

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
2018

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 2018

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 2018)

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

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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 2017/18 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 four 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 2017/18

The period from the 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 marks 5 years since Project Seagrass was founded, 3 years since it became a registered charity in England and Wales and 1 year since it became a registered charity in Scotland.

Key achievements: Education

Our year began in April with one of our SAS volunteers Jake Davies creating a

'Dive into monitoring: Seagrass 2017' volunteer diving project. The project is being run in part with Seasearch North Wales, and funded by Sea-Changers. It hoped to set up monitoring stations which local divers and clubs can go back to year on year. It also revisits the work which was carried out from 2008-2012 by Countryside Council for Wales which also used volunteer divers.

In April we also had a stand at the Edinburgh International Science Festival and it would not have been possible without the help of some fantastic volunteers.

April was also the first of SAS volunteer Sarah (SJ) Pope's marathons in support of Project Seagrass. She ran the London Marathon as part of her 'Three Before Thirty' challenge to raise funds and awareness for Project Seagrass! In May SJ ran the second of her three marathons, the Edinburgh Marathon.

The month of May saw the launch of 'The fishes in the seagrass!' This video (available on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSwvkUxgYc>) is a seagrass inspired version of the children's classic tune 'Wheels on the bus' and with it we aimed to generate increased interest more widely in seagrass meadows in the UK and elsewhere as a critically important habitat.

The beginning of June saw the final of SJs 'Three Before Thirty' marathon challenge, the Stockholm Marathon. The second half of the month was all about the Glasgow Science Festival which was an even better day than it was last year. More than 50,000 people attended and there

was significant interest in the Project Seagrass stall where children did seagrass art and discussed videos about the biodiversity present in seagrass.

In July we visited the Wester Ross Marine Protected Area at the Ullapool Rotary 'Round The Pier Day' in collaboration with Ullapool Harbour Trust. Here we were hosted in a marquee on the harbour by Scottish Wildlife Trusts with guests from some of the best and most exciting wildlife and nature projects happening in the area and throughout Scotland.

We hosted a Cardiff University 'Professional Training Year' (PTY) undergraduate student Evie James from September 2017. Evie is providing administrative and project support whilst also undertaking a research project investigating the use of archive material as data to demonstrate historical trends in seagrass status and change.

In October 2017 Director Leanne Cullen-Unsworth was invited to give a presentation as part of the Wildlife Trusts 'Unknown Wales' event held annually at the National Museum in Cardiff. Leanne gave an educational presentation 'Wales' Secret Underwater Gardens: exploring the humble seagrass meadow'. SeagrassSpotter was also promoted at the event and in the presentation. The event was attended by more than 200 people, with seagrass discussed on associated twitter threads and several people inquiring about Welsh seagrass after the event (and how to get involved in monitoring/protection).

October 2017 also saw director Dr Richard Unsworth running the

Snowdonia marathon in order to raise funds for Project Seagrass.

In February 2018 the directors co-authored a journal in 'Frontiers for Young Minds' which is an educational resources targeting 8-16 year olds. Our paper 'Secret Gardens under the Sea: What Are Seagrass Meadows and Why Are They Important?'

See <https://tinyurl.com/y7gpo9ec>

Key achievements: Influence

During the last year we have written six articles for the online research news platform 'The Conversation' all related to the plight of seagrass meadows in various locations around the globe. Of particular importance to our key projects was the publication of the article titled 'Why saving our blue planet may lie in the hands of citizen scientists'.

See <https://tinyurl.com/ychhldcf>

In February 2017 Richard Unsworth headed to Dubai to officially launch the Dugong and Seagrass Research Toolkit, an online tool co-created by Project Seagrass.

During August 2017 Project Seagrass was featured in an episode of BBC Countryfile focusing on the Llyn Peninsula where we were depicted working at our long-term monitoring site in Porthdinllaen. Ben and Richard explained the significance of seagrass meadows for a variety of reasons including UK fisheries support.

Three of our directors contributed to the scientific advice on seagrass to the producers of the BBC Blue Planet 2 series for their Green Seas episode.

As a result we received an invitation to the premier in Bristol hosted by Sir David Attenborough which Benjamin Jones attended.

Related to airing of the Blue Planet 2 series Leanne was asked to write a blog post for Nature, Ecology and Evolution reflecting on the episode 'Green Seas' which included seagrass meadows. The post was called 'Secret Gardens under the Sea: exploring the humble seagrass meadow' following our theme of this year and a general problem relating to the 'hidden' nature of seagrass meadows. The 'Green Seas' episode of Blue Planet II gave us a glimpse of the beauty contained within some of the world's seagrass meadows but this only skims the surface of what these amazing plants can do.

See <https://tinyurl.com/yd99a34r>

We took action to confirm 1st March as World Seagrass Day. We promoted the day through our social media networks and have had support for this from other organisations around the globe. The idea is that we will build this to become an annual event with associated activities (real and virtual) to raise awareness of seagrass meadows.

Key achievements: Research

Research outputs for the period of 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 were significant. Over the course of the year, the Project Seagrass team lead eight research articles, and featured as co-authors for a further eight.

Seasonal monitoring at our long term site in Porthdinllaen has continued with

the programme now running into its fourth year.

Research featured six times in 'The Conversation' (see *Influence*).

Key achievements: Action

In April Dr Richard Lilley also managed to get across to the Hebrides. First to Skye to meet with the South Skye Sea Initiative a community based project for the conservation of Loch Eishort, Loch Slapin and Loch Scavaig.

During 2017/18 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, and additionally had meetings with the Natural England Team to discuss future projects and develop proposals.

We have also begun to forge links with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and their marine team in order to work together and share data across Wales.

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	2018 Total	2017 Total
Donations and appeals	1	1,946.88	-	1,946.88	843.71
Commercial trading operations		-	-	-	-
Investment income		-	-	-	6.03
Grant Income	2	-	10,532.13	10,532.13	36,345.12
Charitable activities		-	-	-	39,384.48
Total Income		1,946.88	10,532.13	12,479.01	76,579.34

Resources Expended	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2018 Total	2017 Total
Fundraising		375.77	-	375.77	18,205.70
Commercial trading operations		-	-	-	-
Operational programmes	3	-	8,951.32	8,951.32	15,364.81
Employment	4,5	1,117.88	8,244.86	9,362.74	21,770.55
Governance	6	231.60	-	231.60	982.1
Total Expenditure		1,725.25	17,196.18	18,921.43	56,323.16

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2018 Total	2017 Total
Net incoming/outgoing for the year before transfers (net income for the year)		221.63	-6,664.05	-6,442.42	20,256.18
Gains/(losses) on listed investments		-	-	-	6.03
Gains / (losses) on foreign income		-	-	-	-
Gains / (losses) on disposal of assets		-	-	-	-
Gross transfers between funds	7	-4,000.00	4,000.00	-	-
Net movement of funds in year		-	-	-	-
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
funds brought forward from previous year		13,013.33	13,158.64	26,171.97	5,915.79
Total Funds Carried Forward		9,234.96	10,494.59	19,729.55	26,171.97

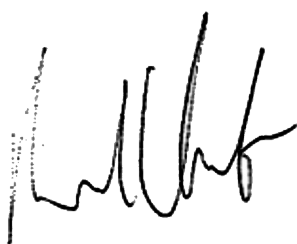
This statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognized in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Balance Sheet

	Notes	2018 Charity £	2017 Charity £
Fixed Assets		-	-
Tangible Assets		-	-
Investments		-	-
Current Assets			
Debtors		-	-
Cash at bank and in hand		19,729.55	26,171.97
Creditors: amount falling due within one year		-	-
Net Current Assets		19,729.55	26,171.97
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		19,729.55	26,171.97
Funds			
Unrestricted funds:			
General reserves		9,234.96	13,013.33
Designated funds:		-	-
Restricted funds		10,494.59	13,158.64
		19,729.55	26,171.97

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 20th of April 2018 and signed on its behalf by:



Dr Richard K.F. Unsworth, Director and Trustee

Notes on Financial Activities

1. During the financial year, Sarah Pope ran three marathons (Edinburgh, Stockholm & London) and raised donations through Virgin Money Giving. Additionally, Richard Unsworth ran the Snowdonia Mountain Marathon and raised donations through Virgin Money Giving.
2. During the financial year, Project Seagrass received funding from;
 - a. The Environment Agency Abu Dhabi for the development of *The Dugong and Seagrass Research Toolkit*.
 - b. Natural England for the yearly *Isles of Scilly Seagrass Monitoring Programme*.
 - c. The Sustainable Places Research Institute, Cardiff University for developments to our seagrass monitoring drone.
3. Operational programmes that we continued to spend money on included our Porthdinllaen Seagrass Monitoring Programme (funded in 2015 and 2017) as well as SeagrassSpotter (funded in 2016 and 2017).
4. Project Seagrass employed one member of staff in the financial year to work on the development of *The Dugong and Seagrass Research Toolkit* using restricted funds. This amounted to seven months of part time employment (0.5FTE).
5. Project Seagrass employed one member of staff in the financial year to work on the development of the SeagrassSpotter identification guide using unrestricted funds. This amounted to one month of part time employment (0.5FTE).
6. During the financial year we used unrestricted funds for Charity Insurance.
7. To further support our two main operational programmes, Porthdinllaen Seagrass Monitoring Programme (funded in 2015 and 2017) and SeagrassSpotter (funded in 2016 and 2017), we transferred £4,000.00 of unrestricted funds to restricted funds to supplement these programmes for 2018.