



Kate Stokes Memorial Trust

Registered Charity No. 1119478

10 February 2017

Dear Friends,

Looking back to 2006, it's incredible to recall that the initial idea was to raise funds for just one award in Kate's name. With generous donations from family, friends, BirdLife, Fauna & Flora International (FFI), Conservation International, the Wildlife Conservation Society and BP, plus the proceeds of many sponsored events, the fund grew to over £50,000 in the first year. It was soon evident that a trust could be established to grant not just one award, but an annual award far into the future.

In May 2016, to mark the tenth anniversary of the Kate Stokes Memorial Award (KSMA), FFI hosted an event in the David Attenborough Building, Cambridge, to celebrate Kate and the conservation work undertaken in her name. The event was attended by Trustees Sue Stokes, Marianne Carter and Stu Paterson, Sue's brother and Kate's uncle, John Wotton, together with Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) alumni and staff from BirdLife and FFI, several of whom worked with Kate.

Marianne shared many happy memories and vibrant photos of four years spent with Kate and recounted time spent with brilliant young conservationists from around the world, and appreciation of multiple cultures and diverse dance moves!

Marianne was also delighted to announce that not one, but two Awards would be made in this anniversary year:

- In India, an award was granted to improve the image and appreciation of amphibians within the Western Ghats by focusing on the rotund, endangered, purple balloon frog.
- A second award went to a team working with mestizos and indigenous groups in Ecuador to conserve the critically endangered brown-headed spider monkey.

Over ten years the Trust has supported twelve teams in ten countries. The teams have developed skills and gained sustained support for their projects from thousands of local community members through the creation of field guides and training manuals and the delivery of training and education activities.



2006 – Argentina: Green Corridor Project, Misiones; agro-ecology community centre & trail

2007 – Azerbaijan: Imperial eagle & lesser kestrel; assessing current status & distribution

2008 – Sri Lanka: Habitat conservation of spot-billed pelicans

2009 – India: The Bhimashanker Strategy; community conservation programme

2010 – Vietnam: Grey-shanked douc monkey; sustainable recovery conservation project

2011 – China: Education & capacity building initiative in Yunnan

2012 – Fiji: Building blocks for youth empowerment in marine conservation

2013 – Sri Lanka: Nature Kids; holistic approach to re-connect young people with nature

2014 – Mexico: Ecosystem services to improve livestock & biodiversity conservation

2015 – Ghana: Building capacity in delivering effective behaviour change education

2016 – (1) Ecuador: Brown-headed spider monkey; education & communication strategy conservation & (2) India: Purple frog; improving amphibian profiles among local communities

Further information about the CLP and the KSMA, including descriptions of all projects supported by the Trust, may be found at:
www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org

Introducing the 2016 KSMA winners

Improving the profile of amphibians among local communities of the Western Ghats, India

Arun Kanagavel and his team are already working on a CLP-supported project to improve the habitat of the critically endangered toad skinned frog. However, Arun felt that project lacked local community engagement.

Many endangered frog species are eaten by indigenous communities or used for medicinal and other purposes. The team's KSMA-supported project aims to improve the profile of amphibians.

The team plan to engage with up to 1,200 school children aged 5-13 with an illustrated book featuring the endangered purple frog, a documentary and linked activities.



The project will run through the 2017 academic year. The storyline for the book is complete; the content and illustrations are being developed. And the film footage has been shot. The documentary will be put together once the team find the right editor.

Education and communication strategy for brown-headed spider monkey conservation in north western Ecuador

Since 2012, Proyecto Washu has been working in the buffer zone of the Cotacachi-Cayapas Ecological Reserve, where one of the last healthy populations of the critically endangered Ecuadorian brown-headed spider monkey is found.



Supported by a KSM Award, a team of five led by Nathalia Fuentes will communicate key information about ecology and conservation of local forest ecosystems to students in Hoja Blanca and Chontaduro, and to the wider communities of Esmeraldas province.

The team led school workshops and field activities in July, August and October of 2016.

In the coming months the team will begin broadcasting a series of programmes on Chachi Radio on the importance of forests and wildlife, focused on endangered species like the spider monkey. The station broadcasts to 52 indigenous communities with an estimated population of 20,000.

Reviewing 2015

The 2015 KSMA went to a Ghanaian team led by David Kwarteng. The project aimed to equip and empower local champions to combat extinction threats to amphibian species. A third of these face extinction due to human consumption and habitat destruction. David reports on the project:

There is a growing realization that conservation is not necessarily about biology, but about humans and their actions. Changing human behaviour is an essential attribute for conservation success.

Twenty behaviour change champions, from important biodiversity hotspots, were trained in key techniques and strategies to implement changes in human behaviour and relationships to nature conservation. These community-tailored conservation actions have positively impacted on more than 3,000 people, resulting in a broad network of people pledging their support and getting involved in conservation.



Two of the champions now have full-time jobs in conservation in Ghana, three have progressed on to conservation higher education, and others continue to raise local awareness and volunteer on conservation projects, contributing data from their communities for conservation management.

Trust Annual Review

2016 was a very special year for the Trust, with two Awards presented. The Trustees felt this was an appropriate way to recognize the diversity and exceptional quality of this year's Award applications, and to celebrate (belatedly) the tenth anniversary of the Trust and Awards.

We were able to do this because of the strength of the Trust's funds. Thanks to contributions from Kate's family, together with a solid performance from the Trust's investments and the very welcome support from friends, the Trust's funds remain robust. We believe we will once again be able to cover the cost of the next Award from investment income alone, thereby protecting

the underlying value of the Trust's investments.

The Trustees: Ken, Sue & Antony Stokes, Marianne Carter, Andy Brock-Doyle & Stu Paterson

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