

A banner image at the top of the page showing a close-up of a tree trunk with moss and purple flowers in a forest setting.

The Species Recovery Trust

Trustees' Annual Report 2013

The Species Recovery Trust
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Registered in England and Wales Charity 1146387

Summary Information

Reference and administrative information

Charity Name: The Species Recovery Trust

Charity Number: 1146387

Address: 37 Albany Road, Salisbury, SP1 3YQ

Trustees: Jed Hamblin-Boone, Nicholas Berry, Sally Eaton, Louise Stewart

Structure Governance and Management

Type of governing document: Charity Constitution, registered with the Charity Commission on the 1st March 2012.

Objectives and Activities

Matching our goals

Our stated aims are as follows:

To promote the conservation and protection of species on the edge of extinction in the UK for the public benefit and to advance the education of the public on issues concerning the conservation and protection of such species.

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the charity commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

To that effect we

1. Increased the list of species in need of conservation from 13 to 20
2. Initiated and coordinated two new species projects
3. Continued work on the six current species projects
4. Reached over 180 people and improved their understanding of nature through training courses

Report

In 2013 we made significant progress with seven of our conservation projects, carrying out a range of activities from site surveys, on the ground management work, plant reintroductions and liaison work with our partners. We are already seeing the first results of this management work, both in stabilising and also increasing populations that previously were in critical decline.

Elsewhere our training programme goes from strength-to-strength, with 180 attendees this year and overwhelmingly positive feedback.

On the broader sphere we have been working with Royal Mail on a set of stamps to be released in 2014, and our book of Identifying Winter trees was published at the end of the year.

Financially we end the year on our strongest position yet, having successfully attracted funding, through our training courses and through our commercial consultancy work for other conservation bodies.

Conservation

1. Over the year we have made considerable progress on a number of our species recovery programmes.
2. Surveys were carried out for Dwarf Milkwort, the Wart-biter Bush Cricket, Heath Lobelia, Spiked Rampion, Marsh Clubmoss, the New Forest Cicada and Starved Wood-sedge.
3. 26 Spiked Rampion plants from the UK Seed Hub were planted back in to the wild and woodland management work performed at this site. A cage was built around 14 of the plants to protect them from grazing.
4. A new population of the nationally rare fern Pillwort was discovered while surveying sites for Marsh Clubmoss.
5. The 13 recovery species were increased to 20, and data collected on each of these species, in particular, detailed distribution data.
6. Significant progress has been made with both the Lost Life film and the webpage.

Training

1. In 2013 we ran 24 training courses and taught over 180 people.
2. This raised just over £9,000 for the organisation, to be used for our species recovery programmes.
3. We received some excellent feedback about the courses, and feel we are continuing to open up conservation and ecology to the public.

Social Media and Press

1. An article was published in Biodiversity News regarding the Dwarf Milkwort project.
2. Spiked Rampion reintroductions were featured in the BBC South East News programme and in The Argus newspaper.
3. The Wart-biter Bush Cricket partnership with Bazuka was featured on Countryside online.
4. Our Facebook page had 160 followers, and 1,300 people viewed our top post.
5. Our website had 5,554 visits (up from 2,793 in 2012).
6. We set up our own YouTube channel and edited several short films on identifying single species.

Fundraising

1. In total, fundraising has raised £11,839 this year.
2. The Saving Dwarf Milkwort project received £1000 in funding from the Clark Bradbury Charitable Trust.
3. The Saving the Wart-biter Bush Cricket project received £2500 corporate sponsorship from Diomed Pharmaceuticals (who make Bazuka) and £250 from the Leggett Charitable Trust.
4. The Heath Lobelia project received £800 from the Cooperative Bank Customer Donation Fund.
5. The Spiked Rampion project received £2000 from the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
6. The Heath Lobelia project received £800 from the Cooperative Bank.
7. We also received £500 from the Woodroffe Benton Foundation to cover some of our core costs.
8. The Environment Jobs website made us their charity of the year and donated over £1000 to our core costs.
9. Rushmoor Borough Council contributed £1000 towards our work on Marsh Clubmoss
10. The Vodafone foundation paid for one of our volunteers to receive a part-time salary for four months.

Summary Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 Dec 2013

		ACTUAL			Variance	FORECAST		
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Income								
ID	Donations	£1,391	£0	£1,391	£891	£500	£0	£500
IE	Endowments	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
IG	Grants	£1,539	£10,300	£11,839	£4,839	£4,000	£3,000	£7,000
IT	Training	£9,515		£9,515	-£1,285	£10,800		£10,800
IC	Consultancy	£24,146		£24,146	£19,146	£5,000		£5,000
IS	Supporter	£80		£80	-£120	£200		£200
IA	Appeals	£0		£0	£0	£0		£0
IL	Legacies	£0		£0	£0	£0		£0
	Investment							
II	income	£42		£42	£32	£10		£10
IO	Other	£227		£227	£217	£10		£10
T	PayPal transfers	£0		£0				
Total Income		£36,940	£10,300	£47,240	£23,720	£20,520	£3,000	£23,520

Expenditure								
ES	Salaries	£2,600	£6,550	£9,150	-£6,150	£3,000	£0	£3,000
EC	Contractors	£3,019	£500	£3,519	£281	£3,800	£0	£3,800
ED	Project Delivery	£225	£446	£671	£6,329	£4,000	£3,000	£7,000
ET	T&S	£5,256	£173	£5,429	-£3,929	£1,500	£0	£1,500
EM	Marketing	£0	£0	£0	£200	£200	£0	£200
ECo	Consumables	£323	£0	£323	-£23	£300	£0	£300
EV	Various	£432	£0	£432	-£332	£100	£0	£100
EI	Insurance	£0	£0		£300	£300	£0	£300
Total Expenditure		£11,854	£7,669	£19,523	-£3,723	£12,800	£3,000	£15,800

EE	Equipment	£632	£0	£632	£368	£1,000	£0	£1,000
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		Actual surplus			Estimated surplus		
Totals				£27,085	-£20,365		£6,720

Cash funds last year end £16,763

Cash funds this year end £43,848



Summary

Our income was £47,240, roughly £24k more than we expected it to be. We spent roughly £20k, £4k more than the £15.8k we anticipated, meaning our year surplus was £27,085, giving us an end of year bank balance of just under £44k.

We were particularly pleased with our grant income. Which at £11,839 was much higher than expected. Our consultancy income was also much higher than anticipated due to a large contract from the Cooperative Group and Plantlife to deliver their Plan Bee 2013-14 project. Other consultancy income came from Royal Mail to produce three sets of Post and Go stamps on wildflowers, and from other groups for running bespoke botanical training courses.

Restricted grant income was given for our projects on Spike Rampion, Wartbiter Cricket, Marsh Clubmoss, Heath Lobelia and Chalk Milkwort projects.

Reserves Policy

Our current reserves policy is to hold at least £5000 in our account, which represents the original donation we were granted on formation.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The total of the charities assets is £46,344 (bank £43,848, debtors £1,864 and equipment £632). The total of charities' liabilities is £350 (salaries £100, contractors not yet paid £250).

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature

Full name JED HAMBLIN-BOONE

Position CHAIR

Date 10/6/14

Project highlights

Spiked Rampion

In 2013 surveys were undertaken of four Spiked Rampion sites. At one of the sites no plants were found this year, at another the population remained stable and at the third the population had declined. At the fourth site, however, the population had increased from two to four plants. Twenty-six additional plants were reintroduced at this site from the plants propagated by the UK Native Seed Hub. An enclosure was built around 14 of the new plants, to explore the effect of grazing by rabbits and deer on plant survival. The other 12 plants were planted in a cleared area of adjacent woodland.



Heath Lobelia

Five out of the six sites for Lobelia were surveyed and condition assessed in the summer. Although two of the sites are supporting healthy populations the remaining four are in critical condition and these will be a priority for future work.



Dwarf Milkwort

This year the recovery programme for Dwarf Milkwort has gained considerable momentum. Alfred Gay, who had previously worked with Fred Rumsey on Dwarf Milkwort, volunteered to help out on the project and in the summer of 2013 performed extensive surveys of two of the extant sites. He reported a very healthy population at one of the sites (Godmersham Down), but only one plant remaining at the other site (Purple Hill). He also surveyed eight of the historic sites and assessed each of them for their potential suitability for future reintroductions. Alfred is currently in discussions with the Woodland Trust at Blackbush Shaw (one of the historic sites) about the possibility of performing a scrape at this site in the near future to see if the Milkwort will reappear following disturbance.

Regarding the site at Purple Hill, we met with Fred Rumsy who recommended extensive scrub clearance at this site. We are now in the process of raising the necessary funds for this work.

Next year we plan to collect seed from the robust population at Godmersham Down to be bulked up by the UK Native Seed Hub and potentially reintroduced in 2015.



Starved Wood-sedge

All three sites were surveyed in 2013.

Ockford Wood has responded well to management carried out at the start of the year with larger plants recorded and the population now stabilised.

The populations at Cheddar Wood and at two of the Charterhouse had both decreased and the sites had become overgrown, so management plans have been written for these. The main charthouse site was monitored with pupils from the school and the entire original plants refound, plus one possible new plant.



Wart-biter Bush Cricket

The Wart-biter Bush Cricket project was set up this year. Surveys were performed at all six of its current sites, in collaboration with Buglife. At three of these sites, the populations were found to be doing well. The cricket was not found at the site in Dorset or at Mount Caburn in Sussex, and the population at the privately owned site (Kingston Scarp) did not appear to be doing well. Natural England are currently in discussions with the landowner of this site and so for now we are not planning any involvement in this site. Instead, next year we plan to focus our effort and funding on the Mount Caburn site. This was a reintroduction site in the 1990s. It is believed that a population is likely to remain, but at a much lower population size than hoped, which is why it was not found in the surveys. Hopefully with the funding that we have received from Bazuka we will be able to restore the habitat at this site for the Wart-biter population.



New Forest Cicada

Surveys were undertaken this year for the New Forest Cicada, but unfortunately none were found. As this insect lives in larval underground for 13 years before emerging and has always been present in the new Forest in very low numbers it is still hard to say what its status is, but we are increasingly worried about the future of it. We are now in discussions with Buglife and the Forestry Commission about collaborating on this project in the future. We are also looking at the possibility of gaining corporate funding.



Winter Trees Publication

The 'Photographic Guide to common tree and shrubs in winter' was published by the Field Studies Council and has been warmly received.

It sold 393 copies in 2013 (in two months) raising £160 in royalties for the charity

