



2015 Whitley Awards 



PROGRAMME

7.00pm Reception

8.00pm Kate Humble – welcome to
the Whitley Awards 2015

Edward Whitley, Founder

Finalist films and speeches

Presentation of Awards by
HRH The Princess Royal

Continuation Funding

Presentation of the
Whitley Gold Award

HRH The Princess Royal,
Patron

9.15pm Drinks and supper

WELCOME TO THE GREEN OSCARS!

Dear Friends,

I would like to begin by thanking you for your most generous support over the past year, which has enabled us to give £1.1 million in Awards – a record for the charity.

Our mission is to offer funding, training and recognition to support the work of proven grassroots conservation leaders in developing countries. This means that as well as giving financial support, we aim to boost the profile of our Award winners and increase international awareness of their projects. Winners receive professional media and speech training during the Awards week, and we work to secure media coverage in both the UK and in the winners' home countries.

Tonight we celebrate seven new Whitley Award Finalists who join us from India, Colombia, Nigeria, Brazil, Indonesia and the Philippines. They have been selected from over 170 applicants and will each receive £35,000 to support their work over the coming year.

The Ceremony provides a spotlight for new winners, but this year we also want to highlight the importance of long-term support. We invest in successful Whitley Award winners by offering further 'Continuation Funding' of up to £70,000 over two years. We recognise that effective conservation can take time and, by supporting our winners with larger grants over longer periods, we enable them to achieve lasting results.

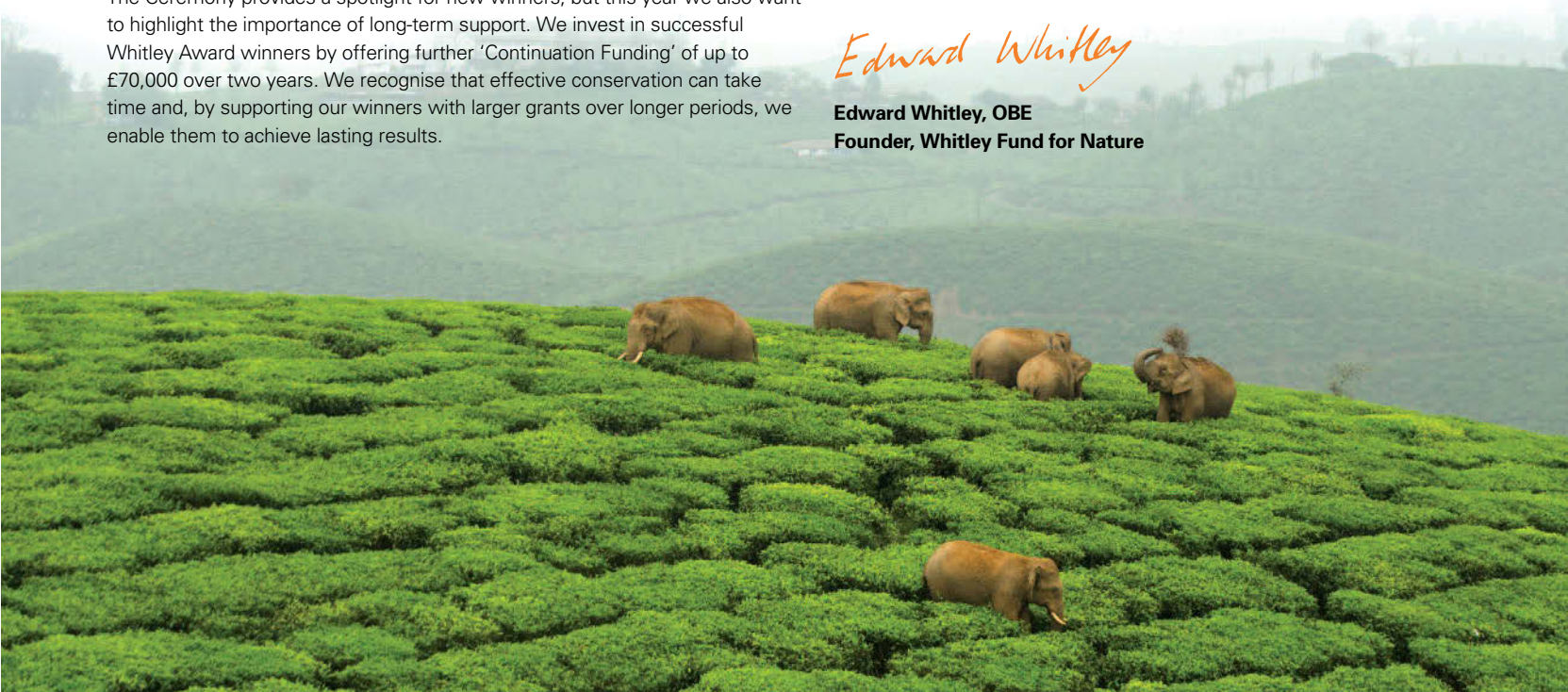
We are also thrilled to welcome our 2015 Whitley Gold Award winner, Dino Martins. Dino received a Whitley Award in 2009 for his efforts to conserve Kenya's pollinators through sustainable farming practices. Dino will receive £50,000 in project funding over one year to expand his work and tackle the use of unregistered and harmful pesticides in Kenya.

Finally, I would like to thank our wonderful team at the charity who make all this possible. Whilst Georgina has been on maternity leave, Danni and Rebecca have managed the entire process. Brian, and more recently Harry, have provided tremendous support and our Trustees, Friends Committee, Application Screeners, Judging Panel and volunteers here tonight have combined to help the charity exceed all targets for this year.

Thank you very much for joining us and for your generous donations, without which we would not be able to support the inspiring conservationists here this evening.

Edward Whitley

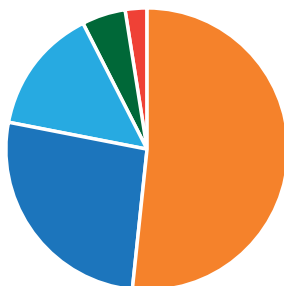
**Edward Whitley, OBE
Founder, Whitley Fund for Nature**





Application Origins

Africa	90
Asia	46
Americas	25
Europe	9
Oceania	4
Total	174



Judging Panel

Edward Whitley Chairman & Trustee, WFN
Marianne Carter Programme Director, Conservation Capacity, FFI
Dr. Glyn Davies Director of Programmes, WWF-UK
Georgina Domberger Director, WFN
Catherine Faulks Trustee, WFN
Dr. Simon Lyster Chairman, World Land Trust
Dr. Dino Martins Chair, Insect Committee of Nature Kenya; Whitley Gold Award winner 2015
Danni Parks Awards Manager, WFN

Application Screeners

Prof. E.J. Milner-Gulland Prof. in Conservation Science, Imperial College London
Dr. Charudutt Mishra International Science & Conservation Director, Snow Leopard Trust; Whitley Gold Award winner 2005
Dr. Heather Koldewey Section Head, Global Programmes, ZSL
Dr. Jon Paul Rodriguez President, Provita; Whitley Award winner 2003
Danni Parks Awards Manager, WFN
David Wallis WFN Consultant

Awards Week Timetable

Sunday Arrivals; Meet and greet
Monday Interviews with the WFN Judging Panel; Reception with the Friends of WFN
Tuesday Media training in print, radio and TV, sponsored by HSBC
Wednesday Professional speech training; Press conference; Media interviews; Whitley Awards Ceremony
Thursday Information exchange at WWF-UK; NGO networking event
Friday Signing of contracts; Farewell lunch; Departures

2015 WHITLEY AWARD FINALISTS

With warmest thanks to our Whitley Award Donors



Sarah
Chenevix-Trench



The William Brake
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in memory of
William Brake



arcus
FOUNDATION

Ananda Kumar

Elephant messengers: using innovative communication systems to enable human-elephant coexistence in southern **India**



Costly neighbours

With India's growing economy and subsequent development encroaching on elephant habitat, people and elephants are forced to share space and resources. Human-elephant conflict threatens not only elephant populations, but also human lives and livelihoods. Each year in India, 400 people and more than 100 elephants are killed as a result of conflict. Elephant damage to crops and property only compounds the issue, with communities living in fear and often resorting to retaliatory measures to drive herds away.

Fostering coexistence

Ananda Kumar is a scientist with the Nature Conservation Foundation, India. He leads the Anamalai Elephant Programme which aims to reduce conflict and increase people's tolerance of elephants across two different landscapes in the Western Ghats, home to the largest elephant populations in India. His programme began in the Anamalai hills, where 70,000 people's livelihoods rely on tea and coffee plantations and human fatalities from accidental elephant encounters pose a serious threat. He is now expanding his work to include the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, a forest-farm landscape that supports subsistence farmers at risk of elephant crop damage.

Innovative technology

In collaboration with government authorities, plantation companies, village councils and local communities, Ananda has set up an 'Elephant Information Network', which acts as an early warning system to help avoid surprise encounters, and foster coexistence. The system uses technology to alert people when elephants are nearby, via SMS, phone calls and mobile-operated light indicators, enabling people to take alternative routes and get to safety. By sharing real-time information on elephant locations, Ananda's project is helping to save lives, whilst reducing the need for aggressive actions to scare away elephants that cause them significant stress.



Ananda's project aims to:

- Strengthen and expand the Elephant Information Network to avoid human fatalities and property damage by elephants.
- Improve understanding of human-elephant conflict, and develop strategies to reduce incidents of crop damage.
- Investigate the physiological effect of deterrent measures on elephants and adopt approaches that minimise stress.

Why it matters:

- Nearly 80% of Asia's elephants live outside protected areas.
- Early warning systems will help to save human lives.
- The stress induced by conflict with humans may be detrimental to the long-term survival of elephants.



“The early warning systems have enabled people to avoid direct encounters with elephants.”

Jayson Ibañez

Preventing further decline
of the Philippine eagle
on Mindanao Island

Philippines



Last stronghold

The Philippine eagle is one of the largest eagles in the world. Endemic to the Philippines, the species is Critically Endangered, with over half the remaining nesting pairs found in unprotected forest on Mindanao Island. Despite being heralded as the country's national bird, the Philippine eagle is threatened by destruction of nesting sites as a result of deforestation, accidental capture in traps set for wild pigs, and illegal hunting by farmers in retaliation to predation of domestic animals and livestock.



Indigenous land

Mindanao Island is home to 17 indigenous groups of people, with those living in remote rural areas remaining socio-economically and politically marginalised. Poverty often forces local people to sell off land to survive, which in turn threatens eagle habitat. Philippine eagles use their nesting sites repeatedly, making the protection of nesting territories key to population recovery.



Conservation symbol

As the Research and Conservation Director at the Philippine Eagle Foundation, Jayson has implemented a holistic approach to conserve the species. His work has led to the adoption of 'Local Conservation Areas' as a strategy to manage 500km² of eagle habitat, with the help of 350 indigenous people employed as forest guards to protect eagle nesting sites and prevent hunting. To date, more than 450 households have benefitted from increased income through sustainable livelihoods, improved access to clean water, health services and education. In doing so, Jayson is lifting families out of poverty, whilst safeguarding eagles and the forest.



With his Award Jayson will:

- Scale up his project to enable community conservation across seven nesting sites, reaching over 20% of known Philippine eagle nesting territories.
- Collect data on the ecology of and threats to Philippine eagles, to inform policy and underpin management both locally and across the archipelago.
- Conduct educational outreach, and work with policy makers to increase commitment and capacity for the effective management of eagle nesting territories as Local Conservation Areas.

Why it matters:

- Fewer than 400 nesting pairs of Philippine eagles remain in the wild.
- Protection of the Philippine eagle will also conserve other endemic wildlife making it an umbrella species for the Philippines.
- 40,000 ha of forest are cleared each year on Mindanao Island due to commercial timber extraction, unsustainable farming practices and mining.

“Conservation decisions should be made at the local level, where benefits can be maximised.”

Rosamira Guillen

Proyecto Tití: expanding conservation efforts to protect the cotton-top tamarin in northern **Colombia**



Critically Endangered

Threatened by habitat destruction and hunting for the illegal pet trade, populations of the cotton-top tamarin have fallen dramatically. Found only in isolated forest fragments in Colombia, they are now classified as one of the most endangered primates on the planet, with fewer than 7,400 estimated to remain in the wild.



A leading light

Rosamira Guillen is Executive Director of Fundación Proyecto Tití, an organisation established in 2004 to ensure the survival of these small monkeys and their habitat through scientific research, education, and sustainable livelihood activities. Since she discovered their plight, over 1,700 ha of forest have been protected. Education programmes to increase awareness and discourage families from keeping exotic pets have benefited more than 2,000 children, and eco-friendly jobs have increased income, whilst reducing people's need to cut down the forest for firewood.

Replicating success

The project is working. Recent surveys indicate the cotton-top tamarin population is stabilising, and a National Conservation Programme has been developed with stakeholders. To ensure this upward trajectory continues, Rosamira is scaling up her work to a new site, as part of a long-term conservation plan.

“When I heard that these tamarins were found only in Colombia and that they were in danger of becoming extinct in my lifetime, I felt that I had to do something!”



Rosamira's project will:

- Identify priority forest fragments where cotton-top tamarins are still found, and work in partnership with local communities and environmental authorities to ensure their protection.
- Establish sustainable livelihoods that generate income and reduce people's dependency on forest resources.
- Engage local communities with education programmes to increase awareness, and inspire young people to become wildlife ambassadors.

Why it matters:

- The project will benefit 10% of the cotton-top tamarin population.
- Only 8% of Colombia's tropical dry forest remains intact.
- This work will also conserve habitat for ocelots, sloths, armadillos, anteaters, howler and capuchin monkeys, as well as many other species.



Inaoyom Imong

Saving Cross River gorillas through community-based conservation in the Mbe Mountains, **Nigeria**



Critical corridor

Home to the Critically Endangered Cross River gorilla and Endangered Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee, the tropical montane forests of southeastern Nigeria are among the most biodiverse in Africa. Located within this unique region are the Mbe Mountains, which lie close to the border with Cameroon. Rising to heights of 900 metres, they provide a critical link between two protected areas, and connect three increasingly isolated populations of Cross River gorillas. Maintaining this habitat corridor is therefore essential for the long-term survival of the species in Nigeria.

Illegal hunting

Despite recognition as an important site for biodiversity, the Mbe Mountains lack legal protection. With the growing human population, increasing deforestation for subsistence agriculture, and hunting to supply the illegal bushmeat trade, Cross River gorillas face an uncertain future.



Community protection

Inaoyom Imong is Director of the Cross River Gorilla Landscape Project at the Wildlife Conservation Society in Nigeria. Working directly with nine local communities, his project has established a Community Conservation Association that manages a core area at the heart of the Mbe Mountains. By providing training and technical support, Inaoyom is enabling the active involvement of local communities in conservation, and giving people a sense of ownership over the protection of the forest and its great apes.

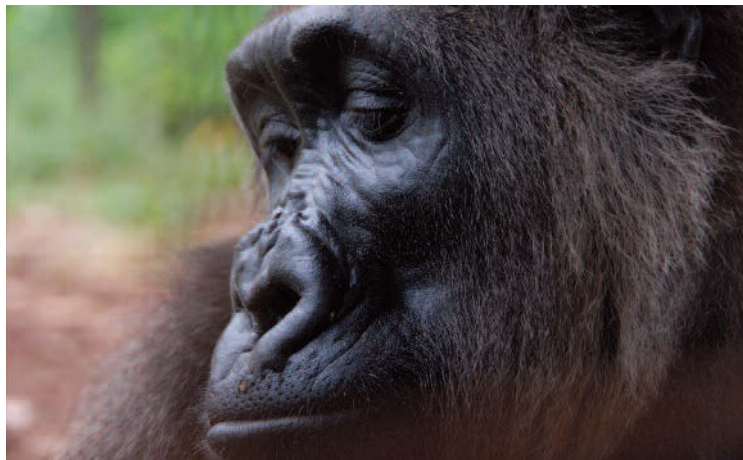


Inaoyom's project aims to:

- Build capacity for community management of the Mbe Mountains, and secure its legal status as a community wildlife sanctuary.
- Train teams of eco-guards to improve the protection and monitoring of Cross River gorillas.
- Develop sustainable alternative livelihoods such as bee-keeping and ecotourism to reduce pressure on the forest.
- Increase local awareness about the status of Cross River gorillas and other threatened species.

Why it matters:

- The Cross River gorilla is the most threatened ape in Africa, with just 300 individuals remaining.
- Over 900,000 reptiles, birds and mammals are sold each year for bushmeat in the Nigeria-Cameroon border region.
- The project will act as a model for replication elsewhere in Nigeria.



“There has been no hunting of gorillas in the Mbe Mountains since inception of the project.”

Pramod Patil

Community conservation of the great Indian bustard in the Thar Desert: a landscape-level approach
India



Diminishing range

The great Indian bustard is Critically Endangered, having been extirpated from 90% of its former range in India. The largest remaining population is found in the Thar Desert in Rajasthan, a vast landscape of sand dunes, scrublands and grasslands. It is the most densely human-populated desert in the world. Due to poor planning, lack of community involvement, and resulting public opposition to conservation, the great Indian bustard has disappeared from four protected areas designated for its conservation. Poaching and habitat loss from livestock grazing and agricultural encroachment have also contributed to its decline.

Doctor to conservationist

After his first sighting of the great Indian bustard in 2003, Pramod Patil, who was a young doctor at the time, made the life-changing decision to leave medicine and dedicate his life to the conservation of this rare bird. Now working for the Bombay Natural History Society, Pramod's past career has meant he is well equipped to gain the trust and respect of local people living in the Thar Desert, and establish the great Indian bustard as a flagship for grassland conservation.



Joined-up thinking

The great Indian bustard relies on a mosaic habitat of agro-pastoral land, making landscape-scale conservation essential to its protection. By working with communities and the State Forest Department, Pramod and his team are helping to change opinions, develop positive relationships between authorities and local people, and enable better management of grasslands on which both communities and bustards depend.



With his project Pramod will:

- Increase capacity of the State Forest Department to address poaching issues and set up anti-poaching teams involving local stakeholders.
- Establish a participatory monitoring network to engage people with conservation and gather crucial data on great Indian bustard status, range and threats.
- Educate communities and raise awareness of government support available for sustainable livelihoods that are in line with conservation efforts.

Why it matters:

- There are fewer than 250 great Indian bustards left in the wild.
- The probability of extinction within the next three generations is high, so urgent action is needed.
- Pramod's integrated approach will bring together civil, governmental and community groups to drive conservation efforts across an area of 500km².



“Saving pockets of grasslands here and there will not save the species, nor serve the community, and so we need a landscape-level of thinking.”

Arnaud Desbiez

Giant armadillos as a flagship species for the conservation of tropical scrublands in the Cerrado, **Brazil**



www.vivatatu.com.br



A conservation ambassador

In 2010 Arnaud Desbiez set up the Giant Armadillo Conservation Project in Brazil's Pantanal – the largest wetland in the world. This was the first long-term study of giant armadillos. At the time, little was known about this enigmatic species and few landowners even knew of its existence.

Ecosystem engineers

Initial research uncovered some surprising results. Radio-tracking giant armadillos has enabled Arnaud to map habitat use, whilst camera traps have revealed crucial information about parental care, and show armadillo burrows providing refuge for over 25 species, demonstrating their role as an 'ecosystem engineer'.

A national outreach campaign was launched reaching 65,000 people directly, and the giant armadillo was subsequently selected by State authorities as an indicator species for the creation of protected areas in the State of Mato Grosso do Sul.

Susceptible to extinction

The project is now expanding to the Cerrado, a tropical scrubland that has disappeared by more than 50% in the last 35 years. Compared to the pristine Pantanal, in the Cerrado the giant armadillo faces the threat of habitat loss, agricultural pesticides, fire, hunting and busy roads. The issues are more pressing considering the naturally low densities at which giant armadillos occur, making them more susceptible to local extinction.



Arnaud's project will:

- Collect data to support the creation of a network of protected areas and tackle threats to the species' survival in partnership with local stakeholders.
- Promote giant armadillos as a conservation flagship by conducting educational outreach among landowners, school children, and the public.
- Build capacity to conserve this rare species by providing Brazilian biologists and vets with hands-on training.

Why it matters:

- Only 2.2% of the Cerrado is under legal protection.
- Armadillos are one of the oldest groups of mammals and giant armadillos are often considered a living fossil.
- The provision of hands-on experience in conservation is vital for the growth of the profession in Brazil.



“More and more people are now aware of the species' existence and the important role they play as ecosystem engineers.”

www.giantarmadillo.org.br

Panut Hadisiswoyo

Conservation villages: building local capacity for the protection of Sumatran orangutans and their habitat, **Indonesia**



Unique ecosystem

A vast expanse of tropical lowland rainforest, the Leuser Ecosystem is the only place in the world where four Critically Endangered and iconic species still survive together – the Sumatran orangutan, tiger, elephant and rhino. Home to an estimated 85% of the remaining Sumatran orangutan population, the Leuser forests also provide vital ecosystem services to four million people. However, this unique landscape is under threat due to the booming oil palm industry, with local communities living alongside the Gunung Leuser National Park illegally expanding agricultural plantations into orangutan habitat.

Sowing knowledge

Founder of the Orangutan Information Centre, Panut Hadisiswoyo is leading the Community Agroforestry, Reforestation and Education programme (CARE), which works with communities living adjacent to the National Park. By providing training in agroforestry and organic farming techniques, the programme has enabled farmers to move away from monoculture plantations and develop sustainable livelihoods that are compatible with conservation. As a result, productivity of farmland has increased by 25% and pressure on the forest is decreasing.



Forest guardians

Through the CARE programme, Panut is encouraging local people to become guardians of the forest, creating a network of 'conservation villages'. In collaboration with local communities, almost 1,000 ha of degraded forest have been replanted with over a million native trees since 2007. Consequently, Sumatran orangutans, elephants, and sun bears have returned to these areas, instilling local pride in the project's success.

Panut's project aims to:

- Expand the network of conservation villages and the CARE programme to a new region bordering the National Park.
- Establish sustainable agriculture schemes with 100 farmers, and conduct reforestation activities by planting 66,000 trees at the new site.
- Raise awareness about the importance of orangutan and forest conservation, reaching 1,200 people from communities surrounding the park.

Why it matters:

- Sumatran orangutans are in danger of extinction if conservation efforts are not undertaken.
- In the last 25 years, 48% of Sumatra's forests have been lost due to logging, infrastructure, and agricultural development.
- The Leuser Ecosystem has been identified as one of the world's most irreplaceable protected areas by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



“People can now cultivate their land in a way that boosts income whilst protecting orangutans.”

Continuation Funding 2014

Whitley Award winners join a network of over 170 conservation leaders in 70 different countries, but our support doesn't end there. We offer additional Continuation Funding grants of up to £70,000 over two years to help our most successful past winners scale up their work. Over half of all Whitley Award winners go on to apply for these grants. In this way, we enable the continued growth of projects, creating a lasting impact.

In the past year, WFN has awarded £420,000 in Continuation Funding to 9 winners in 7 countries.

Karen Aghababayan 🦋 (2010)

White storks as a flagship for sustainable wetland management in Armenia and the South Caucasus region

£70,000

Ir Budiono 🦋 (2012)

Conserving Indonesia's last freshwater dolphins through effective protected area management, Borneo

£35,000

Rachel Graham 🦋 (2011)

Reversing the decline in sharks and rays throughout the Meso-American Barrier Reef

£70,000

M.D. Madhusudan 🦋 (2009)

Reducing human-wildlife conflict through landscape-level planning, India

£35,000

Patrícia Medici 🦋 (2008)

From the Pantanal to the Cerrado: expanding the Lowland Tapir Conservation initiative, Brazil

£70,000

Hotlin Ompusunggu 🦋 (2011)

Creating a win-win situation for people and primates in Borneo

£35,000

Claudio Padua 🦋 (1999)

Conserving the black lion tamarin in a fragmented habitat, Brazil

£35,000

Bernal Rodríguez-Herrera 🦋 (2012)

Delivering a regional strategy to conserve Central America's bats

£35,000

Marleny Rosales-Meda 🦋 (2008)

Sustainable resource management and environmental education, Guatemala

£35,000

🦋 (Year of first award)



WHITLEY GOLD AWARD WINNER 2015

Donated by the Friends & Scottish Friends of WFN

Each year a member of our alumni is selected to receive the Whitley Gold Award, a profile and PR prize worth £50,000 in project funding, awarded in recognition of their outstanding contribution to conservation.

Dino Martins

People, plants & pollinators: protecting the little things that power the planet



A global issue

One of every three bites of food we eat is dependent on pollinators.

These tiny insects – the bees, wasps, butterflies, moths, flies and beetles – play a critical role in crop pollination. The provision of this free ‘ecosystem service’ is worth an estimated \$250 billion annually to the global economy. Without pollinators, the planet’s food security would be at risk, with significant livelihood ramifications; and billions would need to be spent to pollinate crops artificially. However, the increased use of agricultural pesticides and loss of natural habitats has led pollinator numbers to decline dramatically.

From grassroots to government

Dino Martins is a Kenyan entomologist and Chair of the Insect Committee of Nature Kenya. For over 15 years, Dino has worked with farmers in East Africa to raise awareness about the importance of pollinators and encourage the adoption of more sustainable farming practices that conserve pollinators, boost yields, and improve livelihoods. Dino’s work has contributed to local and global conservation programmes, national policies and biodiversity strategies.



A Whitley Award winner in 2009 and a 2011 Continuation Funding recipient, with the support of WFN, Dino has:

- Reduced pesticide use on over 500 farms by up to 75%, and 10% of farms have stopped using them altogether, following outreach regarding the negative effect of pesticides on pollinators and, in turn, on crop yields.

- Improved local income and food security; all 500 farmers reached by the project have benefitted from increased crop yields, some by up to tenfold.

- Boosted awareness and produced a handbook of pollinator-friendly farming practices which has been accessed by over 150,000 farmers to date.

- Lobbied government to secure a ban of several highly toxic pesticides, which is now being implemented in Kenya.

- Worked with partners in government and civil society to develop Kenya’s first legislation to specifically protect bees from pesticides, and recognise their harmful effects.



With his Whitley Gold Award Dino will:

- Tackle the importation, use and spread of unregistered harmful pesticides entering Africa by working with local and international partners.

- Scale up the project to train 4,000 additional farmers in sustainable practices, increase the number of crop varieties monitored, and encourage the planting and conservation of hedgerows for pollinators.

- Develop practical publications for use by farmers that advocate conservation policy.

- Educate 200,000 children, 1,000 high school pupils and 100 university students about the importance of pollinators and sustainable agriculture.

- Encourage stewardship of nature and public engagement to celebrate pollinators through outreach and digital platforms.



“Pollinators put food on our tables, nutrition in our bodies and money in farmers’ pockets.”



Kenya

Thank you

We are most grateful for the generosity of all our Whitley Award and other major donors, our sponsors and Friends, including those who choose to remain anonymous. We are completely reliant on donations, so the more money we raise, the bigger impact we can have.

Make a difference

Please support us by donating at
www.whitleyaward.org

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Friends' Donations

The donations we receive from our Friends are the lifeblood of the charity and this year are supporting both the Whitley Gold Award given to Dino Martins and Continuation Funding grants.

*Donations received between
23rd April 2014 and 10th April 2015.*

£10,000 and above

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Speakers



Our host
Kate Humble

Kate is one of the UK's most loved wildlife presenters, known for her work on programmes such as Springwatch, Lambing Live, Into the Volcano and most recently, Kew on a Plate. As well as presenting, Kate runs her farm in Monmouthshire as a rural skills teaching centre connecting people with farming in the countryside.

To find out more, visit
www.humblebynature.com



With many thanks to
Sir David Attenborough,
WFN Trustee and narrator
of the 2015 winner films

Britain's best known natural history film-maker, Sir David Attenborough's distinguished career in broadcasting spans over 50 years. In January 2005, WFN were honoured to welcome him as a Trustee of the charity.



Whitley Gold Award Winner
Dr. Dino Martins

Dr. Dino Martins is a Kenyan entomologist and conservationist. He holds a PhD from Harvard University, is Chair of the Insect Committee of Nature Kenya, Technical Advisor to the UN Food & Agricultural Organisation (FAO), and has recently been appointed to the Intergovernmental Panel for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

Whitley Fund for Nature team

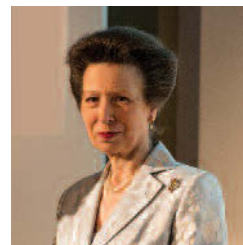
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Patron
HRH The Princess Royal

The Princess Royal has been patron of the Whitley Fund for Nature since 1999. During this time, she has met over 100 of our Whitley Award winners, and has visited winners in Brazil, Croatia and Colombia to see their work first-hand.

With thanks to

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Graphic Design DesignRaphael Ltd

Print Elephant Print Ltd

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Jayson Ibañez & front cover: Klaus Nigge
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