

The Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa announces its funding programme for environmental and developmental charities in 2010

LONDON (May 2010) – Following its annual meeting of Trustees on the 18th March 2010, the Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa (MCFEA) has announced a program of £360,000 in new grants, including a 3-year commitment to Earthwatch Institute (Europe) for their Capacity Development Programme and a grant to support Excellent Development's proliferation of sand dam technology in Kenya.

The 2010 funding programme also includes continued support to: the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust for their project to rescue the Madagascar Pochard from the brink of extinction; Botanic Gardens Conservation International, providing scholarships for African participants at the 4th Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Dublin in June 2010; Bird Life International's "Spring Alive" project to promote children's interest in nature and conservation through tracking the arrival of migrating birds in spring; Concern Universal's project promoting the economic empowerment of small-scale agricultural producers in Guinea; Fauna and Flora International's project to promote environmental capacity building in Romania; Peace Parks International for sponsorship of natural resource management students at the Southern African Wildlife College and finally additional funding to Earthwatch Institute (Europe) in support of its annual events programme.

Details of selected projects for 2010 are as follows:

Earthwatch Institute (Europe)

2010 Events Programme & Capacity Development Programme

Having supported this international environmental organization since 1993, the MCFEA is proud to once again sponsor the Earthwatch Institute's 2010 Events Programme, and to provide a more substantial commitment to their Capacity Development Programme.

This year, the Earthwatch's Events Programme will again include an Annual Debate, where finalists from Earthwatch's 2010 Citizen Scientist Competition will argue why their originally conceived and designed volunteer-based research project will help to solve a critical environmental issue.

Earthwatch's Capacity Development Programme was originally launched in 1995 and currently provides young, passionate and ambitious conservationists from Africa, Eastern Europe and South Asia with the opportunity to receive technical knowledge and skills through fully funded field research experiences on Earthwatch projects. This year, with the support of the MCFEA, Earthwatch will now be able to strengthen the delivery and impact of this programme through more thorough and effective professional hands-on training experiences to encourage future conservation leaders to promote and maintain a sustainable environment in their native countries, and also to provide them with the knowledge and confidence to become educators themselves.

The MCFEA will support this development plan with a grant of £30,000 per year over the next three years.

<http://www.earthwatch.org/europe/>

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

Saving the Madagascar Pochard (Madagascar)

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) is a leading UK conservation organisation dedicated to saving wetlands and raising awareness of the issues that affect their survival. Founded in 1946 by the renowned naturalist Sir Peter Scott, WWT has a network of nine specialist wetland visitor centres in the UK as well as being engaged in a number of conservation projects worldwide.

WWT has joined forces with the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, the Peregrine Fund and the Madagascar Government in a major initiative to save the Madagascar Pochard. Known as the world's rarest duck, this fragile species was originally believed to be extinct and was only rediscovered in 2006 in the extreme north of Madagascar.

During 2009 WWT and its partners have acted swiftly to protect the future of the species and have now established a temporary breeding facility for Madagascar Pochards in Madagascar. 23 ducklings have been hatched and are thriving under expert care in the facility, which has already succeeded in doubling the existing population.

In the year ahead WWT will be looking to develop a permanent conservation-breeding facility enabling them to nurture more eggs and further increase the populations. In the future, this facility is also intended to serve as a long term resource for conservation-breeding projects related to other species.

In support of these activities, the MCFEA is pleased to have agreed to provide the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust with a grant of £50,000 in 2010.

<http://www.wwt.org.uk/>

Excellent Development Sand Dam Project – Ukambani Kenya

Founded in 2002, Excellent Development provides small scale farming communities with access to stable supplies of clean water and helps to transform their local environment through improved soil and water conservation. This is achieved through a combination of land terracing, planting trees, introducing effective farming techniques and building innovative sand dams.

A sand dam is a simple, low cost and low maintenance, replicable technology that has the capacity to store large volumes of rainwater and act as a natural filter providing clean supplies of water on a long term basis. This water can then be easily accessed by local communities, providing a sustainable solution to water scarcity.

Overall winner of the UK's Charity Awards in 2008, Excellent Development have to date built 243 small-scale sand dams, dug 1,158km of terracing, enabled 700,000 trees to be planted and worked with 59 community self-help groups representing over 16,000 direct beneficiaries.

In 2010, the MCFEA will be supporting Excellent Development with a grant of over £30,000 for the construction of sand dams in two communities in Ukambani Kenya, where currently 65% of the population does not have access to an adequate water supply. As part of this project communities will receive low maintenance sand dams which will provide clean water to the whole community, as well as tree nurseries, sustainable seed banks with improved varieties of local crops, and terracing of land to reduce water loss and soil erosion.

<http://www.excellentdevelopment.com/>

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About the Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa

The Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa (MCFEA), a UK registered charity, was established in 1992 to promote environmental conservation, education and research into the

environment and poverty alleviation, through funding from Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan, and its U.K.-based subsidiary, Mitsubishi Corporation International (Europe) Plc.

For more information about the Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa, please visit <http://www.mitsubishicorp.com/gb/en/csr/mcfea.html>.

About Mitsubishi Corporation

Mitsubishi Corporation (MC) is Japan's largest general trading company (*sogo shosha*) with over 200 bases of operations in approximately 80 countries worldwide. Together with its over 500 group companies, MC employs a multinational workforce of approximately 60,000 people. MC has long been engaged in business with customers around the world in virtually every industry, including energy, metals, machinery, chemicals, food and general merchandise. MC provides philanthropic spending through a variety of mechanisms, including donations to the MCFEA and the MCFA.

For more information, please visit www.mitsubishicorp.com.