

Charity Number: 1174115

The Conflict and Environment Observatory

Report and financial statements for the year ended
31 December 2024



www.ceobs.org

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The Conflict and Environment Observatory: Reference and administrative information for the year ended 31 December 2024

Charity number: 1174115

Registered office and operational address: The Conflict and Environment Observatory, The Chapel, Scout Road, Mytholmroyd, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, HX7 5HZ.

The charity is also known as CEOBS.

Trustees: Trustees, who served during the period and up to the date of this report, were as follows:

David Cullen (Chair)

Oliver Brown

Dr Teresa Lappe-Osthege (Resigned 21/04/2024)

Dr Sarah Njeri

Serene Murad (appointed 23/07/2024)

Rachel Parry (appointed 23/07/2024)

Kevin Gascoigne (appointed 23/07/2024)

Micol Martini (appointed 23/07/2024)

No trustees held title to property belonging to the charity during the reporting period or at the date of approval.

Key management personnel: Doug Weir (Director).

Bankers: The Co-operative Bank plc. 1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M4 4BE.

Solicitors: Elderflower Legal and Secretarial Services, Chestnut House, 23 Ryles Park Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 8AH.

Independent examiner: Patrick Morrello ACA, Third Sector Accountancy Ltd, Holyoake House, Hanover Street, Manchester, M60 0AS.

The Conflict and Environment Observatory: Trustees' annual report for the year ended 31 December 2024

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2024.

The reference and administrative information set out on page 3 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's constitution and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP; applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Director's report

The environmental dimensions of the conflicts in Ukraine and Sudan remained our primary focus during 2024. In both cases our remote environmental monitoring work was being undertaken in support of international organisations; the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) respectively. The work allowed us to further refine the remote assessment and data management methodology that we have developed, with its deployment for the comparatively data poor environment of Sudan an opportunity to stress test the methodology. Our Ukraine research yielded several spin-off studies, including on groundwater vulnerability and the location of critical mineral deposits – our mapping for which was widely used by media outlets after the topic rose to prominence.

We continued to work on new methodologies and in knowledge sharing and development, establishing an informal Conflict and Environment Academic Network (CEAN) and supporting a PhD project exploring how declassified US spy satellite imagery could be used to understand landscape changes in Vietnam. Our staff and partners are at the cutting edge of the possible when it comes to remote conflict analysis.

We use our expertise to inform our engagement with international processes that can contribute to understanding and mitigating environmental harm. In 2024 we provided extensive technical and legal support to the government of Ukraine during the 6th UN Environment Assembly on a resolution that would define a common standard for environmental data collection in relation to armed conflicts. We also worked with the Zoological Society of London and WWF to draw attention to the complex interactions between armed conflicts and biodiversity. And, together with longstanding partners Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), we helped cement environmental considerations into the global action plan to address the presence of land mines; elsewhere we worked with a diverse group of stakeholders to increase attention on the contributions that armed conflicts and military activities make to the climate crisis.

CEOBS is its people; in 2024 we maintained a staff complement of between 11 and 12 employees, along with between 1 and 3 freelance consultants, two of whom were based overseas. We expanded our board to seven members, welcoming new expertise and experience to help our continued development. We are particularly grateful to our Ukrainian and Sudanese colleagues, whose contextual knowledge has been critical to our work.

Objectives

CEOBS' Charitable Objects are:

To promote for the public benefit the protection of individuals, communities and ecosystems from the effects of environmental damage related to armed conflicts and military activities.

These objectives will be fulfilled by undertaking the following activities:

1. Monitoring and collecting data on the environmental and derived humanitarian consequences of armed conflicts and military activities;
2. Developing tools and undertaking capacity building activities to enable relevant stakeholders to undertake such monitoring and data collection;
3. Educating the public, decision makers, policy makers, researchers, civil society and the national and international media about the environmental and derived humanitarian consequences of armed conflicts and military activities;
4. Contributing to the sound administration of legislation and commenting on proposed legislation;
5. Undertaking relevant activities in these fields in partnership with other organisations sharing a similar purpose, where the Trustees have determined that this is in keeping with the CIO's Objects.

Activities in 2024, our achievements and performance

The charity's main activities and beneficiaries are described below. All its charitable activities focus on efforts to increase understanding and awareness of the environmental dimensions of armed conflicts and military activities, in order to strengthen protection for affected people and ecosystems, and are undertaken to further CEOBS' charitable purposes for the public benefit.

CEOBS was established in August 2017 and publicly launched in April 2018. During 2024 our primary focus areas related to our four core workstreams: monitoring and raising awareness around environmental issues in recent and ongoing conflicts; monitoring and contributing to international legal and policy processes intended to minimise harm; environmental mainstreaming in humanitarian disarmament; and collaborative work with civil society on the environment, peace and security.

1. Monitoring and collecting data on the environmental and derived humanitarian consequences of armed conflicts and military activities.

The majority of our monitoring work focused on Ukraine and Sudan. This included the ongoing population of a database and methodologies for the remote analysis of environmentally harmful incidents, built on Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) and remotely sensed data. The work was primarily financed by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as part of their responses to the armed conflicts. During the year we also initiated plans to develop the methodology into something shareable and replicable. During 2024 we also supported analyses of the historical impact of Agent Orange in Laos; worked on a collaborative assessment of recurring Russian attacks on Ukraine's Kremenchuk Oil Refinery; and undertook a rapid analysis of several environmental trends linked to Israel's war against Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Our work on Sudan during the period focused on conflict impacts on Gezira State – Sudan's breadbasket – and a rapid analysis of the collapse of the Arba'at Dam.

Results

- Data from our monitoring work was shared with a wide range of stakeholders, including through public engagement via the media and online.
- Our monitoring work resulted in new partnerships with international organisations and NGOs.
- Were able to react quickly to environmental emergencies and emerging conflicts to provide the public, the media and international organisations with data.

2. Developing tools and undertaking capacity-building activities to enable relevant stakeholders to undertake such monitoring and data collection.

Our work in 2024 continued to explore new methodologies to examine the relationship between armed conflict and the environment.

Most significant was the Ukraine database, and methodology that we developed to remotely analyse environmentally harmful incidents following the 2023 invasion continued to evolve. The main purposes of the data that we collect are to inform advocacy, assessment and accountability. During 2024 we applied the methodology to areas of Sudan in support of UNEP, a comparatively data poor environment which provided new challenges but also allowed us to develop the methodology in ways that would make it applicable to more conflict areas.

A key focus of our skills sharing and capacity-building work during 2024 was the Erasmus+ GROMADA project, which focuses on how participatory research can be used for environmental accountability and recovery in Ukraine. Staff took part in a summer school at Hamburg University for Ukrainian and international students, introducing them to open source environmental research methods. Later in the year, we organised and ran a digital hackathon to identify citizen science methodologies to address water quality issues in Ukraine.

In our mine action programme, we began work on a Green Field Tool that would allow mine action operators to better integrate environmental data into decision making around clearance activities.

Results

- Further refinement of our remote assessment methodology.
- Progress on advancing the role of participatory citizen science methodologies for environmental research and empowerment in areas affected by conflict.
- Began work on a novel tool to help the mine action sector minimise its environmental footprint and contribute to environmental data collection.

3. Educating the public, decision makers, policy makers, researchers, civil society and the national and international media about the environmental and derived humanitarian consequences of armed conflict and military activities.

During 2024 CEOBS staff undertook a range of outreach and educational activities for a diverse range of audiences. These included:

- Presentation to the European Parliament Working Group on Space, Security & Defence meeting on military decarbonisation
- Presentation to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) 6 conference in Nairobi concerning climate change, environmental degradation, displacement and conflict in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

- Training on behalf of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) in the use of remote sensing and open source intelligence for the analysis of environmental impacts in conflict affected areas.
- Presentation to the Engage Business Conference concerning CEOBS' objectives and outputs in relation to military emissions and the war in Ukraine.
- Presentation to governments at the OSCE on our research into the environmental consequences of Russia's war in Ukraine.
- Presentations to students of Pennsylvania State University, participants in the Erasmus+ GROMADA programme, the EU-US Youth Seminar, Baltimore University, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Newcastle University, Sumy University, King's College London and Bradford University on the environmental consequences of conflict, military emissions and humanitarian mine action.
- Providing technical advice, interviews and citations for journalists and media organisations, resulting in 66 external publications, citations or quotations including but not limited to articles in: [Grist](#), [The Guardian](#), [The Atlantic](#), [Haaretz](#), [France 24](#), [Dialogue Earth](#), [Delfi](#), [CBC](#), [Inside Climate News](#), [RTL Belgium](#), [BBC Arabic](#) and [Euro News](#).
- We contributed to numerous expert events, including but not limited to those organised by UNEP, SOAS, NATO, the IPCC, OSCE, UK Earth Observation National Earth Observation Conference and NPA.
- We continued to populate our website with conflict and thematic resources. We also responded to numerous requests for information from the media, students, researchers and the public, and for technical assistance on environmental issues from NGOs and states.

Results

- We supported media interest in the environmental dimensions of the wars in Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza and Lebanon, providing interviews and content to numerous outlets.
- We continued to deepen understanding of the humanitarian and environmental consequences of the war in Sudan, and working alongside Saferworld to identify opportunities for environmental peacebuilding.
- During 2024 our website, www.ceobs.org, was visited by around 84,000 users who accessed pages nearly half a million times.
- CEOBS' social media audiences continued to grow - in particular on Bluesky and LinkedIn.

4. Contributing to the sound administration of legislation and commenting on proposed legislation.

In 2024, CEOBS monitored and contributed to a number of ongoing international processes. These processes included the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the UN Environment Assembly, the Mine Ban Treaty, the political declaration on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA), the UN Open Ended Working Group on chemicals, pollution and waste; and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

- In support of the continued implementation of the Paris Agreement we produced a number of publications on military emissions, contributed to and organised events at the Bonn climate talks and at COP29, and attended meetings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- We spoke on the environment at the first review conference of the EWIPA declaration.
- We worked with mine action partners to promote environmental standards in the implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty at its Review Conference in Siem Reap.
- We worked with partners to highlight the need for the UN Open Ended Working Group on chemicals, pollution and waste to include the toxic remnants of war in its mandate.

- We worked with Ukraine and civil society partners to help protect UNEP's mandate to work on the environmental dimensions of conflicts at UNEA 6.
- We attended COP17 of the Convention on Biological Diversity working with partners to draw attention to the linkages between nature, peace and security.

Results

- We have become a leading voice globally on military and conflict greenhouse gas emissions and key to growing international momentum on the topic.
- Together with partners we helped the mine action sector take a substantial step forward in how it addresses the environmental impact of land mine clearance.
- We have helped further secure UNEA as a place where states can discuss and take action on the environmental dimensions of armed conflicts.
- We are now part of an informal network of NGOs working to increase the visibility of conflicts in the implementation of international biodiversity agreements.

Beneficiaries of our services

The trustees have ensured that CEOBS' work during the period has complied with Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011. The trustees have also referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on the public benefit, particularly when considering the design and focus areas of new projects, and in identifying goals and objectives for existing programmes.

As stated in our Objects, the ultimate beneficiaries of our work are individuals, communities and ecosystems, which will be better protected from the effects of environmental damage related to armed conflicts and military activities as a result of our activities. All of the work that we do contributes to this overarching goal. The general public also benefits from the awareness raising work that we undertake, for example outreach and fundraising events, as well as the open-access reports and updates we provide on our website.

Financial review

During 2024 CEOBS continued to benefit from a diversified funding base, with new sources including the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office via our partners NPA. Total income was £442,677 (2023: £527,588). This was comprised of a combination of grants, donations and consultancy fees, including from the following major partners:

- Our second Implementing Partner Agreement with OSCE concluded during the year, contributing £70,865. We received a further £16,051 in consultancy fees from OSCE towards the end of the year.
- The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust provided £66,668 of core funding and £34,382 of exceptional funding in support of our MEG programme.
- We received £42,338 from UNEP in support of our Sudan programme and £17,454 enabling the continuation of our monitoring and reporting on the conflict for Sudan
- Our grant from the Minor Foundation for Major Challenges concluded in June, resulting in a final payment of £31,681.
- Our ongoing partnership with Norwegian People's Aid resulted in consultancy income of £61,055 and grant income of £34,892.
- The second payment against the Erasmus+ 'GROMADA' grant was received, totalling £17,697.

In addition to grant and consultancy income, the charity raised £4,008 in fundraising and donations (2023: £11,613). The remaining income was derived from speaker fees and reimbursements of costs.

The overall expenditure for 2024 was £569,219 (2023: £416,141). The net income for the year was a negative £126,542 (2023: £111,447).

The total unrestricted income for the year was £185,588 (2023: £235,550) and the total unrestricted expenditure was £259,761 (2023: £132,664). The total restricted income was £257,089 (2023: £292,038) and the total restricted expenditure was £309,458 (2023: £283,477).

At the end of the year the total funds of the charity were £42,881 (2023: £169,423), comprising £12,301 of restricted funds (2023: £18,571) and £30,580 of unrestricted funds (2023: £150,852). This represents a subsidy of restricted grant programmes by unrestricted funds of £46,099 for the year.

The trustees are satisfied that the charity will continue to be a going concern for the foreseeable future.

The charity has no subsidiary undertakings or funds.

Reserves

Reserves are required for the organisation to be financially robust and continue operating in the event of a short-term funding shortfall or an emergency funding requirement. The reserves policy and balance are reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees.

In 2024 we continued the reserves policy established in 2023 to maintain reserves at a level of three times average monthly expenditure. Average monthly expenditure in 2024 was £47,435, so that the target reserve level was £142,305. However, due to delays in the realisation of new grant agreements for the final months of the year, our cash in hand was depleted to £32,287, with our free reserves being £30,580 falling short of the target level by £111,725.

Wherever possible all unrestricted funds are put towards reserves to meet this policy. CEOBS also seeks to raise additional funds for reserves within funding bids, although most donor agreements exclude this. Our target since 2019 has been to add one month of running costs to our reserves every year until an ideal situation of six months of reserves is achieved. Our interim target for 2020 onwards, was to reserve three months' running costs in three years. However, average monthly running costs increased substantially in 2024 with the recruitment of a number of additional project staff to meet the requirements of funding agreements and remained at high levels during 2024. Our new target is therefore to build our reserves to the level of three months' expenditure by the end of 2025 and to continue to increase by one month's expenditure each year for the following three years, reaching six months' reserve level by the end of 2028.

Plans for the future

In 2025, the response to conflicts in Ukraine and Sudan will continue to dominate our conflict monitoring activities. We will also look to opportunities to increase attention on the impacts of conflict on biodiversity at the World Conservation Congress and UNEA 7, as well as continue to encourage and engage with emerging voices on the climate dimensions of militarism and conflict.

Structure, governance and management

The organisation is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), registered on 3 August 2017. The charity was established under a constitution which states the objects and powers of the charity and its governance.

The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. They have no beneficial interest in the charity. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from their role as trustees of the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 12 to the accounts.

CEOBS recognises that an effective board of trustees is essential if the charity is to achieve its objectives. There must be at least three trustees, who serve for a renewable term of two years or until they resign. Trustees may form sub-committees or working groups, with or without staff members, on an ad-hoc basis.

The board of trustees has responsibility for and oversight of the recruitment of new trustees, and they are supported by staff in this. The organisation uses skills audits to identify knowledge and expertise of existing trustees. These may also be used to identify gaps and desired characteristics of new trustees. Advertising may be done through appropriate channels. As a result of the specialised nature of the organisation's work, approaches to individuals known to CEOBS through its activities may also be made.

CEOBS seeks to avoid conflicts of interest and ensure diversity in its board of trustees, as well as in its staff. Consideration is given to ways in which groups that are under-represented on the board might be reached and encouraged to apply.

New trustees are appointed by a decision at a properly convened meeting of the existing trustees. They receive an induction pack that includes copies of the latest Trustees Annual Report and Accounts, the charity's Constitution, copies of Board minutes and finance reports, a role description and the Charity Commission guidance 'The Essential Trustee' (CC3). They are required to confirm they have read the last of these in a minuted meeting, and to submit a Trustee Eligibility Declaration, as provided by the Charity Commission, and a declaration of interests form.

Operational decision-making

CEOBS' trustees are responsible for the governance of the organisation. This includes, but is not restricted to, deciding on policy and strategy, appointing and overseeing staff, monitoring performance and finances and providing guidance and knowledge. Day-to-day management of CEOBS is provided by its Director, working with the Operations Co-ordinator and our staff team generally.

Related parties and relationships with other organisations

CEOBS works with other organisations as necessary to further its aims; these are typically collaborations for research or advocacy purposes. CEOBS does not have any affiliates or subsidiaries.

During the period, CEOBS worked with the following:

Research: Queen Mary University, Oxford University, Newcastle University, Scientists for Global Responsibility (Military Emissions Gap); Edinburgh and Leeds universities on their ongoing SENSE PhD placement; Zoi Environment Network (Switzerland); Saferworld (UK);

Projects: Norwegian People's Aid (Norway); SOAS (UK); Lund University, Web2Learn, Odessa University, Systasis, University of Hamburg, University of Copenhagen (GROMADA project).

Fundraising (grants): Norwegian People's Aid (Norway); Greater Manchester and District CND.

For further information concerning related parties and related party transactions please see note 12 of the accounts.

Remuneration policy for key management personnel

The trustees consider the board of trustees and the Director as comprising the key management personnel of the charity. The board has responsibility for directing and controlling the charity, and they delegate the responsibility for running and operating the charity on a day to day basis to the Director. All trustees are volunteers and no trustee remuneration was paid in the year. Details of trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 12 to the accounts.

CEOBS has a Conflict of Interest Policy and Register. Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and register them with the Director and, in accordance with the charity's constitution, withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

The Board of Trustees has responsibility for approving the salaries and remuneration of all staff, including key management personnel. Remuneration is set within the boundaries of budgets presented in grant applications and aligns with pay grades for comparable sectoral roles and skill sets.

The trustees aim to provide employees, including key management personnel, with yearly cost of living pay rises where feasible and subject to the constraints of funding. Beyond this, salary increases are based on changes in responsibilities and experience. It is the charity's aim to employ effective staff and the trustees recognise that the rates of pay offered should be appropriate.

The charity does not offer bonuses or benefits in kind, other than the statutory pension scheme (currently NEST), and limited healthcare provision through HealthShield.

In 2021 the trustees reviewed the remuneration policy with reference to the Living Wage, gender pay ratios, maximum pay ratios and pay bench-marking.

Risk management

It is the staff and trustees' responsibility to identify, assess and manage risks.

The greatest risk to the charity is that of lack of core funding and work has been undertaken throughout the period to secure funds and diversify our funding sources. Controls are in place to reduce risks associated with financial, administrative and operational procedures.

In 2020 a risk mapping exercise was completed by the board of trustees. The resulting Risk Register is reviewed when deemed necessary by the trustees. Risks are continuously assessed by the staff and trustees and reviewed at both the project and governance level, and risk management is ongoing. Actions to mitigate risks are taken at appropriate levels of the organisation.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

No funds were held by the Charity as a custodian trustee on behalf of others.

Environmental and social policy

CEOBS' environmental and social policies consider the impact of our office and of our travel footprint.

To reduce the environmental impact and increase the social benefits of our office we are:

- Using local suppliers, such as for printing.
- Reducing single use plastics, for example milk deliveries and, where possible, plastic-free stationery.
- Utilising Fair Trade and ethically sourced products.
- To the greatest extent possible using recycled IT equipment.

Our travel policy seeks to:

- Minimise flights where other options are available, within the constraints of staff time and financial resources.
- Encourage staff to avoid flights by accepting additional travel hours as working hours and absorbing additional travel and accommodation costs.
- Encourage staff to consider and address the higher environmental footprint of periods away travelling, such as increased use of single-use plastics.

We have decided not to utilise a carbon offsetting scheme to address emissions from travel. Instead our policy is to volunteer staff time during the year to local environmental projects. The Calder Valley, in which we are based, is prone to flooding and we prioritise projects focused on natural flood risk reduction, such as tree planting. We also support local food initiatives by volunteering with a nearby community farm.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

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

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period 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 UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice 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 proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They 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 trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on
and signed on their behalf by:

.....

David Cullen (Trustee)

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Conflict and Environment Observatory

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 December 2024 set out on pages 12-26.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAEW.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 seeking 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Other matters

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the accounts (financial statements) in accordance with 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) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

We understand that this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave 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.



Patrick Morrello ACA
Third Sector Accountancy Limited, Holyoake House,
Hanover Street, Manchester, M60 0AS

28 / 10 / 2025

Date

The Conflict and Environment Observatory
Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income and Expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	66,688	-	66,688	72,196	-	72,196
Charitable activities	4	114,716	257,089	371,805	151,937	292,038	443,975
Other trading activities	5	4,139	-	4,139	11,417	-	11,417
Investments	6	45	-	45	-	-	-
Total income		185,588	257,089	442,677	235,550	292,038	527,588
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7	9,025	-	9,025	11,168	-	11,168
Charitable activities	9	250,736	309,458	560,194	121,496	283,477	404,973
Total expenditure		259,761	309,458	569,219	132,664	283,477	416,141
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	10	(74,173)	(52,369)	(126,542)	102,886	8,561	111,447
Transfer between funds		(46,099)	46,099	-	(6,996)	6,996	-
Net movement in funds for the year		(120,272)	(6,270)	(126,542)	95,890	15,557	111,447
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		150,852	18,571	169,423	54,962	3,014	57,976
Total funds carried forward		30,580	12,301	42,881	150,852	18,571	169,423

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The Conflict and Environment Observatory
Charity No.1174115

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	198	346
Total fixed assets		198	346
Current assets			
Debtors	15	30,442	151,502
Cash at bank and in hand	16	32,287	47,677
Total current assets		62,729	199,179
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	17	(20,046)	(30,102)
Net current assets		42,683	169,077
Total assets less current liabilities		42,881	169,423
Net assets		42,881	169,423
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	18	12,301	18,571
Unrestricted income funds	19	30,580	150,852
Total charity funds		42,881	169,423

For the year in question, the charity was entitled to exemption from an audit under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011. The Charity Commission has not ordered an audit to be carried out under Section 146 of Charities Act 2011.

The notes on pages 15 to 27 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 28 / 10 / 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



David Cullen (Trustee)

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of preparation

The accounts (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 accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The Conflict and Environment Observatory meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £ sterling.

b Judgments and estimates

The trustees have made no key judgments which have a significant effect on the accounts.

c Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

d Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

e Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

f Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

g Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs of fundraising events, marketing and website costs, and their associated support costs.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of personnel and conducting research projects undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h Tangible fixed assets

The trustees have decided to set the capitalisation threshold for fixed assets at £500. Items costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost. They are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Office and computer equipment	25%
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i Debtors

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

j Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash only.

k Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

l Financial instruments

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

m Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution scheme. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 10. There were no outstanding contributions at the year end.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission and has no share capital. It has limited liability. The registered office address is disclosed on page 1.

The Conflict and Environment Observatory

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	<i>Unrestricted</i> £	<i>Restricted</i> £	<i>Total 2023</i> £
Donations	20	-	20	196		196
Grants	66,668	-	66,668	72,000	-	72,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	66,688	-	66,688	72,196	-	72,196
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	<i>Unrestricted</i> £	<i>Restricted</i> £	<i>Total 2023</i> £
Grants	-	257,089	257,089	-	292,038	292,038
Commissioned work	114,716	-	114,716	151,937	-	151,937
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	114,716	257,089	371,805	151,937	292,038	443,975
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The Conflict and Environment Observatory

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

5 Income from other activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	<i>Unrestricted</i> £	<i>Restricted</i> £	<i>Total 2023</i> £
Fundraising event	3,989	-	3,989	11,417	-	11,417
Profit on disposal of asset	150	-	150	-	-	-
	<u>4,139</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,139</u>	<u>11,417</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,417</u>

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	<i>Unrestricted</i> £	<i>Restricted</i> £	<i>Total 2023</i> £
Income from bank deposits	45	-	45	-	-	-
	<u>45</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

7 Cost of raising funds

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	<i>Unrestricted</i> £	<i>Restricted</i> £	<i>Total 2023</i> £
Staff costs	6,616	-	6,616	9,598	-	9,598
Event costs	674	-	674	419	-	419
Administration	296	-	296	119	-	119
Premises costs	101	-	101	282	-	282
Depreciation	2	-	2	2	-	2
Governance costs (see note 8)	157	-	157	142	-	142
Support costs (see note 8)	1,179	-	1,179	606	-	606
	<u>9,025</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,025</u>	<u>11,168</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,168</u>

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Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

8 Analysis of governance and support costs

	Support £	Governance £	Total 2024 £	Support £	Governance £	Total 2023 £
Staff costs	53,936	7,487	61,423	10,886	4,424	15,310
Premises costs	3,358	395	3,753	1,646	281	1,927
General administration	1,149	135	1,284	698	119	817
Bank charges	581	-	581	245	-	245
Accountancy fees	10,543	450	10,993	5,168	480	5,648
Insurance	1,297	-	1,297	1,271	-	1,271
Legal and professional	2,266	-	2,266	1,766	-	1,766
Staff events	1,209	-	1,209	891	-	891
Trustee expenses	-	1,457	1,457	-	-	-
Depreciation	21	2	23	14	2	16
	<u>74,360</u>	<u>9,926</u>	<u>84,286</u>	<u>22,585</u>	<u>5,306</u>	<u>27,891</u>

These costs are apportioned to fundraising and charitable activities in proportion to their respective share of the total direct costs.

Apportionment of support and governance costs to fundraising and charitable activities

	Direct costs £	% of total direct costs	Share of support costs £	Share of governance costs £
Fundraising	7,689	1.59%	1,179	157
Charitable activities	477,245	98.41%	73,181	9,769
Total	<u>484,934</u>		<u>74,360</u>	<u>9,926</u>

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

9 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs	336,316	301,983
Other staff costs	759	16,564
Premises cost	19,655	14,922
General office and administration costs	6,726	6,327
General membership fee	684	42
Travel, accommodation and subsistence	24,445	6,880
Conferences and events	1,992	347
Subscriptions	-	1,073
Consultancy	78,425	10,250
Project costs	8,119	19,224
Web design	-	89
Depreciation	123	130
Governance costs (see note 8)	9,769	5,164
Support costs (see note 8)	73,181	21,978
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	560,194	404,973
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Restricted expenditure	309,458	283,477
Unrestricted expenditure	250,736	121,496
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	560,194	404,973
	<hr/>	<hr/>

10 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation	148	148
Grant audit fees	1,800	-
Accountancy fees	1,860	1,680
Independent examiner's fee	540	480
	<hr/>	<hr/>

11 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	361,534	293,911
Social security costs	30,867	23,819
Pension costs	11,954	9,161
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	404,355	326,891
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Allocated as follows:		
Cost of raising funds	6,616	9,598
Charitable activities	336,316	301,983
Support costs	53,936	10,886
Governance costs	7,487	4,424
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	404,355	326,891
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

No employee has employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2023: Nil).

The average number of staff employed during the period was 11.3 (2023: 9.5).

The average full time equivalent number of staff employed during the period was 10.7 (2023: 8.9).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees and the Director. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £48,444 (2023: £47,029).

12 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them received any remuneration or reimbursed expenses during the year (2023: Nil).

Four trustees received travel and subsistence expenses during the year of £351 (2023: £Nil). Some accommodation and subsistence expenses were paid directly by the charity. The overall trustee expenses were £1,456.

Aggregate donations from related parties were £Nil (2023: £Nil).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year (2023: nil).

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

13 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

14 Fixed assets: tangible assets

	Computer equipment £
Cost	
At 1 January 2024	3,951
Disposals	(639)
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2024	3,312
	<hr/> <hr/>
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2024	3,605
Charge for the year	148
Disposals	(639)
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2024	3,114
	<hr/> <hr/>
Net book value	
At 31 December 2024	198
	<hr/> <hr/>
<i>At 31 December 2023</i>	<i>346</i>
	<hr/> <hr/>

15 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Prepayments and accrued income	30,442	151,502
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	30,442	151,502
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

16 Cash at bank and in hand

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank and on hand	32,287	47,677
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	32,287	47,677
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	11	2,754
Other creditors and accruals	20,035	18,042
Taxation and social security costs	-	9,306
	<u>20,046</u>	<u>30,102</u>

18 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
British Ecological Society	545	-	-	(545)	-
Gromada (Erasmus)	16,715	17,697	(27,404)	989	7,997
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	34,382	(30,078)		4,304
The Minor Foundation for Major Challenges	1,145	31,681	(33,503)	677	-
Nahrein Network	166			(166)	-
Norwegian People's Aid, funds from FCDO (UK)		34,892	(40,038)	5,146	-
OSCE	-	70,865	(77,911)	7,046	-
United Nations Environment Programme (Sudan)	-	50,117	(60,021)	9,904	-
United Nations Environment Programme (Ukraine)	-	17,455	(40,503)	23,048	-
Total	<u>18,571</u>	<u>257,089</u>	<u>(309,458)</u>	<u>46,099</u>	<u>12,301</u>

Note re transfers

The funds transfers between restricted and unrestricted funds was due to costs on UNEP and OSCE projects not covered by the project grants.

The Conflict and Environment Observatory

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

Comparative period

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
British Ecological Society	545	-	-	-	545
Gromada (Erasmus)	-	18,412	(1,697)	-	16,715
Nahrein Network	166	-	-	-	166
The Minor Foundation for Major Challenges	2,303	67,182	(68,340)	-	1,145
OSCE		130,371	(130,835)	464	-
United Nations Environment Programme	-	76,073	(82,605)	6,532	-
Total	3,014	292,038	(283,477)	6,996	18,571

Name of

restricted fund

Description, nature and purposes of the fund

British Ecological Society	to develop science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) educational resources on conflict and the environment
Gromada (Erasmus)	contribution from Erasmus funded project to develop cooperation between European universities to support public and legal capacity for environmental recovery in Ukraine
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	grant for research project: "Communicating and plugging the military emissions gap"
The Minor Foundation for Major Challenges	grant for research project: "Communicating and plugging the military emissions gap"
Nahrein Network	to contribute remote sensing data to academic research on the eco-tourism potential of the Iraqi marshlands
Norwegian People's Aid, funds from FCDO (UK)	grant for research project: "Applying environmental assessment tools and indicators in mine action"
OSCE - Organization for Security and Co- operation in Europe	grant for research project: "security and cooperation in Europe"
United Nations Environment	grant for research project: "Environmental impact assessment in Ukraine" and "in Sudan"

19 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 December 2024 £
General fund	150,852	118,920	(193,093)	(46,099)	30,580
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	66,668	(66,668)	-	-
	<u>150,852</u>	<u>185,588</u>	<u>(259,761)</u>	<u>(46,099)</u>	<u>30,580</u>
Comparative period					
	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 December 2023 £
General fund	54,962	163,550	(60,664)	(6,996)	150,852
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	72,000	(72,000)	-	-
	<u>54,962</u>	<u>235,550</u>	<u>(132,664)</u>	<u>(6,996)</u>	<u>150,852</u>

Name of unrestricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
General fund	The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds
Designated fund: Joseph Rowntree Charitable Fund	to be used as the charity sees fit to further its objects, for charitable purposes only and within the bounds of charity law, not to be used for reserves

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	198	-	-	198
Net current assets/(liabilities)	30,382	-	12,301	42,683
Total	30,580	-	12,301	42,881
Comparative period				
	<i>General fund £</i>	<i>Designated funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>Total 2023 £</i>
<i>Tangible fixed assets</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>346</i>
<i>Net current assets/(liabilities)</i>	<i>150,506</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>18,571</i>	<i>169,077</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>150,852</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>18,571</i>	<i>169,423</i>