



Kate Stokes Memorial Trust

Registered Charity No. 1119478

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Team in Mexico Receives 2014 KSM Award

"It is important for us to have gained the experience made possible through the Award, and we are really excited about all the future possibilities coming our way through the Trust."

~ Marinés de la Peña

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to report that, for the first time, a team from Mexico has been selected to receive the 2014 Kate Stokes Memorial Award. The project, 'Regarding Ecosystem Services to Improve Livestock Production and Biodiversity Conservation', is being led by Marinés de la Peña Domene with a team of five.

The team intend to create demonstration plots of silvopastoral systems combining high diversity vegetation and

fruiting trees with forage and animal grazing to enhance the regeneration potential in pastures and increase livestock production.

Their wider goal is to create an integrated landscape by reconnecting forest fragments and transforming conventional pastures into more diverse landscapes that will sustain food production in the long-term, decreasing deforestation pressures.

This project is of particular significance as Kate's interests and studies related closely to the inter-



Fernando gathering seedlings and foraging species.

action of development and agriculture with existing eco-systems and the maintenance of biodiversity.

Marinés and her team already report an amazing increase in the numbers of fruit and nectar eating birds and bats recorded in plots planted with fruiting trees. The team will be collaborating with researchers from a number of universities to restore land near the river basin of Balzapote, an area where they have worked with ranchers on silvipastoral systems.



Edith identifying a bat captured in a plot planted with fruiting trees.

KSM Award Winners' Progress

"We are so grateful that through the KSM Award we were able to reach out to communities beyond Kia, make valuable contacts, receive referrals and enquiries, building the potential to expand the Reef Rangers network further than we ever dreamed possible."

~ Akosita Rokomate

Holistic Approach to Kids and Nature, Sri Lanka

The 2013 Award, 'Holistic Approach to Kids and Nature', led by Kanchana Weerakoon is completed, but Nature Kids, a weekly free environmental educational programme run at the volunteer-led organic Good Market in Battaramulla, Sri Lanka, still runs every week. Kanchana and her team have gone on to establish Nature Teens, for older children, and Nature Youth, to train the next generation of group leaders and volunteers for the umbrella organisation ECO-V.

To support and finance these free programmes, ECO-V has established a range of paid activities, including programmes during the school holidays, and advises on the introduction of Nature Kids programmes in private schools. The team have created five butterfly and bee gardens and more are being established. Kanchana plans to publish a booklet for parents about the advantages of children connecting with nature, as an additional, post-completion outcome of the 2013 award.



Building Blocks for Youth Empowerment, Fiji

Akosita Rokomate, leader of the 2012 Award project 'Building Blocks for Youth Empowerment in Marine Conservation', reports that her hardworking team, comprised mainly of community volunteers, has maintained the momentum of the Reef Rangers programme. The Reef Rangers, a youth group developed to empower and educate the community about the threats facing their natural resources, is continuing its marine conservation education and awareness through lessons and activities at the project site on Kia Island in Fiji. Enthusiasm and interest remain high as they gear up for the annual end of year Eco Festival.

Update from the Trust

The Trust's finances continue to be strong and, despite the very low interest environment, the Fund's investment income provides a very substantial proportion of the Award. We do not actively canvass for donations, but are extremely grateful for those contributors who so generously remember the Trust.

This coming year is likely to see some changes within the Conservation Leadership Programme and the Partnership, but the Trust will continue to support an annual Award to a CLP Alumni team, although there might be a delay in calling for applications for the 2015 Award.

Finally, Evan Bowen-Jones, one of our founder Trustees has, sadly, decided to step down due to conflicting pressures, personal and professional, on his time.

Evan has been invaluable as a Trustee, and his wise counsel and good humour will be greatly missed. We thank Evan for the huge contribution he has made to the Trust and to the preservation of Kate's legacy.

Our best wishes for Christmas and for 2015,

The Trustees

Ken, Sue & Antony Stokes, Marianne Carter, Robyn Dalzen & Andy Brock-Doyle

Further information on CLP and the KSM Award may be found at:
www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org

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