



WHITLEY  
AWARDS

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2020







## FOREWORD

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*Dear Friends,*

**On behalf of all of us at the Whitley Fund for Nature, let me begin by wishing that you and your loved ones remain safe and healthy throughout this unprecedented period.**

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting everyone. For WFN, for the first time since our founding in 1993, we have postponed the annual Whitley Awards Ceremony until such time as the situation improves. For many of our 200 strong international winner network, their conservation projects – vital to addressing the threats of global warming and wildlife decline – are now delayed as a result of the virus, with others in urgent need of additional funds as they adapt their work to this new reality.

Despite these setbacks, we are committed to continuing our work to provide support and funding to our network of grassroots conservation leaders wherever possible. This year, we'll be launching a poignant new cycle of grants – worth up to £100,000 and available to our past winners - to support nature-based solutions to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss hand-in-hand, and in consultation with communities.

This dedication to continuing our work includes the support of our six new Whitley Award winners – all inspiring leaders spearheading community conservation work in their home countries. While we are not able to welcome them to London this spring as planned, they will receive funding and support to carry out their work, with plans for training and networking events underway for later in the year, should the situation allow. We hope you enjoy learning more about these conservationists and ask you to join us as we applaud their outstanding commitment to conservation – a commitment that remains as important as ever during these difficult times.

Thank you once again to our fantastic supporters for being so thoughtful with their many messages of understanding that we have had to do things differently this year, empathy for the winners and generous support of our charity in this challenging climate.



*Edward Whitley*

**EDWARD WHITLEY, OBE**

**FOUNDER | WHITLEY FUND FOR NATURE**



## OUR MISSION

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The Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) is a fundraising and grant-giving nature conservation charity offering recognition, training and grants to support the work of proven grassroots conservation leaders across the Global South.

## OUR OBJECTIVES

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1

To find, recognise and fund grassroots conservation leaders in resource-poor, biodiversity-rich countries.

2

Champion and repeat fund effective winners.

3

Support the replication and growth of conservation solutions.

4

Raise awareness of the work of winners and spread the message that we can all make a difference to the conservation of wildlife and wild places.



# GRANTS FOR CONSERVATION ACTION

WFN offers three types of grants to enable grassroots conservationists to scale up their work and protect threatened wildlife.



# PROFILE BOOST



94% of respondents felt that winning the Whitley Award increased their profile



79% of respondents said winning the Award increased access to in-country media



79% of respondents said winning the Award increased access to international donors



70% of respondents said winning the Award increased access to decision makers in their home countries

\*86 survey respondents out of 129 Whitley Award winners surveyed. Source: WFN 25 Year Impact Assessment



WFN accelerates the careers of conservationists by raising their profile, increasing their reach substantially.

## SETTING THE STANDARD

An early pioneer in the sector, the Whitley Award was one of the first awards to be given in recognition of locally led conservation solutions in the Global South. WFN has developed one of the world's most respected application processes for conservation awards and offers three types of grants to enable grassroots conservationists to scale up their work and protect threatened wildlife. Winners are nationals of the countries where they work, with projects rooted in science and community involvement.



The Whitley Award was the leverage for us to get other grants.

ZAFER KIZILKAYA, 2017 WHITLEY GOLD AWARD WINNER

### WHITLEY AWARDS



Whitley Awards are won competitively following a global search. Applications are assessed by an expert panel and are worth £40,000 in project funding over one year. Often referred to as 'Green Oscars', the high-profile prizes are presented by WFN's Patron HRH, The Princess Royal at an annual ceremony in London. Whitley Awards are not only about financial support; they provide winners with an international platform and boost in profile.

### CONTINUATION FUNDING



Continuation Funding grants are available to past Whitley Award winners to further support their work. These follow-on grants enable the growth of effective conservation solutions and allow winners to respond to changing needs. Applications are invited annually, applied for competitively and grants are worth up to £100,000 over two years.

### WHITLEY GOLD AWARD



Each year, a previous Whitley Award winner is chosen to receive the Whitley Gold Award in recognition of their outstanding contribution to conservation. Gold Award winners are international advocates for biodiversity, spearheading largescale conservation initiatives and acting as a mentor to new Whitley Award winners. The Gold Award is worth £60,000 and is considered the most prestigious of WFN's prizes.

## PROVIDING A PLATFORM

The increased visibility and media coverage received by Whitley Award winners boosts their credibility significantly; accelerating career trajectories, unlocking new funding opportunities and helping winners to influence environmental policy.

During the Awards week, winners receive professional communications training covering print, social media, radio, TV and speech coaching to help them effectively communicate their work and capitalise on the media spotlight following their win. To champion their success, tailor-made films narrated by WFN Trustee Sir David Attenborough, PR assistance and publicity materials are distributed to the UK and overseas media. The Ceremony is live-streamed, and we promote winners online across social media platforms and on our website.



The international recognition was incredible as it gave me much more access to decision-makers and enabled us to work with them on conservation.

MELVIN GUMAL, 2014 WHITLEY AWARD WINNER



# GLOBAL WINNER NETWORK

WFN has given over £17 million to support the work of 200 conservation leaders benefitting wildlife and local communities in more than 80 countries.

## › BUILDING A NETWORK

One of WFN's biggest achievements is the network of winners we have built with your support. This international network is comprised of some of the most influential conservationists working across the Global South.

WFN is developing this network further by funding collaborative projects between winners, hosting alumni workshops, facilitating knowledge sharing and supporting exchange visits among grantees. By connecting our winners, we can foster the development of partnerships and mentorships between existing and new winners, maximising their collective impact for wildlife and people.

Through this international network of conservation experts, WFN facilitates the exchange of ideas and expansion of conservation solutions to drive progress at a global level.



76%  
of respondents felt they had been introduced to a network of conservation practitioners through winning the Whitley Award

\*86 survey respondents out of 129 Whitley Award winners surveyed.  
Source: WFN 25 Year Impact Assessment

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Perhaps the greatest legacy of the charity is the growing network of winners themselves who represent some of the best conservation leaders in the world.

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH, WFN TRUSTEE



# OUR IMPACT

WFN delivers results for people and wildlife.  
These are just a few highlights of winners' achievements in 2019:

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

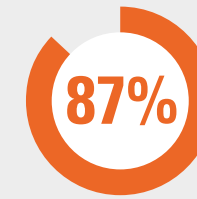
2016 winner **Farwiza Farhan** and her team in Sumatra secured a major win when the permit to build the Tampur Hydrodam inside the Leuser Ecosystem was revoked in court! The 173m high dam would have destroyed free-flowing river ecosystems, drowning 4,000ha of pristine rainforest that represents the last link connecting populations of the Critically Endangered Sumatran elephant as well as prime orangutan habitat.

Mongolia's first nature reserve for snow leopards increased in size by 150km<sup>2</sup>. It now spans a total of 8,965km<sup>2</sup> as the result of 2005 Gold Award winner **Charudutt Mishra's** lifelong work to protect these elusive cats and their habitat across the 12 countries in which snow leopards occur.

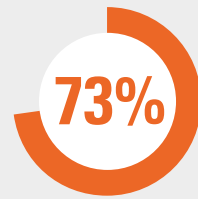
Two new marine protected areas were created in Patagonia, thanks to the work led by 2018 Gold Award winner **Pablo Borboroglu**. Spanning almost 100,000km<sup>2</sup>, the Yaganes Marine National Park and Namuncurá-Burdwood Bank II Marine National Park are important habitats for species including king and magellanic penguins, sharks, rays and rare coldwater corals.



of respondents reported feeling more capable of making a difference after winning a Whitley Award



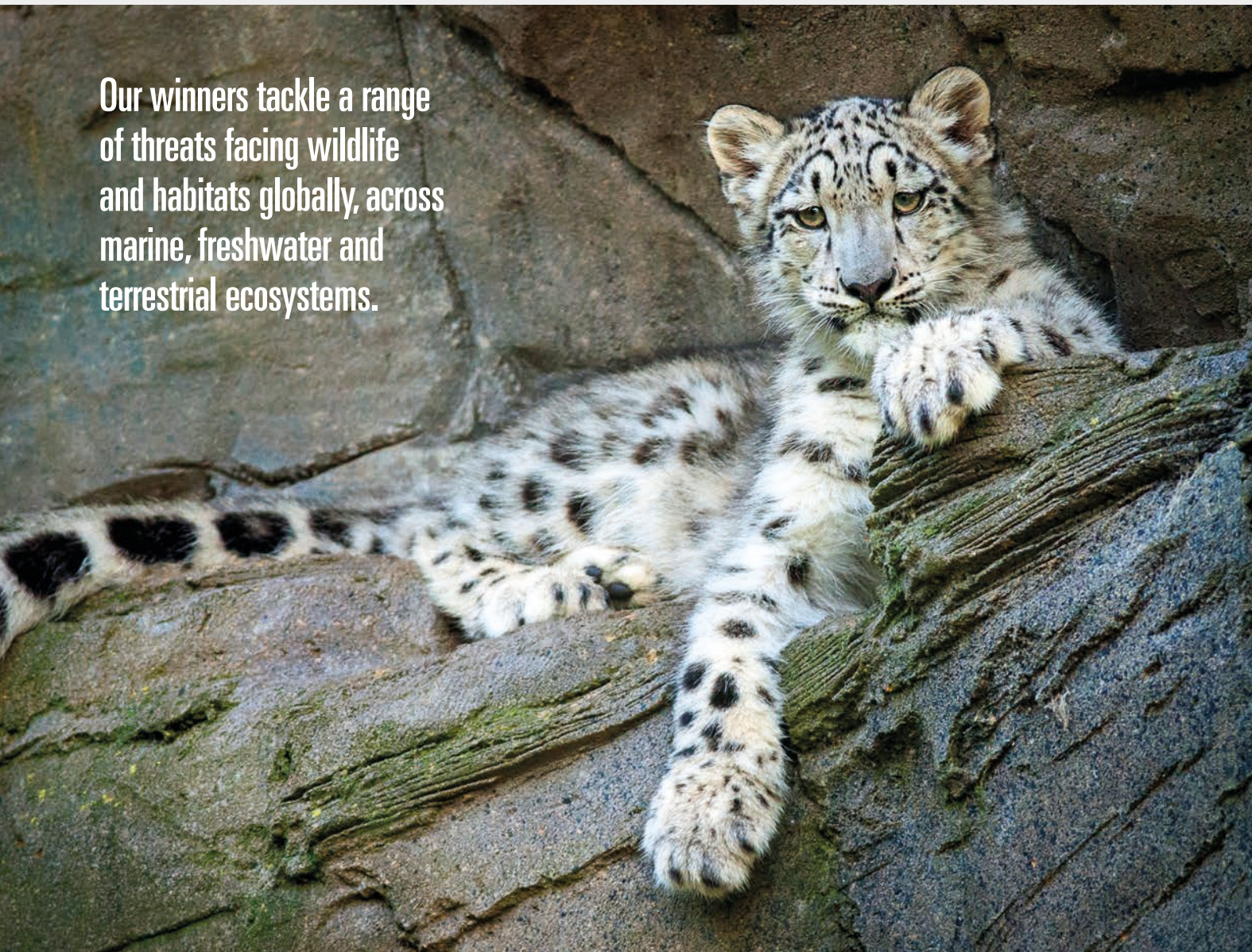
of respondents felt they were more successful in delivering conservation outcomes partly as a result of winning their Whitley Award



of respondents reported that they returned home having learnt new things as a result of the media training during the Awards Week

\* Source: WFN 25 Year Impact Assessment

Our winners tackle a range of threats facing wildlife and habitats globally, across marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems.



## PROTECTED AREAS

# 91 MILLION HA

of protected areas created and/or managed by winner projects

## WILDLIFE PROTECTION

# 50,000

species are benefitting from improved protection and management

## POPULATION TRENDS

# 69%

of winners reported populations of target species were either stable or increasing in their project sites

## AREAS RESTORED

# 750,000 HA

have been restored with over 13 million trees and 500,000 mangroves

## NEW SKILLS

# 1.1 MILLION

people have benefitted from new skills, improved livelihoods or female empowerment

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

# 14.3 MILLION

people have received environmental education

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

# 354 POLICIES

developed for improved environmental protection at national, regional or international scales

## POLICY CHANGE

# 1 IN 5

winners reported they had contributed to policy change on an international scale

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

# GOALS

Between our 200 winners, they address 12 of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals and 16 of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets



## Early Stage Sustainability Investments

Together supporting  
smart solutions to  
nature's challenges

[earlymarket.com](https://earlymarket.com)

# WHITLEY AWARDS 2020



# WINNER SELECTION 2020

This year, WFN received 112 Whitley Award applications from 48 countries following our call for proposals. We would like to thank our Judging Panel and External Assessors, who kindly offer their expertise voluntarily to reach the final shortlist.

## JUDGING PANEL

- Edward Whitley**  
Chairman and Founder, WFN
- Marianne Carter**  
Director, Conservation Capacity and Leadership, FFI
- Catherine Faulks**  
Trustee, WFN
- Damian Fleming**  
Director of International Programmes, WWF-UK
- Matthew Hatchwell**  
Advisory Board Chair and Conservation Consultant, DICE
- Janice Law**  
Grants Manager, WFN
- Patrícia Medici**  
Research Coordinator, Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative; Co-Founder, IPÉ; 2020 Whitley Gold Award winner
- Danni Parks**  
Director, WFN
- Andrew Terry**  
Director of Conservation and Policy, ZSL

## EXTERNAL ASSESSORS

- Olivia Couchman, MSc**  
Conservation Capacity Manager, ZSL's EDGE of Existence Programme
- Dr. Claudia Gray**  
Conservation Science Manager, ZSL's EDGE of Existence Programme
- Dr. Zafer Kizilkaya**  
Founder, Mediterranean Conservation Society; 2017 Whitley Gold Award winner
- Janice Law, MSc**  
Grants Manager, WFN
- Dr. Simon Lyster**  
Chairman of Trustees, Conservation International UK; Council Member, World Land Trust
- Dr. Charudutt Mishra**  
Executive Director, Snow Leopard Trust; Founder, Nature Conservation Foundation; 2005 Whitley Gold Award winner
- Danni Parks, MSc**  
Director, WFN

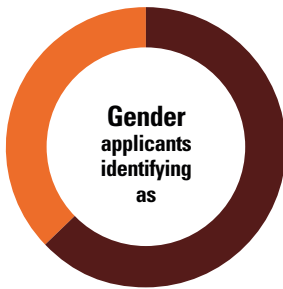


- Africa 45% (50)
- Asia 29% (33)
- Americas 18% (20)
- Europe 2% (2)
- Middle East 2% (2)
- Incomplete 4% (5)

Total applications - 112



- Terrestrial 79% (88)
- Marine 13% (14)
- Freshwater 4% (5)
- Incomplete 4% (5)



- 71 males (63%)
- 41 females (37%)

This year the chance of winning a Whitley Award was 1 in 19

# TRAINING AND NETWORKING

WFN holds trainings and events designed to provide winners with new skills and connections while in London,

helping them to leverage the profile boost that comes with receiving a Whitley Award, make useful introductions, and give them the tools to carry out their projects successfully on returning home.



All winners gain access to pro-bono legal support from the Thomson Reuters Foundation and join a global network of conservationists with access to knowledge sharing and opportunities for further funding.

Whitley Award winners receive specialised training in media and communications, conflict resolution, and project monitoring and evaluation.

We arrange for winners to meet WFN Patron, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, WFN supporters, their country Ambassadors and journalists.

We hold events for winners to network with potential funders, collaborators and members of UK and international conservation NGOs.



# INTRODUCING THE 2020 WHITLEY AWARD WINNERS

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1. ABDULLAHI HUSSEIN ALI, KENYA

2. GABRIELA REZENDE, BRAZIL

3. PHUNTSHO THINLEY, BHUTAN

4. JEANNE TARRANT, SOUTH AFRICA
5. RACHEL IKEMEH, NIGERIA

6. YOKYOK HADIPRAKARSA, INDONESIA

7. PATRÍCIA MEDICI, BRAZIL  
(GOLD AWARD WINNER)





# ABDULLAHI HUSSEIN ALI

KENYA



I see the hirola as my immediate relative;  
I feel a very strong obligation to act and put  
the hirola back into Noah's ark.

ABDULLAHI HUSSEIN ALI



Often referred to as a living fossil, the hirola is 69th on the Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered (EDGE) mammals list.

80%

Most people in this area are nomadic pastoralists, with poverty rates estimated at >80%.



Rarely seen with fewer than 500 in the wild, hirola are considered a symbol of good luck by indigenous communities.



## A LANDSCAPE-LEVEL APPROACH TO CONSERVE THE HIROLA ANTELOPE

**With his Whitley Award, Ali and his team will increase the numbers of Critically Endangered hirola antelope through participatory habitat management and protection. He will:**

- + Strengthen the institutional framework to support protected areas governance and re-establish Arawale National Reserve.
- + Introduce livestock grazing systems across 3 conservancies to prevent overgrazing of the grasslands on which hirola rely.
- + Restore 1,000 ha of degraded hirola habitat in 4 conservation areas.
- + Standardise hirola monitoring protocols and streamline data management.

### › BRINK OF EXTINCTION

The hirola is arguably the world's rarest antelope: Critically Endangered, they are among the top ten species at risk of imminent extinction and inhabit the precarious Kenya-Somalia border outside of formally protected areas. They have declined by over 95% in the last four decades, with fewer than 500 individuals remaining. Their extinction would mark the first loss of an entire mammalian genus in over 80 years, representing an irreplaceable portion of evolutionary history that could disappear forever.

### › LOCAL ROOTS

Growing up in the region, Ali founded the Hirola Conservation Programme to partner communities and preserve this unique species firsthand. Working with pastoralists, he will introduce a planned grazing system to minimise the spread of disease between hirola and livestock and avoid overgrazing of grasslands. Rangers will be trained to restore degraded habitat and use standardised field monitoring methods for hirola, with a centralised database to assimilate information.

### › CAPACITY BOOST

To ensure their long-term persistence, Ali will work to reinstate the 500km<sup>2</sup> Arawale National Reserve and strengthen the overarching institutional framework across all hirola conservancies to align conservation efforts and build vital capacity. Regular patrols will protect the antelope from poaching and benefit other wildlife, such as elephants and giraffes. His team will also reach over 6,000 children and adults through education to improve awareness of the species and its conservation status. Ali is a local hero, working towards a peaceful future for hirola and people.

**hirolaconservation.org**  
**@alihhirola**



# GABRIELA REZENDE

BRAZIL



I work to restore the natural landscape and to connect people with nature. My hope is to make a better future for my daughter and other Brazilians.

GABRIELA REZENDE



There are estimated to be just 1,600 black lion tamarins left in the wild.



Through tree planting, IPÊ is providing jobs for some of Brazil's most marginalised communities.



This project helps tackle climate change by protecting and restoring the Atlantic Forest.



## CONNECTING POPULATIONS OF BLACK LION TAMARINS IN THE ATLANTIC FOREST

With her Whitley Award, Gabriela's team will ensure the black lion tamarin's survival by reconnecting isolated populations, with a goal to establish 45,000 ha of continuous forest. She will:

- + Relocate black lion tamarin groups to suitable forest fragments as part of an official population management plan.
- + Engage communities to restore habitat, planting 500 trees in 2020 to help connect wildlife populations.
- + Install artificial sleeping sites for tamarins in corridors to encourage movement between forest patches.
- + Reach 40,000 people through education and field experiences, turning students into citizen scientists.

### FRAGMENTED FORESTS

The Atlantic Forest is one of the last global biodiversity hotspots. It is home to many endemic and endangered species including the black lion tamarin, a small primate found only in the state of São Paulo. The tamarin's once vast habitat is now highly fragmented, with 80% of the landscape converted to sugar cane plantations and cattle ranches, leaving populations isolated and vulnerable.

### SHARED HISTORY

The Black Lion Tamarin Conservation Programme began 35 years ago with primatologist Claudio Padua who won the Whitley Award in 1999, and 2002 winner, Laury Cullen, at the Institute for Ecological Research (IPÊ). For the past nine years, Project Coordinator Gabriela has been working to connect black lion tamarin populations by partnering communities to restore forest corridors and increase landscape connectivity. Their combined work has led to the planting of Brazil's largest forest corridor and the downlisting of the black lion tamarin to 'Endangered' by the IUCN.

### CONNECTING CORRIDORS

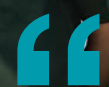
These primates are safer than they once were, but to ensure the long-term survival of the species, ongoing action is needed. Gabriela will maintain viable tamarin populations by relocating groups to safe fragments to prevent genetic inbreeding and ensure they have the space they need to thrive. She will facilitate local participation in habitat restoration, planting 500 saplings grown in community nurseries to connect forest patches. The project will bring IPÊ one step closer to achieving their overall goal: establishing 45,000 ha of continuous forest.

[ipe.org.br](http://ipe.org.br)  
[@institutoipe](https://www.instagram.com/institutoipe)



# PHUNTSHO THINLEY

BHUTAN



One thing that sets this project apart is that it bridges ecology and communities, engaging locals in surveys and anti-poaching patrols.

PHUNTSHO THINLEY



An estimated 100 alpine musk deer are killed in Bhutan each year.



There is an urgent need for greater patrolling with just 16 park staff covering 74,500 ha of the park!



Musk deer are poached for their scent glands which are worth more than gold in Asia.



## STEPPING UP PATROLS TO PRESERVE THE ENDANGERED ALPINE MUSK DEER

With his Whitley Award, Phuntsho and his team will scale up anti-poaching efforts in Bhutan's vast Lingzhi Park Range to halve illegal incidents and prevent local extinction of the alpine musk deer. He will:

- + Train all park staff and a quarter of residents living in the Lingzhi Park Range in patrolling and monitoring to reduce poaching by 50%.
- + Educate communities on the importance of musk deer within this ecosystem and engage people with conservation.
- + Collect ecological data on musk deer including distribution, abundance and sex ratio to inform conservation action.

### › MOUNTAIN PARADISE

Lingzhi Park Range (LPR) in Jigme Dorji National Park, western Bhutan, is a treasure trove of biodiversity and scenic landscapes in the eastern Himalayas. It is the only protected reserve in the world where you can see two of Asia's most threatened wild cats: the Royal Bengal tiger and the snow leopard. It is also home to several lesser known and threatened species, notably the alpine musk deer, red panda, and dhole.

### › INCREASING AWARENESS

Despite living in a sea of astounding biodiversity, most of the 700 locals residing within the park range are unaware of the importance of wildlife plays in balancing the ecosystem. Specifically, the alpine musk deer is illegally hunted for its scent glands which are traded for medicinal purposes and reach a high value on the Asian black market. Currently, there is a severe shortage of rangers to tackle poaching in the park, and if hunting remains unchecked, musk deer could become locally extinct in a few years, with cascading effects on the ecological integrity of the region.

### › ANTI-POACHING PATROLS

Phuntsho and the Royal Society for Protection of Nature will step up anti-poaching patrols in the LPR, providing SMART training to all park staff and to 50 local leaders, increasing manpower and community participation. He will engage residents in the conservation significance of musk deer and conduct wildlife monitoring using camera traps to inform their next steps. By adopting a multi-faceted approach, Phuntsho will increase knowledge and awareness about this endangered species and put boots on the ground to drastically reduce poaching.

[rspnbhutan.org](http://rspnbhutan.org)  
[@phuntshothinley1](https://www.instagram.com/phuntshothinley1)



# JEANNE TARRANT

SOUTH AFRICA



The fact that almost half of amphibians are experiencing declines should be a massive wake-up call to humanity that all is not right with our planet — most people however are unaware that amphibians are even in trouble.

JEANNE TARRANT



The Endangered Pickersgill's Reed Frog is only 2 cm, no bigger than a penny!



The Critically Endangered Amathole Toad was not seen for 13 years before being 'rediscovered' by Jeanne and her team in 2011.

75%

Amphibians receive on average 75% less conservation funding than mammals, birds or reptiles.



## A COUNTRY-WIDE STRATEGY FOR SOUTH AFRICAN AMPHIBIANS

**With her Whitley Award, Jeanne and her team will develop an integrated strategy to conserve South Africa's amphibians and their habitat, in consultation with local stakeholders. She will:**

- + Formally protect and improve management of 20,000 ha of amphibian habitat, safeguarding a total of 8 frog species.
- + Create species action plans for the Endangered Western Leopard Toad and Critically Endangered Table Mountain Ghost Frog.
- + Promote awareness about amphibians and their conservation via national outreach.
- + Produce a 10-year conservation and research strategy for South African frogs.

### › DRASTIC DECLINES

Since the 1980s, amphibians have suffered global population declines, more than any other taxonomic group over the last few millennia. Currently, 41% of the world's frogs, toads, newts, salamanders and caecilians are at risk of extinction. In South Africa, 18% of amphibians are classified as Threatened or Data Deficient. Almost two-thirds of the country's 135 frog species are found nowhere else, making South Africa a priority for the conservation of this overlooked group.

### › LEAP FROG

The Endangered Wildlife Trust runs the only NGO programme in southern Africa focused on frog conservation. Programme Manager Jeanne works to fill vital knowledge gaps and address the threats facing amphibians in South Africa, including habitat loss, pollution and invasive species. Known as the "Frog Lady", Jeanne and her team aim to elevate public awareness and change negative attitudes by highlighting the importance of amphibians, with over 14,000 people having participated in the project's national awareness Leap Day for Frogs since 2015!

### › INTEGRATED APPROACH

Jeanne will focus on eight species of threatened amphibian including the Pickersgill's Reed Frog, Amathole Toad and Table Mountain Ghost Frog, along the KwaZulu-Natal coast, the Eastern Cape and the Western Cape peninsula. She will monitor populations and assess the feasibility of conservation interventions, working with landowners. By using frogs as flagships for habitat protection, Jeanne will not only ensure their survival but contribute to the broader conservation of freshwater and grassland areas that serve as important watersheds and carbon sinks.

[ewt.org.za](http://ewt.org.za)  
[@jeannet4frogs](https://www.instagram.com/jeannet4frogs)



RACHEL  
IKEMEH

NIGERIA



Conserving chimpanzees will have a multiplier effect on other wildlife and on this fast disappearing forest ecosystem.

RACHEL IKEMEH



Other species protected by this project include monkeys, elephants, hornbills and tree pangolins.



Most wildlife preservation laws in the state were created in the 70s and have since become obsolete.

20%

This project will secure 20% of chimpanzee habitat in southwest Nigeria.



## ADVANCING PARTICIPATORY CONSERVATION ACTION FOR RARE CHIMPANZEES

**With her Whitley Award, Rachel and her team will champion conservation of a newly discovered group of chimpanzees by creating protected areas and strengthening wildlife law. She will:**

- + Establish 40,000 ha of conservation areas within the Idanre and Ise forest reserves.
- + Enforce patrolling efforts to reduce illegal hunting, farming and logging.
- + Advocate for revised laws to protect chimpanzees and other wildlife.
- + Increase public awareness through online, radio and TV campaigns.

### › NEW DISCOVERY

International efforts have been unsuccessful in obtaining information on the evolutionary linkage of chimpanzee populations in southwestern Nigeria and the Niger Delta. Over the past eight years, Rachel and her team at SW/Niger Delta Forest Project have been leading a genetic study which in 2018 revealed that whilst populations found here share ancestry with the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee, they are in fact a distinct group.

### › GOVERNMENT BACKING

The discovery bolstered the need to protect these unique chimpanzees and helped garner support for their conservation. The most viable chimpanzee populations remaining in southwestern Nigeria are found in the Idanre forest cluster and Ise forest reserve. Habitat here is disappearing at an alarming rate, with over 80% of forests lost to unregulated and illegal farming and logging, as well as targeted hunting of these great apes. Additionally, the reserves are poorly managed and lack resources to enforce wildlife laws. Thanks to Rachel's efforts, state government recently backed the creation of one of two proposed conservation areas in these sites.

### › MAINSTREAMING CONSERVATION

Rachel is working alongside local authorities to limit illegal activity and scale up enforcement within the reserves. She will set up management and protection for the new conservation areas where extractive activities are prohibited, giving chimps a chance to recover. Together with her team, Rachel will advocate for enhanced state policies and the revision of existing legislation to improve chimpanzee protection. Through campaigns, she will target communities neighbouring protected areas to stop the sale of chimpanzee body parts and in the process, promote the sites' natural heritage to build grassroots support for conservation.

[swnigerdeltaforestproject.org.ng](http://swnigerdeltaforestproject.org.ng)  
[@swnigerdelta](https://twitter.com/swnigerdelta)



# YOKYOK “YOKI” HADIPRAKARSA

INDONESIA



I strongly believe these communities have great potential as hornbill guardians.

YOKI HADIPRAKARSA



The Helmeted Hornbill has a large portion of unique evolutionary history and is 26th on the Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered (EDGE) birds list.



Helmeted Hornbills play an important role in forest regeneration as seed dispersers.



Its casque – a protuberance above its beak that can be carved into ornaments – is highly coveted in the illegal wildlife trade.



## SAVING THE LAST STRONGHOLD OF THE HELMETED HORNBILL

**With his Whitley Award, Yoki and his team will bring the Helmeted Hornbill back from the brink of extinction and create livelihood opportunities in ecotourism that encourage conservation. He will:**

- + Identify Helmeted Hornbill distribution patterns and ecotourism hotspots in the Sungai Utik Customary Forest and neighbouring areas that are well suited for this conservation model.
- + Develop a 5-year ecotourism plan to be implemented by 3 villages.
- + Train 100 people in ecotourism services such as bird watching, and build capacity among forest guardians to monitor hornbills and their nests.
- + Integrate village development plans into the wider governmental ecotourism development strategy.

### › HUNTED HORNBILLS

With its ornate casque, the Helmeted Hornbill has historically been hunted and traded in Borneo. A recent surge in demand has led to rampant poaching, with an estimated 6,000 individuals killed in 2013 in West Kalimantan alone. Populations have declined drastically due to the increase in this illegal trade, and because of local dependence on these birds as part of communities' daily survival. All seven hornbill species have been uplisted to Threatened on the IUCN Red List, with the Helmeted Hornbill now Critically Endangered and the most hunted hornbill in the world.

### › WORTH MORE ALIVE

Yoki's team at Rangkong Indonesia are building on the success of their hornbill guardians programme to monitor birds and prevent poaching. To incentivise conservation, he will now develop a sustainable ecotourism model in the Kapuas Hulu Regency in West Kalimantan. Yoki will work with Dayak communities to establish birdwatching and ecotourism in the area; turning hunters into guardians. Using a responsible, well-managed and regulated framework, this programme will yield economic benefits for communities from the continued survival of the species, proving that hornbills are worth more alive.

### › SCALING UP

Yoki and his team will also create a five-year ecotourism plan to secure the Helmeted Hornbill's long-term survival. He will integrate these local initiatives into the broader governmental ecotourism development strategy for the area, which will further strengthen village-wide spatial planning and hornbill protection regulations in the heart of Borneo.

**rangkong.org**  
**@rangkongid**



PATRÍCIA  
MEDICI

BRAZIL

“

Tapirs are known as gardeners of the forest due to the important role they play in shaping and maintaining functioning ecosystems. They are great ambassadors for habitat conservation.

PATRÍCIA MEDICI



2019 saw record forest loss in the Amazon due to fires and unregulated deforestation, compounded by a lack of government support for environmental policies.



Tapirs are known as living fossils, with the first fossil record of tapirs dating back to the Oligocene, 20 million years ago!

**Gold Award Winner 2020**  
**Donated by the Friends and**  
**Scottish Friends of WFN**

Each year a member of our Winner Network is selected to receive the Whitley Gold Award, a profile prize worth £60,000 in project funding, given in recognition of their outstanding contribution to conservation.

## TAPIRS AS CONSERVATION FLAGSHIPS



Patrícia Medici co-founded the Brazilian NGO, IPÊ, 26 years ago to conserve threatened wildlife in Brazil. Under this umbrella Patrícia leads the Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative, focused on the preservation of South America's largest land mammal, the lowland tapir. With her team, Patrícia conducts cutting-edge research to understand tapir ecology

and inform conservation actions in the Atlantic Forest, Pantanal wetlands and Cerrado grasslands biomes. Nationally Vulnerable, tapirs face a myriad of threats, including habitat loss, poaching and rampant development. Patrícia tackles this head-on, using tapirs as flagships for the protection of their habitat. As Chair of the IUCN SSC Tapir Specialist Group, Patrícia is a world expert in the science of tapir conservation and has dedicated her career to shedding light on this unusual looking, yet little-known species. Against a backdrop of political and environmental instability in Brazil, her work is more important than ever.

**A Whitley Award winner in 2008, and a recipient of WFN Continuation Funding in 2011 and 2014, with the support of WFN and other partners, Patrícia and her team have:**

- + Built the world's largest and most comprehensive dataset of tapir information based on long term monitoring using GPS telemetry and camera traps.
- + Developed, with partners, a National Action Plan for tapir conservation in Brazil.
- + Contributed to the designation of the Black Lion Tamarin Ecological Station - a protected site covering 7,000 ha and home to tapirs, jaguars and black lion tamarins.
- + Informed the restoration of forest corridors in the Atlantic Forest fragmented landscape.
- + Worked with stakeholders to prevent wildlife deaths from vehicle collisions and to lobby for changes to agricultural practices that reduce pesticide pollution in the Cerrado.
- + Reached thousands through outreach and educational activities, drawing attention to tapirs in a nation where few have heard of these rare animals.
- + Trained a cadre of Brazilian conservation leaders, building vital in-country capacity for future conservation.



**Did you know? Tapirs are at home in water and can use their specialised nose as a snorkel, making it easier to swim.**



**With her Whitley Gold Award, Patrícia and her team will expand their initiative to the Amazon rainforest, working across four biomes to conserve Brazil's lowland tapir. She will:**

- + Determine the conservation status, risk of extinction and probability of survival of tapirs in the Atlantic Forest, Pantanal, Cerrado and Amazon.
- + Develop and implement threat mitigation strategies and conservation action plans for tapirs in each of the four biomes.
- + Tackle dangers, including decreasing road-kill accidents, poaching and pesticide pollution in the rapidly developing Cerrado, and logging driven by expanding agriculture in the Amazon.
- + Re-assess the Atlantic Forest's tapirs 10 years on from Patrícia's original research, to determine population trends over the past decade.
- + In the Pantanal, continue to study the resident population using telemetry and camera traps to inform ongoing interventions.
- + Spread the word about the plight of tapirs and deliver educational programmes that position tapirs as flagships for habitat conservation.
- + Continue training the conservationists of the future, creating a capacity building hub that leaves a lasting legacy.
- + Collaborate with fellow Whitley Award alumni on cross-cutting conservation issues and through fieldwork exchanges.

[tapirconservation.org.br](http://tapirconservation.org.br)  
[@incab.brasil](https://www.instagram.com/incab.brasil)



# CONTINUATION FUNDING

Follow-on grants are available to past Whitley Award winners to further support their work and bring effective conservation solutions to scale.

In 2019, WFN awarded **£1.2million in Continuation Funding to 18 conservation leaders from our global Winner Network.**

Worth up to £100,000 over two years, over half of Whitley Award winners go on to receive Continuation Funding. Winners tell us the ability to re-apply for funds when they need them to expand their work or address emerging threats is a vital source of support. Applications are invited annually and applied for competitively.



**Gilbert Adum**  
Ghana (2016 alumni)  
Protecting the last home of the Giant Squeaker Frog



**Karen Aghababayan**  
Armenia, Turkey, Georgia (2007 alumni)  
Protecting wetlands in the South Caucasus and beyond



**Randall Arauz**  
Costa Rica (2004 alumni)  
Conserving highly migratory marine species in the Eastern Tropical Pacific



**Purnima Barman**  
India (2017 alumni)  
Building a conservation movement for the Greater Adjutant Stork



**Shivani Bhalla**  
Kenya (2014 alumni)  
Warrior Watch: addressing human-lion conflict



**Alexander Blanco**  
Venezuela (2017 alumni)  
Ensuring Harpy Eagles continue to fly free



**Arnaud Desbiez**  
Brazil (2015 alumni)  
Preventing giant armadillo extinctions



**Farwiza Farhan**  
Indonesia (2016 alumni)  
Campaign against largescale infrastructure in the Leuser Ecosystem



**Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka**  
Uganda (2009 alumni)  
Strengthening an integrated gorilla and human health conservation model



**Ian Little**  
South Africa (2017 alumni)  
Custodians of South Africa's threatened grassland biodiversity



**Rodrigo Medellin**  
Mexico, Kenya, Rwanda and Costa Rica (2004 alumni)  
Building a global bat conservation network



**Charudutt Mishra**  
South and Central Asia (2005 alumni)  
Breaking boundaries for the snow leopards of High Asia



**Jimmy Muheebwa**  
Uganda (2010 alumni)  
Securing Grey Crowned Cranes and improving community livelihoods



**Hotlin Ompusunggu**  
Indonesia (2011 alumni)  
Expanding from Borneo to Sumatra to protect two Critically Endangered orangutan species



**Emilian Stoynov**  
Eastern Europe and the Middle East (2007 alumni)  
Saving the Balkans' last vultures



**Emil Todorov**  
Bulgaria (2009 alumni)  
Restoring wetlands to safeguard the world's most endangered pelican



**Munir Virani**  
Kenya & Tanzania (2018 alumni)  
Scalable solutions to reducing vulture poisoning



**Jean Wiener**  
Haiti (2008 alumni)  
Strengthening management of Haiti's marine resources

## Thank you

This record-breaking round of Continuation Funding was made possible due to the generosity of our supporters at our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hope Gala. Thank you so much to all who gave to this campaign, and to those donors who choose to give exclusively to WFN's Continuation Funding programme.



## LOOKING AHEAD

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We're thrilled to announce the launch of a poignant cycle of grants to support nature-based solutions to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss hand-in-hand, and in consultation with communities.

## OUR AMBITIONS

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### THE BIODIVERSITY SUPER YEAR

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2020 has been coined the 'super year' for nature and marks a crucial moment to address the biodiversity and climate emergencies facing our world.

1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction - more than ever in human history. Yet, as our Whitley Award winners

show us, biodiversity can recover thanks to conservation efforts. It is not too late to make a difference and we urgently need to act. Ahead of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) meeting, we call for the setting of ambitious targets and means by which to implement them in order to turn the tide for our planet.

### WHAT WE'RE DOING IN 2020

---

We're thrilled to announce the launch of a poignant cycle of grants to support nature-based solutions to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss hand-in-hand, and in consultation with communities.

These grants will be worth up to £100,000 over two years and available to past Whitley Award winners.

As a charity, we're committed to sustainability. We will offset the carbon from Whitley Award winners' travel to and from the UK in 2020 through a Gold Standard accredited carbon offset programme.

### INCREASED FUNDING

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Demand for funding from our Winner Network outstrips what we can give. Looking ahead, we are determined to meet the growing requests from winners for further funding, **seeking to raise £2 million a year by 2022 in response to need.**

### BOOSTING SUPPORT

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We will be increasing support to our Winner Network over the coming years: consulting on their requirements, facilitating collaboration and knowledge sharing, funding exchange visits, and holding a series of winner events. By investing in our Winner Network with support from the Evolution Education Trust, we can maximise winners' collective impact by **supporting the replication of evidence-based conservation approaches that work.**

### HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

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#### Tackle your carbon footprint:

WFN has developed a tree planting scheme with Brazilian NGO, IPÊ, the organisational backbone of four Whitley Award winners. Whilst this is an informal scheme, it offers an opportunity to channel donations into a Whitley Award winning reforestation project which is growing a carbon store, building livelihood capacity and benefitting wildlife. Visit [whitleyaward.org](https://whitleyaward.org) to learn more.

#### WFN Next Gen:

WFN is forming a new network to connect young people with a passion for conservation. We will be hosting a launch event later in 2020 where you can find out about fundraising and volunteering opportunities. To register your interest, please email [info@whitleyaward.org](mailto:info@whitleyaward.org).

#### Stay informed and make your voice heard:

Follow [@WhitleyAwards](https://twitter.com/WhitleyAwards) across social media channels for updates on our winners and conservation news. Share your knowledge with friends, family and your community – every bit helps to amplify our call for action to protect the wildlife and wild places upon which we all rely.

#### Donate to WFN:

We are a charity completely reliant on donations. The more we raise, the more we can give to our winners – talented conservation leaders with the know-how and skill to safeguard our natural world. To support WFN visit [whitleyaward.org](https://whitleyaward.org).



# WFN FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2019

## Income and expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2019

£'000	2019 FUNDS			2018 FUNDS
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>				
Donations	464	1,169	1,633	1,322
Trading activities	-	676	676	7
Investment income	-	5	5	2
<b>Total income</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>1,850</b>	<b>2,314</b>	<b>1,331</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>				
Grants awarded	214	1,116	1,330	912
Other charitable activities	61	117	178	172
Fundraising	50	294	344	99
Support & governance	46	53	99	93
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>1,579</b>	<b>1,950</b>	<b>1,276</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>55</b>
Funds brought forward	64	1,608	1,672	1,617
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>1,879</b>	<b>2,036</b>	<b>1,672</b>

## Balance sheet at 30 June 2019

£'000	2019 FUNDS			2018 FUNDS
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
Cash & deposits	315	2,489	2,804	2,275
Debtors	2	79	81	60
Creditors due within one year	(110)	(551)	(661)	(610)
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>2,017</b>	<b>2,224</b>	<b>1,725</b>
Creditors due after one year	(50)	(138)	(188)	(53)
<b>Total net assets (= Total Funds)</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>1,879</b>	<b>2,036</b>	<b>1,672</b>

\*Extracted from the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2019, a full copy of which is available on request

### Where your money went in 2019



### Total donations received in 2019

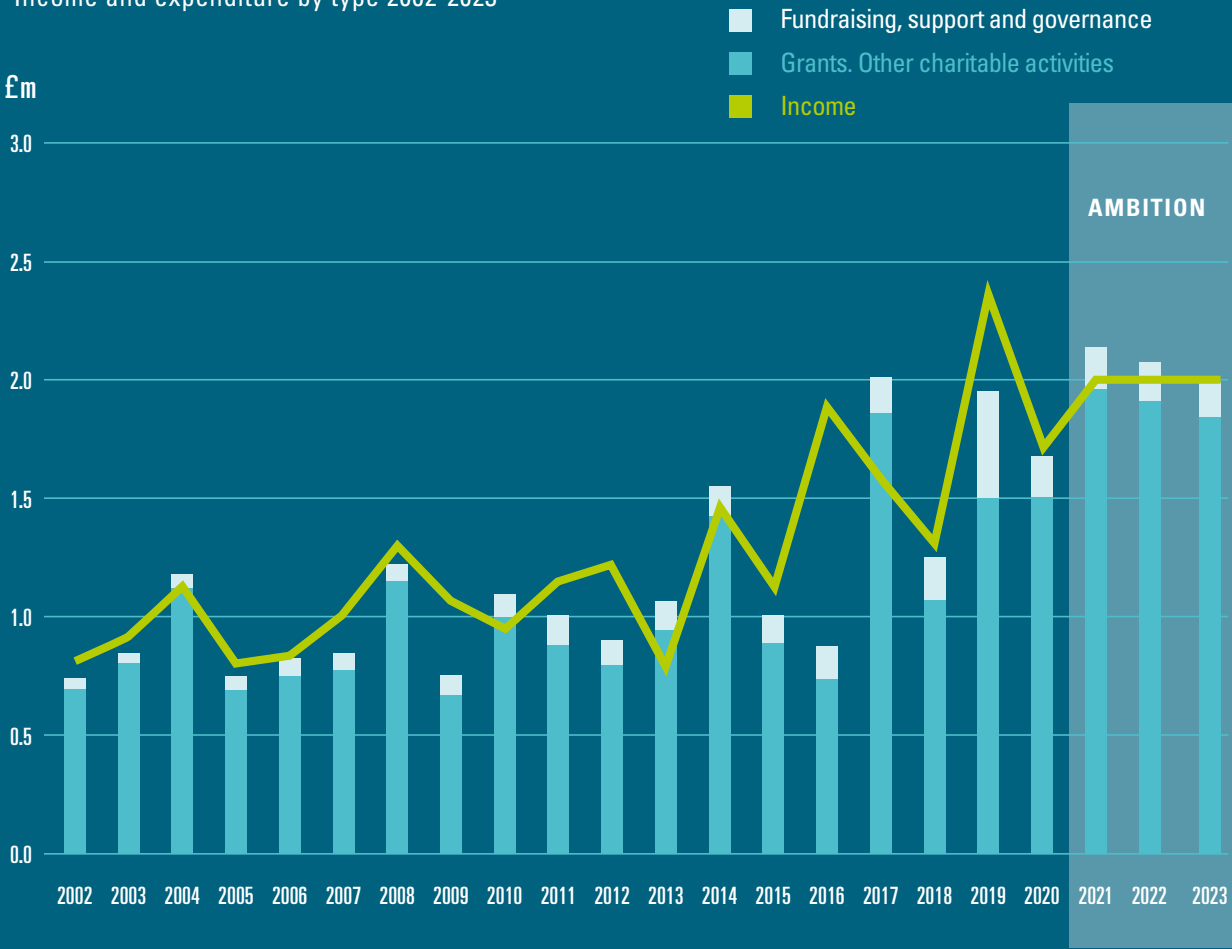


- Supporting charitable activities 81%
- 25th Anniversary Gala 11%
- Other fundraising 4%
- Support and governance 4%
- Family foundations and trusts £928,259
- Funds and NGOs £310,216
- Friends £392,495
- Corporates and banks £1,860

\*The 25th Anniversary Gala was a one-off event and resulted in higher fundraising costs in the FY 2018-19. The event generated vital support for our winners, raising an additional £1m (net) for conservation grant-giving.

## Ambitions for growth

Income and expenditure by type 2002-2023





# THANK YOU

We are so grateful for the generous support of our major donors, sponsors and Friends, including those who choose to remain anonymous.

We are a charity that is completely reliant on donations, with no capital endowment. The more we raise, the bigger the impact we can have!

## WHITLEY AWARDS PARTNER



## WHITLEY AWARD DONORS



Anne Reece

The William Brake Charitable Trust  
in memory of William Brake



The Corcoran Foundation

The Friends of the Whitley Fund for Nature

## MAJOR DONORS

The Badenoch Fund

The Britta & Jeremy Lloyd Family Charitable Trust

The Constance Travis Charitable Trust



The Foundation for the Promotion of Wellbeing



A charitable fund of Peter Baldwin & Lisbet Rausing

Charles and Ruth Plowden

The Rabelais Trust

The Reed Foundation



The Schroder Foundation



Matthew and Lucinda Webber

## SPONSORS & PARTNERS



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# FRIENDS' DONATIONS

The donations we receive from our Friends are the lifeblood of the charity and this year are supporting the Whitley Gold Award. Funds raised additionally to this are vital to the charity as general funds and for WFN's Continuation Funding programme, which supports previous Whitley Award winners.

Donations received between April 9, 2019 – April 14th, 2020

## £10,000 - £19,999

Veronique and Diego De Giorgi  
Dr. Sarah Greaves and Dr. Nick Harrison

Piers and Annabel Lea  
The LJC Fund  
Christopher and Annie Newell

Natalie and Jonathan Points  
The Reed Foundation

Lord Robin and Lady Russell  
The Waterloo Foundation

## £5,000 - £9,999

Elizabeth and Rory Brooks  
Kilverstone Wildlife Charitable Trust

Ian and Sandy Lazarus  
David and Deborah Marock  
Tony and Sarah Pidgely

Charles and Jans Rolls  
Richard and Rebecca Walker  
Jonny Wates and Juliana Fortunato

## £1,000 - £4,999

Athena Allen  
Celeste Allen  
Richard Buxton and Julia Elcock  
Fiona Canning  
Nicole and Nicky Campbell  
Lida Cepuch and Ian Richmond  
Gus and Danni Christie  
Cotswold Wildlife Conservation Trust

Creature Media Ltd  
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Chris and Sarah Field  
Fiona and Chris Fleming-Brown  
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Jacky and Paddy Sellers  
Kim and David Stewart

Richard and Serena Strang  
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Bryan Wigmore and Carol Kemm  
Juliet and Andrew Wilkinson

## £300-£999

Lesley Benson  
Lisa Biggs  
Claire Brook  
Lord Simon and Lady Amanda Cairns  
James and Veronica Carbone  
Diana and Mark Carney  
Katie and Guy Christie  
Patrick and Belinda Cooper  
Pete and Karen Doherty

David and Chrissie Frere-Cook  
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Unity Hield's Legacy  
Baroness and Lord Hodgson  
Vanessa Kastner  
Sara and Justin Mansley  
Angus McCullough  
Nancy McGuinness  
Nicholas and Amanda Mellor  
Sara and George Niedringhaus  
Norland CE School

Charles and Carol Skinner  
Philip Spender  
Julie and Steve Parks  
William and Lucy Pecover  
Keith and Elizabeth Ponder  
David Taylor and Clare Carolan Taylor  
Berent Wallendahl  
John and Ann-Margaret Walton





# WHITLEY AWARDS

Whitley Fund for Nature  
110 Princesdale Road  
London, W11 4NH

T 020 7221 9752  
E [info@whitleyaward.org](mailto:info@whitleyaward.org)

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[whitleyaward.org](http://whitleyaward.org)

UK Registered Charity Number 1081455

## WFN Team

**Danni Parks**  
Director

**Brian Johnson**  
Finance Manager

**Lydia Johnson**  
Operations Officer

**Janice Law**  
Grants Manager

**Victoria Thompson**  
Communications Manager

**Georgie White**  
Head of Partnerships

## WFN Trustees

**Edward Whitley (Chair)**

**Sir David Attenborough**

**Catherine Faulks**

**Ian Lazarus**

**Francis Sullivan**

## WFN Ambassadors

**Alastair Fothergill**

**Tom Heap**

**Kate Humble**

**Lord Robin Russell**

## With thanks to

### WFN Friends Committee

Catherine Faulks (Chair)

Clare Carolan Taylor

Lida Cepuch

Katie Christie

Victoria Corcoran

Sarah Havens

Vanessa Kastner

Annie Newell

### Awards Ceremony Producer

Mandy Duncan-Smith

### Programme Design

Liquid

### Winner films

Icon Films

### Media training

Boffin Media

### Speech training

Caroline Black

### Social media training

Milkywire

### Conflict resolution training

TRIP group

### Videography

Audio Visual Hub

### Photography

James Gifford-Mead

### PR

Liquid

## Image credits

### Front cover

Katie Garrett (black lion tamarin)

### Page 4-5

Luis Palacios

### Page 6

R. Digilio (penguin)

Rolex Awards (diving)

Rafael Stedile (Patrícia Medici)

Nature Stills (man and turtle)

### Page 10

Lawrie Brailey (Snow leopard)

### Page 13

Earthwatch

### Page 16

Katie Garrett (Gabriela headshot)

Aristyawan C.A./INFIS (Yoki headshot)

Ryan Hawk (landscape)

### Page 17

Laurie Hedges (Amazon)

Joao Marcos Rosa (Tapir running)

Liana John (Patrícia headshot)

Wally Van Sickle (tapir, bottom right)

### Page 20-21

Luis Palacios (black lion tamarins)

Katie Garrett (Gabriela headshot)

### Page 26-27

Jonathan Mbu (chimpanzee)

### Page 28-29

Aryf Rahman/Rangkong Indonesia (hornbill)

Artistyawan C.A./INFIS (Yoki headshot)

### Page 30-31

Joao Marcos Rosa (tapir images)

Laurie Hedges (team)

Liana John (Patrícia headshot)

### Page 32-33

Kayahan Agirkaya (vulture release)

Bonassi (Randall headshot)

Nina Fascione (Shivani headshot)

Matthias Fiechter (Charudutt headshot)

### Page 34-35

Tim Laman