



RUSSELL E. TRAIN  
**EDUCATION  
FOR NATURE**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2017**

# The Power of Education

**There are few investments more powerful or permanent than education. At WWF, we see firsthand how education can improve and accelerate the ability of individuals, communities, and societies to plan and implement conservation action. Thanks to the continued commitment of generous donors like you, EFN grants to 2,529 individuals and organizations around the world have helped thousands of people gain the education and skills necessary to take action for the planet.**

This year, EFN added 189 individuals and organizations to our network. We invite you to flip through the pages of this year's report to meet this new cohort. Among them are amazing individuals like Gabriela Barragán Altamirano of Ecuador, who is researching how climate affects landscape restoration projects (pg. 12), and Ximena Velez-Liendo of Bolivia, who received the 2017 Whitley Award for her steadfast support for Andean bear conservation (pg. 4).

We are also pleased to announce that this year we hosted the first-ever international EFN Symposium in Cartagena, Colombia. This symposium brought together over 40 current and past grantees from 17 countries. The event took place ahead of the 2017 International Conference for Conservation Biology and provided a unique opportunity for a south-south dialogue among grantees, as well as a chance to connect with other conservationists and experts, learn from each other, and share best practices.

Until conservationists everywhere have a variety of opportunities to build the skills and knowledge they need in their home countries, EFN remains a vital resource. We deeply appreciate your commitment and generosity – you are a crucial part of our success. Together we are helping build conservation capacity worldwide to protect Earth's most spectacular natural environments for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Andrea Santy  
Director  
Russell E. Train Education for Nature Program



# The Russell E. Train Legacy Program

**In 2016, EFN launched the Russell E. Train Legacy Program to strengthen and expand conservation education in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. For the last 20 years, EFN has been working to provide resources to conservationists to study anywhere in the world, realizing that many leave their home countries due to lack of in-country programs.**

With this in mind, the Legacy Program provides financial support to students to attend select universities in biodiversity rich countries. This support assists the university in increasing the number of students enrolled in conservation degree programs while also attracting stronger and more diverse candidates.

The inaugural program started in Bhutan last year, supporting six dedicated students from Royal Thimphu College. This year, EFN officially launched the program in Brazil. Over the next three years, EFN will help six

students (two per year) complete their master's degrees at the Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas Graduate School for Environmental Conservation and Sustainability (ESCAS). The school's founder, former EFN grantee Suzana Padua, made this valuable collaboration with ESCAS possible. EFN enabled Suzana to earn her PhD in environmental education by granting her a Russell E. Train Fellowship in 2000. By supporting ESCAS and its students, EFN is contributing to the conservation and management of biodiversity in Latin America, as well as the success of conservation education in Brazil.



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## The Train Legacy

Russell E. Train, renowned conservationist and EFN's namesake, passed away in 2012. Supporters from around the globe sent meaningful and generous donations toward continuing his legacy of building conservation capacity worldwide. These memorial contributions are being used to support the Russell E. Train Legacy Program.

This year's annual report is dedicated to his wife, Aileen Bowdoin Train, who passed away in July. She was an early champion of conservation who dedicated her life to the protection of wildlife and wild places around the world. Both Mr. and Mrs. Train shared a profound commitment to building local conservation leadership and institutions throughout the world. Every day, EFN works to fulfill their vision of putting ownership of natural resources in local hands.

# WWF-US Goals

To increase EFN's impact and fill knowledge gaps on issues critical to WWF's mission, EFN has aligned its programs with WWF's six overarching goals. All EFN grantees work to advance conservation in these six critical areas.



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## WILDLIFE

Ensure the world's most iconic species, including tigers, rhinos, and elephants, are secured and recovering in the wild.

## FORESTS

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



© MATHIEU COMTE / ANDY ROUSE / WWF

## FRESHWATER

Improve or maintain the health of the world's major basins for people and nature, contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



© SIMON DE TIER-WHITE / WWF



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## OCEANS

A resilient ocean sustains marine life and functioning ecosystems that support rich biodiversity, food security, and sustainable livelihoods.

## SUSTAINABLE FOOD

Drive sustainable food systems to conserve nature and feed humanity.



© JAMES MORGAN / WWF-US



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## CLIMATE

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

# 2017 Accomplishments

## 100+

EFN surpassed 100 grantees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a high priority country for conservation.

## 200+

EFN surpassed 200 grantees in Peru, a megadiverse country at the forefront of conservation.



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For her dedication to Andean bear conservation, **Train Fellow Ximena Velez-Liendo** of Bolivia received the Whitley Award.

**Train Fellow Rafael Morais Chiaravalloti** published a paper in *Conservation and Society* breaking down the assumption that local people are overfishing in the Pantanal of Brazil, when studies show no scientific evidence that overfishing is occurring.



## 512,640

### Trees planted around the world

EFN supported 13 organizations that collectively planted over 512,640 trees around the world.



**Train Fellow Mirna Ines Fernandez Pradel** coauthored a guidebook that explains the complexities of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)—a comprehensive international treaty that aims to conserve biodiversity and promote its sustainable use. The guidebook is the first to offer a complete, easily accessible, and updated view of the CBD process for users.

**The WWF Online Education Initiative continues to grow.** The course, “Key Concepts in Climate Change Adaptation” was translated into Spanish, French, Chinese, Russian and Vietnamese and a Bahasa Indonesia version is currently in production.





EFN hosted the first-ever international EFN Symposium in Colombia, bringing together over 40 current and past grantees from 17 countries. The event provided an opportunity to connect with other experts, learn from each other, and share best practices.



© VALENTINE ROSADO / WWF

EFN staff are active in advancing capacity development through leadership. This year, staff participated in several critical conservation events including the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the Capacity Building for Conservation in Asia Conference, the Earth Optimism Summit, and the International Conference for Conservation Biology.



In an article she wrote for *Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries*, Train Scholar Loveline Etta Ojong examined the vulnerability and adaptability of women to climate change along the southern slopes of the Rumpi Hills forest in Cameroon.

# Where We Work

EFN has provided nearly \$20 million in financial support to build capacity of more than 1,900 individuals and funded 615 organizations to conduct training workshops, collectively reaching more than 55,000 community members, indigenous people, park guards, fishers, and others.

**2,529**  
Total Grantees

**926**  
Grantees

**836**  
Grantees



**Bruno Montefferri, Peru**  
2010 Train Fellow  
Environmental Advocate

## LATIN AMERICA

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Argentina            | Mexico          |
| <b>Belize</b>        | Panama          |
| <b>Bolivia</b>       | <b>Paraguay</b> |
| Brazil               | <b>Peru</b>     |
| Chile                | <b>Suriname</b> |
| <b>Colombia</b>      |                 |
| Costa Rica           |                 |
| <b>Ecuador</b>       |                 |
| <b>French Guiana</b> |                 |
| <b>Guatemala</b>     |                 |
| <b>Guyana</b>        |                 |
| <b>Honduras</b>      |                 |

- 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+



© ANJARA SALOMA





© HA THANG LONG

**Ha Thang Long, Vietnam**  
2004 Train Fellow  
GreenViet Founder

**767**  
Grantees



**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+

**Bold** = Current eligible countries for funding

**Anjara Saloma, Madagascar**  
2015 Train Fellow  
Whale Expert

**Strong Roots**  
**Democratic Republic of Congo**

Reforestation Grant recipient,  
Reforestation for Gorilla Conservation  
in the Buffer Zone of Itombwe Nature Reserve

“Given the vastness of the forest, communities didn’t believe human encroachments and wood collection could affect the habitat of the Grauer’s gorilla, also known as the eastern lowland gorilla. During the EFN-funded reforestation workshops, we showed trends on forest loss from deforestation, enabled communities to brainstorm on other measures to take to sustain the community forest conservation, and showed the tree planting and natural regeneration approach we are applying. The community wants to reinforce their traditional regulations to protect the forest and double reforestation efforts to protect the habitat of this important species.”

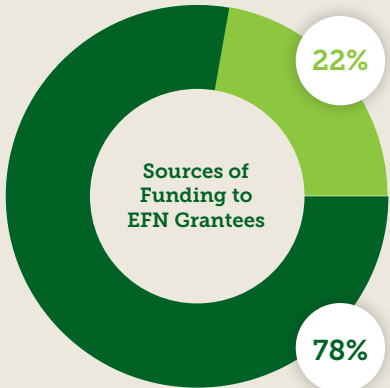
– Dominique Bikaba, Executive Director  
Strong Roots

# FY 2017

## Financial Information

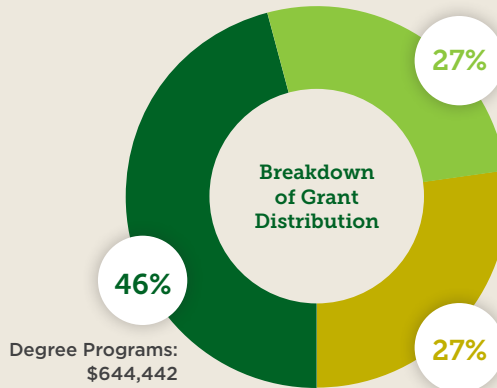
July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

Total Grant Expenditures: \$1,408,726



Donors:  
\$1,100,699

Endowment:  
\$308,027

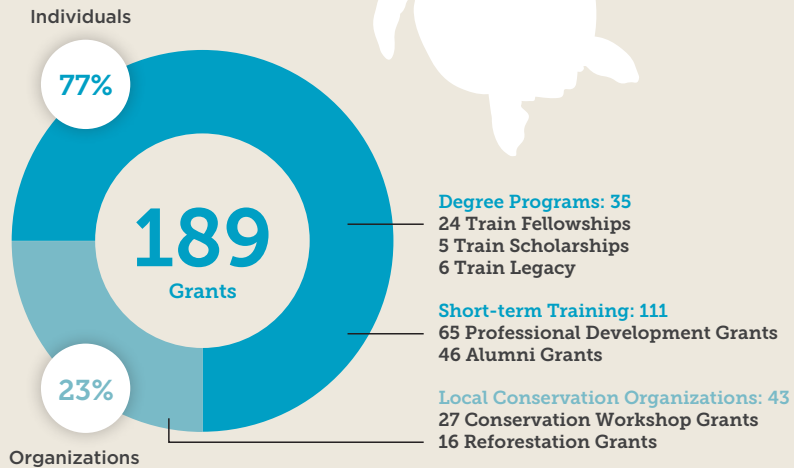


Degree Programs:  
\$644,442

Local  
Conservation  
Organizations:  
\$389,153

Short-term  
Training:  
\$375,131

**27**  
Countries  
Supported



Organizations



# Congratulations to the 2017 Train Fellowship Recipients

## COLOMBIA

Juliana Velez Gomez

Julia Maria Gorricho Escobar

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Prince Enganga Ekoto

Providence Omona Fale

Luc Mumbere Lango

## ECUADOR

Gabriela Barragán Altamirano

## INDONESIA

Hernawati

## KENYA

Faith Milkah Wakonyo Muniale

## MOZAMBIQUE

Alvaro Albino Vetina

Gildo Amancio Chivale

Halaze de Pedro Celestino Manhice

Jamen Mussa Ali

## MYANMAR

Kyi Phyu Aung

Nanda Aung

Aung Nyein Chan

Myatthu Kyaw

Thu Zar Aung

Win Maung Aye

## NAMIBIA

Michael Lukubwe

## PERU

Adriana Gonzalez Pestana

Claudia Angelica Veliz Rosas

## UGANDA

Robert Bagyenda

Herbert Kasozi

## ZAMBIA

Handsen Mseteka



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NATURE**

# Grantee Highlights

## Michael Lukubwe Namibia

Namibia is shaped by extensive desert, coastline, floodplains, and woodland savannas. In addition to the varied landscape, it hosts some of Africa's most endangered species, including the African wild dog, the African elephant, the black rhino, and some of the world's greatest concentrations of marine life. Although Namibia's government is extremely dedicated to the conservation of its land and wildlife, they have seen a recent increase in habitat loss due to population growth and climate change.

Michael Lukubwe is a lecturer at the University of Namibia - Katima Mulilo Campus, located in the panhandle of Namibia, bordering Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. He is the sole Namibian wildlife expert on campus. Having received a Train Fellowship, he will pursue a PhD in wildlife ecology at Oregon State University. Afterward, Michael will continue his research as a professor in Namibia and expand his university's wildlife program. He hopes to launch a new generation of conservation biologists and create a much-needed conservation network across Namibia and Africa.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MICHAEL LUKUBWE / LAO WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



## Lao Wildlife Conservation Association Laos

The country of Laos harbors extensive environmental diversity. Recently the government was able to set aside 15% of the land, totaling 3.8 million hectares, for protected areas. With only six universities in the entire country and few that offer conservation curriculums, Laos faces a shortage of trained conservationists with the necessary knowledge and skills to manage the country's growing protected area system.

This year, the Lao Wildlife Conservation Association conducted a workshop for EFN alumni and master's students from Suranaree University of Technology focused on building the professional skills of young conservationists in Laos. The workshop took place over three days at Phou Khao Khouy National Park. During the event, attendees learned critical skills to help them better execute protected area management, including

conservation planning, technical reporting, and project proposal development. The workshop was co-led by Dr. Phaivanh Phiapalath, who earned his PhD with the support of a 2005 Train Fellowship. Phaivanh is dedicated to growing conservation programs in Laos and mentoring young conservationists to manage their local natural resources.





## Gabriela Barragán Altamirano Ecuador

Nowhere on Earth is more biodiversity found per square kilometer than in Ecuador. Yet this important ecosystem is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and deforestation. Although the country takes up less than 1% of Earth's land area, it hosts 16% of the world's bird species and 15% of its plant species. There are many threats facing the country's biodiversity, but the most urgent is the clearing of trees for grazing cattle and other

forms of agriculture. When the rate at which trees are being destroyed is combined with the impacts of climate change, Ecuador could face complete deforestation by 2034.

Gabriela Barragán Altamirano hopes to mitigate these threats by prioritizing land transformation and climate change research in her home country. With a Russell E. Train Fellowship, she will pursue a PhD in forestry from the University

of British Columbia, focusing her research on applying climate change modeling to forest restoration initiatives throughout the country. Gaby's research will serve as a model for incorporating climate change into future research and educating people on the harmful process of land transformation. She will bring the skills and information learned in her PhD studies back to Ecuador to encourage communities to engage in conservation.



### **Lucy Binti Peter Liaw** Malaysia

Lucy Binti Peter Liaw received a Professional Development Grant to attend a month-long GIS training at the Society for Conservation GIS at the University of California, Davis. Lucy is a spatial conservation planning officer for the Sabah Wildlife Authority from Malaysia, and strengthening her GIS skills has allowed her to better manage, analyze and map wildlife distribution in this critical conservation region.



### **Darlina Nanale Ibara Hissongo** Republic of Congo

Darlina Nanale Ibara Hissongo is one of the few female scientists in the Republic of Congo, and the only scientist there researching mushrooms. Fungi play a critical role in maintaining ecosystems and are a healthy food source, but little is known about their biology and distribution. She received a Professional Development Grant to attend a workshop focused on the impact of human activities on the diversity and conservation of wild edible fungi in the Congo. The workshop increased her knowledge of fungi in the region and taught her new research methods to apply in the field.



### **Guadalupe Valentine Rosado** Belize

Guadalupe Valentine Rosado, a biologist from Belize, received a Professional Development Grant to attend a six-week documentary filmmaking workshop at the New York Film Academy. He is using the skills learned in the workshop to create impactful and educational films about environmental issues facing Belize, such as mangrove reforestation and restoration.



**The 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 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.

### **Announcing 2018 Competitions**

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 can attend leading universities, conduct critical research, and return home better equipped to take on global conservation challenges.

EFN is pleased to announce the 2018 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](http://worldwildlife.org/efn).**



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Cover photo: Harith Farooq is a 2016 Russell E. Train Fellow researching amphibians in Mozambique. © Rob Frost

