

Project Seagrass is an
environmental charity
devoted to the
conservation of seagrass
ecosystems through
education, influence,
research and action.

REPORT And FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31st March
2017

Project Seagrass,
Sustainable Places Research Institute,
33 Park Place, Cardiff, CF10 3BA

www.projectseagreass.org

The directors of Project Seagrass are its Trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees. The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2017

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Project Seagrass

Charity registration number in England and Wales: 1162824

Charity registration number in Scotland: SC046788

Registered Office and Operation address: Sustainable Places Research Institute
33 Park Place
Cardiff
CF10 3BA

Trustees:

Dr Richard K.F. Unsworth
Dr Leanne C. Cullen-Unsworth
Miss Rebecca D. Cullen

Directors: (as at 31st March 2017)

Mr Benjamin L. Jones
Dr Richard K.F. Unsworth
Dr Leanne C. Cullen-Unsworth
Mr Richard J. Lilley

Table of Contents

Structure, Governance and Management	4
Governing Document	4
Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees	4
Objectives and Activities	4
Statement of Public Benefit	4
Achievements and Performance	5
Key achievements in the period 2016/17	5
Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements	8

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO), incorporated on and registered as a charity on 24 July 2015. It is governed by an Association Model Constitution, having been amended following approval by members at an EGM on 2nd May 2015.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The management of the organization is vested in the Trustees who act in a voluntary capacity.

Objectives and Activities

Project Seagrass was created with the mission of turning cutting-edge research into effective conservation action and education schemes, by collaborating with local communities and other stakeholders.

Statement of Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4, Charities Act 2011, to have due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission concerning public benefit.

As a dedicated team of seagrass scientists, we work to protect seagrass, and through seagrass, we support marine conservation more broadly. The charity's main work is in promoting protection of coastal ecosystems and the promotion of sustainable marine resource use.

Each of our programs are aimed at improving the condition of the marine environment. A healthy marine environment will supply benefits to the public; these are often referred to as marine 'ecosystem services'.

The United Nations' Millennium Ecosystem Assessment recognized three types of ecosystem services called provision, regulating and cultural. Each of these is relevant to the marine environment.

Provisioning refers to society's needs for our seas to supply both the wild caught and farmed fish that are an important part of our diet.

Regulating is important for climate, seagrass is a significant contributor to carbon sequestration in the form of 'blue carbon'

Culturally, British seas and coasts are well regarded for recreation, ecotourism and appreciation of natural heritage. When the coastal ecosystem is healthy it supplies more of these benefits.

Project Seagrass works not only to increase the extent of these benefits, but also to make them publically available.

During 2015/16 the charity promoted interest and learning on the marine environment through its dedicated SEA (Seagrass Education & Awareness) outreach and education programme and inspired action at the local level through delivery of its SAS (Seagrass Ambassador Scheme) volunteer and community engagement programme.

Achievements and Performance

Following its 2nd anniversary in 2015, Project Seagrass reviewed its success and also evaluated the most pressing threats to coastal seagrass meadows for the coming decade. This led to identification of areas three key areas where Project Seagrass should focus its efforts:

Education

Influence

Research

Action

These were presented on the 9th March 2016 at our 'Official Launch' in Cardiff.

This report presents the highlights and key achievement over the past year that work towards these aims, reflecting the breadth and success of Project Seagrass in protecting our coastal ecosystems.

Key achievements in the period 2016/17

The period from the 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 marks 4 years since Project Seagrass was founded and 2 years since it became a registered charity in England and Wales. The year did not disappoint and was our busiest year to date.

Key achievements: Education

Our year began in May with a weekend of outreach activities based at 'The Deep' in Hull, England. This was followed by a very successful

event at the Glasgow Science Festival's Science Sunday Big Birthday Bash in June 2016, where Richard Lilley and Lauren Clayton help to inspire Scotland's next generation of marine biologists. In September 2016, the Project Seagrass team from HQ in Cardiff were at the British Science Festival in Swansea running a Seagrass Education and Awareness stand. For December 2016, the team developed a virtual seagrass themed calendar, the opening of each door revealed #SantasSeagrassSecrets. January of the New Year ended with Richard Lilley travelling to the ExCeL centre in London for the BETT showcase, with the aim of learning how advances in information technology could be used to enhance our Seagrass Education and Awareness (SEA) programme. February 2017 saw the Benjamin and Leanne Cullen-Unsworth in Cardiff out and about for the Cardiff University 'speak week' to spread the Project Seagrass word.

Key achievements: Influence

Our first conference of 2016/17 was in May 2016. Benjamin Jones presented some of his work at MSEAS in France – a conference focusing on understanding marine socio-ecological systems. Later in May, Richard Unsworth attended a Zostera Experimental Network gathering in Davis, California. In August 2016, Richard Lilley helped to run a workshop at the 4th International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC4) on 'Bringing fishermen to the table' which saw an important development in making science conferences available to all. Later on, in September 2016, the team were lucky enough to lead the development

of a statement released by the World Seagrass Association about the global need to conserve seagrass meadows. The statement was signed by over 170 of the world leading scientists and was featured by the BBC. One of our key events of the year was the 12th International Seagrass Biology Workshop (IBSW) in October 2016, held at Nant Gwrthryn, Wales. The workshop was a huge success for Project Seagrass, bringing together 200 seagrass scientists from across the world to talk about seagrass. At the beginning of January in the New Year, Project Seagrass was approached by Andrew Lewin to be featured in his 'Speak up for the Blue' podcasts, the first of these was the 'Ocean Optimism on the Future of Seagrass Meadows' released on January 3rd. March 2017 was Seagrass Awareness Month and saw the release of 'The Dugong & Seagrass Research Toolkit'.

Key achievements: Research

A year of research began in April 2016 with Benjamin Jones making the trip to Cambodia to set up a Cardiff University research project and then spending time in Myanmar to take the first detailed look at seagrass communities in the Myeik Archipelago. Later, in March 2017, Benjamin Jones headed to Mexico as part of the 'Land 2 Coast' project with Cardiff University. In August 2016, our intern from Cardiff University, Laura Pratt, completed an excellent piece of research mapping the distribution of seagrass along the South Wales coastline. The team continued to provide a strong international to the academic research field, publishing articles in the peer reviewed literature including an important peer reviewed paper documenting the 'Perilous state of

seagrass in the British Isles'. During spring 2016, the team began an important research survey to document the loss of seagrass by permanent boat moorings in England and Wales.

Key achievements: Action

April 2016 was the beginning of the expansion of Project Seagrass into Scotland followed by the development of the Scottish Seagrass Network and the official registration of Project Seagrass as a charitable entity in Scotland in August 2016. September 2016 saw the continuation of our work in Scotland, Richard Lilley Travelled to Oban for the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) to promote some Seagrass Spotter citizen science. November 2016 was a big month for our smartphone app 'Seagrass Spotter'. It was developed from being a smartphone application only available in the British Isles to one that was functional across Europe – in particular across the Mediterranean region. The success of the expansion of Seagrass Spotter was revealed in January 2017. Over 400 sightings of seagrass were recorded on the app from across the North Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. The success of the SeagrassSpotter system led the team to commence a project in early 2017 to develop the app into a global seagrass citizen science platform. As part of our Seagrass Watch initiative, the team travelled to Porthdinllaen, North Wales four times throughout the year (seasonally) to monitor the seagrass in the area. During 2016 and 2017, the team have continued to partner with Natural England and Dr Jim Bull (Swansea University) to conduct annual seagrass monitoring in the Isles of Scilly.

Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom General Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

1. Select suitable account policies and then apply them consistently
2. Observe the methods and the principles in the Charity SORP
3. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and
4. Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charitable company will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply the appropriate legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)

Incoming Resources	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2016 Total	2015 Total
Donations and appeals		843.71	-	843.71	145.44
Commercial trading operations		-	-	-	33.25
Investment income		6.03	-	6.03	1.65
Grant Income		-	36,345.12	36,345.12	9,300.00
Charitable activities		39,384.48	-	39,384.48	-
Total Income		40,234.22	36,345.12	76,579.34	9,480.34

Resources Expended	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2016 Total	2015 Total
Fundraising		18,205.70	-	18,205.70	-
Commercial trading operations		-	-	-	217.51
Operational programmes			15,364.81	15,364.81	7,084.40
Employment		8,219.21	13,551.34	21,770.55	-
Governance		982.1	-	982.1	1,463.46
Total Expenditure		27,407.01	28,916.15	56,323.16	8,765.37

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2016 Total	2015 Total
Net incoming/outgoing for the year before transfers (net income for the year)		12,827.21	7,428.97	20,256.18	714.97
Gains/(losses) on listed investments		6.03	-	6.03	1.65
Gains / (losses) on foreign income		-	-	-	-
Gains / (losses) on disposal of assets		-	-	-	-
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement of funds in year		-	-	-	-
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
Total fund brought forward		186.12	5,729.67	5,915.79	5,200.82
Total Funds Carried Forward		13,013.33	13,158.64	26,171.97	5,915.79


This statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognized in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Balance Sheet

		2016 Charity £	2015 Charity £
	Notes		
Fixed Assets		-	-
Tangible Assets		-	-
Investments		-	-
Current Assets			
Debtors		-	-
Cash at bank and in hand		26,171.97	5,915.79
Creditors: amount falling due within one year		-	-
Net Current Assets		26,171.97	5,915.79
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		26,171.97	5,915.79
Funds			
Unrestricted funds:			
General reserves		13,013.33	186.12
Designated funds		-	-
Restricted funds		13,158.64	5,729.67
		5,915.79	5,915.79

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) relating to small companies.

Approved by the board of trustees on 11th of December 2017 and Independently Examined on its behalf by:



Robert Jones BSc. AFA FTA
Money Matters (Widnes) Ltd, 4 Whitworth Court, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 1WA



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Project Seagrass

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st March 2017

**Charity no
(if any)**

1162824

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

18/12/2017

Name:

Robert Jones

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Member of the Institute of Financial Accountants and Federation of Taxation Advisors

Address:

4 Whitworth Court, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 1WA

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

