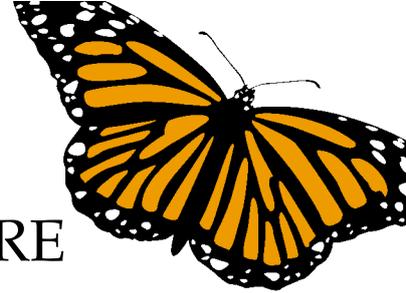


# WFN WHITLEY FUND FOR NATURE



WFN identifies and funds some of the world's most dynamic leaders of effective grassroots conservation. Each year, the very best are recognised through the **Whitley Award**, a prestigious prize worth £30,000 in project funding over one year. The most outstanding winner goes on to receive the **Whitley Gold Award** and an additional year of funding. Our winners represent a pragmatic and innovative force for conservation, combining proven science with community-led responses to environmental challenges. **Join us in congratulating our winners from 2009!**

## 2009 WHITLEY AWARD WINNERS



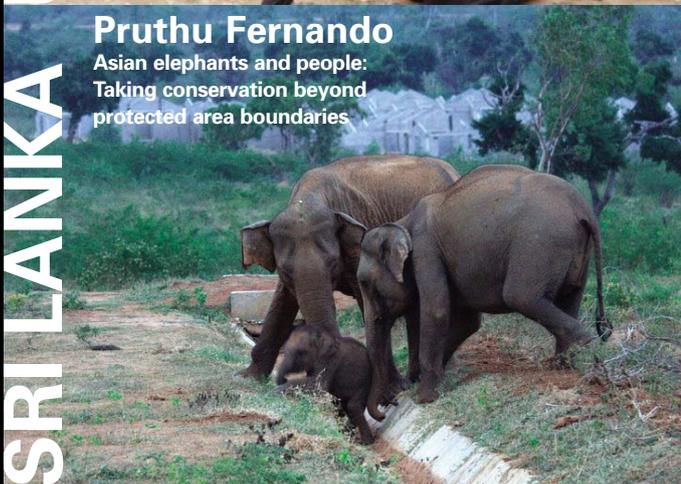
UGANDA

**Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka**  
Mountain gorilla conservation through public health



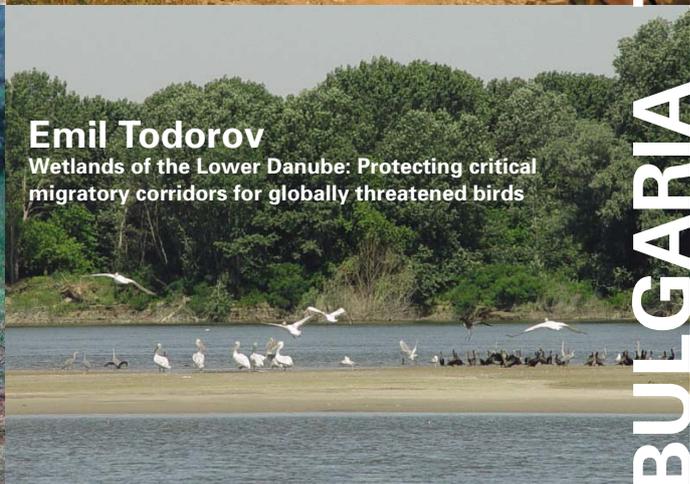
THAILAND

**Jittin Ritthirat**  
Community-led conservation of West Thailand's Elephants in populated monsoon forest



SRI LANKA

**Pruthu Fernando**  
Asian elephants and people: Taking conservation beyond protected area boundaries



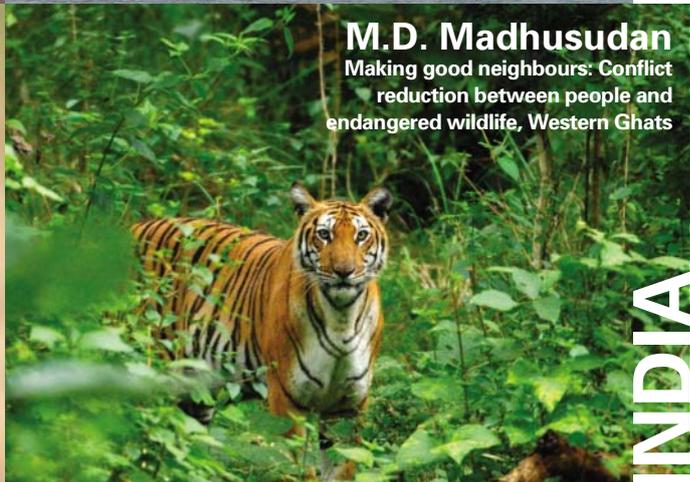
BULGARIA

**Emil Todorov**  
Wetlands of the Lower Danube: Protecting critical migratory corridors for globally threatened birds



KENYA

**Dino Martins**  
People, Plants and Pollinators: Uniting conservation of insects and sustainable agriculture



INDIA

**M.D. Madhusudan**  
Making good neighbours: Conflict reduction between people and endangered wildlife, Western Ghats

**The start of a new year** – and a new decade – creates a perfect opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the past twelve months, and to look ahead to 2010.

Prompted by our 15th anniversary (1994-2008), we undertook a comprehensive strategic review in 2009 involving input from winners, staff, partners and donors. This review has helped us consolidate our aims and objectives over the next five years and many of its recommendations have already been implemented.

In May, we were joined by the wonderful Kate Humble at the Whitley Award Ceremony 2009, and welcomed to the fold a new crop of Whitley Award Winners - with an unexpected focus on elephants! (see page 4).

In July, I visited Sakhalin Island (Far east Russia) to see the work of 2006 Whitley Award Winner Dmitry Lisitsyn. Dima and his NGO, Sakhalin Environmental Watch (SEW), are working hard to increase scientific understanding of the region's Amur bears, and to maintain the protection of Vostochny Wild Salmon Refuge. Here, salmon return from the sea to their river spawning grounds to breed and then die, the nutrients from the fish supporting a great concentration of biodiversity, including large numbers of bears and Steller's sea eagle.



I am always amazed by how much our winners achieve. SEW act as steward for an area the size of the UK, with only eight staff and very limited resources. Without their commitment this unique wilderness area, and the communities that rely on its resources, would be in serious jeopardy from unsustainable industrial interests.

In November, we hosted a number of new, smaller events, joined by Patricia Medici (Tapir conservation, Brazil, 2008) and Erika Cuellar (Chaco conservation, Bolivia, 2007). We hope to host more of these successful events, aimed at increasing direct contact between winners and donors.

There is much to look forward to this year, and whilst fundraising remains a key challenge in these uncertain times, we are very fortunate to have loyal and supportive donors and, with your help, will continue to recognize and support the world's most effective conservation leaders.

**Georgina Domberger**  
Director, Whitley Fund for Nature

## Dear Friends,

2009 has been a year of strategic reflection for WFN. Already we can see the results; a new office and staff member. A dynamic Friends Committee has been formed who are already working on exciting events for 2010. One of our first decisions was to take part in London's Elephant Parade ([www.elephantparadelondon.org](http://www.elephantparadelondon.org)). Next spring, 200 hand-painted baby elephants will appear in central London overnight as part of a mass elephant awareness campaign organised by the charity Elephant Family. Few people realize that the Asian elephant is at risk of extinction and their numbers have declined 50% in the last 60 years. The Friends of WFN have sponsored an Elephant, which is appropriate considering three of 2009's Whitley Award winners are working directly towards Asian elephant conservation. New Friends Committee member Susanna Bell is to be thanked for persuading Daniel Chadwick to paint the WFN elephant in his studio. After the parade, the Elephant will be auctioned at Sotheby's with the proceeds going towards our next Friends Award.



I am aware that we have been very 'British' about our approach to the WFN Friends. We offer no shiny categories or VIP areas. Our aim has been to keep the Awards open to a broad base of guests who are interested in supporting the work of WFN. We are reluctant to sell tickets but recognise that we need to make our 'ask' clearer. To this effect the Friends Committee is currently working on a booklet which we hope will illuminate our fundraising objectives. This will be sent out in the New Year.

Thank you to all the Friends who again have so generously contributed to the Whitley Award. We look forward to seeing you again in May,

**Catherine Faulks**  
Chair of the Friends of the Whitley Fund for Nature

## Hello to David Wallis

In December we moved to larger offices and were thrilled to welcome our new Awards Coordinator, David, as the charity's second full-time team member. This new post is an exciting step for WFN, a direct result of our strategic review, and will help us stay in touch with our growing network of over 100 winners in 60 countries. David has a Masters in Conservation Science from Imperial College London and is already proving a great asset.

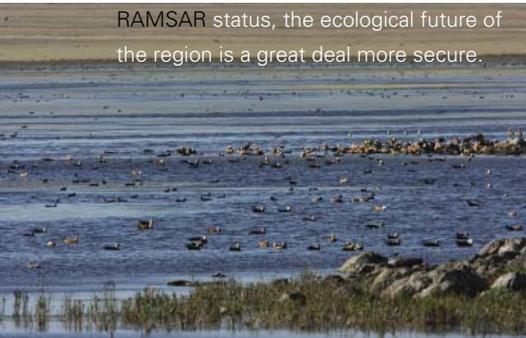


# NEWS BEST RESULTS OF 2009!

The efforts of our Whitley Award Winners continue to have a measurable impact around the world.

## TURKEY – RAMSAR Status for Kuyucuk wetlands

The hard work of 2008 Gold Award Winner **Cagan Sakercioglu** and his team on the Kars Biodiversity Project, has led to the designation of International RAMSAR status for the ecologically important wetlands of Lake Kuyucuk, in Eastern Turkey. This has been one of the major goals of Cagan's work and is a truly historic achievement. With the extra protection and recognition that comes with RAMSAR status, the ecological future of the region is a great deal more secure.



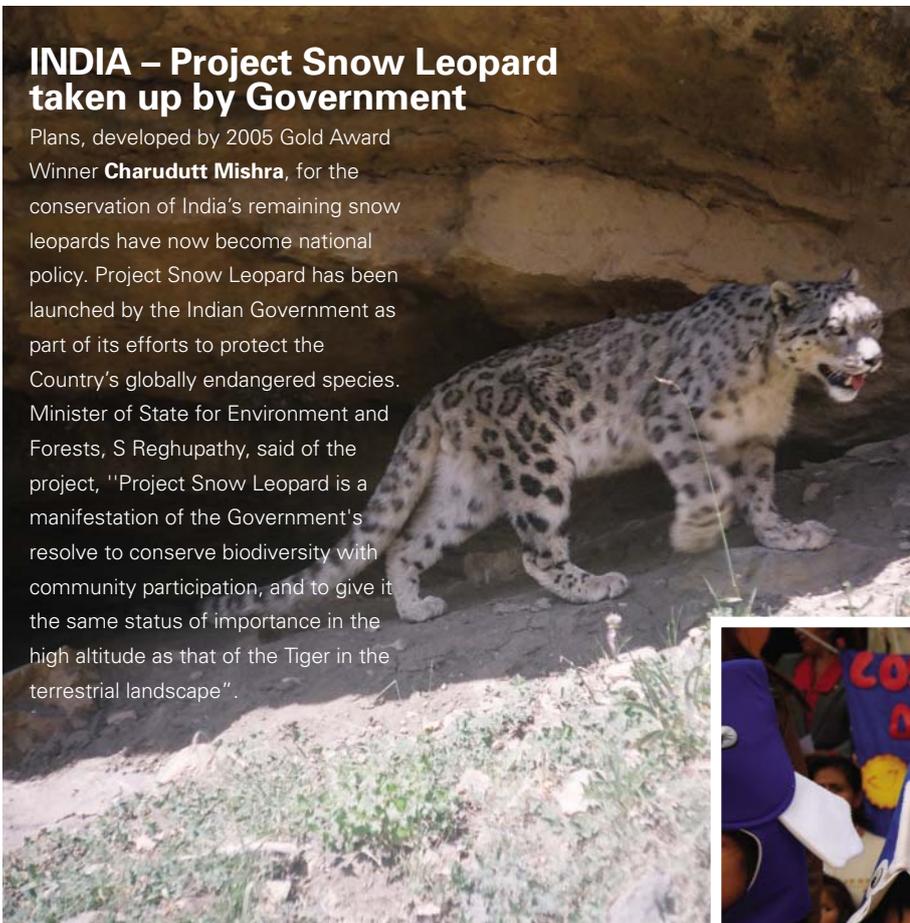
## MEXICO – Major grassland reserve established

Due largely to the endeavors of 2006 Whitley Award winner **Gerardo Ceballos** and his NGO Ecociencia, the half a million hectare Janos Biosphere in Chihuahua, Mexico, has been granted full reserve status. The desert grasslands of the Janos region are home to one of the largest surviving prairie dog colonies in the world – animals that play a vital role in maintaining this important habitat. Ecocia's achievements were aired more than 8 times in one of Mexico's two major news programs (TV Azteca), reaching more than 5 million people.



## INDIA – Project Snow Leopard taken up by Government

Plans, developed by 2005 Gold Award Winner **Charudutt Mishra**, for the conservation of India's remaining snow leopards have now become national policy. Project Snow Leopard has been launched by the Indian Government as part of its efforts to protect the Country's globally endangered species. Minister of State for Environment and Forests, S Reghupathy, said of the project, "Project Snow Leopard is a manifestation of the Government's resolve to conserve biodiversity with community participation, and to give it the same status of importance in the high altitude as that of the Tiger in the terrestrial landscape".



## PERU – First system of Marine Protected Areas established on South America's Pacific coast

As of the 30th December 2009, the Peruvian government has finished establishing Peru's first system of Marine Protected Areas. This achievement is thanks in no small part to the dedication of 2006 Gold Award winner **Patricia Majluf**, who has devoted the best part of a decade to the conservation of Peru's marine ecosystems and resources. The Guano Reserve System is the first of its kind on South America's eastern coast, spans the entire Peruvian coastline, 23 groups of islands and 11 peninsulas, covering an area of over 140,833 hectares.



# 2009 WHITLEY AWARD WINNERS

## WHITLEY GOLD AWARD WINNER

**and Winner of the Whitley Award donated by WWF-UK**  
**Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, UGANDA**  
**Mountain Gorilla conservation through public health**



Gladys has won the 2009 Whitley Gold Award in recognition of her fantastic work protecting the critically endangered mountain gorillas of Uganda's Bwindi National Park.

Humans and gorillas share 98% of their DNA and, being such close relatives, disease can easily cross the species divide. The consequences for the gorillas can be fatal. However, by improving the health care, hygiene and behavior of local communities around Bwindi, Gladys and her NGO, **Conservation Through Public Health** (CTPH), are greatly reducing this risk. Through community-led outreach and education programs and by involving locals in survey and monitoring work, CTPH are improving the wellbeing of some of Africa's poorest people, whilst also working to ensure the continued survival of one of the world's most threatened species. CTPH are also helping local communities improve their facilities for ecotourism, a valuable source of potential income. [www.ctph.org](http://www.ctph.org)



£60,000 FUNDING



£30,000 FUNDING

**Winner of the Whitley Award donated by the Whitley Friends for Nature**  
**Jittin Ritthirath, THAILAND**

**Community-led conservation of West Thailand's Elephants in populated monsoon forest**



Jittin is being supported in her work to resolve the conflict that occurs between the elephants of Thailand's Salakpra Wildlife Sanctuary and the ever-growing human communities that surround them. The results of this crossing of paths can be disastrous to both people and elephants alike, as crops are raided, property damaged and even lives lost. As co-founder of the **Elephant Conservation Network** (ECN), Jittin is increasing people's awareness of why elephants are being driven to feed on their crops whilst also promoting practices that will lower the risk of dangerous conflict. By moving livestock out of the forest where they degrade habitat and compete with wild elephants, the likelihood of elephants moving into villages to find food is reduced. ECN's innovative education work is engaging local people and ensuring a more rewarding and harmonious future for Salakpra's communities alongside their heavyweight neighbors. [www.ecn-thailand.org](http://www.ecn-thailand.org)

**Winner of the Whitley Award donated by the William Brake Charitable Trust**  
**Dino Martins, KENYA**

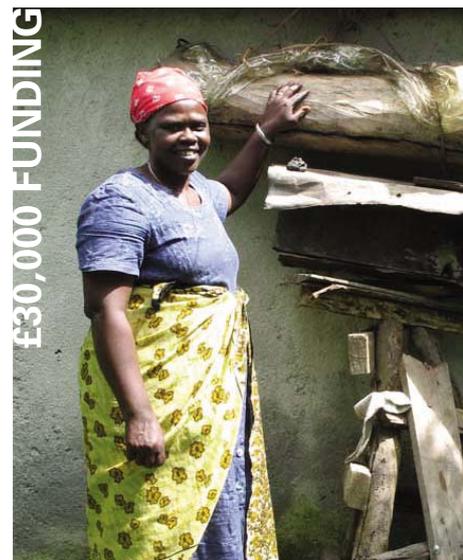
**People, Plants and Pollinators: Uniting conservation of insects and sustainable agriculture**



Dino has been recognized for his work to protect natural habitat in Kenya by promoting sustainable agriculture through insect conservation.

With only 1.7% of the country still forested, and with a booming population, biodiversity in Kenya is increasingly threatened by the need for greater food production. As agricultural land replaces natural habitat, invaluable ecosystem services are lost and subsequent declines in pollinating insects can have drastically negative impacts on crop productivity. However, Dino and his team at **Nature Kenya** are channeling local expertise and working alongside communities, schools and farmers to develop a better understanding of the role of pollinators in maintaining healthy ecosystems. They are showing local farmers how to avoid damaging agricultural practices and championing the role of insects. As a result, Dino's work is ensuring that these tiny creatures continue providing their irreplaceable services, helping create a more sustainable future for Kenya's people and wildlife. [www.naturekenya.org/insectcommittee](http://www.naturekenya.org/insectcommittee)

£30,000 FUNDING





### Winner of the Whitley Award donated by HSBC Private Bank M.D. Madhusudan, INDIA

#### Making good neighbours: Conflict reduction between people and endangered wildlife, Western Ghats



Madhu is the director of the well respected NGO **Nature Conservation Foundation** and is being supported in his work to reduce human-wildlife conflict within India's Western Ghats. With 350 people squeezed into every km<sup>2</sup>, and home to up to 500 tigers, 15,000 elephants and a number of other endangered species, this is the world's most densely populated biodiversity hotspot.

As a result, the work of Madhu and his team is crucial in resolving the inevitable tension that arises over space and resources. Through scientific research and the involvement of local communities, park authorities and local government, Madhu and his team are able to develop solutions that are fair and beneficial to both people and wildlife alike. By promoting sustainable land use and improved protection of livestock and agricultural land, the human cost of conservation is lowered and the chance of conflict greatly reduced. The resulting peace is essential if there is to be any future for India's tigers and other endangered species amongst an ever growing human population. [www.ncf-india.org](http://www.ncf-india.org)

### Winner of the Whitley Award donated by Paula and Mario Frering Emil Todorov, BULGARIA

#### Wetlands of the Lower Danube: Protecting critical migratory corridors for globally threatened birds



Emil and his team at the **Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds** are carrying out high impact conservation work to protect the biodiversity of the Lower Danube. Through effective communication and cooperation with policy-makers at one level, and with the region's local communities at another, Emil is raising awareness of the importance of the region's wetlands as a vital breeding ground for endangered bird species, such as the Red-breasted Goose and Dalmatian Pelican.

Key to the project is the training of local people as "caretakers", who will assist in carrying out surveys that will identify important nesting sites and migratory corridors across the region. The results of these surveys will be used to facilitate informed management planning, ensure effective protection of ecosystems and reduce conflict between the interests of development and wildlife. [www.bspb.org](http://www.bspb.org)



### Winner of the Whitley Award donated by the Shears Foundation

#### Pruthu Fernando, SRI LANKA

#### Asian elephants and people: Taking conservation beyond protected area boundaries



Pruthu has been backed in his efforts to conserve Sri Lanka's elephants

beyond the boundaries of protected areas. Chairman of the **Centre for Conservation and Research** in Colombo, Pruthu has demonstrated scientifically that the space afforded the country's elephant population by the current network of protected areas is not sufficient to ensure their future survival. The mosaic of forest and open spaces that elephants require for foraging are mostly created and maintained by seasonal agriculture practices, outside of parks. Clashes with people have become inevitable. Pruthu's work addresses the source of conflict and aims to lower its impact on the people that share land with elephants.

Farmers are being trained to "elephant-proof" their crops by developing effective methods of fencing. New strategies, such as the seasonal sharing of farmland, are also being explored. Pruthu's work in Southern Sri Lanka will initially benefit 240 farmer families and 300 elephants but, if as is hoped, his methods are adopted nationally, this will increase to 200,000 families and up to 4,000 elephants.

[www.ccrsl.org](http://www.ccrsl.org)



# CONTINUATION FUNDING

WFN stays in close touch with winners, offering support, contacts and advice. When funding allows, the most successful are invited to reapply after the conclusion of their Whitley Award work and once their final report has been received and assessed.

This **Continuation Funding** allows WFN to continue our link between you and our most effective winners. We are proud to have contributed to their ongoing success.

- 1 **Gerardo Ceballos** (Whitley Awards 2006)  
**Further £60,160 awarded from 2007 to 2008**  
Grassland ecosystem conservation, MEXICO
- 2 **Lourdes Mugica Valdés** (Whitley Awards 2001)  
**Further £30,000 awarded 2006 to 2008**  
Waterbird and wetlands conservation, CUBA
- 3 **Nicole Auil** (Whitley Awards 2005)  
**Further £30,000 awarded in 2008**  
Wildlife sanctuary management and community development, BELIZE
- 4 **Randall Arauz** (Whitley Awards 2004)  
**Further £164,000 awarded 2006 to 2008 (including £54,000 from BBC Wildlife Fund)**  
Shark conservation, COSTA RICA
- 5 **Didiher Chacon-Chaverri** (Whitley Awards 2005)  
**Further £30,000 awarded 2006 to 2007**  
Caribbean sea turtle conservation, COSTA RICA
- 6 **Patrica Majluf** (Whitley Awards 2006)  
**Further £60,000 awarded from 2009**  
Sustainable fisheries, PERU
- 7 **Luis Aguirre** (Whitley Awards 2007)  
**Further £60,000 awarded from 2009**  
Bats and ecosystems, BOLIVIA
- 8 **Laury Cullen** (Whitley Awards 2002)  
**Further £144,819 awarded 2008 to 2009 (including £54,819 from BBC Wildlife Fund)**  
Jaguar and habitat conservation, BRAZIL
- 9 **Claudio Padua** (Whitley Awards 1999)  
**Further £34,384 awarded 2006 to 2009**  
Black-faced Lion Tamarin and habitat conservation, BRAZIL
- 10 **Andres Novaro** (Whitley Awards 2005)  
**Further £30,000 awarded in 2007**  
Long-term Conservation of the Patagonian and Andean Steppe, ARGENTINA

- 11 **Silas Siakor** (Whitley Awards 2002)  
**Further £15,000 awarded in 2006**  
Sustainable forest resource management, LIBERIA
- 12 **Daniela Hamidovic** (Whitley Awards 2000)  
**Further £15,517 awarded in 2007**  
Longfingered bat and habitat conservation, CROATIA
- 13 **Emilian Stoynov** (Whitley Awards 2007)  
**Further £40,000 awarded in 2009**  
Community / wildlife conflict, BULGARIA
- 14 **Achilles Byaruhanga** (Whitley Awards 2004)  
**Further £15,000 awarded 2006**  
Wetland conservation and community development program, UGANDA
- 15 **Kerryn Morrison / Lindy Rodwell** (Whitley Awards 1999)  
**Further £90,000 awarded 2006 to 2009**  
Crane and Wetland Conservation through capacity building, SOUTH AFRICA & UGANDA



In the last 4 years\*, WFN has given a further **£1,586,465** in Continuation Funding alone to support the ongoing work of **27 Whitley Award Winners in 20 countries!**

- 16 Claudio Sillero** (Whitley Awards 1998)  
**Further £15,000 awarded 2006**  
Afroalpine conservation through community empowerment, ETHIOPIA
- 17 Gargi Banerji** (Whitley Awards 2000)  
**Further £413,385 awarded 2006 to present (in partnership with Big Lottery Fund, £500,000 over 5 yrs)**  
Water access & wasteland development for marginalized communities, INDIA
- 18 Romulus Whitaker** (Whitley Awards 2005)  
**Further £20,000 awarded in 2007**  
Establishing rainforest research and education station, INDIA
- 19 Charudutt Mishra** (Whitley Awards 2005)  
**Further £60,000 awarded from 2007 to 2008**  
Snow leopard conservation in the Himalayas, INDIA
- 20 Vivek Menon** (Whitley Awards 2001)  
**Further £30,000 awarded in 2009**  
Community-led conservation of elephant habitats and corridors, INDIA
- 21 Jargal Jamsranjav** (Whitley Awards 2004)  
**Further £30,000 awarded in 2006**  
Sustainable resource management and community development, MONGOLIA

- 22 Dami Buchori** (Whitley Awards 2000)  
**Further £15,000 awarded 2006**  
Ecosystem Conservation through sustainable agriculture, INDONESIA
- 23 Lynn Clayton** (Whitley Awards 1998)  
**Further £15,000 awarded in 2007**  
Forest Conservation in Sulawesi, INDONESIA
- 24 Amanda Vincent** (Whitley Awards 1994)  
**Further £31,500 awarded in 2006**  
Seahorse conservation, PHILIPPINES.
- 25 Sergei Bereznuik** (Whitley Awards 2006)  
**Further £62,700 awarded from 2007 to 2008**  
Amur tiger and leopard conservation through law enforcement and outreach activities, RUSSIA
- 26 Dmitry Lisitsyn** (Whitley Awards 2006)  
**Further £60,000 awarded from 2009**  
Bear Management Plan for Sakhalin Island, RUSSIA
- 27 Alifereti Tawake** (Whitley Awards 2004)  
**Further £15,000 awarded in 2006**  
Sustainable management of marine resources, FIJI

\* Dec 2005 to Dec 2009

# NEWS MORE AWARDS FOR OUR WINNERS

Whitley Awards aren't just about funding. They boost the profile of winners internationally. Here we highlight the further recognitions won in 2009 by some of our previous winners.

Jittin Ritthirat has received a **Rotary Award** for her work to reduce human-elephant conflict in Thailand, whilst **Emil Todorov** has been nominated for **2009 Bulgarian of the Year** for his endeavors in conserving the wetlands of the Lower Danube!

2004 winner **Rodrigo Medellin** (Mexico) and 2005 winner **Romulus Whitaker** (India) are both winners of prestigious **Rolex Laureate awards**, worth \$50,000. Further recognition for Rodrigo's work in Mexico has come in the form of a **Volkswagen Prize "Por Amor al Planeta"**, also worth \$50,000.

2002 Gold Award winner, **Laury Cullen**, has won a \$25,000 grant from **Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation**

Claudio & Suzana Padua



**Fund** in support of his work conserving jaguars in Brazil.

1999 Whitley Award winner, **Claudio Padua**, has won the **2009 Social Entrepreneurs Award** and has been featured on the front page of Sao Paulo's largest newspaper, Folha. Claudio, together with his wife Suzana, has been rewarded for innovative work conserving endangered species in Brazil, whilst bringing tangible benefits to impoverished local communities.

## WFN team up with WWF-UK to offer Challenge Grants



WFN have joined forces with WWF-UK to offer a new and exciting form of Continuation Funding, worth £13,500 per grant, to previous Whitley Award winners. The grant encourages complementary working between WWF local offices and WFN grassroots conservation leaders, providing the opportunity to proactively share ideas and solutions. WFN believes strongly in the need for greater partnership and collaboration within the conservation sector. By combining efforts to achieve shared objectives, conservation deliverables can be enhanced. We look forward to reporting back on their impact.



## WFN partnership with HSBC leads to innovative support opportunity in India

As a result of winning the 2009 Whitley Award, donated by HSBC Private Bank, MD Madhusadan has received another tremendous boost in support of his work in the Western Ghats. All HSBC customers across India are now able to donate money direct to Madhu's project everytime they withdraw cash. Whenever an HSBC customer uses an ATM machine they are given the opportunity to donate a sum of money to a selection of four charities, including Madhu's NGO, Nature Conservation Foundation.

# WHITLEY ALUMNI

## WORKING TOGETHER

The Whitley Alumni represent a global network of leading conservationists who are sharing ideas and joining forces to solve common challenges

**USA** – 2009 winners **Jittin Ritthirat** and **Pruthu Fernando** have taken part in a workshop, organised by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC, to discuss the role US zoos can play in wild elephant conservation. They have also been asked to join a proposed elephant conservation advisory group.



**COSTA RICA** – 2004 Whitley Gold Award winner **Randall Arauz** (above left), and his NGO PRETOMA, have teamed up with fellow Whitley Alumni, **Diego Amorocho** (2008 Associate Award Winner, above right) to work on the conservation of endangered marine species, including sea turtles, in the eastern Pacific.

## TONY HARE

We were greatly saddened to hear of the sudden loss of our close colleague, Tony Hare, who died unexpectedly on Wednesday 6th January 2010. Tony worked with the Whitley Awards for almost a decade and was a vital member of the Ceremony team as the man behind

our confident speakers. Year after year, Tony achieved amazing things with our Whitley Award winners, transforming nervous, overly modest speakers into eloquent and passionate advocates of conservation. He will be greatly missed.

## New Contact details WFN has moved!

Our new office can be found at:  
33 Drayson Mews, London, W8 4LY  
t: 020 7368 6568  
e: info@whitleyaward.org  
w: www.whitleyaward.org

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