



## AN UPDATE FROM OPCA

April showers in May as well as snow and our woolly hats on May bank holiday, did someone say **the climate is changing?** The weather has certainly been busy this month, and so have we here at OPCA.

Earlier this month we highlighted for you the incredible achievements of **Knepp Estate**, an **iconic rewilding** project that has changed the way we look at nature conservation.

Unfortunately, our government doesn't seem to recognise this and want to develop the areas surrounding Knepp, go back to our post to **find out how you can help** stop them!



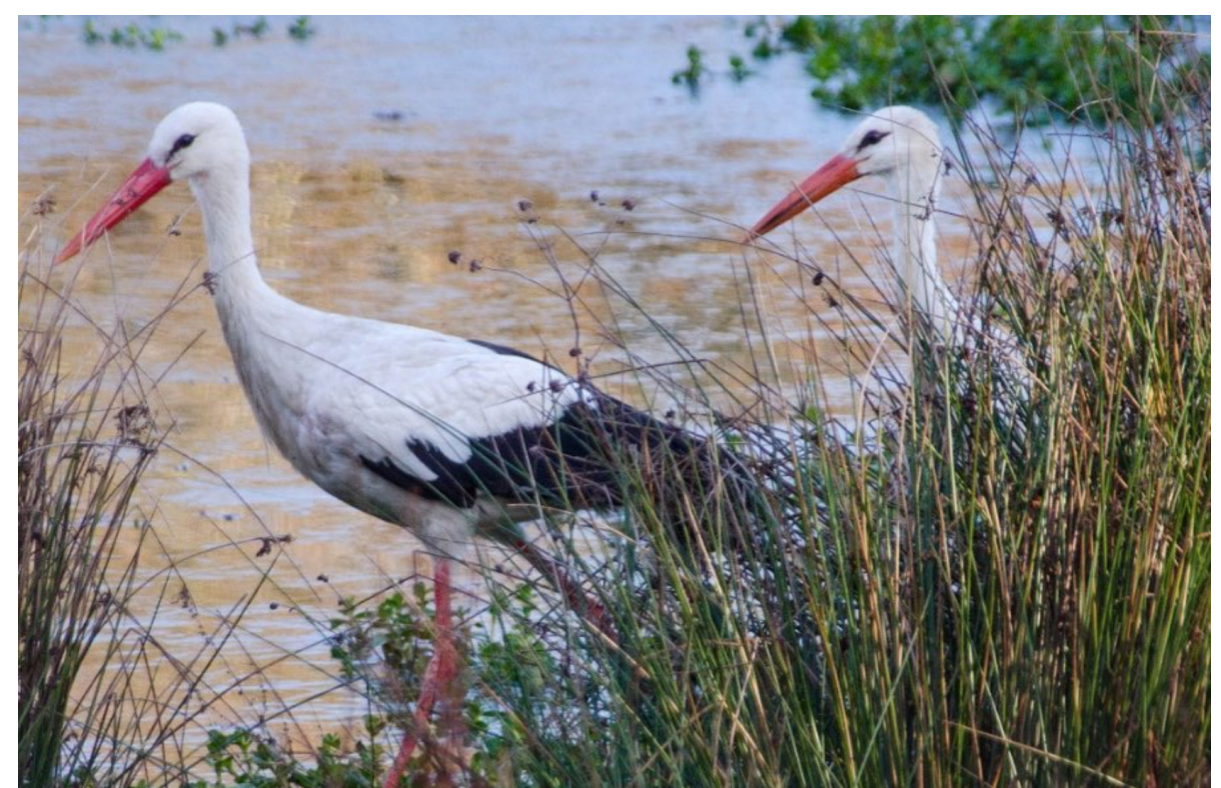
white-tailed eagle



Green sea turtle hatchling heading for the ocean

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Breeding pair of white storks at Knepp Estate

When it wasn't pouring down with rain, we got out and met some new friends for a short film we are putting together. We met up with the wonderful team at **Birds of Poole Harbour** to learn all about their incredible osprey reintroduction program.

We also got out into the New Forest to set up some camera traps to spy on the **forest's nocturnal mammals**. Keep your eyes peeled for more information on this project.

On the theme of rewilding and birds of prey, we were excited to celebrate the approval of the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation **bringing back white-tailed eagles** to mainland England. A population is set to be reintroduced in Norfolk, exciting times in the South of England!

We also got a little carried away with turtles this month. Instead of just celebrating turtle day, we had a whole turtle week! Introducing all **seven of the incredible sea turtle species**. We topped off the week with a fascinating interview with the team leaders of L.A.S.T (Costa Rica) and Juara turtle project (Malaysia).

We look forward to a sunnier June, especially as COVID restrictions ease, allowing us to meet up with friends and family to get out and explore nature (this time with a pint!).





## NETWORK NEWS ROUND-UP



It has been a busy month for the amazing projects in our OPCA network. Over in Uganda Alex, founder of the Bwindi Development Network, has been **visiting local communities surrounding several national parks** including the Murchison Falls and Kideapo Valley National Parks.

COVID-19 has meant that tourism has ground to a halt in Uganda, leaving many communities struggling financially. Alex has visited local communities to not only train them how to make a **sustainable living**, but to learn from the communities what their needs are in these hard times.



Alex, founder of the Bwindi Development Network, delivering a workshop on sustainable living



In Costa Rica, the team at the Rescue Centre have been busy taking care of all of their residents and have welcomed a **young howler monkey** called Meli. Meli arrived in a lethargic state, not moving at all and complaining with pain. X-rays found she had been **intoxicated from either pesticides or petroleum**. We are crossing our fingers for a speedy recovery.

Over in Kenya the Conservation Education Society have been meeting with local waste disposal and recycling centres to share ideas. We love to this incredible **wall made from old glass bottles** (bottom left) at the Kwale Plastics Plus Collectors depot site. What a fantastic way to re-use waste!

Finally, we would like to congratulate the Love the Oceans team for being selected as finalists for **Go Abroad's Innovation in Sustainability Award**. This recognition comes is for the amazing sustainable fishing project and we can't wait to see how the team get on when it comes to the awards.



Wall made from old glass bottles in Kenya

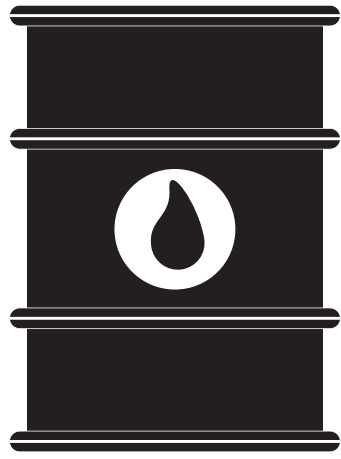


Local using sustainable fishing gear provided by Love the Oceans





## A WIN FOR CLIMATE ACTION IN THE NETHERLANDS: BUT WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE WORLD?



Perhaps the biggest environmental success story this month comes from the Netherlands as the district court of The Hague have ordered Royal Dutch Shell to cut its global carbon emissions by 45% by the end of 2030 relative to 2019 levels.



This positive news comes at a time where **none of the G20 countries are on track** to meet their climate ambitions. Research suggests that the time for an orderly transition to a low-carbon era has all but ended for the financial markets.

The situation has become so severe that political leaders will be forced to rely on **“handbrake” policy interventions** to cut emissions, just like we have seen in Holland as Shell have been forced to dramatically cut their emissions.

So how are things looking in the UK? The answer is, not good! A recent report has highlighted that British banks provided at least £900m in finance last year to companies involved in **deforestation overseas**. Deforestation is one of the leading causes of climate change, not to mention the driver behind **global biodiversity loss**.

The UK government is falling way behind when it comes to tackling climate change and biodiversity loss. George Monbiot rightly says “Every week governments make headline announcements about saving the planet, and every week **their small print unsaves it.**”

The UK government claims to already have conserved or protected 26% of its land and 38% of its seas. Monbiot points out “It has simply drawn lines on the map, designating our **sheep-wrecked hills and trawler-trashed seas** “protected” when they’re nothing of the kind”.



George Monbiot, writer and environmental activist



Our government is failing us, and that is why we work hard to highlight the work of small, **grassroots conservation programs** that are doing their bit to protect and restore our countries lands and seas.

But it is not just a handful of amazing projects that can do their bit, each and every one of us can make small changes to our day to day lives that will shift the balance from **destroying nature, to working with it**. Follow us on our journey of awareness to learn more about how we can all make a difference.