

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 05150424 (England and Wales)  
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1105621

**Colchester Zoological Society  
(formerly Colchester Zoo Action for the  
Wild)**

**Report of the Trustees and  
Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

SB&P  
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**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

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The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102).

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Objectives and aims**

The charity's objectives are:

- (a) the conservation of the earth's natural resources through projects and initiatives dealing with preservation and protection of living animals and their habitats
- (b) To educate the public in a formal and informal manner through educational programmes raising awareness and respect for nature
- (c) To carry out specific and quantitative research from which conservation and animal welfare benefits can accrue and to provide for the publication of results of such research

The charity's aims are:

- (a) to provide financial assistance to overseas in-situ projects in order to support the conservation of endangered species
- (b) to provide technical assistance to in-situ and ex situ projects at both local and global levels
- (c) to raise awareness through education programmes and involvement of local people in community conservation projects

We have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and planning future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

**Significant activities**

The charity pledges funding for third party conservation projects world wide. The projects are selected after careful consideration of the current plight of the species to which the project relates. All third party projects funded in this manner share the same overall objectives and aims of the charity.

The charity has undertaken the creation of a wildlife reserve in South Africa with the aid of donations from Colchester Zoo Enterprises Limited and its visitors.

**Volunteers**

The charity uses volunteers to help raise awareness of Colchester Zoological Society and the conservation work it supports and to help raise funds for supported projects. The Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers for their continuing efforts.

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**Charitable activities**

Below is a review of the organisations and projects Colchester Zoological Society supported in 2024 through financial and technical assistance.

**UmPhafa Private Nature Reserve**

- The UmPhafa Nature Reserve was formed in 2005. In October 2024, the UmPhafa Nature Reserve was given protected area status under South African law.
- In 2024, Colchester Zoological Society gave a contribution of £379,005 to ensure the continued running of the reserve; from employing field rangers, maintenance and intern staff, to ensuring continued protection of wildlife species, as well as hosting interns and provided them with the opportunity for interns to learn about conservation management of a reserve.
- 56 interns visited in 2024, which included groups from Writtle University College, the University of Suffolk and East Coast College. A new South African student intern also joined for the year. The interns assisted with research on the bottlebrush tree and with vegetation surveys as part of the rangeland condition assessment of the reserve, led by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. 34 students from the University of KwaZulu Natal also visited for their annual soil studies trip.
- Poaching continues to be an issue, but thankfully at a lower level than 2023, with a total of 25m of fence stolen, 16 animals taken and 22 incursion attempts, however there was a higher number of instances of trespassing by poachers, with or without dogs, with 84 poachers recorded in the reserve in 2024 and one snare found. Incursion attempts did follow a downward trend over the year, likely due to increased cameras, the purchase of a thermal drone, and improved patrolling, along with the buffalo acting as a deterrent. Donations of binoculars and cameras also assisted the field rangers in their work.
- Game count figures provided good totals for 2024, higher than 2023, even though animals were lost to a particularly cold snap.
- 2024 saw no improvement in rainfall levels, so planning ahead, the team purchased a rake and baler to ensure the animals have food in stock for the winter of 2025. Two additional boreholes were also drilled in 2024 so the team will be able to top up some of the dams to ensure constant water sources.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Dec 2021</b>	<b>Dec 2022</b>	<b>Dec 2023</b>	<b>Nov 2024</b>	<b>Highest number recorded in a game count this year</b>
Blesbok	59	88	44	59	171
Buffalo	0	0	14	30	30
Common Reedbuck	11	13	10	7	7
Duiker	11	12	33	15	57
Eland	14	124	112	72	122
Giraffe	41	38	40	40	61
Impala	380	465	360	304	385
Kudu	459	561	323	193	378
Mountain Reedbuck	10	23	17	5	11
Nyala	73	75	50	56	108
Red Hartbeest	78	73	57	13	47
Warthog	306	344	212	254	254
Waterbuck	47	66	66	40	60
Wildbeest	292	269	351	185	325
Zebra	337	481	551	303	551
<b>Total</b>	<b>2118</b>	<b>2632</b>	<b>2226</b>	<b>1584</b>	<b>2589</b>

New species recorded for the year include:

- Mammals - African Wild Cat
- Birds - Purple Crested Turaco
- Insects - Baboon spider Amphibians - Painted Reed frog / Boettgers Dainty frog

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

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**Key Events on the Reserve**

**January 2024**

- Buffalo herd started to calf

**February 2024**

- 4 juvenile giraffes captured and moved off the reserve; 2 males and 2 females
- 2 male wild dogs arrived
- The field rangers and management staff started security training and testing

**March 2024**

- Female wild dogs arrived
- 3 spotted eagle owls arrived from FreeMe Wild and released
- 2 large spotted genets arrived from FreeMe Wild and released
- The field rangers and management staff started security exams with written and practical shooting tests
- First aid training for field rangers and management

**April 2024**

- Cheetah permit arrived
- Started bonding procedure with the wild dogs
- 101 blesbok delivered
- Male kudu captured for movement off the reserve
- 10 ostriches delivered; 2 males 8 females
- Electric converted to solar on the reserve's fences

**May 2024**

- Wildebeest and zebra captured for movement off the reserve
- Thermal drone purchased

**June 2024**

- New male giraffe delivered
- 4 new camera traps purchased

**July 2024**

- Wild dogs left
- African wild cat released
- 2 new male giraffes released
- 3 male red Hartebeest delivered
- Cheetah collars arrived

**August 2024**

- Released 9 Buffalo including a calf
- Spotted another African wildcat on the reserve
- 10 common reedbuck released

**September 2024**

- The wild dogs that left in July had 5 pups at their new home Makalali. These were the only dogs bonded successfully this year
- State vet checked the buffalo fence and it passed
- 56 kudu and 20 zebra captured for movement off the reserve

**October 2024**

- The team undertook a block burn of 27% of the reserve.

**November 2024**

- 3 male eland arrived
- Spotted Eagle Owl had 2 chicks

**December 2024**

- Eskom electricity supply switched off with conversion to solar.

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In 2025, the team shall again be hosting interns to help with the reserve management tasks and will continue to focus their efforts on protecting species, bringing in new animal genes with the highlight of releasing cheetah onto the reserve; a first release of this species!

**Fisher's Estuarine Moth Breeding Programme**

- The Fisher's estuarine moth is a rare and highly threatened species. The main stronghold of the species centred on a remote island in Essex located in the Walton Backwaters, called Skipper's Island, which is part of Hamford Water National nature reserve. Sadly, a seawall breach in 2020 has meant that approximately 70% of suitable habitat on the island has been lost to rising sea levels. Over the last 20+ years, a collaborate project has been underway to create new habitat for the moth's larvae to feed on, with Hog's fennel planted across numerous sites in north Essex, as part of a landscape-wide conservation approach.
- Colchester Zoo began working on this programme in 2008, setting up a captive breeding and release programme, with egg batches produced at the zoo released into newly created habitat sites to ensure the long-term survival of this species. As of 2024, the majority of the 35 plots have now been colonised, and the captive breeding programme was paused, having achieved its objective to provide moths for release into new habitat.
- Colchester Zoo, however, continues its involvement with the project by annually monitoring Hog's fennel plant condition, scrub encroachment, larval feeding signs and adult moth counts at two of the newly created sites; Cudmore Grove and Copt Hall, to help monitor the establishment of the moth at these sites.
- In addition, Colchester Zoo's Zoological Director and Team Leader of Reptile Section sit on the Fisher's Estuarine Moth Steering Group with partners from the Essex Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Environment Agency, Tendring District Council, Butterfly Conservation and the National Trust to continue to work to safeguard the future of this species.
- This project is a fantastic indicator of the success of an invertebrate breed and release programme, working in collaboration with various conservation organisations to increase the population size of this species.

**Save the Rhinos International**

- The Minister for the South African Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment has announced that 420 rhinos were illegally killed in South Africa during 2024, and, of this total, 232 rhinos were lost to poaching in KwaZulu Natal.
- Whilst these figures represent a decrease on the previous year, demonstrating that current conservation efforts are having a tangible impact, ongoing investment into park rangers is essential, as rangers are on the frontline in their role to ensure the integrity of conservation areas and the safety of rhinos within these landscapes.
- In 2024, Colchester Zoological Society gave a contribution of £6,900 to purchase rifle safes for the safeguarding of field rangers' rifles and to meet emergency repairs or replacement for patrol equipment for rangers.
- This donation helps towards Hluhluwe-iMfolozi National Park's objectives to reduce annual poaching levels, by enabling increased patrol coverage, decreased reaction time and by improving ranger welfare while on duty.
- The first quarter of 2024 saw rhino carcasses continue to be found following poaching incidents. Following a major dehorning operation in April, the next quarter saw a reduction in rhino poaching and overall, this decrease continued for the rest of the year. Unfortunately, there is still a market for dehorned rhino, so the teams remain ever vigilant to ensure continued protection of the reserve's rhinos.
- Field ranger training sessions continued in the Park in 2024, new uniform provision, ongoing efforts to maintain the field ranger camps and the purchase of new equipment, such as tents, and ration packs, all help build the ranger units' capacity, helping to ensure individuals are more effective during deployments in the field.

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**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

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**Orangutan Foundation**

- The Orangutan Foundation is working to save orangutans by protecting their tropical forest habitat, working with local communities, and promoting research and education. n.
- The Orangutan Foundation operates five orangutan post-release monitoring camps within the Lamandau Wildlife Reserve, a reserve spanning almost 160,000 acres in Indonesian Borneo. At these camps, field teams care for orphaned orangutans in a soft-release programme and continuously monitor orangutans in the surrounding forest. The young orangutans in the soft-release programme learn forest skills necessary for life in the wild and, once fully prepared, are then ready for release. From time to time, situations arise where the team help with the rescue and translocation of orangutans stranded in threatened areas, such as community land and fragmented sections of forest. Veterinary assistance ensures the highest welfare standards are available to expertly treat these orangutans straight away before release into the Lamandau Wildlife Reserve.
- In 2024, Colchester Zoological Society gave a contribution of £7,500 to cover a vet salary, post-release monitoring of the Bornean orangutan population in the Lamandau Wildlife Reserve and veterinary equipment for a wildlife clinic.
- Highlights from 2024 confirm a wild birth to one of the females, after seven years of learning, an orphaned orangutan graduated from the soft-release programme and started a new chapter in the protected Lamandau Wildlife Reserve, and the other orangutans in the soft-release programme also progressed well.
- Approximately 550,000 acres of critical rainforest habitat continues to be protected through guard posts and patrols, with over 5,000 orangutans in Lamandau Wildlife Reserve and Tanjung Puting National Park safe-guarded through the habitat protection programme.
- Reforestation also continued in over 40 hectares of degraded rainforest habitat. 36,500 saplings were planted in over 30 hectares of degraded rainforest. A further 14.4 hectares of saplings planted in previous years were also maintained through the process of 'enrichment', where failing tree-saplings are replaced by stronger ones. A total of 7,000 plants from 7 different species were used in this process to increase local rainforest diversity and success rates.
- Fortunately, the dry season was not as arid as expected, with only two forest fires needing to be extinguished in Lamandau Wildlife Reserve. Staff also built wells - 'boreholes' - to encourage the growth of wetter, fire-resistant vegetation, and to provide water sources for firefighting in fire-prone forest areas.

**AEECL (Association Européenne pour l'Étude et la Conservation des Lémuriens)**

- The AEECL aims to advance the understanding and conservation of Madagascar's lemur populations through scientific research, captive propagation and protection of their natural habitat.
- Investment in local communities through education, resource management and communication helps ensure the communities of today can forge a safe haven for wildlife tomorrow.
- In 2024, Colchester Zoological Society gave its £1,747.34 membership fee to support the work of AEECL.
- In 2024, during the Regional Reforestation event, the AEECL planted 50 trees in Anahidrano village, about 25km north of Antsohihy. The project's main site for the reforestation programme is in Andranotsirity; the reforestation area begins at the edges of the Andranotsirity forest and extends over a vast savannah. During the planting season, 6,586 young plants from four species were provided by the 2 community nurseries and these were planted over 4ha. Young plants continue to be checked over and watered and the area around them tidied to help with the tree growth.
- AEECL support the women in local communities in Antsohihy and in celebration of International Women's Day in 2024, provided 25 T-shirts, and a special celebration meal to all participants who represented AEECL.
- The team attended the biodiversity annual event in Anjiabory which included a celebration lunch, information stands, speeches by the authorities in attendance and networking with the NGOs who work in the Sofia region. AEECL donated to support the celebration.
- A Master's research student, supported by AEECL, studied at various locations throughout the area, looking at 'assessing the potential for soil restoration in rice paddies in the Sahamalaza region, using soil tests and social science.' The AEECL helped the student to organise her research permit, organised a Malagasy student to assist her and supported her data collection.
- The AEECL hosted another day of road repairs which saw 178 people attend from four villages and approximately 17km of road either fixed or newly created. Most of the worst sections were fixed and AEECL provided food for the event.
- AEECL subsidises 78 teacher wages from 3 communes to ensure they are earning a salary whilst teaching the children good skills, including nature-based studies. By subsidising their salaries, the AEECL can improve the educational programmes of the local communities.

### **Elephant Orphanage Project**

- The Elephant Orphanage Project (EOP) is working to rescue, rehabilitate and release elephants that have been orphaned as a direct result of poaching.
- In 2024, Colchester Zoological Society gave a contribution of £10,000 to help provide food and medical treatment for the orphans and to support the wage of one of the elephant caregivers, Aaron, who has worked at the project since 2012.
- At the end of 2024, the Elephant Orphanage Project's had 26 elephants undergoing care or monitoring, spanning the six stages of release:
  - 17 elephants in rehabilitation (5 elephants in Stage 1 rehabilitation at the Lilayi Elephant Nursery and 12 elephants in Stage 3 at the Kafue Release Facility who remain inside the protective boma overnight).
  - 9 elephants actively monitored (6 of these in Stage 5 spending nights outside the boma, remaining with the orphan herd less than 50% of their time and with one calf born in the wild, and 3 in Stage 6 living full time in the wild and being monitored).
- Stage 5 elephant female Chamilandu and her herd continue to periodically visit the Stage 3 release phase orphans to socialise on their daily walks and, throughout the last quarter of the year, maintained a consistent home range within 5 - 7 km radius of the Release Facility. These encounters evidence the strong bonds forged between the elephants and the trust they have built over time.
- Some of the Stage 5 orphans; Tafika, Rufunsa, and Mosi, have begun to explore other areas of the Kafue National Park, likely in search of more abundant and nutritious food sources. This break away from Chamilandu's leadership and expansion of their range marks their growing independence and confidence in navigating the wild. Tafika ventured south and explored overlapping ranges with wild herds; this behaviour is essential for long-term survival and adaptation in male African elephants.
- After five months of exploring the wild, Stage 6 sub-adult bull Musolole, now 13.5 years, made an unexpected return to the Kafue Release Facility, reuniting with the orphans, likely in search of water due to the drought. He had been spotted in a group of around 50 wild elephants just 2 weeks before his return in excellent body condition.
- In November, an orphaned elephant was captured. He was in poor condition, which is currently very common during this extreme drought, but he was already of weaned age, so rather than go to Lilayi Elephant Nursery, he was immobilised to provide some basic medical treatment and immune boosters and relocated to an area closer to the National Park, away from settlements with more plentiful vegetation. Subsequent reports by the monitoring Rangers confirm he joined with a herd and moved off towards the Park.

### **Elephant Herpes Virus (EEHV) Research Funds Appeal**

- Elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus (EEHV), of which there are 11 (sub)species, continues to be a devastating infectious disease posing a significant threat to the long-term conservation of Asian elephants in zoo populations and is the most frequent cause of death in young Asian elephants; over the last 35 years, 12-17% of all Asian elephant calves born in Western zoos succumbed to EEHV-HD before reaching adulthood. The disease is also found in wild populations, where infections and fatalities are more challenging to track, and more recently, African elephants have been shown to be affected as well.
- In 2024, Colchester Zoological Society provided a donation of £866.63 to support research projects that strive towards finding a solution against this fatal disease.
- Promising lines of research work continue, with researchers at the University of Utrecht making remarkable progress towards developing a vaccine against EEHV.
- A scientific paper was published in 2024 highlighting progress with the work to better define which animals are at risk of EEHV-fatal haemorrhagic disease (EEHV-HD) using blood tests from 164 Asian elephants in European zoos. The study strongly suggested which young elephants with low antibody levels were at risk of developing fatal EEHV-HD, confirmed by the fact all 23 studied fatalities had such low antibody levels (which represents a large subset of 56% of the total reported fatalities)
- Overall, the research found that specific testing can be used to identify animals at risk of EEHV-HD and further research will now look to determine the exact antibody level above which animals are protected against EEHV-HD.
- The future of zoo elephant populations depends on understanding how to manage this awful disease. In the long term, research serves to protect captive elephants against fatal EEHV-HD and contribute to the preservation of this endangered animal species.

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

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**Centre de Rehabilitation des Primates de Lwiro**

- Founded in 2002 by two Congolese government institutions, The Lwiro Primates Rehabilitation Centre (LPRC) was formed to provide a permanent solution for the escalating number of orphaned primates confiscated around Kahuzi-Biega National Park (PNKB). The centre plays a vital role in caring for confiscated wildlife and in working to stop the illegal animal trade in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).
- At the end of 2024, Lwiro serves as a sanctuary for 129 chimpanzees, 108 monkeys of 14 different species, 46 parrots, 3 tortoises and a porcupine.
- The centre is committed to delivering high-quality wildlife health and welfare services, emphasising long-term captive care, with a strong focus on rehabilitation and conservation education.
- In 2024, Colchester Zoological Society gave a contribution of £4,973.34 towards the purchase of essential sustenance, promoting the health and vitality of the primates residing at Lwiro. Over six weeks, from April 2024 to May 2024, the donation facilitated the provision of fresh fruits and vegetables to a total of 287 animals housed at LPRC. This initiative not only adds variety to their diet, but also enhances the overall quality of nutrition, contributing to the holistic well-being of the primates.
- The support enables the LPRC to maintain its care capacity, ensuring the continued reception of confiscated animals. This not only aligns with LPRC's mission, but also contributes to compliance with Congolese law.
- A significant portion of the funds was dedicated to supporting local women farmers in Lwiro. This not only ensures a regular supply of fresh and diverse nutritional options for the primates, but also sustains the livelihoods of local farmers, providing them with a sustainable income source that helps protect Kahuzi Biega National Park from exploitation.

**Free the Bears**

- Free the Bears (FTB) is working to protect, preserve and enrich the lives of bears throughout the world by offering a safe sanctuary for bears rescued from the illegal wildlife trade.
- In 2024, a record 34 bears were rescued. This included the world's largest rescue of threatened bear cubs, involving 16 tiny cubs ranging in weight between 1.3kg and 4kg. Sadly, one of the cubs didn't make it, however, the 15 survivors are now healthy and strong. Many of the other bears rescued were also orphaned cubs, two of which had horrific wounds from wire snare traps, although thankfully both are now on the road to recovery. Older bears were also rescued, that had been caged for many years, including a golden moon bear. All of these bears have been spared a life of pain, fear and suffering and will join the hundreds of rescued bears at Free the Bears' sanctuaries.
- In 2024, Colchester Zoological Society gave a contribution of £7,500 towards Free the Bears; £6000 towards the expansion of the Laos sanctuary's sun bear facilities to help create a second facility and new group of sun bears during 2025, as four sun bears were rescued in 2024. The other £1,500 towards recruitment of a new Behavioural Research Assistant, including sample collection from a male sun bear who will have an implant fitted to control sperm production. This represents a rare opportunity to integrate behavioural observations with hormonal monitoring to analyse the effects of contraceptive use on male social and reproductive behaviours to help inform future contraceptive practices in captive bear populations.

### **Vulpro**

- African vultures are some of the most threatened species on the planet, with some populations having declined by over 80% in the last three decades. VulPro has been at the forefront of vulture conservation, conducting extensive breeding surveys and analysing trends across southern Africa since 2010. By identifying critical nesting sites and understanding the challenges facing breeding vultures, VulPro contributes invaluable data to the fight for their survival.
- In 2024, Colchester Zoological Society gave a contribution of £4,994.22 towards vulture monitoring expenses, covering researcher costs to monitor breeding sites of the critically endangered tree nesting African white-backed vulture.
- Researchers employ a combination of walking, drone, and driving surveys to carefully observe and document the presence and behaviour of vultures at each nest. Each nesting site is monitored a minimum of twice a year, allowing for comparisons of breeding success at the start and end of each season and enabling the calculation of annual reproductive rates.  
In 2024, VulPro's tree nesting monitoring activity took place across 20 different properties, where the team recorded a total 137 vulture tree nests.  
Long-established monitoring sites provide valuable data on recent population trends, revealing mixed trends across sites in 2024 when compared to previous years. Continuous monitoring will be essential to track these trends further and to implement targeted conservation actions where needed.
- Monitoring efforts further expanded to include an altogether new area. This led to the interesting discovery of a hooded vulture nest hidden away along the bank of the river. With fewer than 50-100 breeding pairs of hooded vultures remaining in South Africa, this discovery is of immense conservation significance.
- Long-term data collection is crucial for understanding vulture population dynamics, identifying emerging threats, and prioritising conservation efforts. As VulPro detect declining trends and shifts in populations, data provides valuable insights into the scale of these changes, helping to inform broader population assessments like those used for the IUCN Red List.

### **Komodo Survival Program**

- The Komodo Survival Program (KSP) aims to protect and monitor Komodo dragons and their habitat with the involvement of the local community.
- In 2024, Colchester Zoological Society gave a contribution of £1,290.43 to support this project.
- Over the course of the year, the Komodo Survival Program (KSP) team conducted a number of community awareness meetings in different hamlets and villages, informing the community that there are protected animals in their area and encouraging them to always preserve the Komodo dragon habitat. They also trained naturalist guides to increase the capacity of guides, so that the guides' knowledge regarding Komodo dragon ecology can be conveyed to visitors.
- Workshops were also conducted focused on analysing camera trap data to estimate Komodo dragon site occupancy at all monitoring sites on Flores, on safe techniques for handling and measuring Komodo dragons and mitigating human-wildlife conflicts using Rinca Island's abundant Komodo dragon population and on data interpretation and scientific report writing.
- Camera trapping sessions were conducted in a number of locations in Flores, with a total of 18 out of 26 camera traps recording the presence of Komodo dragons.
- Two educational programmes for school children were also carried out with a total of 37 students participating in ecological sessions about the Komodo dragon.

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**Red Panda Network Forest Guardian Sponsorship Scheme**

- The Red Panda Network (RPN) established the world's first community-based monitoring programme for red pandas and their habitat through empowering, educating and engaging Nepalese local communities in red panda conservation, along with providing livelihood incentives.
- One of the key initiatives contributing to the success of the programme is the Forest Guardian (FG) programme. Forest Guardians are on-the-ground partners, who are employed to monitor and protect red panda habitat and support red panda conservation through multiple activities, such as monitoring red panda populations and habitat, generating population estimates, identifying threats and developing threat mitigation strategies. They are also involved in carrying out anti-poaching patrolling and work as panda trackers during eco-trips. Each Forest Guardian also works within their respective village to build awareness of the importance of red pandas to the local ecosystem.
- In 2024, Colchester Zoological Society gave a contribution of £214.92 to help sponsor a Forest Guardian. Currently there are 126 professional Forest Guardians and, in 2024, the red panda holders in European Zoos provided support for 25 of these.
- The funds are used for capacity and skill-building training, supporting children and siblings with education scholarships, installing solar systems, and providing guardians with field gear and monitoring equipment.
- All forest guardians receive training on community-based red panda monitoring and anti-poaching patrolling, which includes training on camera trap handling, installation and data management, to enable them to monitor and establish red panda monitoring blocks.
- This support benefits not only the red pandas, but provides employment and development within the local community, giving them a sense of pride in protecting this endangered species, with income generated from sustainable means.

**Galapagos Conservation Trust (GCT)**

- The Galapagos Conservation Trust (GCT) is the only UK charity to focus solely on the conservation of the Galapagos Islands. For over 25 years, GCT has raised funds and awareness, and delivered impactful conservation projects both on their own and in partnership with Ecuadorian authorities, local communities, scientists and other non-government organisations. Their project portfolio for 2023-25 is focusing on four key solutions: stopping species extinctions; eradicating invasive species; building climate resilience; and reducing the human footprint.
- In 2023, Action for the Wild gave a contribution of £373.62 from the BIAZA Pinniped Husbandry Workshop conference held at Colchester Zoo to support this conservation work.
- At the beginning of March, the team attended the 'Our Ocean Conference' in Panama and presented preliminary results from the last five years of plastic pollution research in the Galapagos Islands and the wider Eastern Pacific.
- The GCT team conducted a drone workshop with the Galapagos National Park Directorate coastal clean-up team, during which the group learned how drone technology can assist with removing and documenting plastic pollution from coastal habitats.
- The team attended the second round of negotiations for a global agreement to end plastic pollution at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.
- In October, the next crucial phase of the restoration of Floreana began. The team started the eradication phase, the largest and most complex eradication of invasive and introduced species ever attempted on an inhabited tropical island. If successful, the team can begin species reintroductions in January 2024, starting with the Floreana giant tortoise. This is a significant step towards the ultimate goal of reintroducing 12 locally extinction species to the island.

**Report of the Trustees**  
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**Ghost Fishing UK**

- Ghost Fishing UK was established in 2015, and is an award-winning charity dedicated to removing 'ghost gear' from the seas around the UK.
- Ghost gear is fishing gear, such as nets and shellfish traps, that have been lost by fishermen during the course of their work. The lost gear continues to catch marine life, as it is designed to do. Ghost gear is a source of marine pollution, but because it was designed to catch animals, it has a disproportionate impact on wildlife, marine and coastal habitats, and food security.
- Ghost Fishing UK is made up of volunteer scuba divers, who have been trained to remove this lost fishing gear from the seas. The purpose is to remove, where possible, lethal entanglement hazards to marine life from the marine environment.
- In 2024, Colchester Zoological Society gave a contribution of £5,000 to help remove abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear from UK waters.
- Ghostfishing UK divers undertook numerous recovery missions in 2024.
  - The team travelled to Plymouth to search for a large trawl net and freed a large 1m wrasse trapped in it, before the net was safely recovered.
  - The team worked on the wreck of the Vale of Leven, a steam drifter in 26m depth within the Rampion wind farm, where they removed several large and hazardous chunks of net before clearing the wreck of pots. The team recovered a gill net and mass of rope floating under Swanage pier, which sadly had already claimed the life of one fish. This gill net was a large hazard to both the abundant marine life under the pier, as well as the huge numbers of recreational divers who visit the pier for leisure and training. 8 lobster pots were also recovered on day 2 of the dive; these pots will be returned to the fishing community where possible or broken down for materials and recycled if they are in too poor condition.
  - The team travelled to Holy Loch to recover some lost creel pots after Storm Bert broke a storage barge apart - over 60 pots were recovered and 2,934 live crab, 136 prawns, 16 hermit crabs, 13 ling, 7 cod and 3 wrasse were saved
  - 263m of gill net was found in the shallows of Jennycliff Bay, which is a small pebble beach within the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. After the divers had surveyed and secured the lift bags, masses of net were recovered to the surface along with all the trapped life and litter the net had been catching. Once the net was eventually on deck the trapped life was released, including 72 spiny spider crabs, 30 velvet swimming crabs and 9 edible crabs.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Principal funding sources**

The charity's principal funds derive from donations from Colchester Zoo Enterprises Limited and donations made by the general public.

**Reserves policy**

Reserves are held at a level sufficient enough to ensure the support of animal conservation projects worldwide. Many of the projects supported by the charity operate in countries suffering from political and economic constraints and uncertainty, as such they rely upon donations and other voluntary income to ensure continuity. The Trustees continue to retain a reserve fund that not only supports its day to day objectives but to also support the longer term development and strategic plans of the charity. Donations are gratefully received by the various organisations and make a huge contribution towards conservation costs of animal rehabilitation and release, habitat and species protection, conservation research and capacity building and education of local communities.

The Trustees policy is to place funds on deposit with a high street bank. This achieves the flexibility of funds earning a return on capital, whilst at the same time being easily accessible should it be required.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

**Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

The charity has an established recruitment procedure for the appointment of trustees. Mechanisms include exploiting the charity's local networks and personal invitation.

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

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**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Organisational structure**

The board of trustees administers the charity. It meets annually and there are sub-committees covering development, membership, finance and audit that meet when required.

The trustees recognise the significant contributions of Rebecca Moore as Zoo Director.

**Induction and training of new trustees**

New trustees are required to attend an induction day to brief them on:

- (a) their legal obligation under UK charity and company law
- (b) the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association
- (c) committee and decision making processes
- (d) the business plan
- (e) the recent financial performance of the charity

During induction the new trustees have the opportunity to meet key employees and other trustees. They are also encouraged to attend any appropriate external training events that might assist them in undertaking the role of a trustee. Regular governance training is also provided.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered Company number**

05150424 (England and Wales)

**Registered Charity number**

1105621

**Registered office**

Colchester Zoo  
Maldon Road  
Colchester  
Essex  
C03 0SL

**Trustees**

Dr D A Tropeano (resigned 30.1.25)  
Mrs J A Tropeano (resigned 30.1.25)  
Mrs S E Leedham (resigned 18.11.24)  
A Lewis  
Mrs M R Dench (resigned 19.8.24)  
A G Bruford (appointed 10.5.24)  
Mrs E A Butcher (appointed 4.4.24)  
R W Lees (appointed 8.5.24)  
J Griffiths-Scott (appointed 1.4.25)

**Company Secretary**

Mrs R Moore

**Auditors**

SB&P  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors  
Oriel House  
2-8 Oriel Road  
Bootle  
Liverpool  
Merseyside  
L20 7EP

**EVENTS SINCE THE END OF THE YEAR**

Information relating to events since the end of the year is given in the notes to the financial statements.

Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

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**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees (who are also the directors of Colchester Zoological Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on .....27/9/25..... and signed on its behalf by:

  
.....  
A G Bruford - Trustee

### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Colchester Zoological Society (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, 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 (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

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 2024 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, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'; 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 UK, including the FRC'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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 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 misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Opinions 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 Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the 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 Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the 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 take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, 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.

**Our 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 a Report of the Independent Auditors 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

The objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements due to fraud or error; to obtain appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud or error; and to respond appropriately to those risks. Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the ISAs (UK).

In identifying and assessing risk of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures include the following:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the Company and the sector in which it operates. We determined that the following laws and regulations were most significant:
  - Those which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements
  - Those that relate to reporting frameworks being The Companies Act 2006 Charities Act 2008 (accounts and reports regulations) Charities Act 2011 Charities Smp (FRS 102) 2019 UK corporate tax laws UK health and safety regulations
  - Those that relate to the Fundraising Regulator, the independent regulator of charitable fundraising in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
  - Those that relate to data protection and bribery and corruption practices.
- We obtained an understanding of how the Charitable Company is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making enquiries of management, reviewing any board meeting minutes and reviewing the legal costs incurred in the year and enquiring with management as to the circumstances around these legal costs.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Charitable Company's financial statements to material misstatement including how fraud may occur. Audit procedures performed by the audit engagement team included:
  - identifying the controls that management has in place to prevent and detect fraud;
  - challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in its significant accounting estimates;
  - auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business;
  - assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations.

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](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of  
Colchester Zoological Society (Registered number: 05150424)**

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**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 the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Suzanne Draper FCCA ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of SB&P

Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors

Oriel House

2-8 Oriel Road

Bootle

Liverpool

Merseyside

L20 7EP

Date: 29/9/2025

**Colchester Zoological Society**  
**(formerly Colchester Zoo Action for the**  
**Wild)**

**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.12.24 Total funds £	31.12.23 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	4,354,936	-	4,354,936	143,571
Other trading activities	3	1,210	-	1,210	1,280
Investment income	4	64,711	-	64,711	54,091
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,420,857</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,420,857</b>	<b>198,942</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
Raising funds	5	77,229	-	77,229	500
<b>Charitable activities</b>	6				
Wildlife conservation		433,289	-	433,289	519,178
<b>Total</b>		<b>510,518</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>510,518</b>	<b>519,678</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		<b>3,910,339</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,910,339</b>	<b>(320,736)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		1,222,083	3,469	1,225,552	1,546,288
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>5,132,422</b>	<b>3,469</b>	<b>5,135,891</b>	<b>1,225,552</b>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Colchester Zoological Society (Registered number: 05150424)  
(formerly Colchester Zoo Action for the  
Wild)

Balance Sheet  
31 December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.12.24 Total funds £	31.12.23 Total funds £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	12	73	-	73	97
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	13	14,819	-	14,819	11,980
Cash at bank		5,135,480	3,469	5,138,949	1,227,356
		<u>5,150,299</u>	<u>3,469</u>	<u>5,153,768</u>	<u>1,239,336</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	14	(17,950)	-	(17,950)	(13,881)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>5,132,349</u>	<u>3,469</u>	<u>5,135,818</u>	<u>1,225,455</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>5,132,422</u>	<u>3,469</u>	<u>5,135,891</u>	<u>1,225,552</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>5,132,422</u>	<u>3,469</u>	<u>5,135,891</u>	<u>1,225,552</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	15				
Unrestricted funds				5,132,422	1,222,083
Restricted funds				3,469	3,469
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u>5,135,891</u>	<u>1,225,552</u>

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 27/9/2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

A G Bruford - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

**Colchester Zoological Society**  
**(formerly Colchester Zoo Action for the**  
**Wild)**

**Cash Flow Statement**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

	Notes	31.12.24 £	31.12.23 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Cash generated from operations	1	<u>3,846,882</u>	<u>(177,474)</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		<u>3,846,882</u>	<u>(177,474)</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Interest received		<u>64,711</u>	<u>54,091</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities		<u>64,711</u>	<u>54,091</u>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		<u>3,911,593</u>	<u>(123,383)</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b>		<u>1,227,356</u>	<u>1,350,739</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>		<u><u>5,138,949</u></u>	<u><u>1,227,356</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.12.24 £	31.12.23 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	3,910,339	(320,736)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	24	33
Interest received	(64,711)	(54,091)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(2,839)	193,320
Increase in creditors	4,069	4,000
Net cash provided by/(used in) operations	<u>3,846,882</u>	<u>(177,474)</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.1.24 £	Cash flow £	At 31.12.24 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	<u>1,227,356</u>	<u>3,911,593</u>	<u>5,138,949</u>
	<u>1,227,356</u>	<u>3,911,593</u>	<u>5,138,949</u>
Total	<u>1,227,356</u>	<u>3,911,593</u>	<u>5,138,949</u>

## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

### Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

### Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

### Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings                      - 25% on reducing balance

### Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

### Fund accounting

Donations made by the charity are sometimes in excess of the monies collected for that purpose. The difference is made by transfer from the general fund. All collections for a specific project are paid over as soon as possible but otherwise in the same accounting period. The Umphafa Private Nature Reserve is private insofar as it is not open to the public but is a conservation project with many students carrying out research projects. The charity funds this work from donations as and when support is needed and retains funds to ensure its long term sustainability.

### Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities held in foreign currencies, are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of a transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.12.24	31.12.23
	£	£
Donations	4,288,157	93,852
Gift aid	9,327	7,217
Legacies	2,552	249
Umphafa placements	54,900	42,253
	<u>4,354,936</u>	<u>143,571</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31.12.24	31.12.23
	£	£
Research fees	<u>1,210</u>	<u>1,280</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.12.24	31.12.23
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>64,711</u>	<u>54,091</u>

5. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	31.12.24	31.12.23
	£	£
Research costs	850	500
Support costs	76,379	-
	<u>77,229</u>	<u>500</u>

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	Support costs (see note 8)	Totals
	£	£	£
Wildlife conservation	<u>429,991</u>	<u>3,298</u>	<u>433,289</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

7. GRANTS PAYABLE

	31.12.24	31.12.23
	£	£
Wildlife conservation	<u>429,991</u>	<u>488,764</u>
The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:		
	31.12.24	31.12.23
	£	£
AEECL	1,747	1,768
Elephant Orphanage Project	10,000	10,000
Orangutan Foundation	7,500	7,500
Save The Rhino International	6,900	7,068
Umphafa Private Nature Reserve	379,005	441,444
Vulture Conservation VulPro	4,994	4,994
Free the bears	7,500	7,500
LWIRO Chimp Project	4,973	4,859
Red Panda Network	215	220
Elephant Herpes Virus	867	907
Komodo Survival Program	1,290	1,319
Galapagos Conservation Trust	-	374
Ghost Fishing	5,000	614
To Mind	-	197
	<u>429,991</u>	<u>488,764</u>

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Finance	Other	Governance	Totals
	£	£	costs	£
	£	£	£	£
Raising donations and legacies	552	24	75,803	76,379
Wildlife conservation	298	-	3,000	3,298
	<u>850</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>78,803</u>	<u>79,677</u>

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.12.24	31.12.23
	£	£
Accountancy fees and independent examination	4,267	3,299
Auditors remuneration	3,000	-
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>24</u>	<u>33</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2024 nor for the year ended 31 December 2023.

**Trustees' expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2024 nor for the year ended 31 December 2023.

11. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	143,571	-	143,571
Other trading activities	1,280	-	1,280
Investment income	54,091	-	54,091
<b>Total</b>	<u>198,942</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>198,942</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
Raising funds	500	-	500
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Wildlife conservation	519,178	-	519,178
<b>Total</b>	<u>519,678</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>519,678</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	(320,736)	-	(320,736)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	1,542,819	3,469	1,546,288
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u>1,222,083</u>	<u>3,469</u>	<u>1,225,552</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £
<b>COST</b>	
At 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024	<b>2,840</b>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>	
At 1 January 2024	<b>2,743</b>
Charge for year	<b>24</b>
At 31 December 2024	<b>2,767</b>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 December 2024	<b>73</b>
At 31 December 2023	<b>97</b>

13. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.24 £	31.12.23 £
Trade debtors	<b>1,189</b>	6,856
Other debtors	<b>13,630</b>	5,124
	<b>14,819</b>	11,980

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.24 £	31.12.23 £
Trade creditors	<b>4,636</b>	-
Accrued expenses	<b>13,314</b>	13,881
	<b>17,950</b>	13,881

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.24 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	<b>1,222,083</b>	<b>3,910,339</b>	<b>5,132,422</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Wildlife Vets International (Amur leopard and tiger)	<b>3,469</b>	-	<b>3,469</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>1,225,552</b>	<b>3,910,339</b>	<b>5,135,891</b>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	4,420,857	(510,518)	3,910,339
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>4,420,857</u>	<u>(510,518)</u>	<u>3,910,339</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	1,542,819	(320,736)	1,222,083
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Wildlife Vets International (Amur leopard and tiger)	3,469	-	3,469
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>1,546,288</u>	<u>(320,736)</u>	<u>1,225,552</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	198,942	(519,678)	(320,736)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>198,942</u>	<u>(519,678)</u>	<u>(320,736)</u>

Donations are generated from collections, spinners and a £1 optional donation charged on entrance fees to the Zoo, such donations are collected by the Zoo and paid to the charity.

Collections for specific organisations and projects are as detailed above and further detailed information relating to these can be found on pages 2 to 10 of the trustees report.

Sufficient resources are held within current assets to enable restricted funds to be applied in accordance with their restrictions.

Transfers have been made from the general fund to the restricted funds where expenditure has exceeded the available funds in the restricted funds.

**16. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

Dr D A Tropeano (Resigned 30/01/2025), is a trustee and director of Colchester Zoological Society Limited, and also a shareholder and director of Cheyenne Investments Limited, the holding company of Colchester Zoo Enterprises Limited.

Mrs J A Tropeano (Resigned 30/01/2025), is a trustee and director of Colchester Zoological Society Limited, and also a shareholder and director of Cheyenne Investments Limited, the holding company of Colchester Zoo Enterprises Limited.

Umphafa Private Nature Reserve is held within Colchester Zoo SA Properties (Proprietary) Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Colchester Zoo SA Investments (Proprietary) Limited, the shareholding of which is 100% owned by the DAT Trust, of which Dr D A Tropeano and Mr A S P Tropeano are trustees, and beneficiaries together with Mrs J A Tropeano.

During the year Colchester Zoo Enterprises Limited collected donations on behalf of the charity amounting to £42,725 (2023: £30,247). An additional £4,225,000 (2023: £nil) was donated to the charity by Colchester Zoo Enterprises Limited.

During the year an amount of £379,005 was paid to Colchester Zoo SA Investments (2023: £441,444) as a donation towards the running costs of the Umphafa Private Nature Reserve.

**17. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS**

On 30th January 2025 Dr D A Tropeano and Mrs J Tropeano resigned as directors/trustees.

On 1 February 2025, Cheyenne Investments Limited, a company controlled by Dr D A Tropeano gifted its 50,000 shares held in Colchester Zoo Enterprises Limited to the charity

As a result of the transfer and gift of shares on 1 February 2025, Colchester Zoological Society Limited became the parent (charitable) company owning 100% of the share capital of Colchester Zoo Enterprises Limited.

An asset transfer agreement was entered into on the same date, transferring part of Colchester Zoo Enterprises Limited assets to the charity. The total value of the asset transfer could not be determined at the balance sheet date, accordingly the financial statements to 31 December 2024 do not reflect the financial impact of the asset transfer at the reporting date.

**18. CONTROLLING PARTY**

The charity is controlled by the board of trustees.

**Colchester Zoological Society**  
**(formerly Colchester Zoo Action for the**  
**Wild)**

**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

	31.12.24 £	31.12.23 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>		
<b>Donations and legacies</b>		
Donations	4,288,157	93,852
Gift aid	9,327	7,217
Legacies	2,552	249
Umphafa placements	54,900	42,253
	<u>4,354,936</u>	<u>143,571</u>
<b>Other trading activities</b>		
Research fees	1,210	1,280
<b>Investment income</b>		
Deposit account interest	64,711	54,091
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<u>4,420,857</u>	<u>198,942</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Raising donations and legacies</b>		
Research costs	850	500
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Donations	429,991	488,764
<b>Support costs</b>		
<b>Finance</b>		
Bank charges	850	519
<b>Other</b>		
Sundries	-	51
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	24	32
	<u>24</u>	<u>83</u>
<b>Governance costs</b>		
Accountancy fees and independent examination	4,267	3,299
Auditors remuneration	3,000	-
Legal fees	71,536	26,513
	<u>78,803</u>	<u>29,812</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<u>510,518</u>	<u>519,678</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<u>3,910,339</u>	<u>(320,736)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements