

Kate Stokes Memorial Trust

2018 Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 1119478

14 December 2018

Dear Friends,

The Trustees are pleased to report that the Trust has had another successful year.

The 2018 Kate Stokes Memorial Award was granted to a team working in Brazil's Caparaó National Park, 450km north of Rio de Janeiro. The winning project aims to promote public support for woolly spider monkey conservation and prevent the spread of yellow fever.

This should be an interesting combination of integrated concerns.

The 2017 Ghana turtle project was very successful and completed on schedule. It was a great initiative and Andrews Agyekumhene and his team are to be commended for their determination, commitment, and continuing involvement with the local communities. The two pro-

jects from Ecuador and India awarded in 2016, our 10th anniversary year, both reached a satisfactory conclusion during the early part of 2018.

We're delighted to share the news that Kanchana Weerakoon, recipient of the Trust's 2008 and 2013 Awards in Sri Lanka, was short-listed for the Desmond Tutu Reconciliation Awards 2018 for her Yathra (Journeys) work over the last seven years.

One of the main aims of the Trust is to support young conservationists previously identified by the Conservation Leadership Programme. We're therefore pleased to announce that the 2019 Award will be open to all alumni of the CLP, regardless of the country in which they're based.



Kate

Trustees

Ken, Sue & Antony Stokes,
Marianne Carter,
Andy Brock-Doyle
Stuart Paterson
Special Advisor: Robyn Dalzen

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2018 Award winning team with a group of biology students

2018 Award-winner: Reducing yellow fever threat to woolly spider monkeys

Our 2018 project is the first Award to a team in Brazil and only the second Award made in South America.

So far, the team has conducted education and outreach activities with local villages, schools and university students using the slogan "A Cul-

pa Não é do Macaco" (*It's not the monkey's fault*), developed by the Brazilian Ministries of Health and of the Environment.

They have also liaised with park staff, firefighters and volunteers on ways to protect primates and improve knowledge on yellow fever and what

to do in case someone finds an injured or dead primate in the park.

The team has built the capacity of 27 undergraduate students on fieldwork practices in primatology, focusing particularly on disease prevention.



Image from the team's social media campaign

Trust Annual Review

2018 has been another good year for the Trust. In March, the AGM and 2018 Kate Stokes Memorial Award selection meeting was held at the London office of Fauna & Flora International. Four trustees attended in person, two trustees called in from Cambridge and Southampton, and our Special Advisor joined from Bali. Once again we were delighted to receive a large number of diverse proposals from around the world, with a selection of very good and interesting projects.

Although the income from the Trust's investment fund remains insufficient on its own to cover the annual Award, the generous ongoing support of family and friends more than makes up the shortfall and places the Fund on a firm footing for 2019 and beyond.

Updates from 2016 award-winners

The Ecuadorian project '**Proyecto Washu**' has worked closely with the Chachi community of the Chontaduro region and other stakeholders to support brown-headed spider monkey conservation. The team now has built a good rapport with schools in the region, and teachers are continuing to organize workshops to promote wildlife conservation. The radio shows prepared by the team, the first of their kind broadcast in the local indigenous language, were successful in reaching local communities. In addition, the team created the first Spanish language field guide focused on local species.

2017 Project: Improving local capacity for sea turtle conservation in Ghana

Our 2017 Award-winners' project was conducted between July 2017 and June 2018. The project sought to improve the capacity of fishing communities to actively participate in sea turtle conservation. Sea turtles in the area face threats from fishery by-catch, poaching, egg collection, sand mining on their nesting beaches and plastic pollution.

Education programmes conducted in schools (average of 220 pupils per school) and communities (average of 150 individuals per community) has led to positive attitudinal change in over 11,000 children and 4,500 fishermen. 20 fish-

ermen are now local champions actively working in eight communities on sea turtle campaigns. Anti-poaching by-laws encouraged by the project are being used in two major fishing communities to protect sea turtles.

During the project, volunteer groups released almost 20 sea tur-

bles and saved over 50 nests. The project team together with community volunteers unearthed and consequently shut down two major sea turtle slaughter sites and three turtle meat market sites. Sand mining, used for construction, was entirely prevented in five communities and reduced in seven others.

The Western Ghats conservation project '**Purple Frog for President**' achieved much-improved awareness among local communities of the need to protect frogs and other endangered wildlife. The project was not without complications and was only conducted in the state of Kerala, not also in Tamil Nadu as originally planned. The story book '*Between a Thunderstorm and a Purple Frog*' was a great success, as was the video documentary for schools focusing on monsoons and the frog. Surveys carried out among adults in the indigenous communities reported a nine-fold increase in appreciation of the frog over the life of the project. The team also published their findings in a scientific journal.



Characters from the purple frog children's book



Successful release of a sea turtle during 2017 Award project