

ECOSYSTEMS KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

**UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2024**

Charity Numbers:
1159867 (England and Wales)
SC045732 (Scotland)

ECOSYSTEMS KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2024**

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ECOSYSTEMS KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

GENERAL INFORMATION

Registered charity name	Ecosystems Knowledge Network
Charity number	1159867 (England and Wales) SC045732 (Scotland)
Principal & registered office address	Isis Innovation Centre Howbery Park Wallingford OX10 8BA
Trustees	Chris Fry (Chairperson from June 2023) Jonathan Porter (resigned September 2024) Susan Christie (resigned April 2024) Lyndsey Dodds Richard Eales (appointed April 2024) Liliana Corrieri (appointed April 2024) Lawrence Tingson (appointed April 2024) David Caygill (appointed April 2024) Sarah Chimbwandira (resigned June 2023)
Accountants	SPX Oxford Ltd Peace House 19 Paradise Street Oxford OX1 1LD
Independent examiner	Simrit Sandhu FCCA
Bankers	Co-operative Bank Ltd.

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Reference and administrative details are shown in the schedule of general information on Page 2 of the financial statements.

THE TRUSTEES

The trustees who served the charity during the year are shown on Page 2. During the year Sarah Chimbwandira has resigned and was replaced by Chris Fry as Chair.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity has been managed and operated in accordance with the Constitution for the Ecosystems Knowledge Network as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, dated 30th October 2014. The constitution has been subject to one amendment, namely to the addition of paragraph 15 (4) (d), dated 30th September 2015, which specifies that a telephone conference will constitute a properly convened meeting.

During the reporting period, there were no changes in the composition of the Board of Trustees. The Network staff team grew during the reporting year from 1.8 Full Time Equivalents to 3.3.

Purpose and Mission

Ecosystems Knowledge Network (EKN) exists to harness the value of the UK's natural environment for everyone's well-being and prosperity. Our mission is to create a vibrant forum for sharing expertise, experience, knowledge needs, tools, and resources that advance this mission across the UK. By enabling shared learning, partnership and collaboration, we achieve impact. As an impartial and trusted knowledge hub, EKN shares expertise and experience across geographical and sectoral boundaries.

The principles of the ecosystem approach – the primary framework for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity – remain EKN's overarching reference point. Through our free-to-join network of nearly 4,000 people, EKN connects professionals for whom environmental improvement is their primary focus with those who work to other goals. Our focus is on practical examples. For instance, we highlight projects that offer farmers income opportunities for land management practices that reduce local flood risk. Likewise, we highlight ways in which the health system can work with managers of greenspace to address health challenges.

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Summary of Our Work Our activities blend online and in-person resources that connect members with expertise from across the UK and showcase innovative place-based projects. These include:

- **Monthly e-newsletter**
- **Online Nature Finance Learning Group** fostering knowledge exchange on finance models for nature restoration.
- **Conferences** such as Nature Finance UK and Nature Tech, which focused on opportunities for different types of professional to work together.
- **Training courses**
- **Networking events** that encourage cross-sector collaboration.
- **One-to-one advice** in response to members' specific needs.
- **Research and reporting** on key issues in connecting nature and people
- **Leading regional groups**, bringing local focus to environmental goals.

EKN also offers volunteer opportunities at events, particularly for students in ecology and climate science, helping to foster the next generation of environmental professionals.

Review of Activities EKN has experienced a productive year, marked by both ongoing initiatives and new projects. Highlights include:

- **Monthly e-newsletter** growth, now reaching 3,900 people across over 500 organisations, sharing the latest innovations in nature restoration.
- **Webinars** attended by over 600 individuals, covering topics such as Healthy Spaces for Work and Study and mapping of nature recovery and nature-based solutions.
- **Conferences** attracted over 600 attendees, including leading events on Nature Finance and the role of industries like games in nature recovery.
- **Knowledge gathering and sharing activities** such as the 2023 Nature Finance UK Project Pipeline review.

Future Plans

Our future ambitions include:

- **Extending our e-learning offering** to broaden access and generate sustainable revenue.
- **Expanding corporate membership** to enhance our reach and engagement with businesses.
- **Expanding regional support**, including the recruitment of a Nature Finance Coordinator in Northern Ireland.
- **New events** such as a Nature Tech conference, exploring the intersection of technology and ecosystem management.
- **Strategic staffing** enhancements, including hiring an Operations Manager and a

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Communications and Events Manager to enable the Network Director to focus on external partnerships and strategic growth.

Future Development Goals EKN is committed to strengthening its position as a trusted, independent information source advancing nature restoration.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Ecosystems Knowledge Network has reported a surplus of £1,641 for the financial year 2023 to 2024. The charity holds £52,729 in unrestricted reserves, £38,000 of which is in a contingency reserve in accordance with the charity's policy of holding three months of operating costs.

During the reporting year, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation continued funding for a two-year programme of work to catalyse nature-based finance in the UK, as well to build the core capabilities of the organisation to fulfil its mission.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

In exercising their powers or duties, Charity trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charities Commission for England and Wales.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under charity law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the income and expenditure of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable incorporated organisation and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are responsible for safeguarding the

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assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION

The nominated independent examiner will be considered by trustees for re-appointment for the ensuing year.

Signed on behalf of the trustees



Chris Fry, Chair of the Board of Trustees

Date: 12/12/24.

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ECOSYSTEMS KNOWLEDGE NETWORK FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out in pages 7-13

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of

A] Scottish legislation:

the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation [10(1) (a) to (c)] of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

B] England and Wales regulations:

The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under charity law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act; follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

A] Scotland

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations.

B] England and Wales

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

SPX Oxford Limited provides bookkeeping services to Ecosystems Knowledge Network and I am an employee of this company. In order to maintain independence, I confirm that I have not been involved in provision of the bookkeeping service.

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I also confirm that as a member of the Association of Accounting Technicians, I am subject to the provisions of the FRC's Revised Ethical Standard (2016). This standard has been applied throughout this independent examination.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - a] Scotland
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation [8]² / [9]³ of the 2006 Accounts Regulations;
 - b] England and Wales
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act 2006 have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Simrit Sandhu FCCA

Date.....18 December 2024.....

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes		
Income from:			
Charitable activities	3	305,229	343,067
Investments		-	333
Other income		836	33
Total income		<u>306,065</u>	<u>343,433</u>
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	4	<u>304,424</u>	<u>335,299</u>
Total expenditure		<u>304,424</u>	<u>335,299</u>
Net income / -expenditure		1,641	8,134
Transfers between funds		-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>1,641</u>	<u>8,134</u>
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forwards		51,088	42,954
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>52,729</u></u>	<u><u>51,088</u></u>

All funds are unrestricted.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities. All of the above amounts also relate to unrestricted income funds.

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

		2024	2023
		£	£
	Notes		
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Assets		-	-
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	22,311	41,274
Cash at bank		113,834	74,922
		<u>136,145</u>	<u>116,196</u>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	8	83,416	65,108
		<u>83,416</u>	<u>65,108</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		52,729	51,088
NET ASSETS		<u><u>52,729</u></u>	<u><u>51,088</u></u>
FUNDS			
INCOME FUNDS			
Unrestricted Income funds	9	52,729	51,088
Restricted Income funds		-	-
TOTAL INCOME FUNDS		<u><u>52,729</u></u>	<u><u>51,088</u></u>

For the year ended 31 March 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

Trustees' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 145; and
- The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

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These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee and authorised for issue on 12 December 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:



Chris Fry, Chair of the Board of Trustees

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. ORGANISATION STATUS

Ecosystems Knowledge Network is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019., the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention 2019 (SORP 2019), 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities', issued by the Charities Commission.

Fund accounting

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

Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Fixed assets

Fixed assets (excluding investments) are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. The costs of minor additions or those costing below £1,000 are not capitalised.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Office equipment – 25% straight line

Computer equipment – 33% straight line

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure represents amounts invoiced, including value added tax.

Taxation

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

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Grants and project income	177,780	260,521
Events and training	127,449	82,546
	<u>305,229</u>	<u>343,067</u>

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Administrative expenses		
Salaries	108,734	117,993
Employer's NI	5,240	5,660
Pension contributions	8,287	8,571
Subcontracts	30,214	41,212
Professional fees - operations	29,038	29,151
Office rent	7,153	3,921
Advertising and marketing	7,214	14,422
Accountancy fees	6,480	2,914
Bank charges	1,604	780
External event fees	-	12,399
Information technology	18,279	17,138
Insurance	498	629
Office management	1,448	2,185
Printing and publicity	3,349	18,233
Room hire and catering	65,540	48,835
Staff training	1,080	57
Subscriptions	-	771
Telephone, internet and postage	446	533
Travel and subsistence	9,470	9,595
Governance	350	300
Total charitable activities	304,424	335,299

5. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Independent Examination fee	350	300
	350	300

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6. STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages	108,734	117,993
Social security costs	5,240	5,660
Pension contributions	8,287	8,571
	<u>122,261</u>	<u>132,224</u>

The average number of staff employed during the year was four. No employee received any pay or benefits in excess of £60,000 in either year.

7. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accounts receivable	10,905	27,837
Other debtors	-	9,437
Prepayments	11,406	4,000
	<u>22,311</u>	<u>41,274</u>

8. CREDITORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Taxation and social security	1,776	3,127
Income received in advance	73,000	30,507
Other creditors	7,390	17,974
Accruals	1,250	13,500
	<u>83,416</u>	<u>65,108</u>

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Apr 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance as at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	13,088	306,065	- 304,424	-	14,729
Designated funds - contingency reserve	38,000	-	-	-	38,000
	<u>51,088</u>	<u>306,065</u>	<u>- 304,424</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,729</u>

<i>Previous year</i>	Balance at 1 Apr 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfer s	Balance as at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	42,954	343,433	- 335,299	- 38,000	13,088
Designated funds – contingency reserve	-	-	-	38,000	38,000
	<u>42,954</u>	<u>343,433</u>	<u>- 335,299</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,088</u>

10. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

There were no restricted income funds during the year.

11. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION & RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No member of the board of trustees received any remuneration for their trustee role during the year. There were no related party transactions during the year.

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12. REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The key management personnel of Ecosystems Knowledge Network are the Trustees and the Director. The Trustees receive no remuneration. Including the employer's pension contribution, The Director's remuneration totalled £39,384 during the year (2023: £38,209).