



RUSSELL E. TRAIN
**EDUCATION
FOR NATURE**

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Where We Work

2,684

TOTAL GRANTEES

The Russell E. Train Education for Nature Program has awarded 2,684 grants to individuals and organizations throughout Africa, Asia, and Latin America.



LATIN AMERICA

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

LEGEND
1–49
50–99
100+

AFRICA

- › Botswana
- › Burkina Faso
- › Cameroon
- › Central African Republic
- › Democratic Republic of the Congo
- › Gabon
- › Kenya
- › Madagascar
- › Malawi
- › Mozambique
- › Namibia
- › Niger
- › Republic of Congo
- › Senegal
- › South Africa
- › Swaziland
- › Tanzania
- › Togo
- › Uganda
- › Zambia
- › Zimbabwe

LEGEND
1–49
50–99
100+

ASIA

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

LEGEND
1–49
50–99
100+

977
GRANTEES

908
GRANTEES

799
GRANTEES

Education is one of the most powerful drivers of change.

For 24 years, the Russell E. Train Education for Nature Program (EFN) has played a pivotal role in preserving and restoring Earth's epicenters of biodiversity by supporting conservationists across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Through scholarships, fellowships, and small grants, EFN enables individuals to pursue degrees and attend trainings, and provides funding for local organizations to train communities in WWF priority places.

In 2019, EFN will celebrate its 25th anniversary. This milestone reminds us of the important legacy of Russell E. Train and the impact this program has had on 2,684 individuals and organizations worldwide. With over \$21 million invested in education and training, EFN has helped transform students, researchers, and faculty into recognized experts, decision-makers, and role models. It has also enabled local organizations to build awareness, transfer skills, and empower tens of thousands of community members.

Thanks to your commitment to EFN, together we are building a cadre of conservation champions working to protect our natural world. Your contributions have been critical to the success of each and every person featured in these pages. We appreciate your dedication and invite you to consider playing a larger role in the program to help us carry on the vision of Russ and Aileen Train.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to celebrating EFN's 25th anniversary with you in 2019!

Sincerely,

Director
Russell E. Train Education for Nature Program

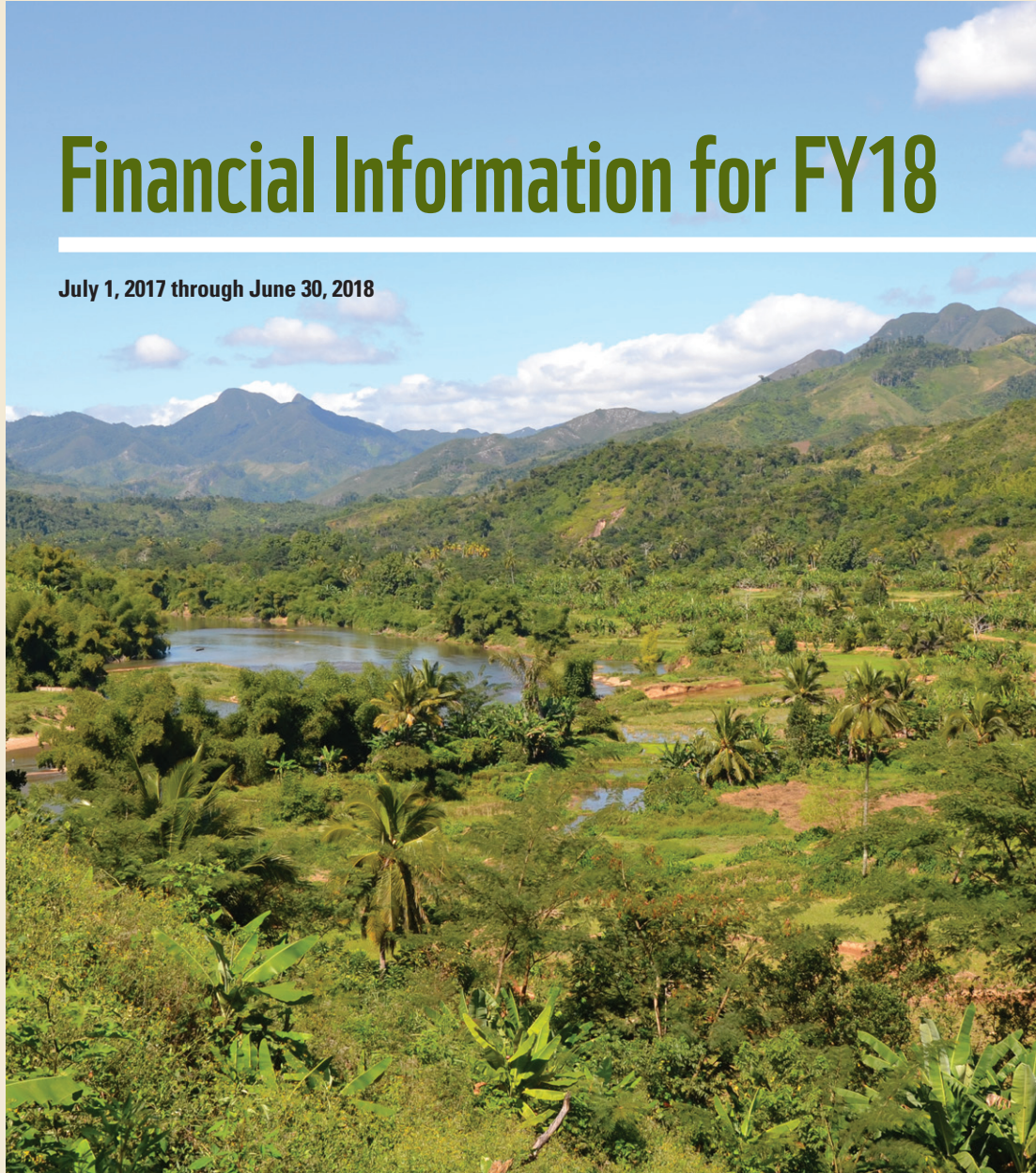
Bold = Current eligible countries for funding

EFN 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.

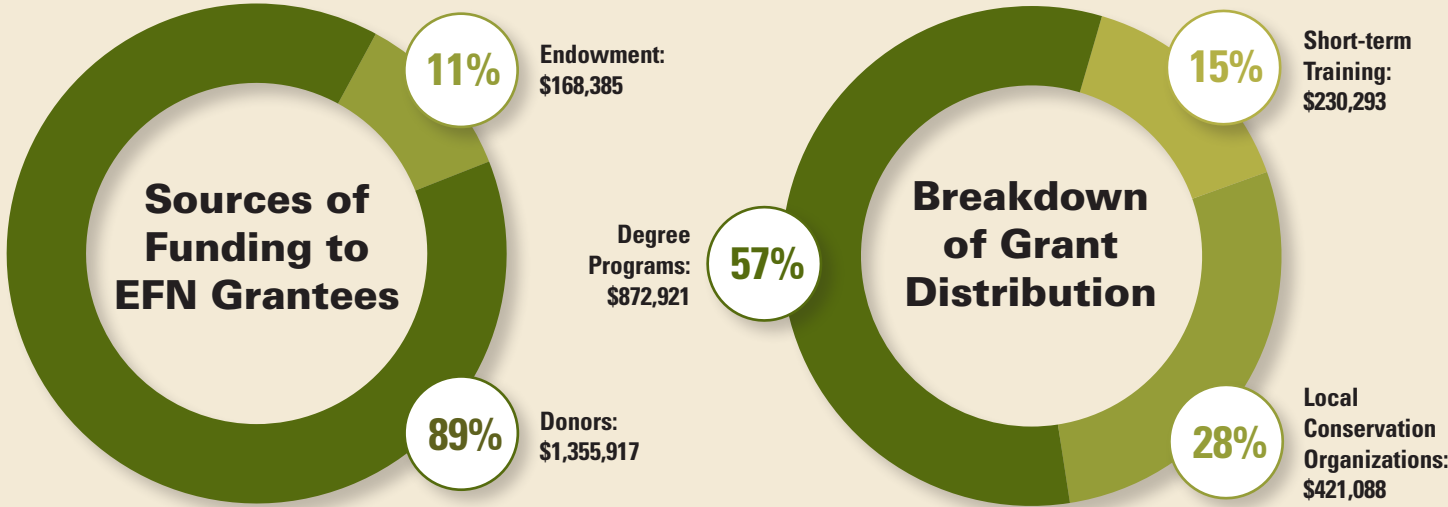
- ▶ **Degree Programs**
 - Russell E. Train Fellowships and Scholarships support individuals in pursuing certificates, diplomas, and advanced degrees.
- ▶ **Short-term Training**
 - Professional Development Grants support conservation professionals’ attendance of short-courses and conferences so they can advance in their careers.
 - Alumni Grants provide continued support 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 to improve tropical forest cover.

Financial Information for FY18

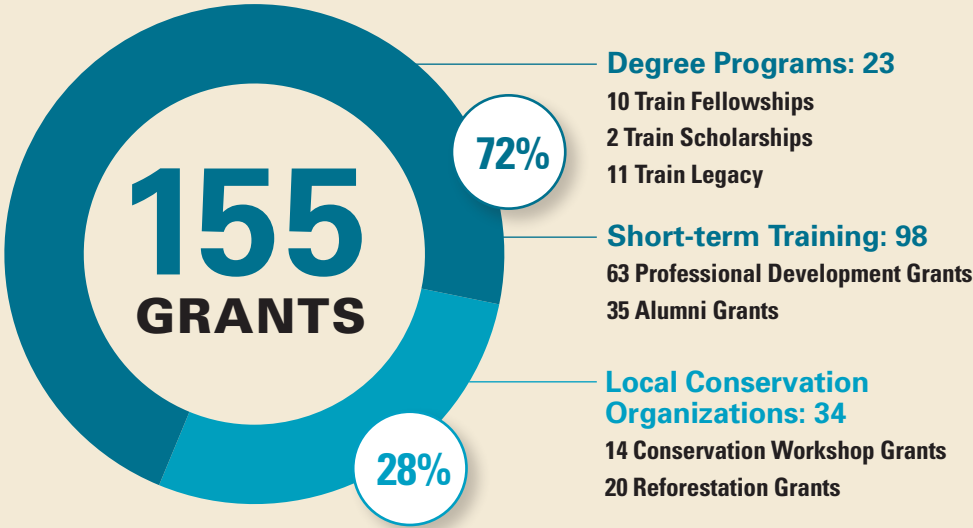
July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018



Total Grant Expenditures:
\$1,524,302



27
COUNTRIES
SUPPORTED



EFN in Ecuador

The Galápagos National Park is one of the most biodiverse areas in the world. Home to iconic endemic species like the giant tortoise and the marine iguana, the islands are a popular destination for over 200,000 tourists per year. With so much tourist traffic, park rangers are essential not only to protect the park's natural resources, but also to maintain infrastructure, collect research data, and settle conflicts. The success of the park and its conservation goals depends heavily on rangers; however, their professional needs are often not fully understood or considered in management plans.

To address this, 2018 Train Fellow Oscar Carvajal Mora is analyzing park ranger working conditions across several islands. The baseline data collected will give protected area managers a tool that accurately outlines the role of park rangers, identifies inconsistencies between islands, and highlights the gaps management plans need to address. This research is a step toward ensuring park rangers have the proper support to do their jobs effectively and conserve one of the world's most beautiful and unique regions.



Oscar Carvajal Mora



Number of years working in Ecuador

144

Total number of Ecuadorian individuals and organizations supported

3

Number of Ecuadorians awarded Train Fellowships to conduct research in the Galápagos this year

1956

Year WWF helped establish the Charles Darwin Foundation Research Station in the Galápagos Islands. Arturo Izurieta, who received funding from EFN in 2002 to obtain his PhD, was named the executive director of the Charles Darwin Foundation in 2015.



CONNECT

In June 2018, EFN hosted the second EFN Global Conference in Kuching, Malaysia, bringing together 33 current and past grantees from 17 countries. During the two-day event, EFN alumni led discussions on issues of importance to the global conservation community, including data gaps, inclusion and diversity, capacity development, and expanding participation through the creation of local NGOs.

“It is one thing to bring together close to 40 great minds in a room. It is another to realize that these bright minds are bringing about real change and having a great impact in their communities one step and one day at a time.”

– Nelly Kadagi, 2015 Train Fellow and Chief Scientist for the African Billfish Foundation

INFLUENCE

Congratulations to two of our remarkable grantees, who were named 2018 Whitley Award winners! The Whitley Awards are prestigious international prizes recognizing individual achievements in nature conservation.

Dominique Bikaba of the Democratic Republic of the Congo won for his research focused on the survival of eastern lowland gorillas. Dominique is the executive director of Strong Roots, which received a 2017 Reforestation Grant and planted over 80,000 trees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Kerstin Forsberg of Peru, a 2014 Train Fellow, won for her work engaging local communities in conservation and ecotourism to protect manta rays off the coast of Peru.



Group d'Etude et de Recherche sur les Primates



Lemurs are a beloved primate found only in Madagascar, but many are losing their habitats to deforestation caused by unsustainable farming practices, illegal logging, and forest fires. Local organization Group d'Etude et de Recherche sur les Primates (Primate Study and Research Group, or GERP) is

working to protect the lemurs' habitat and combat deforestation through community engagement.

With EFN support, GERP planted 43,000 trees on 40 acres of land and led a reforestation workshop on the Manombo Special Reserve that taught sustainable agricultural techniques to 10 community members. By the end of the workshop, every participant had learned how to build a functional tree nursery, collect seedlings, use management skills, and plant healthy trees. GERP's work has been featured on national television and was presented at the Malagasy Primatology Society's First Congress. GERP plans to continue to expand their restoration work over the next five years so that target lemur populations in the region can grow and thrive.

Lemur expert and past EFN grant recipient **Jonah Ratsimbazafy** (facing page, top left) helped establish GERP in 1994 to research and protect lemurs. The organization has grown considerably and now has over 110 members including researchers, teachers, students, and consultants.



LEAD

Thandiwe Mweetwa, a 2014 Train Fellow, received the 2018 Women of Discovery award from WINGS WorldQuest for her outstanding work protecting lions in eastern Zambia. The award recognizes women making significant contributions to world knowledge and science through exploration. Of the grants awarded by EFN this year, 44% have supported women who, like Thandiwe, are conducting critical research around the world.

Britius Munkombwe received funding from EFN in 2017 to attend the Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leadership Program. He has now established six women's groups in Zambia aimed at empowering women who have been exploited by the illegal wildlife trade through income-generating activities and community involvement in wildlife matters.



“There is need for educational systems to encourage and support young girls in their scientific pursuits. In the long run, this will increase the number of women working in science.”

—Thandiwe Mweetwa, 2014 Train Fellow and Education Program Coordinator for the *Zambian Carnivore Project*



Jonah Ratsimbazafy

RESTORE

Through the Reforestation Grant Program, EFN supported 17 organizations this year that collectively planted 371,781 trees in tropical forests. Since the start of the program in 2015, over 2 million trees have been planted.



Britius Munkombwe

CONTRIBUTE

In 2016, EFN supported **Somphouthone Phimmachak**'s attendance of a workshop on biodiversity and conservation of amphibians and reptiles at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. Since then, she has identified two new species of fanged frog in Laos, a country with limited research on reptiles and amphibians.



Somphouthone Phimmachak



Sydney Ndolo

Sydney Ndolo, a 2015 Train Fellow, discovered three new species of mushrooms in the Republic of Congo, where mushrooms are a key food and livelihood source. Upon graduation, Sydney will be the first Congolese to receive a doctorate in mycology, the study of mushrooms.

EXPAND

A 2016 Train Fellow, **Trang Nguyen** earned the Future for Nature award this year for her work monitoring illegal wildlife trade markets. These annual awards support young, talented, and ambitious conservationists committed to protecting species of wild animals and plants. As part of the award, Trang is creating a master's degree course outlining the illegal wildlife trade crisis in Vietnam—one of the largest illegal trade hubs in the world.



Trang Nguyen

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© RACHEL STUMP

Remembering Aileen Train

Aileen Train, conservationist, committed WWF Board member, and wife of Russell E. Train, passed away in 2017. Supporters from around the world sent gifts to continue her legacy of building local conservation leadership. These memorial contributions were used to support Train Fellow Christy Achtone Nkollo Aganga and her outstanding work in Gabon.

Christy Achtone Nkollo Aganga

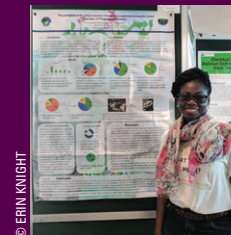
Christy Achtone Nkollo Aganga is saving African manatees along the coast of Gabon. These gentle giants are listed as vulnerable by IUCN and protected under Gabonese law, but they are often accidentally caught in fishing nets and sold for their meat. Since little is known about the African manatee and its movements, it is difficult to implement a conservation plan to adequately protect the species.

With EFN support, Christy is working closely with local fishermen and communities to document the number of manatees, monitor their behavior, collect poaching information, and raise awareness of their cultural significance. Her data will not only help answer many questions about this elusive species, but also contribute to the revision of the coastal management plans in Gabon to better protect them.



On the Rise

Christy recently presented her research at Gabon's national "My Thesis in 180 Seconds" competition—and won! She will be Gabon's first representative at the international competition held in Switzerland in September 2018.



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EFN in Bhutan



In 2015, Bhutan carried out its first-ever survey of wild tigers. Tigers are endangered in the wild due to poaching and habitat loss.

Bhutan is one of only 13 tiger range countries; determining how many tigers exist within the country's borders is fundamental to protecting them. The survey team collected a substantial amount of data on tigers, snow leopards, and other wildlife, much of which is still being analyzed. The survey results will be made public and used to influence wildlife policy.

Tandin, one of the core members of the survey team, is hoping to dive into more of the data using innovative data analysis methods. He also hopes to participate in the next national tiger survey in 2020. With an EFN Professional Development Grant, Tandin attended a course titled "Camera Trapping Study Design and Data Analysis for Occupancy and Density Estimation." The training covered the basics of managing camera trap data, as well as more advanced topics like designing effective wildlife studies.



Tandin



Number of years working in Bhutan

60

Total number of Bhutanese individuals and organizations supported

18

Number of Bhutanese students funded through the Train Legacy Program

The Russell E. and Aileen Train Legacy Program

Russell and Aileen Train's commitment to conserving Earth's natural resources has left an indelible mark on the world; their passion affected everything from clean air and wildlife to World Heritage Sites and universities. With the passing of Aileen, we are renaming the Russell E. Train Legacy Program to include her name as well, in honor of their joint commitment to training the next generation of conservationists.

In its third year, the Legacy Program is continuing to strengthen and expand access to top national universities in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. EFN partners with these select universities to increase the number of students enrolled in conservation degree programs and attract stronger and more diverse candidates.

Currently, this program is partnering with university programs in Bhutan, Laos, and Brazil and is launching a new program in Honduras. Over the next three years, EFN will cover research expenses for up to nine students (three per year) at the Universidad Nacional de Agricultura in Honduras to increase local research capacity and support the next generation of Honduran scientists.

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"EFN is not only bringing the Train legacy to Honduras but also transforming the lives of the next local, national, and international conservation leaders from Honduras."

– Wilmer Reyes, 2016 Train Fellow and Director of Research and Graduate Studies at the Universidad Nacional de Agricultura

Congratulations to the 2018 Train Fellowship Recipients!



ECUADOR

Oscar Mauricio Carvajal Mora



Francisco Laso



Jaime David Ortiz Pachar

GABON

Christy Achtone Nkollo Aganga



GUATEMALA

Pavel Garcia Soto



MOZAMBIQUE

Serafino Afonso Rui Mucova



NEPAL

Ngawang Thapke Sherpa

Sunil Tamang



PERU

Elizabeth Campbell

Ximena Tagle



Looking Ahead

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 2019 Train Fellowship Competitions

- **Conservation in the Galápagos**
Eligible Countries: Ecuador
- **Current & Aspiring University Faculty for Conservation**
Select countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. For a full list of eligible countries please review the online guidelines at worldwildlife.org/efn.



To learn more about EFN, please connect with us online:

Website: worldwildlife.org/efn

Facebook: facebook.com/educationfornature

Instagram: [@wwfeducationfornature](https://www.instagram.com/wwfeducationfornature)