

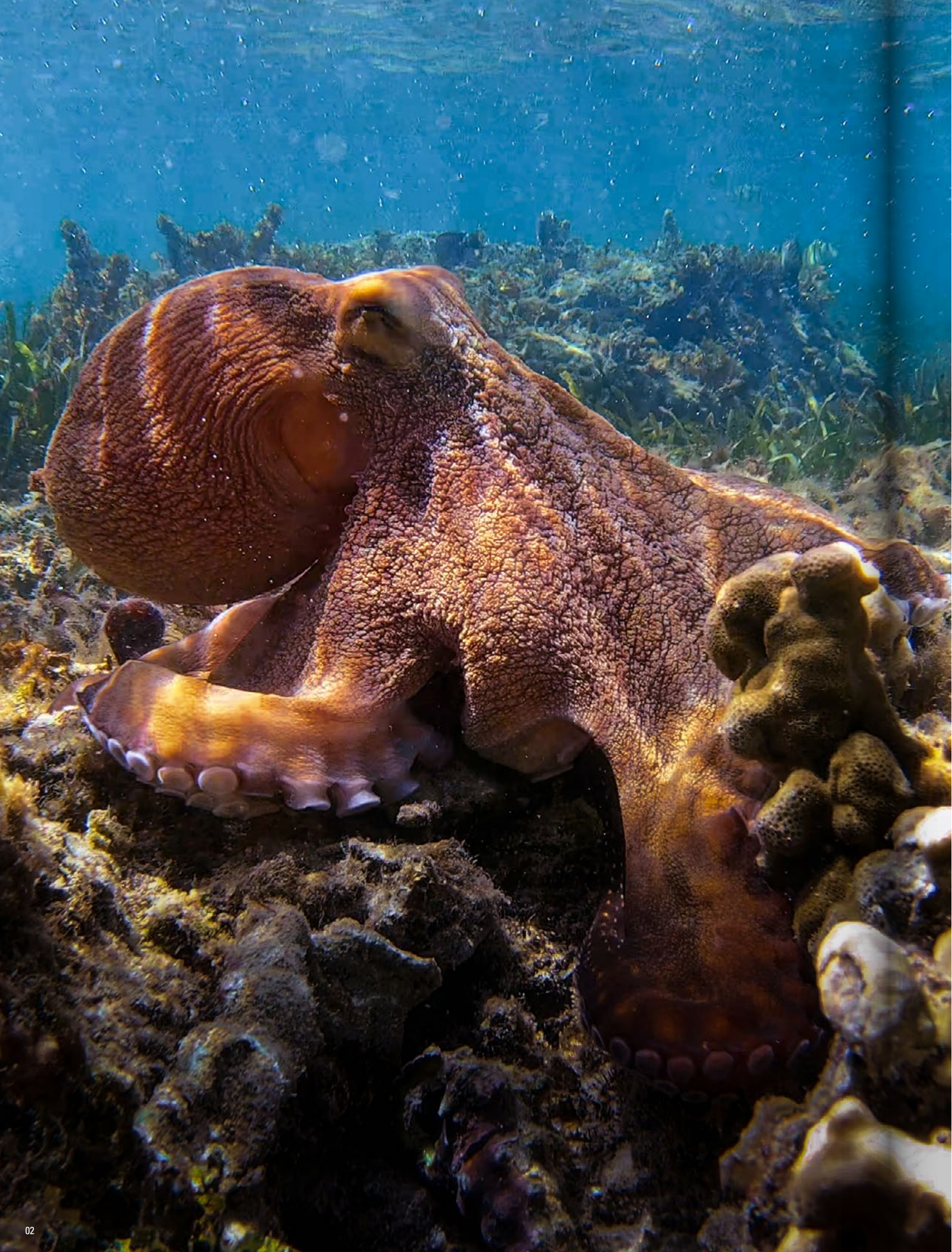


WFN

**WHITLEY
AWARDS**

2021





FOREWORD

// *Dear Friends,*

Welcome to our 2021 Whitley Awards Ceremony.

As with last year, we are sorry not to be welcoming you in person to meet the latest winners, but the good news is that this virtual event can reach a much larger audience.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected everyone. I don't think we could have anticipated that, a year later, we would still be working from home, or #WorkingFromHope as the WFN team have coined it with a deft switch of a single letter (substituting a "p" for an "m" – they assure me it wasn't just a typo!). For the charity, we had to adapt rapidly and take our fundraising online.

Our international winner network has experienced extensive challenges: their projects, which address wildlife decline and global warming, have been delayed or in need of urgent additional funds in the face of uncertainty resulting from the virus. Yet our winners never cease to inspire us with all they achieve, against the odds, for wildlife and people.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to support grassroots conservation champions. We continue to "work from hope" and have been humbled by the most generous support of our donors which helped us to reach our annual income target of £1.5 million.

Thanks to you, last year we awarded £300,000 in Whitley Awards and £1 million in Continuation Funding to past Whitley Award winners to bolster their efforts. This included £500,000 to support nature-based solutions that tackle climate change and biodiversity loss simultaneously, in consultation with indigenous people.

Our growing alumni community represents a universal voice for conservation and – with over 200 winners in 80 countries – we are increasingly encouraging their collaboration under our Winner Network Development programme (which you will hear more about later).

All of which leads us to welcome our new 2021 Whitley Award winners! They are inspiring leaders who spearhead community conservation work in their home countries. Throughout this week we are hosting a series of online events to celebrate their achievements. The winners will receive their Whitley Award funding, together with PR support, online communications training and networking opportunities to enable them to achieve their objectives and leverage success.

The pandemic has reminded us that the health of the environment is directly connected with our own. As the world stopped, we took time to appreciate nature. On emerging from lockdown, we hope people will value our natural world rather more and support its conservation, while seeking ambitious political commitments to protect the planet as we deliver a "green recovery". To that end, excitingly, we have just launched WFN NextGen, working with passionate young people who represent our future (you can read more about this on page 31).

Thank you once again to our fantastic donors for being so generous and understanding in this challenging climate. WFN holds no capital endowment and so your support has quite literally made all the difference. We hope you enjoy learning more about these magnificent conservationists and ask you to join us in our heartfelt admiration and applause for them.



Edward Whitley

EDWARD WHITLEY, OBE
FOUNDER | WHITLEY FUND FOR NATURE



OUR MISSION

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

1

To find, recognise and fund grassroots leaders across countries rich in natural resources but lacking in financial resource for conservation.

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 conservation.

GRANTS FOR CONSERVATION ACTION

Everything is possible due to the Whitley Award; it is the greatest changemaker.

PURNIMA BARMAN, 2017 WHITLEY AWARD WINNER



Three types of grant enable grassroots conservationists to scale up their work and protect threatened wildlife.

An early pioneer in the sector, WFN was one of the first charities to channel funding to locally-led projects in the Global South. We support courageous changemakers who are collaborating with communities in their home countries, to conserve wildlife and habitats. Our rigorous, and renowned, application process identifies inspiring individuals with staying power, who can combine the latest science with participatory action and tenacious leadership. By offering three levels of grants, successful conservation solutions can be scaled up.

WHITLEY AWARDS



The charity's flagship prizes – Whitley Awards – are won competitively each year. Following a worldwide search, applications are assessed by an expert judging panel. In addition to £40,000 in project funding over one year, the awards provide profile and training (see pages 7 and 8).

CONTINUATION FUNDING



Continuation Funding is available to Whitley Award alumni. These follow-on grants enable winners to expand effective projects, respond to changing needs, and collaborate with other conservationists. Applications are invited annually, applied for competitively and grants are worth up to £100,000 over two years. In 2020 WFN introduced a new strand of Continuation Funding for nature-based solutions that will help secure a sustainable future for wildlife, ecosystems and people (see page 32-33).

WHITLEY GOLD AWARD



Each year, we recognise a past Whitley Award winner for their outstanding contribution to conservation. Gold Award winners are international advocates for biodiversity, pioneering large scale projects and acting as a mentor to new Whitley Award winners. Our most prestigious prize, the Gold Award is worth £100,000.

SHINING A SPOTLIGHT

The Whitley Award has opened doors to very big stages that were not accessible to me in the past.

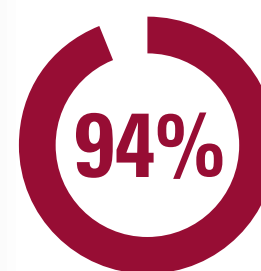
CALEB OFORI-BOATENG, 2019 WHITLEY AWARD WINNER



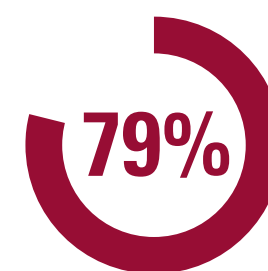
WFN accelerates the careers of conservationists by welcoming Whitley Award winners to the world stage.

Increased visibility draws attention to environmental issues and builds local pride for, and participation in, projects on-the-ground. It helps winners inspire philanthropic support from new sources, kick-starting a snowball effect that continues to bolster project funding. As their profile is raised, winners also have the chance to connect with other conservationists to share successes, failures and resources. In turn, with greater credibility, they are in a better position to influence environmental policy on a regional, national and international scale.

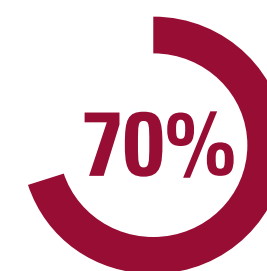
In addition to receiving project funding, Whitley Award winners are celebrated through a global PR campaign to garner media coverage of their work. Tailor-made films narrated by WFN Trustee, Sir David Attenborough, and endorsement from high profile supporters such as our Patron, HRH The Princess Royal, further raises their profile, and the public is kept up-to-date through WFN's digital communications.



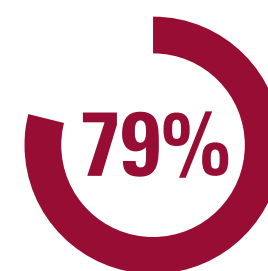
of alumni surveyed* tell us that winning a Whitley Award increased their profile



say it increased access to in-country media



tell us that winning increased access to national decision makers



say it increased access to international donors

* 86 respondents out of 129 Whitley Award winners surveyed for the WFN 25 Year Impact Assessment

CATALYSING SUCCESS

By giving winners the opportunity to obtain key skills, new contacts and more confidence, we can help them leverage their success.

WFN provides winners with the training and tools needed to deliver. Every year, new Whitley Award recipients also join a global community of peers with whom they can share knowledge, experiences and encouragement.

WFN is solidarity, encouragement, growth, friendship, happiness and conservation success. Growing with world figures in conservation is a unique opportunity that no one else offers.

JON PAUL RODRIGUEZ, 2019 GOLD AWARD WINNER



Whitley Award winners receive media training in print, radio and TV from Boffin Media, social media advice from Milkywire and speech coaching from Caroline Black & Associates. This helps them to effectively communicate their work to an international audience and capitalise on the media spotlight following their win.

WFN provides training in some of the core skills necessary to the delivery of successful projects including the use of evidence in project design, monitoring and evaluation. All winners gain access to pro-bono legal support from the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

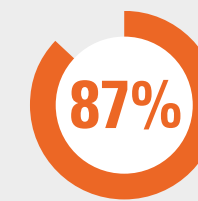
We hold events for winners to network with potential funders, collaborators, journalists, their country Ambassadors and members of UK and international conservation NGOs.

IMPACT

In 2019 WFN published an independent assessment reviewing 25 years of the charity's impact. Our winners reported the following success:



of alumni surveyed* reported feeling more capable of making a difference after winning a Whitley Award



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



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

* 86 respondents out of 129 Whitley Award winners surveyed for the WFN 25 Year Impact Assessment

PROTECTED AREAS

91 MILLION

hectares of protected areas have been created and/or managed

WILDLIFE PROTECTION

50,000

species are benefiting from improved protection and management

ANIMAL POPULATIONS

69%

of projects are succeeding in stabilising or increasing target species populations

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

750,000

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

DECREASING THREATS

69%

of projects have successfully reduced threats to target ecosystems and wildlife

EMPOWERING WOMEN

60,000

women have been empowered through Whitley Award winners' work

NEW SKILLS

1.1 MILLION

people are benefiting from new skills or improved livelihoods

EDUCATION

14.3 MILLION

people have received environmental education

POLICY CHANGE

354

environmental policies have been developed or improved at national, regional or international scales

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

→ 12 of 17 →

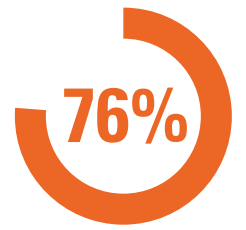
SDGs are being addressed by winners, as well as 16 of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets

GLOBAL WINNER NETWORK

With your support we're growing an international network of influential conservationists, leading projects in some of the most biodiversity-rich places on earth.

No single person, organisation or country can fix the global biodiversity, climate and health emergencies we face. It's why we're working harder than ever to build a global community of conservationists, with support from the Evolution Education Trust.

WFN is facilitating collaborative projects, exchange visits, knowledge sharing and joint training, so successful conservation solutions can be replicated around the world.



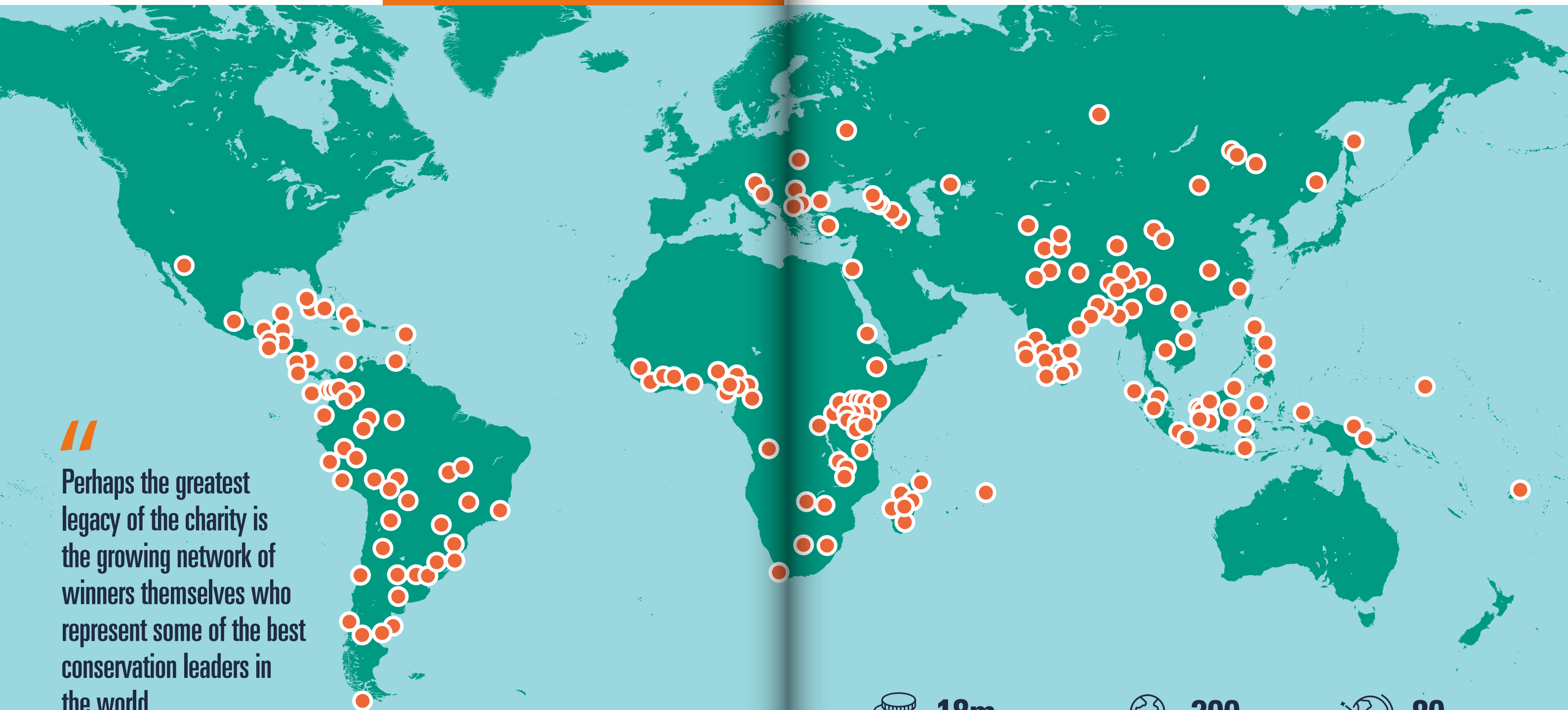
of alumni surveyed* felt they had been introduced to a network of conservation practitioners through winning the Whitley Award

* 86 respondents out of 129 Whitley Award winners surveyed for the WFN 25 Year Impact Assessment



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



18m
awarded in funding



200
conservationists



80
countries



Early Stage Sustainability Investments

Together supporting
smart solutions to
nature's challenges

earlymarket.com



Welcome to the WHITLEY AWARDS 2021

APPLICATION ASSESSMENT

This year, WFN received 107 Whitley Award applications from 47 countries. We would like to thank our judging panel and external assessors, who kindly offer their expertise voluntarily to decide the final shortlist.

JUDGING PANEL

- Edward Whitley, OBE**
Founder and Chair of Trustees, WFN
- Marianne Carter, MSc**
Director, Conservation Capacity and Leadership, FFI
- Damian Fleming, MSc**
Deputy Leader, Forests Practice, WWF International
- Matthew Hatchwell, MSc**
Advisory Board Chair and Conservation Consultant, DICE
- Dr. Paula Kahumbu**
CEO, WildlifeDirect; 2021 Whitley Gold Award winner
- Janice Law, MSc**
Grants Manager, WFN
- Danni Parks, MSc**
Director, WFN
- Francis Sullivan, MSc**
Trustee, WFN
- Dr. Andrew Terry**
Director of Conservation and Policy, ZSL

EXTERNAL ASSESSORS

- Dr. Paul Barnes**
Social Dimensions Specialist, ZSL's EDGE of Existence Programme
- 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. Sanjay Gubbi**
Senior Scientist, Nature Conservation Foundation; 2017 Whitley Award winner
- Dr. Simon Lyster**
Chair 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



- Africa 51% (55)
- Asia 26% (28)
- Americas 20% (21)
- Europe 2% (2)
- Oceania 1% (1)

Total applications - 107



- Terrestrial 69% (74)
- Marine 20% (21)
- Freshwater 11% (12)



- 75 male (70%)
- 32 female (30%)

This year the chance of winning a Whitley Award was 1 in 18

INTRODUCING THE WINNERS

- 1. LUCY KEMP, SOUTH AFRICA
- 2. PEDRO FRUET, BRAZIL
- 3. NUKLU PHOM, INDIA
- 4. KINI ROESLER, ARGENTINA
- 5. IRORO TANSHI, NIGERIA
- 6. PAULA KAHUMBU, KENYA (GOLD AWARD WINNER)



LUCY
KEMP

SOUTH AFRICA

//

They say it takes a village to raise a child. It is certainly going to take a village to protect this species.

LUCY KEMP



This snake-killing bird is the largest species of hornbill on earth, weighing up to 9lbs (about the size of a turkey).



South Africa's average Southern Ground-hornbill occupies a territory of 100km².



It has a reputation for breaking windows because it attacks its own reflection!



A COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH TO CONSERVE THE SOUTHERN GROUND-HORNBILL

South African culture is steeped in stories of the Southern Ground-hornbill, but numbers are declining as the threats caused by humans mount. Lucy will align traditional beliefs with new conservation action, using her Whitley Award to:

- + Implement local Southern Ground-hornbill custodianship to increase survival outside of protected areas in South Africa.
- + Install 40 artificial nests in priority areas to bolster breeding success.
- + Document cultural beliefs and incorporate indigenous knowledge into conservation activities.
- + Produce national conservation plans as a roadmap to recovery in Namibia and Botswana, where the species is most threatened beyond South Africa.

> AFRICA'S THUNDERBIRD

The Southern Ground-hornbill is a long-lived and large-bodied bird, valued culturally as the "bringer of rain". Now Endangered in southern Africa, they have disappeared from 70% of their historical range. Cultural protection has kept some populations safe, however downward trends continue – mostly on commercial farmland and communal grazing areas where western influence trumps traditional beliefs.

> LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Nest availability is a major factor in breeding success. The Southern Ground-hornbill is a territorial creature that needs its own space. If ideal nest sites are scarce, it will choose a sub-optimal site rather than leave its territory, which increases vulnerability to predation or flooding and limits chick survival. Lucy and her colleagues at the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project seek to halt the species' decline and build local pride.

> LOCAL CUSTODIANSHIP

Lucy will install artificial nests to improve breeding chances, considering nest height, hollow size, and cavity wall thickness to create the optimal micro-climate. She will engage landowners in a custodianship programme and provide training to monitor and protect hornbill nests. Lucy and her team will also document traditional beliefs, aligning cultural values with associated conservation measures. This will be incorporated into national conservation plans, strengthening capacity to preserve this great bird.

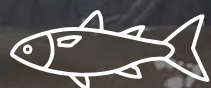
ground-hornbill.org.za
f @groundhornbill i @ground.hornbill

PEDRO
FRUET

BRAZIL

“
By protecting Lahille's bottlenose dolphins, we can protect the entire ecosystem and improve the livelihoods of coastal communities.

PEDRO FRUET



These dolphins have developed a unique foraging strategy, cooperating with artisanal fishers to catch mullet!



Lahille's bottlenose (*Tursiops truncatus gephyreus*) has only recently been classified as a distinct subspecies of dolphin.



The IUCN have identified the Lahille's bottlenose dolphin as a conservation priority due to its low abundance, imminence of decline, and potential for remedial action.



BUILDING BRIDGES TO ENCOURAGE COEXISTENCE WITH THE LAHILLE'S BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN

Pedro grew up surfing the waves with Lahille's bottlenose dolphins, also known for collaboratively catching mullet with traditional fishers. Inspired by their coexistence, Pedro will use his Whitley Award to reduce bycatch in artisanal fisheries, raise awareness of this social species and strengthen the community's connection to their marine environment. He will:

- + Curb dolphin bycatch around Patos Lagoon Estuary to reduce their mortality by 40% over 5 years.
- + Investigate the ecological connectivity between populations of Lahille's bottlenose dolphins to inform future conservation action.
- + Evaluate the effectiveness of Patos Lagoon Estuary's no-take zone and improve fisher compliance, balancing the needs of wildlife with people through participatory management.
- + Train 50 champions to disseminate information and develop a citizen science app to raise public awareness.

› UNIQUE DOLPHINS

The Lahille's bottlenose dolphin is an endemic, small, coastal cetacean of the western South Atlantic found in two isolated populations in Argentina and southern Brazil-Uruguay. The Patos Lagoon Estuary, and adjacent coastal waters home to this species, are also considered one of the most productive fishing grounds in Brazil, resulting in high anthropogenic disturbances to marine wildlife. Over the last decade an average of 6 dolphins per year have died due to fishing – an unsustainable rate for a subspecies with fewer than 600 individuals remaining.

› BATTLING BYCATCH

Bycatch – whereby non-target species are accidentally caught and perish – is responsible for at least 40% of dolphin mortalities in the area. Gillnet fisheries were banned in 2014 with the creation of a new no-take zone. Yet with people still dependent on fishing for their livelihoods, the lack of local consultation and insufficient enforcement has failed to reduce accidental entanglement. This will only worsen with economic hardships caused by COVID-19 and the current government's aversion to addressing environmental crises.

› BRINGING PEOPLE ON BOARD

In 2007 Pedro founded the NGO Kaosa to promote conservation, using this charismatic cetacean as a flagship species for healthy oceans. Pedro will encourage coexistence by documenting fishers' perceptions and identifying opportunities for resolution; bridging the gap between communities, scientists and authorities to improve the effectiveness of the no-take zone. He will introduce participatory management, train local inspectors to deter illegal fishing and develop a communications strategy for wider public engagement.

kaosa.org.br
[@botoslp](https://www.instagram.com/botoslp) [@projetobotos](https://www.facebook.com/projetobotos)

NUKLU PHOM

INDIA

//
The Amur Falcon migrates
across continents — a journey
that represents a free world
without borders.

NUKLU PHOM



An estimated 50,000 Amur Falcons roosted in 2010, increasing to as many as 1,000,000 individuals in 2019.



The community conservation areas are rich in fauna and flora including pangolins, hornbills and Asiatic black bears.



Nagaland has the highest rate of unemployment in India due to its history of inter-ethnic conflict, struggle for independence and a lack of job opportunities from government.



ESTABLISHING A BIODIVERSITY PEACE CORRIDOR IN NAGALAND

With his Whitley Award, Nuklu and his team will create a network of community-owned forests, to fortify the rich biodiversity and culture of Nagaland. He will:

- + Establish 16 community conservation areas as part of a Biodiversity Peace Corridor spanning 200km².
- + Stop hunting, dynamite fishing, logging and slash-and-burn cultivation in the reserves and provide eco-friendly alternatives to allow forest regeneration.
- + Train villagers in sustainable land-use including fruit orchards, piggeries and ginger production, benefitting 4,000 households.
- + Initiate conservation efforts for the Amur Falcon as a flagship species, monitor its roosts and document the area's biodiversity.

➤ HUNTING HISTORY

Nagaland, part of the Indo-Burma Hotspot, is home to the Naga: Tibeto-Burman people who share their mountainous, forested state with a rich diversity of wildlife. Communities have historically hunted wild animals for food and medicine, but in the last few decades a surge in unemployment, unsustainable management and shifting cultural priorities have put pressure on natural resources. The worrying drop in biodiversity has received little international attention.

➤ FALCON FLAGSHIP

Amur Falcons arrive here as part of their migration to feast on the abundance of emerging termites. They act as important bio-control agents, protecting crops by keeping termite numbers in check. However, some people have recently begun hunting and selling the falcons in large numbers, with 14,000 individuals killed annually in one village alone. Nuklu and his team at the Lemsachenlok Society want to offer alternatives that engage communities in conservation using the Amur Falcon as a flagship. Since the project began in 2007, three reserves have been set aside and the number of roosting falcons has risen dramatically.

➤ TRIBAL TRADITIONS

Nuklu's expanded Biodiversity Peace Corridor will incorporate 16 villages across four districts. By switching to sustainable, non-extractive land-use practices, his team can ensure that the area supports both biodiversity and livelihoods, uniting some of India's economically-constrained communities through a common cause. Nuklu will also revive the tribal education system and enable elders to teach traditional knowledge to the younger generation. He is a true grassroots hero.

[facebook.com/Alijo2012](https://www.facebook.com/Alijo2012)

[@lemsachenlok_2012](https://www.instagram.com/lemsachenlok_2012)

KINI ROESLER

ARGENTINA

// I saw my first Hooded Grebe in 2009; less than a year later I was committed full time to the conservation of this species. Understanding how humans are affecting them, in order to recover the population, has become my passion.

KINI ROESLER



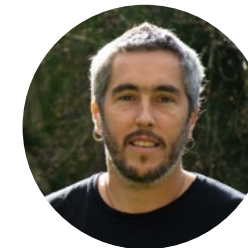
The Hooded Grebe has a large portion of unique evolutionary history and is 21st on the Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered (EDGE) birds list.



The Patagonian Steppe spans 673,000 km², making it the largest desert in Argentina and the eighth largest in the world.



The Hooded Grebe has one of the most complex courtship dances of all birds.



HOODED GREBE – GUARDIAN OF THE PATAGONIAN STEPPE

Even the world's most inhospitable environments are now reached by the ripple of mankind. The recently discovered Hooded Grebe, with its complex courtship dance, is struggling to survive the impact of invasive species and industry. With his Whitley Award, Kini will:

- + Study site fidelity and migratory routes of the Hooded Grebe to help develop a long-term conservation strategy for the species and its habitat.
- + Outsource invasive species management to regional stakeholders such as park rangers, to reduce grebe predation.
- + Consolidate the role of Juan Mazar Barnett Biological Station as a key scientific institution and increase its capacity by training a cohort of early-career conservationists.
- + Communicate his conservation message to a broader local, national, and international community of all ages, from adults to school children.

> PATAGONIAN STEPPE

The Patagonian steppe, characterised by epic scenery and extreme weather, is a vast and seemingly empty space. Often regarded as “wilderness” or “wasteland” with few human inhabitants, governments too frequently favour it for unsustainable extractive industries such as mining and petrochemical exploration. In reality, many lakes scattered across this steppe are home to an abundance of bird species during their summer migration.

> HOODED GREBES

Hooded Grebes appear as “white dots” on plateaus, detectable by only the most experienced of observers. Unsurprisingly, the species went unnoticed until 1974. Since then, they have become an emblematic bird for these Austral lands yet remain Critically Endangered. Despite the creation of Patagonia National Park in 2015, which protects almost 50% of its breeding population, the Hooded Grebe is still suffering from global warming, invasive species, and land-use changes. Numbers have declined by a staggering 80% in the past 20 years.

> BACK FROM THE BRINK

Kini and his team at Aves Argentinas and the Argentinean Scientific Council have worked relentlessly to bring the Hooded Grebe back from the brink, controlling invasive chick-predating species such as the American mink. Now they need to scale up. By increasing scientific knowledge of the Hooded Grebe, Kini can develop strategies to protect its breeding habitat from development. He will also train more conservationists to build local capacity for preserving Patagonia's astonishing ecosystem.

avesargentinas.org.ar

@kinipolegus and @avesargentinas

@avesargentinas @avesargentinasAOP

IRORO TANSHI

NIGERIA

“
At the heart of this programme will be capacity building of in-country scientists and conservationists who will lead the future of African research.

IRORO TANSHI



The highest rate of deforestation in the world is happening here, across Iroro's project site.



Insectivorous bats are considered witches in Nigeria despite facilitating farming through natural pest control and pollination.



The short-tailed roundleaf bat has unusually large ears for its family, complete with a small button in the middle of its nose.



BATS FROM THE BRINK – PARTICIPATORY ACTION TO SAVE THE SHORT-TAILED ROUNDEAF BAT

Bats are some of the world's most maligned mammals, feared as witches in Nigeria despite facilitating farming through pest control and pollination. Iroro will use her Whitley Award to save the short-tailed roundleaf bat after discovering the country's first and only population. Working with communities and the next generation of conservationists, she will:

- + Install early-warning systems and set up fire-fighting forces across four communities, to eliminate wildfires that destroy forest habitat.
- + Discover new roosting caves with monitoring patrols then advocate for their protection.
- + Reduce fruit bat hunting by 50% whilst offering protein alternatives, to curtail cave disturbance and help populations of short-tailed roundleaf bats recover.
- + Inspire the next generation of in-country conservationists to ensure long-term success in Nigeria.

› BATS DISCOVERED

The short-tailed roundleaf bat had not been seen in the wild for 45 years. It was thought to occur only in Cameroon and Bioko until Iroro and the Small Mammal Conservation Organisation discovered a group of just 15 individuals in south-eastern Nigeria in 2016. With all previously known roosts destroyed, this population is the last confirmed site for the species.

› HUMAN THREATS

Habitat loss and cave disturbance are the main drivers of decline across its range. Forest fires spread from farmland during annual brush burning. Meanwhile, as COVID-19's economic fallout forces more people to forage for bushmeat, fruit bat hunting is having an increasingly disruptive impact on roosts.

› COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Iroro will now expand her work from Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary and Cross River National Park to the Mbe Mountains, locating new caves and tracking bats to better understand their distribution. As well as identifying roosts for protection, she will address the drivers of their decline. Iroro will work with communities to replace hunting with other sources of protein, to establish a wildfire early warning system and emergency taskforce, and to find alternatives to agricultural burning. Finally, her team will train in-country leaders to secure the future of conservation in Nigeria.

smacon-africa.org

@irorotanshi and @smaconbats

@irorotanshi @irorotanshi and @SMACONAfrica

Each year a past Whitley Award winner is selected to receive the Whitley Gold Award – worth £100,000 of project funding – in recognition of their outstanding contribution to conservation. Donated by the Friends of WFN.

I want to see a global shift in the narrative where Africans are the storytellers about African wildlife and assume the lead in efforts to protect it.

PAULA KAHUMBU



In terms of profits, wildlife crime ranks among trafficking in drugs, arms, and human beings.



The African savanna elephant was classified as Endangered by the IUCN in 2021 with 15,000 lost to poaching annually.

PAULA KAHUMBU

KENYA

JUSTICE FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

Paula Kahumbu, CEO of Kenya-based NGO Wildlife Direct, passionately believes that Africans themselves should take the lead in securing the future of the continent's wildlife.

In Kenya, wildlife faces multiple pressures. Elephants, rhinos, pangolins and many other species are targeted by poachers to supply the global illegal wildlife trade, which generates millions for kingpin criminals, exploits local communities and takes advantage of lax laws.

An even greater threat is posed by the destruction and degradation of natural habitat that wild species need to survive. Unchecked development including large-scale agriculture, mining and infrastructure is transforming wildlife corridors and buffer zones adjacent to iconic protected areas. Backed by powerful interest groups that override environmental concerns with impunity, their opponents can feel isolated, powerless, and fearful of taking a stand. The loss of the nation's wildlife is an environmental and humanitarian injustice.

Paula is pioneering a new approach, that protects the country's wildlife while recognising Kenyans' legitimate aspirations for economic development. A Whitley Award winner in 2014 and recipient of Continuation Funding in 2016, with the support of WFN and other partners Paula and her team have:

- + Launched the "Hands Off Our Elephants" campaign, with the support of the First Lady, Margaret Kenyatta, which contributed to a national consensus on taking decisive action against ivory poaching.
- + Produced "Wildlife Warriors" – a ground-breaking TV series presented by Paula, watched by millions of Kenyans, that shines a light on the work of African conservation heroes.
- + Initiated the "Eyes in the Courtroom" project, which monitors wildlife crime cases in court to inform and support improvements to environmental law and prosecution, deterring poaching cartels.
- + Worked with government and NGOs to reduce elephant poaching by 80% over 5 years, culminating in the burning of Kenya's entire ivory stock in 2016 – sending an unmissable smoke signal to ivory traders.



With her Whitley Gold Award Paula will increase accountability, transparency and local participation in decision making, while strengthening environmental law and its application to secure justice for people and wildlife. She will:

- + Set up an Environmental Justice Desk that will empower citizens and organisations to respond to threats to wildlife at a local and national level and broker win-win solutions to human-wildlife conflict.
- + Defend critical wildlife areas under threat from the privatisation of community-owned grazing lands, infrastructure development, large-scale farming and mining.
- + Foster a culture of public participation in environmental decisions and promote African leadership of wildlife conservation efforts across Africa.
- + Engage fellow WFN alumni to help raise awareness and boost pride in African conservation heroes and their work via her TV show, "Wildlife Warriors".
- + Act as an ambassador for "Justice for People and Wildlife" as an approach to conservation that could be replicated elsewhere in Africa and around the world.

🌐 wildlifedirect.org

🐦 @paulakahumbu and @wildlifedirect

📘 @paulakahumbu and @wildlifedirect

📷 @paula_kahumbu



Wildlife Warriors is the first TV series about wildlife in Africa made by Africans, for an African audience.

#ROOT TO RECOVERY



This is a network of people who share the same values. We want to make the world a better place and it's so good that WFN can bring us all together.

GLADYS KALEMA-ZIKUSOKA, 2009 GOLD AWARD WINNER

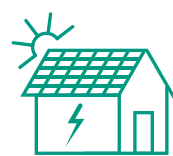
A landscape view

Unprecedented biodiversity, climate and health emergencies are unfolding around us. They threaten the future of all life on earth.



BIODIVERSITY IS COLLAPSING

Animal populations have declined by an average of two thirds over the past 50 years, with one million species now at risk of extinction. Habitats are disappearing too, exploited for human use. In fact, each of us consumes 15% more than our counterparts did in 1980, while doubling our greenhouse gas emissions and throwing away 10 times more plastic. Our impact on the planet is so profound that scientists are calling this period the Anthropocene.



OUR HOME IS HEATING UP

Global temperatures have reached a record high. Not only are we more prone to fires, coral bleaching and extreme weather, but we're less able to defend ourselves from their devastation. For instance, up to 300 million people in coastal communities are now at risk because we've destroyed habitats like mangroves that prevent flooding. The loss of carbon-rich ecosystems such as forests, wetlands and seagrasses is only turning up the heat.



SOCIETY IS SICK

Our exploitation of wild animals and wild places is creating new zoonotic diseases; COVID-19 has been, for many, our first exposure to the effects of this broken relationship. We're putting the natural processes that support life on earth under increasing pressure. For example, insect numbers are plummeting, yet over 75% of global food crops rely on their pollination. Human and environmental health are inextricably linked.

Source: 2020 WWF Living Planet Report; 2019 IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Seize the moment

We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to save the world.

Key events including the biodiversity COP15 and climate COP26 will offer leaders the chance to reform global environmental commitments.

On-the-ground, grassroots conservationists are rising to challenges exacerbated by COVID-19, turning political ambitions to build back better into a green reality.

The changemakers

WFN exists to identify mid-career conservationists who are onto a winner, but need our help to grow. Whitley Award winners have, in equal measure, a genuine understanding of local context, the scientific knowledge to put solutions into practice, and the leadership skills to affect change.

Yet no single person, organisation or country can fix a global emergency. It's why we're working harder than ever to build a global community of conservationists, with support from the Evolution Education Trust.

Demand for funding from our 200-strong winner network outstrips what we can currently give. We are determined to meet their needs by raising £2 million a year by 2022.

Can you help us on this [#RootToRecovery?](#)

Together we can

Wildlife conservation works. The extinction risk of birds, mammals and amphibians would be at least 20% worse without the help of our planet's conservationists.

This success comes despite the fact that less than 4% of UK philanthropic funding goes to the environment.

Now imagine, with your support, how much more we could achieve.

To donate, visit whitleyaward.org or get in touch with Georgie, WFN's Head of Partnerships, on georgie@whitleyaward.org

WFN NextGen

WFN NextGen will bring together a new generation of environmentalists and fundraisers passionate about the future of grassroots conservation.

Steered by a close-knit committee from sectors spanning wildlife film-making to publishing, they will inspire support not through focussing on personal capacity for giving, but rather through collaboration with like-minded young people to raise awareness and funds.

WFN NextGen launches this year. Get in touch with our NextGen Chair, Lydia, if you are interested in joining or have friends, family or colleagues who would like to know more at lydia@whitleyaward.org

CONTINUATION FUNDING

2020 winners

Follow-on funding enables winners to expand effective projects, respond to changing needs, and collaborate with other conservationists.

In 2020 we awarded £1 million of Continuation Funding to 13 Whitley Award alumni, with each grant worth up to £100,000 over two years.

Winners tell us that Continuation Funding provides a vital lifeline, recognising that conservation doesn't happen overnight and requires sustained support.



Deepak Apte
2008 alumni

Increasing coral reef resilience through conservation reserves in Lakshadweep Archipelago, India



Sandra Bessudo
2007 alumni

Working towards protection of an important hammerhead shark nursery on the Colombian Pacific coast



Achilles Byaruhanga
2004 alumni

Developing secure livelihoods in communities reliant on wetlands and conservation of the Grey Crowned Crane in Uganda



Elena Bykova
2011 alumni

Saigas as flagships for the conservation of Resurrection Island in Uzbekistan's Aral Sea basin



Tess Gatan-Balbas
2014 alumni

Community Conservation Areas in northeast Luzon to benefit the Philippines' people and wildlife



John Kahekwa
2013 alumni

Anti-poaching protection of the Grauer's gorilla in DRC's Kahuzi-Biega National Park



Quyen Vu Thi
2001 alumni

Ending illegal wildlife trafficking in Vietnam to prevent future pandemics

Nature-based solutions

Nature-based solutions are a sustainable way to regulate climate and conserve biodiversity, benefitting both the environment and human wellbeing.

2021 is the first year of the UN's Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. At WFN, we want to use this momentum to support grassroots action that will have a global impact. By investing in threatened ecosystems we can help achieve international ambitions such as protecting 30% of the planet by 2030. To succeed, we must do so in collaboration with indigenous communities.

It's why we awarded over half of our Continuation Funding to Whitley Award alumni who are working with people to pioneer nature-based solutions that will protect the planet.



Budiono
2012 alumni

Protecting the Mahakam dolphin, freshwater and riparian habitat in Indonesian Borneo



Gerardo Ceballos
2006 alumni

Conserving grassland carbon sinks in Mexico for the prairie dog



Laury Cullen
2002 alumni

Large-scale restoration and carbon sequestration in Brazil's Atlantic Forest



Makala Jasper
2016 alumni

Scaling-up sustainable forest management and FSC certification in southeastern Tanzania



Josia Razafindramanana
2012 alumni

Protecting Madagascar's dry and gallery forests in a changing climate



Luis Rivera
2011 alumni

Building a community-managed forest landscape resilient to climate change in Argentina's Southern Yungas



WHAT WENT RIGHT LAST YEAR

The impact of the pandemic on conservationists has been profound. Many face delays to urgent projects, reduced income or an increase in harmful activities such as logging and poaching by people who are struggling to survive.

Conservationists are tackling these on-the-ground challenges against a backdrop of political negligence, exemplified by confirmation last year that governments failed to meet a single UN biodiversity target.

Whitley Award winners, however, never cease to inspire us with their ability to adapt and act. The amount they achieved through 2020 is testament to their tenacious grassroots leadership.

Alumni achievements

Decades of perseverance by **Rachel Graham**, her NGO Mar Alliance and a powerhouse of other organisations finally paid off when Belize banned fishing nets in favour of equipment that will reduce shark bycatch.

Farwiza Farhan and NGO HAKA Sumatra established the first all-women ranger team, from a community wanting to take action after illegal logging caused floods that washed away their homes.

Amanda Vincent, our inaugural Whitley Award winner in 1994, was the first marine conservationist to win the prestigious Indianapolis Prize in recognition of her pioneering work with seahorses.

Not all was lost in Brazil's devastating fires, after **Patrícia Medici** and **Arnaud Desbiez** coordinated the rescue and rehabilitation of animals including lowland tapirs, giant anteaters and armadillos. Now they're mobilising the Pantanal's first community-led firefighting force.

Shivani Bhalla and NGO Ewaso Lions teamed up with other organisations to roll out a vaccination programme. They protected 2,642 domestic dogs against rabies and canine distemper, stemming transmission to Kenya's Endangered wild dog.

Cameroon cancelled plans to log Ebo Forest thanks to a collective of 60 conservationists who spoke out, including **Ekwoge Abwe**. Saving the forest meant saving many rare species, the ancestral home of 40 communities and 35 million tonnes of sequestered carbon.

Whilst developing recovery strategies for 15 plants endemic to Cuba, **Luis Torres** and his team at Planta! found 10 new species and re-discovered another 13 thought to be extinct.

2020 winners: where are they now?

Striving to stay in touch with isolated relatives has been a priority worldwide, and this is no different in Brazil's Atlantic Forest where **Gabriela Rezende** and NGO IPÊ continue to reconnect fragmented habitat for the 1,600 remaining black lion tamarins.

Abdullahi Hussein Ali and his Hirola Conservation Programme have trained 10 Range Restoration Technicians to uproot 475ha of invasive tree species within the Critically Endangered hirola antelope's habitat. They've also welcomed 10 elders onto their grazing committee to help collaboratively manage Kenya's grassland resources.

Despite strict national lockdowns in South Africa, nature conservation was deemed essential and **Jeanne Tarrant** of the Endangered Wildlife Trust identified 10 new locations for three species of rare frog. She's also working with four new landowners on long-term Protected Area stewardship agreements.

In preparation for tourists' eagerly awaited return, **Yoki Hadiprakarsa** and RangKong Indonesia have been consulting communities about hornbill birdwatching programmes, while continuing to work with them on biodiversity monitoring.

The Ise forest conservation area, known locally as the "chimpanzee reserve", has been officially

established by **Rachel Ikemeh** and her team at SW/Niger Delta Forest Project. Since the demarcation last year, they've seen no new farms cultivated, no trees felled and a near-zero poaching rate. Rachel's leadership has inspired 120 people to work together on this project, all of whom share its success.

In and out of national lockdowns, **Phuntsho Thinley** and the Royal Society for the Protection of Nature continue working towards their target of reducing poaching of alpine musk deer by 50% in Bhutan's Lingzhi Park Range.

Wfn Financial Statements 2020

Income and expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2020

£'000	2020 FUNDS			2019 FUNDS
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
INCOME FROM:				
Donations	386	1,325	1,711	1,633
Trading activities	-	24	24	676
Investment income	-	8	8	5
Total income	386	1,357	1,743	2,314
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Grants awarded	214	845	1,059	1,330
Other charitable activities	52	101	153	177
Fundraising	10	84	94	344
Support and governance	42	54	96	99
Total expenditure	318	1,084	1,402	1,950
Net income/(expenditure)	68	273	341	364
Funds brought forward	157	1,879	2,036	1,672
Funds carried forward	225	2,152	2,377	2,036

Balance sheet at 30 June 2020

£'000	2020 FUNDS			2019 FUNDS
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
Cash and deposits	386	2,495	2,881	2,804
Debtors	-	33	33	81
Creditors due within one year	(161)	(376)	(537)	(661)
Net current assets	225	2,152	2,377	2,224
Creditors due after one year	-	-	-	(188)
Total net assets (= Total Funds)	225	2,152	2,377	2,036

*Extracted from the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020, a full copy of which is available on the WFN website



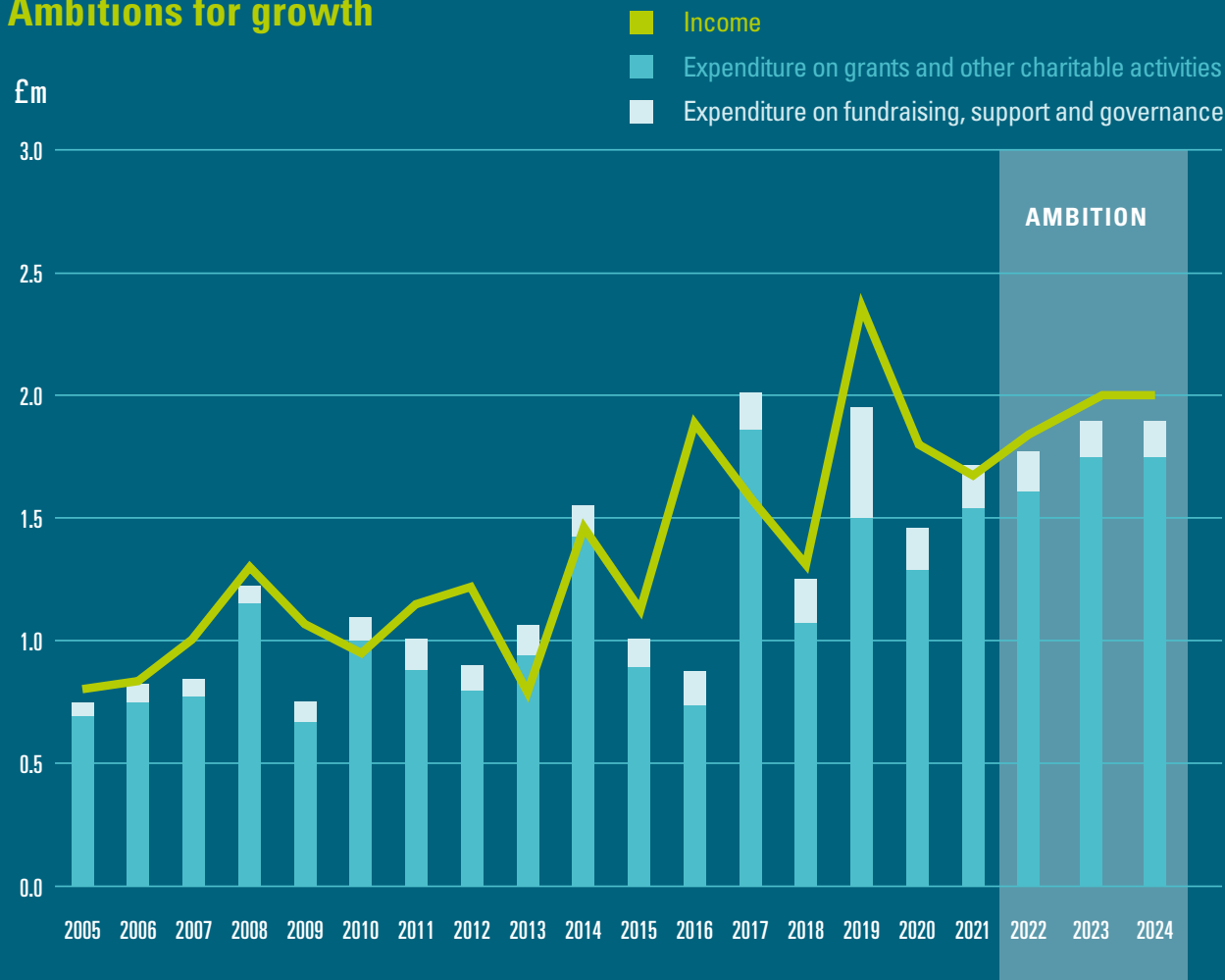
- Family foundations and trusts
- Funds and NGOs
- Friends

£657,090
£658,503
£395,525



- Supporting charitable activities 89%
- Fundraising 5%
- Support and governance 6%

Ambitions for growth



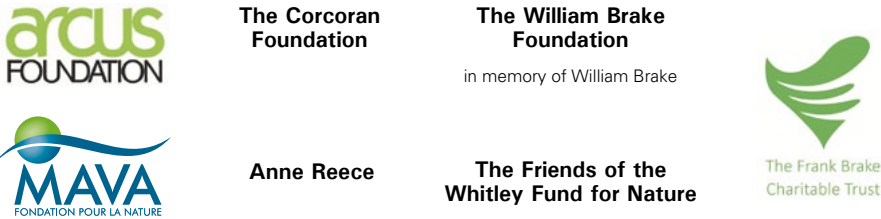
THANK YOU

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

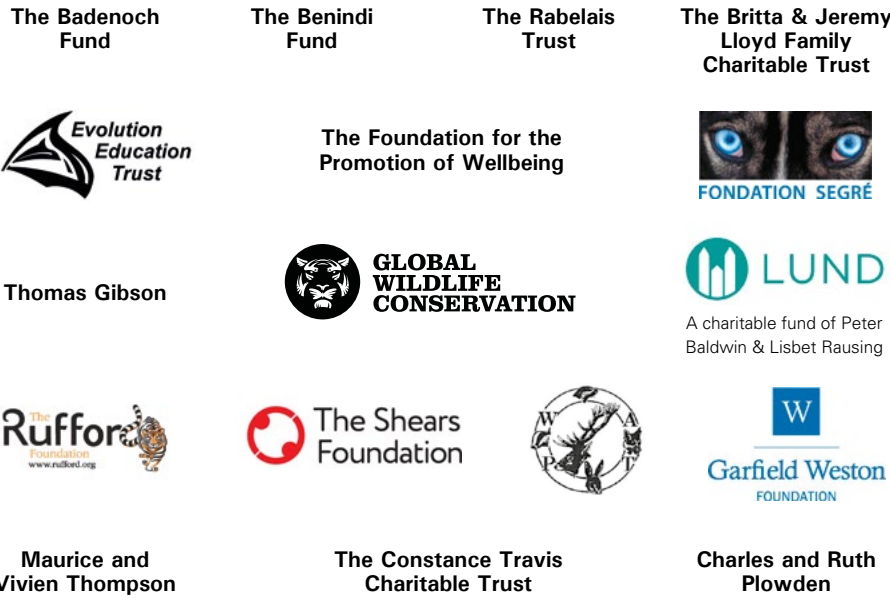
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FRIENDS' DONATIONS

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

£10,000 - £19,999

Champions of the Green Big Give	Natalie and Jonathan Points	Eugenie White
Dr. Sarah Greaves and Dr. Nick Harrison	John Rockliff	The Waterloo Foundation
The LJC Fund	Lucinda and Matthew Webber	

£5,000 - £9,999

Elizabeth and Rory Brooks	Chris and Sarah Field	Piers and Annabel Lea
Ella Cornish	Sarah Havens and Gregg Sando	Jan-Peter and Carol Onstwedder
Veronique and Diego De Giorgi	Nick and Amanda Hornby	
Catherine and Edward Faulks	Ian and Sandy Lazarus	

£1,000 - £4,999

Andrew Bound	Kathleen Crook and James Penturn	Christopher and Annie Newell
Richard Buxton and Julia Elcock	Fiona and Chris Fleming-Brown	Paul and Emma O'Hea
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Gus and Danni Christie	Mark and Sophie Lewisohn	Henrietta Tavistock
Cotswold Wildlife Conservation Trust	Simon and Penelope Linnet	Tessa and Jeremy Whitley

£300-£999

Les Biggs	Vanessa Kastner	William and Lucy Pecover
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Brian and Susan Johnson	Julie and Steve Parks	John and Linde Wotton



WHITLEY AWARDS

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 |  |  @WhitleyAwards

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UK Registered Charity Number 1081455

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Communications Manager
(maternity cover)

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Finance Manager

Lydia Johnson
Operations Officer

Janice Law
Grants Manager

Victoria Thompson
Communications Manager

Georgie White
Head of Partnerships

WFN Patron

HRH The Princess Royal

WFN Trustees

Edward Whitley (Chair)

Sir David Attenborough

Catherine Faulks

Ian Lazarus

Dino J Martins

Francis Sullivan

WFN Ambassadors

Alastair Fothergill

Tom Heap

Kate Humble

Lord Robin Russell

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Lida Cepuch
Katie Christie
Victoria Corcoran
Sarah Havens
Vanessa Kastner
Annie Newell

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Nick Gates
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Phoebe Sullivan

Awards Ceremony Producer
Mandy Duncan-Smith

Programme design
Liquid

Winner films
Icon Films

Media training
Boffin Media

Social media training
Milkywire

Speech training
Caroline Black & Associates

PR
Liquid

Studio
Floating Harbour

Image credits

Front cover
Kathy Karn Photography

Page 6
Katie Garrett
(Gabriela Rezende with a black lion tamarin)
Kip Evans
(Rachel Graham with a whale shark)

Page 7
TED Global

Page 8
Taylor Mickal (Pablo Borboroglu)

Page 15
Beautiful News (Lucy Kemp)
Bolingbroke Kent (Nuklu Phom)
Johann Vorster (Paula Kahumbu)

Page 20-21
Ben Jobson, BirdLife International
(Southern Ground-hornbill)
Beautiful News (Lucy Kemp)

Page 23
Bolingbroke Kent (Nuklu Phom)

Page 28-29
Kathy Karn Photography
(African savanna elephants)

Page 29
Johann Vorster
(Paula Kahumbu, Wildlife Warriors team)

Page 30-31
Tim Laman

Page 32
Stacey Iverson (Elena Bykova)

Page 34-35
Manuel Bergmann