

KATE STOKES MEMORIAL TRUST

(Registered Charity No. 1119478)



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Dear Friends

As has been the case since its establishment in the Spring of 2006, the Trust operates in close association with the Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP, formerly the BP Conservation Programme).

The 2011 Kate Stokes Memorial Award (KSMA), the sixth annual award that we have made to teams of young conservationists around the world, was granted to a team in China, under the leadership of Ben Han, for a project entitled 'Education and Capacity Building Initiative in Yunnan – Preparing for Biodiversity Conservation Across Borders'. The Trustees were unanimous and immediate in their selection of this project from among the five shortlisted applications. The Trustees considered that Ben's project best met the criteria for the KSMA and, in particular, showed significant potential to deliver a concrete biodiversity conservation outcome with lasting impact. As a previous and highly regarded CLP award winner, the Trustees feel Ben may be relied upon to produce worthwhile results.

Award projects are currently on-going in India (2009) and Vietnam (2010), as well as in China (2011), and we have received the following recent updates from the team leaders:

2011 – Education and Capacity Building Initiative, Yunnan, China

"The Ailao Mountain Range is one of the most important natural habitats for many endemic amphibians and other unique wildlife species in Southwestern China, with much of the area remaining intact and thoroughly unexplored. The CLP and KSMA-funded projects will help to better understand the conservation status of each key site, build conservation capacity for local rangers and develop a species inventory, as well as other educational packages, for wider distribution.



One of two species of moustache toad assessed by a CLP-funded team in 2007

"During September and October, the team finished basic survey preparation; they will go into the field for the first time in late November, to study some winter-breeding amphibian species. More fieldwork and community-based education activities will be conducted in the Spring of 2012 and 2013. The guidance handbook for conservation careers in China is currently in the design and compilation phase. The author group, together with other Chinese CLP alumni, will bring real-life conservation stories from CLP-funded projects into the handbook. The handbook will be completed in draft by the end of 2012 and is expected to be officially published in 2013.



Moustache toads are so named for the black keratinized spines on their upper lips

"The conservation ambassador training camp for college students will be held in the Summer of 2013. The recruited trainees will receive essential training in conservation work skills, will help circulate the conservation career guidebook to university libraries, and will develop their conservation career planning during the training. The team will continue to prepare the training course package after the first field survey in the coming months in order to ensure the successful execution of the set training goals." *Ben Han*

2010 – Grey-shanked Douc Monkey Conservation Project, Kon Ka Kinh National Park, Vietnam

“After receiving the final instalment of the KSMA funding, the second training course was carried out for a further 12 local teachers and the staff of the Kon Ka Kinh National Park. The training course focused on eight lessons designed to improve the knowledge of school children aged 12-14 years regarding local wildlife and the National Park. The education team conducted 18 visits to six local schools. About 720 school children attended lectures on wildlife conservation in general, and conservation of the grey-shanked douc monkey in particular. A painting festival was organised in May for three local schools. 180 paintings depicting wildlife, threats and the beauty of the National Park were received. About 60 local school children were brought to Kon Ka Kinh National Park for a visit to learn about wildlife.” *Ha Thang Long*



2009 – Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Pune, India

“Considerable progress has been achieved in the following three areas: the nature based tourism initiative in the village of Kondhwal; the training of local youth as official guides recognised by the Forestry Department; and the exchange of experience with established tourist guides from Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary.” *Jayant Samaik*



We are very pleased to announce that BP has renewed its commitment to support the CLP with another three year grant agreement. The announcement was made at an event in London in September. This provides the CLP with the security to continue its work. Because of the Trust's close ties with the CLP, this is very good news for the KSMA and we are all delighted.

Otherwise, this year has been relatively uneventful for the Trust. The financial position, despite the unusually difficult economic climate, remains sound. Although we do not actively canvass for donations, we have nevertheless received a number this year, together with regular contributions from friends and family, for which we are very grateful, particularly at times like this when decent returns on investments are harder to come by. To help boost the Trust's funds, Sue pitched a stand at a car boot sale (her first ever!) near Southampton in September, where she sold a good many items, including donations from family and friends, and raised a very worthwhile sum. In view of this success, we hope to try again next year.

Thank you again for your support and interest and we wish you the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

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

Further information on the CLP and the KSMA can be found at: www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org.