

2019 Grant Recipients

Children in Nature Grant Recipients:

Intertwined Conservation Corp: Grant support provided the ability to hire a much-needed teacher, Gricelda, to visit the remote schools in Costa Rica. This unique teacher brought critical information to 500 indigenous students living within a wildlife reserve, engaging them in the conservation needs of their local species.

“The Ngäbe or Guaymí have five indigenous territories in southwestern Costa Rica, encompassing 23,600 hectares. Our team has been visiting this tribe since 2011, before (the reserve) was even founded, to gather information on ways to decrease and eventually end poaching and wildlife trafficking in these areas. Because of the shared borders to Panama and the lack of government observation in the area poaching and wildlife trafficking are huge in these parts.”



Conservation Heritage-Turambe: This remarkable group’s work is near and dear to our heart, and has become a bit of a flagship project for us. They take local Rwandan students into the Volcanoes National Park to experience firsthand the wildlife they live so close to. Our organization is named after a mountain gorilla, Papoose, that our founder studied in Rwanda’s Volcanoes National Park in the 1980’s. At that time mountain gorillas and other wildlife were under intense threat from habitat destruction, poaching, and retaliation from local farmers. Thanks to the work of Conservation Heritage-Turambe and other organizations, that threat has lessened over time because of the programs engaging local communities and children in the value of the wildlife they live alongside.



Papoose's daughter and granddaughter.
Credit: Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund

This year Conservation Heritage-Turambe and their students visited the golden monkeys of the Park.

“Every year, over 200 schoolchildren participate in CHT’s year-long after-school programs. They spend 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.

“Our Children Need Nature and Nature Needs Our Children”

www.papoosewildlife.org



Surprisingly and very unfortunately, these children have never gotten an opportunity to see any of that wildlife in their natural habitat. On October 13 and 20, 2019, 2 CHT team members, 2 teachers, and 36 school-age children trekked in 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.”