



SUPPORTING
CONSERVATION
LEADERS

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

2019 CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENTS

Thanks to the work led by 2018 Gold Award winner **Pablo Borboroglu**, two new marine protected areas were created in Patagonia. Spanning almost 100,000km², they are important habitats for species including king and magellanic penguins, sharks, rays and rare coldwater corals.

2018 winner **Anjali Watson** documented 24 leopards – including residing and breeding females – in the Central Highlands of Sri Lanka. **This important discovery has led to the proposed creation of a new 'Peak Ridge Forest Corridor Conservation Area', which if approved will protect 40 km² of critical habitat for this majestic species.**

The Mongolian government expanded the Tost Nature Reserve by 150km². **As the country's first nature reserve for snow leopards, it now spans a total of 8,965km² as the result of 2005 Gold Award winner **Charu Mishra's** lifelong work.**

2001 winner **Vivek Menon** and his team have established India's first network of 'Green Corridors' allowing safe passage for Asian elephants across human landscapes. Vivek also became the Elected President of the Society of Conservation Biology in 2019, a milestone achievement.

A total of 748 Grey Crowned Cranes were recorded in Rwanda's third national census of the species, a 54% increase from 2018. This is a result of collective conservation efforts including 2018 winner **Olivier Nsengimana's** work on reducing illegal trade, and improving the management and protection of this endangered species and its wetland habitat.

It was a major win for 2016 winner **Farwiza Farhan and her team in Sumatra when the permit to build the Tampur Hydrodam inside the Leuser Ecosystem was revoked in court.** The dam would have destroyed free-flowing river ecosystems, drowning 4,000ha of rainforest serving as the last link connecting populations of the Critically Endangered Sumatran elephant, as well as prime orangutan habitat.

Seven African vulture species have declined by 80% in only 50 years, with poisoning as the main driver of mortality. Through education campaigns and human-wildlife conflict mitigation, **2018 winner **Munir Virani** and his team in southern Kenya significantly reduced annual vulture mortality in the Maasai Mara, from 33% in 2010, to less than 10% in 2019.**

We're proud of what our Whitley Award winners are doing for wildlife and people around the world. Here are highlights of their achievements in 2019.



Madagascar's President has committed to triple the country's marine protected areas thanks in part to the tireless work of 2019 winner **Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy** and her team. Working with the government and multiple stakeholders, Vatosoa will establish a legal framework on community management of fishing grounds, focusing on locally-managed marine areas.

2006 winner **Pedro Vaz Pinto** and his team found a 17% increase in the giant sable population in Angola from 2016 to 2019. Last year 15 new GPS collars were deployed to track sable movements to inform management plans and strengthen patrol and anti-poaching efforts as this Critically Endangered antelope recovers.

Due to 2009 winner **Emil Todorov's** work to increase the breeding success of the Dalmatian Pelican, in 2019, 24 pairs and 30 fledged pelicans were recorded in the Lower Danube in Bulgaria. This is the highest number confirmed since the colony was established in 2010.

Longfin and shortfin mako sharks are now listed in CITES Appendix II thanks to the efforts of 2012 Gold Award winner **Rodrigo Medellín**. As a representative from Mexico, he presented the proposal at the CoP18 conference and was voted in favour with record-breaking support, securing improved protection for these globally endangered sharks.

12 Chaco Eagle nests were identified by 2019 winner **José Sarasola** in Argentina; the highest number recorded in the last 20 years. Last year, the team installed rescue ramps over 485,000ha to prevent birds drowning in water reservoirs and retrofitted 80km of powerlines. This will prevent electrocution across nearly 1 million ha of habitat, giving these eagles and other birds a fighting chance of survival.

2006 winner **Sergei Bereznuik** scaled up his work to include Russia's new Bikin National Park. In 2019 the team patrolled over 93,000km² as part of their anti-poaching efforts protecting the Critically Endangered Siberian tiger. Only 500 Siberian tigers are estimated to remain, making this project crucial to the species' survival in the Far East.

2019 Gold Award winner **Jon Paul Rodriguez's** project to conserve the charismatic Yellow-shouldered Parrot yielded another record-breaking year, with 140 fledglings recorded in Venezuela! Over the last three years, a total of 310 chicks have flown free from protected nests, a 100% increase from the historic average of 50 per year.

2004 Gold Award winner **Randall Arauz** delivered a petition with over 54,000 signatures to the Costa Rican President. This included a call to stop all exports of hammerhead shark fins from Costa Rica and to assure the species' declaration as 'wildlife' for official protection under the country's Wildlife Conservation Law.



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