

## **KATE STOKES MEMORIAL TRUST**

(Registered Charity No. 1119478)



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Dear

At the AGM in March the Trustees unanimously agreed to invite Andy Brock-Doyle to join us as a Trustee. Andy was a work colleague of Kate at BirdLife International, and a good friend. We are delighted that Andy has accepted the invitation and is now well and truly 'on board'. We are already benefitting from his valuable advice. Andy is currently with Deloitte in London.

2012 has been quite challenging for the Trustees. Firstly, we did not consider any of this year's Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) awards recipients fully met the criteria for the Kate Stokes Memorial Award (KSMA). Therefore at the AGM it was agreed that the KSMA Guidelines and Application forms would be re-written to allow for applications from among the CLP alumni.

The revised documents were completed and an invitation circulated in the October CLP Alumni News. Applications were due to be returned on 3 December and five proposals were received, which have now been assessed by the Trustees. The selection process was completed this week.

The Trustees are delighted that, despite this year's unavoidable delays, we have selected a proposal from a team in Fiji to receive the 2012 KSMA. Their project is entitled 'Building blocks for youth empowerment in marine conservation in Fiji' and will focus on the Reef Ranger programmes on Kia Island and the Great Sea Reef, aimed at educating the community about the threats resulting from increasing fishing pressure on the marine ecosystem.

Regarding the previous uncompleted Award projects, the 2009 Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS) project near Pune, India, has been completed and the final report was received in February. This project suffered numerous delays due to changes of leadership but ultimately was very successful. Among the project outcomes were six training sessions for local youth led by experienced guides and wildlife experts, and the publication of a guide, in local language, offering detailed information on key biodiversity elements of the BWS, a trail map, and a lists of dos and don'ts for religious tourists and nature lovers. This is the first guide of its type prepared for any protected area in the state of Maharashtra.



*Mr. Phulchand, an experienced guide from Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary, sharing his experiences with the Pune Conservator of Forests, Mr. M. K. Rao, during a training day.*

*CLP team member and plant taxonomist Dr. Rahul Mungikar conducting a training session on identification of plants, trees and herbs, which are a major tourist attraction after monsoon season.*



*Plants, reptiles, butterflies, amphibians, insects and crabs of the Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary.*

The Education & Capacity Building Initiative at Yunnan, China, which received the 2011 KSMA, is on-going, but after an initial excellent start has also suffered delays. However, the team leader, Ben Han, recently reported that “the editing of the Guidance Handbook is progressing well so far, but the contribution from current conservation professionals in China is taking more time than expected. ... We expect to finish editing in the early Spring 2013, when we will work with Yunnan Science & Technology Press to print and publish the book; hopefully this can be done sometime around the summer of 2013”.



*A member of the 2011 KSMA-supported team in the Ailao Mountain National Nature Reserve, Yunnan. Tree frog, *Rhacophorus dugritei**

Unfortunately, during the year Robyn was diagnosed with a serious illness, but we are very glad to be able to report that after successfully completing treatment she is recovering well and has returned to full time work. We are also delighted that Marianne is back at FFI following her year of maternity leave.

The Trust's finances remain in good health. Although we cannot yet foresee when it might be possible to cover the cost of the annual Awards in full from the Fund's investment income, an ultimate target, with the continuing generous support of friends and family, we are confident that we can cover the cost of the Awards for 2012 and 2013 without the need to draw on the Trust's capital.

Now that the Trustees are back to full strength we are considering an even further widening of the scope of the Award and the possibility of inviting applications from other NGOs and conservation groups having links with the CLP's partner organisations. It is hoped that this will be agreed for the 2014 KSMA process. The 2013 Award procedure will be as for this year, with an invitation to potential applicants in the Spring edition of the CLP Alumni News.

We thank you so much for your continuing interest and support, and send our very best wishes to you for Christmas and 2013.

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

Further information on the CLP and the KSMA can be found at: [www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org](http://www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org).