

!t's time

Annual Report
2008



durrell wildlife conservation trust durrell.org

an international charity saving species from extinction

Durrell's reason for being is wildlife conservation and our mission is to save species from extinction. Everything we do is focussed on this objective.

Sulawesi crested black macaque

Macaca nigra

photographed by
Gregory Guida



With extinction rates tragically higher than historic levels and increasing each year, the need for Durrell is greater than ever.

With this in mind, 2008 saw significant progress in our many conservation projects, both internationally and in Jersey. After a 30 year programme, we proudly released pygmy hogs back to their native habitat in Assam, where they successfully began to breed. Similarly, our long-term 30 year plus commitment to restore Round Island, Mauritius, led by Mauritius Wildlife Foundation, gathered momentum with the introduction of Aldabra tortoises to fill a critical gap in the ecosystem, and we collected 30 lesser night geckos for breeding at Durrell to support future releases back onto offshore islands there. In Madagascar our community monitoring programmes continue to benefit wildlife and rural villages while an expedition to the Dominican Republic filmed and sampled the reclusive solenodon. Requests for technical support continue to grow and our conservation experts provided invaluable assistance to projects in the Seychelles, Mauritius, the Comoros Islands, the Galapagos Islands, Columbia, the Cayman Islands and, of course, in Jersey.

Building conservation 'capacity' is a vital function for Durrell and we do this in several ways: developing conservation techniques and capabilities – our 'conservation toolbox'; enhancing our animal husbandry and breeding knowledge in Jersey and overseas; developing collaborative partnerships worldwide; and developing new conservationists through our International Training Centre. 2008 saw the addition of a vital new capability, a DNA sequencer that enables us to determine the genetic health of captive and wild animal populations. Already benefiting our blue iguana and Livingstone's fruit bat projects this tool is becoming increasingly important to our work. The year saw great success in our captive breeding programmes, including many amphibian species, radiated and flat tail tortoises and multiple bird, bat and lemur species. At the year-end we learnt, to great delight, that Dana our new orang-utan, was pregnant. To quote Sir David Attenborough "Breeding animals is not easy, nobody has accumulated such expertise in how to breed endangered animals as Durrell."

Please note:

A full colour version of this annual report is available on our website at www.durrell.org. We encourage all of our supporters to utilise an electronic version to help minimise costs and to support the environment.

We also build capacity through training and our International Training Centre saw a further 251 students participating in courses, including an Island Species programme held in Guam, for 22 Pacific Rim students. To date we have trained over 2,500 students from more than 122 countries.

Turning to the financial results for 2008, operating performance showed a small year-end deficit, significantly improved over the prior year. This was achieved through a combination of careful cost control, the benefit of increased fundraising and commercial activities and the receipt of higher income from legacies to the Trust. While operating results improved, the Trust was severely impacted by the falling value of reserves in our investment portfolios, as the financial markets went into meltdown. At the year-end these 'losses' get reflected in our accounts resulting in a large overall loss reported for the year. The decline in our reserves impacts us in two ways; in the near term, interest income from our investments will decline; while in the long-term we have lower reserves to depend on. Both are matters of grave concern.

Last year we welcomed 174,000 visitors to our Trinity headquarters. While our grounds continue to offer a wonderful experience to island residents and to tourists, overall attendance is declining. In part this reflects the challenge that tourism in Jersey faces but it also indicates that we need to work harder and more creatively to attract visitors, increase membership and to generate the visitor income that is so vital to our survival. To achieve this, and to increase our conservation capacity, significant investment is needed to upgrade the Trust's grounds and facilities.

During 2008 a revised development plan for the site was developed, emphasising the need to begin these upgrades immediately and to approach future developments in a modular way, governed by our ability to raise capital funds. The plan, which incorporates redeveloping existing buildings, as well as new structures, begins with a site 'refresh' in 2009. This includes a new enclosure, Discovery Desert, for meerkats, yellow mongoose and porcupines, establishing red river hogs as a new species in the collection to highlight the bush meat issue, and the redevelopment of the 'Walled Garden' to showcase our Madagascan conservation work. Overall the development plan is practical, will have immediate benefits, for Durrell and for Jersey, and will ensure we generate an operating surplus in the future.

Looking forward to 2009, our 50th anniversary year will be extraordinarily busy, challenging, fun and, I hope, successful. The year will be marked by several special events celebrating fifty years of conservation progress, with opportunities for our many friends and supporters to celebrate Durrell's achievements.

We will expand our conservation agenda adding key restoration projects for the Floreana mockingbird in the Galapagos – in honour of Charles Darwin in his anniversary year – and for the Madagascar pochard. As ever, we will also stand ready to respond to emergency needs – this is what Durrell does – as we are right now in rescuing the highly threatened mountain chicken frog in Montserrat.

“Breeding animals is not easy, nobody has accumulated such expertise in how to breed endangered animals as Durrell.”

Sir David Attenborough



Northern bald ibis

Geronticus eremita

photographed by
Gregory Guida

As we close out 2008 I would sincerely thank all those that commit so much to Durrell and without whom we would not be successful; to the executive team - Quentin Bloxam, Andrew Brown, John Fa, Charlotte Linney and Mark Powell; to all staff, in Jersey and overseas, for their passion and devotion; to our volunteers – such a vital group for the Trust; to the Board for their outstanding guidance and support; to our partners in making conservation happen; and to our members and supporters worldwide – without you we could not do what we do which is to save species from extinction.

Paul Masterton
Chief Executive Officer

Chairman's Report

In my third year now as your Chairman, I am pleased to report on the year 2008 as a year of change and renewed hope and energy for Durrell.

Our new Chief Executive, Paul Masterton is providing the clear and determined leadership the Board was seeking and is achieving the delicate balance between our conservation ambitions and business realities both of which are necessary for our long-term survival. The extraordinary and devastating economic conditions that arose in 2008 and have continued into 2009, will severely challenge Durrell, impacting our income and requiring that we closely manage costs, reducing them where possible but minimising any impact on our long-term conservation programmes.

In light of the deteriorating economic conditions we have revisited the vision of our Jersey site with the aim of finding a more practical approach while retaining much of the original intent. Essential needs that must be addressed include critical animal welfare issues, difficulties with ageing infrastructure and the need to improve our wildlife park as a major visitor attraction, especially adding more 'all weather' capacity. Our new approach will follow a three phase plan to refresh, redevelop and regenerate the site. Covered in more detail in the Chief Executive's report, this approach is practical, achievable in modules and fundable. More importantly it is already underway in 2009.

In this our 2008 Annual Report, you will read of the excellent and sustained progress on our many conservation projects, with the highlight being the pygmy hog release in Assam after a 30 year programme. The conservation role that Durrell fulfils, internationally and in Jersey, is more important and more critical than ever. With intensifying pressure on wildlife everywhere the demand for Durrell's skills, capabilities and experts will only grow. The help of our many supporters ensures we can continue and expand these efforts.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Board for their unstinting support in 2008. Personally and on behalf of the Trust, I would especially acknowledge Professor Eleanor Milner-Gulland and Mr Derek Maltwood who are retiring as Trustees. Similarly, my congratulations to Mrs Tricia Kreitman and Mr Martin Bralsford who have been made Honorary Fellows in recognition of their long and valued service to the Trust. Finally and with very special thanks for his long and distinguished service over 37 years, Mr Robin Rumboll also becomes an Honorary Fellow.

The success of Durrell is entirely dependent on the enduring support and commitment of many people. With this in mind my sincere thanks to all those who ensure that our mission "to save species from extinction" continues: our staff in Jersey and overseas; our volunteers; our members and supporters and our partners worldwide.



Jonathan White
Chairman

“whilst we are eternally grateful for the generosity of our supporters, it is clear that we should not be reliant on legacies and the investment income that may arise from these. We need to build more regular and consistent revenue streams by making best use of the assets at our disposal”

Honorary Treasurer's Report

2008 will long be remembered as a year of unprecedented turmoil in global financial markets, which according to The Times Rich List saw £155 billion wiped from the fortunes of Britain's richest 1,000 people, equivalent to more than a third of their wealth.

It was that turmoil which has had a dramatic effect on the financial health of the Trust with our reserves being depleted by just over £2m during the course of the year. Declines in the value of our investments of £1.99m accounted for the vast majority of that deficit.

It is often difficult to find any positives when presented by such a bleak picture, but I firmly believe that there are a couple of pluses that we can take from the year which demonstrate that we are indeed moving in the right direction. Firstly, and perhaps most importantly, financial performance at the operating level, or in simple terms the difference between our income and expenditure on a day-to-day basis, improved markedly on the previous year.

In 2007, before gains and losses on investments and revaluation of pension liabilities, our expenditure exceeded our income by £1.99m. For 2008 this gap was reduced to £205k, which whilst still a little short of our goal of financial sustainability for the Trust, represents a further step in the right direction. Of course 2007 was the year in which a substantial investment was made in 'our vision for the future' which totalled £790k and it is therefore more appropriate to make comparisons excluding these 'investment costs'. On that basis the operating deficit in 2007 was £763k whilst the comparative of 2008 was £160k - a clear move in the direction of financial sustainability.

Secondly, of the £1.99m decline in the value of the Trust's investments, £1.66m was, at the end of the year 'unrealised' and as such we have hope that over time the value of these investments will recover at least some if not all of their former value. Indeed since March financial markets have staged something of a recovery.

Whilst the above represent the positives that we can take away from what otherwise was a bleak financial picture in 2008, we cannot afford to forget the harsh realities of the situation we are in. Achieving financial sustainability remains a priority for both the Management and Board of Trustees, and whilst the improvement in financial performance at the operating level is something that is to be welcomed, we need to be critically aware that way in which that was achieved, was in all probability unsustainable, in that it was underpinned by a substantial increase in legacy income. In 2008 our income from legacies was just over £2m compared with just £365k in 2007, and just over £1m in 2006. As I said in my report last year: "whilst we are eternally grateful for the generosity of our supporters, it is clear that we should not be reliant on legacies and the investment income that may arise from these. We need to build more regular and consistent revenue streams by making best use of the assets at our disposal". The events of 2008 have shown more than ever how important it is that we build sustainable and reliable income streams that are sufficient to fund our day to day operations. The Management and Staff of the Trust continue to work tirelessly to achieve this goal and I am confident that they will achieve success.

Looking ahead, 2009 will undoubtedly be a challenging year, with the global recession inevitably impacting on our ability to raise funds. Both corporate and household budgets will be under severe pressure, but we have the 50th anniversary celebrations to help offset those pressures and of course 'we hope - the value of our investments recover somewhat'.



Mark Oliver
Honorary Treasurer

	2008 £'000	2007 £'000
Where our funds come from		
Charitable activities: animal collection		
Visitor admissions	1,068	1,110
Membership of Durrell		
- Individual	509	553
- Corporate	52	49
Keeper for a day	3	1
Behind the scenes tours	5	-
Letting of non-investment property	108	75
Total Charitable activities: animal collection	1,745	1,788
Education		
Teaching	*33	*30
Dodo Club activities	13	16
Other	3	3
Total Education	49	49
Training		
Course income	140	53
Other	44	33
Total Training	184	86
Generated Funds		
Voluntary income		
Donations	1,248	1,204
Legacies	2,053	365
Animal adoptions	100	130
Other	176	310
Total Voluntary income	3,577	2,009
Activities for generating funds		
Retail turnover	427	431
Guidebook sales	14	7
Dodo Restaurant contribution	64	62
Total Activities for generating funds	505	500
Investment income	306	365
Pension finance net income	31	44
Total investment and pension income	337	409
Total incoming resources	6,397	4,841

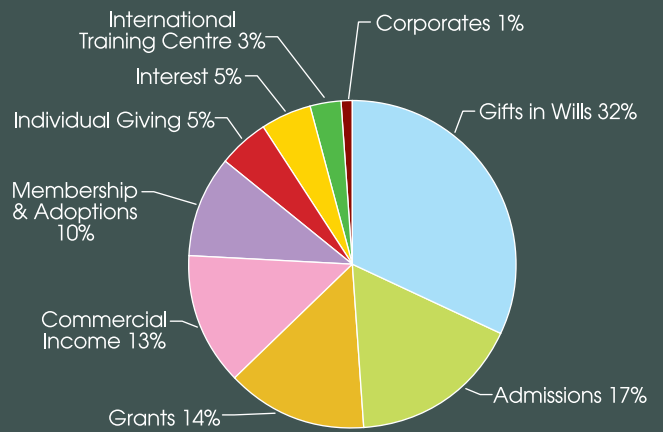
*Comprises a grant from the States of Jersey to support education as part of the national curriculum.

	2008 £'000	2007 £'000
Resources expended on charitable activities		
Animal collection	3,063	2,831
Training	376	360
Education	263	214
Conservation	1,335	1,130
Total resources expended on charitable activities	5,037	4,535
Costs of generating funds		
Costs of generating voluntary income	360	312
Retail cost of goods sold & other costs	381	377
Total cost of generating funds	741	689
Other resources expended		
Investment management costs	63	47
Governance costs	268	296
Depreciation	446	468
High Road feasibility study	45	790
Pension current service cost	2	4
Total other expended	824	1,605
Total resources expended	6,602	6,829
Other recognised gains and (losses)		
Gains & losses on investments:		
Unrealised	(1,661)	52
Realised	(330)	195
Profit on disposal of freehold property	470	-
Net actuarial (loss)/gain on defined benefit scheme	(278)	186
Total recognised gains and (losses)	(1,799)	433
Balance sheet as at 31 December 2008		
Assets		
Fixed assets	3,994	3,839
Investments	3,091	6,981
Net current assets	2,664	683
Creditors – due after one year	(11)	(16)
Pension (Liability) /asset	**(153)	**102
Total	9,585	11,589
Represented by:	£'000	£'000
Funds		
Permanent endowment funds	1,055	1,389
Restricted funds	2,016	1,853
Designated funds	5,725	5,770
General funds	789	2,577
Total	9,585	11,589

**A reassessment of the defined benefit pension scheme in 2008 shows a deficit of £153,000 (2007 shows a surplus of £102,000).

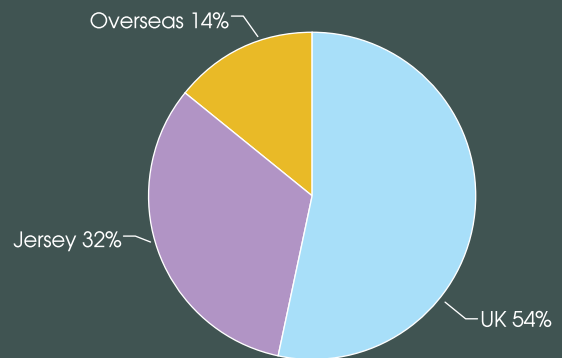
Sources of revenue

We raise our funds from a number of different sources, shown here. In 2008 nearly a third of our income was raised from gifts in wills. Admissions to the site in Jersey combined with grants, commercial income (such as the shop, café, guide books etc) and subscriptions for memberships and adoptions provided the Trust with over half of the remaining income in 2008. The remaining income was raised through donations, interest, fee-paying courses at the International Training Centre and corporate memberships and events.



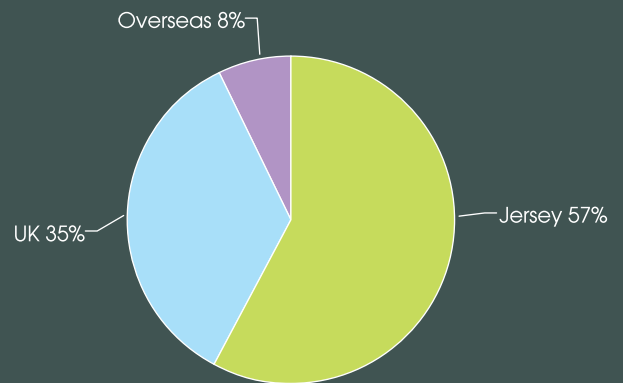
Income by area

More than half of our income was raised from support originating in the UK. This was primarily gifts in wills from UK estates (left to the UK charity and granted to Durrell in support of its mission) and membership subscriptions. Income originating in Jersey accounted for nearly a third of all income, with the remainder being raised from overseas supporters, as close as France and as far away as Australia and Japan.



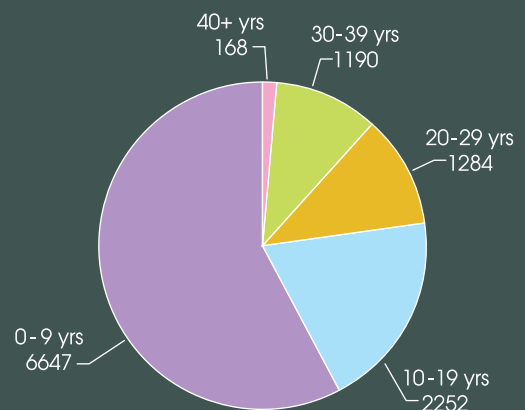
Current members by area

The majority of our members live in Jersey where our headquarters are based. Our members in the UK make up over a third of our total membership and the remaining members are as international as the work that we do - with members from Africa to the West Indies!



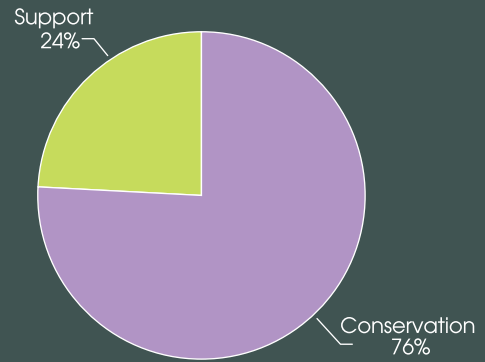
Current members by duration

Our members have been a keystone of support during the past 50 years. We are very proud to recognise those who have been such a vital part of our history, with 168 members supporting us for 40 or more of these years – only 2 staff members have been at Durrell that long!



Expenditure 2008

More than three quarters of our income was spent on our mission of saving species from extinction. This means that for every £1 donated, 76 pence goes directly to conservation.



Conservation & support expenditure

These two charts explain how every £1 is spent

46p Provides for and allows us to develop conservation skills with our animals in the collection at our headquarters

20p Goes towards protecting and conserving endangered species in our programmes around the world

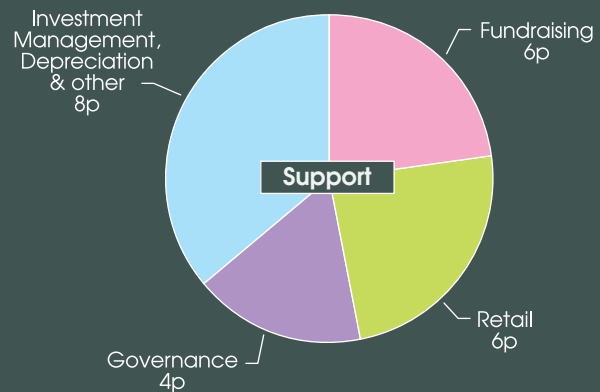
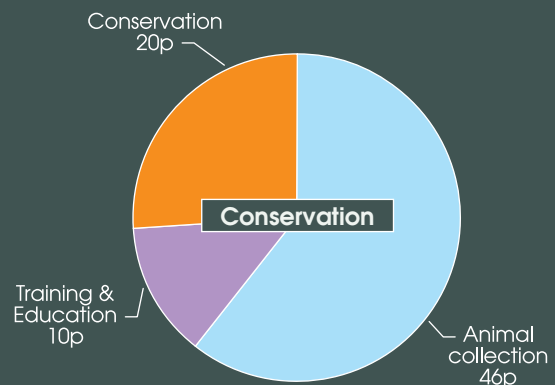
10p Delivers conservation training courses throughout the world and educates our visitors and supporters about our work

8p Supports the costs of managing our investments, the depreciation on our assets and other related expenditure

6p Supports the cost of retail activities that generate future income

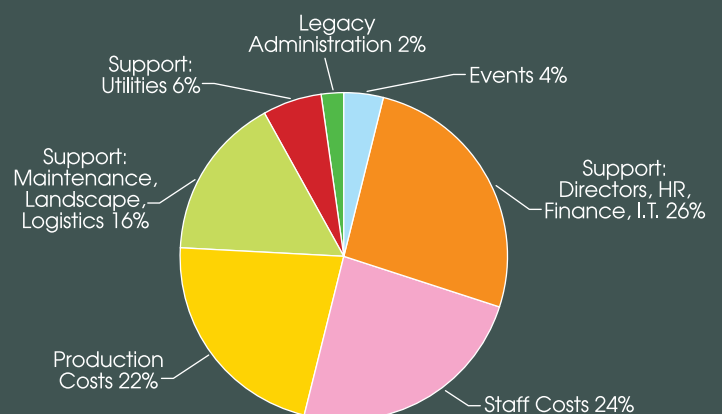
6p Helps us to raise funds from donations, legacies, and other voluntary income

4p Supports the governance of the charity



Fundraising expenditure

This chart shows a breakdown of our fundraising expenditure. The fundraising team of six people account for almost a quarter of the total fundraising costs. The direct support from the executive management team and the team who maintain our headquarters in Jersey for fundraising purposes (events, VIP tours etc) account for roughly half of the cost of fundraising. The remaining costs are split between production of fundraising materials (such as appeals, adoption packs etc), utilities, direct event costs and legacy administration.



Developments within the Conservation Programme

2008 has been another significant year for Durrell, which has not only seen us continue to deliver a cutting edge conservation programme, but also to strengthen our core team and our partnerships with other institutions. We have also increased the synergies between our overseas projects, our animal management staff and our training programmes, which will further enhance the delivery of conservation results on the ground.

The Madagascar programme has seen important changes this year that will strengthen its capacity and allow to develop further activities in what is Durrell's largest programme region. Richard Lewis has taken over as Director of the Programme. With 15 years experience in Durrell and Madagascar, Richard is able to bring his extensive knowledge and understanding of the region to bear on the future development of our activities there. We are also very pleased to announce the appointment of Lance Woolaver as the new Coordinator of the Madagascar Programme. Lance brings extensive field experience on a number of conservation projects and has just completed his PhD thesis on the Ridgeway's hawk – a highly endangered bird of prey from the Dominican Republic. The smooth management of the programme will also be supported by the appointment of Aina Ramamonjisoa as Head of Administration, who joins us from a Malagasy Foundation Tany Meva.

2008 also saw us grow our genetics capability at the Trust, with the full integration of Stephan Funk into our team, as well as fully equipping our genetics laboratory with the purchase of an automatic genetic sequencer. We now have the capabilities and capacity to meet the growing demand for DNA analyses. For example Stephan has analysed the population genetics of the blue iguana in the Cayman Islands, which will support the management and reintroduction of the species. Last, but by no means least, Glyn Young, formerly deputy head of the Bird Department, joined the conservation team to lead high profile bird conservation projects including the Madagascar pochard and the Floreana mockingbird.

Major Results from around the world

2008 has seen the number of projects Durrell operates increase in both number and scale. Here we highlight some of the major activities undertaken throughout the year.

At the start of the year, Glyn led a survey of the high plateau lakes of Madagascar in search of the elusive Madagascar pochard. This duck, which was rediscovered by The Peregrine Fund in 2006, is only known from a series of four small lakes and it breeds on only one. We wanted to know whether there were any other populations; otherwise the global population is only around 25 individuals! In an exhaustive search, Glyn found no evidence of any other pochards in the area, and so, with The Peregrine Fund and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, we have launched a major project to rescue this species.

Throughout the year, we have been working with partners on a project to support the Montserrat Department of Environment develop Species Action Plans (SAP) for key species including the mountain chicken. This year, the first product - the SAP for the mountain chicken - was published, providing an essential guide for future conservation efforts. The SAP focuses on containing the threat of chytrid fungus, a major risk to the survival of the species, and supporting further capacity building within the Department of Environment.

Montserrat mountain
chicken frog

Leptodactylus fallax

photographed by
Gregory Guida



May saw the first release of pygmy hogs back into the wild; a major achievement for the Trust and the culmination of many years of working with the species. Durrell has been involved with this animal since its re-discovery in 1971, and in 1996 established captive breeding facilities to produce hogs for release back into the wild. With the support of the UK's Darwin Initiative and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund we have reached our objective of establishing new populations in the wild. Alongside intensive training and awareness raising of local reserve wardens and communities, 16 hogs were freed into the Sonai Rupai Nature Reserve. Although challenging to track, we have evidence to indicate that the animals are thriving in their new habitat, and even one female has given birth to a number of young. 2009 will see additional releases and continued work to restore this important species.

In September, a team from Durrell and the Hispaniolan Ornithological Society (HOS) led a pilot study in the Dominican Republic to find the elusive solenodon, a large shrew-like mammal endemic to the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean. The team was assessing different survey methods for the solenodon and the Hispaniolan hutia in preparation for the development of a large project for the species. Proving their elusiveness, only one solenodon was seen and was one of the first solenodons to be successfully caught using traps. It gave Amy Hall, who led the Durrell team, the chance to view the animal at close quarters. Hopefully 2009 will see Durrell start a major new project for this species.

In Jersey, 2008 was also a very successful year for our agile frog conservation work and the 'FrAgile' campaign. Following the completion of the new bio-secure containers, we have been able to collect frog spawn from the wild to rear the offspring ready for release. This 'headstarting' process enhances the chances of offspring survival and, together with the States of Jersey Environment Division, we were able to release over 2,700 young frogs back into ponds around the island. The FrAgile campaign is a collaboration between Durrell, the States of Jersey, HSBC Private Bank, Bedell Group and Motormall to raise awareness among the island's school children about the frog, its habitat and its conservation. So far over 855 children from seven of the island's 31 primary schools have taken part.

We ended the year on a high note with the arrival at Durrell of 30 lesser night geckos and 10 Telfair's skinks from Mauritius. Collected by Nik Cole and our new CEO Paul Masterton, the geckos form the basis of a captive breeding programme and their progeny will be released on Ilot Vacaos later next year. This is a significant achievement to have such a targeted and strong collaboration between the Herpetology Department in Jersey and the endemic reptile project in Mauritius, and it is our first major captive breeding programme for some time.

In December, Stephan Funk visited Grand Cayman to participate in a workshop to revise the Species Recovery Plan for the blue iguana. Stephan presented his genetic analysis of the captive population, which contributes to captive breeding and reintroduction efforts. The Plan aims to restore a self-sustaining and free-roaming population of the iguanas. This long term restoration project led by Fred Burton has saved the iguana from extinction and increased the population from around 25 to a current wild population of over 240. With Durrell as a long-term partner, the Blue Iguana Recovery Programme is in the process of securing a second protected area for free-ranging iguanas, which, if successful, will prove a major step forward to meeting the Plan's objective.

We continue to expand and develop our relationships with academic institutions, either through the International Training Centre or through partnerships for specific research projects. Through the UK's CASE programme, students can follow applied PhD courses through partnerships between academic institutions and conservation practitioners. Durrell is currently involved in two studentships, one to study the socio-economic structure of the Alaotra wetlands in Madagascar and the second to continue the work with the pink pigeon in Mauritius. Three Master's students from the course led by Imperial, Durrell, ZSL and Royal Botanic Gardens Kew have completed projects with Durrell. These studies will be published and their findings will inform our work on the ground.

Telfair's skink

Leiopisma telfairii

photographed by
Gregory Guida



Support to conservation

One of Durrell's major strengths is the close link between the staff managing the animal collections in Jersey and conservation efforts around the world. 2008 has allowed us to develop this close link even further.

In January, Hester Whitehead from the Bird Department was in St. Lucia supporting pilot studies to develop new survey methods for the endemic St. Lucia amazon parrot in preparation for a major survey effort in 2009.

Durrell's unique success with the small and sensitive pied tamarin, built up over the past 15 years, is now having positive effects around the world. Our animal husbandry techniques have solved issues of breeding and health, enabling us to kick-start the American captive population of this very threatened species. With eleven tamarins from Jersey headed off to the USA we look forward to hearing news of their progress.

Wild pied tamarins, which live only around the burgeoning city of Manaus in the heart of the Brazilian Amazon, are under immense pressure as the city expands rapidly. This year Durrell has continued its efforts to coordinate support from European institutions to assist field work in Brazil as conservationists there try to rescue and relocate pied tamarins from tiny fragments of forest within the city's boundaries.

Durrell has also continued to support the conservation of the related white-footed tamarin, endemic to central Colombia. Dominic Wormell, Durrell's deputy head of the Mammals Department, returned to the country to continue advising on husbandry skills and enclosure design for tamarins that are rescued from the pet trade. As a direct result of these annual workshops, the mortality of animals coming into the rescue centres has been reduced from 90% to 20% and nearly twenty pairs of white-footed tamarins are rearing infants.

In April, Will Masefield and Gale Glendewar, both from the Mammals Department, travelled to the Comoro islands which lie between Mozambique and Madagascar. Durrell has worked with partners in the Comoros for the past 15 years on the conservation of the Livingstone's fruitbat. Will and Gale undertook a strenuous field trip to visit the roost sites for the bats, collect samples for genetic analysis and work with Action Comores, our local partners, to develop a roost monitoring programme.

In the Caribbean, Matthias Goetz, deputy head of the Herpetology Department, started his PhD research on the Critically Endangered Little Cayman rock iguana in May with the second trip to the island. The results of this year's nesting survey and comparative radio tracking work will feed into a conservation strategy for this poorly understood species.

In June and July two members of the Bird Department, Gary Ward and Spencer Collins, travelled to the Seychelles to assist with a translocation of the Seychelles magpie robin. A total of 20 birds were moved from the islands of Fregate and Cousine to establish a new population on Dennis Island. The birds were breeding within months of being released. This is another important step in the recovery of this species which is now considered by IUCN as Endangered rather than Critically Endangered.

The 2008 Rumboll Award was won by Ben Tapley, from the Herpetology Department, who joined Andrés Acosta of Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Colombia on inventory expeditions to areas such as the Chingaza Natural Park situated North East of Bogotá and the Magdalena valley region. Ben was also able to spend time in Andrés' lab studying different species collected from the region and learning new techniques.

pied tamarin

Saguinus bicolor

photographed by
Gregory Guida



Developments around the site

As part of Durrell's commitment to the conservation of Jersey's biodiversity, work continued during 2008 to propagate various plant species for the States of Jersey Environment Division. Jersey pink, Jersey fern, Jersey forget-me-not, common toadflax, wild strawberry and pale flax have all successfully been raised from seed, spore or cutting.

In February, a first batch of 18 Jersey pinks, all propagated at Durrell, was handed over to the Environment Division for reintroduction into the wild, where only a single plant exists in the entire British Isles. The Environment Division is monitoring these reintroduced plants and, if successful, a further reintroduction will be carried out. Work is ongoing to trial a number of propagation techniques, and also techniques for recolonising suitable habitats.

As part of its breeding programme for 2008, the Bird Department has been working with some common species that may act as models for the extremely rare birds we work with around the world. For example tropical mockingbirds, a model for the Critically Endangered (IUCN 2009) Floreana mockingbird, were reared for the first time. Similarly a brood of ferruginous duck was artificially reared, replicating the methods that might be required to help save the closely related, Critically Endangered, Madagascar pochard, which is a focal conservation species for Durrell.

Modified shipping containers as bio-secure units for frogs

2008 was The Year of The Frog, and Durrell continued to demonstrate its commitment to amphibian conservation by establishing two bio-secure units at the headquarters on Jersey specifically for use in amphibian conservation programmes. These units, which are modified shipping containers, were pioneered in Australia, and we have built on the basic blueprint to improve bio-security and functionality. They are designed to prevent the transfer of pathogens both in and out, which is critically important in ex-situ conservation programmes; you do not want to transfer any pathogens from other species in the collection or from the outside environment to animals which are being bred for release back into the wild, nor do you want to transmit any pathogens from your wild-caught animals to the other species in the collection or to the outside environment. The first of the two units at Durrell contains 28 160 litre aquaria, and is being used to head-start locally threatened agile frog (*Rana dalmatina*) tadpoles, in conjunction with (and supported by) the States of Jersey. The second unit is currently being used to gain experience breeding and rearing various tropical frog species in a bio-secure facility. This unit was designed to be flexible in terms of the species that can be housed in it in order to maximise its usefulness, and greatly enhances our capacity to respond quickly to amphibian crises that will require an ex-situ conservation component.

2008 was also spent planning the future look of the Trust's site in Jersey. As you will see elsewhere in the report, a lot of work has gone into the development of a series of new exhibits. The one closest to the conservation work of the Trust is the redevelopment of the Walled Garden into an exhibit themed on the forest of the Menabe region of western Madagascar. Menabe is a unique area of tropical deciduous dry forest with a number of species that are not only endemic to Madagascar but to Menabe as well. This will be Durrell's first dedicated Madagascar exhibit for one of our longest overseas programmes. Visitors will be able to enjoy an immersion experience with our familiar Madagascan species such as the giant jumping rats and ring-tailed lemurs, as well as new species such as red fronted brown lemurs, forest ibis and Madagascar fodies.



Aldabran giant tortoise
Geochelone gigantea

photographed by
Gregory Guida

International Training Centre

2008 was a year of innovation and change for the ITC. One of the most exciting developments on the year was the launch of the Amphibian Conservation Husbandry (ACH) course. Twenty-one amphibian zoo professionals came from 11 European countries to take part. On their return they were encouraged to replicate this model and lead their own training courses. As a result 11 new training workshops were run by ACH participants after the course, disseminating the knowledge and skills gained to zoo professionals throughout the region.

In February we took our overseas training programme to a new location, the island of Guam in the northwest Pacific Ocean. This was the second phase of a three year programme for the Island Species-Led Action course (ISLA), and importantly this year, ISLA was able to support a small grant for its participants to put into action what they learnt. The successful proposal involved conducting a survey for the Pohnpei mountain starling; a species believed by some authorities to already be extinct.

In 2008 we also redesigned and launched the ITC's longest running course, the Summer School. The course was relaunched as the Endangered Species Recovery (ESR) course. This year we have been able to increase participation by 22% to the maximum capacity of Les Noyers. During the course we were able to continue our successful relationship with the Jersey Business School, which runs the week-long management training and we were also able to relaunch the Facilitators course with a new international partner, Dr. Susie Ellis, Executive Director of the International Rhino Foundation.

In total more than 200 participants from over 40 countries attended the ITC course programme in 2008. This included approximately 130 Further Education and Higher Education students from UK universities and colleges, including our first training course for the new Imperial College Master's programme launched in collaboration with Durrell in September 2007. ITC has also increased the number of student placements. A total of 67 students spent 2500 staff days with the animal departments during the year. Not only is this a valuable form of education for the students, but it has also become a source of income for ITC.

2008 also saw the promotion of Jamie Copsey as the new Head of the ITC. Our thanks go to Chris Clark who has moved to a key role in the Fundraising Department. Dr. Jill Key has joined the ITC team as the Training and Network Development Manager. Jill's background is as an invasive species ecologist and she has over 25 years experience in this field, having worked in Kenya, Tanzania, Mexico, Bolivia, Ecuador (Galápagos Islands), St Helena (South Atlantic Islands), the UK and the Pacific Islands as trainer, researcher, strategic planner and network coordinator.

Looking forward

As 2008 saw a major expansion in the breadth and range of our conservation activities both on the site and around the world, we have also been preparing for 2009. With the 50th anniversary, next year is very important for Durrell, and it allows us a moment to reflect on the development of our conservation activities over the years, the species and habitats we have worked with and changes we have been able to make. We will start 2009 with a bang, leading a major survey for the St. Lucia amazon parrot, which will see a team of 30 volunteers spend six weeks in the rain forests counting parrots and other endemic species. Durrell has never mobilised such a large team before and we approach this with trepidation.

We will also continue to develop two major conservation projects for the Madagascar pochard and the Floreana mockingbird. With the pochard we hope to cement our partnership with The Peregrine Fund and Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and initiate activities on the ground. The first step will involve a comprehensive site visit to lay the ground work for a captive breeding facility that will act as the basis for restoration efforts.

Next year, Durrell shares its anniversary with the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth. This is fortuitous timing for our efforts to restore the Floreana mockingbird of the Galápagos archipelago, a little-known bird that can be credited with acting as the inspiration for Darwin's first thoughts for a theory of natural selection. Unfortunately soon after Darwin saw the bird in 1835, it started declining rapidly and now it is isolated to two small islets. Together with our partners in the Galápagos, we aim to start efforts to restore this species during next year.



ISLA Course (Mauritius)
photographed by
Gregory Guida

Structure of the Trust

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United Kingdom Trust

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust – UK
Registered Charity Number 1121989

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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 2008. 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.

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Here are some of the ways in which you can help Durrell in its mission to save species from extinction:

- Become a member or give the gift of membership (from as little as £2 a month)
- Adopt one of 12 animals ranging in size from 'Bluey' our blue poison dart frog to our silverback gorilla, Ya Kwanza (from just £3 a month)
- Turn your hand to fundraising! Organising an event in aid of Durrell is fun and your imagination is the only limitation!
- Donate online at www.durrell.org/donate. Every penny given to Durrell is worth many times that in its impact on worldwide conservation
- Help us to continue to build on the magnificent legacy that Gerald Durrell left the world. A gift in your will, whatever the value, will help us to continue to save species from extinction

Thank you!

To find out more please contact Natalie Ranise on natalie.ranise@durrell.org or on +44 (0) 1534 860013

Corporate Social Responsibility Seminar

17th June
Princess Royal Pavilion, Durrell

My Family and Other Stories

25th - 27th June
Durrell

Car Boot Sale

27th June
Durrell

Launch of the Durrell Rose UK

7th - 12th July
Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

Launch of the Durrell Rose Jersey

7th July
Durrell

Golf Tournament

10th July
Royal Jersey Golf Club

The Durrell Day - 50th Anniversary

12th July
Durrell

Diva Opera

13th - 16th July
Domaines Des Vaux Jersey

Kate Denton Exhibition

16th - 25th July
Princess Royal Pavilion, Durrell

Giant Jumping Rat Marathon

19th July
Menabe, Madagascar

Durrell AGM

23rd July
Princess Royal Pavilion, Durrell

Activity Week - Dodo Members

27th - 30th July
Princess Royal Pavilion, Durrell

Oddsocks, Richard III

3rd - 8th & 10th - 12th August
Durrell

Science Summer School

11th-13th August
Princess Royal Pavilion, Durrell

Teddy Bears Picnic

23rd August
Durrell

Festival Angonoka

5th September
Baly Bay, Madagascar

Durrell Lecture

17th September
Royal Geographical Society, London

Durrell Dash

18th October
Durrell

Activity Week - Dodo Members

26th - 30th October
Princess Royal Pavilion, Durrell

Celebrate Halloween with Durrell's Pumpkin Olympics

1st November
Durrell

The Durrell Concert

7th November
Fort Regent, Jersey

Buckingham Palace Drinks Reception

12th November or 3rd December (tbc)
Buckingham Palace

Durrell's 50th Anniversary Christmas Shopping Weekends

21st & 22nd November
Durrell

Durrell's 50th Anniversary Christmas Shopping Weekends

28th & 29th November
Durrell

All of the above are subject to change.

To find out more about events, either visit our website at www.durrell.org or contact Beth Laybourne on beth.laybourne@durrell.org or on +44 (0) 1534 860035

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
Les Augrès Manor, La Profonde Rue,
Trinity, Jersey JE3 5BP
Channel Islands

Tel: +44 (0)1534 860000
Fax: +44 (0)1534 860001
info@durrell.org
www.durrell.org

Cover Photography

yellow poison dart frog

Phyllobates terribilis
by Gregory Guida

Designed by
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