



21 December 2010

Dear Friends

The Trust was established in the Spring of 2006 and, under the auspices of the Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) Awards, has to date made five Awards to teams of young conservationists around the world.

This seemed an appropriate time to find out how these five teams have been progressing. It has been a delight to hear their news, particularly from the first three teams, all of whom have completed their projects, but also from the two more recent Award winners who are still working on their schemes. We hope you will be interested in their contributions to this newsletter:

2006 – Green Corridor Project, Misiones, Argentina

“The Urugua-i-Foerster Biological Corridor Project developed by Conservación Argentina (CA) has made great advances during the past two years. The Yate-í Natural Reserve acquired by CA shows big improvements; the visitors’ centre building was finished and a new biological station for researchers was established. This infrastructure was built with the support of Kate’s Award, the CLP and the IUCN-Netherlands Committee.



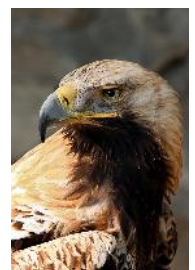
“The visitors’ centre constitutes the entrance to the biological corridor and provides a training centre in conservation and agroecology. CA built a series of paths within the forest through different natural habitats and areas that are being restored. The principal path across Yate-í is formed by Kate’s Trail, created in memory of Kate Stokes, which was inaugurated in 2008 in the presence of the Stokes family and CLP staff. Kate’s Trail also has an observation deck for bird watching and landscape contemplation.

“Conservation of the biological corridor is improving every day. In the past two years seven new properties have been incorporated as private natural reserves and some of these have developed new ecotourism programmes. In consultation with CA, wildlife crossing facilities were built over and under the main highway which crosses the biological corridor, including the first eco-duct (wildlife overpass) in Latin America. These measures diminish the impact of wildlife road kills and fragmentation in the biological corridor.” *Diego Varela*

2007 – Assessment of the status and distribution of the Imperial Eagle and Lesser Kestrel, Azerbaijan

“During the past three years the project team have kept in close contact with the beneficiaries of the project and have monitored the success of the training funded by Kate’s Award. The project covered five different cities and approximately 100 participants were trained in identification and monitoring of birds and their habitats. Most of these participants are dealing with monitoring activities regularly in their daily work.

“The monitoring of biodiversity has become an important issue in Azerbaijan and, therefore, the trained staff of the organisations involved in the project provide an important resource for the implementation of monitoring activities in the country, through the teaching and assistance of others. Alim Talibov and Aftandil Abbasov from Gyzylagach State Reserve are organising theoretical and practical training for university students. Abulfat Samedov from Aggel National Park is conducting regular winter bird monitoring and reporting back to the Azerbaijan Ornithological Society (AOS). Arzu Mamedov is conducting regular monitoring activities for scientific staff of the Academy of Sciences in Nakhcivan. Many other similar examples can be given and all have been achieved after the successful implementation of the project.



“The other important output of the project was the ornithological monitoring manual. This publication is very popular among birdwatchers in Azerbaijan and is in very big demand, especially among young nature conservationists. AOS is providing all interested people with a copy of the manual. The information inside the manual has been used in the preparation of many other materials during the last few years by the government and other organisations. All the project team members are working within nature conservation; in national park management, monitoring and training activities or completing further studies.” *Shahin Isayev*

2008 – Habitat Conservation of Spot-billed Pelicans, Sri Lanka

“The Kate’s Award-funded training programme conducted in 2008/9 was the first ever environmental conservation training programme for village youths aged between 16-28 years conducted in Sri Lanka. Twenty young people were selected from among 60 members of the group ‘Friends of Pelicans’, a project promoted by the conservation group Eco-Friendly Volunteers (ECO-V) to protect Spot-billed Pelicans and their habitats in Sri Lanka. The youths

group Eco-Friendly Volunteers (ECO-V) to protect Spot-billed Pelicans and their habitats in Sri Lanka. The youths came from various educational backgrounds, though none were university students or had been exposed to considerations of environmental conservation. A six day residential training was given to the project participants. The syllabus focused on various conservation issues, national and international, and gave the participants the opportunity to learn through interactive methods. Two field trips were organized which gave the participants an experience of a life time.



“According to feedback, the participants experienced unexpected attitudinal and behavioural changes towards environmental conservation. Most of them said that the training was the major changing point in their lives. Today these youths are more successful in their careers, even though not all of these are related to conservation, as the training helped them to develop interpersonal and leadership skills. Two of the participants are working as tour guides in Udawalawa National Park, one is working at a tourist hotel close to the park and another two are working as field assistants to ECO-V.

“ECO-V has decided to conduct a similar training course every year under the name ‘Kate Stokes Memorial Training’, following the manual we developed with Kate’s Award.” *Kanchana Weerakoon*

2009 – Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS), Pune, India

“The BWS is one of the most popular tourist destinations in western India and the ancient temple of Bhimashankar attracts thousands of pilgrims each year. However, the BWS is also an example of mismanagement and of tourism that is unsustainable, both ecologically and socially. Having developed a CLP-funded community-based project in the area, in 2009 the Applied Environmental Research Foundation (AERF), a local conservation NGO, set out to address the issue of tourism in the BWS through a community perspective.

“With the invaluable support of Kate’s Award, AERF began organising meetings and training sessions with community tour guides appointed by the state Forest Department. However, due to changes in leadership at the local range office, there have been considerable delays in organising the guides. A tourism plan is being developed by the Forest Department and, after its approval, the training of the guides will resume. In the meantime, the project team has compiled local information, folk-tales and stories from elders of nearby villages in order to prepare a tourist information booklet. The booklet is currently being designed and will be published in English and Marathi.” *Sameer Punde*



2010 – Grey-Shanked Douc Monkey Conservation Project, Kon Ka Kinh National Park, Vietnam



“In May we met with the Department of Environmental Education of Kon Ka Kinh National Park, local teachers, and the organisation Education for Nature Vietnam (ENV). The teacher-training course was planned in August but, due to the shortage of staff from ENV, was postponed until the end of November. The accompanying handbook of conservation lesson plans is at the design stage; we hope that it will be printed in December.

“Regarding the hotline for members of the public to report illegal hunting and wildlife trading, we are working with the park to set up the hotline; unfortunately there is also a delay in organising the cable system from the telecoms company. But, we will endeavour to make sure that the hotline will be active in early December. We are working hard to achieve the two objectives within this year.” *Ha Thang Long*

As you can tell, there have been complications and delays along the way with some of the Award projects but, so far, all have proved remarkably successful and worthwhile. Copies of the full reports and progress updates from the Kate’s Award project teams are available, on request, from the Trust.

Antony and Katie (White) were married in September. It was a marvellous weekend and a great occasion for the families and everyone else involved. Instead of, or in addition to, wedding presents, very many of the happy couple’s relations and friends made contributions to the Trust. At the latest count more than £1,120 (plus Gift Aid) had been received, a truly amazing sum. We would like to thank them all for their wonderful and touching generosity.

Because of the CLP’s dependence on the BP Foundation for financial support, following the Gulf of Mexico disaster and the subsequent huge pressure on BP’s resources, it has inevitably been a turbulent year for the CLP. However, at the time of writing we understand that the CLP partnership organisations are working to ensure on-going support for the programme. Whatever the outcome, the Trustees are hopeful that 2011 will be a calmer year for the CLP and, by association, for the Trust too.

Thank you again for your support and interest and we wish you the very best for the New Year.

The Trustees: *Ken, Sue & Antony Stokes, Marianne Carter, Robyn Dalzen & Evan Bowen-Jones*

Further information on the CLP and Kate’s Award can be found at www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org.