Welcome!

Welcome to our first species champions project newsletter. We plan to update you twice per year on the progress of the scheme and what MPs are doing around the country to help their chosen species.

Project launches in Parliament

On 1 March the MP Species Champions project was launched in Parliament. MPs were invited to drop in and receive a poster of their adopted species and to talk to the project team. Plantlife handed out seeds to those MPs championing one of their priority plants.

Since the launch the number of champions has risen to 30. If you have a colleague in Parliament who would like to champion a species, please tell them to get in touch with Philippa Goodwin: philippa.goodwin@rspb.org.uk

Who are the Species Champion MPs so far?


Want more information?

For more information on the Species Champions project visit our microsite at:
https://www.buglife.org.uk/specieschampions

State of Nature 2016: Save the date!

14th September 9.30am - Royal Society, London

The first State of Nature Report, launched in 2013, was the first time that wildlife organisations had joined together to assess nature’s health in the UK and overseas territories.

In excess of 3,000 species were assessed and it was found that 60% had declined in the last 50 years.

The second report is being launched by Sir David Attenborough on 14th September 2016 at the Royal Society.

Species Champion MPs are invited to an exclusive briefing with the report authors at the start of the event. We hope you will join us. See the enclosed invitation for more information.
Withdrawal from the EU: Implications for wildlife

Given the large amount of environmental policy decided at EU level, the result of the EU referendum could have a significant impact on the future of wildlife in the UK.

The nature organisations behind the Species Champions initiative will be seeking to make sure protections for sites and species remain in place and, where necessary, are strengthened. Amongst other things, this means retaining the Habitats Regulations for England and Wales.

We will also be urging the Government to continue to support wildlife friendly farmers through agri-environment payments. And finally any replacement of the common fisheries policy must include the measures in the reformed CFP to make fishing more sustainable.

Project launches in Wales

The Wales Species Champions project launch took place on 15 June, with a drop in event for Welsh Assembly Members. The project was highly successful in signing up over a third of Assembly Members, with species adopted ranging from the red squirrel to the bottlenose dolphin.

The pioneering ScotLINK MSP species champions project ended with the close of the last Parliament in May, but will be re-launched in September.

MPs visit sites home to rare species in their constituencies

Species Champion MPs have made the most of the warm weather to get out in nature and find out more about their chosen species this summer.

- Richard Benyon MP with Snakes Head Fritillaries & Rachael Maskell MP with a Tansy Beetle.

Fun Fact

The championed species with the longest migratory route is the Manx shearwater (species champion Derek Thomas MP). This species flies a staggering 6,000 miles between the UK and the southern Atlantic, off South America where it spends the winter. Other species with an extensive migration are swift, nightingale, puffin, European eel and Atlantic salmon.

Species Champions in England is coordinated by:

Working in partnership with:

The Angling Trust, The People’s Trust for Endangered Species and The British Hedgehog Preservation Society