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MacArthur Foundation's 2012 'Awards for Creative and Effective Institutions'

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CHICAGO — Fifteen organizations have been named recipients of the 2012 "Award for Creative and Effective Institutions" by the MacArthur Foundation and will received grants of $350,000 to $2.5 million, depending on the annual budget of the organization.

—Albertine Rift Conservation Society, Kampala, Uganda ($350,000). Champions collaborative conservation initiatives in one of the world's most important ecosystems.

—Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, Chicago ($750,000). Works to reduce poverty by making public housing more affordable, improving Chicago schools, and promoting open and honest government in Illinois.

—Carnegie Moscow Center, Moscow ($2.5 million). Provides impartial analysis of Russian politics and policy.

—Center for Investigative Reporting, Berkeley, Calif. ($1 million). Produces groundbreaking nonprofit investigative journalism.

—Center for Responsible Lending, Durham, N.C. ($2 million). Protects homeownership and family assets by working to eliminate abusive financial practices and consumer products.

—Community Investment Corporation, Chicago ($2 million). Provides assistance to developers of rental housing in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods in Chicago.

—Conservation Strategy Fund, Sebastopol, Calif. ($750,000). Trains conservation professionals in economics and policy analysis to strengthen and protect the environment.

—Crisis Action, London ($750,000). Works to avert conflicts, prevent human rights abuses and ensure that governments fulfill their obligations to protect civilians during times of conflict.

—Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy at New York University, New York ($1 million). Uses objective evidence to spur thoughtful discussion and effective action to improve housing and economic development policy.

—Girls' Power Initiative, Calabar, Nigeria ($350,000). Empowers and educates girls about their sexual and

reproductive health.

—International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, Washington, D.C. ($1 million). Promotes a global legal environment where civil society, philanthropy and civic participation can thrive.

—Moscow Helsinki Group, Moscow ($750,000). Advances the protection of human rights through advocacy, monitoring, analysis, networking and training.

—National Juvenile Defender Center, Washington, D.C. ($750,000). Protects children's rights by organizing, networking and building the capacity of juvenile defenders.

—Red Nacional de Derechos Humanos (Red TDT), Mexico City ($350,000). Monitors and documents human rights abuses while advocating for reform.

—The Moth, New York ($750,000). Dedicated to the art of storytelling to document our common humanity.

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