



WEN WHITLEY FUND FOR NATURE

2008 Whitley Award Winners

15th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WHITLEY AWARDS



Deepak Apte, INDIA
Giant Clams and local livelihoods at Lakshadweep



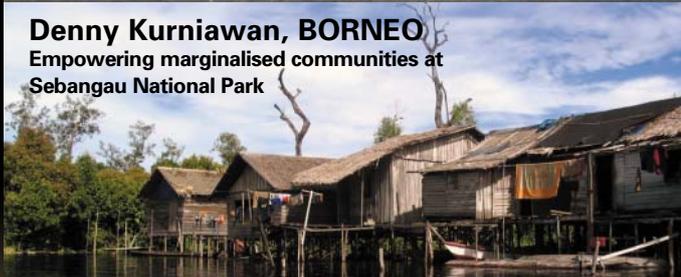
Ernesto Ráez-Luna, PERU
Conserving the headwaters of the Amazon



Patrícia Medici, BRAZIL
The Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative



Jean Wiener, HAITI
Reforestation and action for people and environment



Denny Kurniawan, BORNEO
Empowering marginalised communities at
Sebangau National Park



Marleny Rosales-Meda, GUATEMALA
Sustainable hunting for the Maya-Q'eqchi'



Liu Yi, CHINA
The China Mangrove
Protection Project

Read more at
www.whitleyaward.org

DOUBLE GOLD AWARD WINNERS



Çağan Şekercioğlu, TURKEY
Wetland restoration for people
and birds, Kuyucuk Lake



Rodrigo Hucke-Gaete, CHILE
Blue Whales: The Giants of
Marine Conservation

Dear Friends,

2008 was a landmark year for WFN, with celebration of two Gold Award Winners and our 15th Anniversary. Our network has grown, and to date we have recognised over 100 leading conservationists in 55 countries. The time feels



right to begin sharing lessons learned more widely and with this in mind, 2008 was also the first year the Whitley Awards were represented at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Spain.

Held every 4 years, the congress brings together more than 8,000 of the world's leaders in sustainable development, from governments, NGOs, business, the UN and academia, to debate, network, learn and vote on future action for global sustainability. With myself and WFN trustee Catherine Faulks attending, it was a fantastic opportunity to meet potential winners, catch up with old Whitley Award friends, and present to the congress on topics such as how to apply for an award, and how NGOs can grow private sector support.

A poignant moment of the meeting was the announcement that one quarter of all mammals are at threat of extinction according to new data from the 2008 IUCN Red List. In the face of such facts we were all urged to celebrate the positive and seek to replicate it. Indeed, this is what the Whitley Awards are all about – recognising living success stories and sharing them around the world. See page 4 for a glance at some of the species successes our winners have contributed to with your support

We are eagerly anticipating November when Fernando Trujillo from Colombia and Achilles Byaruhanga from Uganda visit us in London. On Tuesday 11th November we are hosting drinks to hear more about their work to protect river dolphins in the Amazon, and to safeguard Nabajjuzi wetland in Africa, an important bird area. All are very welcome – if you would like to come, please email us at info@whitleyaward.org or call the WFN office on 020 7602 3443.

We do hope you can join us,

Georgina Domberger (née Ponder)
Director, WFN



Woolly monkey

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2008 ASSOCIATE AWARD WINNERS!

Since 2005, WFN has given Associate Awards (AAs) to applicants and finalists who though not quite ready for a full Whitley Award, show outstanding promise. Several AA winners have gone on to reapply to us successfully after a few years, suggesting these grants are a valuable tool in encouraging a new generation of conservation leaders. In 2008, 7 AA winners were selected, each receiving £10,000 in project funding. **Congratulations!**



Mathew Akon – Tree kangaroos as flagships for the Torricelli Mountain Range, **Papua New Guinea**



Angela Maldonado – woolly monkeys and Participatory Conservation Strategy for the Calderon Basin of the Amazon, **Colombia**



Carlos Peres – Trade-offs between biodiversity & land value in the 'Arc of Deforestation', Amazonian frontier, **Brazil**



Zahirul Islam – Sea turtle conservation through working with the communities of Cox's Bazar, **Bangladesh**



Diego Amorcho – Sea turtle conservation in protected areas of the Colombian Pacific, **Colombia**



Rebecca Pradhan – Community-led conservation of critically endangered White-bellied Heron, **Bhutan**



Yang Xin – Environmental investigation of the dam submerged area of the Upper Yangtze, **China**



THE IMPACT OF AWARDS

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

THE WHITLEY AWARDS

What impact does winning a Whitley Award have on a conservation leader? Beyond funding and the Ceremony, does the Award really result in greater profile and how can this help a project longer-term? We asked one of this years' Whitley Gold Award Winners, Çağan.

What did it feel like to win the Whitley Gold Award in May?

It was an indescribable elation, the biggest honour I've ever received. You can imagine what a surprise it was to receive the Whitley Gold Award – from Princess Anne no less! But even then I had no idea the Award would have such a positive impact on our work, the magnitude of it. I was overjoyed to see our footage of Kuyucuk Lake made into a documentary narrated by my hero David Attenborough – the first Turkey wildlife documentary to have that honour. It was also an enormous relief to win as we had a passion and big plans for Kuyucuk but not enough funding. It is an amazing feeling to have what you believe in and have worked for recognised internationally.

What was the most memorable part of the week you were in London?

I have to admit it was the surprise of getting a Gold Award. What will also stay with me is the sense of camaraderie with my passionate colleagues in conservation and the absolute professionalism of the whole week. The understated website does not hint at the magnitude and elegance of the

organisation. I still cannot believe we spent an entire day with a speech coach!

You are Turkey's first ever Whitley Award winner! Has winning the award led to more recognition of your work in Turkey?

Yes! The recognition went up by orders of magnitude. The President of Turkey, Abdullah Gul personally congratulated me and the Whitley news was covered in every major outlet. Within an hour of having landed in Istanbul, I was rushed for a 15 minute live TV interview on the evening news. The Kars local government has made Kuyucuk its flagship environmental project and now presents our project and the Whitley Award to ministers visiting Kars,

that is being done out there, every day, we lack political clout - we have to make sure children are exposed to nature from an early age, and highlight our conservation successes to everyone. The Whitley Award is helping me to do that, to reach a much wider audience, in a very sudden way that would not have been possible otherwise.



After winning the Whitley Award, Cagan was interviewed live on national Turkish TV

most recently the Culture and Tourism Minister of Turkey. He visited us at Lake Kuyucuk on World Birdwatching Day, on 5th October. The recognition was even more important than funding as the government has accelerated the conservation process for the lake, something no amount of funding could achieve without the political will. Now our NGO is being approached to do other conservation projects in other parts of Kars.

What do you think is the greatest challenge for conservation leaders around the world today?

It is reaching the public, especially young people, most of whom are growing farther apart from nature. Without love and passion for the outdoors and wildlife, it is hard to

What is next for your project?

We have succeeded in bringing the Turkey Wetlands Commission to Kuyucuk (8th Oct) and together we have conducted the conservation mapping (zoning) and RAMSAR assessment of the lake. The report will be evaluated at the next commission meeting. We hope that the map and recommendation will be accepted and Kuyucuk will be on its way to becoming the first RAMSAR wetland in Turkey east of Kayseri, in an area of about 250,000 km². We'll be following the process to make sure this does not get delayed. Much has happened, with the celebration of the first Kuyucuk Nature Festival on 3rd -5th October, and the honored visit by a Turkish minister – these are important milestones in our growing efforts to develop sustainable, village-based ecotourism at Kuyucuk Lake.

convince people of the importance of protecting the world's ecosystems and biodiversity. Without the public's support for conservation, and raising awareness of the importance of the work



NEWS Whitley Award Winners bring endangered species back from the brink

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ provides a global evaluation of the conservation status of plants and animals. The system is designed to highlight the species at greatest risk of extinction. The 2008 list, released in October, has some sombre statistics – but it's not all bad news! Whitley Award winners across the globe are engaged in active conservation, working to bring species back from the brink. 5% of threatened mammals are showing signs of recovery in the wild. Whilst we can't claim credit for it all, Whitley Award winners have certainly played their part!

Black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*)

has moved from **Extinct in the Wild to Endangered**. Gerardo Ceballos, Whitley Award winner in 2006, first reintroduced the Black-footed Ferret to the Janos region of Mexico in 2001, with additional reintroductions in 2006 and 2007 enabled by WFN funding. Following the



widespread extermination of prairie-dogs, the ferrets key food source, throughout the 20th century, ferrets fell into sharp decline. Gerardo has led ambitious initiatives with local people to bring back not just the ferrets, but a functioning grassland ecosystem. As a result of his work, and that of the US Fish & Wildlife Service in the US, the Black-footed Ferret is no longer Extinct in the Wild.

Przewalski's Gazelle (*Procapra przewalskii*) – Successful conservation has resulted in increased numbers of Przewalski's Gazelle and its threat status has changed from **Critically Endangered to Endangered**. This is a direct result of the work of Whitley Award winner Zhigang Jiang in China. Hunted in the 1900s, and more recently out-competed by the 3 million head of livestock, today less than a few hundred gazelles survive on Qinghai plateau, a fragile, over-grazed grassland. Since 1994, Zhigang has worked directly with indigenous people on conflict resolution, making key gazelle habitat a national nature reserve free from illegal hunting.

Black Lion Tamarin

(*Leontopithecus chrysopygus*) – long-term



supporters of WFN will know we have supported Brazilian NGO IPE and Claudio Padua for over a decade. Ongoing intensive conservation efforts begun in 1986, concentrating on site-based measures such as reintroduction, translocation, corridors, improved land use, and environmental education around Morro do Diabo State Park, have contributed to the down listing of this species from **Critically Endangered to Endangered**. IPE has played a central part in this success.



Spotlight on Sharks

– Shark numbers worldwide are plummeting, but public awareness of this is low. At the IUCN Congress, 2004 Whitley Gold Award winner, Randall Arauz and his NGO Pretoma made great leaps forward in their campaign, putting forward three motions for IUCN Resolutions affecting sharks, all with favourable results. Of particular note was the **IUCN Resolution on a Global Policy Against Shark Finning**, which was supported by 98.3% of government votes and 96.6% of NGO votes. We throw all our support behind Pretoma in their campaign!



More Awards for our winners!

GOLDEN ARK AWARD – Charudutt Mishra and Patricia Medici, Whitley Awards winners in 2005 and 2008, were honoured with the Netherlands' 'Golden Ark Award 2008'. Charu's work to protect snow leopard in the Himalayas, and Patricia's Brazilian work to conserve tapirs and their habitat has won them each a cash prize of £40,000.

BBC WILDLIFE FUND – In January, Whitley Awardees Laury Cullen from Brazil and Randall Arauz from Costa Rica were both recipients of funding and publicity from the BBC Wildlife Fund as part of the 'Saving Planet Earth' Series and fundraiser launched in summer 2007 – a great achievement!

EQUATOR PRIZE – In October, we were delighted to hear two Associate Award winners David Kuria (Kenya, 2006) and Patterson Shed (Micronesia, 2005) have been recognised by the Equator Prize, with a minimum prize of £2,500 and support of the UN.

Specialist charity accountant joins WFN

After many years at WFN, Julia Mizen has passed on the baton to take up new challenges. She will be greatly missed! We welcomed Helen Sturdy as our new Finance Manager in August. After gaining experience as an accountant in the commercial sector, Helen specialised in charity accounting and management in 2003, gaining qualifications including the ICAEW's DChA. She is already proving a great asset!

Whitley Fund for Nature

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