

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Edwards & Keeping

Chartered Accountants

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

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ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees	Dr Robert Macfarlane (appointed 10 April 2014) Mr Alex Mills (appointed 03 June 2014) Professor David Macdonald (appointed 02 October 2014) Dame Helen Ghosh (appointed 15 December 2017) Dr John Fanshawe (appointed 03 December 2015) Ms Aoife Bennett (appointed 10 October 2014) Ms Khadijah Haq (appointed 23 September 2021) Ms Yetunde Kehinde (appointed 11 October 2022)
Senior Management / Leadership Team	Mr Hendrikus van Hensbergen, Chief Executive Officer Ms Laura Kravac, Head of Programmes
Charity Registration Number	1157297
Principal Office	South Wing Somerset House London WC2R 1LA
Auditor	Edwards & Keeping Statutory Auditor Unity Chambers 34 High East Street Dorchester Dorset DT1 1HA

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The principal objective of the charity as set out in the constitution is to educate children and young people about nature conservation and to provide opportunities for their involvement in related projects. The trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, which is achieved through the charity's activities as follows:-

- Delivery of a series of workshops on conservation in UK secondary schools
- Recruiting and training volunteers to deliver these workshops and developing learning materials to aid in their delivery
- Running residential conservation camps for groups of young people
- Mentoring young people through our Ambassador Programme, as they lead projects for the benefit of nature in their communities and have a voice in conservation decision making at local and national level
- Building partnerships with conservation organisations to offer work experience placements and volunteering opportunities to students and create opportunities for young people to share their voice and shape conservation policy and practice
- Producing blogs and other communications materials for publication on our website, email newsletters and externally
- Building a strong and effective Board of Trustees and fundraising to deliver activities

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Financial review

Policy on reserves

As a matter of policy, the trustees review the amount of free reserves held in cash and cash equivalents not committed or restricted to any particular purpose. The Board considers the charity's exposure to the risk of any significant loss of income and to the risk of unforeseen expenditure, which cannot be mitigated by executive action, and on this basis decides whether the amount of assets held as free reserves should be increased or decreased.

The charity aims to maintain free reserves equivalent to between three and six months of committed expenditure. At 31 March 2023 free reserves stood at £177,049.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

Action for Conservation (AFC) was registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 3 June 2014. As a CIO, AFC is governed by its constitution, adopted on 10 April 2014 and last amended on 22 June 2017. Under the constitution, the trustees are responsible for the overall governance of the CIO and its property and funds. The responsibility for the daily operation of the CIO lies with the management committee formed of the Chairperson and Treasurer and supported by the Chief Executive. The constitution provides that there must be at least three and not more than twelve trustees, elected by the existing trustees at a properly convened meeting. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the existing charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity. New trustees are inducted into the workings of the charity by the Board of Trustees.

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Chair's Report

(Achievements and performance and financial review)

Over the past year, we have been inspired by the energy, creativity and resilience demonstrated by young people working towards environmental justice around the world, and in particular those in our own vibrant network across our programmes. Our work, underpinned by our ambitious new five-year strategy, launched in January 2023, continues to give these young change-makers the support and tools they need to achieve positive change for the planet and, importantly, opportunities to deepen their connection to the living world. Our WildED workshop programme, Residential Camps, Ambassador Programme and Land-Based Projects help reinforce ecological and inter-generational values, and in doing so enable young people to lead meaningful action for nature and people whilst inspiring and influencing others to join them. By sharing young peoples' stories of hope, wonder, action, change and diversity, we build the case for their participation in environmental decision-making at all levels of society across the UK.

Financial Stability

We began the year with a budgeted deficit of £517k and ended the year with a deficit of £91k (2021/22 - surplus of £98k). While the annual deficit was planned, we are pleased with this outcome, which puts us in a strong position at the start of the next financial year 2023/24.

In 2022/23, income for our core programmes and land-based work increased to £620k (2021/22 - £546k). We also saw a 20% increase in our unrestricted funding, from £277k in 2021/22 to £333k in the current year. Overall, our total income for the year was £864k (2021/22 - £1,228k). The difference is due to a one-off, large-scale project coming to an end part way through the financial year. Race for Nature's Recovery, which ran between January 2021 and December 2022, provided paid 6-month placements to young people in organisations across the environmental sector.

In 2022/23, we secured renewed multi-year funding from the Dulverton Trust (£135k over three years) and grants from several new funders: the Moondance Foundation (£65k), Rewilding Britain (£15k), Ian McTaggart Trust (£5k), and South Downs National Park Authority (£2k). The following trusts and foundations continued to support our work: Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (£123k), Ernest Cook Trust (£67k), OVO Foundation (£55k), Garfield Weston Foundation (£50k), Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (£43k), Swire Charitable Trust (£30k), Reta Lila Howard Foundation (£30k), EQ Foundation (£26k), HCD Education and General Trust (£10k), Raise Your Hands (an uplift of £5k), Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust (£5k), Simon Gibson Charitable Trusts (£5k), James Gibson Charitable Trust (£5k), HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust (£1k) and Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust (£1k). The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation remains our largest donor. We received £28k from individual donations and Gift Aid (2021/22 - £40k) from our participation in the Big Give Green Match Fund, as well as regular donations from our small group of loyal individual donors and one-off donations from other supporters.

Total expenditure in 2022/23 was £954k (2021/22 - £1,130k). The reduction in expenditure is in line with the end of Race for Nature's Recovery; related project costs reduced by £316k to £296k (2021/22 - £611k). Direct costs for other programmes and activities increased by 20% to £72k as we continued to grow our work (2021/22 - £60k). In relation to this, there was a notable increase of £125k in staff costs, from £383k in 2022/21 to £508k in 2022/23. This was due to appointing 5 new posts as well as increasing all staff salaries to match the unprecedented rise in living costs in the preceding 12 months. Support costs increased slightly from £70k in 2021/22 to £73k in 2022/23.

The 2022/23 financial statements report closing balances of £183k unrestricted funds (of which £177k were free reserves, sufficient to meet the reserves policy minimum) and £100k restricted funds.

Staff & Trustees

Our staff team has grown significantly this year, and we have developed our Finance, Human Resources, Fundraising and Programmatic capacity with the welcome addition of Hal Rhoades (Land-based Projects and Policy Lead), Svetlana Karadimova (Finance and HR Lead), Uilani Dines (Fundraising Manager), Mishaal Akbar (Programme Coordinator, South East) and Holly Chantrill-Cheyette (Programme Coordinator, South West).

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TRUSTEES' REPORT

The board was delighted to welcome Yetunde Kehinde as a new trustee this year. We met Yetunde in 2017 when she successfully applied for a place on our Residential Summer Camp. Five years later, Yetunde is a leading youth voice in the environmental movement, studies Geography at the University of Oxford and recently chaired the Natural History Museum's Urban Nature Project. She has experienced all of our programmes either as a participant or mentor, and we are very excited to welcome her as a trustee. The board will also be recruiting two new youth trustees in autumn 2023.

WildED

This year we successfully piloted an annual model of our WildED Programme with five schools in Manchester, London and Bristol. The desire to pilot a longer-term version of the programme emerged from our own monitoring and evaluation of the termly model, which we did not feel allowed for enough time for young people to carry out their ambitious project ideas or allow for changes or disruptions to the school year. The annual model includes new inspirational 'action days', where young people take practical action with a community partner to inspire and motivate them as they deliver their own independent projects. The outcomes of the annual pilot are very promising, with 89% of young people demonstrating environmental understanding, 99% of young people demonstrating environmental awareness, 73% of young people demonstrating environmental knowledge and 70% of young people feeling more connected to nature after our workshops.

Our termly WildED Programme continued to run alongside the annual pilot. We supported a total of 1,403 young people in 66 schools or youth groups, with an average pupil premium rate of 38% across the South East, South West and North West, to plan 285 student-led group projects and campaigns. 278 of these projects demonstrated environmental knowledge, 254 demonstrated key skills attainment, and 199 resulted in measurable change for people or wildlife.

"I learned that conservation isn't just working in the savannahs or rainforests. It can be at home as well." - WildED student

This year, WildED students:

- Co-designed the future of an unloved and unused outdoor space in Manchester in partnership with a local gardening expert. The group sowed seeds, learned about plant maintenance and sourced second-hand materials for their garden.
- Raised awareness about energy consumption in their school and initiated a new recycling scheme in partnership with their school's art department.
- Created their school's first wildlife-friendly vegetable garden following a planning workshop with an urban growing partner, Sow the City. The group designed their garden with vegetables that celebrate the culinary heritage of young people of Southeast Asian descent.

Following the programme, 73% of students reported a better understanding of what conservation is and its importance, 74% reported having more knowledge of environmental issues and solutions, 68% said they now considered their behaviour and impact on the environment and 100% would recommend the programme to a friend.

Camp

We delivered four Residential Camps in July and August 2022, hosting 48 young people aged 12-16 at sites in the Peak District National Park, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and South Downs National Park. We received 160 applications; 48% were from young people who self-identified as Visible Minority Ethnic (VME). In addition, 40% of those selected to attend Camp self-identified as VME. Each Camp consisted of five days of nature and skill-building exercises where participants connected with nature through natural history walks, hands-on conservation work with rangers and mindfulness activities, and developed the skills to take action locally in workshops delivered by young conservation professionals.

Following Camp, 65% of participants said they better understood what conservation is and why it is important, 69% felt more knowledgeable about local and global environmental issues and solutions for tackling them, 73% felt more aware of different career opportunities within the environmental sector, 100% said that the experience would lead them to seek out more opportunities to connect with and help nature and 100% said they would recommend Camp to a friend.

"I learned about the small things I can do personally like litter picking and planting wildflowers but also bigger things like campaigns and advocating" - 2022 camp participant

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Ambassador Programme

Following our summer Camp season, all attendees were invited to join our year-long Ambassador Programme of mentoring, support and a range of further events and training sessions that empower them to lead change in their own communities and become powerful youth voices for nature nationally.

Over the past year, Ambassadors and Alumni across the UK have undertaken 570 environmental actions, 420 demonstrating environmental knowledge acquisition, 388 demonstrating skills attainment and 301 resulting in measurable change for people and wildlife.

This year, our Ambassadors and Alumni have:

- Carried out ecological surveys at the Wilder Blean project in Kent, home to the first successfully reintroduced bison.
- Visited a regenerative farm in Derbyshire where they learned about land management practices and sowed seeds as part of the farm's very first wildflower meadow.
- Led bird surveys and created bird habitats at the RSPB Newport Wetlands Nature Reserve.
- Spoken on a panel at the British Trust for Ornithology's Youth Panel.
- Led a live takeover of the Butterfly Conservation Trust's Instagram as part of the Colour of Transformation premiere event.
- Attended our very first Alumni graduation residential, where 28 young people built hedgehog habitats, volunteered with a local conservation group and learned about rewilding and the history of the Malvern Hills.
- Started a 'Riverlution' project to take action and campaign for cleaner rivers and canals across the UK.
- Delivered a fast fashion workshop to teach individuals from the local community how to mend their clothing.
- Created environmental art for Liverpool's Open Eye Gallery.

Land-based Projects

The Penpont Project, our flagship inter-generational Land-based Project, continues to be a source of transformation, both of the land and the spirit of the surrounding community. This year, we transitioned from the visioning phase of the project to more practical delivery. With the help of £70,000 in funding secured for the project, we've led two residencies with the Youth Leadership Group, delivered two community action days and undertaken practical activities on the project site, including hedge-laying with our farming partners, restoring wildflower meadows, scoping out potential for willow beds on site, shaping plans for the creation of a tree nursery and planting 3,000 trees.

'It feels magical to come up with plans together and then watch them blossom.' - Penpont Youth Leadership Group member

Plans for the Penpont Education Programme are taking shape, and we have been co-designing and trialing different activities with youth groups and schools. In addition to change on the land, we are positioning the Penpont Project as a national case study for an intergenerational approach to nature restoration through spotlight talks at the RSPB, features in the Ecologist, Natur Cymru and the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park's new 'Y Bannau: The Future' strategy, and a presentation at this year's Oxford Real Farming Conference.

The Garsdale Pike Youth Leadership Group visited the land for the final time in November, presenting their impressive vision for the project's future to the Wild Garsdale Pike trustees. The landowner is now responsible for taking this vision forward with support from her newly formed Youth Steering Group, which several of the original Youth Leadership Group members have now joined.

Using the learnings from the Penpont Project and our partnership at Garsdale Pike, we are now sowing the seeds for a burgeoning network of Intergenerational Land-based Project sites across the UK and exploring how we can deliver new visions for nature across 3,500 acres of land through long-term partnerships with the Avon Wildlife Trust, the National Trust and Woven Earth.

Sectoral Change

Building on our core youth engagement programmes, we continue working to create sectoral change, creating space for a national youth environmental movement that shifts culture, shapes environmental policy and changes conservation practice.

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT

We are supporting other environmental NGOs to embed better youth engagement practices, including by facilitating young people in influencing their strategic direction. This year, we have supported 25 Alumni of our programmes to progress to youth positions in other environmental organisations within the sector, or relevant study at university, and we continue to work with our own youth trustees, all of whom are active Alumni of our programmes. AFC's Ambassadors are seeking out influential positions within our developing network of Land-Based Projects, with 10 individuals now part of the Youth Leadership Project at Woven Earth in Matlock. This year, our Ambassadors joined the Marine Conservation Society's Youth Ocean Network, chaired and created eco-committees at their schools and colleges and became Ambassadors for the iWill campaign.

We were invited by the National Trust to share the Penpont Project's story with over 40 staff members and explore how the National Trust could better incorporate young voices into their decision-making. This led to an invitation to present to the team of 200 National Trust staff responsible for delivering on their UK-wide 'Everyone Welcome' and 'Climate Action' strategic objectives.

Race for Nature's Recovery came to an end this autumn. We supported 125 young people, over 70% of whom are from underrepresented backgrounds, into meaningful work placements within the environmental sector. Over half of these young people are still working in the sector now, many at their original host organisation, and host organisations made a number of significant changes to their own HR practices as a result of taking part in the scheme.

We look forward to the coming year with optimism and confidence in our team and our ability to inspire and empower young people to take action for nature and lead change across the UK.

Professor David W. Macdonald CBE, FRSE (Chair)

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity 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 in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 28 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Professor David Macdonald
Trustee

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Action for Conservation (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, 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 United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP - FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 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 Charities Act 2011.

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 auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity 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 charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the original financial statements were 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 auditor's report 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charity 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 where the Charities Act 2011 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.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities (set out on page 7), the trustees 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 charity'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 charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

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 auditor's 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.

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:

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

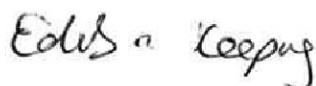
A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters we are required to state to trustees 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 charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Edwards & Keeping, Statutory Auditor

Unity Chambers
34 High East Street
Dorchester
Dorset
DT1 1HA

31 October 2023

Edwards & Keeping is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	327,318	287,462	614,780	545,426
Charitable activities	3	-	243,545	243,545	682,046
Investment income	4	1,846	-	1,846	128
Other income		3,417	-	3,417	400
Total income		<u>332,581</u>	<u>531,007</u>	<u>863,588</u>	<u>1,228,000</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	(679)	-	(679)	(874)
Charitable activities	6	<u>(417,387)</u>	<u>(536,333)</u>	<u>(953,720)</u>	<u>(1,129,179)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(418,066)</u>	<u>(536,333)</u>	<u>(954,399)</u>	<u>(1,130,053)</u>
Net movement in funds		(85,485)	(5,326)	(90,811)	97,947
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>268,689</u>	<u>105,576</u>	<u>374,265</u>	<u>276,318</u>
Total funds carried forward	17	<u>183,204</u>	<u>100,250</u>	<u>283,454</u>	<u>374,265</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2022 is shown in note 17.

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

(REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1157297)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		6,155		8,339
Current assets					
Debtors	13	36,516		60,331	
Cash at bank and in hand	14	<u>307,220</u>		<u>480,133</u>	
		343,736		540,464	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(66,437)</u>		<u>(174,538)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>277,299</u>		<u>365,926</u>
Net assets			<u>283,454</u>		<u>374,265</u>
Funds of the charity:					
Restricted		100,250		105,576	
Unrestricted income funds					
Unrestricted		<u>183,204</u>		<u>268,689</u>	
Total funds	17		<u>283,454</u>		<u>374,265</u>

The financial statements on pages 11 to 24 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 28 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Professor David Macdonald
Trustee

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

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

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

Action for Conservation meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

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

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are initially recorded at costs, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Office equipment	20% Reducing balance

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due for goods sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

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

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

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

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Donations and legacies;				
Donations from companies, trusts and similar proceeds	318,250	268,674	586,924	505,680
Donations from individuals	7,582	15,262	22,844	34,673
Gift aid reclaimed	1,486	3,526	5,012	5,073
	<u>327,318</u>	<u>287,462</u>	<u>614,780</u>	<u>545,426</u>

3 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Kickstarter scheme	<u>243,545</u>	<u>243,545</u>	<u>682,046</u>

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted General £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	<u>1,846</u>	<u>1,846</u>	<u>128</u>

5 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted General £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Fundraising costs	577	577	24
Card merchant fees	<u>102</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>850</u>
	<u>679</u>	<u>679</u>	<u>874</u>

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

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

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted		Total	Total
	General	Restricted	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Direct costs				
Event costs				
Venue hire	177	12,752	12,929	9,223
Food and drink	502	5,253	5,755	6,403
Clothing/ prizes	-	1,238	1,238	3,132
Activity costs	-	15,603	15,603	5,617
Wages and salaries	195,200	183,690	378,890	383,056
Consultancy fees	250	3,549	3,799	2,519
Project marketing and promotion	723	1,228	1,951	3,572
Kickstarter scheme	-	295,873	295,873	611,437
Travel and subsistence	15,563	15,363	30,926	29,234
Support costs				
Insurance	3,331	-	3,331	2,629
Telephone	4,119	-	4,119	2,927
Office rent	47,760	-	47,760	33,939
Office expenses	6,549	908	7,457	5,147
Printing, postage and stationery	502	876	1,378	3,038
Sundry expenses	283	-	283	215
Subscriptions	4,399	-	4,399	3,483
Legal and professional fees	1,546	-	1,546	15,927
Depreciation	1,519	-	1,519	2,755
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	1,602	-	1,602	-
Wages and salaries	128,737	-	128,737	-
Governance costs				
Accountancy	1,200	-	1,200	1,686
Auditors' remuneration	3,425	-	3,425	3,240
	<u>417,387</u>	<u>536,333</u>	<u>953,720</u>	<u>1,129,179</u>

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

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

7 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year include:

	2023 £	2022 £
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	1,602	-
Depreciation of fixed assets	<u>1,519</u>	<u>2,755</u>

8 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

Ms Khadijah Haq

£Nil (2022: £30) of expenses were reimbursed to Ms Khadijah Haq during the year.

Dr Robert Macfarlane

£25 (2022: £Nil) of expenses were reimbursed to Dr Robert Macfarlane during the year.

The expenses reimbursed were for travel costs.

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any other benefits from the charity during the year.

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

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

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	462,389	349,067
Social security costs	34,960	26,609
Pension costs	10,278	7,380
	<u>507,627</u>	<u>383,056</u>

Included in staff costs for 2021/22 are payments to a freelance worker totalling £22,680

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

2023 No	2022 No
<u>15</u>	<u>11</u>

The Chief Executive Officer, as the highest paid member of staff, received benefits totalling (including Employers National Insurance) £69,897 (2022 - £60,652).

10 Auditors' remuneration

	2023 £	2022 £
Audit of the financial statements	<u>3,425</u>	<u>3,240</u>
Other fees to auditors		
All other non-audit services	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,686</u>

11 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

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

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2022	15,095	15,095
Additions	936	936
Disposals	(3,837)	(3,837)
At 31 March 2023	<u>12,194</u>	<u>12,194</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2022	6,756	6,756
Charge for the year	1,518	1,518
Eliminated on disposals	(2,235)	(2,235)
At 31 March 2023	<u>6,039</u>	<u>6,039</u>
Net book value		
At 31 March 2023	<u>6,155</u>	<u>6,155</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>8,339</u>	<u>8,339</u>

13 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	352	-
Prepayments	16,115	14,462
Accrued income	13,288	39,319
Other debtors	6,761	6,550
	<u>36,516</u>	<u>60,331</u>

14 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank	<u>307,220</u>	<u>480,133</u>

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

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

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other taxation and social security	16,821	10,973
Other creditors	1,652	12,279
Accruals	17,964	56,286
Deferred income	30,000	95,000
	<u>66,437</u>	<u>174,538</u>

Deferred income

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income at 1 April 2022	95,000	50,000
Resources deferred in the period	30,000	95,000
Amounts released from previous periods	(95,000)	(50,000)
Deferred income at year end	<u>30,000</u>	<u>95,000</u>

16 Commitments

Other financial commitments

Action for Conservation has entered into a three year lease for the rent of London premises, expiring on 13 July 2024, with a six month notice period. The annual rental cost during 2022/23 will be £18,665 (plus service charges), rising by indexation in future years.

Other premises in Bristol and Manchester were rental arrangements with one month notice periods.

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

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

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted				
General	<u>268,689</u>	<u>332,581</u>	<u>(418,066)</u>	<u>183,204</u>
Restricted				
Ambassadors	-	87,757	(75,419)	12,338
Camp	2,927	32,000	(32,927)	2,000
Penpont	1,050	95,050	(19,566)	76,534
Race for Nature	23,847	-	(23,847)	-
WildED	20,121	72,295	(83,398)	9,018
Garsdale	-	360	-	360
AFC Kickstarter scheme	(3,106)	16,342	(13,236)	-
Kickstarter scheme	<u>60,737</u>	<u>227,203</u>	<u>(287,940)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>105,576</u>	<u>531,007</u>	<u>(536,333)</u>	<u>100,250</u>
Total funds	<u><u>374,265</u></u>	<u><u>863,588</u></u>	<u><u>(954,399)</u></u>	<u><u>283,454</u></u>

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

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

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
General Fund	224,505	276,971	(232,787)	268,689
Restricted funds				
Ambassadors	7,870	13,275	(21,145)	-
Camp	-	50,000	(47,073)	2,927
Funded equipment	1,494	-	(1,494)	-
Penpont	-	64,103	(63,053)	1,050
Race for Nature	19,560	41,000	(36,713)	23,847
WildED	22,341	100,605	(102,825)	20,121
Secondment	548	-	(548)	-
AFC Kickstarter scheme	-	1,011	(4,117)	(3,106)
Kickstarter scheme	-	681,035	(620,298)	60,737
	<u>51,813</u>	<u>951,029</u>	<u>(897,266)</u>	<u>105,576</u>
Total funds	<u>276,318</u>	<u>1,228,000</u>	<u>(1,130,053)</u>	<u>374,265</u>

ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

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

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	6,155	-	6,155
Current assets	242,646	101,090	343,736
Current liabilities	(65,597)	(840)	(66,437)
Total net assets	183,204	100,250	283,454

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	8,339	-	8,339
Current assets	391,195	149,269	540,464
Current liabilities	(130,845)	(43,693)	(174,538)
Total net assets	268,689	105,576	374,265

19 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made the following related party transactions:

Hendrikus van Hensbergen

(Chief Executive Officer of Action for Conservation)

Mr van Hensbergen is in receipt of royalty income from a book written by him. During 2021/22 he received £123.39 of royalty income from books purchased by Action for Conservation and donated £112.61 of the royalty income to Action for Conservation in the year. During 2022/23 he donated a further £10.78 to Action for Conservation so that he has donated all of the royalties he has received from books purchased by Action for Conservation. At the balance sheet date the amount due to/from Hendrikus van Hensbergen was £Nil (2022 - £Nil).