



Investment policy and powers

The RSPB's investment powers are as set out in the Charter and Statutes and are wider than those contained in the Trustees Investment Act 2000.

Approach

The RSPB's income is derived primarily from donations and from the delivery of charitable activities. In order to secure the RSPB's financial stability, through prudence the RSPB has built up free financial reserves. As a proportion of the financial reserves are likely to be held in the longer term, it is appropriate to invest a proportion of the funds conservatively to maintain the overall value of reserves compared to inflation and also to generate real growth and/or income that can be applied directly to achieving the Objects of the charity.

The RSPB's primary investment objective is to maintain the real value of its investments. Investment properties arising from legacies are managed by the RSPB until disposal.

Equities

We hold investments in a variety of publicly listed equities, consisting of companies listed on stock exchanges. Within our public equities are UK and global portfolios. See Note 13 for a breakdown of investment holdings.

Performance

The trustees rely upon specialist advice for fund selection and allocation. Our investment objective is to generate a return of no less than inflation (RPI) as a minimum requirement and ideally to outperform an agreed independent composite benchmark by at least 1% per annum over a rolling three-year period.

Responsible investment

In managing investments, since 2001 we have followed principles of socially responsible investing. These principles are to:

- invest in companies that make a positive contribution to society.
- use influence as an investor to encourage best practice management of social responsibility issues.
- avoid investing in companies whose activities conflict strongly with the Society's objectives.

We believe that taking account of environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues is an intrinsic part of being a good long-term investor, for both ethical and financial reasons.

Updated: 19.8.2020