

THE POLE POLE FOUNDATION UK

England & Wales · Charity number 1173386

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2017-06-13

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 34 Church Meadow
Long Ditton
Surbiton
KT6 5EW

Phone 02083984061

Website www.polepolefoundation.org

Activities

Objects: THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS ('THE OBJECTS') ARE:1) TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT BY PROMOTING BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY;2) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT;3) TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT* FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC BY:I) THE PRESERVATION, CONSERVATION AND THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE PRUDENT USE OF RESOURCES;II) THE RELIEF OF POVERTY AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE IN SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES;????III) THE PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE MEANS OF ACHIEVING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REGENERATION. THE CHARITY WILL HAVE A GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS FOR ITS WORK IN THE REGION IN AND AROUND KAHUZI- BIEGA NATIONAL PARK, IN THE SOUTH KIVU PROVINCE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, AND WILL CARRY OUT ITS ACTIVITIES PRIMARILY BY SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE POLE POLE FOUNDATION, WHICH IS BASED IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AND WORKS TO PRESERVE THE KAHUZI-BIEGA NATIONAL PARK AND PROMOTE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES.*SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MEANS "DEVELOPMENT WHICH MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE PRESENT WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE ABILITY OF FUTURE GENERATIONS TO MEET THEIR OWN NEEDS."

Activities: We raise funds to support work to protect the critically endangered Grauer's Gorillas and their habitat in Kahuzi-Biega National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo and to promote the sustainable development of the surrounding communities.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- Congo (Democratic Republic)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£224,776	£183,088	-	-
2024-08-31	£21,072	£14,119	-	-
2023-09-02	£146,783	£151,793	-	-
2022-09-02	£24,950	£19,310	-	-
2021-09-02	£24,058	£23,522	-	-
2020-09-02	£2,550	£9,626	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr RICHARD MILBURN		2012-09-03
JULIA MILBURN		2012-09-03
NICOLA JONES		2017-04-08

THE POLE POLE FOUNDATION UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1173386

Accounts

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
	£4,876.00	-	-	4,876	£8,172.00
	-	£219,900	-	219,900	£12,900.00
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	4,876	219,900	-	224,776	21,072
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	4,876	219,900	-	224,776	21,072
A3 Payments					
	£8,396	-	-	8,396	£1,714.00
	-	£174,692	-	174,692	£12,405.00
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	8,396	174,692	-	183,088	14,119

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)

	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	8,396	174,692	-	183,088	14,119
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,520	45,208	-	41,688	6,953
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,200	2,196	-	12,396	5,443
Cash funds this year end	6,680	47,404	-	54,084	12,396

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		6,680	47,404	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	6,680	47,404	-

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	None	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	None		-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	None		-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	None		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Richard Milburn

Print Name

Richard Milburn

Date of approval

28th April 2026

THE POLE POLE FOUNDATION UK

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Introduction

The Trustees are pleased to present their report on the activities of The Pole Pole Foundation UK (“the Charity”) for the year ended 31st August 2025.

Constitution

The Pole Pole Foundation UK is a charity operating as an unincorporated association under constitution dated 8th June 2017.

The Charity has registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 1173386 and is also registered with HMRC for Gift Aid donations from individuals who pay tax in the UK, allowing the Charity to increase the value of donations from UK taxpayers by 25%.

Objectives

The objectives of the Charity (its objects) are:

- 1) To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by promoting biological diversity;
- 2) To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment;
- 3) To promote sustainable development for the benefit of the public by:
 - i) the preservation, conservation and the protection of the environment and the prudent use of resources;
 - ii) the relief of poverty and the improvement of the conditions of life in socially and economically disadvantaged communities;
 - iii) the promotion of sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration.

The charity will have a geographic focus for its work in the region in and around Kahuzi-Biega National Park, in the South Kivu province in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and will carry out its activities primarily by supporting the work of The Pole Pole Foundation, which is based in the Democratic Republic of Congo and works to preserve the Kahuzi-Biega National Park and promote the sustainable development of the surrounding communities.

Sustainable development means “development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Trustees

The Trustees who served at any time during the year and to the date of this report were:

Richard Milburn (Chair)
Julia Milburn
Nicola Jones

The appointment of the Chair is reviewed annually in accordance with the Trust Deed.

Applications for new Trustees are invited as and when required. Appointments are made having regard to the skills on the Trust body and its future needs.

Governance

During the year, the Trustees maintained a sound governance framework for the Charity including;

- (i) Requiring dual bank account signatures on all items of expenditure
- (ii) Maintaining our People’s Fundraising page to facilitate online donations
- (iii) Maintaining our relationship with the Pole Pole Foundation in the Democratic Republic of Congo and reviewing their reports on activity and spending for the year.

Activities

(i) We enabled the transfer of a further two years of the Ecological Restoration Fund’s (ERF) eco-corridor reforestation project funding. The project will help to restore the eco-corridor from an over-grazed grassland back into natural forest and enable the free movement of wildlife between sectors.

(ii) We enabled the transfer of funding from Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) to enable Eddy Kahekwa, POPOF DRC operations manager, to visit South African tourist sites and learn about how they operate to enhance the POPOF tourist provision, and also provided support to help Eddy Kahekwa continue his MBA studies, which is significantly increasing the capacity of POPOF to develop its strategy, administration and reporting capability and quality.

(iii) We enabled the transfer of funds for the STEM and Science Lab tech training in school, supported again by Atul Pant, who provides the training to multiple charities around the world.

(iv) We enabled the transfer of funds from Rufford Small Grants to support a project by a trusted POPOF partner researcher, helping to build work and capacity beyond POPOF itself and enabling access to important overseas funding for the project.

(v) We continued to fund administrative costs for the Pole Pole Foundation, including transfers to provide funds during the advance of the M23 rebels into Bukavu in early 2025, vital support to the team in the DRC who all heroically stayed in post despite the risks they faced.

(vi) We enabled the transfer of funds from Wild Frontiers to support a fuel-efficient stoves project, helping to reduce demand for charcoal that leads to deforestation in the Park.

We continue to receive regular reports from the Pole Pole Foundation and associated partners and also organise regular Zoom video conference calls to discuss activities and go through reporting on projects we have funded.

Diversity statement

The Trustees recognise the value of diversity in all its forms in helping run the Charity, benefiting from a variety of different perspectives, experiences and skills in its Trustees.

At this stage in our Charity's development, we believe that knowledge of running a charity is an essential requirement of Trustees. Within the constraints of available candidates to become Trustees and having regard to the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010, we seek ways of broadening the diversity of the Board, and especially as regards geography, age, gender and ethnicity.

In assessing grant applications, we will ensure that there are no explicit or implicit limitations as to the diversity of beneficiaries of the project being supported except as regards age or gender where that is a key element of the project (eg under-18s, or to increase the participation rate of an underrepresented group such as women or disabled people).

Financial review of the year

Total income was £224,776. Grants totalling £183,088 were paid during the year. There was no other expenditure.

The surplus for the year was £41,688, which has been added to our reserves; £40,000 has been agreed with ERF to be retained as an emergency fund to help the charity deal with potential shortfalls in future.

Reserves

Our total reserves at 31st August 2023 are £54,084. As we do not currently incur any expenses, all of the monies we receive are currently used for making grants to reputable organisations working in and around Kahuzi-Biega National Park, however in agreement with ERF we have increased the level of Reserves of the Charity to help with potential future deviations in funding given the challenges of operating in the DRC region.

How our activities deliver Public Benefit

All of our charitable activities focus on the provision of grant funding for the furtherance of conservation or community development activities in and around Kahui-Biega National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo for the public benefit. The Trustees confirm that in exercising their powers and duties they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

Future developments

The Trustees intend to concentrate on the following activities;

- (i) raising awareness of the Charity to secure new donations and maintaining and developing links with existing grant-providers
- (ii) maintaining and developing links with a commercial partners, including supporting the publication of a memoir about the founder of the Pole Pole Foundation in 2026
- (iii) monitoring of our funded projects to determine whether the intended outcomes are being achieved
- (iv) further liaison with the Pole Pole Foundation to seek to identify additional opportunities for funding them and other NGOs operating in the region

Contact us

The Trustees can be contacted through the Administrator:

Richard Milburn
34 Church Meadow
Surbiton
Surrey
KT6 5EW

or via www.polepolefoundation.org where there is a contact form.

Approved by the Trustees on 28th April and signed on their behalf by:



Richard Milburn

Chair of the Trustees

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 01 SEPTEMBER 2025

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- The accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Fahad Suleman-Tahir ACA

THE POLE POLE FOUNDATION UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1173386

Accounts

The Pole Pole Foundation UK Registered Charity No. 1173386

Receipts and Payments Accounts from the Period 02/09/2022 - 01/09/2023

Section 1: Receipts and Payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
Receipts					
	£8,411.30	-	-	8,411	£18,474.91
	-	£138,372	-	138,372	£6,474.64
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	8,411	138,372	-	146,783	24,950
Asset and investment sales					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	8,411	138,372	-	146,783	24,950
Payments					
	£15,122	-	-	15,122	£11,010.40
	-	£136,671	-	136,671	£8,300.00
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	15,122	136,671	-	151,793	19,310
Asset and investment purchases					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	15,122	136,671	-	151,793	19,310
Net of receipts/(paym ents)	- 6,711	1,701	-	- 5,010	5,639
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-

Cash funds last year end	10,453	-	-	10,453	4,814
Cash funds this year end	3,742	1,701	-	5,443	10,453

Section2: Statement of Assests and Liabilities


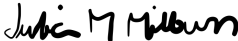
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
Cash funds		3,742	1,701	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	3,742	1,701	-

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
Other monetary assets	None	-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Investment assets	None		-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Assets retained for the charity's own use	None		-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
Liabilities	None		-	

	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Nikki Jones	15/06/2024
		Julia Milburn	15/06/2024

THE POLE POLE FOUNDATION UK

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 01 SEPTEMBER 2023

Introduction

The Trustees are pleased to present their report on the activities of The Pole Pole Foundation UK (“the Charity”) for the year ended 1st September 2023.

Constitution

The Pole Pole Foundation UK is a charity operating as an unincorporated association under constitution dated 8th June 2017.

The Charity has registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 1173386 and is also registered with HMRC for Gift Aid donations from individuals who pay tax in the UK, allowing the Charity to increase the value of donations from UK taxpayers by 25%.

Objectives

The objectives of the Charity (its objects) are:

- 1) To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by promoting biological diversity;
- 2) To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment;
- 3) To promote sustainable development for the benefit of the public by:
 - i) the preservation, conservation and the protection of the environment and the prudent use of resources;
 - ii) the relief of poverty and the improvement of the conditions of life in socially and economically disadvantaged communities;
 - iii) the promotion of sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration.

The charity will have a geographic focus for its work in the region in and around Kahuzi-Biega National Park, in the South Kivu province in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and will carry out its activities primarily by supporting the work of The Pole Pole Foundation, which is based in the Democratic Republic of Congo and works to preserve the Kahuzi-Biega National Park and promote the sustainable development of the surrounding communities.

Sustainable development means “development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Trustees

The Trustees who served at any time during the year and to the date of this report were:

Richard Milburn (Chair)
Julia Milburn
Nicola Jones

The appointment of the Chair is reviewed annually in accordance with the Trust Deed.

Applications for new Trustees are invited as and when required. Appointments are made having regard to the skills on the Trust body and its future needs.

Governance

During the year, the Trustees maintained a sound governance framework for the Charity including;

- (i) Requiring dual bank account signatures on all items of expenditure
- (ii) Maintaining our People’s Fundraising page to facilitate online donations
- (iii) Maintaining our relationship with the Pole Pole Foundation in the Democratic Republic of Congo and reviewing their reports on activity and spending for the year.

Activities

(i) We supported the PFWEG women’s group micro-finance scheme to help expand the provision of small loans to members of the group to develop their own enterprises to support sustainable development.

(ii) We provided further support to schooling in and around Miti. Funds were provided to pay school fees for primary school children, and we supported a computer science and coding project in the secondary school, purchasing laptops to enable students to learn key computer and coding skills, and training up students to provide further training to other schools. The project proved very popular among pupils and has helped to enhance the perception of the secondary school we support among members of the local community.

(iii) We provided funds for community tourist visits to the gorillas, expanding the popular programme which pays for members of the local community to visit the gorillas in Kahui-Biega National Park, helping to give people a greater stake in conservation.

(iv) We enabled the transfer of follow-on funds provided by the Whitely Fund for Nature (WFN) to the Pole Pole Foundation, helping to maintain the relationship and build on previous successful grant from the WFN.

(v) We enabled the transfer of the first year of three years of grant funding from the Ecological Restoration Fund (ERF) to enable the Pole Pole Foundation to purchase a much-needed 4x4 vehicle and to develop a detailed understanding of the deforestation problem and solution for restoration of the eco-corridor linking the Highland and Lowland sectors of KBNP together. The project will help to restore the eco-corridor from an over-grazed grassland back into natural forest and enable the free movement of wildlife between sectors.

(vi) We continued to fund administrative costs for the Pole Pole Foundation including an enhanced internet connection in their new offices in Bukavu and an educational trip to Nairobi for the Chief Finance Officer of the Pole Pole Foundation to develop administration, management and business skills from studies in the city.

We continue to receive regular reports from the Pole Pole Foundation and also organise regular Zoom video conference calls to discuss activities and go through reporting on projects we have funded.

Diversity statement

The Trustees recognises the value of diversity in all its forms in helping run the Charity, benefiting from a variety of different perspectives, experiences and skills in its Trustees.

At this stage in our Charity's development, we believe that knowledge of running a charity is an essential requirement of Trustees. Within the constraints of available candidates to become Trustees and having regard to the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010, we seek ways of broadening the diversity of the Board, and especially as regards geography, age, gender and ethnicity.

In assessing grant applications, we will ensure that there are no explicit or implicit limitations as to the diversity of beneficiaries of the project being supported except as regards age or gender where that is a key element of the project (eg under-18s, or to increase the participation rate of an underrepresented group such as women or disabled people).

Financial review of the year

Total income was £146,783.09. Grants totalling £151,793.77 were paid during the year. There was no other expenditure.

The deficit of income over expenditure for the year was £5,010.68 which reduces our reserves.

Reserves

Our total reserves at 1st September 2023 are £5,443.25. As we do not currently incur any expenses, all of the monies we receive are currently used for making grants to reputable organisations working in and around Kahuzi-Biega National Park, however

consideration is being given to increasing the level of Reserves of the Charity to help with potential future deviations in funding given the challenges of operating in the DRC region.

How our activities deliver Public Benefit

All of our charitable activities focus on the provision of grant funding for the furtherance of conservation or community development activities in and around Kahui-Biega National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo for the public benefit. The Trustees confirm that in exercising their powers and duties they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

Future developments

The Trustees intend to concentrate on the following activities;

- (i) raising awareness of the Charity to secure new donations and maintaining and developing links with existing grant-providers
- (ii) maintaining and developing links with a commercial partners, including supporting the publication of a memoir about the founder of the Pole Pole Foundation
- (iii) monitoring of our funded projects to determine whether the intended outcomes are being achieved
- (iv) further liaison with the Pole Pole Foundation to seek to identify additional opportunities for funding

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Richard Milburn
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KT6 5EW

or via www.polepolefoundation.org where there is a contact form.

Approved by the Trustees on 15th June and signed on their behalf by:



Richard Milburn

Chair of the Trustees

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 01 SEPTEMBER 2023

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- Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- The accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Fahad Suleman-Tahir ACA