



Community members at the Santa Sofia Indigenous Reserve in Amazonas, Colombia, pose for a group photo with EFN grantee Fernando Arbelaez (front row in black shirt). — Courtesy of Fernando Arbelaez

## Beyond the Classroom: EFN Grantees Share Lessons Learned in the Field



A man canoes upstream in the Awa Ethnic Forest Territory, where EFN grantee Luis Fernando Mora trained Awa community members in climate adaptation. — © Pablo Corral/WWF-Canon

EFN grantees are making important contributions locally, nationally, and internationally – and constantly learning from those experiences. Here we offer a few of the lessons learned that facilitate the sharing of some of that accumulating knowledge. A call for submissions on a focal topic for a future issue of *EFN*otes appears at the end of this story.

### Focal Topic: Indigenous Communities and Conservation

There are more than 150 million indigenous peoples living in over 60 countries around the world. Indigenous people are found



An Asiatic wild dog is caught on camera during research in Kangchenjunga. (Story, pg. 4)

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Left: In his work with the Awa (here, Awa children collect bananas), Luis Fernando Mora Mora learned the importance of paying attention to how the community has adapted to problematic natural changes in the past. — © Pablo Corral/WWF-Canon Right: The remoteness of Salonga National Park is a hindrance to alternative livelihoods which yield products that must be sold at faraway markets. — © Moyogo



Left: Clotilde Disubui found that understanding the cultural beliefs of the Batwa people was a key to her work in Salonga. — © Clotilde Disubui/WWF Right: Fernando Arbelaez's community-based turtle conservation program led to more sustainable harvesting of the Amazon river turtle. — © Juan Pratginestos/WWF-Canon



in every climate, but their numbers are especially high in tropical regions. These regions are also home to a wealth of species and important ecosystems. The overlap is not coincidental: Indigenous people rely heavily on natural resources and have thrived for millennia in these areas. But today, indigenous communities face serious environmental issues, among them deforestation, urbanization and climate change. Here we highlight just a few of EFN's outstanding grantees who are working with these communities to find sustainable solutions to their conservation challenges.

**Clotilde Disubui**  
Democratic Republic of Congo

**Current occupation:** GIS specialist for the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Tourism in DRC

**Focus area:** Salonga National Park, DRC

**Indigenous group:** Batwa

**Objective:** To design alternative livelihood programs for native communities living around the Salonga National Park

**Lessons learned:** Clotilde reports that it has been more difficult than expected to develop alternative livelihood programs in Salonga National Park due to the remote location of the park and cultural preferences for bushmeat. She emphasizes the critical importance of understanding local realities, such as distance to market and cultural beliefs, when developing alternative livelihood programs.

**Luis Fernando Mora Mora**  
Colombia

**Current occupation:** Graduate geography student at the Universidad de los Andes, Colombia

**Focus area:** Choco biogeographic ecoregion in southwest Colombia

**Indigenous group:** Awa Indians

**Objective:** To preserve important ecosystems in the Awa indigenous territory by raising awareness about climate change and providing climate adaptation training to the Awa community

**Lessons learned:** Working with the Awa Indians has taught Luis Fernando that designing a local adaptation strategy must be a participatory process. He also has gained new insight into the importance of integrating the indigenous world view into climate adaptation projects and looking at how the community has historically adapted to difficult natural conditions.

**Fernando Arbelaez**  
Colombia

**Current occupation:** Cofounder and current chairman of Fundacion BioDiversa

**Focus area:** Santa Sofia Indigenous Reserve, Amazonas, Colombia

**Indigenous group:** Cocama and Ticuna Indians

**Objective:** To reduce poaching and hunting of Amazon River turtle eggs and nesting females, especially during the reproductive season from July to November

**Lessons learned:** After three years of intense work with communities in the Santa Sofia Indigenous Reserve, Fernando's community-based turtle conservation program helped reduce poaching during the nesting season from a rate of 100 percent in 2007 to 15 percent in 2009. He achieved these results by focusing his program on raising community

awareness about sustainable harvesting and by training community members to protect and monitor a community conservation beach during the nesting season. Fernando states, "I quickly learned that to achieve long-term conservation results, activities must engage and empower local people in finding solutions for local conservation challenges."

**Next Topic:**  
Environmental Policy Issues

The next issue of *EFN* will focus on environmental policy issues, and we want to hear your stories! Please send a summary (maximum 250 words or a ½ page) telling us about your experiences with environmental policy in your home country or region.

Please include:

- your current job title and the name of the organization where you work

- name of the area affected by the policy (i.e., village, city, or country)
- a brief description of the environmental problem that the policy addresses
- a brief description of the policy
  - include relevant dates
  - list major stakeholders/partners
  - comment on the pros and cons of the policy
  - describe conservation results (positive and negative) achieved since policy implementation

- Highlight lessons learned (successes, challenges, failures)
- Attach high-quality photos related to topic

**Submit your lessons learned to [efn@wwfus.org](mailto:efn@wwfus.org) with "Lessons Learned" as the subject line of your email.**



Left: Researcher Ambika Prasad Khatiwada (left) and his field support, Lakpa Sherpa of Yamphudin VDC, set the camera trap at Sammewa Daurali. – © Tashi Lama/WWF  
Right: Their efforts are rewarded when the camera trap catches the image of a passing wild dog, or dhole. – Courtesy of Ambika Prasad Khatiwada

## The Impact of Asiatic Wild Dogs in Kangchenjunga



fauna at genetic, species, and ecosystem levels. Fortunately, the country has a strong commitment to conservation: According to the latest estimates, 23.23 percent (34,187 km<sup>2</sup> or about 13,200 square miles) of the total area of Nepal is protected.

Nepal has 20 official protected areas. Located in northeastern Nepal, bordering on China (Tibet) to the north and India to the east, is Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA), Nepal's most isolated and least densely populated protected area. Its elevation ranges from a low of 1,200 meters (3,937 feet) above sea level to a high of 8,586 meters (28,170 feet) at the summit of Mount Kangchenjunga, the third-highest peak in the world. With its pristine forests, alpine meadows, and high-altitude wetlands, KCA is home to the endangered snow leopard, the red panda, and the dhole, among other amazing species.

Technical and financial support from WWF helped make possible Nepal's official designation of the conservation area in 1998. KCA was created to conserve biodiversity through an integrated conservation and development approach that focuses on building local capacity to manage natural resources while improving livelihood opportunities.

### General Description of the Dhole

Locally, the dhole has several names – *ban kukur*, meaning “forest dog”; *milke*, meaning “very fast moving animals”; and *thada kane*, meaning “ears always erect.” Inhabiting a wide range of climates, from cold mountains to tropical valleys, dholes are grouped with wolves, coyotes, and foxes in the taxonomic classification of *canidea*. Like most dog species, they are very good at adapting to a range of habitat. In Nepal, dholes travel on trails frequented by humans and domestic animals and prefer to follow the ridge of the mountains.

Dholes are widely distributed throughout KCA and are found at elevations between 1,900 and 4,350 meters (6,234 and 14,270 feet). They are opportunistic hunters, preying on whatever animals they encounter, such as mountain sheep, deer, rodents and rabbits. Dholes generally prefer to hunt at dawn or dusk in sites of minimum human disturbance, and would not normally prey on domesticated animals. However, livestock are easier to catch than wild animals, and increasing opportunities for interaction with domesticated animals in pasturelands have stimulated an increase in attacks. So the species is severely threatened by retaliatory

killings as well as habitat fragmentation and disease transmission from feral dogs.

### Collecting Data on the Dhole

This study focused specifically on human-wildlife conflict in the area of Yamphudin, a Village Development Committee (VDC) that includes the herding campsites of Barule, Banduke Pokhari, Helkharka, Pemaadin, Tuplung, Naya Jhoden, Lase, Sammewa Daurali, Ghatte Daurali and Yangmung.

The fieldwork – which began August 11, 2010, and ran for a month – employed camera traps, surveys and interviews to gather data on the status and distribution of the dhole in the KCA, particularly in Yamphudin, and to provide insight into the animal's impact on the local environment. Research findings indicated that the impact is greater than had been thought.

The study used camera traps to establish the presence of dholes in the KCA – before the study, documentation of their presence was insufficient. A survey of signs of wild dog presence covered 106 plots and searched for scat, pugmarks, and carcasses of dhole prey. For the key informant survey, 53 interviews were conducted. Local people, herders, and members of the KCA management council were asked about their knowledge of dhole distribution, instances of human-wild dog conflict, and the history of dholes in the area.

The study found that, more than a decade ago, prior to the establishment of KCA, dhole populations were relatively high in Yamphudin, and there were occasional attacks on livestock. The local population retaliated against dholes by poisoning or shooting them, which led to a dramatic decline in the species' numbers. The population revived somewhat after the establishment of KCA, and in 2007 communities began again to report sightings and livestock kills by dholes. However, there

were no formal studies to confirm that dholes – and not other predators, such as snow leopards – were responsible for the kills.

Data collected about sightings by local herders, along with reported killings of domesticated animals, indicated that a pack of eight dholes passed through KCA in the Barule area. A pair of dholes was sighted in Lase, six dogs were reported in Sammewa Vedichowk/Daurali, and four in Phunchebung. Additionally, two dholes were photographed with camera traps in Sammewa Daurali at an elevation of 3,759 meters (12,330 feet).



Dhole – © David Lawson/WWF-UK

### Human-Wildlife Conflict and Associated Threats

Herders in the Yamphudin VDC rely on their livestock to feed their families and sell at market. The loss of just one animal can devastate a family; therefore, when wild animals kill a cow, goat or sheep the herders often retaliate by shooting the attackers or baiting them with poisoned carcasses. In Yamphudin, snow leopards were formerly

the main threat. Since October 2007, however, 14 cows in the area had been killed by dholes.

In 2006, the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project (KCAP) initiated a livestock insurance scheme with the Snow Leopard Conservation Sub-Committee (SLCS) to reduce human-snow leopard conflict. Snow leopards kill livestock at high altitude and dholes kill at low altitude, so the SLCS decided to expand the program to include compensation for dhole kills in Yamphudin. The SLCS has already provided US\$500 in relief funds to dhole-affected herders, to dissuade them from killing the predators that attacked their livestock. The SLCS provides US\$35 per cow killed by a snow leopard or dhole (but no insurance for goats and sheep).

### Conserving the Wild Dog

To support conservation of dholes in KCA, local community awareness needs to be raised, and the relief fund should be increased to compensate livestock owners at a more satisfactory level. Creating income alternatives to herding – such as production of high-yield nontimber forest products – would be another positive step.

This study has provided the baseline information to persuade the KCA management council and the government authority of the need to take action for dhole conservation in KCA. It has informed the development of a detailed carnivore conservation action plan for KCA and opened the door for further study of the dhole in Nepal.

*Ambika Prasad Khatiwada, of Nepal, received a Russell E. Train Fellowship in 2009 to pursue a master's degree in forestry from the Institute of Forestry in Nepal.*

# EFNNotes from the Field



All snapshots courtesy of grantees.

2003

## Nita Murjani, Indonesia Train Fellowship

With support for her final research project from a Train Fellowship, Fulbright Scholar Nita Murjani earned a master's degree in communication and development, specializing in environmental communication, from Ohio University in the United States. She returned to Indonesia in 2004.

From 2004 to 2006, Nita served as international communications coordinator for WWF's Heart of Borneo program. She worked from 2006 through 2007 as a communications consultant at various environmental organizations, including the Asia Forest Partnership Secretariat at CIFOR. She helped one of the leading mining companies in Indonesia set up its forestry project. From 2007 to 2010, Nita was project manager for the Climate Security program, British Council Indonesia, where she played a major role in setting programs for young climate champions.

Nita returned to CIFOR in June 2010 as the regional communications officer for Asia. Part of her portfolio is to coordinate the development of an Indonesian website on REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation), which will make information available in local languages. Nita's project will be a valuable site for conservationists in Indonesia.

2010

## Suzy Abougmgone Obame, Gabon Train Scholarship

In 2006, Suzy began working as an intern for WWF-Gabon's Minkebe project while pursuing her undergraduate studies at Gabon's National School of Freshwater and Forests. After graduating in 2007, Suzy began a three-year consultancy at WWF-Gabon. Among her accomplishments were assisting with a feasibility study to extend the Mwagna National Park and elaborating a map of the park's periphery zone.

While there, she also developed a draft agreement to ensure participatory and responsible management of biodiversity in the Djoua-Zadie-Mwagna Forest Area. This agreement was signed by the minister of freshwater, forest, environment and sustainable development; the National Park Agency; the minister of internal affairs, public security, immigration and decentralization; regional and local representatives from the Ivindo and Zadie provinces; as well as representatives of 58 local communities, several major forestry companies, and WWF.

In 2010, Suzy received a Train Scholarship to pursue a diploma in wildlife management at Mweke College of African Wildlife Management in Tanzania.

2005

## Adriani Sunuddin, Indonesia Train Fellowship

In 2005, Adriani received a Train Fellowship to pursue a master's in marine science at Bogor Agricultural University, where she is now a faculty member in the Department of Marine Science and Technology. Adriani writes, "As a marine scientist, I never have a dull moment. My research lets me examine a variety of topics in my field, from non-indigenous species of reef fish to cetaceans and seabirds in the vast pelagic seas."

Living in the only country in the world where two oceans meet at low latitude, Adriani is conducting research in the Indonesian Through Flow (ITF), where the warm Pacific meets the cool Indian Ocean to form a complex hydrology rich with marine biodiversity. She is collaborating with a French scientist, as there are no Indonesian experts on cetaceans and seabirds with whom she can conduct research on the ecology of pelagic top predators. Their study has found high biodiversity of the pelagic top predators in the ITF waters and dramatic geographic variation of the flocks of birds and pods of cetaceans in each region.

2006

## Jose Carlos Silva Macher, Peru Train Fellowship

Jose Carlos received a Train Fellowship in 2006 to pursue a Ph.D. in environmental science at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain. He holds a master's in environment and development from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

After returning to Peru, Jose Carlos co-established Ecolucion, a Peruvian NGO that seeks to inspire change and help communities transition to a more sustainable way of life by promoting solutions that address climate change and ecosystem conservation (ecolucion.org). He is also on the organizing committee for a grassroots organization called Actibicimo, which promotes bicycle use in Lima.

The Universidad Antonio Ruiz de Montoya recently named Jose Carlos director of their economics and environmental management degree, a new program that promotes economics education that is strongly based in humanities and environmental sciences. Jose Carlos is dedicated to working in the Amazon, and in his capacity as a professor he conducts courses at several regional universities located in the Peruvian Amazon.

2008

## Ngo Van Tri, Vietnam EFN Professional Development Grant

Ngo Van Tri is a dedicated scientist who spends the majority of his time in the forests of southern Vietnam. Over the past three years, he and his colleagues have discovered more than 18 new species in southern Vietnam; 17 are endemic.

The discoveries include three species of gecko, named Ta Kóu marble gecko (*Gekko takouensis*), psychedelica round-eyed gecko (*Cnemaspis psychedelica*), and Yang Bay bent-toed gecko (*Cyrtodactylus yangbayensis*); a lizard, named Ngo Van Tri's lady butterfly lizard (*Leiolepis ngovantrii*); and a viper, named the Hon Son pit viper (*Cryptelytrops honsonensis*). These new species are just a few examples of Vietnam's magnificent biodiversity, much of which is still unknown.

Tri's expertise was highlighted by CNN.com in a November 10 online article, "Scientists discover unknown lizard species at lunch buffet" (read it at <http://articles.cnn.com/2010/nov/10>).

Tri has been awarded two EFN Professional Development Grants to conduct research and attend international conferences to present his findings. He is now conducting an expedition in search of geckos in Laos, and he expects to describe and publish at least two new species this year.

## GRANTEE PUBLICATIONS



Marcias-duarte, A. et al. (2009). Factors influencing habitat use by migratory grassland birds in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico. *The Auk*, 126, 896-905.



Rijal, A., Smith-hall, C., & Helles, F. (2010). Non-timber forest product dependency in the Central Himalayan foot hills. *Environment, Development and Sustainability*. At [springerlink.com](http://springerlink.com).



Shen, S. et al. (2010). Agrobiodiversity and biocultural heritage in the Dulong Valley, China. *Mountain Research and Development*, 30(3), 205-211.



Mittermeier, R., Louis, E. E., Jr., Richardson, M., Schwitzer, C., et al. (2010). *Lemurs of Madagascar*. Arlington, Va.: Conservation International.



Randrianavelona, R., Rakotonjoely, H., Ratsimbazafy, J., & Jenkins, R. (2010). Conservation assessment of the critically endangered frog *Mantella aurantiaca* in Madagascar. *African Journal of Herpetology*, 59:1, 65-78.



Lopez, L., & Villalba, R. (2010). Climate influences on the radial growth of *Centrolobium microchaete*, a valuable timber species from the Tropical Dry Forests in Bolivia. *Biotropica*, 10.1111/j.1744-7429.2010.00653.x

## IN THE NEWS



Nicole Auil. – "Manatee subspecies genetically confirmed, but diversity challenge looms." *ScienceDaily* <http://www.sciencedaily.com/ses/2010/09/100913132337.htm>



Angela Maldonado – "In Colombia, activist works to preserve monkeys." *Los Angeles Times*. <http://articles.latimes.com/2010/jul/10/world/la-fg-colombia-monkeys-20100710>

### NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

#### Women Conservationists - Congo Basin Only Professional Development Grants

These grants support women conservationists in the Congo Basin who wish to do short-term training that enhances skills necessary for effective conservation work and career advancement. Applicants must be currently employed in conservation at a government agency, protected area, NGO, or educational institution. They must also have leadership potential and a commitment to conservation in their home countries. The grant covers training costs up to a maximum of US\$5,000.

**For more information:** [worldwildlife.org/efn](http://worldwildlife.org/efn)

### NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

#### EFN - Select WWF Priority Place Areas Professional Development Grants

These grants provide support for mid-career conservationists to pursue short-term, non-degree training to upgrade their knowledge and skills through short courses, workshops, conferences, and study tours, or through practical training such as internships and professional attachments. Professional Development Grants are awarded throughout the year, on a first-come, first-served basis, given the availability of funds.

**For more information:** [worldwildlife.org/efn](http://worldwildlife.org/efn)

### NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

#### Andes-Amazon Only Professional Development Grants

These grants support mid-career professionals in pursuing short-term, non-degree training to improve the management of protected areas in the Andes-Amazon. Grantees may build skills through short courses, workshops, conferences or foreign language study. The training may take place anywhere in the world, must be completed within a 6-month period, and may not lead to a degree or graduate certificate. Typical grant amounts range from US\$1,500 to US\$5,000. There is no application deadline.

**For more information:** [worldwildlife.org/efn/amazon](http://worldwildlife.org/efn/amazon)

### NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

#### Women Conservationists - Congo Basin Only Scholarships for Certificate/Diploma Training

These grants provide support to women conservationists for pursuit of certificate or diploma courses. These scholarships will allow women in the Congo Basin to gain much-needed formal conservation qualifications. Scholars receive financial support for education-related costs for a period of about one year and the grant covers costs up to a maximum of US\$10,000. Study can take place anywhere in the world. Application deadline is February 28, 2011.

**For more information:** [worldwildlife.org/efn](http://worldwildlife.org/efn)

### NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

#### EFN - Select WWF Priority Place Areas Conservation Workshop Grants

These grants support nongovernmental organizations, community groups, government agencies and educational institutions in conducting training workshops. Costs covered include travel expenses, meals and accommodations, room rentals, materials and other related costs. Administrative costs should be no more than 15 percent of the requested amount. Typical grants are between US\$1,500 and US\$7,500.

**For more information:** [worldwildlife.org/efn](http://worldwildlife.org/efn)

### NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

#### Select WWF Priority Places Russell E. Train Fellowship for Graduate Studies

These grants support individuals pursuing a master's or doctoral degree in conservation. This year, EFN is offering fellowships in the Philippines for research related to the Coral Triangle Initiative, and in select Latin American countries for research related to climate adaptation. Train Fellows receive financial support for education-related costs for a period of up to two years. Study can take place anywhere in the world. Application deadline is February 28, 2011.

**For more information:** [worldwildlife.org/efn](http://worldwildlife.org/efn)

### Awards, Grants and Scholarships



#### The Kathryn Fuller Science for Nature Fund

This year, the Kathryn Fuller Science for Nature Fund will support doctoral and postdoctoral research that helps evaluate the impact of marine protected areas (MPAs). We seek proposals for research that will enhance scientific understanding of the MPA's ecological and social impacts and strengthen science-based conservation and policy in WWF-US priority marine regions. **For more information:** [worldwildlife.org/fuller](http://worldwildlife.org/fuller)



#### Advance-Africa.Com

The website [advance-africa.com](http://advance-africa.com) focuses on supporting African economic development by connecting African students with educational scholarships and by connecting people who want to volunteer in Africa with opportunities to do so. Volunteer programs in areas such as teaching and medicine contribute to African development by fighting poverty, hunger, disease, unemployment and environmental degradation. **For more information:** [advance-africa.com](http://advance-africa.com)



#### The United States African Development Foundation

The USADF provides grants of up to \$250,000 to community groups and small enterprises for projects that benefit underserved and marginalized groups in Africa. **For more information:** [adf.gov/index.html](http://adf.gov/index.html)



#### Clean Up the World Grant Foundation

Clean Up the World Grant Foundation supports a variety of community-based projects. The foundation represents thousands of private trusts and foundations throughout the world, each with specific grant criteria and application processes. **For more information:** [cleanuptheworld.org/en/Memberkit/grants.html](http://cleanuptheworld.org/en/Memberkit/grants.html)



#### The Coca-Cola Foundation

The Coca-Cola Foundation and the company's other 19 local and regional foundations provide The Coca-Cola Company with the means to help improve the well-being of society. Foundation programs, which include customized local initiatives, converge in the areas of the environment, fitness and active lifestyles, community recycling, and education. **For more information:** [thecoca-colacompany.com/citizenship/application\\_guidelines.html](http://thecoca-colacompany.com/citizenship/application_guidelines.html)



#### First Peoples Worldwide

First Peoples Worldwide offers grants through the Keepers of the Earth Fund. Grants range in size from \$250 to \$20,000, with an average first-time award of \$5,000 for projects of up to one year in length. In order to be considered for funding in a particular upcoming calendar year, your organization must submit a completed application and budget form to First Peoples Worldwide by September 30. **For more information:** [firstpeoplesworldwide.org](http://firstpeoplesworldwide.org)

### Training



#### 5th International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change

This conference will be hosted by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and will take place in Dhaka, Bangladesh, March 24-31, 2011. The meeting aims to share the latest developments in adaptation planning and practices, and to disseminate knowledge among stakeholders and communities. Application deadline: December 31, 2010. **For more information:** [iied.org](http://iied.org)



#### 2nd International Marine Conservation Congress

The 2nd International Marine Conservation Congress, "Making Marine Science Matter," will be hosted by the Society for Conservation Biology, May 14-18, 2011, in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. The Congress works to advance marine conservation by facilitating discussion among scientists, managers and policy makers and developing science-based products that inform policy change and implementation. Application deadline: March 1, 2011. **For more information:** [conbio.org/IMCC2011](http://conbio.org/IMCC2011)



Visitors from Colombia: Luis Lopez (left), president of the Organization for the Zonal Indigenous of Putumayo, and Pablo Jamioy Juajibioy (right), a Train Fellow, pose with WWF Chairman Emeritus Russell E. Train in front of the "EFN Wall" at WWF headquarters in Washington, D.C. — © Greg Schwartz/Gregory David Photography

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**Contribute to EFN's Grantee Database!**



EFN recently launched its new grantee database, where visitors can view short profiles of grantees, as well as any publications they have authored.

Grantees are invited to submit citations for their conservation-related publications to [efn@wwfus.org](mailto:efn@wwfus.org)

[worldwildlife.org/efn/grantees](http://worldwildlife.org/efn/grantees)



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