

**KATE STOKES MEMORIAL TRUST**  
(Registered Charity No. 1119478)

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Dear Friends

Firstly our apologies for the delay in posting of this update which we had hoped to send in November.

As you will probably remember the first recipients of Kate's Award, in 2006, were the Green Corridor Project team in Misiones Province in northern Argentina, three hours drive from Iguazu.

At the time of that Award we were invited to attend the BirdLife Conference planned for September 2008 in Buenos Aires, and to combine that with a visit to the Green Corridor Project during our stay in Argentina. The plan was for us to be at the opening of the agroecology visitors centre that was being built, in part, with Kate's Award.

In actuality, five of our six trustees were able to attend the conference and to spend four days with the team in Misiones. It was a great experience for us all, but especially for the Stokes family. Unfortunately the centre has experienced many delays and setbacks, and is still under construction. It is hoped that it will be completed by the end of this year. In the meantime the team had initiated work on an education trail in Kate's memory, 'Sendero Kate', in the forest within the Corridor, and we were able to officially open this trail together. Following the opening, we walked the trail and inspected progress on the building. Later in the day we all planted a variety of indigenous trees grown in the nursery by the team.

The 2007 Award to the team from Azerbaijan has enabled them to add extra ranger training and scientific monitoring skills. In addition they produced the first ornithological monitoring booklet, with particular reference to eagles and kestrels, in the Azeri language, for the use of rangers, government agencies and other interested parties.

The 2008 Award went to the Spot-Billed Pelican Project in Sri Lanka and is being used to cover the cost of formal training and materials for 20 youngsters from the village youth group 'Friends of Pelicans'. This is of particular importance as there is no practical training course for environmental conservation of any kind currently available for young people in rural Sri Lanka.

Recent upheaval in world financial markets has inevitably affected the Trust's income and investments. The current weakness of the Pound means that to fund the \$5000 Award in 2009 is likely to cost the Trust at least 30% more than it did in 2008. However, funds are fortunately in place for the 2009 Award and it is hoped that by 2010 the economic situation will have improved.

The Conservation Leadership Programme, from which recipients of Kate's Award are selected, continues to thrive. Although there will be changes to the CLP staff this coming year the Trust's trustees will remain unchanged.

A group of Kate's friends from their university days in Bangor, North Wales, completed the Keswick to Barrow 40 mile sponsored walk in May in order to raise additional funds for the Trust. They all completed the arduous and gruelling course in less than 13 hours! The organisers have just announced the allocation of sponsorship monies and Kate's Trust received £700. We are extremely grateful to them all and are full of admiration for their stamina and determination, and for giving up three days to get up to the Lake District, complete the walk and be back at work on Monday morning!

We would like to thank you again for your continued interest and support. As Trustees we will be holding an annual meeting, timed to coincide with the CLP Executive meetings in Cambridge in April 2009.

For further information on the CLP and update information on Kate's Award and the winning Projects do please log-on to [www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/](http://www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/) where there is a link to the Award, which includes photographs and information on the completed Projects.

With our very best wishes, yours sincerely,

The Trustees:

Ken, Sue & Antony Stokes, Marianne Carter, Robyn Dalzen & Evan Bowen-Jones