



## WHITLEY AWARD WINNER RESULTS IN 2021

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Lobbying by **Randall Arauz** led to threatened shark species, such as the hammerhead and thresher, being added to Costa Rica's National Endangered Species List, strengthening their protection under law.

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2000 Indian families were provided with forest-friendly cooking stoves by **Sanjay Gubbi**, enabling economically constrained communities living alongside tiger habitat to reduce logging for firewood, thereby preventing human-wildlife conflict while improving air quality in homes.

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Field work in Uzbekistan's Aral Sea basin revealed two new locations of the globally threatened saiga antelope, bolstering **Elena Bykova's** efforts to secure protected status for the area.

4

**Abdullahi Ali** led efforts to successfully reinstate Kenya's 500km<sup>2</sup> Arawale National Reserve: vital habitat for one of the top ten species at risk of imminent extinction – hirola antelope. He was recognised with a 2021 National Geographic/Bufett Award for Leadership in Conservation.

5

**Melvin Gumal** persuaded the Government of Sarawak to buy back oil palm plantations dividing the Ulu Sebauyau and Sedilu National Parks and allow a biodiverse corridor to recover, sustaining orangutans.

6

200,000ha of wetland in Colombia home to river dolphins, otters and jaguars will be better managed through new conservation agreements developed with communities by **Fernando Trujillo** to stop forest degradation, agrochemicals, and unsustainable hunting.

7

Russia's Daursky Strict Scientific Nature Reserve has nearly doubled in size thanks to **Vadim Kirilyuk**, better protecting steppe and wetland ecosystems traversed by mass migrating Mongolian gazelle.

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**José Sarasola** successfully lobbied the government of Argentina's Mendoza province to make rescue ramps mandatory in water reservoirs, ensuring species from the Chaco Eagle to the Andean cat can safely access drinking water on expanding agricultural land.

9

**John Kahekwa** became an Earthshot Prize finalist for his community-led conservation model that benefits the DRC's Endangered Eastern lowland gorillas, local families, and globally important natural resources.



**Laury Cullen** is restoring Brazil's Atlantic Forest as a nature-based solution to climate change. In 2021, this generated £350,000 in income for rural families who were trained in restoration and monitoring.

Grey Crowned Crane numbers are on the rise in Rwanda, with 997 recorded in 2021 up from 459 in 2018. As the pandemic causes a simultaneous increase in the rural population of people, **Olivier Nsengimana's** achievement points to the possibility of communities and wildlife successfully sharing precious freshwater resources.

**Farwiza Farhan** received the 2021 Pritzker Emerging Environmental Genius Award. As a 2021 TED Fellow she has been highlighting the challenges that women face on the frontlines of climate action.

An awareness campaign led by **Vu Thi Quyen** was so successful that 3,524 new wildlife crime cases were reported to her NGO in 2021: a collaborative effort that is accelerating an end to Vietnam's rife illegal wildlife trade.

India's Srivilliputhur Wildlife Sanctuary earned its stripes as a Tiger Reserve thanks to **Vivek Menon** and his team, enhancing protection of a crucial corridor for many species including Asian elephants.

Snow leopard conservationist **Charu Mishra's** 'PARTNERS Principles' – a replicable community conservation model – were recognised as an outstanding global practice by the COP15 biodiversity summit.

**Rachel Ikemeh** and **Caleb Ofori Boateng** were nominated for Tusk Awards for Conservation in Africa, recognising their work to protect Nigerian-Cameroon chimpanzees and Togo slippery frogs respectively.

Having helped establish Haiti's first Marine Protected Areas **Jean Wiener's** recent efforts have increased marine patrols tenfold, now covering 10,000ha, despite 2021's presidential assassination, state of emergency, martial law, earthquake, tropical storm and hurricane.

The Danube River is now home to four Dalmatian Pelican breeding colonies thanks to **Emil Todorov's** artificial nesting platforms. The birds returned to one site after an absence of 60 years, with two others hosting a record-breaking 88 pairs during the 2021 breeding season.

Whitley Fund for Nature | [whitleyaward.org](https://whitleyaward.org) | [@whitleyawards](https://twitter.com/whitleyawards)



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