



Kate Stokes Memorial Trust

Registered Charity No. 1119478

25 December 2017

Dear Friends,

It is now nearly the end of 2017 and the Trust has three on-going Projects, in Ghana 2017, and in India and Ecuador both 2016 Awards.

We are delighted with this year's Award, our thirteenth, to a team in Ghana. The project is 'Improving the local capacity to integrate research, education and ecotourism into meaningful sea turtle management' and is led by Andrews Agyekumhene with a team of six young conservationists. The project is located in the Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site in Winneba area of Central Ghana.

There have been unfortunate delays encountered by both of the 2016 Tenth Anniversary Awards, due mainly to national and local government changes and requirements; and also seasonal deadlines resulting in requests for extensions from both teams with plans to complete their projects in the near future, and to submit their final reports and accounts. Progress reports from both teams follow; a great deal has been accomplished in both Ecuador and India.

Over the twelve years since the foundation of the KSMT there have been many changes in the conservation and environment world. The never ending increase in human population continues to thwart the endeavours of conservationists. One of the aims of the Trust is to encourage and support young conservationists in as many parts of the world as are and have been supported by the Conservation Leadership Programme. The Trust will continue to be involved with all the alumni of the CLP regardless of the countries in which they are based.

The 2018 Award will be open to all CLP alumni

Introducing the 2017 KSMA winner

'Improving local capacity to integrate research, education & eco-tourism into meaningful sea turtle management in Ghana'.



Andrews with a sea turtle heading back to water
(Photo courtesy of Andrews Agyekumhene)

This year's winning project is the second Award to Ghana. The team leader, Andrews Agyekumhene, and his team, are based in Winneba at the Muni-Pomadze Ramsar Site in Central Ghana. Ghana is home to 5 of the world's 7 species of endangered sea turtles. Sea turtles face continuing threats from degraded

habitats, harvesting & egg poaching on the nesting beaches. But, the main risk to survival is from the marine environment particularly commercial & artisanal fisheries.

Education programmes have been conducted in schools and communities to educate as many as possible on sea turtle issues, both in English and local languages. Chiefs, elders and leaders of the fishing communities are giving their support to the project. Radio programmes have been produced and broadcast. Interactive sessions have been enthusiastically received. Wildlife clubs have been set up in all the schools to ensure sustained interest. The most striking posters have been produced and distributed to schools and communities.



Project poster used in the education programme
(Photo courtesy of Andrews Agyekumhene)

Further information about the CLP and the KSMA, including descriptions of all projects supported by the Trust may be found at: www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org

Review of 2016 Award Winners

2016 was the 10th Anniversary Year for the Trust and 2 Awards were given, to teams in Ecuador and India. Both team leaders were well known to the CLP and the Trust, having previously received CLP Future Conservationist Awards.



Brown-headed Spider Monkey (Photo courtesy of Nathalia Fuentes & Felipe Alfonso)

In **Ecuador** the project was focused on the education and communication strategies for the brown-headed spider monkey in the buffer zone of the Cotacachi-Cayapas Ecological Reserve in Central Ecuador. The team suffered serious set-backs with changes to the national government and the effect this had on local government, schools and the communities. The team is now back on track, having been given an extension till the end of 2017.

The latest update from Nathalia Fuentes & Felipe Alfonso is very positive. The final session to the schools directors and the talks to all grades of school children took place in June and focused on primates living in the surrounding areas, together with sessions to all grades on Choco biodiversity. In July environmental sessions were held for school professors of the Chachi school of Chontaduro.

August workshops were conducted for school professors in sustainability education using the methods of the Cloud Institute for Sustainable Education which emphasises the concept of sustainability for both adults and students of all ages, and its delivery in rural/indigenous schools. In September the first 7 radio messages in the series 'Saving the Washu' were recorded by Nathalia & Felipe, teachers and students. These were translated into the Chapala language and concentrate on awareness of spider monkeys and the risks they face. A second series of workshops has been completed and practical examples for the implementation of concepts of sustainability agreed and trialled. The final stage is to select projects to be implemented for the rest of the school year together with weekly activities for all children.



Workshop participants (Photo courtesy of Nathalia Fuentes & Felipe Alfonso)

Trust Annual Review

2017 has been an interesting year for the Trust and the Trustees. For the first time in probably 10 years all the Trustees were able to meet, in person, in London for the AGM, and consideration of applications for this year's Awards. The meeting was possible as FFI has a London office with conference facilities. Amazingly all six Trustees were free to be in London on the day, it was good to be together, face-to-face. Every year it gives the Trustees much pleasure to receive such a wide-range of excellent and diverse applications and every year it becomes increasingly difficult to make the final selection.

Although the Trust's finances remain robust, the current low interest rate environment means that income from our investments alone is insufficient to cover the Award. However, thanks to the generous support of family and friends, funds are already in place to meet the 2018 Award.

In **India**, in the Western Ghats, Arun Kanagavel and his team have continued with the work on their project 'Improving the profile of amphibians among local communities' with the project promoting the 'Purple Frog for President'! This team also experienced some delays due to requests from various government bodies to alter the timings of the project to fit into the 2017 academic year. The extension to this project is due for completion at the end of December.

The children's story book 'Between a thunderstorm and a purple frog' was completed and published this summer and is an outstanding addition to the lower primary school children's understanding of amphibians and their part in the local culture and ecosystem. The documentaries for the upper primary schools were also completed and focused on the monsoon, habitat and behaviour of the purple frog and other amphibians. Both presentations were very well received and more than 1,500 students from 30 indigenous schools took part in the campaigns in 8 districts in Kerala.



Between a Thunderstorm and a Purple Frog (Photo courtesy of Christopher J Michaels & Inez Januszczak)



Illustration from the story-book (Photo courtesy of Christopher J Michaels & Inez Januszczak)

Questionnaires were completed by adults in all the indigenous settlements where schools were targeted to assess the understanding of the associated cultural significance of the purple frog and to explore the extent of utilization of amphibians.

The final evaluation phase will be undertaken as soon as permits are issued by the 3 involved departments in Kerala, and the completion of the whole project and final report will then be submitted.

The Trustees:

Ken, Sue & Antony Stokes,
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