great news for petrels – it shows this is a great way to establish new seabird colonies. The project was a partnership between RSPB Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, and the Nicolson Family, who own the islands.

Iain Erskine



White-tailed eagles take flight

White-tailed eagles are the largest UK bird of prey and became in the UK in 1918, due to human persecution. A reintroduction programme was started in 1975, and we now have a growing population from descendants of these reintroduced birds.

We're pleased to say that for the first time in 145 years, a pair of white-tailed eagles nested successfully on Hoy in Orkney and fledged two chicks – a new and exciting expansion in their breeding range in Scotland. They had a good year generally, with around 120 pairs established, and fledging 75 chicks.

Working with Scottish Natural Heritage, NFUS and Forestry and Land Scotland, we're working in a pragmatic way towards managing land and livestock for this species in areas where it is accepted that some eagles may occasionally impact on sheep farming.

White-tailed eagles are a huge visitor attraction, especially in Mull, Skye and the Western Isles. On Mull alone, they contribute up to £5m a year to the local economy through eagle tourism. The award-winning Mull Eagle Watch project also worked with Craignure Golf Course in 2018, working together to bring new visitors and income to both projects.

Guy Anderson



Ben Andrew (sppb-images.com)



Super spoonies

Spoon-billed sandpipers (spoonies) are small wading birds, breeding in the far north-east of Russia, and wintering in South China, Thailand, Myanmar and Bangladesh. Numbers have dropped from 2,000–2,800 pairs in the 1970s, to 200–250 pairs today. We're working with partners to improve breeding success through headstarting, where eggs are collected and chicks reared safely, then released at fledging. In addition, adult birds can relay second clutches and often fledge their own broods. Once fledged, chicks are released. From 2012 to 2019, 184 spoonie chicks have been reared and released in Russia.

Satellite tagging has revealed migration routes and key sites, where threats from hunting or habitat destruction can then be identified and are being tackled. We helped fit three birds with tags in 2018. One helped identify an unknown migration staging site in North Korea, and one gave us the first spoonie record in Indonesia.

We've helped count and mark birds with individually-coded leg flags and caught and marked 13 birds in China in autumn 2018. Marked birds helped us estimate both world and local site populations, confirming a globally-important area for spoonies on the Yellow Sea, at risk from land claims and under threat of destruction. With our partners, we raised awareness of the importance of this area. The Chinese government has now proposed it as a Natural World Heritage Site, calling for an end to all new land claims in the area – great news!

Terning around their fortunes

As their name suggests, little terns are our smallest tern, weighing no more than a tennis ball. Unfortunately, they've suffered long-term declines, and are now on the Amber List of conservation concern. A coastal species, their main threats are loss of food, predation and disturbance.

An EU LIFE-funded little tern recovery project ran from September 2013 to 31 March 2019, with the aim to lay the foundations for the future recovery of little terns. Working in partnership with nine organisations, at 29 sites, this work included an increase in wardening in nesting areas; management of predators; advocacy and an increase in people engagement, to make people aware of the threats faced by little terns.

Early results indicate that the project has slowed the decline of little terns. Now the focus is on moving towards a more sustainable model of little tern conservation, with a growth in volunteer support and alternative funding sources.

This work will help us draw up a future recovery plan for the species, including identifying possible future nest sites, and laying the foundations for a secure future of this species.

Tim Melling (rspb-images.com)



A rosy future for roseate terns

Roseate terns are the UK's rarest breeding seabirds and have suffered severe declines. We're now three-quarters of the way through an EU LIFE-funded project to improve their conservation prospects focusing on three sites: Rockabill Island and Lady's Island Lake in Ireland, and Coquet Island, Northumberland in the UK.

Threats to roseate terns include eroding nesting habitats, food shortages, disturbance and predation. The project aims to increase the population at current colonies, and to improve the breeding conditions for common, Arctic and Sandwich terns at the sites where roseate terns once bred, to prepare for future colonisation.

On the ground, our wardens continue to safeguard roseate tern colonies. In addition, we'd earmarked Larne Lough in County Antrim as a suitable future nesting site, but it had suffered erosion and flooding. In 2018, the team successfully restored the seabird island so that it could be more suitable for roseate terns. Larne Lough also supports important colonies of common and Sandwich terns.

Recent figures look promising: there were a total of 1,987 roseate tern pairs in 2018, compared to 1,933 in 2017. This represents a 33% increase compared to the baseline 5-year project mean (2011–15) for Rockabill, a 38% increase for Lady's Island Lake and a 37% increase for Coquet Island.

Ben Andrew (rspb-images.com)



Back from the Brink

Back from the Brink is an ambitious conservation project that aims to save 20 species from extinction and benefit 200 more, thanks to funding from the National Lottery.

The RSPB is involved in four of these species, of which the field cricket is one. Field crickets are one of the UK's rarest invertebrates. In the 1980s, there were fewer than 100 left in England, all at one site in West Sussex. Thanks to a series of successful reintroductions, there are now several thousand field crickets in southern England. One of these reintroductions was at the RSPB's Farnham Heath reserve in Surrey. In 2019, we heard more than 300 male field crickets there, suggesting a population of around 600 at this site alone.

In April 2019 we kickstarted a brand new field cricket population at our Pulborough Brooks reserve. 12 field crickets were translocated from Lord's Piece in Sussex to Pulborough, using a method known as "cricket tickling". Field crickets live in gently-sloping burrows, and they are "tickled" by licenced ecologists using a piece of rush or grass in the burrow, until they emerge. The project focuses on almost mature nymphs, so they are ready to breed on release.

The early signs are positive: the crickets were heard calling at Pulborough Brooks shortly after their release, and again in May 2019 after a top-up translocation. Our aim is to have 100 calling males at Pulborough Brooks by 2028. For further details, see naturebftb.co.uk





Wildlife-friendly farmers across the UK are united through the Nature-Friendly Farming Network.



Farmers unite for nature

Farmers from across the UK are coming together to champion sustainable, nature-friendly farming.

The Nature Friendly Farming Network (NFFN) unites farmers across the UK who are passionate about wildlife and sustainable farming. The RSPB is one of the official advisory partners and together, we've made a massive impact in the last year.

The NFFN network is free to join and over the past year membership has almost doubled; more than 900 farmers and 2,000 members of the public are now working together to share knowledge and ensure their views on the future of farming are being heard by UK policy makers.

Importantly, the NFFN is a farmer-led movement and in the last year, a UK farmer steering group was established as well as country-level steering groups to help drive the network forward across the UK. Cheryl Nicholson, the RSPB's NFFN UK manager said:

"The NFFN is a fantastic initiative, uniting farmers on the ground and giving them a collective powerful voice and access to policy makers. The RSPB has an advisory and capacity-building role, but the farmers lead and make all decisions. Their commitment and passion for providing an alternative voice for farming has made NFFN a recognised stakeholder with many key organisations, including Defra. Their dedication, hard work and tenacity in the last 12 months has ensured that farmers can help shape future policy and environmental land management for the benefit of everyone."

Nature means business

In October, the NFFN held its first parliamentary event at Westminster under the banner of "Nature Means Business" and 38 nature-friendly farmers from across the UK met MPs to lobby for an Agriculture Bill that puts nature at the heart of farming policy. All 22 of the MPs involved agreed with the key NFFN message

that long-term food security and food production can only be secured by ensuring nature friendly and sustainable farming methods.

Unfortunately, the Government's Agriculture Bill has been postponed, due to Brexit, but the NFFN have been working hard to formulate five key asks for MPs, ready for when it is put back on the table:

- All UK government departments should lead by example, supporting high quality, sustainable and nature-friendly British food production.
- Productivity must be underpinned by sustainability to ensure long-term food security.
- Farmers should be rewarded financially for delivering environmental benefits.
- Future trade deals must not undercut the high agricultural and environmental standards delivered by UK farmers.
- The Bill must set basic standards for sustainable land management

Westminster wasn't the only big government event last year; the NFFN also headed to Stormont and hosted a Nature-Friendly Farmers' Market where farmers from across Northern Ireland showcased their produce and explained to 43 Members of the Legislative Assembly how farming and nature can work hand in hand. Similar events are also planned for Scotland and Wales.

Looking to the future

The NFFN as a movement has taken off far more quickly than anticipated and so we were delighted to receive funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, which will fund the network for the next two years. With so many individuals and organisations looking to get involved, the NFFN can only get stronger and more influential.



For the first time, we've joined forces with the NUS to equip students with the skills they need to make a positive impact for nature.



Students using their skills for good

Together with the National Union of Students (NUS), we've been helping university students gain the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to take positive action for nature.

In November 2018, the RSPB joined forces with the NUS to deliver Skills for Good, a programme designed to equip students with the skills they need to have a positive impact on the environment or nature.

The programme was offered to students from the Universities of Stirling and Strathclyde and 15 dedicated young people applied to attend bespoke training sessions over the course of five months. These sessions covered a range of topics from project management and leadership, to sustainable development and nature connection.

The final two months were very much student-led, with the students encouraged to take the skills they had learned and develop sustainable initiatives themselves. The RSPB Skills for Good Project Manager, Bethan Jones, explains: "It was so inspiring to see the students share their eagerness for a sustainable future with us and with each other. There was a real range of approaches taken, and the students integrated the skills training they had received in ways that genuinely worked for them. Their determination and insight was impressive and to be able to demonstrate how the RSPB could support them on this journey was really exciting."

Turning training in to action

The students implemented their new skills in a wide range of ways. Some focused on spaces that were meaningful for them: for example, one student created a plan to make their family farm more wildlife-friendly, while another

developed a business plan to help a community in India tackle wildlife persecution. Other approaches included spreading awareness through social media and blogs; organising litter picks and clothes swaps on campus; and contributing to government consultations on food policy.

One student commented that, before Skills for Good, the idea of implementing their skills to make a difference "sounded so huge and out of reach" but having been through the programme they believed that they were now "definitely capable of doing it".

Looking to the future

This was the first RSPB project specifically tailored to university students and so the team has been gathering feedback and recently invited students to attend a post-programme review. We're keen to find a way to take forward what we've learned and deliver the programme again in a sustainable way, to empower future students to take action for nature.

One student's feedback has really stuck with the RSPB team: "My motivation is our planet and the belief that we can change the thinking pattern of other people. I want to create an impact wherever I go – in my own life and that of people around me."

If we can continue to inspire, train and empower more young people to use their skills to tackle the threats facing our planet, the future for nature and people will look far brighter.



RSPB



Annie Magowan by RSPB

Could Scotland become a Good Food Nation?

RSPB Scotland has been heavily involved in the campaign for a new law on the Scottish food system, the Good Food Nation Bill; transforming Scottish food production to better consider people and wildlife.

As part of the Scottish Food Coalition (SFC), RSPB Scotland has worked to increase awareness of the problems surrounding the Scottish food system, showing how environmental challenges are often connected to health, animal welfare, social justice, workers' rights and community issues.

During autumn 2018, the SFC recruited a group of volunteers, "Good Food Nation Ambassadors"; empowered to raise their voices for a Good Food Nation Bill. RSPB Scotland was involved in the recruitment, training, and support of the Ambassadors.

By Winter 2018, the Ambassadors had run a total of 60 events, resulting in an overwhelming 1600 voices being heard as part of the consultation process.

RSPB Scotland and the SFC hope to harness the growing interest in the Good Food movement, pushing for a new law in Parliament in the next year.

Studying bees gave Annie a voice

Young Campaigner Annie Magowan's opening paragraph of her online UK government petition "Be Fair to Bees" reads: *"Our research has shown that wildlife-friendly farming supported four times the number of pollinators compared to a farm that had never been managed for wildlife. The question is not should we save bees, but why have we not already started?"*

Annie is 17 years old. Ahead of creating this petition, Annie had completed a 6 week Nuffield Research placement with the RSPB, investigating the diversity and abundance of pollinators on two farms. It inspired her to launch a UK Government petition to get her voice heard.

Annie has since represented her school at a "Listen up" event with local MLAs in Belfast, presented to farmers, businesses, MLAs and the media at a Nature-friendly Farming event at Stormont and delivered interviews on radio and BBC TV.

Annie also led her school Biology group in developing an Eco Unesco Young Environmentalist of the Year project, which was shortlisted for the All Ireland final and won the 2019 Senior Biodiversity Award.

You can hear from other young people and learn more about Annie's project at the RSPB AGM in October 2019.

Schools outreach by Eleanor Bentall (rspb-images.com)



Barratt Homes/RSPB



Connecting children to nature with Aldi

The RSPB-Aldi “Connecting Children with Nature” partnership was launched in response to the decline in the time children spend outdoors in nature.

In July 2015, the RSPB embarked on a partnership with the award-winning supermarket Aldi, donating profits from its single-use bag sales to help fund our outreach work for young people in schools, communities and local green spaces. In total, Aldi donated nearly £3 million to take the RSPB’s connection to nature work to the UK’s largest cities. Working in schools and local green spaces puts children in touch with nature on their doorstep and aims to make it part of their everyday lives.

The partnership saw more than 400 volunteers give a total of 21,000 hours to ensure that children in 17 cities across England, Scotland and Wales could enjoy 500,000 experiences with nature. The partnership also funded the development of the online award scheme, the Wild Challenge, so that children anywhere, can engage with nature on their doorstep. From creating homes for hedgehogs to building ponds, they’ve taken more than 150,000 actions to help nature.

A partnership research survey evaluated the schools’ outreach project with striking results: a staggering 98% of teachers rating the schools’ outreach sessions as “Good” or “Excellent”.

Changing the way we build

Our partnership with Barratt Developments PLC, which focuses on sustainable housing developments, continues to be successful. This year the team has focused on making the partnership broader and even more collaborative, discussing and supporting issues regarding the forthcoming Environment Bill, to mandate biodiversity net gain.

In addition, we’ve created a nature-friendly gardening guide for the developments to use when designing their show home gardens. Barratt has since committed to installing wildlife-friendly show gardens in all their future developments.

We’ve also created a guide to help customers to design wildlife-friendly gardens in their own homes.

The team has also identified 10 cities and surrounding areas where Barratt can install their award-winning swift bricks. The aim is to have thousands of swift bricks installed in the next few years.

The partners are currently co-producing a paper for the National House Building Council on wildlife-friendly housing developments, which will become an industry-wide guide for developers.

Steven Lofting



Parklife and growing good advice

We welcomed the renewal of our partnership with grounds maintenance and construction company *idverde* in Bromley. This means that together we can deliver the Bromley biodiversity action plan, in conjunction with the London Borough of Bromley, and engage local community volunteers.

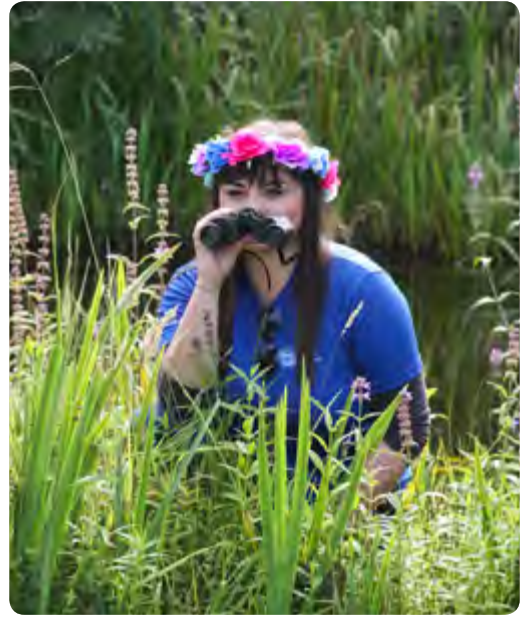
The remit of the partnership is to enable London's biggest borough's green space to benefit local people and wildlife, and create a green legacy for future generations.

An RSPB advisor now works within *idverde*'s operations at Bromley. The role ensures 20% of land managed by *idverde* in Bromley is well-managed for nature, to take advantage of opportunities to make the area more wildlife-friendly, and to increase the number of active community conservation volunteers working on Bromley sites.

We've recently launched a second area partnership, recruiting an additional RSPB advisor to work at *idverde*'s Midlands business operation. The role involves advising on community engagement, and habitat and species management for *idverde* projects spanning Charnwood, Northampton and Telford.

We look forward to exploring further area partnerships in the coming year.

Lisa Louise Greenhorn



Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Glasgow Garden Festival

RSPB Scotland celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Glasgow Garden Festival in April 2018 and put on 50 additional events across the city across a five-month period, geared to conserving garden wildlife.

All events celebrated the city's green infrastructure and wildlife over the last 30 years and questioned how the city could transform itself further, in the coming 30 years.

The youth-led Let Glasgow Flourish Youth Conference was an exciting moment for the team. The fresh thinking around green infrastructure by the kids who took part in the workshops, impressed both the RSPB and expert panel of landscape architects, planners and ecologists.

RSPB Scotland looks forward to developing more long-term, urban projects, with an emphasis on multiple interactions with the same young people, ensuring conservation plays an ongoing role in their lives.

RSPB



Craig Allardyce



Chart topping birds sing for their lives

One of the greatest challenges facing wildlife in the UK is that so few people realise the scale of the declines in recent decades. We decided to tackle this head on by raising awareness about the scale of the problem and using innovative approaches like focusing on the cultural implications of nature's disappearance.

Featuring only nature's finest musicians; both endangered and thriving birds, the "Let Nature Sing" single was released in April 2019. It was purchased almost 24,000 times, entered the UK Charts at number 18 and even reached number 2 in Scotland.

Alice Hardiman, the RSPB's Campaigning Communications Manager said:

"The campaign was a powerful way of telling a complex story; by celebrating birdsong we could start conversations about much-loved species disappearing. I am so proud of how the organisation worked together and unleashed a wave of creativity and support!"

The team is planning further activities to raise awareness about the need for nature's recovery. Listen out for bird song in a public space near you on 17 October 2019.

Save Coul Links

Coul Links lies on the east Sutherland coast of the Scottish Highlands and is one of the last undeveloped dune systems of its kind in Scotland. A place so important for wildlife that it's protected at national, European and international levels.

Multi-millionaire developers are proposing to build a golf course right across the protected habitats. Sadly, this would spell disaster for the area, resulting in harmful disturbance to breeding and wintering wading birds, waterfowl and other species.

RSPB Scotland is working with Buglife Scotland, Butterfly Conservation Scotland, Plantlife Scotland, the Marine Conservation Society and the National Trust for Scotland and the Scottish Wildlife Trust to campaign against the proposals.

In 2018, 13,000 people campaigned successfully for the Scottish government to "call in" the planning decision because of the harm it would cause to nature. The Scottish government has scrutinised the planning application through a public inquiry and could make a decision at any time. Take action today to make sure your voice is heard:

rspb.org.uk/SaveCoulLinks



Chris Packham



Ben Andrew (RSPB)

We Love Minsmere

Minsmere is one of our flagship reserves. More than 5,600 different animals, plants and fungi are found here, and it has nationally and internationally important populations of bitterns, marsh harriers and avocets.

The proposed nuclear power extension at Sizewell borders Minsmere to the south. It is one of eight locations the Government consider potentially suitable for a new nuclear power station, noting that a detailed environmental impact assessment will be required for each. The proposal would bring Sizewell up to the Minsmere reserve boundary.

The extension and developments could be detrimental for wildlife. Building work may increase coastal erosion, which could affect on Minsmere's habitats. It could alter water levels in Minsmere's ditches, affecting its rare wildlife. If it goes ahead, construction will take up to 12 years and will increase levels of light pollution, which wading birds are very sensitive to.

We asked for your help – and you responded. During Stage 3 public consultation in early 2019, 20,419 of you acted and emailed EDF, telling them how much you love Minsmere, and why they should protect it. On 18 July 2019, EDF announced a further unscheduled fourth stage of consultation which focused on the environment and transport and ran up to 27 September 2019. We have responded with our concerns, and until these are met by EDF we will not be satisfied with the proposals..

We want to improve the Agriculture Bill

The new Agriculture Bill for England is currently in front of Parliament. The Bill focuses on public money for public goods and services that we need farmers to provide, such as wildlife and clean water. It has also identified environmental protection as a particular focus.

This is a good start. With our partners Greener UK and Wildlife and Countryside Link, we published a briefing for MPs, outlining six ways in which the Agriculture Bill can be improved.

The main area for improvement is clarity on how the Government intend to fund their "Green Brexit", beyond existing commitments to maintain their current expenditure levels to 2022.

Although the Bill is full of powers to act, it is short on specifics, so it will be difficult to hold the Government to account. For example, there is little detail on the environmental land management scheme they propose developing. We also want a requirement for Ministers to use the new powers in the Bill designed to strengthen the position of farmers in the supply chain. Enabling farmers to get a better return for the food they produce will be essential to the success.

A similar agenda is being pushed in Wales, Scotland and NI.

Ben Andrew (rspb-images.com)



Tom Simone (rspb-images.com)



First English Environment Bill for more than 20 years

The first English Environment Bill for more than 20 years will shortly be brought before Westminster. The UK Government has promised a “world-leading law for a greener future”, in advance of global leaders meeting in China next year for a vital Nature Summit.

Then UK Environment Secretary Michael Gove has said *“The Bill will help to ensure that Britain is cleaner and greener.”*

The RSPB is a member of the Greener UK Coalition, alongside the Wildlife Trusts, the National Trust, the Woodland Trust and others. Together, we believe that the draft Environment Bill doesn’t go far enough, and we’re proposing tough amendments that will mean wildlife is secure in the future.

We’re asking for: an Environment Bill with: a legal obligation on this and future governments to take action on nature’s recovery, underpinned by statutory targets; a robust, independent watchdog to uphold the law and stand up for our environment; world-leading environmental principles enshrined in law; a nature recovery network to provide bigger, better and more joined up habitats for wildlife to flourish; and commitments to reduce our global environment footprint and restore nature overseas.

Environmental laws in Wales post Brexit

Most of our conservation law in Wales comes from the EU, underpinned by the environmental principles that are part of the EU Treaties. These are: action must be taken to prevent potential environmental harm even if risks are not fully understood; a person responsible for pollution should be responsible for paying for the measures needed to reduce it or clear it up; action must be taken to avoid environmental harm happening; and waste or pollution should be dealt with when and where it occurs.

After Brexit, there’s a risk these principles will no longer protect Welsh wildlife. The Welsh government is proposing the principles are kept in Welsh law, and has committed to address the governance gap that will arise after Brexit, when enforcement provided by European institutions will end. We’re participating in a task and finish group to develop proposals on how to secure environmental principles and governance in Wales.

We’re calling for a new “watchdog” to provide advice on environmental law and how it is being followed; receive and investigate complaints from citizens, and take enforcement action where necessary. Wales has recently passed important legislation on sustainable development and the environment, but we’re calling for even greater ambition to turn around nature’s decline.



Fight for Scotland's Nature



Darren Kidd

Fight for Scotland's Nature

Currently, strong EU environmental laws protect wildlife in all EU member states. In Scotland, these safeguards are key to protecting our many iconic and internationally important species like capercaillie and otter and vital habitats such as the unique Caledonian pine forests, coastal habitats and carbon-rich peatlands. A UK exit from the EU risks the loss or weakening of these protections and would endanger our ability to protect and enhance Scotland's natural world at a critical time for nature and climate.

37 environmental charities, including RSPB Scotland, all members of Scottish Environment Link, have come together to "Fight for Scotland's Nature", and campaign for a Scottish Environment Act.

With one in 11 Scottish species at risk of extinction, it's vital that we all act now. Fight For Scotland's Nature has called on the Scottish Government to embed EU environmental law principles in Scots law and create a well-resourced Scottish environmental watchdog to enforce protections. A Scottish Environment Act would also set clear targets for nature's recovery. More than 22,000 people have supported this call for a Scottish Environment Act.

To find out more, visit fightforscotlandsnature.scot

Nature Matters NI

Nature Matters NI (NMNI) was formed in 2017 to campaign for a nature-friendly future in Northern Ireland after Brexit. It is a coalition of organisations including RSPB NI, NI Environment Link, National Trust and Ulster Wildlife.

We're working for more sustainable land use and fisheries, and better environmental protection. As wildlife doesn't recognise borders, we're also working with the Environmental Pillar in the Republic of Ireland to ensure continued cross-border co-operation on the environment.

With a much smaller eNGO sector and no functioning Assembly, forming a coalition was essential to make the most of our limited resources and expertise, and to speak with one voice. This has been successful, with NMNI securing places on all of the key government groups on Brexit. With no NI Assembly in place to develop and pass legislation, our focus is on developing our policy positions and working closely with civil servants and politicians to push these as far as we can.

We're using the political vacuum to raise public awareness and support and develop new and unusual partnerships with business, human rights and sustainable transport organisations. A great success has been setting up the Nature Friendly Farmers' Network in NI, providing a strong voice in support of a future for nature-friendly farming. Read more on page 30.



Martin Poynor (fspb-images.com)

RSPB



Connecting Cardiff with nature

With 3,000 trees in Bute Park, a wealth of wildflowers and insects at Grangemoor Park, and peregrines nesting on City Hall, Cardiff is one of the most wildlife-rich cities in the UK. Despite this, a study has shown that only one in eight children is reasonably connected to the natural environment in Wales.

That's why we partnered with Buglife Cymru and Cardiff Council to set up the flagship community engagement project Giving Nature a Home in Cardiff. The aim is to engage thousands of children, their families and local communities with Cardiff's wildlife, and enable them to take action for nature. We're aiming to engage 57,000 children and their families with nature by 2022.

As part of this, we're delivering free outreach sessions in nurseries, early years settings and primary schools across Cardiff, to help children discover the wildlife in their school grounds. We're also delivering a variety of nature-based activities for families, whilst supporting communities to help improve and manage pollinator-friendly Urban Buzz sites across the city.

This project has been made possible by funding from the National Lottery Community Fund and Aldi.

Bringing life to the Gwent Levels

Lefelau Byw-Living Levels, is a new National Lottery Heritage-funded partnership with the aim of connecting people and communities to their landscape in the Gwent Levels. It covers an area of 87 square miles (225 square kilometres) from Cardiff and the River Rhymney in the west to Chepstow on the River Wye in Monmouthshire to the east.

The Gwent Levels is a unique coastal area of drained and irrigated land, full of archaeological, heritage and natural highlights.

The work of the Living Levels partnership covers three main areas: conserving and restoring the natural heritage of the landscape, improving the visitor experience, and engaging people with heritage. These are covered by 24 discrete, interrelated projects which all work together to enhance and celebrate the heritage of this fascinating landscape. Projects cover areas as diverse as habitat restoration, combating flytipping, improving access and interpretation, sculpture, theatre and artwork, recording oral histories, historical research and archaeology, wildlife survey and recording, schools outreach and skills and training.

The RSPB is the lead partner in the project, working with other partners including NGOs, local authorities and statutory agencies. For more details, visit livinglevels.org.uk



David Wootton (rspb-images.com)



Adrian Thomas at Lodge Hill by Jodie Randall (rspb-images.com)

Boost for the heritage of Lough Erne

Lough Erne is the second largest lake system in Northern Ireland, home to lapwings, curlews, snipe, and a colony of breeding Sandwich terns.

In April 2018, the Lough Erne Landscape Partnership (LELP) was awarded a £2.6million grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which will be used to deliver 23 projects by 2023.

Initially, the focus was on recruiting the team to deliver these projects, to ensure that Lough Erne's unique built, natural and cultural heritage is protected, enhanced and cherished.

The team has organised events and training as part of a pollinators project, helped many more people onto the water through the Erne Paddlers project, and supported training in managing invasive species in the area. Inniskillings Museum has made great progress in restoring archives at risk.

The LELP was originally set up in 2015 and is a partnership between RSPB Northern Ireland, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Fermanagh Rural Community Network, the National Trust, Waterways Ireland, Upper Lough Erne Region and Lough Erne Heritage.

The fight for Lodge Hill continues

Nightingales are one of our most severely-threatened birds, having declined by more than 90% in the last 50 years. Fewer than 5,500 pairs now remain, mainly in the South East and East Anglia.

Lodge Hill in Kent is their best remaining site, protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). However, in a long-running saga, it has been under serious threat from major housing proposals, which would also set a dangerous precedent for protected sites everywhere.

A consultation by Medway Council closed on 24 June 2018, with more than 10,000 of you responding via our **#SaveLodgeHill** campaign to help our project manager, Adrian Thomas, send a clear message that the area should be protected.

We have since been in constructive dialogue with the site owner, Homes England, and in December 2018 they pledged to reduce the number of houses to 500, and not build on the SSSI. However, we remain concerned that housing could be proposed right next to the site, which could still be disastrous for nightingales.

Please register as an RSPB Campaign Champion via the RSPB website to keep up to date with this and other hot issues.





Mae'r coedwig law Geltaidd yn gartref delfrydol i wybedogion brith, sy'n mudo yma o Affrica bob gwanwyn.

Amy Vanstone
Swyddog Cadwraeth
Julia Harrison

Rheolwr Prosiect Coedwig Law Geltaidd



Adfer y coedwigoedd glaw Celtaidd

Cymraeg

Mae prosiect uchelgeisiol newydd yn mynd rhagddo i adfer coetiroedd Cymru i'w hen ogoniant.

Os ydych yn ceisio dychmygu "coedwig law", mae'n debygol iawn y bydd eich meddwl yn creu delwedd o goedwig bellennig, chwilboeth, yn llawn creaduriaid ecsotig a lliwgar. Ond yn nes at gartref, ar gyrion gorllewinol y DU, mae rhannau o'r ecosystem sydd yr un mor arbennig a hyd yn oed yn fwy prin - y goedwig law Geltaidd.

Yn debyg i'w coedwigoedd trofannol cyfatebol, mae'r coedwigoedd glaw Celtaidd yn llaith iawn, ac yn gartref i amrywiaeth o rywogaethau trawiadol. Mae cennau prin, mwsoglau a llysiâu'r afu'n gorchuddio canghennau'r coed; mae ystumod pedol lleiaf yn cysgu trwy'r dydd ym mhob twll a chornel yn y coed hynafol; ac adar mudol, megis gwybedogion brith a theloriaid y coed yn heidio yma o Affrica bob gwanwyn er mwyn magu teulu.

Ar un cyfnod roedd y coetiroedd tymherus hyn yn gorchuddio ardaloedd helaeth o orllewin y DU. Ond erbyn hyn, dim ond ambell un sydd ar ôl, ac mae llawer ohonynt mewn cyflwr gwael ac yn dirywio. Mae planhigion ymledol yn prysur drechu rhywogaethau cynhenid, ac mae pori amhriodol, diffyg rheolaeth a llygredd nitrogen atmosfferig hefyd yn dechrau amharu arnynt.

Bellach, diolch i €9.5 miliwn o gyllid gan Lywodraeth Cymru a Rhaglen Life yr UE, mae gwaith ar y gweill i adfer pum ardal coedwig law Geltaidd i'w hen ogoniant. Mae'r prosiect saith mlynedd yn cael ei arwain gan Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri ac yn cynnwys RSPB Cymru, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru, Dŵr Cymru a Choed Cadw. Rydym ni'n gyfrifol am arwain y project yn y safleoedd sydd i'r de o Barc Cenedlaethol Eryri, yn ogystal â mewn nifer o warchodfeydd natur mewn coetiroedd, gan gynnwys Dyffryn Mawddach a Gwenffrwd Dinas.

Mwy a gwell nag erioed

Mae Amy Vanstone, aelod craidd y tîm sy'n gweithio i adfer y coedwigoedd, yn teimlo'n uchelgeisiol iawn am y project:

"Mae coedwigoedd glaw Celtaidd yn brin iawn ac yn rhoi cymorth i fywyd gwylt na all oroesi yn unman arall. Heb ymyriad, bydden ni mewn peryg o'u colli. Fodd bynnag, mae'r prosiect hwn yn cydnabod eu pwysigrwydd a bydd yn eu trawsnewid, gan ddarparu mannau mwy a gwell nag erioed i natur."

Un o brif amcanion y prosiect yw dileu rhododendron o'r coetir, a chreu "clustogfeydd" i'w atal rhag lledaenu yn y dyfodol. Mae'r rhywogaeth estron hwn yn newid cyflwr y pridd, yn atal golau'r haul rhag cyrraedd daear y coetir ac yn cystadlu'n llwyddiannus yn erbyn planhigion brodorol, gan greu amodau anffafriol i fywyd gwylt eraill. Mae cynlluniau hefyd i newid planhigfeydd conwydd a choed llydandail estron a phlannu coed brodorol yn eu lle, er mwyn gwella'r cynefin ar gyfer bywyd gwylt.

Rhan greiddiol arall o'r prosiect yw gwella sut mae'r coetiroedd yn cael eu rheoli, ac rydym yn chwarae rhan arweiniol wrth gyflwyno pori fel adnodd rheoli. Rydym yn bwriadu cyflwyno gwartheg, defaid a merlod i rai rhannau ac i hybu'r arfer gorau wrth arddangos y gwaith drwy astudiaethau achos a digwyddiadau.

Mae elfen gymunedol cryf i'r prosiect hefyd, gyda chynlluniau i gynnwys pobl leol drwy amrywiaeth o ddigwyddiadau a gweithgareddau. Wrth gynnwys cymunedau lleol a chreu diddordeb yn y coedwigoedd, rydym yn gobeithio y bydd pobl yn cael eu hysbrydoli i hyrwyddo a gofalu am y coedwigoedd glaw Celtaidd am genedlaethau i ddod. coedwigoeddglawceltaidd.cymru

Gwybedog brith gan Richard Bowler (rspb-images.com)

Adolygiad blynyddol

Drew Buckley (fspb-images.com)



Deddfau amgylcheddol yng Nghymru ar ôl Brexit

Daw'r rhan fwyaf o'n deddfau cadwraeth o'r UE, ac maen nhw wedi'u seilio ar yr egwyddorion amgylcheddol sy'n rhan o Gytuniadau'r UE. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys: rhaid gweithredu er mwyn gwarchod yr amgylchedd rhag niwed posib, hyd yn oed os nad yw'r risgiau wedi'u deall yn llwyr; y sawl sy'n gyfrifol am lygredd ddylai fod yn gyfrifol am dalu am y mesurau angenrheidiol i leihau'r llygredd neu i'w glirio; rhaid gweithredu i osgoi niwed i'r amgylchedd; a dylid delio â gwastraff neu lygredd pan fydd yn digwydd ac yn lle bynnag y bydd yn digwydd.

Ar ôl Brexit, mae peryg na fydd yr egwyddorion hyn yn diogelu bywyd gwylt Cymru. Mae llywodraeth Cymru yn cynnig sicrhau bod yr egwyddorion yn cael eu cadw yng nghyfraith Cymru, ac wedi ymrwymo i fynd i'r afael â'r bwch o ran llywodraethu a fydd yn codi ar ôl Brexit, pan fydd camau gorfodi gan sefydliadau Ewropeaidd yn dod i ben. Rydym yn cymryd rhan mewn grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen i ddatblygu cynigion o ran sut i sicrhau egwyddorion amgylcheddol a llywodraethu yng Nghymru.

Rydym yn galw am 'gorff gwarchod' newydd i ddarparu cyngor ar gyfraith amgylcheddol a sut mae'n cael ei dilyn; derbyn cwynion gan ddinasyddion ac ymchwilio iddyn nhw, a chymryd camau gorfodi pan fydd angen. Yn ddiweddar mae Cymru wedi pasio deddfwriaeth bwysig ar ddatblygu cynaliadwy a'r amgylchedd, ond rydym yn galw am fwy o uchelgais fyth i atal dirywiad natur.

Martin Poyner (fspb-images.com)



Cysylltu Caerdydd â natur

Mae gan Barc Bute 3,000 o goed, mae Parc Grangemoor yn gyfoeth o flodau gwylt a phryfed ac mae hebogiaid tramor yn nythu yn Neuadd y Ddinas. Caerdydd felly, yw un o'r dinasoedd sydd â'r mwyaf o fywyd gwylt yn y DU. Er gwaethaf hyn, mae astudiaeth yn dangos mai dim ond un plentyn o bob wyth sydd mewn cysylltiad rhesymol â'r amgylchedd naturiol yng Nghymru.

Dyna pam rydym ni wedi sefydlu partneriaeth â Buglife Cymru a Chyngor Dinas Caerdydd i roi prosiect blaenllaw i ymgysylltu â'r gymuned ar waith yng Nghaerdydd, sef Rhoi Cartref i Fyd Natur. Y nod yw ymgysylltu miloedd o blant, eu teuluoedd a chymunedau lleol â bywyd gwylt Caerdydd, a'u galluogi i weithredu o blaid natur. Rydyn ni'n anelu at ymgysylltu 57,000 o blant a'u teuluoedd â natur erbyn 2022.

Fel rhan o hyn, rydym yn darparu sesiynau yn y maes yn rhad ac am ddim i feithrinfeydd, lleoliadau blynyddoedd cynnar ac ysgolion cynradd ar draws Caerdydd, i helpu plant ddarganfod y bywyd gwylt sydd ar dir eu hysgol. Rydym hefyd yn darparu amrywiaeth o weithgareddau'n seiliedig ar natur i deuluoedd, gan gefnogi cymunedau i helpu i wella a rheoli safleoedd Buzz Trefol ar draws y ddinas sy'n gyfeillgar i bryfed peillio.

Mae'r prosiect Rhoi Cartref i Fyd Natur yng Nghaerdydd wedi bod yn bosibl o ganlyniad i gyllid gan Gronfa Gymunedol y Loteri Genedlaethol ac archfarchnad ALDI.



Adfywio Gwastadeddau Gwent

Mae Lefelau Byw, Living Levels yn bartneriaeth newydd sy'n cael ei hariannu gan Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri Genedlaethol gyda'r bwriad o gysylltu pobl a chymunedau i'w tirwedd yng Ngwastadeddau Gwent. Mae'n cynnwys ardal o 87 milltir sgwâr (225 cilometr sgwâr) o Gaerdydd ac Afon Rhymni yn y Gorllewin i Gasgwent ar Afon Gwy yn Sir Fynwy i'r Dwyrain. Mae Gwastadeddau Gwent yn ardal arfordirol unigryw lle mae'r tir wedi ei ddraenio a'i ddyfrhau. Mae'n llawn treftadaeth archeolegol a rhyfeddodau naturiol.

Mae gwaith Lefelau Byw yn cynnwys tri phrif faes: gwarchod ac adfer treftadaeth naturiol y dirwedd, gwella profiad ymwelwyr, ac ymgysylltu pobl â threftadaeth. Daw'r rhain dan 24 prosiect ar wahân a chysylltiedig sy'n cydweithio i wella a dathlu treftadaeth anhygoel y dirwedd hon. Mae'r prosiectau'n cynnwys meysydd mor amrywiol ag adfer cynefinoedd, mynd i'r afael â thaflu sbwriel yn anghyfreithlon, gwella mynediad a dehongli, cerfluniau, gwaith celf a theatr, cofnodi hanesion llafar, ymchwil hanesyddol ac archeoleg, cynnal arolwg a chofnodi bywyd gwylt, allgymorth i ysgolion a sgiliau a hyfforddi.

RSPB yw partner arweiniol y prosiect, gan weithio â phartneriaid eraill yn cynnwys sefydliadau anllywodraethol, awdurdodau lleol ac asiantaethau statudol. Am fwy o fanylion, ewch lefelaubyw.co.uk





Thanks to your support, we've been able to open our award-winning visitor centre at Sherwood.

Robert Cubbage,
Treasurer



From the treasurer

Our new treasurer, Robert Cubbage, outlines the latest financial situation of the RSPB.

The importance of aligning the RSPB's expenditure plans with income expectations so we can keep the books "in balance" was highlighted by the outgoing Treasurer, Graeme Wallace, in last year's report. Steps taken to strengthen our organisation and reduce costs are almost complete, but have involved some difficult decisions around the number of people we employ and where we deploy our financial resources. The result, however, is a sustainable financial model that, with your support, gives us the financial confidence to deliver the charitable impact needed to save nature.

A stronger financial position

In my first Treasurer's Report, I am pleased to advise that we ended 2018–2019 in a stronger financial position. Income, including investment gains, was £5.3 million higher at £144.6 million, which includes a record year for legacy income at £36.7 million.

Net income, including investment gains available for charitable activities, rose by £10.4 million to £112.4 million. Charitable expenditure was maintained at £99.6 million, together with a further £7.1 million of capital expenditure, including land acquisition and investment in visitor infrastructure on our reserves of £4.4 million. Our balance sheet remains strong, and was helped by a £9.2 million reduction in the pension liability.

Together, these factors have resulted in a £7.5 million increase in our free financial reserves.

This represents 18 weeks of expenditure, temporarily above policy, providing a good buffer against any future financial uncertainty.

Your generous support this year has allowed us to achieve many big and significant wins for nature – the completion of the RSPB Wallasea Island habitat creation project (see pages 6–7) and launching the new management of Sherwood Forest with the opening of our award-winning visitor centre (see page 10) to name two. You can read about these stories and more throughout this Annual Review.

Looking to the future

Looking ahead, the scale of the challenges facing the natural world are unprecedented, including climate change, habitat loss, pollution and persecution. Over the coming year, we will work to drive change at the scale necessary to tackle these threats.

My thanks, therefore, to our supporters who place their trust in us, donating both money and time, to deliver the right outcomes for wildlife.

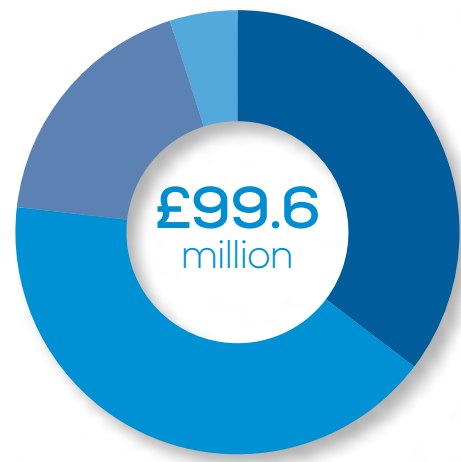
With your support, we will continue to undertake practical conservation, to save sites and species directly, and also to demonstrate to others what is possible. We will empower people to take direct action for nature, in the places they love, and through the choices they make in daily life. And we will work with partners and other organisations to make real our vision for a world richer in nature.



Income and spend

Income

Spend on charitable activities

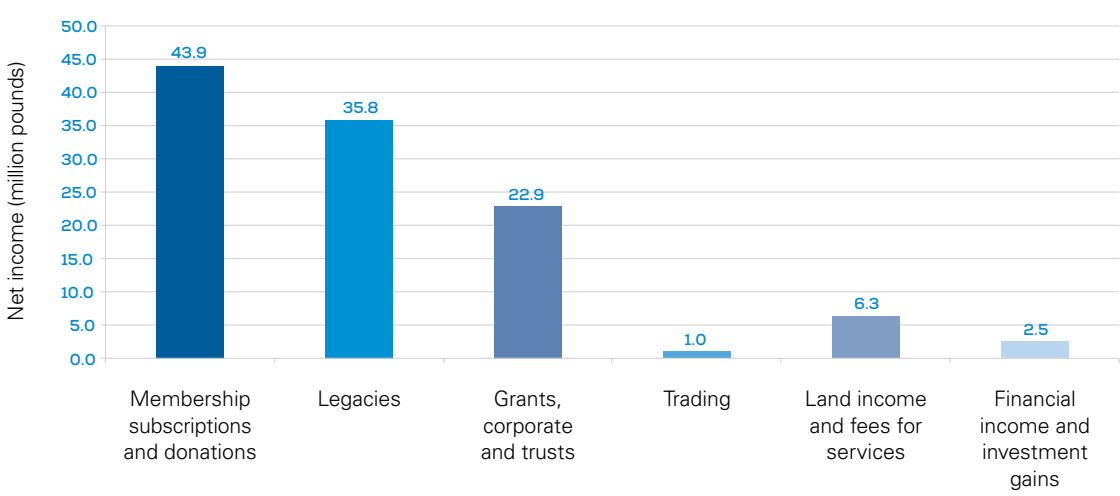


- Membership subscriptions and donations **36%**
- Legacies **26%**
- Grants, corporate and trusts **18%**
- Trading income **14%**
- Land income and fees for services **4%**
- Financial income and investment gains **2%**

- Research, policy and advisory **35%**
- Managing RSPB nature reserves **42%**
- Education and inspiring support **18%**
- Supporter care **5%**

Net income

The cost of generating income was £32.2 million, leaving net income of £112.4 million.



This information is a summary of the financial position of the RSPB. For a fuller understanding please see the Trustees' Report and Accounts available on our website.

Summarised financial statements for 2018–19

Raising money for charitable purposes

	Income	Cost	2019 Available for charitable purposes	2018 Available for charitable purposes
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Membership subscriptions and donations	52.1	(8.2)	43.9	40.6
Legacies	36.7	(0.9)	35.8	29.3
Grants, corporate and trusts	26.2	(3.3)	22.9	22.6
Trading	20.7	(19.7)	1.0	1.0
Land income and fees for services	6.3	(0.0)	6.3	7.1
Financial income	0.6	(0.1)	0.5	0.5
Total income	142.6	(32.2)	110.4	101.1
Investment gains	2.0	0.0	2.0	0.9
Total income plus investment gains	144.6	(32.2)	112.4	102.0

Expenditure on charitable purposes

	2019 £m	2018 £m
Managing RSPB nature reserves	(41.3)	(38.2)
Research, policy and advisory	(35.2)	(36.6)
Education and inspiring support	(18.2)	(18.4)
Supporter care	(4.9)	(6.2)
Total expenditure	(99.6)	(99.4)
Surplus	12.8	2.6

Assets and liabilities

	2019 £m	2018 £m
Nature reserves – land and buildings	204.8	202.7
Equipment	4.8	4.3
Total long-term assets	209.6	207.0
Pension liability	(64.4)	(73.6)
Cash and investments	29.9	25.2
Stock, debtors and creditors	20.0	15.4
Total representing available financial reserves	49.9	40.6
Total	195.1	174.0

Amount held for future purposes

	2019 £m	2018 £m
Available financial reserves	49.9	40.6
Held for specific purposes	(13.6)	(11.8)
Free financial reserves	36.3	28.8
Representing future expenditure cover of	18 weeks	14 weeks

REPORT BY THE TRUSTEES ON THE SUMMARISED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

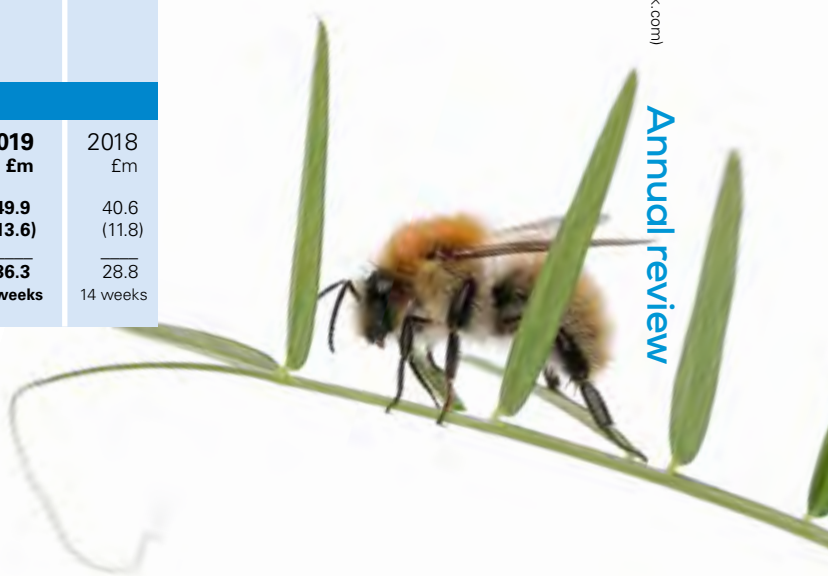
These summarised financial statements are extracted from the full statutory trustees' annual report and financial statements which were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf. The full financial statements, on which the auditors Crowe U.K. LLP gave an unqualified audit report in September 2019, are available on our website: rspb.org.uk

The auditors have confirmed to the trustees that, in their opinion, the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019.

These summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to gain a complete understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. The full statutory trustees' report, financial statements and auditors' report may be obtained from the Director of Finance, RSPB UK Headquarters, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL.

Signed on behalf of the trustees.

Kevin Cox
Chair, RSPB Council



Members and supporters

The support and loyalty of our members is critical to the success and achievements of the RSPB. Meeting the rigorous conservation targets that we set would not be possible without the enormous contributions that members make.

Members help in many ways, all of them equally important, including: financially, through volunteering, by supporting RSPB campaigns through letter writing, and by helping to deliver RSPB projects on the ground through local groups.

We would also like to thank all of the supporters who contribute generously through in memoriam, raffles, lotteries, payroll giving, regular gifts, appeals and other forms of support. It is greatly appreciated and crucial to helping save nature.

Legacies

Legacy income makes a vital impact on our conservation work each year. Whilst it is impossible to thank every single one of our generous benefactors here, we would like to mention the following:

Mr Brian Roger Baker
Mrs Alexanderina Campbell Bell
Mr John Arthur Cook
Mr Mark Dalton
Mrs Wendy Vivienne Dalton
Mrs Edna Daphne Emily Daniels
Ms Nadia Mary Dunning
Mr Nigel George Hanman
Mr Norman Kendrick
Mr Maurice Peregrine Lightfoot
The Hamish and Grace Spence Bequest

Community groups

RSPB local groups, RSPB Wildlife Explorer groups and RSPB Phoenix groups worked unstintingly over the year. Our local groups provide a great focus for us in local communities, involve many people in our work, and raised £394,476 for RSPB conservation projects.

Volunteers

The RSPB enjoyed the support of 12,101 volunteers last year, giving the RSPB a gift of time of 1,032,181 hours. 24% of all the time worked to save nature is undertaken by our volunteers and they account for 85% of our workforce.

These volunteers helped with virtually every aspect of the RSPB's work, and we cannot thank them enough for their generous support. Additionally, 361,567 people gave an hour of their time to participate in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund (formerly Heritage Lottery Fund)

The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) has provided essential support for RSPB projects to restore our natural heritage and bring nature into people's everyday lives. The RSPB is indebted to NLHF for its continued support for our work.

Charitable trusts, non-governmental organisations and individual donors

We are grateful for the support received and would particularly like to acknowledge the following:

- A14 Community Fund administered by Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
- Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)
- Mr A N Alderson & Mrs S A Allen
- Mr Iain Macauley Anderson Discretionary Trust
- Angus and Dundee Bird Club
- The Endangered Landscapes Programme funded by Arcadia, a charitable fund of Peter Baldwin and Lisbet Rausing
- A J H Ashby Will Trust
- Mr Geoff Ball
- Baltic Sea Conservation Foundation
- The Banister Charitable Trust
- Mr William Barnes
- Robert Barr Charitable Trust
- Herb and Patricia Bartel
- Cameron Bespolka Trust
- BirdLife International
- Raymond Booth Discretionary Will Trust
- Joyce E Box Discretionary Trust
- Mr Mick Braddick
- British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)
- Brown Forbes Memorial Fund
- Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI)
- Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH)
- Sir Charles Chadwyck-Healey
- Charities Aid Foundation
- Charities Trust
- Lady Pia Chelwood
- John S Cohen Foundation
- Comic Relief
- Conservation International (CI)
- The Roger De Haan Charitable Trust
- Delta Birding Festival
- Ms E Desmond
- Devon Birds
- Disney Conservation Fund
- The Duchy of Cornwall
- EcoFac
- John Ellerman Foundation
- The ERM Foundation
- Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
- Fort Worth Zoo
- The Gannochy Trust
- Joan Garrett Trust
- The Horace and Helen Gillman Trusts
- David and Sarah Gordon
- Dr P R Gosling
- Mr Pat and Mrs Karin Goss
- Mr Adam Gray Discretionary Trust
- Miss Pamela Hadley Discretionary Trust
- The (Doris Louise) Hailes Charitable Trust
- Mr Richard Hale
- Margaret Joyce Hallas Discretionary Trust
- Mrs Margaret Hammond
- E E Harvey Discretionary Trust
- The Hasluck Charitable Trust
- Daphne Grace Henry Family Discretionary Trust
- Highland Perthshire Community Land Trust
- IDH The Sustainable Trade Initiative
- International Eco Fund
- International Iguana Foundation

- The Jephcott Charitable Trust
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
- Frank Kelly Charitable Trust
- Dr Peter A Lawrence and The Betty Liebert Trust
- A. G. Leventis Foundation
- June Valerie Simmonds Lewis Discretionary Trust
- The Geoffrey Arnold of Longdon Memorial Trust
- Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens/Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association
- Ludwick Family Foundation
- The Orr Mackintosh Foundation (Sharegift)
- Mains of Loirston Trust
- Makin Family Trust
- The Michael Marks Charitable Trust
- MAVA Foundation
- Robert McCracken QC
- Ann McElroy Discretionary Trust
- The Gerald Micklem Charitable Trust
- Mrs Audrey Dorothy Mines and Mr Philip & Mrs Pat Strachan
- John Muir Trust
- The Late Frances Ann Murdoch Discretionary Trust
- Pamela Frederica Mure Discretionary Trust
- National Birds of Prey Trust
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- The National Trust
- The Nature Trust (Sandy) Ltd
- The Northwick Trust
- The Bill Nygren Foundation
- Oglesby Charitable Trust
- The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- Friends of Pagham Harbour
- The Peacock Charitable Trust
- People's Trust For Endangered Species (PTES)
- Mr C Petteward
- Pew Charitable Trust
- Planterra International Foundation
- Postcode Local Trust
- Rainforest Trust
- Mrs M Rendall
- Renewables Grid Initiative, Stiftung Mercator and the European Climate Foundation
- The Ridgeback Charitable Trust
- Sloane Robinson Foundation
- The Rufford Foundation
- San Diego Zoo Global
- Scottish Mines Restoration Trust
- ScottishPower Foundation
- Scottish Raptor Study Group
- Mr Nicholas Sherwin and Dame Sarah Asplin
- Miss Kathleen Beryl Sleigh Charitable Trust
- South Georgia Heritage Trust
- St. Aiden's Trust Fund
- John and Beverly Stauffer Foundation
- Nini Isabel Stewart Trust
- Sussex Ornithological Society
- Talnotary Avian Care Trust
- Beryl Thomas Animal Welfare Trust
- Edi Truell Foundation
- Ulster Garden Villages
- UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
- Vetwork UK
- Christine and David Walmsley
- Michael and Rosemary Warburg
- The Geoffrey Watling Charity
- Whitley Animal Protection Trust

- Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
- Colin Williams Charitable Trust
- Mr R A Williams
- J & J R Wilson Charitable Trust
- The Woodland Trust
- Zoo Basel

We would also like to acknowledge supporters who wish to remain anonymous, who have generously contributed towards our conservation work.

Landfill Communities Fund

We are grateful for funding support from the following organisations through the Landfill Communities Fund and Scottish Landfill Communities Fund:

- Alpha Resource Management Ltd
- Biffa Award
- EB Scotland Ltd
- Enover Community Trust
- Environmental Projects Agency Ltd UK (NEWS)
- FCC Communities Foundation (formally FCC Environment through WREN)
- GrantScape / Mick George
- Groundwork Northern Ireland
- Ibstock Enover Trust
- Lancashire Environmental Fund
- Newport City Council
- SUEZ Communities Trust Ltd
- Teesside Environmental Trust
- The Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE)
- Veolia Environmental Trust
- Viridor Credits Environmental Company

Business supporters

The RSPB enjoys successful partnerships with business supporters to our mutual benefit. We would particularly like to acknowledge the following:

- ALDI Stores Ltd
- Anesco Ltd
- Animal Friends Pet Insurance
- The Ardmore
- Barratt Developments plc
- The Caravan and Motorhome Club
- CEMEX UK Ltd
- Clifford Chance LLP
- Co-operative Bank
- cottages.com
- Ecotricity Group Ltd
- The European Outdoor Conservation Association (EOCA)
- The Famous Grouse
- Hoseasons
- HSBC UK
- Hurtigruten Ltd
- idverde UK Ltd
- Kantar
- Kingfisher plc
- Lush Ltd
- Macdonald Hotels & Resorts Ltd
- Maginus Software Solutions Ltd
- Marshalls PLC
- Mctaggart and Mickel
- National Grid plc
- Ørsted Wind Power

- PwC
- Reed Smith LLP
- SABIC UK Petrochemicals
- Scotrail
- ScottishPower
- Scottish Water
- Severn Trent Water
- Smith & Sons (Bletchington) Ltd
- Swarovski Optik
- Tarmac
- Turcan Connell
- United Utilities plc
- Waterloo Investment Holdings Ltd
- Weird Fish Clothing Ltd
- Withers LLP
- Yorkshire Water

Support from statutory sector and other public bodies

We are grateful for co-operation and support from organisations of many kinds, and would especially like to thank the following:

- Aberdeen Harbour's Community Action Fund
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council
- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Cairngorms LEADER
- Cairngorms National Park Authority
- Coastal Communities Fund Grant
- Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)
- D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership
- Danish Development Assistance Programme (DANIDA)
- Dartmoor National Park Authority
- The Darwin Initiative - funded by the UK Government
- The Dedham Vale AONB
- Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
- Department for Transport
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) NI
- DFID Partnerships for Forests
- Environment Agency
- European Commission – BEST
- European Commission – DG Environment
- European Commission – LIFE
- European Commission – Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy (ENRTP)
- The European Regional Development Fund (INTERREG VA) managed by the Special EU Programmes Body
- Fermanagh & Omagh District Council
- Fife Council
- Forestry Commission England
- Forestry Commission Scotland
- Glasgow City Council
- Glasgow Life European Championship Fund
- Highways England
- Horsham District Council
- International Fund for Agriculture (IFAD)
- Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Marine Scotland
- The National Lottery Community Fund – People and Places (formally Big Lottery Fund)
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund – Our Heritage
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund – Heritage Grants
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund – Landscape Partnership Scheme
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund – Lough Erne Landscape Partnership (LELP)
- Natural England
- Natural England - Action for Birds in England (AfBiE) partnership
- New Forest National Park Authority
- Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- North Ayrshire Council
- Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)
- Orkney Islands Council
- Orkney Islands LEADER Programme 2014–2020
- Partnerships for Forests – funded by the UK Department for International Development
- Peak District National Park Authority
- Perth & Kinross Council
- Portland Court Leet
- Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE)
- Scottish Government
- Scottish Government and the European LEADER 2014–2020 Programme
- Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Scottish Natural Heritage Peatland Action Fund
- Scottish Rural Development Programme
- Snowdonia National Park Authority
- Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB)
- Sport England
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
- Sustrans Community Links Programme
- Teignbridge District Council
- Thoresby Estates
- Transport Scotland
- UK Government - Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF)
- The United Nations Environment Programme/ Agreement on the Conservation of African Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (UNEP/AEWA)
- The University of Oxford
- USAID: West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change
- Visit Wales Targeted Match Fund
- Waterways Ireland
- Welsh Government – Core Funding & Transition Funding
- Welsh Government – Glastir
- West Bengal State Government: MoEFCC, India



Looking forward

With Brexit approaching, campaigning for a better deal for nature, and a new Chief Executive, it's an exciting time.

There's no doubt that the next two years are crucial to the recovery of nature, and never more so at the time of writing, given the volatile nature of Brexit.

We are responding by continuing to invest in direct impact, to ensure our land and seas are well managed for nature, and continuing to save the most threatened species. We also need to continue to develop ways of working with and through people, inspiring them to feel more connected to nature, and in turn to take action to save it.

But we cannot do it alone. We know we need to continue to expand our partnership working, and find new ways to involve people in everything we do, so that together we can save nature. Over the next twelve months, we'll continue to engage supporters, the public, politicians and businesses to create a step change in public and political attitudes towards nature. In turn, ensuring that we secure ambitious new laws and policies that will drive nature's recovery

across the UK, and create a strong UK platform for a new global deal for nature in 2020.

We'll be looking towards the international biodiversity conference in Autumn 2020, to ensure that nature gets the support it deserves, both at home and on the global stage.

Finally, over this period we say farewell to Chief Executive Mike Clarke, and welcome to Beccy Speight, who joins us from the Woodland Trust.

Mike Clarke first joined the RSPB in 1972, and became a volunteer very shortly afterwards. He was one of the organisation's very first Conservation Officers. During his 20 years as an RSPB Board Member, he has helped drive the organisation to one with more than 1.2 million members, whilst ensuring that we're a charity that remains relevant. He's now returning to his roots as a volunteer.

We thank Mike for all his hard work and wish him all the best for the future.

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Front cover: turtle dove (RSPB).

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity:
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The RSPB is a member of BirdLife International, a partnership of nature conservation organisations working to give nature a home around the world.