

# Osprey Leadership Foundation

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*Registered charity no. 1176199*

## Osprey Clubs Scheme

### Background

In a fast changing and increasingly globalised world with nature under greater threat than ever before, the environmental and nature conservation movements urgently require leaders who recognise the need for international collaboration, who can think entrepreneurially and communicate positively with diverse audiences from different countries, backgrounds and cultures. The Osprey Leadership Foundation, a new charity, aims to create a new generation of conservation leaders who possess such skills by taking an innovative and exciting new approach. Migratory birds such as the Osprey do not recognise international borders and the Foundation aims to develop this concept by engaging with, and helping to develop, young leaders who have the potential to become a powerful force for change within the environmental and nature conservation sectors at an international level. A key element will be to facilitate shared working between these young leaders at opposite ends of the Osprey migration flyway: initially in the UK and The Gambia.

The Foundation will work to three strategic themes:

1. To inspire young people about the natural world;
2. To enable people aged 18 or over to develop their interest in nature and conservation through a programme of innovative and exciting opportunities that help them gain valuable experience, and to develop leadership and other transferable skills;
3. To support people aged 18 or over in the early stages of their career through university bursaries, bespoke work experience opportunities and tailored leadership mentoring and coaching.

### Osprey Clubs

A key element of the work of Osprey Leadership Foundation will be to engage young people in The Gambia about the natural world. Many schools in rural areas are severely under-resourced and, as a result, there is little or no opportunity for extra-curricular learning activities. However young people growing up in these communities live alongside a diverse array of wildlife and have a great thirst for learning. A programme of environmental education has the potential to provide opportunities that are not otherwise available and to raise the profile of nature conservation in areas of high biodiversity. If successful this will inspire a genuine interest in environmental issues among some students that they may wish to develop into a future career. It is these young people who will become the conservation leaders of the future and, as such, this initial engagement is an essential component of the work of the Osprey Leadership Foundation.

An initial aim is to set-up Osprey Clubs in five schools in The Gambia. The clubs will be run as an extra-curricular activity for students at each participating school, and each will receive regular visits by the OLF team and the opportunity to participate in a minimum of four fieldtrips per year. It is

envisaged that up to 30 students will participate in the Osprey Club at each school meaning that in the initial phase the project has the potential to engage with 150 Gambian students. Fieldtrips will be to a range of different sites in The Gambia, with the key aim to introduce the students to birds and other wildlife, including Ospreys and other migratory species. There is potential for UK students to visit The Gambia to assist with the Osprey Clubs initiative for a set period. The work will be coordinated by Junkung Jadama, a professional bird guide based in The Gambia who has been undertaking similar work in schools for the past five years with the Rutland Osprey Project.

### **Funding Required**

Running Osprey Clubs in five schools will cost £2000 per year. Funding for this work has been secured, but additional funds would enable the scope and capacity of the project to be increased. If you are interested in supporting this work please email [timmackrill@hotmail.com](mailto:timmackrill@hotmail.com).



*Staff and volunteers with students from Tanji Lower Basic School where a pilot osprey club was set up by the Rutland Osprey Project.*

Dr Tim Mackrill (Founder), December 2017