

Annual Report & Financial Statements

for the year ended

31 December 2025

Scottish charity number SC044185

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The trustees are pleased to present their report and financial statements together with the independent examiner's report for the year ended 31 December 2025.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Name	Bats without Borders (BwB)
Charity Number	SC044185
Principle Address	Bats without Borders University of Stirling Biological and Environmental Sciences Stirling FK9 4LA Scotland
Current Trustees	Helen Grimble – Chair Dr Helen Taylor-Boyd – Treasurer Dr Moses Chibesa Dr Cullen Gieselman Dr Simeon (Simmy) Bezeng Bezeng Pete Crome – appointed September 2025
Scientific Advisors	Professor Paul Racey Dr Elisa Fuentes-Montemayor
Ambassadors	Dr Mark Anderson Dr Tiwonge Gawa Professor Kirsty Park Professor Paul Racey
Bank	The Cooperative Bank PLC P O Box 101 1 Balloon Street Manchester M60 4EP
Independent Examiner	David Campbell Deans Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors 27 Northbridge Street Hawick TD9 9BD

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

Bats without Borders is a one-tier Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), registered with OSCR on the 6th August 2013. The organisation is governed by its constitution, which was originally adopted on 6th August 2013.

During the reporting year, the constitution was reviewed and updated. The charity's charitable purposes were revised, with the changes approved by OSCR. The constitution was also updated to reflect a change in the charity's geographical remit from southern Africa to Africa wide.

The revised constitution was adopted on 14th October 2025 and is now the governing document of the charity.

Appointment of Trustees

The charity governance and strategic direction is overseen by a Board of five Trustees. The Board Members are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), which is held in February/March at the end of our financial year (January to December). In line with our constitution, we can have up to nine Board Members.

VISION, MISSION AND COMMITMENTS

Our vision for the future

Bats and their habitats in southern African are valued, protected and conserved for the well-being of bats, biodiversity and people.

Our mission

Bats without Borders is dedicated to conserving bats, biodiversity and healthy ecosystems within southern Africa's changing landscape. We will achieve this by supporting and conducting **applied research** that informs targeted **conservation action**, strengthening **local capacity** and promoting a positive attitude towards bats through **public engagement**.

Our commitments

Bats without Borders will strive to:

- **PROTECT** bat diversity and habitats by advocating for policy change with key stakeholders across southern Africa, informed by collaborative, evidence-based and ethical research.
- **RESTORE** important natural habitats through conservation action informed by evidence-based research, in collaboration with African and international partners.
- **ENGAGE** ecologists, researchers and conservationists across Africa to mobilise and protect their natural heritage through capacity strengthening and networking.
- **INSPIRE** people in southern Africa to learn, better understand, appreciate and even love bats through inclusive, participatory and fun education and community engagement.
- **EMPOWER** people to create and realise more sustainable livelihood strategies that both contribute to the alleviation of poverty and the conservation of key ecosystems and biodiversity.

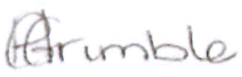
CHAIR'S MESSAGE

2025 has been another busy year for Bats without Borders. As part of our capacity building work, we delivered our third Women in Bat Science 2025 Indaba, to strengthen global bat network leadership. We also trained a second cohort of trainees as part of a programme to establish bat group support across southern Africa. Together with the 2023 bat group training cohort we now have 40 change makers from 11 African countries. Our other major capacity building programme - the early career training pipeline - saw the completion of its first year-long programme, with 28 participants from 10 African countries taking part. Looking forward this programme will be evolving into a 'Conservation Leadership Lab' and we are excited to see how this takes shape. Finally, we had another great year of #WingedWednesday webinars – the year ended with our 57th webinar.

As part of our education and engagement work, we have continued with our Copperbelt Bats Project. In 2025 this has included the role out of our Classrooms without Walls programme to seven schools and three nurseries in Zambia by our Community Engagement Officer Purity Kalenge, and two Train the Trainer workshops, the first one held in Lusaka in person and the second online with the help of Chris Imakondo. In addition, very excitedly we also worked with a youth panel as part of the programme, running a series of workshops to co-design a children's bat book. The book will be released in 2026 so watch this space! Lastly as part of our education work the Classrooms without Walls programme was also rolled out in Mangochi, Malawi by Wongani Sibande.

2025 was also an exciting year for our conservation activities. We were really pleased to launch our first fruit bat community science programme thanks to funding from Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust. This included the development of an online app to track location and results. We would like to thank our Conservation Interns, BwB staff and in-country volunteers for trialling the methods. Finally, we were very excited to welcome Taonga Mwala as our new Habitat Connections Officer, who coordinated the roll out our first urban multi-species conservation project.

On behalf of the board of trustees, I would like to thank our donors, volunteers and partners for their continued support. I would also like to give a special thank you to our incredible team, headed by Rachael Cooper-Bohannon for their amazing work over the last twelve months. 2025 has been a very busy and very successful year, but we are already looking forward to sharing with you what we have coming up for 2026 – watch this space!



Helen Grimble
Chair of Bats without Borders

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overview

Total receipts for the year was £54,106 (2024: £53,920) total payments for the year was £56,294 (2024: £40,393). The charity had a deficit of £2,188 (2024 surplus: £13,527).

Reserves Policy

The trustees consider that an appropriate level of reserves is the equivalent of three months' staff salaries and associated overheads. This benchmark provides a practical buffer while ensuring that funds in excess of this level can be directed straight into charitable activities.

At the end of the accounting year, Bats without Borders held unrestricted reserves of £10,783 (2024: £9,786) and allocated funds for Bats without Borders running costs of £4,038 (2024: £14,291). The trustees are satisfied that this represents a realistic position and will continue to review the reserves policy annually to ensure it reflects the charity's commitments and risks.

FUTURE PLANS

Looking ahead, Bats without Borders will continue to strengthen capacity, engage communities, and champion bat conservation across southern Africa. Our key priorities for 2026 include:

- Launching our **Conservation Leadership Lab**, providing practical training and mentorship to emerging conservationists across the region.
- Supporting new **Bat Groups** established as a result of our Bat Group Training Programme
- Attending the **Women in Conserving Africa Event**
- **#WingedWednesday Webinars** – deliver our popular webinar series to share knowledge and highlight bat conservation work across Africa and beyond.
- Continuing our **Habitat Connections Project (Lusaka, Zambia),** an urban conservation initiative, connecting people and wildlife in city landscapes.
- Launching our **Co-designed children's book**, developed with a youth panel as part of the Copperbelt Bats Project.

These initiatives reflect our commitment to supporting the next generation of conservation leaders, inspiring communities, and developing innovative approaches to bat and habitat conservation.

APPROVAL

This report was approved by the Board on 25th September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

HGrimble

Helen Grimble
Chair of Bats without Borders

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Bats without Borders

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 6 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act") and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations"). The trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation (10)(1)(d) of the 2006 Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section (44)(1)(c) of the 2005 Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Regulations. 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 seeks 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter came to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Regulations, and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Regulations

   have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

David Campbell , CA
27 Northbridge Street
Hawick
TD9 9BD

28th September 2026

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2025 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	5, 6	1,452	38,867	**40,319**	33,523
Charitable activities	7, 8	1,254	12,533	**13,787**	19,845
Other Income		-	-	**-**	552
Total income		2,706	51,400	**54,106**	53,920
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	9	-1,709	-51,971	**-53,680**	-39,610
Governance Costs	9	-	-829	**-829**	-300
		-1,709	-52,800	**-54,509**	-39,910
Purchase of fixed assets	10	-	-1,785	**-1,785**	-483
Total Expenditure		-1,709	-54,585	-56,294	-40,393
Net income/(expenditure)		997	-3,185	**-2,188**	13,527
Net movement in funds		997	-3,185	**-2,188**	13,527
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		9,786	33,670	**43,456**	29,929
Total funds carried forward	11	10,783	30,485	**41,268**	43,456

The Notes on pages 8 to 12 form an integral part of these accounts.

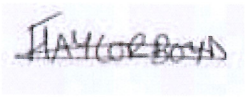
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		41,268	43,456
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	11	30,485	33,670
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		10,783	9,786
Total funds	11	41,268	43,456

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Notes on pages 8 to 11 form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts were approved by the trustees on 26 September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Dr Helen Taylor-Boyd
Treasurer

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 DECEMBER 2025

1. Basis of preparation Fund accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the receipts & payments basis in accordance with:

(a) The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005

(b) The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended)

There have been no changes to the basis of preparation or to the previous year's accounts.

2. Fund accounting

(a) Unrestricted funds are those that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity.

(b) Designated funds are unrestricted funds that the trustees have set aside for particular purposes. The designation is administrative only and does not restrict the trustees' ability to apply the funds.

(c) Restricted funds are those that may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor, or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

(d) The purposes of the funds are shown in Note 12.

3. Taxation

(a) The charity is not liable to income tax or capital gains tax on its charitable activities.

(b) The charity is not registered for VAT, thus all costs are shown inclusive of VAT charged.

4. Transactions with trustees and related parties

(a) No remuneration was paid to trustees or any persons connected with them during the year (2024: £Nil).

(b) No expenses were reimbursed to the trustees during the year (2024: £Nil).

(c) The charity's insurance policy includes trustee indemnity insurance cover for all of its trustees.

5. Donations

	Unrestricted	Restricted	**Total 2025**	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
CG Individual Donations	-	6,800	**6,800**	12,159
SC – Individual Donations	600	-	**600**	600
Individuals	145	-	**145**	50
Gift Aid	707	-	**707**	81
	1452	6800	**8252**	12890

6. Grants

	Unrestricted	Restricted	**Total 2025**	Total 2024
	£	£	**£**	£
Rufford Foundation (Fruit Bat)	-	10,000	**10,000**	5,996
Habitats Connections (Fairways Foundations)		16,242	**16,242**	-
Caring 4 Conservation	-	5,825	**5,825**	-
Baillie Gifford	-	-	**-**	3,500
Marjorie Coote	-	-	**-**	1,000
Copperbelt	-	-	**-**	3,837
EKCT	-	-	**-**	4,000
IFAW	-	-	**-**	2,300
	-	32,067	**32,067**	20,633

7. Fundraising

	Unrestricted	Restricted	**Total 2025**	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Big Give - Green Match Fund	-	4,000	**4,000**	2,421
Big Give - Christmas Challenge	-	8,533	**8,533**	5,502
Halloween Fundraising	90	-	**90**	296
Give as you live	1,164	-	**1,164**	688
Eventbrite	-	-	**-**	172
Big Give - Champion Fund	-	-	**-**	2,500
Teemill	-	-	**-**	334
	1,254	12,533	13,787	11,913

8. Sponsorship

	Unrestricted	Restricted	**Total 2025**	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Elekon	-	-	-	1,000
Wildlife Acoustics	-	-	-	1,450
Pelagic	-	-	-	250
Trident Foundation	-	-	-	2,488
BCI	-	-	-	2,244
NHBS	-	-	-	250
Tredstone Construction	-	-	-	250
	-	-	**-**	7932

9. Cost of charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total 2025 £**	Total 2024 £
Salaries	-	34,019	**34,019**	23,460
Pension Costs	-	479	**479**	-
Consultancy Fees	-	977	**977**	-
Education	-	1,565	**1,565**	1,953
Training	-	705	**705**	958
Consumable	-	-	**-**	33
Admin	-	165	**165**	190
Fundraising Costs	18	141	**159**	-
Volunteer/Staff Expenses	-	-	**-**	522
Governance	-	829	**829**	300
Insurance	-	146	**146**	286
Workshop Costs	-	-	**-**	-
Events & Meeting Cost	-	155	**155**	334
Memberships	-	1,024	**1,024**	149
PPS	-	434	**434**	-
IT Costs	1,162	179	**1,341**	557
Project Costs	-	8,304	**8,304**	9,769
Bank Charges	16	100	**116**	74
Travel	417	3,578	**3,995**	1,093
Clothing	96	-	**96**	232
Total Costs	**1,709**	**52,800**	**54,509**	**39,910**

10. Equipment

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total 2025 £**	Total 2024 £
Bat Detectors	-	1,015	**1,015**	-
Laptop	-	305	**305**	-
Laptop	-	465	**465**	-
Cell Phones	-	-	**-**	265
Printer	-	-	**-**	155
Laptop	-	-	**-**	63
	-	1,785	1,785	483

11. Movement of funds

	As At 31/12/24 £	Receipts £	Payments £	As At 31/12/25 £
Unrestricted Funds				
General Funds	9,786	2,706	(1,709)	10,783
Restricted Funds				
IFAW	2,300	-	(518)	1,782
Marjorie Cootes	1,000	-	(1,000)	-
Fruit Bat Project	4,615	10,000	(1,926)	12,689
Internship Stipend	418	-	(283)	135
Trident Foundation	2,488	-	(1,679)	809
Copperbelt Bats	1,055	-	(1,055)	-
C4C	1,343	5,825	(4,998)	2,170
BCI Sponsorship	2,452	-	(2,452)	-
EKCT	3,708	-	(3,708)	-
Fairways Foundation	-	16,242	(7,380)	8,862
BwB Running Costs	14,291	19,333	(29,586)	4,038
Total Restricted Funds	33,670	51,400	(54,585)	30,485
	43,456	54,106	(56,294)	41,268

12. Purpose of funds

General fund	Unrestricted funding that can be used at the discretion of the CEO and/or Board for BwB charitable purposes
Admin Officer grant	Restricted funding to pay for the Admin & Comms Coordinator post
Baillie Gifford	Restricted funding BwB core costs to support the organisation to grow
BCI	Restricted funding for Bat Group Training
BwB running costs	Restricted funding for BwB core costs
C4C	Restricted funding for youth engagement – Classrooms without Walls
Conservation Interns	Restricted funding for Conservation Intern programme
Copperbelt Bats	Restricted funding for Human - Bat Interaction Project in Zambia
EKCT	Restricted funding to support the development of a Fruit Bat Community Science project
Fairways Foundation	Restricted funding for Habitat Connections project
IFAW	Restricted funding for Bat Rehabilitation
Marjorie Coote	Restricted funding for bat welfare activities
Rufford Foundation – CDO	Restricted funding
Rufford Foundation – FBP	Restricted funding for BwB's Junior Conservation Officer fruit bat monitoring project in Monkey Bay (Malawi) – funds for fieldwork, Project Assistant and other project running costs
Trident Foundation	Sponsorship towards a co-designed bat book (youth panel)

13. Additional Notes

During preparation of the accounts, some rounding errors in the previous year were identified and corrected in the comparatives for the accounts.

A rounding error of £7 was identified in the other income figure for 2024, this figure has been adjusted to £552 in 2025 (2024: £545). These round errors have a total difference of £7, which is reflected in the charity surplus figure for 2024.