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Welcome

The President and Director General of the Zoological Society of London introduce our Conservation Review 2015.

As President of the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), I am delighted to present the 2015 Conservation Review, highlighting the truly great work we are doing here and demonstrating significant progress towards our mission targets.

A key highlight was the ZSL-led Marine Reserves Coalition obtaining a commitment from the UK government to implement a third marine reserve in Ascension Island, a UK Overseas Territory (UKOT). Once all proposed reserves are in place, this will bring the amount of fully protected ocean around the UKOTs to an impressive 1,729,000km². This was particularly welcome in a year when the Living Blue Planet Report, compiled by ZSL scientists and WWF (the World Wide Fund for Nature), established that marine wildlife has declined by 49% since 1970, and it was widely predicted that by 2050 there will be more plastic debris in the oceans than fish.

ZSL is also addressing this crisis in the health of our seas closer to home. Once again we worked with Selfridges on our collaborative Project Ocean campaign. The year saw the renowned luxury retailer taking a role in reducing the amount of plastic that ends up in our oceans by removing all single-use plastic water bottles from its shelves.

Further afield, we are providing fishing communities in Cameroon, Mozambique and the Philippines with access to small-scale financial services in order to encourage a more sustainable approach to fishing. We are one of the first conservation groups to adopt a principle that benefits both people and biodiversity, as well as continuing to inspire the recycling, rather than disposal, of used fishing nets through our Net-Works project in partnership with Interface.

The year also saw significant emphasis on addressing the illegal wildlife trade, focusing on key traded species such as tiger, elephant, rhino and scaly anteater or pangolin. We launched our first major wildlife trade, focusing on key traded species such as tiger, elephant, rhino and scaly anteater or pangolin. We launched our first major conservation initiative in Thailand, Cameroun and China, and continued work in Kenya to protect elephants and rhinos in particular.

In addition, we expanded our long-standing focus on tigers with new projects in Nepal and Indonesia. ZSL’s emphasis on collaboration and innovation continues to put us at the cutting edge of biodiversity conservation. Our solid science base and fieldwork across Africa and Asia, combined with the outreach and breeding skills of our Zoos, helps make us unique among the world’s conservation organisations. I am proud to be President of this remarkable Society, and I look forward to the year ahead with great anticipation.

The year 2015 was an extremely successful one at ZSL. Most notably, we were awarded our largest ever grant, for an ambitious project with the government of South Sumatra and partners: the South Sumatra Eco-Region Alliance. The partnership is tackling deforestation and poaching in an important Sumatran tiger landscape, ensuring that wildlife is conserved while still enabling economic development.

Another large grant received also focused on tigers, this time in Nepal and across the border into India, emphasising improved protected area management and human-tiger conflict resolution. India is also the location for our new Asiatic lion conservation project, which I was honoured to launch at a ceremony in the Gir Forest. I signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the government of Gujarat in India, pledging ZSL’s expertise and support to safeguard the future of these precious big cats, of which there are only approximately 500 left in the wild.

Our innovative Rhino Impact Investment work has seen ZSL move into the financial arena, seeking to establish large scale, sustainable funding for rhino protection on the ground in Africa. As part of this project, our field teams in Kenya are already implementing Instant Detect – new technology that provides real-time intruder alerts for protected area managers via satellite, giving them a much-needed edge over well-financed poaching teams.

Technology is increasingly important for conservation, from camera-traps to tracking devices, and even computer gaming has also played a part this year. Our experts worked with United for Wildlife (UFW), led by His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge, to produce ‘We are the Rangers’, a bespoke Minecraft game set in the African savannah, in which players set out to capture poachers. With the capacity to engage millions of young people with wildlife conservation, audiences who may not have considered poaching a threat to wildlife are getting involved and we are very excited about its future potential.

Working again with UFW, we have developed an online course aiming to provide conservation training for people from all walks of life who want to learn more or develop a career in conservation. The future of the planet’s wildlife is in humanity’s hands, and inspiring people from all over the world to engage in conserving it is vital. People are key to achieving our mission, and every one of our employees, volunteers, members and supporters have made valuable contributions during the year. I want to extend grateful thanks to each and every one of them.

Professor Sir John Beddington, FRS
President, Zoological Society of London

Ralph Armond
Director General, Zoological Society of London

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Introduction

Since its foundation in 1826, ZSL has played an important convening and collaborative role, helping to drive forward the fields of zoology and, later, conservation. The Society’s creative, entrepreneurial culture has also resulted in a long history of discovery and innovation. Both these factors remain crucial in modern conservation.

ZSL is today involved in many joint initiatives that bring together key players to address the pressing issues of our time. One of these is United for Wildlife, a consortium of conservation organisations chaired by His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge, which is developing a unified approach to address the illegal wildlife trade. Another is the Marine Reserves Coalition, which has played a fundamental role in establishing some of the world’s largest marine protected areas (MPAs).

Work on this scale simply cannot be delivered by a single institution – a joined-up approach, utilising a broad range of expertise, is vital. In addition to working together, the conservation movement needs to be more strategic and creative.

Strategic focus

ZSL’s unique Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered (EDGE) assessment framework identifies the most evolutionarily distinct and globally endangered species on the planet. EDGE species include iconic animals such as rhinos, elephants and pangolins – alongside less recognisable species such as the Chinese giant salamander, pygmy sloth and Philippine eagle. When looking at landscapes, ZSL’s conservation programmes tend to focus on areas that have high densities of EDGE species and are large enough to sustainably support wide-ranging species such as tigers, cheetahs, wild dogs and elephants. No other global conservation organisation uses this transparent, science-based approach.

Driving conservation innovation

ZSL is driving innovation in six areas to rapidly increase both the scale and impact of conservation efforts. For each of these areas we have major projects that we believe will transform the conservation sector:

Building capacity at scale

Working with United for Wildlife and online learning specialists Avado, we are building a comprehensive digital educational platform to help train thousands of conservation leaders in developing countries, rapidly scaling up conservation response where it is most needed.

As the digital world evolves, additional content such as educational gaming and citizen science will transform the conservation learning landscape. More than one million young people have already engaged with the Minecraft anti-poaching game ‘We are the Rangers’ – also a joint project with United for Wildlife.

Initial United for Wildlife conservation learning courses can be found at learn.unitedforwildlife.org

ZSL is also working to help increase training and qualifications in the field of protected area management. Lawyers and accountants, for example, need specific qualifications, but there is no standardised accreditation for protected area managers. ZSL is working with Asian and African training colleges to develop professional qualifications. Developing these industry
Top, left and this image: ZSL works to conserve some of the world’s most at-risk species, including the Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris*) in Indonesia, the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) in Benin and the greater one-horned rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) in Nepal.
standards and providing the training materials and educational opportunities will transform the way in which we recruit conservationists of the future.

New tools and technology
In addition, ZSL is developing new tools and technology to greatly increase conservation effectiveness and reduce costs. An example of this is Instant Detect, an alarm system for protected areas. Museums and art galleries containing society’s national treasures are guarded by sophisticated alarm systems, without which such valuable items would rapidly vanish. Many protected areas hold species of similarly high economic value, but completely lack such protective technology. ZSL has been working with technology partners including Google and Cambridge Consultants to develop metal detectors, seismic sensors and camera-traps that send information via satellite to park authorities within minutes. This system helps make a very small team capable of effectively protecting large areas, and will change the game for protected area management.

Measuring impact
To understand the success or failure of conservation initiatives, it is essential to measure and monitor trends in the relevant species or ecosystems. Unfortunately, this rarely happens, as it has traditionally been expensive and challenging to collect this data. ZSL has developed a number of robust, low-cost monitoring systems to help make the practice of monitoring an industry standard. We also produce, with WWF, the Living Planet Index, which aggregates species population data to develop global biodiversity indicators for policymakers. This helps to define the status of the planet and track progress towards global conservation targets. We are taking this a step further and developing a series of real-time biodiversity indicators for vertebrates, ecosystems and protected areas.

Making business accountable
With the development of increasingly sophisticated satellite technology, we are now in a new era of transparency. ZSL’s Sustainable Palm Oil Transparency Toolkit (SPOTT) allows interested observers, whether the public or investors, to view palm oil concessions via satellite and assess the extent to which companies are keeping their biodiversity-related promises. This approach is already transforming the palm oil sector and has motivated over 80% of SPOTT-listed companies to improve their ratings – and it will soon be rolled out to other production and extractive industries.

Demonstrating biodiversity-compatible development models
ZSL’s Net-Works is a partnership with carpet tile company Interface that buys discarded fishing nets from some of the world’s poorest fishing communities and uses the recycled material to make floor tiles, providing a great example of how communities can become agents of restoration. Marine life gains better protection and reduced debris as a result of the partnership, communities diversify livelihoods, and Interface gain a recycled supply stream with both environmental and social credentials.

ZSL will continue to test such models for positive outcomes for both people and biodiversity, and will work with development agencies to scale up successful approaches that reinforce the message; that protection of species and ecosystems is central to sustainable development.

Generating new revenue for conservation
The current conservation funding model is simply not delivering sufficient funds to conserve the world’s species and ecosystems, and so ZSL is exploring alternatives to generate new and larger funding. One example is using income from solar energy to help finance protected areas. Another is an impact-based financing mechanism, currently being developed and tested on rhinos, but applicable to a broad range of species and ecosystems if successful. This approach will demonstrate ‘payment by results’, drawing on private capital to provide upfront financing to protected area managers. This method ensures a much-needed emphasis on measurable outcomes – without which, funders are unclear on whether conservation work has truly succeeded and, therefore, on whether further investment is advisable. ZSL will continue to experiment until we have improved the funding model for the conservation sector.

By continuing to foster an entrepreneurial environment and fulfilling our historic institutional role of bringing people and organisations together, ZSL is in a strong position to rapidly scale up the global conservation response. The initiatives outlined here are all under way and, with your support, will play an important role in securing the planet’s precious species and ecosystems for future generations.

Find out more about our groundbreaking conservation work at reports.zsl.org/revolutionising-conservation
ZSL’s mission targets

ZSL is undertaking a range of innovative activities, detailed throughout this report, which will enable us to have achieved the following by 2026:

1. Defined and monitored the status of the world’s protected areas and at least 20,000 species
2. Improved the status of at least 100 of the world’s most threatened and distinct species
3. Protected and restored at least one million km² of coastal and marine habitat and half a million km² of terrestrial habitat
4. Ensured best practice for natural resource use in at least one million km² of priority production landscape
5. Through our Zoos, research and public engagement, enabled more than 70 million people to adopt positive steps to support conservation and value nature

ZSL’s objectives and mission statement

ZSL’s core objectives, as set out in its Charter, are:

‘The advancement of zoology by, among other things, the conducting of scientific research, the promoting of conservation of biological diversity and the welfare of animals, the care for and breeding of endangered and other species, the fostering of public interest, the improvement and dissemination of zoological knowledge and participation in conservation worldwide.’

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, ZSL’s Trustees have considered the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit and fee charging. Initiatives include educational visits at heavily discounted prices, free visits as part of the junior citizen initiative and Special Children’s Days at discounted prices. We also fund and run a world-renowned zoological library, with open access at no charge.

Our mission
To promote and achieve the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats.

Our vision:
A world where animals are valued and their conservation assured.
ZSL’s global impact

Working in the country hubs shown here, ZSL’s conservation efforts are truly global in scope. We highlight six projects around the world that illustrate our key targets.

1. MONITORING THE PLANET: Chagos Archipelago Marine Reserve, Indian Ocean
   Amid the serious threats to oceans around the globe, the Chagos Archipelago Marine Reserve, designated in 2010 and currently the world’s largest no-take zone, is a rare haven for marine wildlife. Its tropical islands and coral reefs are home to a huge diversity of marine (and terrestrial) species, with eight times more reef fish than anywhere else in the Indian Ocean. This incredible diversity is under pressure from threats such as climate change and poaching, and is not well understood. ZSL has so far led four scientific expeditions to the area and is currently developing, with partners, a five-year science programme to inform future conservation work. ➔ Read more about how we’re monitoring the planet on page 10

2. SAVING THREATENED SPECIES: Tiger conservation, Nepal
   The Terai Arc Landscape on the borders of India and Nepal is home to 17% of the world’s remaining tigers – along with some of the highest human densities in the world. ZSL’s ambitious tiger programme here aims to maintain habitat connectivity – including across international borders – and increase tiger numbers by up to 20% by 2019. We will do this through capacity building, law enforcement, scientific monitoring and increased tourism income to the parks, and crucially through community engagement, both by involving local people in the monitoring and protection of their tigers and by tackling human-tiger conflict. ➔ Read more about how we’re saving threatened species on page 14

3. PROTECTING HABITATS: South Sumatra Eco-Region Alliance, Indonesia
   The South Sumatra Eco-Region Alliance, a project with the government of South Sumatra and partners launched in late 2015, focuses on issues such as deforestation, peatland degradation, wildfires and associated climate change impacts in the Berbak-Sembilang-Dangku landscape of South Sumatra – the peat swamp forests of which provide vital habitat for approximately 15% of Indonesia’s surviving Sumatran tigers (Panthera tigris sumatrae). Harnessing tools including ZSL’s Sustainable Palm Oil Transparency Toolkit (SPOTT), this partnership aims to ensure the collaborative and sustainable management of a complex forestry, peatland and palm oil system, ultimately connecting the entire landscape to safeguard these iconic and Critically Endangered animals. ➔ Read more about how we’re protecting habitats on page 18
4 ENGAGING WITH BUSINESS: Wildlife Wood, Cameroon
The Dja Biosphere Reserve in Cameroon is a UNESCO World Heritage site, and is surrounded by logging concessions that effectively act as buffer zones and habitat corridors to other protected areas. The forests cover more than 18,000km², and concessions make up more than a third of this. ZSL is working with the timber industry and government to minimise industry impacts on the forest elephants, gorillas, chimpanzees, pangolins and other wildlife that lives in this landscape, enabling the logging companies to monitor wildlife and illegal activities on their concessions and report problems to the authorities for action. ➤Read more about how we’re engaging with business on page 22.

5 INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION: Thames Citizen Science, United Kingdom
Engaging people in conservation is just as important at home as overseas – and it doesn’t get much closer to home for ZSL than the River Thames. Our conservationists are providing chances for Londoners to contribute to our count of seals and other marine mammals in the Thames Estuary by reporting sightings to feature on the interactive map on our website; or for those who’d like to get more involved, you can become one of our citizen scientists and help monitor water quality and the distributions of elvers and smelt. ➤Read more about how we’re inspiring the next generation on page 24.

6 INNOVATIVE FINANCING: Rhino Impact Investment, Kenya
ZSL has launched a three-year test project in Kenya aimed at generating long-term, sustainable funding for critical conservation areas. The Rhino Impact Investment will demonstrate an innovative ‘payment by results’ financing mechanism that draws on private impact capital to provide up-front financing to protected area managers. Investments will be repaid with interest once conservation outcomes – such as growth in rhino populations and reduction in poaching – are achieved. ➤Read more about our innovative financing projects on page 26.
Monitoring the planet

A robust understanding of the status of the world’s species and ecosystems is essential in measuring conservation success.

**Tools for wildlife monitoring**

Monitoring begins at the individual animal level, by tracking the status of endangered species from tigers, elephants and rhinos to less well-known creatures such as the hirola. ZSL’s scientists also provide important data at the other end of the scale, on trends in wildlife populations and changes in protected area status, to inform global policy decisions. We use a range of tracking tools to suit the target species, including Mataki – an advanced, open source animal-tracking device. Mataki – a collaboration initiated by Microsoft Research and ZSL – has so far been used most on seabirds but has potential for use with a wide range of animals. It is wirelessly enabled, low cost, and can be programmed for specific uses to help researchers understand the locations of individual animals, their behaviours over time and their interaction with their environment.

**Camera-trapping tigers**

Tigers are endangered throughout their range and are a key focus for ZSL, with motion-sensitive camera-traps the main method for monitoring. In Thailand, the cameras have provided the first-ever images of tigers in and around Salakpra Wildlife Sanctuary: one male and two females moving in from protected areas further north. This photographic proof of tiger presence is important in strengthening the case for improved protection. Camera-traps can also enable us to calculate a minimum population count (by identifying individual tigers) as well as tiger density (from numbers and locations of tiger pictures). In Berbak-Sembilang National Park in Indonesia, and in Lazovsky State Nature Reserve and Zov Tigra National Park in Russia, we counted a minimum of 21 and 19 individual adult tigers respectively in 2015, with evidence of breeding in both countries. Meanwhile, our first survey in our new site Parsa Wildlife Reserve in Nepal revealed at least 10 resident tigers. Over time, we can use these images to build a picture of whether tiger populations are increasing, decreasing or stable, and therefore whether our conservation efforts are working. In areas where we have photographed the same tigers for many years, camera-trap pictures can be used to study the life histories of individual cats – providing critical insight into, for instance, life-spans, health, and cub survival rates.

To find out more about ZSL’s groundbreaking conservation technology, visit reports.zsl.org/tech-for-conservation
'We found very rare dama gazelles in Chad'

SENIOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGIST
TIM WACHER SPECIALISES IN DESERT ANTELOPE

‘Almost all desert ungulates are endangered. As a group they tend to be neglected, as their habitat is often seen as less important than forest or savannah. But they’re a crucial part of the desert systems they inhabit and ZSL has been working to conserve them for many years. They can be hard to find, living at very low densities in harsh environments. However, visibility for surveys is generally good, with no trees in the way. Aerial surveys work well in these conditions and that’s how we found these very rare dama gazelles in Chad. With less than 300 left in the wild, every individual counts. On this survey we only found a male, and a group of two females with a calf. Although scant, the information is of high value to the data being used to put together an action plan, planned for launch in 2016, for these beautiful antelope.’
Predators here in the UK
Closer to home, ZSL monitors two of the UK’s remaining large predators in the Greater Thames Estuary – harbour seals and grey seals. Seal sightings reported by the public help us to understand their distribution, while annual aerial, land and boat-based surveys enable us to gather reliable estimates of population size. In 2015, we published a 10-year report on our marine mammal work, analysing 1,300 sightings of seals, porpoises, dolphins and whales. The report revealed that there were more sightings around Canary Wharf than anywhere else along the tidal Thames, and that seals were seen as far upstream as Hampton Court Palace. Three years of survey work indicates that the Greater Thames Estuary has a resident, relatively stable, harbour seal population, which goes through the important life stages of breeding and moulting in the region. Grey seals were also sighted in the area and ZSL will be monitoring their continued presence. Harbour seals are vulnerable to predation by grey seals and there is also a risk of transmission of phocine distemper virus between the species – a disease that can prove fatal for harbour seals.

Eels – an unlikely flagship species
Also in the Thames catchment, ZSL is monitoring the upstream migration of elvers – young eels – in response to concerns about declining numbers. In 2015, monitoring was carried out at 13 sites across the catchment and a total of 22,716 eels were logged – down from 45,948 in 2014, the highest annual total recorded to date. These eels are increasingly impacted by factors such as climate change, habitat loss and illegal trade, and work continues to establish whether our results represent cyclical changes or an overall decline. These species are excellent flagships for aquatic conservation, as their unusual life cycle brings them to coastal and freshwater habitats as well as the oceans. ZSL is also monitoring anguillid eels and their trade in Japan and the Philippines.

Informing national conservation actions
Monitoring data like these can help track species’ status overall by contributing to the IUCN’s Red Lists of Threatened Species. Such databases are essential to inform conservation planning at a country level, and ZSL supports such work by managing the National Red List database of species extinction risk. In 2015, more than 56,000 species assessments were uploaded to this database, bringing the year’s total to 185,000. These included the first assessment of more than 800 bird species in Nepal, produced by ZSL and Nepal’s Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation. Nepal is home to 8% of the world’s known birds, and more than 70 bird experts contributed to the six-volume, 3,644-page publication over five years, using records dating back to the 17th century. Nine Nepalese bird species have not been recorded since the 19th century, and nearly 20% (167 species) are now nationally threatened, with 37 of those at risk globally as well. Lowland grassland specialist birds and wetland birds are among the most affected groups, primarily due to habitat loss. The Red List document lists the major threats to the birds of Nepal and provides specific recommendations for their future conservation.

Global biodiversity indicators
ZSL produces annual summaries under the banner of the Living Planet Index – a global indicator for the state of the world’s biodiversity. The most significant of these in 2015 was the Living Blue Planet Report, looking at how overfishing, damage to habitat and climate change are affecting marine biodiversity. The analysis tracked 5,829 populations of 1,234 species, from sea birds to sharks to leatherback turtles, and reported a shocking 49% global decline in marine wildlife populations since 1970. Fish stocks are important food sources for billions of people around the world, with many communities relying on the oceans for their survival. Sadly, many species essential to commercial and subsistence fishing are now significantly depleted. While over-exploitation is identified as
the major threat to ocean biodiversity, the study also found that climate change (rising temperatures and increasing acidity caused by carbon dioxide) is further weakening a system that is already severely degraded through overfishing, habitat degradation and pollution. Global population sizes of the Scombridae family of fish, which includes foods such as tuna, mackerel and bonito, have fallen by 74%, with declining stocks of bluefin and yellowfin of particular concern. Some species found in UK waters, including the Vulnerable porbeagle shark and the Critically Endangered leatherback turtle, have also undergone precipitous declines. The devastating figures reveal how human beings are impacting the wildlife in our oceans, and are a stark warning of the problems that we, too, will face as a result.
Saving threatened species

ZSL uses a structured, systematic approach to saving species, in terms of both long-term planning and tackling immediate front-line threats.

Alarm system for parks
Poaching for the illegal wildlife trade is the single most immediate threat to hundreds of endangered species around the world. Already responsible for the loss of 95% of the world’s rhinos in the past 40 years, poaching is now having a similar impact on elephants, tigers, pangolins and many other precious species. Poaching groups are increasingly well-financed and well-equipped, particularly in Africa, so it is vital that the conservation community develops methods to protect wildlife against them. Initiatives such as our Instant Detect system – an innovative tool that combines cameras and magnetic sensors to provide an alarm system for protected areas – use satellite technology to send images and alerts in real time, from anywhere in the world, to instantly alert park rangers to illegal activities. Working closely with the Kenya Wildlife Service, the software has been extensively trialled in an important rhino site in Kenya throughout 2015, and we are pleased to report that no rhinos were poached there during that time.

Smarter monitoring
ZSL is a key player in the development and implementation of another groundbreaking conservation tool: SMART, a software system to standardise data collection on illegal activities and wildlife and habitat monitoring. The ‘SMART Approach’ enables improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of protection work, through the rapid provision of information to wildlife managers. We are implementing SMART in 25 sites across Asia and Africa, providing training, equipment and ongoing support, and ensuring not only that reports are produced from the data collected, but also that these reports are used to reduce poaching incidents. A modified version of the SMART system is also being used by palm oil plantation managers aiming to minimise their environmental impacts.

Working to a plan
ZSL’s EDGE of Existence programme uses a scientific framework to identify the world’s most Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered (EDGE) species, focusing on some of the most unique and most wonderful animals on the planet. Many of these are few in number and found in remote habitats with very small ranges, and the aspiring conservationists who make up our EDGE Fellows cohort each year have been tasked with producing a ‘Survival Blueprint’ for a number of them. This blueprint will help outline plans to conserve these endangered animals and bring them back from the brink of extinction. Twenty-nine blueprints have already been initiated, with

 Forty-five Instant Detect cameras have been deployed in Kenya. Find out more about Instant Detect at reports.zsl.org/instant-detect
This image: SMART is a key part of our new project to conserve the Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*) in India’s Gir Forest. Right: We are working with the Gujarat Forest Department to improve protection and monitoring, including through training in data collection in the field.

‘The response from teams on the ground has been amazing’

**CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGY LEAD**

**SOPHIE MAXWELL** IS OVERSEEING THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE INSTANT DETECT 1.0 ALARM SYSTEM

‘Over the year, we’ve deployed Instant Detect in seven sites, including Kenya, Canada, Antarctica and Tanzania, and across a huge range of terrains and settings, from forest to marine to polar. This is first-generation technology, not a mature product, but it has integrated well with on-the-ground teams and the response has been amazing. We’re seeing huge demand, with existing sites ordering more systems to protect new areas.

‘These are remote areas, with little or no connectivity. Before Instant Detect, these teams had no way of creating real-time alerts – they were completely dependent on physical patrols. This is significantly speeding up their ability to respond to incidents of poaching and smuggling, and giving them data they can use to identify particular hotspots or activity patterns and target resources accordingly. Used as part of an integrated approach to tackling illegal activities, it’s proving effective and has great potential.

‘Seeing the team win recognition for all their hard work has been a highlight. We won an award from The Wildlife Crime Tech Challenge; this was a great achievement, but more than that it’s helped us secure the roadmap for Instant Detect 2.0 by giving us a strong platform for building networks and securing co-funding to improve the technology and expand our reach. It’s all about opening doors so we can get this tool into the hands of the people that need it.’

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50 EDGE Fellows have been trained to date, spanning 45 species in 29 countries.

In 2015, EDGE Fellow Karla Pelz discovered a new population of the Lake Lerma salamander (*Ambystoma lermaense*), which has contributed to its IUCN Red List downgrading from Critically Endangered to Endangered.

To find out more about our EDGE of Existence conservation programme, visit reports.zsl.org/edge

Planning for conservation

Where species are better known, IUCN Specialist Groups are an excellent vehicle to bring together experts from around the world for conservation planning. The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Pangolin Specialist Group is hosted and co-chaired by ZSL and, since its inception, has facilitated IUCN Red List assessments for all eight species of pangolin (all of which are threatened with extinction) and produced ‘Scaling up Pangolin Conservation’, an action plan intended to catalyse a global response to the animal’s plight.

The plan outlines actions needed to address poaching and the illegal international trade – which between them have led to population declines of up to 90% in Asia and increasingly threaten African pangolins too. Using the action plan as a guide, ZSL launched the Pangolin Conservation Initiative in 2015. We are supporting patrol-based monitoring – including the SMART Approach – to protect pangolins at key sites in Thailand and Cameroon, and helping law enforcement agencies in both countries clamp down on pangolin trafficking. Meanwhile, teams in both countries are undertaking field surveys and developing population monitoring protocols so that the impact of stepping up protection can be assessed. In 2016, the programme will expand to southwest China, where research will be undertaken to feed into a consumer campaign to reduce popularity and demand for products made with illegally traded pangolin.

To find out more about our pangolin conservation programme, visit reports.zsl.org/pangolin-landscapes
ZSL also co-chairs the IUCN SSC Giraffe and Okapi Specialist Group, and 2015 saw the publication of the IUCN/ICCN Okapi Conservation Strategy and Status Review 2015-2025; the first-ever action plan for the okapi. Plans for the strategy, which contains a clear road map for the future conservation of this elusive forest creature, were initiated at a meeting between key international partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 2013. The plan aims to encourage increased donor and government support for measures including the implementation of SMART in and around key okapi protected areas in DRC.

Our work with the Critically Endangered Hainan gibbon (*Nomascus hainanus*) is also based on an action plan, developed at meetings in China in 2014 and 2015, and due to be completed in 2016. Key recommendations include habitat mapping to select corridor locations, and acoustic monitoring. The project had a major success in 2015, when a new family group was located, increasing the population count by 12% – from 25 to 28 known individuals.

**Range-wide planning**

The larger the ranges of the species involved, the more complicated and difficult conservation interventions become, making careful planning even more important. The cheetah and the wild dog are two of the most wide-ranging species in Africa; they have much in common, including their need for landscape-scale conservation measures if they are to survive. ZSL’s Range-Wide Conservation Programme for cheetah and wild dogs began developing and implementing coordinated plans for the conservation of these species in 2007. In 2015, strategy workshops were held in Algeria and Chad, and in 2016 ZSL will begin a new project working with local communities and government on changes in land-use planning to maintain habitat connections for cheetah and wild dog, a key objective of the strategy that has proved difficult to address.

This ‘landscape-scale’ approach is also key to our work to conserve elephants, rhinos and tigers across Africa and Asia. In each of our landscapes we are bringing ranger patrols and protection together with community involvement, conflict resolution and land-use planning. These measures go hand in hand with ongoing species monitoring to measure our impacts; we aim to increase tiger numbers in our target areas by 50% overall in the next 10 years, for example (see also page 20).

**Conservation breeding and translocation**

ZSL is involved in many conservation breeding and translocation projects directly affecting wild populations, as well as the European zoo conservation breeding programmes through which most zoo animals are routinely managed. Our expert staff and world-class facilities enable us to contribute through breeding or rearing animals intended for release, carrying out and monitoring releases, and conducting disease risk assessments and disease monitoring of released stock. Releases of captive-bred corncrakes (*Crex crex*) and *Partula* snails took place during the year, and wildlife health monitoring was carried out for nine UK species as part of our work with Natural England.

**Gazelle success**

Analysis of camera-trap data from surveys in Saudi Arabia in 2015 has confirmed the success of ZSL’s release of two gazelle species into the Uruq Bani Ma’arid protected area, 20 years ago. We released 73 Arabian gazelles (*Gazella arabica*) and 205 sand gazelles (*Gazella subgutturosa marica*) between 1995 and 1997, all of which were bred at the King Khalid Wildlife Research Centre, and we are pleased to say that both species have successfully established. The Arabian gazelles are occupying 100% of the sampled habitat, with the sand gazelles occupying 66%. Both had been extinct in the Saudi Empty Quarter for more than 30 years at the time of release, and are still in steep decline globally. This population of sand gazelles is now probably the largest wild population in the world. Survey work to establish population status and trends will continue.
Protecting habitats

Protecting habitats is crucial for conserving the wildlife within them. ZSL is improving the protection and management of wildlife habitats worldwide.

Ocean reserves
There is more biodiversity in the world’s oceans than on land, and ZSL is working to establish marine protected areas (MPAs) ranging from huge swathes of ocean to small community-managed coastal habitats. In 2010, we played a key role in the establishment of the Chagos Archipelago Marine Reserve – at 640,000km², still the world’s largest MPA – and in 2012, we established the Marine Reserves Coalition (MRC), bringing together a group of six leading environmental organisations to work collaboratively to protect our oceans. In early 2015, the MRC launched the Great British Oceans campaign, leading to an announcement from the UK government of their intent to create an even bigger reserve around the Pitcairn Islands in the South Pacific. And at the end of 2015, there was a second announcement of intent for a third reserve around Ascension Island in the Atlantic.

Coastal management
Coastal wetlands such as mangrove forests are among the most valuable yet threatened ecosystems on Earth, with more than one billion people worldwide relying on marine species such as seafood as their primary source of protein. In the Philippines, ZSL has been a driving force for coastal resource management for more than 15 years. Since the devastating series of natural disasters in the country in 2013, we bring together biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction and poverty alleviation, responding to immediate needs to rebuild livelihoods, while securing a future for marine biodiversity and building environmental and social resilience.

Find out more about ZSL’s ocean work at zsl.org/ocean-refuges

The number of reusable water bottles sold in Selfridges increased by 1,780% when sales of single-use water bottles stopped
‘Sustainable behaviour will be good for the habitat as a whole’

JEREMY HUET IS THE MANAGER OF THE OUR SEA OUR LIFE PROJECT

‘For me, one of the highlights of 2015 was the trip we organised for people from Mozambique to see a successful, community-managed marine area in Madagascar, as nothing is as effective as seeing it with your own eyes. The Malagasy explained that banning the fishing of octopus – and creating temporary marine reserves – has resulted in a dramatic increase in octopus catch. The villagers from Mozambique were impressed and when back in their country, they created the island’s first temporary octopus reserve. The trial worked, and on reopening fishing, the villagers caught a record 350kg of octopus by the end of the first day, which previously would have been equivalent to 15 days’ worth of catch. They’re now much more confident that sustainable behaviour will be good for the coastal habitat as a whole and benefit them as well as the marine wildlife, and this is really going to help our project.’
In 2015, we made huge progress, working with communities to implement five new MPAs, expanding many of our existing MPAs, and building sustainable financing through Net-Works and other projects.

Our focus is on science-based coastal protection and training communities, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), humanitarian agencies and government in habitat management. We are now applying this expertise to Cabo Delgado in northern Mozambique, where some of the most beautiful coral reefs in the world coexist with some of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people, and overfishing is threatening the survival of both. The Our Sea Our Life project is working with these fishing communities to improve the resilience of the coastal ecosystem, through community management of small MPAs and innovative financing mechanisms.

One less plastic bottle in the sea

Our marine conservation partnership with Selfridges, Project Ocean, saw its objectives expanded in 2015 to include tackling the urgent issue of marine litter. Up to 15 million tonnes of plastic waste enters our oceans every year and by 2025 there could be a kilo of plastic in the sea for every three kilos of fish. Plastic bottles take at least 450 years to break down in the ocean, and the tiny microplastic particles that result last even longer. Single-use plastic water bottles are a major contributor to this problem and in 2015, Selfridges permanently removed all single-use plastic-bottled water from its stores. Instead, it now provides free drinking fountains and alternatively packaged water, promoting the use of reusable bottles.

In 2016, ZSL and Selfridges will spearhead the One Less campaign, aiming to make London a city entirely free of single-use plastic water bottles. ZSL is switching, in 2016, to providing drinking fountains in our Zoos and selling reusable water bottles and more ocean-friendly water options in our retail outlets.

Critical wildlife landscapes

On land, ZSL’s approach aims to secure critical landscapes for elephants, tigers, rhinos and pangolins – the species most threatened by the illegal wildlife trade. Protected areas are a crucial component of any wildlife landscape and it is rare to see an increase in their extent, but our work with the Nepalese government in 2015 achieved exactly this; Bara Forest now has the same legal status as the adjacent Parsa Wildlife Reserve, providing a vital expansion of protected habitat for tigers.

Also in Nepal, we launched our Terai Arc transboundary tiger project, taking in Nandur National Park in India as well as Parsa, Suklaphanta, Bardia and Bangke National Parks in Nepal. We weave the monitoring of species and habitats, law enforcement and capacity building together to ensure a high standard of management and clear indicators of success, with the SMART software a key component.

Find out more at reports.zsl.org/tiger-landscapes

Parsa is home to greater one-horned rhino as well as tigers and, along with the important rhino and elephant area of Tsavo in Kenya, is where we are testing our Instant Detect surveillance cameras and other groundbreaking technological initiatives. Tsavo is also the key testing site for the ‘Rhino Impact Investment’, a pioneering outcomes-based financing mechanism that directs private and public sector funds to improve management effectiveness of priority rhino populations.
In Thailand, our survey work has shown that Salakpra Wildlife Reserve remains connected to other protected areas to the north of the reserve and increased protection has led to the return of tigers to the landscape, with two females and a male photographed so far. We are now expanding to surrounding areas with a view to ensuring this habitat connectivity persists, which could increase Thailand’s tiger count by as much as 50% in the coming years. Salakpra also has a thriving elephant population, making it doubly important.

Key partnerships
Protected areas alone cannot provide sufficient habitat connectivity for large mammals, nor fully functional ecosystems, which is why we work closely with industry such as the palm oil sector, as well as local smallholders, to mitigate their impacts on the environment. A major milestone for 2015 was the launch of the South Sumatra Eco-Region Alliance, formed by the Governor of South Sumatra to address the challenges of deforestation, peatland degradation, wildfires and their associated climate change impacts. The project landscape includes the Berbak-Sembilang National Park, home to an important population of the Critically Endangered Sumatran tiger and 22 other IUCN Red List species. Local people are also important partners in this work; here, as elsewhere, we work with communities and local people as well as the wildlife. Our work in partnership with industry extends beyond palm oil to the timber sector; for example, in Cameroon we are working with logging companies to implement wildlife protection plans across their concessions (see page 22).
Engaging with business

With vital landscapes being used for agriculture and the extractive industries worldwide, it is essential that conservationists work closely with business.

Transparency and accountability
Commodities such as palm oil, pulp, paper, timber and rubber create major impacts on our planet’s wildlife, with increasing amounts of land allocated to their production as the human population grows. Ensuring such industries take every possible step to reduce their effects on wildlife is critical, and ZSL has had considerable success over the past decade in improving transparency and accountability, particularly in the palm oil industry. Our Sustainable Palm Oil Transparency Toolkit (SPOTT), an online platform providing practical environmental information to stakeholders in the industry, was relaunched in 2015. SPOTT’s scorecard provides more than 50 best-practice indicators, enabling stakeholders in responsible finance and procurement to tailor and prioritise their engagement with palm oil producers to promote better disclosure and practice, while the website provides best-practice advice for all stakeholders in the palm oil supply chain. The SPOTT interactive satellite map helps to monitor policy implementation by highlighting forest loss and active fires in and around oil palm concession sites. The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), the palm oil industry’s self-regulating body, featured SPOTT in their 2015 Impact Report. The 40 RSPO members assessed on SPOTT scored on average 38% higher than the 10 non-RSPO members. Furthermore, research undertaken for SPOTT led ZSL to table a resolution at the RSPO General Assembly, calling for wider disclosure on all aspects of a company’s operations in its annual report to the RSPO. This was passed with an overwhelming majority and will support greater transparency and accountability among RSPO members. The successful ‘Transparency Toolkit’ approach will now be applied to other commodities with significant environmental impacts.

Wildlife Wood
ZSL is also experienced in working with the timber sector to mitigate its impact on wildlife. With 35% of Cameroon’s forests – home to gorillas, chimpanzees, forest elephants, pangolins and many other animals – allocated for timber production, we have made it a priority to actively engage with this sector since 2007. Working in the Dja conservation complex – a hugely important forested region centred on the Dja Biosphere Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage site – we partner directly with logging companies to develop and implement wildlife protection plans in each logging concession. Our work is focused on strengthening capacity across the sector to ensure wildlife protection. Timber company staff receive training and support to form their own wildlife monitoring and surveillance teams and use SMART patrolling software (see page 14), so that they can fulfil their firms’ monitoring and law enforcement responsibilities and

Find out more about ZSL’s work in production landscapes at reports.zsl.org/production-landscapes
This image: Oil palm plantations occupy more than 18 million hectares worldwide, around half of which are in Indonesia. Below: Wildlife Wood provides support to the timber sector in protecting forest habitats. Right: Carpet tiles created from recycled fishing nets through our Net-Works programme. Far right, top and bottom: the Net-Works programme works with local fishing communities.

Comply with internationally recognised Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. ZSL also supports these companies in liaising with the authorities to ensure the intelligence they collect on illegal activities such as poaching is followed up.

**Net-Works™: an innovative model**

ZSL is working directly with small fishing communities in the Philippines to encourage sustainable practices, and in 2015 the programme expanded to Cameroon. Our innovative Net-Works project employs local people to remove discarded fishing nets from the coastal environment – where they are a major problem for marine wildlife – and sell the cleaned plastic nets to project partner Interface for recycling into carpet tiles. This approach succeeds in both boosting villagers’ incomes and providing a social supply stream of nylon for Interface – while also improving habitat quality for local wildlife. To help the villagers make the best use of the money they earn from the project, and to encourage other sustainable fishing alternatives, ZSL has also established community-managed Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs). VSLAs provide valuable financial infrastructure, enabling people to save money and work together on conservation issues and solutions. Empowering villagers to manage their own environment sustainably – and diversify their income streams at the same time – is an important part of the business model for Net-Works.

Net-Works won four awards in 2015, including a Guardian Sustainable Business Award recognising it as an excellent example of partners working together in non-traditional ways towards truly sustainable outcomes.

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‘Helping people as well as wildlife has been hugely satisfying’

**FANNY DJOMKAM IS ZSL’S NET-WORKS AND VSLA COORDINATOR IN CAMEROON**

‘The communities I work with living near Lake Ossa in Cameroon rely on fishing, but declining catches mean they’re struggling to afford basics like healthcare and education. So last year we introduced the Net-Works and Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) programme ZSL developed in the Philippines. VSLAs enable fishing communities to save and to access small amounts of money to support sustainable behaviour. Eleven VSLA groups totalling 200 people provide a powerful local network – thanks to which, more than 100kg of old fishing nets are being removed from the lake for shipment to Interface every month, and storing old nets instead of discarding them is becoming normal practice. Weekly VSLA meetings mean I can really help the villagers develop not only sustainable fishing practices, but also conservation agriculture and wildlife protection ideas. To be able to help the people as well as the wildlife has been hugely satisfying for me.’

Find out more at zsl.org/net-works

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80 tonnes of discarded fishing nets – measuring 74,000km (enough to stretch twice around the world) – were removed from coasts by the end of 2015 thanks to Net-Works.
Inspiring the next generation

Conservation success depends on changing human behaviour. ZSL informs and inspires people about wildlife conservation, engaging audiences around the world to be part of the solution.

Gaming for wildlife
Finding ways to engage new audiences with conservation, especially young people, can often be the first hurdle to cross for today’s conservationists. ZSL and the United for Wildlife initiative have developed a new interactive conservation-themed game, 'We are the Rangers', within the popular Minecraft video game. 'We are the Rangers' transports players to the African savannah where, taking on the role of park rangers, they battle poachers to save elephants, rhinos and pangolins. The game has already been downloaded more than 40,000 times, successfully engaging and inspiring huge numbers of young people who might otherwise have never given wildlife poaching in Africa a second thought. Encouragingly, around 12–15% of downloads were recorded in Thailand and Vietnam, where poaching for the illegal wildlife trade is rife.

Find out more about 'We are the Rangers' and download the game at wearetherangers.com

Getting closer to nature
Anyone with an iPhone can connect with the natural world via our Instant Wild app. Automated cameras at locations around the world beam the photos of wild animals they have captured to people’s mobile phones in real time, letting Instant Wild users view the images, help to name the species caught on film and join in online wildlife discussions.

In London, the public’s sightings of seals, porpoises, dolphins and whales in the Thames Estuary can be recorded through the ZSL website, where hundreds of Londoners have contributed to our marine mammal surveys. Further afield, holidaying divers and fishers can contribute their photos of angelsharks in the Canary Islands to the Angel Shark Project database, and of seahorses in the Philippines to the iSeahorse app.

At ZSL London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade Zoo, almost two million annual visitors have the opportunity to learn about biodiversity, connect with nature and take positive action to support our mission. The unique, multisensory experience we offer helps visitors appreciate the importance of the many other creatures with which we share our planet. An impressive 1,066,812 visitors have attended the Live! talks at our Zoos, learning more about the animals in our care and the work we’re doing in the field.

Being more involved
Groups of local residents along the River Thames have been learning how to monitor the river’s water quality, and to record levels of eels and smelt in its waters. Meanwhile, over in Nepal, Indonesia and Thailand, ZSL has been encouraging local communities to get involved with community wildlife patrol teams and has trained local representatives to work on conflict mitigation and conservation education initiatives.

Structured learning
ZSL also offers opportunities for serious studying. More than 170,000 school children participate in Discovery and Learning education programmes at our Zoos each year. These workshops and programmes, which are linked to the national curriculum, open up young people’s eyes to the natural world and help them develop personal, scientific and practical skills.

Last year, a new online learning opportunity was launched for older students around the world. The Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on ‘Introducing Conservation’ was developed in partnership with the United for Wildlife initiative. It is free, aims to inspire and engage thousands of people worldwide, and contains interactive content, learning assessments, online community activities, and contributions from experts across ZSL.

ZSL has also made specialised training available for those seeking a career in conservation. ZSL’s EDGE Fellows – early-career conservationists working with unique wildlife around the world – each receive six weeks of theoretical and practical training, and every year we also offer a two-week international field course in Mongolia. Meanwhile, three postgraduate MSc courses, in Wild Animal Health, Wild Animal Biology and Conservation Science, plus a MRes degree in Biodiversity, Evolution and Conservation, are hosted each year at ZSL.

Find out more about Instant Wild at reports.zsl.org/instant-wild, about our Thames wildlife sightings at zsl.org/inthethames, about angelshark sightings at zsl.org/angelsharks and angelsharkproject.com and about seahorse sightings at zsl.org/seahorse

Find out more about the Introducing Conservation course at reports.zsl.org/online-learning and our postgraduate opportunities at zsl.org/science/postgraduate-study
School children have the opportunity to learn at our Zoos. Left: ‘We are the Rangers’ is a new ecology-themed Minecraft game developed in part by ZSL.

Top and bottom right: The Connect Chagos project is engaging the Chagossian community with conservation.

Graduates of our 2015 Mongolia Summer Field Course receive training in up-to-date biodiversity survey techniques and gain valuable field experience.

Claudia Naraina is part of ZSL’s Connect Chagos project, connecting people from the UK Chagossian community with conservation in the Chagos Archipelago.

‘Participating in ZSL’s Connect Chagos environmental training course really did change my life. I did the course in 2012, and the skills I gained (for example, helping me to become a qualified rescue diver) enabled me to join an expedition to the Chagos Archipelago Marine Reserve in the Indian Ocean in 2015 and help the scientists with reef surveys. This area has the most pristine coral reefs left in the world, and discovering the amazing marine life there for the first time was overwhelming!

‘Overall the expedition was challenging but rewarding. My highlight was rescuing a turtle caught in fishing line. We didn’t have anything to cut the nets with, so we had to improvise using broken pieces of a bottle to free the turtle. It was one of the best things I have ever done.

‘I had no idea what to expect, but I quickly got into the routine of living on a ship with the scientists and crew. If I ever get another opportunity like it again, I will not hesitate!’
Innovative financing mechanisms are set to revolutionise the way in which conservation is funded, and ZSL is at the forefront of this thinking.

Demand for wildlife products has reached unprecedented levels and poaching is pushing some of our most iconic species – such as tigers, elephants and rhinos – towards extinction. The illegal wildlife trade fosters corruption, violence and insecurity, while poaching reduces the resource base for rural development, compromising the livelihoods of those whose future depends on such species. Saving wildlife and sustaining livelihoods requires large-scale, long-term political and financial commitments.

To date, most financial support for conservation has been obtained from traditional fundraising sources – government, foundations, corporates or individuals – but on their own, these are not enough. The short-term nature of contracts, shortage of funding resources, and a lack of capacity for adaptive management often limit conservation organisations’ capacity to generate long-term impact in the most effective way. To bridge the funding gap and meet the level of scale-up needed, it is crucial that we expand from donor-driven financing towards an impact investor-driven approach – ‘impact investing’.

At ZSL, we are working to address the need for global coordination on illegal wildlife trade issues, while pioneering the development of innovative, species-focused conservation finance products. Here, we look at two ground-breaking examples of impact investment initiatives at ZSL.

Powering Africa, Recharging Conservation

The Kenyan government has committed to bringing electricity to its entire population by 2030, while reducing its carbon output by 30% over the same period. To help Kenya meet these ambitious targets, we are leading the development of ‘Powering Africa | Recharging Conservation’ (PA|RC), an innovative financing mechanism that will catalyse investment in solar power plants in Kenya.

PA|RC solar power plants will generate renewable energy for the national grid, adding an extra 3.5 billion kWh of clean power to Kenyan homes and businesses over the next 20 years. In that time, the plants will create hundreds of jobs for local people, while generating an additional US$70m in fixed revenue. The profits will be committed to strengthening the management of Kenyan protected areas, helping to ensure the long-term conservation of the iconic species and habitats they support. Once proven successful, this model can be scaled up across Africa and beyond, incorporating other clean energy technologies and providing additional capital for funding conservation needs.

Rhino Impact Investment

Also in Kenya, ZSL is currently working to develop a market-based impact investment product that will generate long-term, sustainable funding for critical rhino conservation areas. With rhinos as its initial focus, the Rhino Impact Investment (RII) will demonstrate a ‘Payment by Results’ financing mechanism that draws on private impact capital to fund conservation activities. Unlike traditional funding models, the RII will see large donors become ‘outcome-payers’, only repaying impact-investors’ initial investment (and, potentially, interest) once the agreed conservation outcomes, such as growth in rhino populations and reduction in poaching incidents, are achieved. The project will result in the launch, in 2018/19, of a novel market-based rhino impact investment product in a selection of priority rhino sites. This work is supported by the United Nations Development Programme, the Global Environment Facility and six other leading conservation organisations, working under the umbrella of the United for Wildlife initiative established by His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge.

Find out more about our groundbreaking financing projects at reports.zsl.org/innovative-financing
Funding and partners

ZSL’s work is indebted to a huge number of organisations and individuals – from those who fund our groundbreaking conservation efforts, to our national and international partners who are working side-by-side with us to protect wildlife and habitats all over the world. We remain enormously grateful for all their generosity and support, and would like to acknowledge them in the pages that follow.
What you helped

**Monitoring the planet**

- 56,000 species assessments were uploaded to the National Red List Database in 2015, bringing the total to over 116,000 from 78 countries.

- Our scientists report that the Greater Thames Estuary is home to more than 600 harbour seals and 400 grey seals.

- More than 800 bird species in Nepal were assessed for the National Red List of Nepal’s Birds.

**Saving threatened species**

- The area now covered by SMART in the sites where we work in Africa and Asia is over 6 million hectares.

- 600 rangers have been trained in the use of SMART.

- 143 guards were trained in India’s Gir.

- Rangers have removed 285 snares and contributed to the arrest of 23 poachers around our sites.

- More than 250 people have been involved in the production of three regional strategies and 14 national action plans for cheetahs and wild dogs.

- 50+ individual tigers are being monitored by our teams in Asia.

- ZSL participates in 24 conservation breeding and translocation programmes in 13 countries.
What you helped us achieve in 2015

Inspiring the next generation

Engaging business

Protecting habitats

3 Mission Target

ZSL’s work has resulted in 128km² of extra tiger habitat – the Bara Forest – gaining legal protection in Nepal

Influenced by the ZSL-led Marine Reserves Coalition, the UK government has announced its intent to legally protect more than 830,000km² of ocean around the Pitcairn Islands

80 tonnes of discarded fishing nets (enough to stretch twice around the world) were removed from the environment by the end of 2015

627,274 hectares of priority conservation landscape allocated as timber concessions are now covered by wildlife protection plans in Cameroon

SPOTT includes assessments of 50 of the world’s largest palm oil producers – between them controlling close to 50% of all land under cultivation globally

81% of palm oil company assessment scores have improved since preliminary assessments on SPOTT began in June

80 tonnes

50

81%

29
Conservation funders

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all those who have funded our work – from charities, trusts and foundations to government agencies, corporate partners and individual donors.

ZSL would like to thank all the individuals, trusts, foundations and government agencies that made our work possible in 2015. For our conservation work we would like to thank the IUCN Save Our Species Fund and Fondation Segré for pangolin conservation; the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and Defra’s Darwin Initiative for their ongoing support of our projects in Africa and Asia; the European Union and Fondation Ensemble for supporting ZSL’s ‘Our Sea Our Life’ project in Mozambique; and the Bertarelli Foundation for helping us develop a five-year science programme in the Chagos Archipelago.

We would also like to thank The Ray C Anderson Foundation and the St Andrews Prize for the Environment for helping fund Net-Works; Selfridges for its ongoing support of our marine conservation work through Project Ocean; CORDAID and the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) for building Philippines coastal resilience in two new regions; the David and Lucile Packard Foundation for helping us improve palm oil landscape management in Indonesia; the Arcus Foundation, which funded work in Cameroon and China; and the ongoing support of the Rufford Foundation, Disney Conservation Fund and the Dorothy Howard Charitable Trust, all of which also gave to our Nepal earthquake appeal.

We were delighted to receive new grants from Kindy French and the Friedman-French Foundation for our EDGE of Existence programme; the Oak Foundation and The Royal Foundation of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry to develop conservation technology; and Defra’s Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, the Oak Foundation and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation for a new campaign to make London a city free of single-use plastic water bottles.

Looking ahead, 2016 will see the launch of some of ZSL’s largest-ever projects, including a landscape management partnership in South Sumatra funded by aid from the UK Government and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; a Rhino Impact Investment project supported by UNDP-GEF and United for Wildlife, an initiative established by His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge; and the implementation of our programme in the Chagos Archipelago, supported by the Bertarelli Foundation. Our heartfelt thanks also go out to all the other donors listed here, including those who have chosen to remain anonymous.

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ZSL works with conservation partners in Benin, home to 60% of the remaining elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) in West Africa.

More than 800 bird species, including this Hodgson’s bushchat (*Saxicola insignis*) were assessed for the National Red List of Nepal’s Birds in 2015.
Conservation partners

ZSL’s work to protect wildlife would be impossible without the support of a huge range of national and international partnerships.

Action for Sustainable Development
African Marine Mammal Conservation Organization (AMMCO)
African Wildlife Foundation
Agence des Aires Marines Protégées
Aide et Action pour la Paix
AMUR
Archipelago Consulting
Arocha
Asia Pulp and Paper
Asociación de Naturalistas del Sureste
Associação de Meio Ambiente (AMA)
Association des Femmes Haoussa pour le Développement
Bangor University
Bioclimate, Research and Development
Bird Conservation Nepal
Blackwater Oystermen Association
Blue Marine Foundation
Blue Ventures
Bournemouth University
Bramley Associates
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ZSL Annual Report and Accounts 2015
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