I have had the honor and privilege of being part of WWF’s Russell E. Train Education for Nature Program (EFN) for over 15 years. During that time, I have watched thousands of conservation professionals take on seemingly impossible challenges in their home countries and succeed. Each grantee success story reinforces the fact that we must champion more conservation leaders to solve the acute environmental challenges before us.

EFN is rare among conservation programs in that it invests primarily in individuals—promising women and men around the world who, because of EFN, are able to pursue education and in turn lead influential change in their home countries. Thanks to the generosity of WWF donors, we have already supported more than 2,300 individuals through EFN grants. They in turn have achieved extraordinary results—from discovering new species to creating new protected areas to enacting game-changing environmental legislation.

In an effort to support more deserving individuals, in 2013 EFN set the ambitious goal of doubling the number of grants awarded. I am pleased to share that we supported 223 individuals and organizations this year. This is the first time in our 22-year history that EFN has awarded over 200 grants in a year, and it represents a 92% increase since we took on the challenge of doubling our numbers.

EFN is working hard to increase our funding so that we can make even bigger investments to strengthen conservation capacity in the years ahead.

We deeply appreciate the commitment and generosity of the donors who have made these impacts possible. Your gifts to EFN are transforming individual lives and enabling enhanced protection of the wild places and species that capture our hearts.

Sincerely,

Andrea Santy
Director, Russell E. Train Education for Nature Program

Where We Work

2,340 TOTAL GRANTEES

The Russell E. Train Education for Nature Program has awarded 2,340 grants to individuals and organizations throughout Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

AFRICA
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Niger
- Republic of Congo

LATIN AMERICA
- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Ecuador
- French Guiana
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Suriname

ASIA
- Armenia
- Bhutan
- Cambodia
- China
- Fiji
- India
- Indonesia
- Laos
- Malaysia
- Mongolia
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Solomon Islands
- Thailand
- Timor Leste
- Vietnam

GRANTEES
- 858
- 765
- 717
2016 Accomplishments

**146%**

- The global number of trees has fallen: Train Fellow Peter Umunay coauthored an article in *Nature* that provides the first spatially continuous map of forest tree density at a global scale. The map estimates that the global number of trees has fallen by 46% since the start of human civilization.

**223**

- Awarded 223 grants: EFN awarded 223 grants this year, the highest number of grants ever awarded in the program's 22-year history.

**30**

- Years of conservation excellence: Train Fellow Suzana Padua and her husband Claudio Padua received the Cincinnati Zoo's 2016 Wildlife Conservation Award in honor of their 30 years of conservation work in Brazil.

**12**

- Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation: For the first time, a South American country—Peru—hosted the Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. The event was organized and led by Professional Development Grant recipient and Whitley Award winner Joanna Affara.

**MILESTONES**

- Surpassed 100 grantees: EFN surpassed 100 grantees in both Kenya and Bolivia—two high priority countries for conservation.

- Protected area: EFN awarded ARCAS, a Guatemalan NGO, funds to conduct a reforestation project in the newly declared Maya Protected Area in Guatemala. ARCAS has spent nearly a decade working to have this area designated as protected.

- Planted over 283,399 trees: EFN supported 15 organizations that collectively planted over 283,399 trees around the world.

- Awarded 223 grants: EFN awarded 223 grants this year, the highest number of grants ever awarded in the program’s 22-year history.


- Human-wildlife conflict: Train Fellow Thakur Silwal published two articles examining human-wildlife conflict in Chitwan National Park. The park was Nepal’s first protected area and it supports the largest populations of the species most commonly involved in attacks, such as rhinos, tigers, and elephants. This research is a step toward minimizing conflicts with people.

- Discovered a new species of frog: Train Fellow Harith Farooq discovered a new species of frog, *Nothophryne nov.sp*, near Quirimbas National Park in Mozambique.

- Disney conservation heroes: Professional Development Grant recipients Jonah Ratsimbazafy and Jeneria Lekilelei were named Disney Conservation Heroes.

**PUBLICATIONS**

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**AWARDS**

- National geographic emerging explorers: For their fantastic species work, Train Fellow Thandiwe Mweetwa and Reforestation Grant recipient Panut Hadisiswoyo were named 2016 National Geographic Emerging Explorers.

- Conservation Asia conference: EFN sent 12 conservationists from Myanmar, a country emerging from more than 50 years of global isolation, to the Conservation Asia Conference in Singapore. For eight of the participants, it was their first opportunity to attend an international conference and share their work.

**EVENTS**

- Train fellow visit: EFN brought together 10 Train Fellows for a weeklong visit in Washington, DC. The fellows shared vital research with WWF staff and attended key conservation events, including the Fuller Symposium.

- World ranger congress: According to research presented by Elodio Davalos Mayhua, the number of Andean bears has doubled in the Machu Picchu Historic Sanctuary. Elodio was able to share the findings at the World Ranger Congress in Colorado with funding from EFN. In total, EFN supported 12 individuals to attend the event.

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Educational opportunities in developing countries remain very limited. This is especially true within conservation, a field that is underrepresented even in developed countries. To help support the growth and expansion of educational opportunities in WWF priority places, EFN has launched the Russell E. Train Legacy Scholarship Program. In the coming years, this program will provide financial support to new or growing academic programs in universities in six WWF priority countries: Brazil, Bhutan, Guyana, Laos, Cameroon, and Tanzania.

EFN officially launched the program in Bhutan this year. In collaboration with WWF-Bhutan and the Greater Himalayan Foundation, EFN is supporting six students in earning undergraduate degrees in environmental management from Royal Thimphu College. The goal is to fund 18 students over the course of five years and to build up Bhutan’s environmental management capacity. One of the scholarships awarded each year will honor the late Mingma Norbu Sherpa, who made significant contributions to conservation in the Eastern Himalayas both before and during his time with WWF.

Altogether, the Legacy Scholarship Program will support nearly two dozen students per year in their pursuit of undergraduate and graduate degrees at universities in their home countries, while providing much needed financial support to new and expanding academic programs within these universities.

RUSSELL E. TRAIN
Russell E. Train, renowned conservationist and EFN’s namesake, passed away in 2012. Upon hearing the news of his passing, people from around the globe sent generous donations toward continuing his legacy of building conservation capacity worldwide. These memorial contributions are being used to support the Russell E. Train Legacy Scholarship Program.

ANNOUNCING THE RUSSELL E. TRAIN Legacy Scholarship Program

FINANCIAL INFORMATION
July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

Endowment: $454,244
Donors: $1,203,187
Degree Programs: $969,639
Local Conservation Organizations: $323,117

DEGREE PROGRAMS: 50
35 Train Fellowships
15 Train Scholarships

SHORT-TERM TRAINING: 124
104 Professional Development Grants
20 Alumni Grants

LOCAL CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS: 40
34 Conservation Workshop Grants
16 Reforestation Grants

GRANTS
Individuals 78%
Organizations 22%

21 COUNTRIES SUPPORTED
223 GRANTS

TOTAL GRANT EXPENDITURES: $1,637,431
27% Short-term Training
55% Degree Programs
20% Local Conservation Organizations
25% Donors
Bolivia

JUAN CARLOS MEDRANO VARGAS

In the past decade, over 6,000 rhinos have been killed in Africa and Asia for their horns. Although international trade in rhino horn is banned, demand is still high in Asian countries, where it is used in traditional Asian medicine. If poaching continues at the current rate, rhinos could be extinct by 2022.

CLIMATE
Create a climate-resilient and zero-carbon world, powered by renewable energy

Bolivia is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Even though it is far-removed from the ocean, higher temperatures on the South American coast and in the Amazon bring increasingly intense rainfall. This in turn leads to flash floods and mudslides that threaten the country’s ecosystems, infrastructure, crops, and people. Throughout the country, communities are finding it difficult to respond quickly and effectively to these disasters.

Juan Carlos Medrano Vargas, a conservation-focused teacher at the Bolivian Indigenous University, knows the importance of risk management. With EFN support, he attended a Climate Resilience to Natural Hazards course hosted by the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center, an international institution that promotes sustainable natural resource management in Latin America. Inspired by what he learned, he shared his new knowledge and skills with the next generation of conservationists: his students. Together they are analyzing risk management projects and actively working with Bolivian communities to find ways to reduce their vulnerability to disasters.
Sea turtles play a key role in keeping our marine ecosystems healthy. They maintain seagrass beds and coral reefs, providing habitat for other valuable species. Despite their importance, research on sea turtles is often limited and the lack of information leaves them exposed to threats like bycatch, habitat destruction, and poaching. To fill these critical research gaps, Train Fellow Henry Abi Nibam is pursuing his PhD in biodiversity and evolutionary biology at the University of Valencia in Spain. Henry will be studying the evolutionary ecology of sea turtles, examining their migratory routes and responses to environmental stressors along the coastlines of southern Cameroon, his home country. Henry, in partnership with local organizations, has been actively lobbying for the creation of the first marine national park in Cameroon’s Kribi coastal area. The region is currently unprotected and is home to manatees, sharks, and other endangered species in addition to sea turtles. Henry believes his research will provide additional evidence needed to establish the protected area.

Cameroon

HENRY ABI NIBAM

Bhutan

SANGAY DORJEE

Bhutan upholds a deep commitment to natural resource conservation. Over 80% of the country is covered in forest, and the constitution mandates that 60% of Bhutan must remain forested in perpetuity. Today, however, Bhutan’s conservation efforts are under tremendous pressure as the country’s growing and youthful population increases demand for urbanization, development, and exploitation of natural resources. Sangay is incorporating the scientific and technical knowledge he acquired into the first-ever conservation management plan for Jomotshangkha Wildlife Sanctuary, a transboundary reserve between Bhutan and India that is home to Bengal tigers and Asian elephants. Under the management plan, the sanctuary will conduct the first mammal, bird, vegetation, and socioeconomic surveys, establishing a better understanding of the natural resources available and how to sustainably use them.

FORESTS

Conserve the world’s most important forests to sustain nature’s diversity, benefit our climate, and support human well-being

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OCEANS

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Guatemala’s freshwater resources are under threat. Excess precipitation is causing pesticide-laden runoff to flow from oil palm plantations into waterways. Invasive river species are also compromising rivers and streams. These problems, in combination with a lack of environmental standards, jeopardize the wetlands of Guatemala and the livelihoods of the communities who live there.

Train-Fellow Yasmin Morales is pursuing her PhD in ecology at the University of Florida. She is examining how economic activities affect the network of rivers that run through northern Guatemala. In addition to the threats of invasive species and plantation runoff, there are plans to build a large hydropower plant on the Usumacinta River, a critical waterway stretching over 600 miles. With little regulation, building the plant would negatively impact not only the ecosystems but also the communities who depend on the river for food and income. Yasmin’s research will provide the government with important baseline data it can use to create management plans to conserve river health for both wildlife and people.
Congratulations

2016 TRAIN FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

BHUTAN
Kinley Choden
Tashi Dhendup
Tshering Dorji

BOLIVIA
Pamela Liliana Cruero Gutierrez

CAMEROON
Henry Ali Niam

ECUADOR
Segundo Bolier Torres Navarrete

GUATEMALA
Yasmin Morales

GUYANA
Jewel Uddell

KENYA
Kevin Oyaro
Mercy Wathira

LAOS
Visanath Kouphanh
Kouske Phammeasach
Xayaysith Phanmaochanh
Chalisa Sapsasima
Kamdot Suyavong
Seipaylay Soutam
Kosalittra Sounackhoumane
Houan Vorasane

MOZAMBIQUE
Haridhi Omar Manganidile Faroq
Alvina M newsletters
Muri Gonzales Soares

MYANMAR
Kywe Moe Oo
Pyae Zama Soe
Thin Thwe Thwe

NAMIBIA
Eniila Hambili

NEPAL
Jagadish Parajy
Sharmishtha Paudel
Sanjaya Shrestha

TANZANIA
Hussein Luswaga

UGANDA
Tito Mubirwa
Nicholas Mutebi
Caroline Mwebaze

VIETNAM
Trang Nguyen
Hoang Thach
Nguyen Van Thanh

Every year EFN awards Russell E. Train Fellowships to a select group of committed conservationists working on WWF priority issues. With financial support, Train Fellows are able to attend leading universities, conduct critical research, and return home better equipped to take on global conservation challenges.

EFN is pleased to announce the 2017 Train Fellowship opportunities:

1. Building Capacity in Climate Change, Adaptation, and Resilience for Conservation
   Eligible Countries: Colombia, Ecuador, Fiji, Guatemala, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Solomon Islands, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia

2. Building Capacity in Sustainable Food Systems and Conservation
   Eligible Countries: Cambodia, Central African Republic, Gabon, Kenya, Laos, Madagascar, Namibia, Republic of Congo, Vietnam, Zambia

3. Conservation in Mozambique and Myanmar
   Eligible countries: Mozambique and Myanmar only

4. Current & Aspiring University Faculty for Conservation
   Select countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. For a full list of eligible countries please review online guidelines.
The Russell E. Train Education for Nature Program fills a critical funding gap by providing financial support to proven and potential conservation leaders for training and education. Through these opportunities, leaders gain the knowledge and skills they need to address conservation challenges in their home countries.

**Degree Programs**
- Russell E. Train Fellowships and Scholarships support individuals in pursuing advanced degrees.

**Short-term Training**
- Professional Development Grants support conservation professionals’ attendance of short-courses and conferences.
- Alumni Grants are available to individuals who have previously received funding.

**Local Conservation Training**
- Conservation Workshop Grants support local organizations in conducting workshops in their communities.
- Reforestation Grants support organizations in conducting reforestation and restoration projects.

Cover Photo: Eduardo Justino Salvador is a professor at the Gurue Institute of Agriculture and a Conservation Workshop participant from Mozambique. © GRANT BEMIS/LEGADO