

# Kate Stokes Memorial Trust

## 2020 Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 1119478

31 December 2020

### Dear Friends,

2020 has been one of the most challenging years ever experienced by conservation organisations the world over. The Trust's two projects have suffered considerably as a consequence of Covid-19, with the completion of the 2019 Award project (Nepal) extended until next year and the start of the 2020 project (Madagascar) post-

poned to next year also. Both projects have experienced serious setbacks and complications. But their leaders and teams are determined to succeed, and we are convinced they will in due course. The teams' on-going reports are included in this Newsletter.

This is the Trust's fifteenth year. There have

been no changes to the Trust's organisation this year, and the five trustees are confident of the on-going security and financial stability of the Trust, even in these incredibly challenging times.

We are grateful to all supporters of the Trust whose contributions are helping to fund young teams to conserve threatened biodiversity.

### Trust Annual Review

In April, the trustees met virtually to consider applications for the 2020 Award. From a smaller selection of proposals than usual, the project 'Building home for people and biodiversity in Mangabe Reserve, Madagascar' was selected to receive the Award.

Mangabe Reserve was created in 2015 primarily to provide an oasis for the Critically Endangered golden mantella frog *Mantella aurantiaca* and the lemurs *Indri indri* and *Propithecus diadema*. The sustainability of the Reserve depends entirely on the capacity of the local

communities to manage it. This is made challenging by the limited education level of the population and the difficult access to the villages. The project team, led by Julie Hanta, aim to establish an information centre at each of the ten villages within Mangabe Reserve by 2030. In 2020-21, supported by the Award, the team plan to kick off this initiative in Mangabe village. At the centre, all community members will be able to access documents about the Reserve, the existing regulations, improved farming techniques, financial man-

agement, personal development and health.

In November, the trustees again met virtually for the 2020 AGM. The Trust's funds are in a stable situation, with reserves sufficient to fund both the 2020 and 2021 Awards. The Trust received another significant one-off donation this year for which the trustees are exceedingly grateful. The trustees are acutely aware of the effect of the pandemic on the world economic situation and will continue to keep the Trust's investments and income under regular review.



**Kate**

### Trustees

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

### Data Protection

So that we may send you this annual newsletter we keep a record of your name, postal and/or email address. We do not use this information for any other purpose or share it with anyone else. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, would like us to delete your information, or have any other questions, please let us know.



1. People in Mangabe Reserve

## 2020 Winner: Building a home for people and biodiversity in Mangabe

This year's Award has been won by yet another new country for the Trust, Madagascar. It is only the second time the Award has gone to an island nation, the first having been to Fiji in 2012, for a project in marine conservation. The Trust made the Award in April but due to Covid-19 and the worldwide spread of the pandemic Julie Hanta Razafimanahaka and her team have delayed their plans until early 2021.

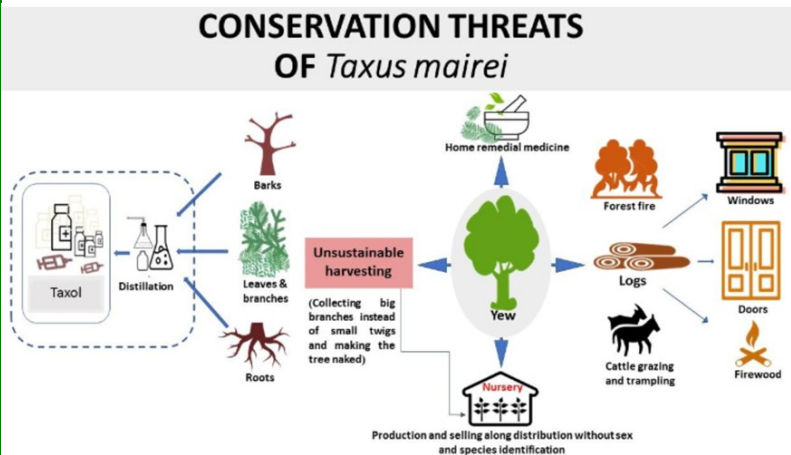
### Coping with Covid-19

Madagascar recorded 17,473 cases of Covid-19 with 255 deaths from June – December. The state

of health emergency ended in October but still recommends its population to wear facemasks, wash hands frequently and respect social distancing. These measures apply at local NGO Madagasikara Voakajy and we continue to be vigilant, limiting the number of fieldworks to the most important ones.

During the restrictions period (March – October), we noticed an increase in the number of infractions within Mangabe Reserve. In total, we received 15 reports from patrollers, community leaders and members on

the existence of illegal gold mining, logging, and hunting in the Reserve. As a result, we had to organize two response missions with the relevant authorities in July and November 2020. These missions aimed to stop the illegal activities, raise villagers' awareness on the measures they should take in case of infractions, and arrest any caught in the act. These facts highlight the need to build the information centre that will allow people to continuously get information on the protected area and the rules they can and should apply.



2. Infographic designed by young member of the Nepal team.

3. Brazilian team being interviewed by local media.

## 2019 Project: Engaging communities in the conservation of wild Maire's yews in Nepal

When COVID hit, two of our most important activities were halted: the conservation school programme involving school kids and the post-harvesters survey. As both activities were so important, we preferred to 'wait and watch' and then act based on the situation with suggestions from our KSMT trustees.

The pandemic has challenged us physically, mentally, and financially but it has also taught us that

we are all connected and that it is high time we think about our approaches towards nature. Thanks to the Trust we have modified some of the activities. The team is coming up with a wonderful fable followed by an animated video. These documents will not only be useful to the three schools originally targeted but also there will be larger impacts by sharing the digital documents later through social media. Also, we are all set to return to the field for the post-harvesters survey when possible due to the keen interest of our local level *Taxus* stakeholders and harvesters who are willing to communicate and share their activities with the team.

## Update from 2018 award-winner

It was with great pleasure that the Trust received the final report on the completion of 2018 Award: 'Promoting public support for northern muriqui conservation and yellow fever protection' based in the Caparao National Park, Brazil. It was an extremely successful project that reached, and influenced, so many different groups from many parts of Brazil. The report was received most enthusiastically by the conservation and local government bodies of the surrounding areas of the Park, and beyond.