

# Kate Stokes Memorial Trust

## 2019 Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 1119478

19 December 2019

### Dear Friends,

As many of you have already heard, it is with great sadness that the Trustees report the death at the end of January of Ken Stokes, Kate's father.

Ken was the instigator and drive behind establishing the Trust as a successful, stable and self-sustaining organisation. Ken also spent several years working to secure the Trust's charitable status. Thanks in large part to Ken, the Trust is in a

position to make an Award every year for at least as long as the Conservation Leadership Programme, or successor programme, continues.

It gave all the Trustees, Ken in particular, great pleasure that the Trust was in a sufficiently secure position to make two Awards in 2016, its 10th anniversary year. The Trustees hope to be able to do this again for the 20th anniversary, if

not before.

Ken would also have been delighted that a team from another new country, Nepal, was added to the roll of Award winners.

Ken's loss is keenly felt by the Trustees, other family and friends. He will be sorely missed. For the time being Ken's responsibilities within the Trust have been adopted by other Trustees.



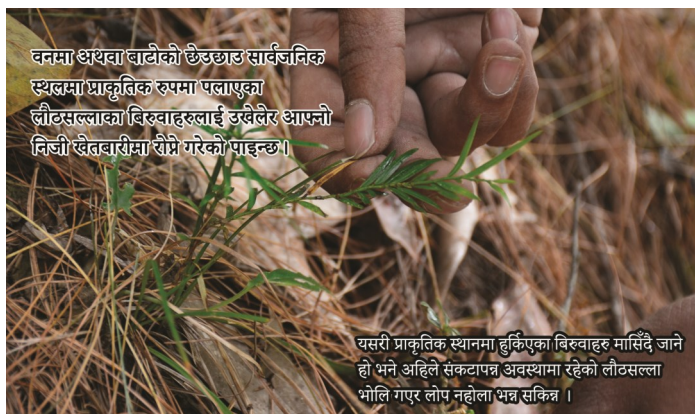
Ken & Kate

### 2019 Winner: Engaging communities to the conservation of wild Maire's yews, Nepal

This year's Award has been given to another new country for the Trust, Nepal. It is so rewarding to be involved in so many countries worldwide. Reshu Bashyal and Kaurmar Paudel, the team leaders, report that yew trees have been heavily exploited in Nepal for the production of 'taxol' from their bark, leaves and trunks for many years. Taxol has proven cancer curing benefits and is in high demand. The wild populations of Maire's yew are now limited to three districts of central Nepal and to less than

2,000 trees, the result of unsustainable harvesting. The team has written sustainable harvesting guidelines, which have already been trialled in the field with participation of local communities, national experts, government officials and other stakeholders. To date the team has led training sessions, held meetings at the local level and at national events in Kathmandu, had articles published in local national dailies, and produced awareness posters and harvesting guidelines in the Nepali language. The

team have plans to ensure that all this work continues with the support of Nepal's government agencies looking to a sustainable future for wild Maire's yews.



वनमा अथवा बाटोको छेउछाउ सार्वजनिक स्थलमा प्राकृतिक रुपमा पलायुका लौठसल्लाका बिरुवाहरूलाई उखैलेर आफ्नो निजी खेतबारीमा रोप्ने गरेको पाइन्छ।

यसरी प्राकृतिक स्थानमा हुकिपुका बिरुवाहरू मासिँदै जाने हो भने अहिले संकटापन्न अवस्थामा रहेको लौठसल्ला भोलि गएर लोप नहोला भन्न सकिन्न।

@GreenhoodNepal

#taxing



Image from Maire's yew conservation campaign

## Trust Annual Review

The Trust AGM and the 2019 Award selection meeting was held in April at the London office of Fauna & Flora International with all Trustees present and Robyn, our Special Advisor, calling in from Bali. The Trustees considered a large number of diverse proposals from around the world. It was a great pleasure to give this year's Award to the first flora-based proposal since the Trust's inception in 2006: Engaging communities in the conservation of wild Maire's Yews in Nepal.

2019 has been a very different year for the Trustees, the first without Ken's oversight of the Trust finances and associated administration. Sue and Antony have taken this on.

The Trust has benefitted greatly from donations received in memory of Ken and of Sue's mother, Persis, who died in November last year. The Trust also received a bequest from Derek Rippengal, father of Kate's partner Rob, in memory of both Kate and Rob. Due to these generous donations it is hoped that by this time next year the Trust's investments, together with on-going support of family and friends, will be sufficient to cover

the annual Award in perpetuity. But, as always, and as Ken would have said, much will depend on the world economic situation.

## Updates from 2006 & 2016 Award-winners

### **2006: The very first KSMT Award, The Green Corridor Project, Misiones, Argentina**

It was a great thrill to see a recent report on the continuing work in linking two provincial parks, Urugua-i and Foerster, in the Atlantic Forest in northern Argentina.

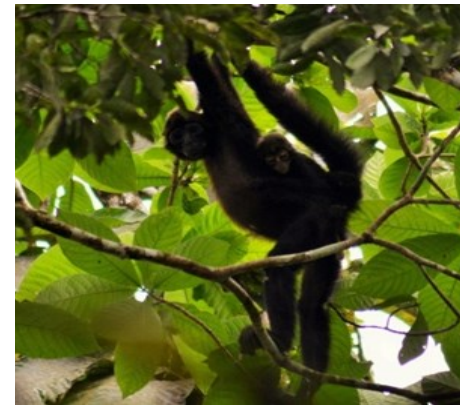
The project began in 2002 with the support of CLP. The biodiversity corridor is now well established, marked at its start with the visitor and research centre and the beginning of the Kate Stokes Wildlife Trail, both constructed with the aid of the KSMT Award.

Diego Varela, the team leader, emphasises in the report the need for long-term involvement in conservation projects. Well, this project is now into its 18th year!

### **2016: 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award, Proyecto Washu spider monkey conservation, Ecuador**

This project was especially poignant to the Stokes family as Kate had spent her gap year between college and university in 1984/85 teaching in Ecuador. She fell in love with the country that year, as did the rest of the family.

Proyecto Washu's 2018 annual report by Nathalia Fuentes & Felipe Alfonso-Cortes, the leaders of the 2016 Award project, states that all projects are progressing. They are strengthening conservation activities in the spider monkey populations with the continuing rehabilitation and maintenance of 32 spider monkeys, all victims of the illegal wildlife trade.



Spider monkey (Credit Proyecto Washu)

## 2018 Project: Public support for northern muriqui conservation and yellow fever prevention, Brazil

Based on the slogan "*A Culpa Não é do Macaco*" (It's not monkey's fault), the team continued to conduct education and outreach activities with local communities and tourists around Caparaó National Park to promote pro-conservation behavior and educate people about yellow fever prevention.

Education activities were conducted at elementary and high-schools surrounding the park, reaching over 550 youngsters. Outreach ac-

tivities in the itinerant museum using primate specimens have resulted in a positive change to misguided popular beliefs and increased the knowledge of local students and teachers.

An essay competition, "Primate Conservation and its Relationship to Yellow Fever", generated great enthusiasm within the local school community and demonstrated increased awareness of yellow fever in primates and humans and the

importance of disease prevention through vaccination. Undergraduates studying veterinary medicine, life sciences and tourism have also been involved in the team's capacity building activities.

Since the team's education and outreach activities began in the four local communities surrounding the park, no injured or killed primates have been found. And the majority of local students are now vaccinated against yellow fever.