



WORLD OWL TRUST

Annual Report 2005 - 06



Indian scops owls by Terry Evison (WOT Volunteer)

World Owl Trust
www.owls.org

Treasurer's Report

This is the first period when the charity has operated as a company limited by guarantee and therefore the statutory accounts do not show prior year comparatives. I will therefore address this with comments within this report. The charity achieved an operating surplus of £78,613 for the year which was achieved largely through the receipt of £110,475 from legacies (an exceptional occurrence). This has enabled the charity to spend more on conservation and projects. However the charity's core funding, which is related to visitor numbers at Muncaster, fell by £9,143 and other incomes

were also down slightly. The costs of the charity increased with the recruitment of new staff. There were also higher printing and postage costs, subscriptions and insurance. The charity however has a strong Balance Sheet position with net assets of £203,629 and the trustees are considering suitable projects to which the legacy windfalls may be directed.

A full set of the statutory accounts will be available from the website or by post on request to the World Owl Trust office.

Draft Statement of Financial Activities

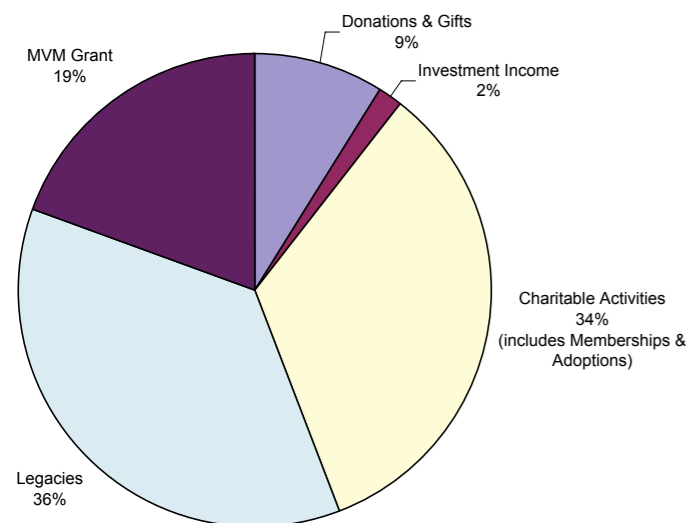
Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2006 £
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Donations and legacies	197,078	-	197,078
Investment income	5,046	71	5,117
	202,124	71	202,195
Incoming resources from charitable activities.	98,340	4,114	102,454
	300,464	4,185	304,649
Resources expended			
Costs of generating funds			
Fund raising expenses	661	-	661
	299,803	4,185	303,988
Charitable activities			
Owl centre & general conservation	120,888	15,601	136,489
Governance costs	88,886	-	88,886
	210,435	15,601	226,036
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers			
	90,029	(11,416)	78,613
Gross transfers between funds			
	(6,810)	6,810	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds			
	83,219	(4,606)	78,613
Fund balances transferred from unincorporated charity at 1 April 2005			
	117,886	7,130	125,016
Fund balances at 31 March 2006			
	201,105	2,524	203,629

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 1985.

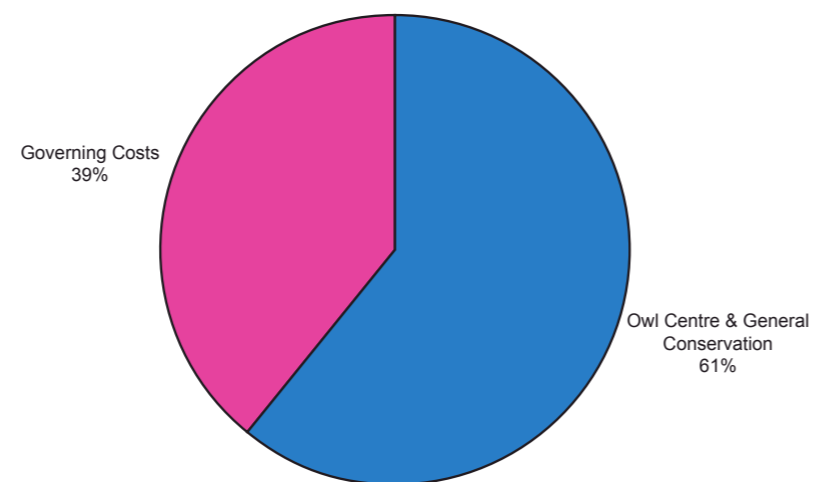
Draft Balance Sheet

Notes	2006 £	
Fixed assets		
Intangible assets	10	10,000
Tangible assets	11	2,951
		12,951
Current assets		
Debtors	12	1,447
Cash at bank and in hand		196,993
		198,440
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(7,762)
		190,678
Total assets less current liabilities		
		203,629
Income funds		
Restricted funds		2,524
Unrestricted funds		
		201,105
		203,629

Income 2005 / 2006



Expenditure 2005 / 2006



Patrons

Lord Forteviot
Prof David Bellamy OBE
Bill Oddie OBE
Terry Nutkins
Linda Wain

Honorary President: Tony Warburton

Council

Chair: Jenny Thurston
Company Secretary: Clive Mojonner
Treasurer: James Goffe

Council Members: Mick Marshall, Stephen Hinchliffe, Kevan Palmer

Chief Executive: Barbara Powell

Owl Centre Staff

Collection Manager: David Armitage
Head Keeper: Raedwulf Ingham
Senior Keeper: Michelle Denwood
Keeper: Chris Wilde
Keeper: Trystan Williams

Conservation Officer: Jenny Holden

Office Supervisor: Jennifer Lewin

Book-keeper: Hazel Watson

Admin. Assistant: Dawn Jackson

Voluntary Staff

Assistants to Keepers: David Tyson, John Stevens, Terry Evison, Amanda Barrie, Sadie Clark, Val and Steve Beck

Fundraising:

Mick Marshall
Jenny Marshall
Vernon Ord
Olive Burrow
Graham Smith

Office Assistants:

Joyce Boocock
Viv Smith
Heather Croft
Mark Fishpool

Nest Boxes:

Fred Johnson

Web Site

Administration: Shaun and Dave Sloan

Chairman's Report for the year ended 31 March 2006

There have been many changes during this period and, we believe, much consolidation and increased professionalism in the way the World Owl Trust operates. With the departure of two key members of staff in late 2004 and the retirement of Tony Warburton, the Trust's Director, it was essential for the Trustees re-evaluate the staffing structure to ensure good management practice and clear lines of command.

An Executive Committee was formed of local Trustees and this committee meets monthly to keep fully up to date with Trust activities, to liaise with staff and to report directly to the full Board. This seems to be working well and the main Board of Directors meets at 2-3 monthly intervals.

Following Tony Warburton's retirement in July 2005, Barbara Powell, the Trust's Administrator was promoted to Chief Executive and thanks are due to her for her cheerfulness and efficiency in running the Trust. In November, David Armitage joined the Trust as Collection Manager and works closely with Tony to ensure the Trust's principles and mission statement are adhered to.

Computer procedures have been upgraded and revamped leading to a more streamlined and efficient system for processing memberships and adoptions. The Trust's website has also been upgraded with help from our ever willing volunteer web master, Shaun Sloan. An Ethical Review Committee has been formed and will meet twice yearly.

The Trust is now registered with the International Species Inventory System (ISIS) and we use their Animal Record Keeping System (ARKS). This is an essential programme for the management of the Owl Collection and the Trust is being considered for membership of European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA). This will provide the Trust with European recognition and status.

Donations and Legacies

We are grateful to all those who believe in and support our work and in particular those many members who send donations in order that our vital conservation work may continue. The Trust is particularly grateful to the benefactors of two legacies which have been of great help towards capital projects.

Owl Centre

All aviaries are under review and are being demolished or upgraded as necessary. Legacy money has been used to fund the relocation of the large Red Kite aviary. This is now in a more appropriate place in the Owl Garden. The Trust has been given permission to build a range of four new aviaries and this will effectively complete the Owl Garden. This is at the planning stage at the moment and legacy money will fund the building of these.

Conservation

In the UK, Operation Barn Owl is ongoing and much important data has been accessed by our Conservation Officer. DEFRA has helped with funding towards this project and ultimately the Trust will produce a report on its findings.

The Long-eared owl project (in partnership with the Hawk and Owl Trust) continues with much surveying and the production of a leaflet, to be distributed generally in order to gain as much information as possible. Legacy money has helped with this.

There have also been monitoring of other owl and raptor species and the erection of nest boxes, not only for different types of owl but also for small birds.

Overseas Projects

The main thrust of the Trust's work has again been in the Philippines. After 12 years of intensive work, the Trust has learnt of the first breeding of the endangered Philippine Eagle owl in captivity, in aviaries constructed through WOT funding. Other vital research work, part funded by the Trust, has been the surveying and discovery of different owls in the Morni Hills and Kalesar National Park in India.

Research & Education

It is the Trust's intention to continue surveying and monitoring owls and their habitats, both in the UK and overseas, as long as funds permit. The Trust has continued its programme of education to all groups of people and this is ongoing.

Wildlife Hospital

Our staff are available to offer assistance and advice to callers regarding wildlife casualties and orphans. Of the casualties brought into the hospital during the year, special mention must be made of two sparrow hawks, two little owls, four tawny owls, a razor bill and a badger which were successfully rehabilitated.

Thanks to the generosity of our members we now have the latest equipment. Recent donations include a microscope which will be used for veterinary investigations.

Finely, thanks go to our wonderful World Owl Trust employees who go about their work with such enthusiasm, also to our many volunteers without whom we would be lost. Thanks go to our constantly supportive members – without you we would not exist.

Jenny Thurston
Chair



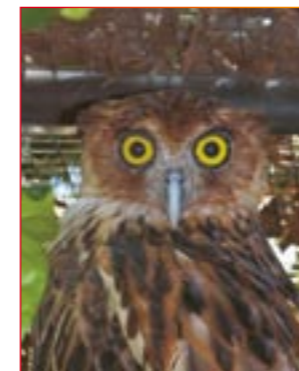
UK Conservation

The Trust continued its conservation work within the UK with emphasis on projects to monitor current populations, distribution and breeding biology of barn owls (Operation Barn Owl), Long-eared owl (Long-eared owl Project) with a new project to test differing nest box designs for Tawny owls being planned for the coming year.

'Whole area' projects are ongoing in the shape of Old Hutton Owl Project spearheaded by trustee Stephen Hinchliffe in the area east of Kendal and nearer home, the Home Farm project based at Muncaster.

WOT Overseas in the Philippines

Since 1996 the Trust has been heavily involved in the Philippine Owl Conservation Programme (POCP) as the principal signatory for the Memorandum of Agreement with the Philippine Government. The POCP is one of many programmes designed to help and safeguard all endangered Philippine species and their habitats, not just owls. These come under the banner of the Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Programme (PBCP) overseen by Fauna & Flora International and managed by its Philippine Programmes Director, William Oliver.



As the PBCP progressed, it became increasingly obvious that all these initiatives were dependent upon wide-ranging distribution and status surveys that took an overall view of habitat destruction throughout the Philippines and the most urgent priorities and strategies that needed addressing. The WOT is proud to

The Trust continued to manage wildlife aspects within the Muncaster Estate, including the wildflower meadow, 'mini-cornfield', small bird boxes and netted carpet moth.



Our Conservation Officer is an advisor for the Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan for Barn Owls.

have helped with the funding for some of these, and in particular with the setting up and development of the Breeding and Conservation Centre at Bacalod on the island of Negros (NFEF-BCC). On 29 November 2002, three pairs of Philippine Eagle Owls of the Luzon race (*Bubo p. philippensis*) were loaned to the NFEFI-BCC by Jake Gaw of Montalban (Avilon) Zoo on Luzon. This was a very exciting development, for it constituted the first ever international conservation-breeding programme for an endangered owl species. The Philippine Eagle Owl is listed in the IUCN 'Red Data' book. It is found nowhere else on earth and is fast losing its rainforest habitat due to logging. Today, virtually nothing is known about its status, behaviour, food, breeding biology and calls. At the NFEF-BCC we have our first opportunity to carry out observations with captive individuals.

This year has been a great success with one of the pairs, 'Hinahon' and 'Suplada', producing an owlet. This is a 'world first' as the Philippine Eagle Owl has never before bred in captivity. Congratulations go to Leo and his team at the Philippine Centre who have done such a superb job and thanks to William and Jake for making the project possible. The owlet is thriving and the adults have made excellent parents.

Education

The education policy has been reviewed and rewritten giving staff the impetus to strive towards providing an even better education package than before.

The Trust prides itself in providing inclusive education suitable for all ages and abilities.

Educational visits to the centre from many different groups have increased. The staff are able to provide workshops and activities to cater for different requirements. These are being designed with the National Curriculum in mind and this will encourage more local schools to consider the Owl Centre when planning their school trips.

As part of a new initiative, tours for specialist groups and adults have been introduced and a group from Capita enjoyed a very enjoyable and informative afternoon learning about the finer points of owl husbandry from Head Keeper Wulf Ingham. The Junior Keeper experiences have increased in popularity and

are a great way for young enthusiasts to learn more about the work carried out at the Centre.

A series of Lectures introduced participants of all ages to the 'World of Bats', 'How to make a Wildflower Meadow' and other subjects.

Many other improvements have been made. These include:

- Updating all the displays in the Owl Centre building to make them more informative and user friendly.
- Revising and updating education packs that are sent out to schools and other organisations.
- Creating and naming a new Education Mascot 'Emmot' designed to engage younger children with the Trust's education message.

