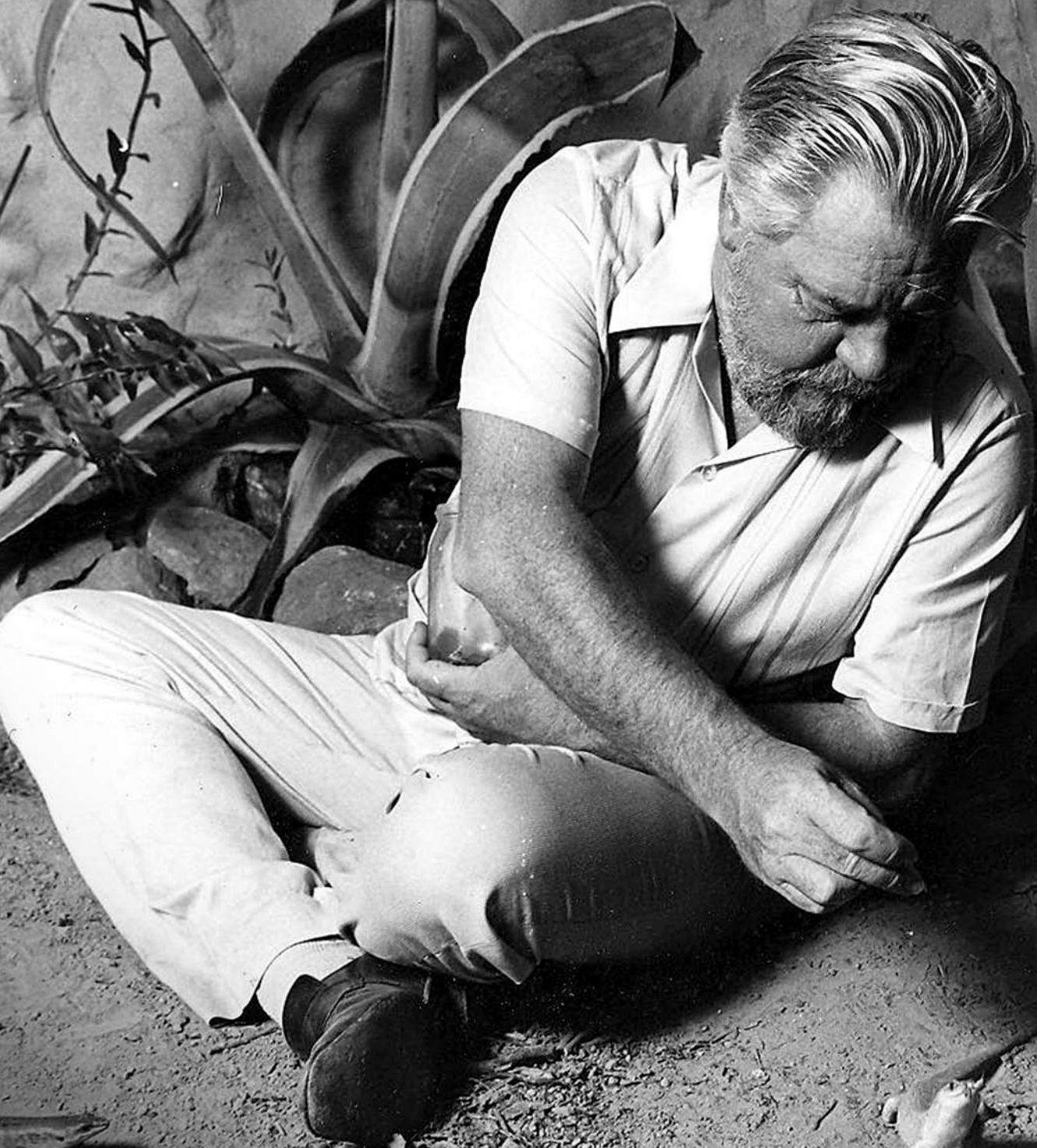


# Annual Report 2009

50th anniversary issue

!t's  
time



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

# Chief Executive's report

Our 50th anniversary in 2009 provided a unique opportunity to look back and celebrate.

Fifty years of many conservation successes, fifty years of fulfilling Gerald Durrell's pioneering philosophy and fifty years of commitment from the most passionate and committed staff, friends and supporters that we, as a charity, could wish for.

Durrell's rich history demonstrates the vital importance of our practical, hands-on conservation approach, our willingness to take on the seemingly impossible and our determination to succeed. This incredibly special and unique 'Durrell spirit' is epitomised by the recovery of species on the brink of extinction and this year we can add the St Lucia parrot to our 'leader board' of successes – once numbering fewer than 100 birds, a survey by Durrell experts and volunteers will show a healthy and, we believe, sustainable, population. While still 'vulnerable', the improvement from being critically endangered shows how a species can benefit from the 'Durrell treatment'.

## ❶ Red river hog

*Potamochoerus porcus pictus*



In 2009 our Durrell spirit was thoroughly tested; we set ourselves a challenging agenda of anniversary events; we embarked on an ambitious 'refresh' plan of site developments, to reinvigorate our wildlife park as a tourist attraction; and we commenced important new conservation programmes, battling the impacts of volcanic eruptions, civil unrest and bandits. In this report you will read of the progress of our conservation programmes, but I would highlight two new projects that characterise the essence of Durrell.

Early in the year, mountain chicken frogs in Montserrat were attacked by the deadly chytrid fungus. This special but much beset animal - hunted by humans for food, attacked by exotic species and losing its habitat through volcanic eruption - is now facing its greatest threat, declining from a thriving population to likely extinction in less than two years due to chytrid. Alerted by the Montserrat government, a Durrell team immediately left for the island, responding with a plan to collect a chytrid-free group of frogs to start an ex-situ or 'safety net' breeding population in Jersey. Additionally the team began field testing a disinfecting treatment, to see if resistance to the fungus could be built in the remaining frogs.

The breeding programme is proving successful, with Durrell also helping our project partners – London Zoo and Parken Zoo in Sweden - establish additional breeding groups. Eventually, sufficient animals will be available for reintroduction to Montserrat, given we can find a chytrid-free location or that our field trials prove successful.

Once thought extinct, a small group of Madagascan pochards, perhaps only 20 adults, was discovered at a remote lake in the island and brought Durrell swiftly into action. A team was sent to Madagascar to begin an in-situ breeding programme and the long term recovery of this, the world's rarest duck. Battling through washed out roads just to reach the site, the team was further troubled by local bandits as the project was commencing. Amending our plans, ducklings, which will form the breeding group, were temporarily moved to Ampijora, an existing Durrell project several hours drive away.

These two examples typify our approach to conservation – rapid response, a readiness to take on the toughest of challenges, often with less than charismatic species (with apologies to both mountain chickens and pochards!) and to commit to long term solutions.

Complementing our conservation work, the International Training Centre made great strides in the year, running 18 courses, including the launch of two new programmes – 'Invasive Species Management' and 'Conservation and Care of Callitrichids and Lemurs'. More than 300 students trained with the ITC in 2009. Our aim through the ITC is to build conservation 'capacity' and, in addition to the programmes, Durrell provides post-course support through the Durrell Conservation Learning Network. A new development in 2009 saw the ITC provide seed funding for small conservation projects submitted by ITC graduates, with nine awards made in the year.

At our wildlife park in Jersey, 2009 saw three major new attractions – Discovery Desert for our ever popular meerkats, Hogs of the Bai for red river hogs, a new species to Durrell, and Kirindy Forest, which showcases our work in Madagascar. This investment in Durrell as a visitor attraction underscores the need for a greater commercial focus for the Trust and to work harder at attracting more visitors. For the first time in many years visitor numbers increased, up 4.5% over 2008, benefitting from our anniversary but also from these new attractions. This increase was especially encouraging given a further fall in tourism to Jersey.

Our anniversary celebrations proved hugely successful with high profile and enjoyable events, including a dinner with Sir David Attenborough, the spectacular Firefly Ball with our Patron HRH The Princess Royal, Durrell Day when 14,000 visitors came to the park, the hugely enjoyable Durrell Concert with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and special guest Martin Clunes and, finally, a Christmas reception at Buckingham Palace, again with our Patron. It is impossible in this report to thank individually the many people and sponsors who made these events so successful, so collectively and on behalf of Durrell, a heartfelt "thank you" to all involved. I would like to make special mention of our

Chefs des Gardiens, Jenny White and Gloria Warner, for masterminding the Firefly Ball and of Derek Lawrence, our 'maestro' for the Durrell Concert.

Underlying these many positive developments and successes was the growing financial concern for the Trust during the year, as the economic recession deepened and impacted many of our sources of income. In our financial report you will read that, at an operating level, the Trust is reporting an operating deficit. While our final position shows a more healthy position due to gains on investment portfolio (which compares to the large portfolio losses reported last year), it is the operating deficit that is of significant concern. For seven of the past eight years the Trust has covered these deficits from our reserves. This is not sustainable for us and looking to the future, it is clear that our biggest challenge will be to address our financial condition. The year-end deficit and the projection for 2010 have already led to a close examination of our costs and the need to take immediate and difficult steps to improve the situation.

Even so the Trust still faces an operating deficit for the year, which will need to be covered from reserves. While we are carefully controlling our costs, the long term solution must be to increase our income (and also reduce our over reliance on legacies) through a more commercial approach to running Durrell, including developing new income streams. While the challenge will be great, we do have the resources and the resolve to ensure that the Trust survives and prospers.

The work of Durrell requires long-term commitments to conservation, and it is only through this that our work can succeed. We are able to make this commitment because of the passionate and enduring support of those who care for Durrell. For all that you – our friends and supporters – have already given, thank you. For all that you may yet do for us, we thank you once again.

My gratitude also goes to the many people that commit everyday to ensure that our mission to save species from extinction continues; to our staff, in Jersey and overseas, to our volunteers and to our partner organisations.



**Paul Masterton**  
Chief Executive

# Chairman's report

Reflecting on 2009, the year can be viewed as incredibly challenging, perhaps uniquely so, for all that the Trust achieved in our 50th anniversary year.

In addition to our continuing conservation commitments, 2009 saw an impressive and intensive events calendar and an equally ambitious schedule of site developments. While our staffs, volunteers and supporters, were stretched to the limit that so much was so successfully achieved is a terrific testament to the spirit and commitment of all involved. Personally and on behalf of the Board I salute and thank all those who contributed so much to our 50th.

Overshadowing the successes of last year was the continued economic downturn and how this heavily impacted many areas of income for Durrell. Despite intense cost control and the benefits of our anniversary year, the year-end left us facing a significant operating deficit, and the looming need to take difficult decisions to reduce our running costs. The outlook for 2010 is equally daunting financially and will cause us to re-evaluate how the Trust can move towards financial sustainability. Led by our Chief Executive, this strategic work is underway and no doubt will require Durrell to become more commercial in its outlook, while remaining true to our conservation mission and to Gerald Durrell's founding philosophy.

While our financial troubles are acute, I am proud to report that Durrell's conservation work continues to have a profound effect. You will read in this report of the successes of our conservation programmes, overseas and here in Jersey, and of the increasing impact and reach of our International Training Centre. In so many ways our staff, with its enormous expertise and reputation, continue to fulfil Durrell's legacy and to strive for wildlife conservation.

May I take this opportunity to thank the members of the Board for their unstinting efforts and also thank our Chief Executive Paul Masterton and his executive team for their leadership during these challenging times.

Durrell's continuing success is completely dependent on the staunch support and commitment of many people. With this in mind my sincere thanks to all who ensure that our mission "to save species from extinction" continues; our staff in Jersey and overseas; our volunteers; our members, supporters and partners worldwide.



**Jonathan White**  
Chairman



① **Yellow mongoose**  
*Cynictis penicillata*

# 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

Mr Robin Rumboll, FCA (resigned May 2009, position currently vacant)

## Honorary Fellows

Sir David Attenborough, CBE, FRS

Mr Martin Bralsford (awarded July 2009)

Mr John Cleese

Mrs Murray S Danforth, Jr

Mr Reginald R Jeune, CBE

Dr Alison Jolly, BA, PhD

Mrs Tricia Kreitman (awarded July 2009)

Dr Thomas E Lovejoy, BS, PhD

Dr Jeremy JC Mallinson,

OBE, DSc, CBiol, FIBiol

Professor Robert D Martin,

BA, DPhil, DSc, CBiol, FIBiol

Mrs Margaret K Rockefeller

(deceased 2009)

Mr Robin Rumboll (awarded July 2009)

General Sir Peter Whitely, GCB, OBE

Mr Edward J Whitley

## Chairman of Board of Trustees

Advocate Jonathan G White  
(co-opted 2009)

## Vice Chairman

Mr Christopher Collins, BA, M.CAM

## Board of Trustees

Prof Michael Bruford (elected July 2009)

Ms Katie Gordon, BSc (Hons)

Mr John Henwood, MBE

Mr Ian Kerr, BA, CDip AF  
(elected February 2009)

Ms Tricia Kreitman BSc (Hons)

(elected July 2009)

Mr David Mace, BSc

Dr Eleanor Jane Milner-Gulland

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

Mr John Miskelly, FCA

Mr Tim Ringsdore (elected July 2009)

## Honorary Secretary

Mr Derek Maltwood

(rotated off July 2009)

Mr Tim Ringsdore (elected July 2009)

## Honorary Treasurer

Mr Mark A Oliver,

BSc (Hons), FCCA, MCMI

## Chief Executive

Mr Paul Masterton

## United Kingdom Trust

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust – UK  
Registered UK Charity Number 1121989

## Chairman of Board of Trustees

Mr David Richards

## Board of Trustees

Mr Christopher Collins, BA, M.CAM

(elected 2009)

Mrs Tricia Kreitman, BSc (Hons)

Mr Derek Maltwood

(rotated off July 2009)

Dr Eleanor Jane Milner-Gulland,

BA (Hons), PhD

Mr Tim Ringsdore as Honorary Secretary

(elected July 2009) BA (Hons), PhD

Mr Derek R Maltwood

as Honorary Secretary

## Conservation Partners

A E Surcouf & Sons Ltd

Appleby

Araqiva Satellite Media Solutions

Bedell Group

Fairbairn Private Bank

Geomarine Limited

HSBC Private Bank (CI) Limited

Jersey Electricity Company

Jersey Telecom

Lombard Odier (Jersey) Limited

Polar Cars Ltd

Royal Bank of Scotland International

Sun4u Ltd

UBS AG

Virtustream, Inc.

## Corporate Members

ABN-Amro Bank

AIB Jersey

Ashburton (Jersey) Limited

Aztec Group

Baker Homyard

Bank of India

Blackrock (Channel Islands) Ltd

BWCI Foundation

Citiigroup

Corefocus Consultancy Ltd

Deutsche Bank International Limited

EFG Offshore Limited

Ernst & Young

Foreshore Ltd

Granite Products (CI) Limited

HSBC Bank

Innovate Ltd

Investec Trust (Jersey) Ltd

Jersey Trust Company

JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A.

Kedge Capital Fund Management Ltd

## Corporate members

Kleinwort Benson (C. I.) Limited

KPMG Channel Islands Limited

Moore Stephens

NatWest

Net Ltd

Ogier

Project Systems Support

Royal Bank of Canada (Channel Islands) Ltd

Schroders (CI) Ltd

Sefta Trust Company Limited

Seymours Limited

St Brelades Bay Hotel

Standard Bank Jersey Limited

Standard Chartered (Jersey) Limited

The Channel Islands Co-operative Society

The Futures Company

The Guifon Group

Troys Estate Agency Ltd

Venner International Services (Jersey) Ltd

## Thanks to donors

We are very grateful to all of the organisations and individuals who have supported Durrell with their donations, sponsorship, gifts in kind, time and advice during 2009. There are too many of them to mention them all individually, but 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. Thank you all.

# Honorary Treasurer's report

My concluding remarks in the 2008 Honorary Treasurer's Report were: "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'."

And that, I'm afraid, was pretty much what happened in 2009, a year that arguably saw the worst global recession since the 1930's.

On face value, our financial results for 2009 were better than those for the previous year with reserves depleted by just over £1m, compared with a slightly more than £2m in 2008. However, almost the entirety of the £2m deficit in 2008 was due to a fall of £1.99m in the value of our investments due to the dramatic decline in global financial markets in the second half of the year. By contrast, and as we had hoped, our investments grew in value by £390k in 2009 on the back of recovering financial markets. Therefore, excluding gains and losses on our investment portfolio, we saw a near breakeven in 2008 move to a deficit of £1.44m in 2009.

There were two principal reasons for this reverse in our financial position.

Firstly, The Trust's obligations in respect of the defined benefit pension scheme have increased, according to the latest FRS 17 review, by some £530k. It is important to note that there are a number of factors impacting the pension position which are outside the control of the Trust, including increasing longevity of members and falling bond rates. A full actuarial valuation of the Scheme is planned for 2010.

Secondly, we saw a decline in legacy income of just under £1.1m. As I have said before: "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 uncertain nature of this form of income is clearly seen in our financial position for 2009 and we need to continue to build sustainable and reliable income streams that are sufficient to fund our day to day operations.

It is in the area of sustainable and reliable income streams that I believe we have seen some notable successes in 2009. Admission income for the year grew by £89k (8%) at a time when staying leisure visitors to Jersey declined by 3.8%. It is perhaps worth noting that since 1992 visitor numbers to Jersey have declined by 227,000 (39%), which really does highlight the difficulties we have faced over the years. 2009 also an increase in membership income of £35k (6%). These increases in income were almost certainly due to the ambitious 'refresh' plan of site developments, aimed at reinvigorating our wildlife park as a visitor attraction. We need to continue to introduce new developments such as Discovery Desert, Hogs of the Bai, and Kirindy Forest. Such investment in Durrell will help attract more visitors and drive revenues in a more sustainable way.

Whilst new and sustainable revenue streams are important, at the same time we need to be very focused on controlling our costs without impacting on our mission, and this has led to some very painful decisions in recent times. At the same time there have been some imaginative and innovative cost savings initiatives that have provided significant savings with no downside effects.

After two three year terms as Honorary Treasurer, this is my final report. I had hoped to conclude on a positive note, but the global economy has somewhat conspired against that. However, much has been achieved in the last six years although much more is left to achieve, but I have every confidence that the management and staff of Durrell will deliver a sustainable future, not only for the Trust but for as many endangered species as possible. It has been an honour and a privilege to have been involved with Durrell for these last six years and I remain in awe of the amazing things that Durrell does and the amazing people that are Durrell.



**Mark Oliver**  
Honorary Treasurer

**"I have every confidence that the management and staff of Durrell will deliver a sustainable future, not only for the Trust but for as many endangered species as possible"**

	2009 £'000	2008 £'000
<b>Where our funds come from</b>		
<b>Charitable activities animal collection</b>		
Visitor admissions	1,157	1,068
Membership of Durrell		
- Individual	543	509
- Corporate	53	52
Keeper for a day	3	3
Behind the scenes tours	2	5
Letting of non-investment property	132	108
<b>Charitable activities animal collection total</b>	<b>1,890</b>	<b>1,745</b>
<b>Education</b>		
Teaching	*33	*33
Dodo Club activities	7	13
Other	5	3
<b>Education total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Training</b>		
Course income	74	140
Other	60	44
<b>Training total</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>184</b>
<b>Generated funds</b>		
<b>Voluntary income</b>		
Donations	1,656	1,248
Donations in kind	41	-
Legacies	961	2,053
Animal adoptions	82	100
Other	603	176
<b>Total voluntary income</b>	<b>3,343</b>	<b>3,577</b>
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>		
Retail turnover	396	427
Guidebook sales	-	14
Dodo restaurant contribution	70	64
<b>Activities for generating funds total</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>505</b>
<b>Investment income</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>306</b>
<b>Pension finance net income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Total investment and pension Income</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>337</b>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>5,984</b>	<b>6,397</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 2009 shows a deficit of £683,000 (2008 shows a deficit of £153,000).

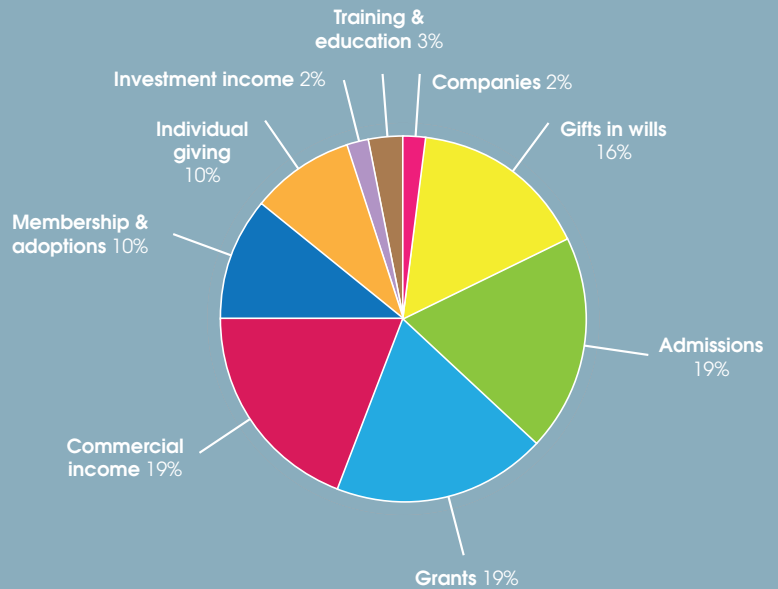
	2009 £'000	2008 £'000
<b>Resources expended on charitable activities</b>		
Animal collection	3,881	3,697
Training	490	376
Education	220	263
Conservation science	1,295	1,335
<b>Total for resources expended on charitable activities</b>	<b>5,886</b>	<b>5,671</b>
<b>Costs of generating funds</b>		
Costs of generating voluntary income	483	360
Retail cost of goods sold & other costs	373	381
<b>Total cost of generating funds</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>741</b>
<b>Other resources expended</b>		
Investment management costs	68	63
Governance costs	88	125
Pension current service cost	-	2
Pension net interest charge	21	-
<b>Total other expended</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>190</b>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>6,919</b>	<b>6,602</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and (losses)</b>		
<b>Gains &amp; losses on investments:</b>		
Unrealised	633	(1,661)
Realised	(243)	(330)
<b>Profit on disposal of freehold property</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>470</b>
<b>Profit on disposal of fixed assets</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>
Net actuarial loss on Defined Benefit pension scheme	(509)	(278)
<b>Total recognised (losses)</b>	<b>(117)</b>	<b>(1,799)</b>
<b>Balance sheet as at 31 December</b>		
<b>Assets</b>		
Fixed assets	4,146	3,994
Investments	4,694	3,091
Net current assets	388	2,664
Creditors – due after one year	(12)	(11)
Pension Liability	**(683)	**(153)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£8,533</b>	<b>£9,585</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Funds</b>		
Permanent endowment funds	1,245	1,055
Restricted funds	2,697	2,016
Designated funds	3,802	5,725
General funds	789	789
<b>Total</b>	<b>£8,533</b>	<b>£9,585</b>

# Fundraising income and expenditure

## Sources of revenue

Our income in 2009 mostly came from five fairly equal sources. Admissions to the wildlife park in Jersey, Charitable Trusts & Grants (mostly towards our International Conservation Projects), Commercial Revenue (including retail income), and income from the public (donations, memberships and adoptions) each provided a little under one fifth of our revenue.

Legacies, whilst still a significant income source, had dropped to 16% of our income, down from 32% last year. This shows how difficult it is to predict legacy income but also how important gifts in wills are to the Trust. The final 7% of our income came from investment income, training & education and corporate support.

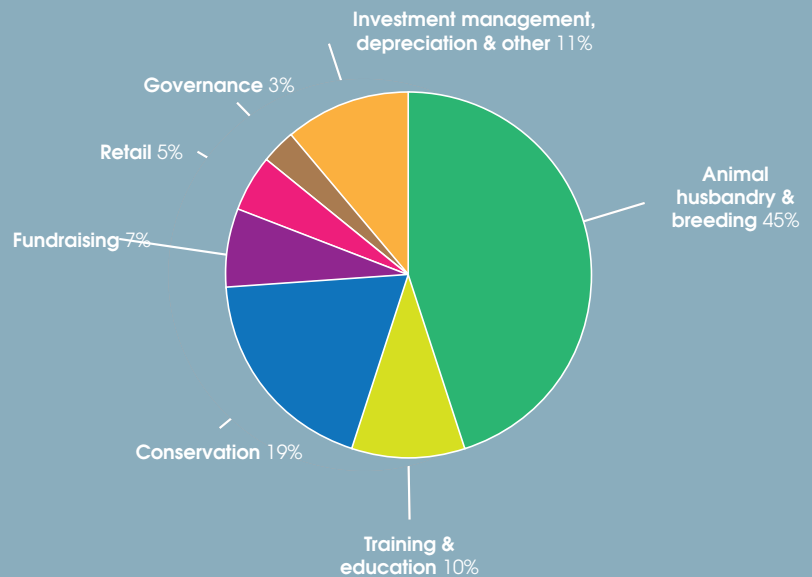


## Expenditure

Just under three quarters of our income (74%) was spent on direct conservation work.

Of every £1 we spent:

- **45p** was spent caring for, breeding and learning about the animals and endangered species in our care.
- **19p** paid for us to run over 45 projects for 36 threatened species in 14 countries
- **10p** helped deliver specialist conservation training courses to multiply the value of the work we do by exporting our knowledge to other countries, people and projects
- **11p** covered the costs of managing our investments, depreciation and other related expenditure
- **7p** was spent raising the funds needed to achieve all that we do
- **5p** paid for our retail activities to generate income for our work
- **3p** was spent on the governance of the charity





# 50 years and counting...

The three cornerstones of Durrell are our Jersey wildlife park, our field programmes and International Training Centre. Here we feature a few milestones from our history up until the present day...

## Wildlife park

## In the field

## Training programmes

1959

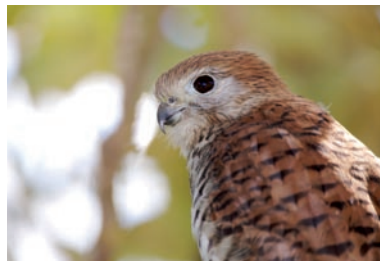


1959 Jersey Zoo opens and quickly becomes known around the world as a stationary ark, a safety net for endangered species.

1969



Mid 1970s Durrell begins to export knowledge about breeding rare animals.



1976 International conservation projects begin.



Gerald Durrell envisions a mini university.

1979



Significant breeding firsts include: aye-aye, Rodrigues fruit bat, Round Island boca, Madagascan flat-tailed tortoise, Alaotran gentle lemur.



1985 Madagascar projects start, focusing on the ploughshare tortoise.



1984 International Training Centre officially opens.

1989



The conservation programme is the vital link between staff at Jersey HQ and international field projects.



Species pulled back from the brink of extinction: the Assam pygmy hog, St Lucia whiptail lizard, Mallorcan midwife toad.



Durrell's Conservation Learning Network provides graduates with support back in their workplace.

1999



2009 Emergency evacuation of mountain chicken frogs to Jersey highlights the park's importance as a breeding and research centre.



2009 Durrell runs over 45 projects for 36 threatened species in 14 countries.



2009 Over 2,500 students trained from more than 128 countries.

2009



📍 **St Lucia parrot**  
*Amazona versicolor*

# In the field

**Durrell's 50th anniversary year has been a turbulent period for the Trust's Conservation Programme, with some fantastic achievements and some major challenges. Doing what Durrell does best, this year has shown how the whole organisation can work together to tackle conservation issues that arise with little warning.**

## Development within the conservation programme

At the same time we have had to respond to changing political and economic situations, which have impacted our staff and field programmes. When political turmoil hit our largest programme area of Madagascar, where we have a dedicated staff of over 30, we had to respond quickly to ensure their safety and then assess the potential impacts on our projects.

However, 2009 was also a year to celebrate. Not only was it our 50th anniversary, but we also celebrated the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth. Continuing the Darwin theme, in 2009 Durrell further developed its relationship with the UK Government's conservation fund that bears his name, the Darwin Initiative. We completed three projects and initiated another two; a continuation grant for the mangrove finch and a project to protect endemic mammals in the Dominican Republic. Given the competition to win these grants, we are extremely pleased to have secured this funding in 2009.

Overall in 2009, the Trust generated £700,000 of funding for conservation work in the field, which was spread over 45 projects in 14 countries. We also saw important reintroductions of ploughshare tortoises and re-re turtles in Madagascar, pygmy hogs in India and agile frogs in Jersey. We continued our translocation programme for Mauritius' endemic reptiles which was integrated with breeding efforts led by the Herpetological Department in Jersey.

We have also continued to work hard to communicate Durrell's approach and project successes. Our work was featured on the BBC series 'Last Chance To See' and was covered in a number of UK and international leading daily newspapers and magazines.

## Conservation results

### The recovery of the St Lucia amazon parrot

Our longest serving collaboration came to a culmination this year. Durrell first became involved with the St Lucian parrot in 1974, when the population was estimated to be down to 100 individuals and declining. Back then a captive population was established as the threat of extinction was very real. A long-term restoration programme coupled increased protection with education and awareness-raising and together these led to the recovery of the species. But due to the mountainous terrain and difficulty of working in St Lucia's dense rainforest, measuring the extent of the upturn proved extremely problematic.

In January 2009, we launched the largest and most challenging population survey we have ever undertaken to establish a reliable estimate of numbers of St Lucian parrots today. A team of 35 volunteers including 17 from the UK, Jersey and US worked alongside Forestry staff from St Lucia, Dominica and St. Vincent. The survey was a major success; not only did the whole process work without any major hitches, feedback from volunteers was very positive. Preliminary estimates show that the St Lucia parrot now numbers around 2000 individuals and is distributed over a much wider area of the island compared with the 1970s. This long-standing conservation effort is a remarkable success.

### **Saving the mountain chicken**

One of our greatest challenges happened early in the year when the fungal disease, chytridiomycosis, penetrated the Caribbean island of Montserrat. This is something that Durrell has feared for some time, given the known susceptibility of the mountain chicken frog to the disease. Within 10 days of dead frogs being discovered on the island we had a team on the ground supporting the Montserrat Department of Environment, first to limit access to the forest and contain the spread of the disease and second to look at options of rescuing frogs from the island.

In one of our largest conservation rescue missions, Gerardo Garcia, Head of the Herpetology Department, led a team in Montserrat to bring 50 frogs into captive conditions. The frogs were split between four institutions Durrell, Chester Zoo, London Zoo and Parken Zoo and are kept in bio-secure conditions. They form the basis of a breeding programme that will raise hopefully hundreds of mountain chickens for reintroduction to Montserrat at a suitable time and location.

Anti-fungal agents are known to be effective at treating chytrid in captive conditions, so together with Andrew Cunningham of the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), we developed a trial to see if they could be used in the field. The results of this study may have major ramifications for the future management of mountain chickens and similar species. During 2009, the captive breeding programme in Jersey has been very successful. Ten females formed nests producing a total of 96 offspring, which is a remarkable success considering the desperate state of the population in the wild. In 2010, field trips to assess potential reintroduction sites will be conducted as the breeding programme continues.

### **Restoring the Madagascar pochard**

2009 saw a major project for Durrell get underway to restore the Madagascar pochard. The project team, which includes the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), The Peregrine Fund and the Madagascar Government, visited the last remaining population of pochards in northern Madagascar in July. The wild birds numbered only around 20 and we discovered that they had not bred successfully in 2008. With support from local government, we developed a plan to collect eggs from nesting birds and initiate a breeding programme in Madagascar. However the challenge remained to locate nests, estimate hatching dates and transport fragile eggs or young along very poor roads.

Monitoring the ducks, Durrell Madagascar staff member Kassidi estimated egg laying dates perfectly and guided the team to the nests. Three clutches were collected and transferred to incubators in the forest surrounding the lake. Immediately after hatching, the first two clutches were transported to a temporary facility in a nearby town and the third clutch was transferred as eggs. All survived the arduous drive and 23 ducklings fledged. Unfortunately, major concerns about the security of project personnel meant that the team had to move the ducklings to Durrell's chelonian breeding facility in Ampijoroa in mid-December, where they continue to thrive. We will build a specially designed facility in 2010 in Madagascar to house the breeding programme. New field projects will also be started in 2010 to understand better the duck's ecology and possible options for the reintroduction of the captive-bred birds.

### **Restoring endemic reptiles in Mauritius**

Reptile work on the small islands off Mauritius continued to flourish in 2009. The three-year Darwin funded project drew to a close and gained an extremely positive evaluation from the Darwin Committee. Our project leader, Nik Cole, developed a collaborative project with the National Parks and Conservation Service of the Government of the Mauritius to further restore reptile populations and build capacity for their conservation.

As part of this a number of lesser night geckos and Telfair's skinks were brought to Jersey as part of a breeding programme to restock another island. This was seen as a safer option than translocating individuals. Our Herpetological team at Durrell have had to learn the best way to keep and breed these tiny geckos, only a few centimetres long, and are now having a great success. By the end of the year there were 28 juveniles hatched in Jersey, another 21 eggs in the incubator and 8 gravid females. Once we have enough numbers, approximately 100 individuals, they will go back to Mauritius to be introduced onto Ile Marianne.

⑥ Mountain chicken frog  
*Leptodactylus fallax*



⊕ Hispaniolan solenodon  
*Solenodon paradoxus*



### **New projects**

During 2009 Durrell continued its strong track record in securing grant funding for ongoing work and new projects. We are grateful to the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission (JOAC) for their continuing and essential support of our community outreach work in Madagascar. This focuses on tackling the main threats to the island's fragile biodiversity through programmes to enhance human wellbeing and development.

### **The last survivors**

In October, Durrell started a 3-year Darwin Initiative-funded project to gather evidence and build the skills and tools needed to plan and implement conservation actions for endemic mammals in the Dominican Republic. Called 'Los Ultimos Sobrevivientes' or the 'Last Survivors', because of the great decline in mammal diversity in the Caribbean since human colonisation, the project focuses on the Hispaniolan solenodon and Hispaniolan hutia. The hutia, a large arboreal rodent, and the solenodon, a big insectivorous shrew-like species, inhabit a range of forest types across the Dominican Republic and a small part of Haiti. Along with its Cuban sister species, the solenodon diverged from other mammals around 70 million years ago and therefore represents a huge amount of unique evolutionary history. Very little is known about the status and natural history of both species but they are likely in decline as forest continues to be degraded in throughout Hispaniola. José Nuñez-Miño, our project manager in the Dominican Republic, is building a team of Dominican biologists and managers capable of delivering the project in the long term and field surveys got underway towards the end of the year.

### **Protecting the fragile Comoro islands**

Durrell is supporting the Bristol Conservation and Science Foundation (BCSF) led project to develop community led initiatives to biodiversity conservation in the extremely fragile and threatened islands of the Comoros. We are supporting the development of NGO capacity in Anjouan and the biodiversity monitoring on each of the three main islands to feed into the identification areas for protection.

### **A year of challenges**

2009 has indeed been a challenging year. Our programmes have had to operate against the background of the global financial crisis and we have responded to both political conflicts and biological problems in the form of alien species. Both the green iguana in St Lucia and the fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, which causes chytridiomycosis, have been introduced by humans to areas beyond their natural range and their effects on native species are devastating. Invasive alien species are one of leading causes of biodiversity loss worldwide and continue to be a major focus of our work.

In Madagascar we are facing a global problem that is causing major impacts at local level. One of the results of the political instability in Madagascar over the past year has been a resurgence in the illegal harvesting of natural resources for international trade, whether this be hardwoods, lemurs or highly sought after tortoises. For us this has meant an increase in the poaching of wild ploughshare tortoises and most worryingly the theft of four tortoises from our release areas before being returned to the wild. Given the highly sensitive nature of this issue, Durrell cannot respond publicly and much of the work we do must remain secretive. But we continue to work with both local and international authorities to identify the most appropriate ways to halt the trade in Madagascar and overseas. At present though this remains the overriding threat to the species, and therefore is the priority for Durrell and its partners in the coming year. On the ground, together with the US-based Behler Chelonian Centre, Durrell developed a project to establish a network of patrols in the ploughshare tortoise's habitat. These patrols will be made up of local village members and government staff working together to monitor for signs of people trying to poach the tortoises. At present illegal collection remains the overriding threat to this species and is pushing the ploughshare tortoise to the brink of extinction.

**“One of the results of political instability in Madagascar has been a resurgence in the illegal harvesting of natural resources for international trade”**

# Wildlife park

## **Developments around the site**

2009 saw a major reinvestment in the wildlife park with the construction and opening of three new exhibits designed to reinvigorate the site and provide added value to the visitor experience. In April 'Discovery Desert' opened to the public, providing a vastly increased area for our perennially popular family of meerkats, who were subsequently joined by two new species, crested porcupines and yellow mongooses. This exhibit, situated next to the Dodo café, incorporates greatly improved viewing for visitors allowing them much closer observation of the antics of these entertaining animals.

August saw the completion of 'Hogs of the Bai', an enclosure housing two female red river hogs, to be joined by a male in the near future. These members of the pig family from Africa's forests are another new species to the collection and add extra interest to the area around the gorilla enclosure.

Kirindy Forest, the third and largest redevelopment, was designed to give a flavour of the Menabe region of Madagascar where Durrell has been working for the last 25 years. Exciting, interactive messaging and the display of species such as giant jumping rats and Madagascar teal showcase our conservation efforts both in and ex situ, whilst innovative enclosure design allows visitors to observe ring-tailed and red-fronted brown lemurs, narrow striped mongooses, and numerous other Madagascan birds exhibiting normal behaviours in naturalistic environments.

## **Elsewhere on the animal sections 2009 saw several notable events**

Lesser night geckos bred incredibly successfully in their dedicated facility within the Reptile House, and Telfair's skinks made a return to public display at the Trust, inhabiting an exciting, interpretative exhibit of the Round Island field station.

The bird department had considerable success breeding and hand-rearing several species, including tropical mocking birds and ferruginous ducks. The techniques learned can now be utilised in efforts to rebuild populations of the rarer Floreana mocking bird and the Madagascar pochard.

Our success breeding the critically endangered pied tamarin continued and a family group of charismatic emperor tamarins were introduced into our woodland to begin a free-ranging existence to which they adapted immediately.

Inevitably not all news was good. In May Dana, one of our female orangutans, suffered complications to the birth of her first infant, resulting in a still birth and huge blood loss to her. An extremely professional co-ordinated intervention from our ape keepers, veterinary team and staff from the local hospital thankfully saved the mother's life and she has subsequently made a full recovery.

We also trialled late-night opening of the wildlife park grounds during the warmer summer evenings. Although visitor numbers were lower than anticipated the response of those that attended was extremely enthusiastic, largely in part to the passionate and informative animal talks delivered by our keeping staff, such that we aim to further develop this initiative in 2010.

Jersey-based animal collection staff continued to play a driving role in delivering our conservation aims. In addition to managing captive populations of endangered species onsite and co-ordinating thirteen European and International studbook programmes, many were also actively engaged overseas. As mentioned previously our herpetology department were instrumental in the emergency response to the mountain chicken crisis. Our vet, Javier Lopez, visited Madagascar to health screen endemic fresh water terrapins and investigate quarantine facilities for confiscated ploughshare tortoises. Bird staff members travelled to the Galapagos islands, assisting and training local staff in bird captive breeding techniques, and to St Lucia as part of the major population survey of its endemic parrot. And Dominic Wormell, Deputy Head of Mammals, revisited Colombia to advise zoo and rescue centre staff on the captive management of the critically endangered white-footed tamarin and begin negotiations to establish a European population of these sensitive primates whose survival remains in peril.

Finally an in-depth analysis of the animal collection was undertaken. Completed in December, a detailed database of all animal species we work with now exists which will provide us with a firm platform from which to undertake comprehensive collection planning, an important initiative moving forward as we strive to maximize our conservation impact whilst incorporating an improved visitor offering and recognising the harsher economic realities we now face. Although challenging, the passion, determination and expertise of Durrell's staff and also the volunteers who so ably assist us means this goal is eminently achievable.



6 Telfair skink  
*Leiopisma telfairii*



# International Training Centre

Gerald Durrell was ahead of his time when he established the International Training Centre (ITC) at our headquarters in Jersey as a mini- "university... where people can get the correct training...and then take their talents back to form conservation units throughout the world...". With 50 years of experience in endangered species and habitat recovery, Durrell himself has provided the ITC with an unrivalled opportunity to transfer conservation skills from those that have them to those that need them.

Since our first trainees arrived back in 1977 we have now equipped more than 1800 conservation professionals from 128 countries with the skills they need to run their own endangered species recovery programmes. We have trained a further 700 under-graduate and post-graduate students through our Higher Education training programme, thereby building capacity for the next generation of conservation professionals worldwide. In 2009 alone we trained 300 professionals and students, enabling us to reach out to seven new countries for the ITC, including Kiribati, Tuvalu and Papua New Guinea in the Pacific as well as Kazakhstan and the Turks & Caicos Islands in the Caribbean.

Two exciting new courses we launched this year in response to the needs of the conservation world were Invasive Species Management and the Conservation and Care of Callitrichids and Lemurs. The first provided skills to conservation professionals working to save species in the wild which will enable them to control or eradicate introduced pest species that are driving native species towards extinction. The second was developed in collaboration with Durrell's Mammal Department to improve the care and conservation of tamarins, marmosets and lemurs in captivity.

We also took three of our courses overseas to help reach more professionals than could make the journey to our centre in Jersey. As part of Durrell's commitment to amphibian conservation we ran our Amphibian Biodiversity Conservation course at Lake Titicaca, Bolivia and our Amphibian Conservation Husbandry course in Kandy, Sri Lanka; two Top Spots for amphibian diversity and threat worldwide. Our ongoing programme to develop endangered species recovery skills in the developing islands of the world took our Island Species-Led Action course to Fiji.

In order to support graduates of the training programme we launched the Durrell Conservation Learning Network this year. This internet-based network is providing graduates with important information to help them plan their recovery programmes as well as providing a forum in which they can discuss their successes and failures and learn from each others experience. We hope to see this network going from strength to strength in 2010 with the development of new discussion threads and links between graduates.

Small sums of money can go along way in many of the countries in which the ITC operates. However, even these sums may be beyond the reach of our graduates. To help overcome this hurdle and initiate conservation projects we have established seed-grant opportunities. We provided funding to nine of our graduates to enable them to begin their own habitat restoration projects and develop captive breeding initiatives for unknown threatened species.

In 2009 the ITC was combined with Durrell's Conservation Education Department, enabling it to become a centre of life-long learning in endangered species recovery. The Conservation Education team taught more than 3600 school children and approximately 600 accompanying parents and teachers on Jersey and ran activity weeks and young conservation training events for more 200 junior members of Durrell. Previous Dodo Club members went on to attend our Endangered Species Recovery training course, demonstrating that we can nurture the young as they grow up and provide them with the training they need to enter a career in conservation. More than 50 university students took advantage of our placement scheme, building their animal husbandry skills and providing invaluable support to our animal departments on-site in Jersey.

Training more conservationists from more countries than ever before, 2009 the ITC is demonstrating that there is reason to be hopeful about the future for biodiversity. Durrell's conservation army is growing and with it is its capacity to save more species from extinction, replicating Durrell's conservation successes across the globe.

**“Since our first trainees arrived back in 1977 we have now equipped more than 1800 conservation professionals from 128 countries...”**

# Memories from our 50th anniversary celebrations



**A** 50th Anniversary Reception Credit: Caron Clover  
**B** Firefly Ball Copyright: Stuart McAlister  
**C** Opening of Hogs of the Bai Credit: Colm Farrington  
**D** Royal engineers building the Hogs of the Bai exhibit  
 Copyright: Stephen Norgrove

**E** Durrell Day Credit: Tim Wright  
**F** The Durrell Concert Copyright: Tom White  
**G** The Gerald Durrell Dinner Copyright: Richard Wainwright

## Please help us 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 £2 a month.
- Adopt one of 12 animals ranging in size from 'Bluey' our blue poison dart frog to 'Jaya' our Sumatran orangutan. 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.
- Have you considered leaving Durrell a legacy? 67% of the population support charities in their lifetime but only 4% include a charity in their will. A gift to Durrell does not have to be a large amount of money – a small gift or percentage can make a real difference.
- 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 at [durrell.org](http://durrell.org) **Thank you!**

## Events

### **Saving Species From Extinction**

Lecture by Lee Durrell,  
Women's Institute AGM, Cardiff  
2nd June

### **Golf Tournament**

Royal Jersey Golf Club  
11th June

### **Kate Denton Exhibition**

The Gallery in Cork Street, London  
17th June

### **Car Boot Sale**

Durrell wildlife park  
26th June

### **Diva Opera**

Domaines Des Vaux Jersey  
13th - 16th July

### **Photographic Exhibition**

Durrell wildlife park  
19th - 31st July

### **Durrell AGM**

Durrell wildlife park  
22nd July

### **Oddsocks,**

### **A Midsummer Night's Dream**

Durrell wildlife park  
2nd - 7th & 9th - 11th August

### **Activity Week – Dodo Members**

Durrell wildlife park  
2nd - 6th August

### **Durrell Day**

Durrell wildlife park  
14 - 15th August

### **Young Conservationist**

### **Training Programme**

Durrell wildlife park  
16th - 18th August

### **Durrell Staff Photo Exhibition**

Durrell wildlife park  
26th August - 13th September

### **Car Boot Sale**

Durrell wildlife park  
25th September

### **Durrell Member's Evening**

Royal Geographical Society, London  
8th October

### **Car Boot Sale**

Durrell wildlife park  
9th October

### **Activity Week – Dodo Members**

Durrell wildlife park  
25th - 29th October

### **Sustainability Conference**

Pomme D'Or Hotel, Jersey  
20th October

### **Durrell Dash**

Durrell wildlife park  
17th October

### **Art Auction**

British Academy of Films  
and Television Arts,  
195 Piccadilly, London  
6th 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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### **Cover photography**

### **Gerald Durrell with a telfair skink**

Durrell estate image

### **Designed by**

### **Fusion Creatives**

[www.fusioncreatives.com](http://www.fusioncreatives.com)

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