



It's all aboard ARKive! With the team now numbering 16, the ARKive project is making enormous progress, with films and photographs flooding into the Wildscreen Trust's offices from around the world. Images and recordings have now been selected for more than half the species featuring in the British Chapter and research is well under way for the 500 species kick-starting the Globally Endangered Chapter.

Work continues in association with Hewlett Packard Labs on ARKive's core technical infrastructure. This has included the development of a 'state of the art' media accessions system to support the processing of vast amounts of media by ARKive's research team, and the implementation of a sophisticated media vault in which digital copies of selected media can be stored securely for posterity.

The technical team is also looking at how best to deliver this amazing array of media over the Internet via the ARKive website, which will launch late this year - making a visit to the ARKive website an enjoyable, entertaining and educational experience for all.

# ARKive's Initiation

On 5th March, at the Linnean Society in London, ARKive held its official initiation to recognise its founders, supporters and funders. Guests from a wide spectrum of major scientific institutions, conservation bodies and project supporters attended.

After a short introduction from the Trust's Chairman, Chris Curling, ARKive's founder and visionary, Christopher Parsons OBE made a short presentation to the distinguished crowd of around 90, demonstrating the importance of the project. A short video about ARKive was shown which included endorsements from Achim Steiner, Director General of IUCN, Claude Martin, Director General of WWF International and Dr Mark



Christopher Parsons OBE

Collins, Director of UNEP – WCMC.

Liz Forgan, Chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund thanked the ARKive team and affirmed the HLF's backing and support for the project. Their funding has allowed around 1000 British species to be catalogued and archived whilst the New Opportunities Fund has enabled work to begin on recording 500 of the world's most endangered species.



## Wildscreen Festival 2002

The world's largest and most prestigious wildlife film festival is once again being held in Bristol 13 - 18 October. With greatly expanded content for delegates, a broad range of public events and the key note speech by Prof E O Wilson, this will be the most exciting festival so far. If you are interested in entering the film competition or being a delegate see [www.wildscreen.org.uk](http://www.wildscreen.org.uk).

## LATEST GLOBAL ARRIVALS

In the New Year, the so far decidedly anglophilic ARK threw open its digital doors to globally endangered species. In the first phase there is room for approximately 500 species, reflecting examples from all corners of the globe and from all the major animal and plant groups and habitat types. The search is now on for footage and stills of the planet's most threatened species. We have received a terrific response from dedicated individuals all around the world, locating media for 125 species so far. But there is much to be done. Imagery for many species remains elusive - from persecuted primates to polluted polychaetes we are appealing for any information.

# Educating the world

ARKive's Education Team, supported by an extensive network of educational advisors, is hard at work developing ways to give learners worldwide useful and enjoyable educational experiences when visiting the ARKive web site.

Layered levels of learning are being developed to ensure there is something suitable for all, from youngsters to learned professors. These will include selected images, appropriate supporting information, a cross-indexed glossary, plus links to further information and activities as well as

resources for teachers.

By using specially designed interactive educational activities, we will encourage users to take personal 'learning pathways or journeys' through ARKive's resources and to take positive action towards the conservation of the world's wildlife.

## Government asks for help from ARKive

DEFRA (the UK government's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) has commissioned ARKive to create a pilot project to compile an on-line identification guide for CITES listed corals, to help customs officials around the world control the trade in these endangered species. It is hoped that this pilot coral project will lead to additional ARKive chapters of CITES-listed species.

## LATEST BRITISH ARRIVALS

The research is now complete for the first 500 species of the British Chapter. More than 120 organisations and individuals are donating images and recordings, from Nature PL.com, just up the road in Bristol to Stanislav Krejčík in the Czech Republic! So far, 248 tapes of moving footage (covering 105 species) have been watched and 2741 slides have been logged (covering 351 species). For several of the rarest species, such as the glutinous snail (*Myxas glutinosa*), we think that we have located the only known photographs but we are happy to be proved wrong!

## Thanks to contributors

The Wildscreen Trust would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those enabling ARKive to become a reality, including the generous support of:



Heritage Lottery Fund



New Opportunities Fund  
funded

and all those who have contributed media to ARKive - the commercial media libraries, the wildlife and conservation organisations and the enthusiastic individuals - without whom ARKive would not be possible. For a full list of all those involved please visit [www.arkive.org](http://www.arkive.org)

## CREATURE FROM THE CROSTON LAGOON

The Jennings ribbon worm (*Prostoma jenningsi*) is known from only one pond in the world, situated in the small town of Croston, Lancashire. Discovered in 1971, the species was last recorded in 1978, after which contamination of the pond by fertiliser the following year was thought to have contributed to the species' disappearance. It was one of ARKive's greatest challenges to find an image of this species, and an article was found at the start of the year detailing its recent rediscovery nearly 24 years after it had last been seen. The scientific expert mentioned has now offered to go out and search for the worm once again and take photographs of this little-known creature for ARKive.

## MOST WANTED!

There are still some species from our British Chapter list that we have been unable to locate even a single image of - especially some of the beetles and lower plants. A detailed list of our most wanted species can be viewed at [www.arkive.org](http://www.arkive.org). If you can provide us with any leads then we would be most grateful. Our next list is now being drawn up and will include both common and endangered British species. Please contact us with your recommendations.

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