

The Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa announces three new projects with environmental and developmental charities in 2007

LONDON (17 October 2007) – The Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa (MCFEA) has announced three new grants for projects with environmental and developmental charities in 2007, worth over £90,000 in total.


The MCFEA announced a grant of €68,000 (around £45,000) to the charity Concern Universal, for a project promoting the economic empowerment of small-scale agricultural producers in Guinea. This project focuses on women's groups in order to improve the sustainable livelihoods of rural populations in Lelouma and Labé Prefectures in Guinea – one of the poorest countries in the world. These groups will receive training in innovative horticultural production methods, learn marketing techniques and receive environmental protection training and extensive training on self-management.

A grant to the World Food Programme (WFP) for a sustainable agriculture project in Zambia was also announced by the MCFEA. This is for the first year of a potential four-year project, with expenditure of US\$50,000 (around £25,000) per year. The aim is to protect the food and nutrition security of targeted households while assisting them to regain, increase and diversify sustainable productive capacity. The population targeted will be 11,400 people in 1,900 households in the Central Province of Zambia. These are highly vulnerable, food-insecure and asset-poor households that have lost crops and productive capacity to both flood and drought. Again, families headed by women will be prioritised in beneficiary selection.

The MCFEA also announced a grant of €39,530 (just over £27,000) to the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), Bulgaria Branch, for a one-year project entitled “West Balkan Mountain for Kids”. The project aims to improve conservation and biodiversity education through developing a pilot program for the West Balkan Mountain region of Bulgaria. This project will target local schools and communities, and focus on general topics such as the conservation of natural resources, protected areas and species, the specific ecosystem, and the link between human activities and biodiversity conservation. The REC project will involve the production of an educational toolkit, training for teachers, demonstration lessons, and an open-air “green school”.

As announced in March this year, the MCFEA's 2007 funding programme also includes a £50,000 grant to WaterAid, for water provision and sanitation education in Mozambique; a £31,500 grant to Earthwatch Institute (Europe), an international charity that engages people in scientific field research; a £25,000 grant to Fauna and Flora International, to promote environmental capacity building in national parks and protected areas in Romania; a £20,000 grant to the Zoological Society of London, to develop a climate change exhibit at London Zoo; a £15,000 grant to Botanic Gardens Conservation International, including support for the participation of five African scientists in the 3rd Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Wuhan, China; and a £5,000 grant to the Ingonyama Players, a grass-roots theatre group promoting conservation messages in Zimbabwe.

Established in the UK in 1992, the MCFEA is primarily an educational charity. Its principle objective is to promote education and research in the fields of environmental



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protection and conservation, as well as poverty alleviation and social development. The MCFEA has donated over £1.3 million to these causes since its inception.

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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 (UK) Plc.

The MCFEA's sister charity, the Mitsubishi International Corporation Foundation (MICF), based in New York City, was established in 1992 with funding from Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan, and its U.S.-based subsidiary, Mitsubishi International Corporation. With a current endowment of nearly US\$6 million, the Foundation has dedicated more than US\$3 million to charitable causes throughout the Americas.

For more information about the Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa, please visit www.mcfea.org, and for more information about the Mitsubishi International Corporation Foundation, please visit www.micfoundation.org.

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 54,000 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 MICF. For more information, please visit www.mitsubishicorp.com.