

Distribution of Shellshock funds - Update for EAZA Conservation Committee



August 2006

A total amount of €372,093.30 has been raised for the Shellshock campaign. This is much more than expected (target €150,000) and consequently more *in situ* conservation projects for turtles and tortoises can be supported.

Initially 14 projects were selected that would receive Shellshock funding. At the end of the campaign, several of these projects were no longer suited for support or had already located funding from other sources. Five of the original projects (in bold in the table below) now received full support. Furthermore some additional projects have been selected by the Shellshock Planning Group. Table 1 provides an overview of Shellshock funds that have been sent out as of July 2006.

Name supported project	Country	Date support	Amount
Turtle Conservation Project - Tsunami release effort	Sri Lanka	January 2005	€9,000
Leatherback Ocean Wanderer	Gabon	September 2005	€19,875
Royal Chitwan National Park Turtle Conservation Project (ZSL)	Nepal	September 2005	€10,173
Turtle breeding facilities in the Angkor Centre for the conservation of biodiversity (Münster)	Cambodia	January 2006	€10,000
Madras Crocodile Bank Trust - Deori headstart facilities	India	January 2006 April 2006	€4,345 €4,345
Conservation International - South-East Asian capacity building	S-E Asia	February 2006	€15,000
KATALA foundation - Facilities for <i>S. leytensis</i>	Philippines	April 2006	€10,000
WCS - <i>B. baska</i> project	Cambodia	May 2006	€6,803
Marine Turtle Project Cabo Delgado (ZSL)	Mozambique	June 2006	€11,820
Captive breeding project for ploughshare tortoise (Jersey)	Madagascar	June 2006	€11,145
Endemic <i>Cuora</i> sp. research project (Münster)	China	August 2006	€10,000
<i>Malacochersus tornieri</i> research project	Tanzania	August 2006	€3,392
TOTAL			€125,898

With a total of €125,898 spent on conservation projects, some €250,000 is still available in the Shellshock account. However, at this moment no suited project applications are available for the Shellshock Planning Group to support. It is clear that the Planning Group cannot continue to receive the odd application for funding here and there throughout the year. This will not ensure that a proper and clear decision about where best the Shellshock resources will be spent.

It is therefore suggested that the Planning Group will no longer wait for applications to come in and decide whether or not funds are available for the project. All further applications will be received and reviewed within the framework of the Turtle Conservation Fund (as happened with the original projects in January 2006).

The Turtle Conservation Fund (TCF) is recognised as the primary financial supporter of global tortoise and freshwater turtle conservation. As such it receives applications for support from all of the world's leading turtle and tortoise conservationists and projects and reaches an audience that Shellshock could never hope to achieve as a stand alone organisation. Members of the TCF board are all turtle experts and members of the IUCN Tortoise & Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, thereby ensuring excellent peer review of all project applications. The Shellshock Planning Group Chair, Kevin Buley sits on the Executive Board of the TCF ensuring that Shellshock and EAZA interests will be represented at the highest level, i.e. Shellshock money will remain very much at the disposal of Shellshock priorities and interests.

This will be communicated to all EAZA members, so that they are aware that there is the potential for *in situ* turtle conservation support for projects through the Turtle Conservation Fund (using the Shellshock funds).

Shellshock Planning Group, July 2006