

# Annual Report 2010



**durrell wildlife conservation trust** [durrell.org](http://durrell.org)  
an international charity saving species from extinction

# Chief Executive's report

## Moving forward with purpose

At Durrell everything we do is focussed towards our mission of saving species from extinction. To ensure that the Trust can pursue this goal, including making the long term commitments that conservation requires, several essential ingredients need to be in place.....a clear and compelling vision for where we are going, a plan to get us there, the right people doing the right jobs and sufficient financial resources to sustain us. While much work lies ahead of us, I am pleased to report important progress in each of these areas.

The financial performance of the Trust improved significantly during 2010 and is discussed in detail below but first let me review the many successes and developments in our conservation work during the year.

The human driven threats to species and ecosystems, threats that Gerald Durrell recognised many years ago, have grown in scale and complexity as they interact with new pressures such as climate change. The resulting biodiversity crisis is threatening both wildlife and people. Realisation is dawning that the long term wellbeing and survival of humankind is inextricably linked with the wellbeing of the natural world. The value provided by ecosystem services – financial, social and spiritual – is beginning to be quantified, with the growing knowledge that our earth's natural resources need to be managed sustainably. While this understanding provides long term hope, the current global response is still falling short and we are faced with the stark reality that biodiversity loss is greater today than at any other time.

Completed during 2010, Durrell's five year conservation strategy sets out our response to this biodiversity crisis, 'save the most threatened species in the most threatened places'. Drawing on our field experience, captive breeding skills and training innovation, the strategy has two integrated themes – 'Islands at Risk' and 'Critical Species'. 'Islands at Risk' continues Durrell's commitment to protecting highly threatened island ecosystems and species, which are most susceptible to environmental, social and economic pressures. 'Critical Species' reflects our heritage of working with individual species with a high risk of extinction, focussing on Critically Endangered Amphibians, Globally Threatened Primates and Endangered Birds of South East Asia.

The Trust's conservation philosophy emphasises that effective and lasting success is best achieved with the integration of our three core capabilities, disciplined field programme management, capacity building through our training programmes and our Jersey wildlife park as a centre of excellence for captive

breeding and animal husbandry. During 2010, the Trust was managing 45 projects in 14 countries, a truly significant commitment for an organisation of our size. Highlights include:

- The start of major new projects including restoring the Floreana mockingbird in the Galapagos, the mountain chicken recovery programme in Montserrat and the Madagascar pochard restoration project.
- Significant field activities included the release of pygmy hogs back to their native grasslands in Assam, translocations of highly threatened birds and reptiles in Galapagos, St. Lucia and Mauritius; and a breeding programme for the red-billed croucher in Jersey.
- The Nosivolo River in Madagascar was declared a Ramsar site, a wetland of global importance, which is an important step towards protection of this river.
- The publishing of 20 papers in peer-reviewed journals and collaboration with over 50 institutions worldwide, reflecting our commitment to high quality science to guide and evaluate our projects and to disseminating our results as widely as possible.

Playing a vital role in our conservation work, The International Training Centre delivered an expanded syllabus of courses in Jersey and overseas, progressing towards the objective of becoming a centre for life long conservation learning. Today's 'conservationist' requires a broad range of skills – practical, scientific, leadership, communications, financial and more. To date our training programmes has graduated more than 3000 conservationists from 128 countries. This year we are also proud to begin a Durrell Internship programme for selected graduates of our training programme attending additional courses in Jersey and shadowing our experienced staff on-site at the Wildlife Park over a period of 4-6 months.



① Mangrove finch  
*Camarhynchus heliobates*

At our Wildlife Park the focus continues on developing the animal collection to reflect our conservation projects and as a centre of animal husbandry knowledge and expertise. This includes maintaining 'safety net' populations for critically endangered species and ex-situ breeding programmes for reintroduction, as with the Montserrat mountain chicken frog and the lesser night gecko project for Mauritius. We are balancing these objectives with those of the Wildlife Park as a visitor attraction, with the aim of providing an enjoyable, inspiring and educational experience for all who visit Durrell. Reflecting these various needs, two major developments broke ground in 2010 – the new Visitor Centre and the Island Bat Roost.

Commencing in September, the redevelopment of the Visitor Centre represents a vital stage towards the Trust's objective of 'financial sustainability'. With support from the States of Jersey, through a Fiscal Stimulus grant of £1.5 million, and with matching funds from the Trust, the new Visitor Centre includes a new eatery, Café Firefly, and an enlarged retail centre and plant nursery with appeal to both island residents and to tourists. Planned for an Easter opening, this investment is a major commitment for Durrell and a vote of confidence from the States of Jersey in our future and importance of the Trust to the reputation of the island.

Construction also commenced on a new enclosure, the 'Island Bat Roost' for our endangered Livingstone's fruit bats and their close cousins, the Rodrigues fruit bats. The Livingstone's fruit bat is one of most endangered bats globally, with perhaps no more than a thousand animals in their Comoros Islands home in the Indian Ocean. Durrell is working hard to preserve this amazing animal, establishing the first ex-situ colony in Jersey in 1992, becoming the first institution to breed the bats in captivity, while we continue to work in the Comoros today.

The 'Island Bat Roost', is an innovative development, first of its kind in Jersey, and incorporates recycled tyres, straw bales and glass bottles. The bat's new home has been designed to create an energy efficient, tropical environment for these genetically important animals, as well as an engaging new visitor attraction. The focus on using 'green' technology for the build has been an essential part of the project, reflecting Durrell's commitment to a sustainable environment.

This exciting development was made possible thanks to generous donations from the Kreitman Family and from the Elizabeth Violet Annie Rouse Settlement, together with invaluable support from HSBC. This included 330 HSBC staff who volunteered for on-site construction duties through the winter, working with Durrell staff to complete the project.

While the wildlife park, training programmes and our conservation field programmes present the 'public face' of Durrell, I must also highlight the excellent behind the scenes work by many within the Trust. Our Marketing team continued with a full programme of events while increasing the Trust's PR coverage and undertaking a significant and successful upgrade of our website. In Fundraising, the year saw excellent development of new sources of funds for our project work, whilst elsewhere we saw important improvements in our financial accounting and IT systems, all essential for the good management of the Trust. Elsewhere, saw encouraging improvements to the grounds through the achievements of the Landscape and Maintenance teams while much improved signage and interpretation positively impacted the visitor experience.

Financial results for the year showed encouraging improvements over 2010 and progress towards the goal of financial sustainability. The accounts show that the Trust's net operating position at a deficit of £329,000 for 2010 which compares, very favourably, to a prior year deficit of £935,000. Both results include £420,000 of depreciation, a non-cash charge that does not impact the operating position but is included due to accounting standards. It should also be noted that the 2010 results include one-time restructuring charges of £120,000 indicating that the true operating position improved even further. Finally, cash flow for the Trust improved significantly during the year, notwithstanding the one-time charges mentioned above. The accompanying financial statements provide detailed reports but, in summary, the financial health of the Trust is much improved.

Looking ahead to 2011, the major event will be the opening of the new Visitor Centre, with the focus on making this the success it must be for the Trust. We will also be celebrating 25 years of conservation work in Madagascar while continuing to move the Trust forward on conservation and financial objectives.

Our long term conservation commitment is only possible because of the deeply passionate support of those that care for Durrell and our work. On behalf of the Trust my sincere and deep thanks to our friends and supporters. My thanks also to the many people that commit to our mission every day; to our staff in Jersey and overseas, to our volunteers and to our partners.

In closing this report I am minded to reflect on the Dodo skeleton that is on display in the Visitor Centre and that Durrell is here so that more species don't see this same fate.



**Paul Masterton**  
Chief Executive

# Chairman's report

Looking back on 2010, I see the year as one of significant progress for the Trust. The impact of our conservation work provided notable outcomes in many projects and we made significant headway towards the Trust's most pressing need, that of financial sustainability.

At the start of the year, our management team took essential, though difficult, actions to address the Trust's costs, all of which were vitally important steps in reducing our losses. Such measures are always disruptive but I am pleased to report that we have emerged stronger and healthier and that our year-end financial position was much improved.

Immense work during the year saw the completion of a new conservation strategy. This provides a clear vision five year plan of where the Trust will focus its efforts. Most compelling is the simple articulation of our philosophy that effective conservation comes from the combination of Durrell's three great strengths – disciplined field programme management, building conservation capacity through training programmes and the Wildlife Park as a leading centre of animal husbandry expertise.

Looking forward, 2011 will be a pivotal year for Durrell, not least with the opening of the new Visitor Centre in May. This significant investment, jointly funded by the States of Jersey Fiscal Stimulus Plan and by ourselves, is critically important to increasing commercial revenues and will move us closer towards our goal of financial sustainability. Our sincere thanks go to the States of Jersey for their vote of confidence in Durrell.

On behalf of the members of the Trust, the Board, is excited by the progress made and, while much hard work remains, is confident of the way ahead. May I take this opportunity to thank the Board for their support and guidance together with our Chief Executive Paul Masterton and his executive team for their unstinting efforts in taking the Trust forward.

Durrell's sustained success in achieving its mission rests on the enduring support and commitment of many people. With this in mind, my deepest thanks go to our staff, in Jersey and overseas, our volunteers and to our members, friends and partners around the world.



**Jonathan White**  
Chairman



**e Pygmy hog**  
*Porcula salvania*

# Structure of the Trust

## Patron

**Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal**

## Founder

**Dr Gerald Durrell**, OBE, LHD, DSc, CBIol, FIBiol (Honorary Director 1963-1995)

## Honorary Director

**Dr Lee M Durrell**, BA, PhD

## President

Position vacant from May 2009

## Honorary Fellows

**Sir David Attenborough**, CBE, FRS

**Mr Martin Bralsford**, MSc, FCA, FCT

**Mr John Cleese**

**Mrs Murray S Danforth, Jr**

**Mr Reginald R Jeune**, CBE

**Dr Alison Jolly**, BA, PhD

**Mrs Tricia Kreitman**

**Dr Thomas E Lovejoy**, BS, PhD

**Dr Jeremy JC Mallinson**,

OBE, DSc, CBIol, FIBiol

**Professor Robert D Martin**,

BA, DPhil, DSc, CBIol, FIBiol

**Mr Robin Rumboll**, FCA

**General Sir Peter Whitely**, GCB, OBE

**Mr Edward J Whitley**, MA

## Chairman of Board of Trustees

**Advocate Jonathan G White**

(re-elected July 2010)

## Vice Chairman

**Mr Christopher Collins**, BA, M.CAM

(re-elected July 2010)

## Board of Trustees

**Advocate Jonathan G White**

**Prof Michael Bruford**

**Mr Philip Callow**

**Mr Christopher Collins**, BA, M.CAM

**Ms Katie Gordon**, BSc (Hons)

**Mr John Henwood**, MBE

**Mr Ian Kerr**, BA, CDip AF

**Mrs Tricia Kreitman** BSc (Hons)

**Mr David Mace**, BSc

**Dr Eleanor Jane Milner-Gulland**

BA (Hons), PhD (rotated off July 2009)

**Mr John Miskelly**, FCA

**Mr Tim Ringsdore**

## Honorary Secretary

**Mr Tim Ringsdore**

## Honorary Treasurer

**Mr Philip Callow**,

(appointed July 2010)

## Chief Executive

**Mr Paul Masterton**

## United Kingdom Trust

**Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust – UK**

Registered UK Charity Number 1121989

## Board of Trustees

**Mr Christopher Collins**, BA, M.CAM

**Mrs Tricia Kreitman**, BSc (Hons)

**Mr Ian Lazarus**

**Dr Eleanor Jane Milner-Gulland**,

BA (Hons), PhD

**Mr David Richards**

**Mr Tim Ringsdore**

as Honorary Secretary

## Conservation Partners

**A E Surcouf & Sons Ltd**

**Fairbairn Private Bank**

**Grainville School**

**HSBC Private Bank (CI) Limited, Jersey**

**Branch**

**NatWest**

**UBS AG**

## Corporate Members

**ABN-Amro Bank**

**AIB Jersey**

**Ashburton (Jersey) Limited**

**Baker Homyard**

**Bank of India**

**Blackrock (Channel Islands) Ltd**

**BWCI Foundation**

**Deutsche Bank International Limited**

**EFG Offshore Limited**

**Ernst & Young**

**Foreshore Ltd**

**Granite Products (CI) Limited**

**HSBC Bank**

**Innovate Ltd**

**Insurance Corporation of the Channel**

**Islands Ltd**

**Jersey Electricity Company**

**Jersey Telecom**

**Jersey Trust Company**

**JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A.**

**Kedge Capital Fund Management Ltd**

**Moore Stephens**

**Mourant**

**Ogier**

**Royal Bank Of Canada (Channel Islands)**

**Ltd**

**Schroders (CI) Ltd**

**Sefta Trust Company Limited**

**Seymours Limited**

**Standard Bank Jersey Limited**

**The Futures Company**

**Venner International Services (Jersey) Ltd**

## Thanks to donors

It is a great pleasure to thank the many organisations and individuals who supported Durrell with their donations, time and advice during 2010. This financial assistance and the work of our dedicated volunteers play an invaluable role in sustaining the Trust's global projects to protect habitats and conserve wildlife.

# Honorary Treasurer's report

2010 has been a year of restructuring and consolidation for the Trust. Management embarked upon a difficult programme of redundancy and cost cutting with the intention of securing a lower cost base and promoting efficiencies. At the same time, the Trustees and senior management worked together on new initiatives aimed at increasing the Trust's income in future periods. The initial results (in financial terms) look encouraging and I feel confident that the Trust is moving in the right direction.

In 2010 I succeeded Mark Oliver as Honorary Treasurer to the Trust. Mark had ably served the Trust for two terms and his input and impact should be recognised and applauded. Unfortunately, Mark's final term as Treasurer had seen the Trust suffer the impact of the global economic crisis, most notably in the decline in the investment portfolio and, latterly, in real economic pressures on the Trust's income and expenditure. In typical commercial fashion, he was also instrumental in the Trust's response to these issues and I have been fortunate to join the Board and inherit a solid recovery programme.

The story of 2010 has seen total income roughly maintained (with a 1% decline on the 2009 figures) but expenditure reduced by 10%. This has resulted in a reduction in the operating deficit from £935,000 to £329,000. The Board and management have plans to improve income in 2011 and 2012 and bring the operations back into surplus. At the same time, the overall result has been boosted by an increase in the value of

investments of £254,000. This said, the overall value of investments still has some way to go to return to the highs at the end of 2007.

In cash terms, the Trust has been generated positive cash flows of £228,000 but it should be noted that this was only achieved by realising net cash of £573,000 from the purchase and sale of investments. At the same time, we have committed resources to the construction of the new Visitor Centre as part of the plan to generate additional income in future years

In summary, there has been an improvement in both the operating result and the return on investments and we are aiming for this to continue into 2012. However, we still need the commitment of the staff, the management and, most importantly, our loyal supporters to ensure that we complete our recovery and can focus upon our primary purpose, the conservation of endangered species around the world.



**Phillip Callow**  
Honorary Treasurer

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## The Trust's policy on reserves and investments

The Board of Trustees has approved a reserves policy as follows:

### The Trust desires sufficient reserves to meet the following circumstances:

- Unforeseen emergencies
- Unexpected needs for funds
- Unforeseen operational cost or business interruption impacts
- Bridge short term funding shortfall
- Planned commitments that can not be met through future income
- Short term deficits

### The objectives of the reserves policy are:

In the event of a catastrophic event requiring the wind down and closure of the Trust, the physical assets of the Trust will provide sufficient finances to enable closure without compromising the welfare of the species in our care and to enable the wind down or transition of all

conservation projects without jeopardising the species involved and to provide appropriately for employees in Jersey and internationally.

The Trust desires to achieve a level of reserves that would enable the effective maintenance, in the short term, of all conservation programmes until further funding can be obtained or until the programme is wound down or transferred.

The Trust desires to achieve a level of reserves that enable continued operation during a business interruption of up to 6 months which have been calculated at £1.5 million. Reserves available at 31 December 2010 were £0.2 million (2009 £0.5 million), calculated by deducting fixed assets (£4.5 million) and designated funds (£3.4 million) from total unrestricted reserves of £8.1 million.

The Trust will undertake periodic reviews of the reserves required to meet these objectives.

# Summary financial statements

	2010 £'000	2009 £'000
<b>Where our funds come from</b>		
<b>Charitable activities animal collection</b>		
Visitor admissions	1,055	1,157
Membership of Durrell		
- Individual	605	543
- Corporate	32	53
Keeper for a day	2	3
Behind the scenes tours	2	2
Letting of non-investment property	104	132
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
<b>Animal collection total</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,890</b>
<b>Education</b>		
Teaching	*33	*33
Dodo Club activities	11	7
Other	15	5
<b>Education total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Training</b>		
Course income	134	74
Other	40	60
<b>Training total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>Generated funds</b>		
<b>Voluntary income</b>		
Donations	1,921	1,656
Donations in kind	36	41
Legacies	1,005	961
Animal adoptions	71	82
Other	314	603
<b>Total voluntary income</b>	<b>3,347</b>	<b>3,343</b>
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>		
Retail turnover	373	396
Dodo restaurant contribution	67	70
<b>Activities for generating funds total</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>466</b>
<b>Investment income</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Contribution to Defined Benefit pension scheme</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total investment and pension Income</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>5,926</b>	<b>5,984</b>

\* Comprises a grant from the States of Jersey to support education as part of the national curriculum.

\*\*A reassessment of the defined benefit pension scheme in 2010 shows a deficit of £647,000 (2009 shows a deficit of £683,000).

Detailed accounts can be obtained from our website [durrell.org](http://durrell.org)

	2010 £'000	2009 £'000
<b>Resources expended on charitable activities</b>		
Animal collection	3,017	3,881
Training	522	490
Education	281	220
Conservation science	1,506	1,295
<b>Total for resources expended on charitable activities</b>	<b>5,326</b>	<b>5,886</b>
<b>Costs of generating funds</b>		
Costs of generating voluntary income	389	483
Retail cost of goods sold & other costs	327	373
<b>Total cost of generating funds</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>856</b>
<b>Other resources expended</b>		
Investment management costs	78	68
Governance costs	123	88
Net interest charge on Defined Benefit pension scheme liabilities	12	21
<b>Total other expended</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>177</b>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>6,255</b>	<b>6,919</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and (losses)</b>		
<b>Gains &amp; losses on investments:</b>		
Unrealised	254	633
Realised	23	(243)
<b>Profit on disposal of fixed assets</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>
Net actuarial gain/(loss) on Defined Benefit pension scheme	42	(509)
<b>Total recognised gains/(losses)</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>(117)</b>
<b>Balance sheet as at 31 December</b>		
<b>Assets</b>		
Fixed assets	4,511	4,146
Investments	4,403	4,694
Net current assets	565	388
Creditors – due after one year	(309)	(12)
Pension Liability	** (647)	** (683)
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,523</b>	<b>8,533</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Funds</b>		
Permanent endowment funds	1,141	1,105
Restricted funds	3,203	2,837
Designated funds	3,390	3,802
General funds	789	789
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,523</b>	<b>8,533</b>

# Summary financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2010

These summary financial statements which comprise the Summarised Statement of Financial Activities and Summarised Balance Sheet are a summary of the information in the full annual financial statements of Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust.

They do not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the results of the Trust for the year and its state of affairs at the year end.

For further information, the full financial statements and the report of the auditors on those financial statements should be consulted. Copies of the full financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2010, which were approved by the Trustees on 17th June 2011, are available upon request from the Trust's offices or from the Trust's website at [www.durrell.org](http://www.durrell.org).

The auditors have reported on the full financial statements and their report was not qualified.



**Signed on behalf of the Trustees,  
Advocate Jonathan White**  
(Chairman of Board of Trustees)  
17th June 2011

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## Independent auditor's statement to the Trustees of Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

We have examined the Trust's summary financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2010 set out on page 7.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors**

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the recommendations of the Charities SORP.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summary financial statements with the full annual financial statements and Trustees' Annual Report.

We also read the other information contained in the summarised annual report and consider the implications of our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

We conducted our examination in accordance with Bulletin 2008/3 issued by the Auditing Practices Board.

### **Opinion**

In our opinion the summary financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and Trustees' Annual Report of Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust for the year ended 31 December 2010.

95- 97 Halkett Place  
St Helier, Jersey, JE1 1BX

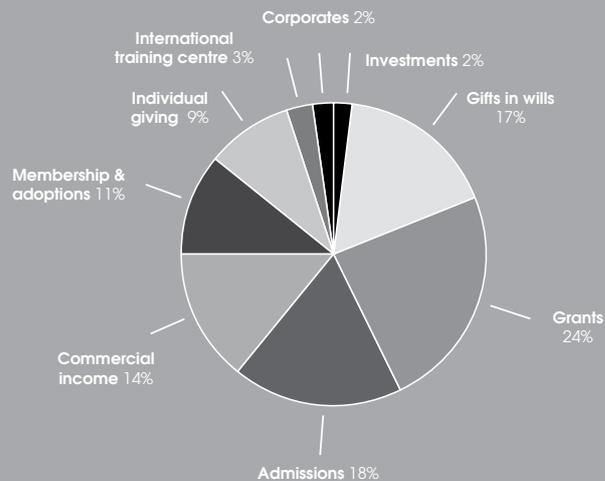
**Alex Picot**  
Chartered Accountants  
Registered Auditors

17th June 2011

# Fundraising income and expenditure

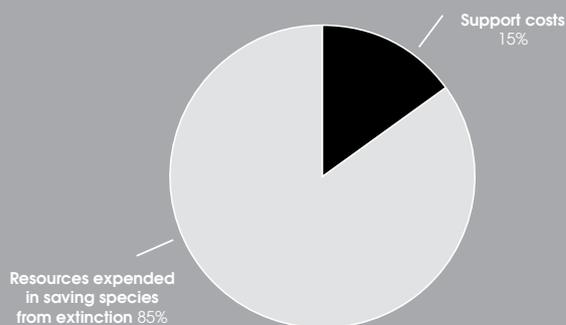
## Sources of revenue

In 2010 our income came from a number of different sources, shown here. More than half of our income is from voluntary funds (gifts in wills, donations, events for example). Income generated through our charitable activities (admission to our wildlife park, membership subscriptions, teaching activities for example) account for a third of our income and the remainder is raised through commercial and investment activities.



## Resources expended

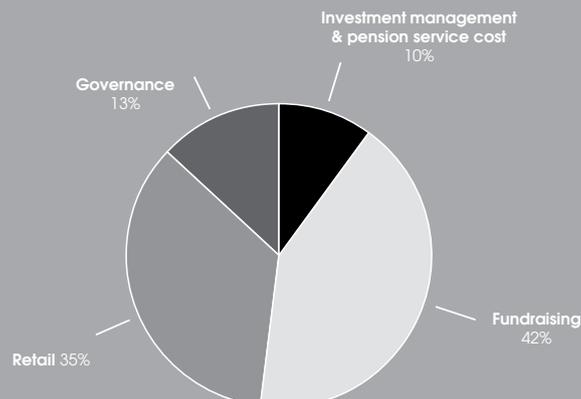
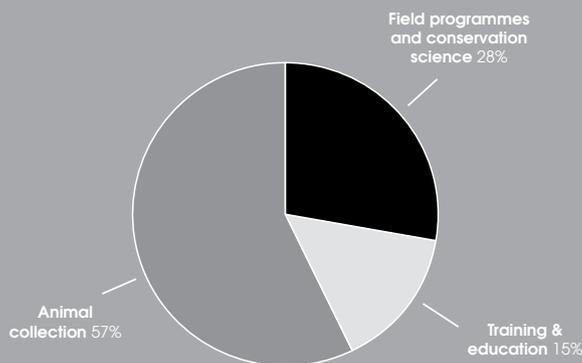
85% of our income was spent on our Mission in 2010. This means that for every £1 donated, 85 pence goes directly to saving species from extinction.



## Expenditure

The following two charts explain how every £1 was spent in 2010.

- **48p** Provides for and allows us to develop conservation skills with our animals in the collection at our wildlife park
- **24p** Goes towards protecting and conserving threatened species and habitats in our programmes around the world
- **13p** Delivers training courses throughout the world and educates our visitors and supporters about our work
- **6p** Helps us to raise funds from donations, legacies, and other voluntary sources
- **5p** Supports the cost of retail activities that generate future income
- **2p** Supports the governance of the charity
- **2p** Supports the costs of managing our investments and pension service



(Source: Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2010)

③ Lesser night gecko  
*Nactus coindemirensis*



# In the field

**2010 was the International Year of Biodiversity, a chance to reflect on our changing perception of the importance of the natural world to human wellbeing and to make concrete commitments at the highest level to halt the worsening loss of species and habitats worldwide.**

In a review article published in the journal *Science* for the UN Convention on Biological Diversity meeting held in Japan, leading conservationists examined how conservation efforts had changed the status of species. Of 64 examples where conservation had improved species status, seven are or had been Durrell projects. This is a great achievement and testament to our continued commitment to the delivery of species conservation projects in some of the most threatened places around the world.

Indeed, 2010 was a very busy year for Durrell's conservation programme, with the completion of a new five year strategy and a re-organisation of the team leading its implementation, major new projects started during the year and some of the most active and intensive field responses ever undertaken.

## **The most threatened species in the most threatened places – a five year vision**

Durrell delivers its conservation work through projects in the field, at our wildlife park and through training delivered at Durrell in Jersey and overseas. Over the years, however, these three strands have become increasingly separated. So in developing a new conservation strategy, one of our challenges was to bring them together and show how we could deliver conservation results using the expertise of these three arms. Equally this strategy had to build on our legacy and core skill base, while defining a clear role for the Trust within a changing global conservation landscape.

The new five year strategy renews our commitment to the long term conservation of species and their habitats and underlines the importance of integrating local human communities in to the conservation solutions. With programmes now over 30 years old, we can show that dedicated long-term action not only saves species but it also leads to protection and restoration of ecosystems, generates new and important knowledge, and builds skills and other capacities in the countries in which we work.

Our new programme focuses on two key themes: Islands at Risk and Critical Species. The former programme explicitly focuses on islands because this is where so many of the world's most threatened species are found. Our

main centres of response within the Islands at Risk theme are the Pacific islands, with a focus on the Galapagos, the Caribbean Islands, the Mascarene Islands, Madagascar and the Comoros. Given that Jersey is also an island, we are becoming more active in the conservation of Jersey's threatened habitats and species.

The Critical Species theme represents our legacy in dedicated species conservation and is a response to groups of species that are under particular threat at a global level. These include amphibians where over 32% are at a high risk of extinction; primates where 49% are threatened and the birds of South East Asia, which contains 20% of the world's Critically Endangered bird species. During 2011, specific initiatives are being developed with our animal departments in Jersey for each of these priorities.

Delivery of the conservation programme is centred around three core areas of activity; improving the conservation status of species and habitats on the ground, building capacity for communities and conservationists, and strengthening the evidence base for conservation. We will also continue to maintain strong partnerships with projects on continental areas, such as the restoration of the pygmy hog in India and research into the impacts of bushmeat in Central Africa.

To promote closer integration within the Trust, the programme's delivery is now led by the Conservation Team, which contains members from Field Programmes, Conservation Science, Wildlife Park, Training, Finance and Fundraising.



4 **Madagascan side-necked turtle**  
*Erymnochelys madagascariensis*

## Intensive species management

While we try to protect and restore species in their remaining habitat, there are many instances where we have to resort to more intensive management actions. For example, when the threats are severe we bring animals into captivity to breed or rear for future release, or we translocate animals from areas where they may be more abundant or at particular risk to other areas. In 2010 we carried out translocations in the Galapagos for the mangrove finch *Camarhynchus heliobates*, in St Lucia for the whiptail lizard *Cnemidophorus vanzoi* and in Mauritius for a number of reptile species as part of our restoration plans. We conducted releases from captive breeding programmes for side-necked turtles *Erymnochelys madagascarensis* in Madagascar, agile frogs *Rana dalmatina* in Jersey and pygmy hogs *Porcula salvania* in Assam. Also our captive breeding programmes for mountain chickens *Leptodactylus fallax* and lesser night geckos *Nactus coindemirensis* were successful and raised numbers of animals for release in 2011.

The largest translocation effort came in the spring with the movement of 500 Telfairs skinks *Leiolopisma telfairii* and 50 Guenther's geckos *Phelsuma guentheri* from Round Island to Ile aux Aigrettes in Mauritius. This was one of a series of translocations that aims to restore the native reptile communities to Mauritius' offshore islands. The skinks and geckos were caught and transported by helicopter in a series of three trips undertaken in March. The total population of skinks on Ile aux Aigrettes is now over 500 and it is hoped that they will have a major impact on the remaining invasive shrews and African land snails on the island.

Following reports of people seeing 'petits rats' on another of the offshore Mauritian islands, Flat Island, Nik Cole, a conservation biologist and his team discovered that shrews had been introduced. Flat Island contained one of the most complete reptile communities on which shrews would have had a major impact. As an emergency response, 390 orange-tailed skinks *Gongylomorphus fontenayi* sp., were translocated off the island to Gunner's Quoin and Gabriel Island. The translocation was the first to be conducted exclusively by Mauritian staff from the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation and National Parks and Conservation Service, which shows the successful transfer of skills to local counterparts. The situation on Flat Island is being monitored closely.

In the Galapagos, nine Critically Endangered mangrove finches were caught at Playa Tortuga Negra and transported by boat to Bahia Urbina about 22km south. All birds were fitted with radio transmitters and colour rings to enable monitoring and individual identification after their release. Although this was a trial translocation using small numbers it has given us invaluable data on whether these birds can be moved between locations to start a new breeding population.

## New projects get underway

In February, Durrell was awarded two full project grants from the UK Darwin Initiative for the restoration of the mountain chicken and the Madagascar pochard *Aythya innotata*. This was a great achievement and continues Durrell's strong track record with UK Government funding. These three year projects got underway during the year. In Montserrat, we were busy already. Following the discovery of the fungal disease chytridiomycosis on Montserrat and the capture of 50 frogs to set up a captive breeding programme – our field team initiated a field trial to see if remaining frogs could be treated with anti-fungal agents in the wild to increase their survival. This was the first time that such an experiment has been attempted. While the data is still being analysed, the initial results indicated that while it might prolong survival, as soon as treatment stopped it, the effects of the disease took over. Later in the year a field trip was undertaken to an isolated area of the island which we had hoped would present a viable site for reintroduction. The team could only access the area by helicopter and collected samples from tree frogs along the steep gullies to test for the presence of chytridiomycosis. Unfortunately laboratory analysis at the Zoological Society of London confirmed the presence of the disease even in this area. Thus, as the Darwin project started, and the project coordinator Sarah-Louise Smith, was appointed, her first task was to adapt the project together with our international partners, and develop a new strategy for implementation in 2011 onwards.

The Darwin project for the Madagascar pochard in collaboration with Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT), The Peregrine Fund and the Government of Madagascar was initiated in March. While the remaining wild population was closely monitored by The Peregrine Fund, Durrell and WWT focussed on the establishment of a captive breeding programme in Madagascar. The ducks brought into captivity in 2009 remained in Ampijoroa under close supervision, and the team scoured their home region for a suitable location for a breeding centre. The challenges being that the centre needs a constant source of running water distance from domestic fowl which could carry diseases and be accessible for our field teams. After much searching, sites for a breeding centre and a separate duckling rearing centre have been identified and negotiations to secure the necessary permissions are well underway. 2011 will see the building projects started and the breeding programmes begin.



6 **Ploughshare tortoise**  
*Astrochelys yniphora*

## From species to sites and people

Durrell has always championed the need for integrating local people in to the conservation of species and their habitats. Our Madagascar programme is built on this principle and much of the work there is focused on building local capacity for conservation and enabling the sustainable management of forests and wetlands.

In September, this commitment to human communities and biodiversity was given global recognition, as the Nosivolo River in Madagascar was declared a Ramsar site, a wetland of global importance. This is the first river in Madagascar to receive this designation and the country's 7th Ramsar site. The river contains 19 endemic fish species, four of which are only found in that particular river, and it is identified as the most important river for biodiversity in the country. Conservation activities have focused on determining the status and distribution of the endemic fish species, in partnership with the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB) and the Biology Department at the University of Antananarivo (DBA), and on large scale community conservation and development initiatives financed and supported by Conservation International's Node programme and the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission (JOAC). Part of this work included supporting 138 micro-projects, such as crop production, in 80 villages and as a result over 2,000 families benefitted from the programme. To support local development, medication to treat the debilitating disease schistosomiasis was provided to 4,080 people and materials were provided to 59 schools to improve primary education.

## Developing our Conservation Science

With our new conservation strategy setting out the conservation priorities for the next five years, it is vital we further develop our scientific research programmes to allow us to design the most effective conservation actions, monitor the outcomes and ultimately evaluate our impacts. In 2010, we focussed on improving the research and monitoring of our most threatened target species so we have a clearer picture of their conservation requirements and so that we can respond more rapidly to potential problems. This included population surveys of ploughshare tortoises, monitoring surviving mountain chicken populations and investigating the efficacy of anti-fungal treatments, and establishing a Madagascar pochard research programme.

We have also initiated biodiversity assessments in some of our new projects sites, including the Comoros Islands and the Massif de la Hotte in Haiti, home to an astonishing and globally important number of highly threatened species. Our surveys of the Hispaniolan solenodon and hutia have progressed well in the Dominican Republic and we now have mapped the distribution of both species, which included discovering previously unknown and important populations. This extensive survey is complimented by a new PhD project with the University of Reading which is investigating to what extent habitat fragmentation is impacting Hispaniolan solenodons and their potential conflicts with humans. We also completed the analysis

of the St Lucia parrot survey conducted in 2009 which revealed some excellent news. From a low of possibly just a couple of hundred individuals in the 1970s, our research shows that the St Lucia parrot has recovered to a far safer population size of around 2000 birds today.

Because conservation problems are both environmental and human-driven we not only draw on the biological sciences but also on socioeconomic and earth sciences to generate the knowledge needed to deliver effective solutions on the ground. In 2010, we continued to broaden the research we lead or support, in order to get a more detailed understanding of the pressures our species face. For example, in Lake Alaotra in Madagascar, Andrea Wallace, a PhD student from Imperial College, finished her field studies of the lake's fishery and the livelihoods of fisherman, which is at the heart of the marsh burning problem which so threatened the Alaotran gentle lemur *Hapalemur alaotrensis*. This research gives us a clearer idea of how the fishery can be better managed to improve catches and ultimately reduce pressures on the marsh. We also published three scientific papers on new techniques for monitoring the status of and threats to the Alaotran gentle lemur, which use satellite images of the marsh to map lemur habitat. In the Menabe dry forest of Madagascar, thanks to social research published in 2010, we now have a much better understanding of how local human communities use the forest and how we can incentivise them to manage the forest more sustainably.

In 2010, we also began revitalising the research we do on our animal collections in the wildlife park in Jersey. Our Research Co-ordinator is developing a number of research projects to generate knowledge to improve animal husbandry of our amphibians, primates and birds, but also to better understand the impact of our messaging around the wildlife park and the way our visitors interact with the exhibits.

This increased and widened research effort has led us to delivering scientific research through targeted collaborations with a variety of academic partners and other NGOs. In total, we now regularly work with many organisations around the world on research to support our conservation. We continue to ensure our science is scrutinized by our peers to ensure it is of the highest possible quality and that the lessons we learn are shared with the conservation community. Across Durrell, we published over 20 papers in peer-reviewed journals in 2010, a successful year in terms of scientific outputs. This included a high profile paper on the status of the Critically Endangered mangrove finch and the conservation actions needed to save it, a study of the impacts of tourist developments in St Lucia on the White-breasted Thrasher, and a vital contribution to a paper which set out global standards for documenting and monitoring bird reintroduction projects.



6 Ring-tailed lemur  
*Lemur catta*

# Wildlife park

2010 was undoubtedly a challenging year for the animal sections as we strove to reduce costs whilst still attempting to maximize our conservation outputs, provide an unrivalled visitor experience and maintain the highest standards of animal welfare for which we are so justifiably proud. A need to reduce and consolidate the animal collection was identified so the year saw an increased number of exports and a refocussing of the collection plan. This was greatly abetted by a collaboration between the conservation group and animal staff in developing a clear conservation focus for each department. Through the Critical Species theme within the new conservation programme the mammal department will now build upon its extensive expertise with primates and develop the 'Globally Threatened Primates' campaign, the bird department will focus its efforts on the birds of South East Asia, and herpetology staff will continue to develop the global amphibian strategy.

Despite the tough financial conditions we continued to develop areas of the park, while stringent cost awareness proved to be the catalyst for truly innovative enclosure modification and design. With corporate and volunteer support the old 'bat house' was converted to accommodate imported red-billed choughs and now provides a tableau of Jersey's north coast. These birds are part of the first phase of a captive breeding effort that will ultimately see the species' reintroduction onto Jersey after an absence of over 100 years and is part of an exciting collaboration between ourselves, Paradise Park in Cornwall, The National Trust and the States of Jersey.

The interior areas of this chough building were subsequently adapted to rear over one hundred mountain chicken frogs in strict quarantine conditions. These animals form the bulk of a future reintroduction programme to Montserrat and as such needed to be maintained in strict biosecure conditions. Our herpetology staff were incredibly successful in perfecting husbandry techniques for this near extinct amphibian which resulted in record breeding figures. The challenge now remains in successfully repatriating them.

Inspired ingenuity and adoption of revolutionary building techniques drove the construction of our Island Bat Roost, a new home for our Livingstone's and Rodrigues fruit bats. With generous funding from the Kreitman Family and the Elizabeth Violet Annie Rouse Settlement, and utilising the 'sweat equity' of over 330 dedicated employees from HSBC International, who donated over 1200 man-hours, we delivered a thermally efficient building, created more flight space for the residents and built a greatly enhanced public viewing area. The project incorporated rammed earth tyres as the building blocks, straw bales as insulation, reused timber from the old visitor centre, recycled bottles for windows and is finished in an adobe mud render. Without doubt it is the most carbon efficient build we have attempted and is a model design for future building projects.

Steps to address limitations with our existing gorilla accommodation were taken this year with the design of a heated outside area that will greatly facilitate managing the animals during the colder months. Energy-efficient heating will be provided within a shelter fabricated from natural timbers which the apes will be able to utilise as a climbing structure also. The project received full funding from our Gardiens and construction work began towards the end of the year – we look forward to completing the structure in 2011.

The recently completed Kirindy Forest enclosure proved popular with visitors, undoubtedly aided by the addition of three ring-tailed and one red-fronted brown lemur to the resident families. The walk through aviary housing Madagascan/African birds provided a stunning, immersive experience as the vegetation and animals established themselves. The area can now also be enjoyed by internet users through one of four streaming webcams that were installed in enclosures around the park. We also gave one of our female aye ayes, typically a nocturnal species, access to an outside area and through subtle husbandry manipulation she began to regularly venture out in the early evenings. This unusual sight provided a rare treat to late guests and attendees of Durrell at Dusk, where the park was open in the evenings, an initiative which ran again this year, attracting increasing numbers of visitors.

Behind the scenes at the reptile and amphibian house, lesser night geckos were bred in large numbers in preparation for future release on Ile Marianne, a Mauritian islet, and two juvenile Komodo dragons arrived providing a significant spectacle and a future challenge to match their rapid growth.

We continued to breed the critically endangered pied tamarin and due to our pioneering success with this sensitive species the BBC chose to film the progress of two infants born in Jersey covering several months. The footage and interviews with staff will feature in a forthcoming series entitled 'Nature's Miracle Babies' which will provide nationwide, primetime coverage of our work here and overseas.

Despite the pressures of 2010, successes and positive change continued. Necessity being the mother of all invention, the fiscal constraints inspired staff to think yet more creatively and the subsequent consolidation of the animal collection, refocused working routines and the adoption of innovative approaches to enclosure design stand us in good stead for tackling the challenges that the Trust, and biodiversity face.

# Training and Education...a glance back and a look forward.

**Monoriki Island...has been known to have but a few Fiji crested iguanas remaining...a 100% captive breeding success has been achieved in this first breeding attempt (with the species)... the knowledge gained during my studies at Durrell has helped me greatly in this breeding program and also in the work I do at Kula Eco Park.**

Ramesh Chand DESMAN participant, 2010

## Training in 2010

By the end of 2010 our training programmes with support from many Durrell staff- had trained more than 3000 conservationists from 128 countries since we were first established in 1984. Ramesh Chand (quoted above) was one of the more than 300 conservationists trained through Durrell in 2010 alone. A quick look back on last year illustrates how the training programme supports our conservation mission and extends Durrell's influence over the recovery of threatened species.

In 2010 we ran 20 courses including three overseas in the Philippines, Madagascar and Mauritius. In the Philippines we initiated contact with the Philippine Eagle Foundation and included staff from the foundation on the course we were running there on island species conservation. The captive breeding programme for this iconic species is currently achieving limited success and would benefit from additional capacity-building support. The Manager for the captive breeding facility was enrolled on the 2011 Durrell Endangered Species Management Graduate Certificate (DESMAN) course. The aim is to assist the centre in developing plans to improve the breeding success of the species as a means of producing stock for reintroduction to the wild. While still very much in its infancy this capacity-building project has the potential to make a significant impact on the success of the reintroduction programme and the long-term conservation of the species.

In Mauritius we ran our Invasive Species Management (ISM) course in collaboration with the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group and the Mauritius Wildlife Foundation. The course used the draft National Invasive Species Strategic and Action Plan as a vehicle to determine what steps Mauritius and Rodrigues needs to take to reduce the spread of invasive species within the Republic. The key role that the coastguard plays in monitoring and controlling the spread of invasive species to the offshore islands was highlighted with commitments being given by senior coastguard officials to scale up their activities in this area. These commitments will be followed-

up by Durrell staff based in Mauritius over the coming year. We developed an amphibian disease monitoring workshop based in Madagascar in October. This workshop was designed to train Malagasy biologists in the techniques needed to detect the potentially fatal chytridiomycosis fungal disease, should it reach Madagascar. This disease has been found in amphibian populations in neighbouring African countries and many other countries worldwide where it has ravaged amphibian populations and driven some to extinction. The outcome of the workshop in October was the development of a nationwide Chytrid Early Detection Plan identifying the sites and the species which should be tested on an annual basis to determine if the fungus has arrived in Madagascar.

We also began developing local capacity to establish captive populations of threatened species to avoid them going extinct should the disease arrive. This plan is now with the 'cellule d'urgence' - a team established following the course to co-ordinate actions in response to the disease. In March this year we heard that the cellule has now been ratified by the Government and is beginning work to put plans into practice for the conservation on Madagascar's unique amphibian fauna. This training project lays the foundations for Durrell's wider Amphibian Conservation Plan which has as one of its foci the conservation of the threatened amphibians of Madagascar.

Back in Jersey we launched our first bird husbandry and our first avian egg incubation course in collaboration with the Bird Department, providing hands-on experience in managing the development of threatened birds through to hatching.

## Grant-giving in 2010

In 2010 we began to develop our grant giving scheme for graduates of the training programme, enabling the high-flying ones to put into practice the skills they have learnt through us. More than £9000 of funding was allocated to graduates, including a grant to Jefferson Barros de Oliveira (DESMAN 2010) from Brazil's Ecological Research Institute (IPÉ) for population surveys and monitoring of the Endangered pied tamarin *Saguinus bicolor* in the Tupe Sustainable Development Reserve in the central Amazonian region of Brazil; and Patricia Rios Mejia (DESMAN 2008) of San Marcos Public University, Peru, for an ex situ conservation plan to save the Lake Junin frog *Batrachophrynus macrostomus* from extinction by implementing an effective captive breeding programme.

We heard back from 2009 grant recipient Eric Ramirez Bravo (DESMAN 2007) who was given an equipment grant to buy camera traps for a project in an unprotected area near the Biosphere Reserve of Tehuacan-Cuicatlan in Mexico. He is working to establish the presence of carnivores in the area to help support efforts to have it protected. The camera traps have helped to confirm the presence of these animals in the area and as a result the landowner is satisfied that the conservation efforts are worthwhile and is promoting further conservation action in the area.

## Training the next generation

In 2010 we taught more than 3000 school children from Jersey schools, including a tripling of the number of A-level students taught through the programme. We collaborated with the States of Jersey Environment and Education Departments in the development of the Sustainable Schools Framework. This new initiative encourages teachers to adopt a more holistic approach to their teaching linking in with other organisations on the island which can provide local national and international perspectives on how actions children take in Jersey can have reactions on a global scale. The framework encourages linkages to be made between organisations working on related themes. For example, in 2010 Durrell launched its first Bio Blitz, to encourage local children (and adults) to become involved in identifying and monitoring native wildlife. The event was held in Durrell Wildlife Park in collaboration with Jersey Trees for Life and the Jersey Bat group, along with individual plant and invertebrate experts. In total 163 native species were identified living within the park grounds. These results will form the basis of an annual monitoring programme for native wildlife on-site.

In addition to teaching Jersey students in full time education, we now support a new scheme for local 16-19 year olds who have left education and are trying to find employment. The scheme is called Advance to Work and an induction workshop has been developed jointly by mentors from the Advance to Work scheme and Durrell which introduces all participants to the scheme. This has been highly successful and during 2010, 195 students attended 14 sessions at the wildlife park.

In 2010 we focused on increasing our support of 16-18 year old members of Durrell at a time in their life when they are making key decisions as to their initial career development. Due to demand we launched two Conservation Science Schools (in February and August) designed to provide an introduction to the theory and practice of species conservation for this age group. Twenty three students attended these two, three-day residential courses, doubling the number attending in 2009. Twenty-five percent of these students came from outside of Jersey, beginning what we hope is a growing trend for the programme as we endeavour to reach to a wider audience with our conservation message.

## Providing a learning experience to our visitors

In 2010 the Visitor Experience staff became part of the International Training Centre team and their roles included engaging and educating our visiting public. In collaboration with park staff they developed a programme of Animal Encounter's, Keeper For a Day and Behind the Scenes tours which both raised awareness about our work but also raised valuable funds to support it!

# A great way to spend...time and get close to animals

GCSE student, Feb 2010

## Please help Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust in our mission to save species from extinction:

- Become a member. Gerald Durrell called members "The backbone of the organisation". Membership on Direct Debit starts from just a little over £2 a month.
- Adopt one of 12 animals ranging in size from our blue poison dart frog to our silverback gorilla. Adoptions make great gifts too!
- Turn your hand to fundraising! Join in with one of our challenge events or arrange something yourself. We can help with ideas, support and sponsorship forms!
- Donate online. Every penny given to Durrell is worth many times that in its impact on worldwide conservation.
- Help us build on the magnificent legacy that Gerald Durrell left the world. A gift in you Will, whatever the value, will help us to continue to save species from extinction.
- Offset your carbon emissions using Durrell's carbon offset scheme - one of the only schemes in the country where 100% of the funds go directly into conservation.

For more ideas and further information please visit our website: [durrell.org](http://durrell.org) **Thank you!**

### Events 2011

#### Golf Tournament

Royal Jersey Golf Club  
10th June

#### Car Boot Sale

Durrell Wildlife Park  
25th June

#### Diva Opera

Domaines Des Vaux Jersey  
11th - 14th July

#### Durrell AGM

Durrell Wildlife Park  
21st July

#### Durrell Day

Durrell Wildlife Park  
30th - 31st July

#### Oddsocks, Macbeth

Durrell Wildlife Park  
2nd - 10th August

#### Activity Week – Dodo Members

Durrell Wildlife Park  
9th - 12th August

#### Dodo Club 30th Birthday Party

Durrell Wildlife Park  
28th August

#### Land of the Lemur Tour

Madagascar  
3rd - 15th September

#### Durrell Public Art Course

Durrell Wildlife Park  
5th - 9th September

#### Car Boot Sale

Durrell Wildlife Park  
24th September

#### The Durrell Lecture

Royal Geographical Society,  
London  
22nd September

#### Activity Week – Dodo Members

Durrell Wildlife Park  
23rd - 28th October

#### Sustainability Conference

Jersey  
October

#### Durrell Dash

Durrell Wildlife Park  
16th October

#### Art Auction

London  
November/December

All of the above are subject to change. To find out more about events, visit our website at [durrell.org](http://durrell.org)

Please note: A full colour version of this annual report is available on our website at [durrell.org](http://durrell.org).

We encourage all of our supporters to utilise an electronic version to help minimise costs and to support the environment.

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