



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/01/2024 To 31/12/2024

Charity name: Conservation Optimism

Charity registration number: 1198033

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To enhance the awareness of the public of the conservation, protection, and improvement of the physical and natural environment primarily through increasing individual and collective knowledge and understanding of the environmental challenges the planet is currently facing through outreach, highlighting the ways that everyone can make a difference, and supporting conservationists and the public to feel hope and empowerment to conserve the physical and natural environment.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharing stories of conservation success from around the world• Sharing interviews with inspiring conservationists• Raising the voices of key groups, particularly young people• Being the nucleus for a community of optimistic conservation organisations called ConservationNOW• Catalysing lesson learning through knowledge-sharing webinars• Supporting a community of optimistic people around the world• Sharing locally relevant content through Regional Hubs• Delivering direct impact by providing resources and training in positive and strategic communications for conservation• Holding key events such as an annual Film Festival and three global multi-day Summits, most recently in 2024

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Conservation Optimism's global team is comprised almost entirely of volunteers based around the world, many early-career conservationists, who contribute their time, commitment and great talent to this vital conservation mission.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Main achievements in 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointed a new Director – Jon Taylor • Held a 'Good Natured Film Festival', initially in Oxford in July, and subsequently virtually at many other venues and events • Held a three-day Summit in September, attended by over 300 people in Oxford and online around the world, to 'empower, enable and embrace' conservationists worldwide. Much positive feedback. • Shared stories of hope and inspiration through social media and blogs with ~30,000 followers globally • Delivered five skill-sharing webinars through the ConservationNOW network, attended in person or viewed subsequently on our YouTube channel by hundreds of people • Delivered regionally relevant content via regional hubs in South Asia and West Africa • Attended key conferences and events in UK and Europe, raising awareness of Conservation Optimism and delivering training in strategic communications for conservation
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	Developed a fundraising strategy and materials in 2024 that will be used as part of a full fundraising campaign in 2025

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Conservation Optimism ended the year in a healthy position with a carried forward cash balance of £3,830.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	N/a
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£3,830
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/a
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/a
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/a
The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The charity's principal source of funding is in-kind support from University of Oxford. It is intended to diversify this funding base in 2025.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		N/a
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Charitable Foundation Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	(1) Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed [for a term of [three] years] by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. (2) In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Conservation Optimism
Other name the charity uses	N/a
Registered charity number	1198033
Charity's principal address	The Garden Cottage Park Corner Nettlebed Henley-On-Thames RG9 6DR


Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Professor Dame E.J. Milner-Gulland	Chair		
Dr Caleb Ofori-Boateng			
Savita Wilmott			
Dr Michael Burgass	Treasurer		

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Professor Dame E.J. Milner-Gulland	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	7th July 2025	

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CONSERVATION OPTIMISM

I report to the charity's trustees on my examination of the accounts of Conservation Optimism for the period ended 31 December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act), as amended by s.145 of the Charities Act 2011) and that an independent examination is needed.

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

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required by 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.

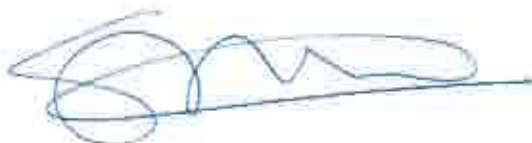
Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an Independent examination.

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Steven Baptiste

Linden Accountants, Scrapstore House, 21 Sevier Street, St Werburghs, Bristol, BS2 9LB

Date: 27th June 2025.

CONSERVATION OPTIMISM
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £ (Restated)
RECEIPTS				
Donations	-	-	-	-
Donations: In-Kind	114,484	-	114,484	-
Other Income	-	-	-	5
TOTAL RECEIPTS	114,484	-	114,484	5
PAYMENTS				
<u>Direct Costs</u>				
Bank charges	60	-	60	40
Business entertaining	852	-	852	-
Computer software and licences	3,607	-	3,607	-
Staff costs	95,149	-	95,149	5,179
Travel	12,244	-	12,244	-
Volunteer expenses	3,577	-	3,577	-
		-	-	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS	115,488	-	115,488	5,219
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)	(1,004)	-	(1,004)	(5,214)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
Cash funds 1st January 2024 (Restated)	4,834	-	4,834	10,048
Cash funds 31st December 2024	3,830	-	3,830	4,834

The in-kind donation detailed above is provided by the University of Oxford to offset the salaries of the charity Director, J Taylor, and Project Administrator, as well as other direct and administrative costs, which were paid for in full by the University of Oxford on behalf of Conservation Optimism and are not due to be reimbursed. This was agreed between the University of Oxford and Chair of Trustees, E.J. Milner-Gulland.

CONSERVATION OPTIMISM

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £ (Restated)
Cash funds				
Bank and cash balances	3,830	-	3,830	4,834
Current assets				
Debtors	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Current liabilities				
Accruals	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-

ANALYSIS OF CASH FUNDS

For the year end 31 December 2024

	Balance 1 January 2024	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance 31 December 2024
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	4,834	-	(1,004)	-	3,830
	4,834	-	(1,004)	-	3,830

For the year end 31 December 2023 (Restated)

	Balance 1 January 2023	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance 31 December 2023
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	10,048	-	(5,214)	-	4,834
	10,048	-	(5,214)	-	4,834

These financial statements were approved by trustees on 7th July 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:


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E.J. Milner-Gulland, Chair of Trustees and Founder