

## 2018 Grant Recipients

### Children in Nature Grant Recipients:

**Kasese Wildlife Conservation Awareness Organization (Uganda):** Our award to Kasese Wildlife Conservation Awareness Organization (KWCAO) was used to introduce school children to the diverse native wildlife found locally in Uganda. Fifty students took an expedition to the Queen Elizabeth National Park where they listened to a conservation education presentation by park naturalists, went on a land drive to view wildlife and took a safari boat ride on the Kazinga Channel.



Grant funds were specifically utilized to cover the costs associated with the Queen Elizabeth National Park Field Trip Project. A total of 50 students and teachers embarked on a daylong field trip to the Queen Elizabeth National Park. Students were selected on the basis of the what they had previously learned from KWCAO presentations in their schools. Project activities included:

- Seeing a diversity of animals (including elephants, hippos, crocodiles, hoofed mammals and many species of birds) in their natural habitats;
- Receiving tree seedlings at the end of the visit to plant to combat deforestation and to serve as a visual reminder of their newfound commitment to conservation.

The Field Trip Project provided an inquiry-based, real-world experience for Kasese students. By interacting with the natural environment, students were better able to visualize, comprehend and apply what they had previously learned during KWCAO wildlife presentations in their schools.



**Conservation Heritage-Turambe (Rwanda):** We have supported Conservation Heritage Turambe (CHT) for the last several years due to the impressive work they have accomplished. CHT teaches Rwandan



schoolchildren about Nature and local wildlife, then takes them to the forests for observation. This year CHT focused on the local golden monkey. Over 200 children participated in CHT's year-long after-school programs. They spent the entire year learning about wildlife living in Volcanoes National Park, which include mountain gorillas, golden monkeys, bushbuck, forest buffalo, forest elephants, hyrax, over 200 bird species and many more. Surprisingly and very unfortunately, these children have never gotten an opportunity to see any of that wildlife in their natural habitat. On November 11, 2018, two CHT team members, two teachers, and 36 school-age children trekked in

“Our Children Need Nature and Nature Needs Our Children”

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Volcanoes National Park to see golden monkeys. Not only was this an important highlight to engage with children during their school break, but it was also an important first, face-to-face exposure the children had in interacting with wildlife. We aim to foster a lifelong positive relationship between these children and wildlife. Their work helps local communities live in harmony with wildlife.

## Applied Conservation Grant Recipients:

**Fishing Cat Conservancy:** This grant provided support for the Fishing Cat Conservancy (FCC) to monitor fishing cat populations and offer locals alternative sources of income by raising mangrove crabs, therefor protecting mangrove habitats. In coastal Andhra Pradesh in India, deforestation and aquaculture threaten unprotected mangrove forests and several vulnerable and lesser known species that inhabit them, primarily fishing cats and smooth-coated otters. Protecting mangroves also helps to protect human communities, as mangroves [reduce damage](#) from coastal storms. One strategy to conserve these unprotected mangroves is to provide communities with alternative and sustainable livelihoods, such as the sustainable harvest of mangrove



mud crabs with crab-culture boxes in naturally occurring water channels among mangroves. This is a low-investment alternative to commercial aquaculture ponds that are more expensive to maintain, pollute natural waters, and are prone to income losses due to soil infertility. FCC is working to address deforestation of coastal mangroves and habitat loss to fishing cats due to aquaculture and agriculture. At this time an estimated 50% or more of the historic mangrove forest cover throughout South and Southeast Asia have been lost due to unsustainable fish and shrimp farming practices, putting animals and humans at risk.

The 'Mangrove Crabs' project focus is currently on small, unprotected mangrove patches outside protected areas in coastal South India. FCC is in the process of testing box-based crab harvest with local people from three villages, Bendamurlanka (BEN), Samanthakuru (SAM), and Gachakayala Pora (GAC) in the Godavari River Delta of Andhra Pradesh, India. So far, they have deployed 34 crab boxes in unprotected mangrove areas, and are monitoring the growth of two crab species - *Scylla serrata* & *Scylla olivacea* in these boxes. They hope to encourage at least one person from each village to help scale up the pilot crab-harvest by deploying 160-180 more crab boxes in total by the end of 2018 and market the harvest crabs.

