

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, have pleasure in presenting their report for the year ended 31 March 2009

OBJECTS, PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND ORGANISATION

The charity is a registered charity, number 290776. The charity's object and principal activity continues to be that of encouraging the prevention of marine pollution and promoting and conducting research into its causes and effects.

The charity continues to monitor marine pollution and collaborates with other national and international organisations concerned with environmental policies. It also promotes high level seminars, meetings and lectures on critical marine policy issues.

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, company number 1867863, and is therefore governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees may be appointed under the terms of the Articles of Association only with the power to co-opt until subsequent general meetings to fill casual vacancies as and when they may arise.

The charity is administered by its Executive Committee, which includes the Trustees.

DEVELOPMENTS, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR

During the current and previous years the charity's activities have been reduced to a level that may be sustainable over the longer term. Since January 2009 there has been increased funding for the Africa project. During the year the charity relocated to University of Cambridge premises in order to achieve administrative cost savings.

ACOPS continues to play a lead role with its United Kingdom Oil Pollution Surveys. These have been active for over a quarter of a century and the Trustees recognise the work of Trevor Dixon, who has been pivotal in completing the internationally recognised surveys.

ACOPS continues to have observer status on the United Nations and the International Maritime Organisation. Louise de la Fayette, ACOPS Advisor on International Law and Policy, played an active role in promoting caution about ocean experiments for climate change and other global issues, participating in the following:

United Nations: The Ad Hoc Working Group on Marine Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdiction, making a speech which was very well received and distributing a document on behalf of ACOPS which was later published as an article in an academic journal. She also attended a meeting of the parties to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement.

International Maritime Organisation: Louise attended a number of IMO meetings relating to the protection of the marine environment and participated in the Correspondence Group on Port Reception Facilities. She also contributed to the development of the new Convention on Ship Recycling and to the development of the Guide to Good Practice for the Providers and Users of Port Reception Facilities.

London (Dumping) Convention and 1996 Protocol: Louise attended a number of meetings of the LC and

LP, contributing to the work of these bodies on the mitigation of climate change. She opposed the use of ocean fertilization as a means to sequester CO₂ in the oceans, pointing out that research had shown it not to be effective and potentially to be a serious hazard to the marine environment and marine biodiversity.

In January 2009, in collaboration with Globe UK, the Parliamentary Space Committee and the British National Space Centre, ACOPS co-sponsored a well attended meeting at Portcullis House in the House of Commons. The meeting discussed the applications of space based observations to monitoring and controlling the marine environment. A report on the meeting is available on the Globe UK and ACOPS websites.

In 2008 ACOPS, with funding from the Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre and Cambridge Centre for Energy Studies (CCES), initiated a pilot project on regional climate monitoring in Africa. The work was organized by ACOPS (Dr Yulia Timoshina) with support from the Met Office and Just Ghana Ltd. This work feeds into an international project with CCES and University of California San Diego on global water initiative and climate change, for the year 2009-2010.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Trustees recognise the difficulty in attracting unrestricted funding and are continuing the process of associating their expertise with the broadly based academic strengths and funding of the University of Cambridge.

DEVELOPMENTS, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR (continued)

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RISK MANAGEMENT

The major risk the charity is exposed to arises from the need to pre-finance projects as referred to under the paragraph on reserves. The Trustees continue to seek alternative sources of finance.

FINANCIAL POSITION

Incoming resources amounted to £86,034 during the year (2008 £16,406). Expenditure on projects and administration costs amounted to £34,281 (2008 £63,819) resulting in an increase in fund balances at 31 March 2009 to a surplus of £16,599 (2008 deficit of £35,154).

INVESTMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association the charity has the power to make any investment which the Trustees see fit. The Trustees consider the most appropriate policy for investing funds and, being aware of the risks set out below, have determined that surplus cash when available should be placed on deposit with its bankers, the period of notice being governed by cash flow requirements and available funds.

RESERVES POLICY

The charity's aim is to obtain unrestricted reserves equal to 12 months working capital. Project donors do not provide funds in advance and in order to ensure that projects can continue the charity must make investment in projects prior to receiving grant awards. This continues to put severe pressure on the funds of the charity. However, the Trustees ensure that sufficient resources are held in an appropriate form to enable in particular restricted funds to be applied in accordance with the restrictions imposed. Details of the position of funds at the end of the year are given in the notes to the financial statements.

REGISTERED OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL ADDRESS

The registered office and principal address of the charitable company is 14 Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1QA.

DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

The directors of the company are also Trustees of the charity. The directors and Trustees, who served throughout the year, were as follows:

Lord Hunt of Chesterton CB FRS
Mr A von Dadelszen
Professor L Mee

Trustees who are not directors who served during the year, were as follows:

Dr A Seal
Professor P Nolan
Mr T Turner
Mr N Butler (resigned 31 January 2009)

TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of its financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are prudent and reasonable; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of error, fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

Ensors have expressed their willingness to continue in office as auditors and a resolution proposing their re-appointment will be submitted at the forthcoming Trustees meeting.

This report was approved by the directors and Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:

S Daultrey
Secretary