

Registered number: 04103967
Charity number: 1102123

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Trustees	Dr Adrie Mukashema Dr Brigitte Nyirambangutse Dr Charles Kahindo Muzusa Ngabo Mr Elie Nizeyimana (resigned 26 June 2023) Dr Jane Bemigisha (resigned 31 May 2025) Mr John Salehe (resigned 31 May 2025) Dr Victor Nyarangi Keraro Dr Nicholas David King (appointed 26 June 2023) Prof Joerg Balsger (appointed 1 June 2025) Prof Godwin Sifu Kowero (appointed 1 June 2025) Dr Robert Nabanyumya (appointed 1 June 2025)
Company registered number	04103967
Charity registered number	1102123
Registered office	C/O Birdlife International The David Attenborough Building, Pembroke Street Cambridge CB2 3QZ
Company secretary	Dr Sam Kanyamibwa
Independent auditors	Peters Elworthy & Moore Chartered Accountants Salisbury House Station Road Cambridge CB1 2LA
Bankers	Bank of Kigali KN 4 Ave No12 Plot No 790 Kigali Rwanda Barclays Bank Plc Barclays Cambridge Cambridge United Kingdom CB2 3AX

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Society for the 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the Society qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

a. Policies and objectives

The Albertine Rift Conservation Society ("ARCOS") was established in 1995 with the mission to "enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources through the promotion of collaborative conservation action for Nature and People." Today, ARCOS has programmes extending beyond the Albertine Rift, including the Africa Great Lakes region and the African mountains.

To achieve its mission, ARCOS builds on the following pillars of its approach:

- We facilitate networking with local, national, and international players to enhance sustainable development through information and experience sharing.
- We empower our network through policy dialogue, capacity building and policy engagement when implementing our work. We work with all kinds of organizations — Non government organizations (NGOs) and community based organizations (CBOs), academic institutions, governments and increasingly business.
- Our activities on the ground take an integrated landscape approach focusing mainly in protecting biodiversity and enhancing ecosystem services, building Nature Based Community Enterprises (NBCEs) and building shared vision among stakeholders to address threats.

b. Legal Status

ARCOS is registered in England and Wales as a Charity (Charity No 1102123), and Company Limited by guarantee (Company No 4103967). ARCOS is registered in Uganda (No S 5914/5195) and Rwanda (No. 118/RGB/18) as an international NGO, with the Operational Regional Head Office in Kigali. In addition, ARCOS has an appointed Board of Directors and Trustees drawn from different backgrounds and skills to board deliberations, and comprised of representatives from the Albertine Rift countries, Africa, and other international experts. Within the Board of Directors, a Management Committee is responsible for overseeing and reviewing ARCOS progress. The Management Committee comprises the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and the Chief Executive Officer, whose responsibility is to ensure the day-to-day management of the organization. There are clear distinctions between the role of the board and the executive management team.

c. Public Benefit Entity

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2).

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The activities undertaken during the year to fulfil this obligation is further explained on the following pages.

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

d. Message from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

The year 2023 marked the 28th Anniversary of the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS). Similar to previous years, ARCOS continued to drive local actions to tackle global challenges.

In the beginning of 2023, ARCOS together with partners namely; the Circular Bioeconomy Alliance (CBA), Reforest' Action with financial support from the AstraZeneca, launched the 30-year project with the goal of restoring degraded landscapes and promoting climate resilience in the western province.

In the middle of the year, ARCOS was honored with the Prestigious Award for Long-standing Landscape Restoration Efforts in Africa by One Tree Planted. As part of increasing the philosophy of acting locally and engaging broadly, ARCOS launched the African NGOs Alliance for Environmental Sustainability (ANAEs), a collaborative endeavor between ARCOS, CBA, and other African NGOs, representing a unifying force that brings together 32 committed conservation and development NGOs from 18 African countries to work together to restore biodiversity and put nature back to our economy and community livelihoods.

Later on, in a notable development, His Majesty the King Charles III, who also established the Circular Bioeconomy Alliance in 2020, was introduced to this newly launched initiative.

In September, ARCOS was awarded by the Earth Bezos Fund with a grant to implement locally led and managed restoration efforts in Rwanda, Burundi and Democratic Republic Congo. ARCOS increased its resources through its 14 projects including (four new project earned in 2023). With 162 staff, through 14 projects in Rwanda, Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo, ARCOS engaged over 54,000 farmer households and restored 40,000 hectares in activity related to landscape restoration and other sustainable initiatives.

We deeply appreciate the support from our donors, partners, ARCOS members, and the tireless efforts of our staff. Your contributions have been essential to our achievements this year. We look forward to your ongoing collaboration and welcome new partnerships as we continue our journey to build environmental resilience and care for our planet.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

a. Strategic Programme Areas

The year 2023 marked the third year of the implementation of the ARCOS 2021-2030 strategic plan centered on 6 strategic areas:

1. Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Restoration,
2. Building Social Capital and Sustainable Community Livelihoods,
3. Promoting Education for Sustainable Development,
4. Promoting Eco-Agriculture and Sustainable Food System,
5. Building Resilience to Climate Change and
6. Supporting Movements and Private Sector to Enhance Green Development Agenda as pillars.

1. Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Restoration

This year saw significant progress in strengthening our network for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration. We forged partnerships with four key organizations (Reseau de Burundi, DIOBASS, Karongi & Rusizi districts), fostering collaboration and expanding our reach.

We empowered staff and community members by developing a comprehensive Biodiversity & Ecosystem

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Restoration Strategy. Additionally, 60 staff and 152 community representatives participated in training sessions, enhancing their capacity to contribute to these efforts. On the ground, our actions yielded impactful results. We significantly increased tree planting, growing a total of 3.5 million trees this year, with nearly half being native species. Restored areas expanded from 30,000 hectares to 40,000 hectares. Notably, the rehabilitation efforts contributed to the return of 20 indigenous species.

2. Building social capital and sustainable community livelihoods

ARCOS significantly enhanced social capital and sustainable community livelihoods in 2023. The network of Farmer Network Associations (FNAs) grew by 460, reaching 1150 and fostering knowledge sharing. Three Endokwa Newsletters empowered communities with critical information.

Capacity building was prioritized with 83 new ARCOS staff trained extensively as trainers. Additionally, 24 cooperatives and 14 women's groups received Train-the-Trainer sessions, boosting their ability to support sustainable development initiatives.

Extensive household engagement efforts led to the adoption of sustainable practices, promoting environmental conservation and resilience. Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) surged from 440 to 900, accumulating a total of 97.2 million RWF, empowering communities economically.

Land was allocated for developing 35 hectares for value chains of agro-commodities, and a selling point was constructed in Rulindo to improve market access for local produce. Additionally, ARCOS funded 281 community and school project proposals through grants and loans, fostering entrepreneurship, green jobs, and inclusive growth.

3. Promoting Education for Sustainable Development

In 2023, ARCOS made significant strides in promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) within Rwandan communities. Strategic networking and targeted empowerment initiatives aimed to equip educators, students, and community leaders with the knowledge and skills necessary for a more sustainable future.

ARCOS actively participated in the global ESD conversation by attending three highlevel meetings. These included the Foundation for Environmental Education General Assembly, an update session with the Rwanda Education Board, and a UNESCO validation workshop on the Education for Sustainable Development 2030 Framework. These engagements ensured ARCOS remained at the forefront of ESD best practices and policies.

Empowerment was a key focus, with ARCOS staff receiving dedicated training on the Eco-Schools Approach and Climate Change adaptation strategies. This knowledge was then disseminated through a workshop, reaching a total of 50,671 individuals. Notably, this included 1,602 teachers, 48,869 students, 40 school leaders, 40 village leaders, 40 Environmental Officers, and 120 District Education Officials. By equipping these key figures with the tools and strategies for sustainable development, ARCOS is laying the groundwork for a more environmentally conscious future across Rwandan communities.

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

4. Promoting Eco-Agriculture and Sustainable Food System

The Eco-Agriculture and Sustainable Food System initiative achieved significant progress in 2023. Through strategic networking efforts, including the Endokwa Newsletter and Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) workshops, communities were empowered with essential knowledge on sustainable practices. These initiatives ensured that valuable information reached a broad audience, fostering informed community participation in sustainability efforts. Capacity building was a key focus, with over 133 individuals and groups trained as trainers in Sustainable Agriculture and Land Management (SALM) practices. This training equipped community members with the skills to implement and mentor others in sustainable practices, ensuring long-term positive impacts on local agriculture and environmental stewardship.

On-the-ground actions delivered tangible outcomes. Fifty model sites were established as local learning centers, providing practical demonstrations of sustainable practices. Additionally, 50 community-managed tree nurseries were set up, ensuring a steady supply of seedlings for reforestation and agroforestry projects. Adoption rates of sustainable practices among farmers were impressive, with 69% adopting kitchen gardens, 56% using grass strips, and 38% practicing conservation agriculture. These practices improved soil health, crop yields, and ecosystem resilience.

To support livelihoods, 552 livestock and tool packages were distributed, along with high-quality seeds, seedlings, manure, and lime. This distribution bolstered food security and agricultural productivity, enhancing the economic stability of farming households and promoting sustainable agriculture.

Overall, the Eco-Agriculture and Sustainable Food System initiative's multi-pronged approach effectively empowered communities with the knowledge, resources, and practical skills necessary for a more sustainable and food-secure future. The program's comprehensive strategy ensured that the benefits of sustainable agriculture were widely distributed, fostering resilient and self-sufficient communities.

5. Building Resilience to Climate Change

In 2023, the Eco-Agriculture and Sustainable Food System initiative achieved remarkable progress in promoting sustainable agricultural practices and enhancing climate resilience.

The initiative was further strengthened by community savings schemes, Nature-Based Community Funds (NBCFs), and various community projects, all aimed at empowering local populations to drive the green development agenda. A total of 851 community green projects received funding, reflecting the widespread commitment to environmental sustainability and the empowerment of grassroots initiatives.

Financial investment played a crucial role in the success of these projects, with 308,504,300 RWF allocated to support climate resilience and green development activities. This substantial funding ensured that communities had the necessary resources to implement effective and sustainable green projects.

Additionally, a significant milestone was reached in tree planting efforts. A total of 3,500,000 trees were planted, expected to sequester approximately 2.3 tons of carbon dioxide, demonstrating a strong commitment to mitigating climate change through natural solutions.

The 2023 accomplishments of the Eco-Agriculture and Sustainable Food System initiative highlight the effectiveness of a comprehensive approach to environmental sustainability. By integrating financial support, community empowerment, and practical on-the-ground actions, the initiative has set a robust foundation for ongoing green development and enhanced climate resilience in the communities it serves.

6. Supporting Green Development Agenda

ARCOS made significant progress in promoting environmentally friendly practices. Through grant giving, they grew a large number of coffee seedlings (175,000) that are expected to bring substantial income to the

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

community. Additionally, ARCOS created thousands of green jobs (4,117) by planting trees and running nurseries. This not only benefited the environment but also boosted cooperative income by 13% through both employment opportunities and seedling sales.

Beyond ARCOS' own work, a broader alliance (ANAES) was formed to promote environmental sustainability across Africa. This alliance, consisting of 32 NGOs, signifies a unified effort toward conservation across the continent. By funding over 850 community green projects, ARCOS demonstrated its commitment to environmental responsibility and its role in supporting the government's green development goals.

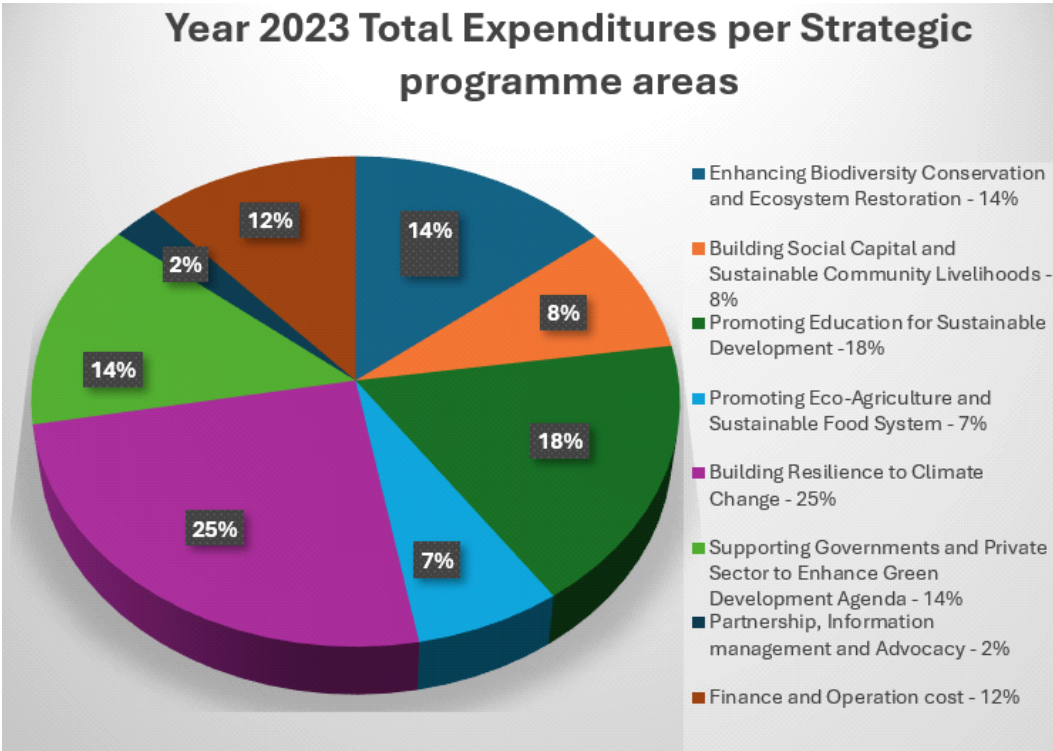
FINANCIAL REVIEW

a. ARCOS Financial Review and Funding

During the year ended 31 December 2023, ARCOS had total income amounting to \$3,657,124 collected from its various sources of income, the organization incurred total expenses projects implementation and operating expenses amounting to \$3,270,221 with a surplus of \$386,903. This indicates that ARCOS has spent much of the Income received the year 2023 and part of funds carried forward from the year 2022's income received.

The organization has achieved good results in terms of fundraising and resources mobilization. The fundraising team identified a total of 25 opportunities for which ARCOS was eligible to apply, have submitted 24 quality proposals out of which 8 were funded by December 2023. With this effort, the annual total income of the organization reached \$3,657,124. In addition, during this year 2023, ARCOS invested efforts in the complying with requirements from donors, stakeholders and organization's internal procedures by reporting on regular basis as required. We managed to facilitate the auditing process and the both the UK and regional audits, reports are in place.

The percentage of total expenditure incurred in the year 2023 per strategic programme areas is distributed below;



ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

b. Reserves policy

It is ARCOS' policy to commit the maximum amount of resources possible to current programmes in alignment to the organisation's mission and objectives, and therefore retain only what is necessary to safeguard the continuity of its operations. The board continues to be satisfied with the efficiency of fundraising, the level of support costs and reserves held, and is confident that these are all in line with the agreed strategic direction.

Unrestricted funds were \$231,792 at the year-end.

The unrestricted fund relates mainly to the tangible fixed assets of the organisation and the operational buildings used in the restricted projects. The Trustees continue to seek unrestricted income to build unrestricted reserves. The Trustees can further review their asset holdings with a view to releasing liquid funds if necessary. Cash balances are, however, carefully monitored to ensure all restricted projects can be completed.

Unrestricted income will allow the board to:

- develop, test and demonstrate the effectiveness of new approaches
- respond quickly to emergencies, before dedicated appeal funding is secured
- finance our policy and campaigns work
- meet essential running costs that enable the charity to function properly

c. Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Society has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. As outlined above, the Trustees are making efforts in fundraising to ensure that new funds are available to support organizational costs and that they can implement projects in line with funders requirements. We ensure compliance with the Fundraising Regulator Code of Practice and our own fundraising policies among our staff in a number of ways. This is done through rigorous coaching and training of new fundraising staff. With an established fundraising team, our target is to submit at least 3 major proposals per quarter. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

d. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees are aware of the risks facing ARCOS and these are discussed by the Trustees on a regular basis. The Trustees have put in place plans to mitigate those risks as far as possible, where this is within control.

The Trustees have assessed and regularly assess the major risks to which the organization is exposed, in particular those related to the operations, finances, and compliance, and put in place mitigation measures to the possible risks to occur.

The main risks and their potential impact have been identified, together with the methods adopted to manage and mitigate them, and have been grouped into 4 categories:

Operational and administrative risks such as financial fraud and inefficient use of resources and assets

- Financial and Human resources in terms of insufficient funding, inadequate staff expertise and staff turnover,
- Projects and programme risks in terms of non-alignment to organization mission and expertise and poor implementation
- External risks reflected through international economic landscape and increasing natural disasters.

The trustees consider one of the current main risks to ARCOS might misappropriation of funds and therefore

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

has put in place a policy to minimize cash payment and use bank transfer for full approval process. Therefore, all requests for payment must be approved by a number of different people and payments made by bank transfer rather than cash.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

a. Structure and Governance

The Society is a charitable company which was formed from the Albertine Rift Conservation Society established in 1995 and hosted by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (United Kingdom) and the Regional Coordination Office by Nature Uganda (Uganda). All monies held in bank accounts by this entity were donated to the Society on incorporation (8 November 2000). The Society is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association (revised 19 October 2012). The Society gained charitable status and was registered with the Charity Commission on 16 February 2004 (charity number: 1102123).

Board of Directors/Trustees: The Society is managed by a Board of Directors. ARCOS has currently seven Board members (including a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary) who meet at least once per year or as needed in an annual general meeting. The Chairman or in his absence the Vice Chairman chairs the meeting. Any other member elected by members can chair the meeting if the Chairman and Vice Chairman are not present. The Board recruits and appoints Trustees who they consider will bring valuable and practical skills to the Society. All new trustees receive a full induction so that they can familiarise themselves with their statutory responsibilities, their role as board members, the governance framework within ARCOS and the risk environment. Ongoing training is arranged as and when a need is identified.

Management committee: The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Chief Executive Officer shall meet as the Management Committee at such intervals as the Board of Directors thinks fit. The Management Committee shall review the operations and activities of the Society and report the findings to the Board of Directors.

Staff positions: The Board of Directors may appoint such persons as it thinks fit to post including a position with overall responsibility for operational matters (whose formal title may vary but hereafter known as the Chief Executive Officer), and such other salaried or voluntary staff posts on such terms and conditions, including remuneration and benefits, and with such duties and responsibilities as the Board, in its entire discretion, thinks fit. The Board may, at any time, vary or alter the terms and conditions and the duties and responsibilities of these posts provided always that no Directors shall occupy any of these posts. The Chief Executive Officer shall be the senior member of staff of the Society, and shall have responsibility for co-coordinating the Society activities and programmes.

b. Trustees

The Trustees in office during part or all of the year ended 31 December 2023 were:

- Mr John Yonazi Salehe (Chairperson)
- Dr Brigitte Nyirambangutse (Vice Chairperson)
- Dr Victor Nyarangi Keraro (Treasurer)
- Dr Jane Bemigisha
- Mr Elie Nizeyimana (resigned 26 June 2023)
- Dr Adrie Mukashema
- Dr Charles Kahindo Muzusa Ngabo
- Dr Nicholas David King (appointed 26 June 2023)

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Plans for future periods

Facing the Future

In the year 2024, we will continue to invest in accelerating our progress towards our 2030 Goals. We remain optimistic that our ambitious conservation vision and restoration of nature in a growing economy, will deliver a major impact for our mission. We will ensure that ARCOS' growth both in human resources and funds, be grounded in a vision of sound management and well-being of people and impact.

The key targets that ARCOS plans to achieve will mainly include the following:

- We will thrive to maintain ARCOS' position as a champion in landscape restoration across Africa through the delivery of impactful projects and fostering strategic partnerships. ARCOS targets to plant around 6 million trees on 20,000 Ha with focus on agroforestry trees, fruit trees, with the promotion of climate resilient indigenous species as a measure to address biodiversity loss.
- ARCOS will continue to lead the change at local, national and regional levels in environmental conservation and community empowerment, with a plan to engage and support over 80,000 community households or over 320,00 people as direct beneficiaries.
- We will upscale the established African NGOs Alliance for Environmental Sustainability (ANAES) to *20 African countries* and will build the capacity and resilience of 35 member NGOs engaged in this platform and work together in bringing nature-based solutions
- We will also build on ARCOS' leading role in Africa Sustainable Mountain Development to increase efforts in Africa Mountain ecosystems conservation and mountain communities' development, through advocacy activities such as the Africa Mountain Community-to-Community Exchange and the Africa Regional Mountain Forum.
- As Member of the Foundation for Environmental Education coordinating activities in Rwanda and Uganda, ARCOS will continue to enhance the Education for Sustainable Development in Africa, by upscaling the programme in Rwanda to a total of over 50 eco-schools and 16 Teacher Training Colleges and establishing mechanisms for regional ESD agenda.
- Finally but not least, the Year 2024 will constitute a bridge to the Year 2025 when ARCOS will celebrate its 30th Anniversary, an opportunity to bring together all members, partners and supporters in this memorable event.

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Society will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Society's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:


Dr Brigitte Nyirambangutse
Vice-Chair/Trustee

Date: 08 July 2025

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Albertine Rift Conservation Society (the 'society') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY (CONTINUED)

misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY (CONTINUED)

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charitable company through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our knowledge of charity and company law and experience;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charitable company, including the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011 and taxation legislation;
- in addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations which do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid material penalties;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence available;
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit; and
- we reviewed the minutes of Trustees' meetings to identify any references to non-compliance with laws and regulation.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- we evaluated the assumptions and judgements used by management within significant accounting estimates and assessed whether these indicated evidence of management bias; and
- performed audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

In response to the risk of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence made available to us such as correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators and the charity's legal advisors (where applicable).

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION
SOCIETY (CONTINUED)**

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Nikki Loan

Nikki Loan FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

Peters Elworthy & Moore

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditors

Salisbury House

Station Road

Cambridge

CB1 2LA

Date: 08 July 2025

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Restricted funds 2023 \$	Unrestricted funds 2023 \$	Total funds 2023 \$	Total funds 2022 \$
INCOME FROM:					
Grants and donations	2	3,547,339	-	3,547,339	1,739,973
Other income	3	-	109,785	109,785	29,314
TOTAL INCOME		3,547,339	109,785	3,657,124	1,769,287
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities	4	2,918,613	351,608	3,270,221	1,942,996
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		2,918,613	351,608	3,270,221	1,942,996
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		628,726	(241,823)	386,903	(173,709)
Transfers between funds	12	(139,733)	139,733	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		488,993	(102,090)	386,903	(173,709)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		399,181	333,882	733,063	906,772
Net movement in funds		488,993	(102,090)	386,903	(173,709)
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		888,174	231,792	1,119,966	733,063

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 18 to 36 form part of these financial statements.

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY
REGISTERED NUMBER: 04103967

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	9	699,294	500,356
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	10	252,720	129,986
Cash at bank and in hand		981,906	283,121
		<u>1,234,626</u>	<u>413,107</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(813,954)	(180,400)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>420,672</u>	<u>232,707</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>1,119,966</u>	<u>733,063</u>
CHARITY FUNDS			
Restricted funds	12	888,174	399,181
Unrestricted funds	12	231,792	333,882
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>1,119,966</u>	<u>733,063</u>

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Brigitte Nyirambangutse

Dr Brigitte Nyirambangutse
Vice-Chair/Trustee

Date: 08 July 2025

Sam Kanyamibwa

Dr Sam Kanyamibwa
CEO and Secretary

07 July 2025

The notes on pages 18 to 36 form part of these financial statements.

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	14	938,663	(268,109)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(239,878)	(5,984)
Income from investments		-	29,314
NET CASH (USED IN)/PROVIDED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(239,878)	23,330
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE YEAR		698,785	(244,779)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		283,121	527,900
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	15	981,906	283,121

The notes on pages 18 to 36 form part of these financial statements

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**1.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Albertine Rift Conservation Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The functional and presentational currency is US dollars.

1.2 GOING CONCERN

The Trustees have reviewed the financial position of the Society and have a reasonable expectation that the Society has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. As outlined in the Trustees' report, the Trustees are making efforts in fundraising to ensure that new funds are available to support organisational costs and that they can implement projects in line with funders requirements. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Refer to Trustee report for further reference.

1.3 COMPANY STATUS

The Society is a company limited by guarantee and registered under the Companies Act with charitable status. Status was gained on 16 February 2004. The members of the Society are the Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the society being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Society

1.4 INCOME

Grant income is recognised once the Society has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Donations are recognised once the Society has entitlement to the income, it is probable that it will be received and the amount of receivable can be measured reliably.

Income from funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Society; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Rental income is recognised in the period to which it relates.

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

1.5 EXPENDITURE

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities, including the cost of certain 'central' staff salaries, depreciation of fixed assets, etc. Restricted income typically includes an allocation relating to overheads. Costs relating to support for each project are either charged directly to the relevant grant, or to the unrestricted fund via a funds transfer. Support costs relating to finance and operations are allocated to projects based on time spent, or another equally logical allocation based on an estimation of that project's utilisation of the resource, costed.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Society and include project management carried out at Head Office and are allocated to projects based on staff time. Governance costs are professional and accountancy costs and are included in support costs and allocated accordingly.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.6 FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into dollars at rates of exchange ruling at the reporting date.

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into dollars at the rate ruling on the date of the transaction.

Exchange gains and losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.7 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Tangible fixed assets costing \$400 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Land	- Not depreciated
Building	- 20 years
Motor vehicles	- 10 years
Office equipment	- 3-6 years
Computer equipment	- 3 years

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**1.8 DEBTORS**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.9 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.10 LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Society anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

1.11 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Society only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.12 OPERATING LEASES

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

1.13 PENSIONS

During the year the Society contributed towards the National Social Security Fund on behalf of its employees. Pension costs reflect amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the employer contribution for that year. These are shown alongside the charity's (non-UK) social securities, medical and other costs, within note 7.

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

2. INCOME FROM GRANTS AND DONATIONS

	Restricted funds 2023 \$	Total funds 2023 \$	Total funds 2022 \$
SAINSBURY'S	11,113	11,113	13,140
Eco-Schools Rwanda	155,649	155,649	-
Livelihoods	1,352,287	1,352,287	760,427
Global Nature Fund (GNF)	231,642	231,642	34,967
Foundation Audemars-Watkins (FAW)	77,532	77,532	84,389
Mountains ADAPT (UNEP)	35,250	35,250	21,000
Sustainable goals development partnership (SDGP)	66,646	66,646	51,493
GIZ-WEFE	87,217	87,217	76,381
FONERWA (CAF)	60,000	60,000	240,000
Tree planting (AFR/OTP)	109,990	109,990	173,980
MULAKILA	1,016,978	1,016,978	-
CCAM	30,391	30,391	-
Eco-schools Uganda	73,827	73,827	195,431
Adaptation at Altitude (UNEP)	25,000	25,000	-
Geo mountain forum	21,384	21,384	-
Combio Project (IUCN)	35,016	35,016	-
Bezos Earth Fund	149,589	149,589	-
Aid Environment (UNHCR)	7,828	7,828	-
Leuphana University	-	-	6,323
TSF	-	-	37,927
Zoi Environment Network	-	-	1,972
ALINEA	-	-	42,543
TOTAL 2023	3,547,339	3,547,339	1,739,973
TOTAL 2022	1,739,973	1,739,973	

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

3. OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted funds 2023 \$	Total funds 2023 \$	Total funds 2022 \$
Membership income	3,667	3,667	-
Rental Income	3,358	3,358	13,644
Sale of bidding document	198	198	-
Other income	55,818	55,818	15,670
Foreign exchange movement	46,744	46,744	-
	109,785	109,785	29,314

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

4. EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT AND STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

	Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Restoration	Building Social Capital and Sustainable Livelihoods	Promoting Education for Sustainable Development	Promoting Eco- Agriculture and Sustainable Food System	Building Resilience to Climate Change	Supporting Governments and Private Sector to Enhance Green Development Agenda	Partnership, Information management and Advocacy	Finance and Operation cost	Total 2023	Total 2022
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
SAINSBURY'S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	802
Eco-Schools Rwanda	-	1,904	76,110	28,559	49,502	3,808	3,808	26,701	190,392	159,528
Livelihoods	465,401	269,901	26,990	242,910	229,415	40,485	13,495	60,905	1,349,502	972,800
Global Nature Fund (GNF)	55,861	18,874	-	56,623	49,073	-	-	8,312	188,743	12,407
Foundation Audemars- Watkins (FAW)	43,970	626	-	-	11,444	-	-	4,193	60,233	85,179
Mountains ADAPT (UNEP)	-	-	-	-	25,983	11,359	-	521	37,863	64,177
Sustainable goals development partnership	-	-	-	-	-	55,911	-	1,197	57,108	42,279
GIZ-WEFE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	14	129,973
FONERWA	35	6,052	-	-	6,696	-	-	94	12,877	192,114
Tree planting (AFR/OTP)	24,904	24,236	-	10,906	52,107	-	-	9,026	121,179	112,614

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

MULAKILA	193,899	144,679	14,468	130,211	180,849	28,936	7,234	23,119	723,395	-
CCAM	100	415	9,327	2,902	6,218	415	207	1,144	20,728	-
Eco schools Uganda (Euro)	1,121	759	18,592	5,691	10,624	759	379	17	37,942	-
Adaptation at Altitude (UNEP)	-	-	-	-	6,527	3,076	-	650	10,253	-
Geo mountain forum	-	-	9,629	-	-	-	-	-	9,629	-
Combio Project (IUCN)	2,789	562	562	337	787	562	-	22	5,621	-
Bezos Earth Fund	35,102	11,085	3,695	7,390	7,390	3,695	3,695	1,847	73,899	-
Aid Environment (UNHCR)	-	3,458	-	-	13,833	-	-	-	17,291	-
Amasangano	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	487
TSF	-	-	1,944	-	-	-	-	-	1,944	26,003
ZOI Environment Network	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,538
Leuphana University	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,323
ALINEA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66,874
Unrestricted	-	-	-	-	-	961	133,306	217,341	351,608	69,898
Total 2023	823,182	482,551	161,317	485,529	650,448	149,967	162,124	355,103	3,270,221	1,942,996
Total 2022	384,393	306,288	124,707	342,608	527,595	103,744	17,595	136,066	1,942,996	

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

5. FINANCE AND OPERATION - SUPPORT COST

	Restricted funds 2023 \$	Unrestricted funds 2023 \$	Total funds 2023 \$
Audit and accountancy cost	19,285	127,346	146,631
Bank charges	2,824	7,346	10,170
Depreciation	-	40,939	40,939
Office costs	115,653	41,710	157,363
	<u>137,762</u>	<u>217,341</u>	<u>355,103</u>
	<u><u>137,762</u></u>	<u><u>217,341</u></u>	<u><u>355,103</u></u>

	Restricted funds 2022 \$	Unrestricted funds 2022 \$	Total funds 2022 \$
Professional fees	15,073	-	15,073
Bank charges	4,625	-	4,625
Depreciation	30,555	-	30,555
Foreign exchange	16,472	30,578	47,050
Office costs	-	38,763	38,763
	<u>66,725</u>	<u>69,341</u>	<u>136,066</u>
	<u><u>66,725</u></u>	<u><u>69,341</u></u>	<u><u>136,066</u></u>

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

6. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Fees payable to the Society's auditor in respect of:		
The audit of the Company's annual accounts	67,275	11,759
All non-audit services not included above	10,000	3,317
	<u>77,275</u>	<u>15,076</u>

7. STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Wages and salaries. (Non-UK)	745,248	523,396
Social securities, pension, medical and other. (Non-UK)	44,663	27,740
Health insurance	79,635	-
	<u>869,546</u>	<u>551,136</u>

The average number of persons employed by the Company during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Management	6	6
Eco-school Rwanda	4	2
SDGP	2	2
FAW	2	6
Agro-forestry for Livelihoods	56	55
AFR	4	7
TSF	-	3
FONERWA	1	5
GNF	3	3
UNEP	1	2
MULAKILA Project	31	-
CCAM	2	-
Eco-school Uganda	2	-
Combio Project	2	-
Bezos Earth Fund	2	-
AIDENVIRONMENT_UNHCR	1	-
	<u>119</u>	<u>91</u>

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

During the year 2023, ARCOS had 46 volunteers who supported project implementation activities and administrative works. Of these volunteers, 42 were Rwandan and 4 were International. These volunteers assisted mostly in the MULAKILA project, GNF and Agroforestry for Livelihood Project while carrying out Farmers mobilization and trainings, farmers' land registration, guiding farmers in trees planting and maintenance activities. Volunteer usage has contributed a lot in farmers mindset change, increasing numbers of trees planted and enhancing trees planted survival rate during the year 2023.

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than \$76,400 (£60,000) in either year.

The key management personnel of the Society comprise:

Trustees

Chief Executive Officer

Director of Finance and Administration

Director of Conservation Program

Head of Nature based Community Development Program and landscape Coordinator

Executive Office Manager

Director of Business Development and External Relations

The total employment benefits including employer's social security and pension contributions of the key management personnel were \$197,347 (2022 - \$152,184).

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2022 - \$NIL).

During the year ended 31 December 2023, expenses totalling \$6,045 were reimbursed or paid directly on behalf of 5 Trustees (2022 - \$923 to 4 Trustees), in respect of travel, accommodation and sundry refreshment costs in connection with the fulfilment of duties connected with their trusteeship.

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land and Building \$	Motor vehicles \$	Office equipment \$	Computer equipment \$	Total \$
COST					
At 1 January 2023	410,722	141,950	24,526	68,933	646,131
Additions	-	198,134	8,203	33,541	239,878
At 31 December 2023	410,722	340,084	32,729	102,474	886,009
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 January 2023	11,614	51,619	20,714	61,828	145,775
Charge for the year	5,806	28,870	291	5,973	40,940
At 31 December 2023	17,420	80,489	21,005	67,801	186,715
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 December 2023	393,302	259,595	11,724	34,673	699,294
At 31 December 2022	399,108	90,331	3,812	7,105	500,356

The cost of the land was approximately \$276,722 (2022 - \$276,722).

10. DEBTORS

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Due within one year		
Other debtors	25,565	11,943
Accrued income	227,155	118,043
	252,720	129,986

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Bank overdrafts	4	-
Trade creditors	-	1,129
Other taxation and social security	48,949	38,918
Other creditors	186,520	83,945
Deferred income	578,481	56,408
	<u>813,954</u>	<u>180,400</u>

Deferred income relates to income received for the Foundation Audemars-Watkins (FAW), International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and Bezos Earth Fund projects that must be used in the next financial year 2024.

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Deferred income at 1 January 2023	56,408	65,586
Resources deferred during the year	578,481	56,408
Amounts released from previous periods	(56,408)	(65,586)
Deferred income at 31 December 2023	<u>578,481</u>	<u>56,408</u>

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

12. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2023 \$	Income \$	Expenditure \$	Transfers \$	Balance at 31 December 2023 \$
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
General funds	333,882	106,118	(350,531)	139,733	229,202
Membership	-	3,667	(1,077)	-	2,590
	<u>333,882</u>	<u>109,785</u>	<u>(351,608)</u>	<u>139,733</u>	<u>231,792</u>
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
NFF-RSF	11,500	-	-	-	11,500
Sainsbury's	-	11,113	-	(11,113)	-
Eco-Schools Rwanda	54,864	155,649	(190,392)	-	20,121
Livelihoods	158,433	1,352,287	(1,349,502)	-	161,218
Global Nature Fund (GNF)	22,560	231,642	(188,743)	-	65,459
Foundation Audemars-Watkins	57,691	77,532	(60,233)	-	74,990
Mountains ADAPT (UNEP)	23,497	35,250	(37,863)	-	20,884
Sustainable goals development partnership (SDGP)	38,592	66,646	(57,108)	-	48,130
GIZ-WEFE	(53,592)	87,217	(14)	(33,611)	-
FONERWA-CAF	47,886	60,000	(12,877)	(95,009)	-
Tree planting (AFR/OTP)	37,750	109,990	(121,179)	-	26,561
MULAKILA	-	1,016,978	(723,395)	-	293,583
CCAM	-	30,391	(20,728)	-	9,663
Eco-schools Uganda	-	73,827	(37,942)	-	35,885
Adaptation at Altitude (UNEP)	-	25,000	(10,253)	-	14,747
Geo mountain forum	-	21,384	(9,629)	-	11,755
Combio Project (IUCN)	-	35,016	(5,621)	-	29,395
Bezos Earth Fund	-	149,589	(73,899)	-	75,690
Aid Environment (UNHCR)	-	7,828	(17,291)	-	(9,463)
TSF	-	-	(1,944)	-	(1,944)
	<u>399,181</u>	<u>3,547,339</u>	<u>(2,918,613)</u>	<u>(139,733)</u>	<u>888,174</u>
TOTAL OF FUNDS	<u>733,063</u>	<u>3,657,124</u>	<u>(3,270,221)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,119,966</u>

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

12. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Current year funds

NFF-RSF - The 'Seeds, Soil and Culture Fund of RSF Social Finance' provided a grant to be put towards enhancing bio-cultural knowledge and eco-agricultural practices for mountain community livelihoods and climate change resilience in Rwanda and Uganda.

Sainsburys - Income relates to consultancy services for the Sainsbury's Fairly Traded tea pilot.

Eco-Schools - Part of the Danish Outdoor Council's programme promoting the right to quality education through Eco-Schools in Africa.

Livelihoods - This is a project focusing on fighting climate change and its effects through the reduction of greenhouse emissions and/or the increase of greenhouse gas sequestration. The project also endeavours to reduce poverty, promote gender equality and inclusion of youth. The deficit on this project will be cleared as funding is received in arrears.

Global Nature Fund (GNF) - This fund was originally money from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility for workshops. Funding is now being received from the Global Nature Fund to develop a full proposal.

Foundation Audemars-Watkins (FAW)- This is a project in support of the Nyagasenyi Remnant Forest landscape restoration for improved livelihoods and resilience to climate change.

Mountains ADAPT (UNEP) – Advancing Climate Action in East Africa is an United Nations Environment Programme project that is integrated into planning and policy process of regional bodies/frameworks/platform/initiatives and tier national constituencies through strengthened science-policy dialogue platforms.

Sustainable Development Goals Partnership (SDGP) is a Agroforestry interventions project for uphill food, income security and tea plantation protection.

GIZ WEFE - Funding for Enhancing Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus and Climate Resilience along Koko (Rwanda) and Lwiro (DRC) Rivers of Lake Kivu Basin through Nature-Based Community Enterprises. The deficit on this fund was cleared when funding was received in 2023 and the remaining balance transferred reflecting unrestricted support over the life of the project.

FONERWA (CAF) - Funding for the technical assistance of the implementation of community adaptation facility (CAF) in Gicumbi district for NDC deep Dive project.

Tree planting (AFR/OTP) - ARCOS is working in collaboration with AFR100 Terramatch and One Tree Planted to plant trees.

MULAKILA - Project funding to build resilience to climate change and sustainable agriculture value chains (including timber and fruit) in agro-systems around Mukura Forest and Lake Kivu Catchment Landscape, Western Rwanda.

CCAM - Climate change adaptation modality is project funding to support integrated action for climate change resilience and livelihood in mountainous Tanzania and Rwanda.

Adaptation at altitude taking action in the mountains (UNEP) - Funding to support improved availability and use of mountain observation data and information services to support knowledge of climate change impact and help generate solutions and adaptations.

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

12. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Geo Mountain Forum - Funding to support the delivery of one GEO Mountains East Africa workshop to be held at Kigali in October 2023.

Combio project - Funding from the IUCN to contribute to the implementation of sustainable management of natural resources and environment to transition Rwanda towards a green economy, through the financing of the reducing vulnerability to climate change through enhanced community-based biodiversity conservation in the Eastern Province of Rwanda.

Bezos Earth Fund - funding to deliver restoration training to 7 NGOs and 100 Friends of Nature Associations to strengthen their capacity to manage sustainable socio-ecological systems, with emphasis on landscape restoration practices. The training will take place primarily in Rwanda and Burundi.

AID ENVIRONMENT (UNHCR) - funding to conduct field visits leading to the development of case study reports and workshops. The deficit will be recovered through future funding.

Prior year funds

JRS - These funds were received to support development of the Albertine Rift Biodiversity Portal.

VTF - A project committed to restoring and protecting Amasangano confluence wetland zone in Rwanda for enhanced ecological integrity and sustainable community livelihoods.

Stockholm Environment - This is a project to provide support to the Economics of Land Degradation policy engagement processes in Rwanda.

TSF - Funding for Eco-schools as a tool for integrating sustainable development and climate action within the Competency-Based Curriculum in Rwanda.

Zoi Environment Network - Funding for consultancy to support under the adaptation altitude programme.

Leuphana University - Funding towards consultancy contract with Leuphana University.

ALINEA - Funding towards the Community to Community exchange. The transfer from unrestricted funds covers the overspend on this fund.

Transfers

Transfers from restricted to unrestricted funds relate to overhead contributions payable by the projects and to assets funded by the projects.

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

12. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)**STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR**

	Balance at 1 January 2022 \$	Income \$	Expenditure \$	Transfers in/out \$	Balance at 31 December 2022 \$
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
General funds	223,842	29,314	(69,898)	150,624	333,882
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
JRS	53,504	-	-	(53,504)	-
NFF-RSF	36,286	-	-	(24,786)	11,500
Sainsbury's	(7,576)	13,140	(802)	(4,762)	-
One Tree Planted (OTP)	38,593	31,995	(8,379)	(62,209)	-
Eco-Schools	18,961	195,431	(159,528)	-	54,864
VTF	9,495	-	(487)	(9,008)	-
Eco Agriculture International	946	-	-	(946)	-
Livelihoods	370,806	760,427	(972,800)	-	158,433
Stolkholm Environment	5,282	-	-	(5,282)	-
Global Nature Fund (GNF)	2,296	34,967	(12,407)	(2,296)	22,560
Foundation Audemars-Watkins (FAW)	58,481	84,389	(85,179)	-	57,691
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	66,674	21,000	(64,177)	-	23,497
Sustainable Development Goals Partnership	29,378	51,493	(42,279)	-	38,592
TSF	(196)	37,927	(26,003)	(11,728)	-
GIZ-WEFE	-	76,381	(129,973)	-	(53,592)
FONERWA-CAF	-	240,000	(192,114)	-	47,886
AFR100 Terramatch	-	141,985	(104,235)	-	37,750
Zoï Environment Network	-	1,972	(1,538)	(434)	-
Leuphana University	-	6,323	(6,323)	-	-
ALINEA	-	42,543	(66,874)	24,331	-
	682,930	1,739,973	(1,873,098)	(150,624)	399,181
TOTAL OF FUNDS	906,772	1,769,287	(1,942,996)	-	733,063

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

13. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Restricted funds 2023 \$	Unrestricted funds 2023 \$	Total funds 2023 \$
Tangible fixed assets	321,492	377,802	699,294
Current assets	1,167,985	66,641	1,234,626
Creditors due within one year	(601,303)	(212,651)	(813,954)
Total	<u>888,174</u>	<u>231,792</u>	<u>1,119,966</u>

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Restricted funds 2022 \$	Unrestricted funds 2022 \$	Total funds 2022 \$
Tangible fixed assets	142,677	357,679	500,356
Current assets	361,744	51,363	413,107
Creditors due within one year	(105,240)	(75,160)	(180,400)
Total	<u>399,181</u>	<u>333,882</u>	<u>733,063</u>

Overhead/indirect costs budgets from prior years had not been fully allocated to projects. Overhead allocations to restricted funds, including depreciation charges, and further unrestricted funding will reduce this gap. The Trustees are monitoring the position.

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

14. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Net income/(expenditure) for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	386,903	(173,709)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	40,940	30,555
Increase in debtors	(122,734)	(80,138)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	633,554	(15,503)
Income from investment	-	(29,314)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	938,663	(268,109)

15. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Cash in hand	981,906	283,121

16. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 January 2023	Cash flows	At 31 December 2023
	\$	\$	\$
Cash at bank and in hand	283,121	698,785	981,906
Bank overdrafts repayable on demand	-	(4)	(4)
	283,121	698,781	981,902

17. PENSION AND NATIONAL INSURANCE COMMITMENTS

During the year employer contributions in respect of non-UK social security, pension and medical amounted to \$44,663 (2022 - \$27,740). The balance outstanding as at 31 December 2023 was \$6,514 (2022 - \$41,117).

ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

18. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 December 2023 the Society had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Not later than 1 year	820	1,217

The following lease payments have been recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities:

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Operating lease rentals	5,712	18,090

19. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

A relative of one of ARCOS' Trustees was employed by the Charity, however they do not have significant influence over the Charity's decision-making. Other than the transaction set out here, and those disclosed within note 8 to the accounts, there were no further related party transactions requiring disclosure for the year ended 31 December 2023 (2022: \$nil).