



2027 WHITLEY AWARD APPLICANT TOOLKIT

ABOUT WFN

Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) is a UK-based charity supporting grassroots conservationists globally. Established in 1993, we have channelled £26 million to over 230 conservation leaders across 84 countries, benefitting wildlife, landscapes, and people. We offer long-term, laddered support to changemakers leading local solutions to the global biodiversity and climate crises.

ABOUT THE WHITLEY AWARDS

The Whitley Awards are prestigious international prizes that recognise and support local conservation leaders around the world. Winners are presented with their award by HRH The Princess Royal at a ceremony in London each year.

- Winners receive £50,000 in project funding as well as international profile raising opportunities.
- Projects must start in, or shortly after June 2027.
- Projects must last no longer than 12 months.
- Winners join WFN's network of conservationists and have access to peer-learning and further funding opportunities including the Whitley Gold Award and Continuation Funding.





WHY APPLY?

Funding to Scale Impact:

Winners receive £50,000 in project funding over one year to accelerate grassroots conservation efforts and have the opportunity to apply for further Continuation Funding.

Global Recognition:

Winners gain international visibility through WFN-led media campaigns and press outreach — opening doors to decision makers, further funding and collaborations.

Tailored Training & Support:

Award recipients receive training in areas such as PR, speech delivery, media engagement, and leadership development to build their profile and long-term resilience.

A Powerful Network:

Winners join a respected community of over 230 conservation leaders working across the globe to drive change for nature, for people, and for our planet.

WHAT WE LOOK FOR

- **Good communicators and passionate people.** People who will inspire others and importantly, who will collaborate and share results.
- **Leadership and teamwork.** Individuals backed by an experienced team/organisation, who demonstrate past success and an evidence-based approach.
- **Ecosystem level projects** are preferred. Genuine flagship species projects are accepted, but not if results are purely species-specific.
- **Community led conservation** projects are encouraged and all projects must empower, incorporate and benefit the communities with which they work.
- **Grassroots, pragmatic work that is realistic, but ambitious too.** We look for applicants on the cusp of 'something big' and work that is replicable or scalable.
- Actions that will have clear, **measurable outcomes.**
- **Sustainable projects** that demonstrate long-term planning.
- Projects that demonstrate **value for money** and an ability to **manage funding** at the Whitley Award level (£50,000).
- Projects for which a Whitley Award will make a **big difference.**



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Grassroots conservation leaders who are nationals of the country in which they work and are embedded in Indigenous peoples and communities.
- Work based in at least one eligible country. Please see the following page for the countries we fund.
- Wildlife conservation projects that are having a measurable positive impact on threatened ecosystems/biodiversity at the landscape/seascape level and are delivering tangible benefits to Indigenous peoples and communities.
- Applicants need to be able to communicate verbally in English without a translator (total fluency is not required) so winners can benefit fully from the Whitley Awards week which involves interviews, networking events, training, and media opportunities.
- Applicants who work for a locally incorporated NGO, charity, not for profit, or university.

[Read Full Eligibility Requirements](#)



ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- Angola
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Bangladesh
- Belarus
- Belize
- Benin
- Bhutan
- Bolivia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cabo Verde
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Comoros
- Congo
- Costa Rica
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Cuba
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Djibouti
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Fiji
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Georgia
- Ghana
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- India
- Indonesia
- Iraq
- Jamaica
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Kyrgyzstan
- Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Libya
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Namibia
- Nepal
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- North Macedonia
- Pakistan
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Republic of Moldova
- Rwanda
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Samoa
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Sri Lanka
- St Lucia
- State of Palestine
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Swaziland
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Togo
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tunisia
- Türkiye
- Turkmenistan
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Uruguay
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Venezuela
- Vietnam
- Western Sahara
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe



HOW TO APPLY

APPLY ONLINE

Review our eligibility requirements and register for our online portal to complete your application.

Provide detailed and clear information about your work, its impact, and your leadership.

**Please submit your application by:
Friday, 30 October 2026
23:59 GMT**

**Click to apply and
find out more**



MATERIALS TO PREPARE

Gather required documents:

- Project summary and proposal
- Budget*
- Logframe and timeline*
- Three professional references
- NGO's financial documents
- Supporting visuals including 10 photos and maps

*Please refer to our application guidelines and use the templates provided on the portal.



APPLICATION TIMELINE



Due to high volumes of applications, we are unable to update you on the progress of your application or provide feedback during the process. Please wait to hear from us. We aim to have notified all unsuccessful applicants of the outcome by next spring (although this timing may vary).



CONTACT INFORMATION

For any questions or additional information,
please visit our website or contact us via email:



whitleyaward.org



info@whitleyaward.org

@whitleyawards

