

2017 WHITLEY AWARDS





PROGRAMME

6.00pm Drinks reception

7.00pm Tom Heap, Compère

Edward Whitley, Founder

Finalist speeches and films narrated by Sir David Attenborough

Presentation of awards by HRH The Princess Royal

Announcement of the Whitley Gold Award

HRH The Princess Royal, Patron

8.15pm Supper & meet the winners

WELCOME TO THE GREEN OSCARS!

Dear Friends,

It is thanks to your most generous and longstanding support that we are here tonight to welcome six new **Whitley Award Finalists** to our growing network of conservation heroes. They join us from India, the Philippines, Venezuela, South Africa and Bolivia. Selected from 166 applicants from 66 countries, they will each receive **£35,000 in project funding** to support their work over the coming year.

We are also delighted to announce Zafer Kizilkaya as the winner of the **2017 Whitley Gold Award**. Worth £50,000 in project funding, the Gold Award is given in recognition of Zafer's outstanding work to conserve the coastal ecosystem in Gökova Bay, Turkey.

In 2010 Zafer established the country's first network of **community-managed marine reserves** and partnered with fishermen to implement more sustainable fishing practices. Today, fish stocks have recovered, local income has risen dramatically and Critically Endangered monk seals are returning to the Bay in increased numbers. His approach is so successful that Zafer plans to replicate it elsewhere in his home country and across the Mediterranean.

Since its creation nearly 25 years ago, the Whitley Fund for Nature has given over **£13.5 million to support the work of 185 conservation leaders** working to benefit wildlife

and communities in biodiversity-rich, resource-poor countries. In that time our mission to champion locally led projects has not wavered. This year we are celebrating '**conservation optimism**', with an aim to create a positive vision for the future, focused on solutions. The natural world is facing significant challenges, but, as our winners demonstrate, there are many **positive stories** to highlight.

Through the Awards we continue to identify what is working and bring it to scale. As we approach our 25th Anniversary next year, we are relying on our friends, old and new, to **help us** support the next generation of Whitley Award winners and also, very

importantly, **invest further funding** in the existing global network we have built together. The winners' projects are diverse and widespread; together they can be a strong, unified **global voice for conservation**. The network is already evolving organically. Targeted funding will help build stronger alliances for conservation and in doing so, build a more sustainable future.

On behalf of the charity and our winners, **thank you** to all of you, our valued partners, for joining us this evening and for your generous donations which allow us to recognise the conservationists whom we honour here tonight.

Edward Whitley

Edward Whitley OBE
Founder, Whitley Fund for Nature



Edward Whitley visiting winner Pablo Borboroglu's penguin conservation project in Argentina, 2016

MISSION

THE WHITLEY FUND FOR NATURE IS A FUNDRAISING AND GRANT-GIVING NATURE CONSERVATION CHARITY OFFERING RECOGNITION, TRAINING AND GRANTS TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF PROVEN GRASSROOTS CONSERVATION LEADERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

WFN SEEKS TO:

1

Find, recognise and fund proven grassroots conservation leaders in resource-poor, biodiversity-rich countries.

2

Champion and repeat fund the most effective winners.

3

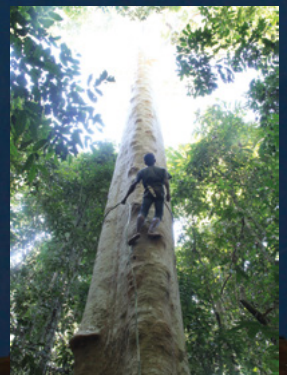
Support the replication and growth of effective conservation solutions.

4

Raise awareness of the work of winners and spread the message we can all make a difference to the conservation of wildlife and wild places.

5

Continually improve the effectiveness of our grant-making and charitable activities.



5 YEAR SUMMARY

WFN GRANT GIVING OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS (2012-2016)

76

Projects supported

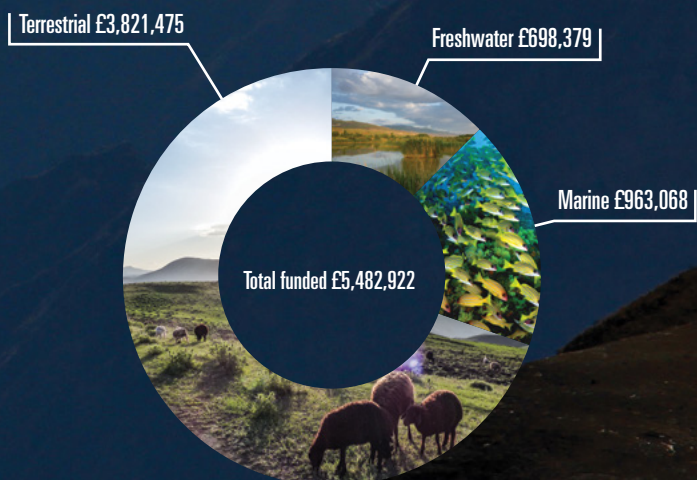
39

Countries funded

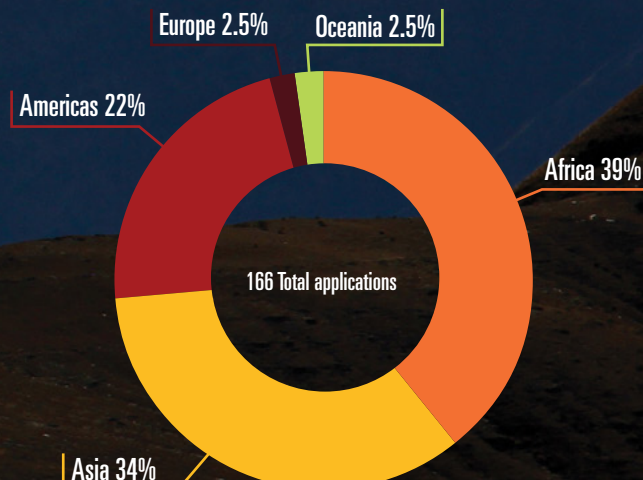
£5,482,922

Total grants given

Grants by habitat type (2012-2016)



Application origin (2017)



XIMENA VELEZ-LIENDO



BOLIVIA

www.prometa.org.bo

An uphill climb: enabling coexistence of Andean bears and farmers in the Bolivian mountains

THREATENED ECOSYSTEM

Bolivia is the southernmost country where Andean bears are found. Home to a third of suitable habitat for the species, the unprotected Inter Andean Dry Forests (IADF) represent an important stronghold for South America's only bear. Due to extensive agricultural conversion and high levels of human activity, this mountainous ecosystem is severely fragmented, making it one of the most endangered tropical forests on Earth.

CARNIVORE CONFLICT

Human-wildlife conflict is a global issue. As populations expand, people are more frequently sharing space with wildlife and conflict is on the rise. In Tarija, Bolivia, severe droughts have impacted agricultural production with crop losses reaching 80%, causing people to turn to livestock rearing. This has led to increased reports of cattle and goat depredation by native carnivores, and Andean bears are sometimes killed in retaliation.

NATIONAL ACTION

Ximena Velez-Liendo is Principal Researcher at grassroots NGO, PROMETA. With 18 years of experience working with Andean bears, Ximena led the first and only national-level habitat assessment of the species status in South America, which identified the IADF as a priority area for bear conservation. This cross-disciplinary project will generate the first population estimate for bears in the country, and scale up efforts to quantify human-bear conflict. The results will be used to support a national plan for the species' recovery and develop strategies to enable coexistence with farmers.



WITH HER WHITLEY AWARD XIMENA WILL:

- Increase understanding of human-bear conflict dynamics and population distribution
- Adopt interventions to reduce bear attacks on livestock and prevent damage to crops
- Train community members to undertake research and conservation measures
- Develop the country's first government supported Andean bear Conservation Action Plan with colleagues

"COEXISTENCE WITH LARGE CARNIVORES IS POSSIBLE WHEN CONSERVATION EFFORTS ARE INITIATED AND OWNED BY LOCAL PEOPLE."



Bolivia holds
1/3 of the world's
Andean bears



Poverty levels reach 90% in the IADF so reducing livestock losses is crucial



The project will
coordinate national efforts to protect the species



ALEXANDER BLANCO

 VENEZUELA

www.fundacionesfera.org

Nest protectors: conserving Venezuela's magnificent harpy eagles as a rainforest flagship

FOREST SENTINEL

The harpy eagle is one of the world's largest eagles and certainly the heaviest! As the apex-predator of the Venezuelan canopy in the Sierra Imataca, it is an indicator of forest health. This magnificent eagle has become rare in many parts of its range where poverty, hunting, political instability and a resulting lack of law enforcement have led to a sharp increase in illegal deforestation. Harpy eagles are slow to reproduce and research indicates most harpy nests are found outside of protected areas, putting them at greater risk.

EAGLE VET

Trained as a veterinary surgeon, Alexander has been working with harpy eagles since 1996 where his veterinary, biological and climbing skills are put to the test. Some may remember him from the BBC wildlife documentary 'The Hunt' where he was climbing 40 metre high trees to tag eagle chicks and nursing injured eagles back to health before returning them to the wild. He has helped to conserve these iconic birds in Brazil and Ecuador, as well as in his native Venezuela where he is President of the Esfera Foundation and leads a national programme to protect the species.

HARPY GUARDIANS

Alexander's long term vision is to develop protection strategies delivered by local people so that conservation is more resilient to economic and political perturbations. By cementing the harpy eagle as a flagship, Alexander hopes to limit deforestation and protect a greater number of nesting sites. Using a mixture of nest monitoring and community engagement Alexander and his team have already convinced land owners to protect harpy nests and maintain forest patches around them. His work demonstrates that with the right approach, human settlement does not have to mean the local extinction of harpy eagles.



ALEXANDER'S PROJECT WILL:

- Partner with landowners and recruit local people as nest guardians to protect 70 nests and the surrounding forest
- Restore fragmented habitat and establish livelihoods in shade-grown coffee and cacao that limit deforestation and provide an incentive to maintain forest cover
- Develop positive attitudes to conservation among locals and 90% of school children in the municipality

"AFTER MY FIRST EXPERIENCE TAGGING AN EAGLE CHICK NEARLY 20 YEARS AGO, I DECIDED THAT THIS WAS WHAT I WANTED TO DO."



The Sierra Imataca region has amongst the **highest recorded densities** of harpy eagles



The area supports **jaguar, giant anteater and the lowland tapir** among other threatened species



Every week an **area of forest bigger than central London** is cut down in Venezuela

Custodians of South Africa's threatened grassland biodiversity

GRASSLAND STEWARDSHIP

Crop production will need to double by 2050 to meet the world's growing demand for food. However, to date agriculture has been a major threat to biodiversity, with 62% of threatened species affected by arable farming. Ian Little of the Endangered Wildlife Trust works with farmers to champion conservation of grassland habitat. He has already successfully secured 60,000 hectares of grassland for conservation purposes, which are written into property title deeds for up to 100 years; a figure Ian plans to increase with his Whitley Award.



LIFE SUPPORT

The Eastern Great Escarpment of South Africa provides catchment services for three of the country's largest rivers, making it a vital source of freshwater for cities such as Durban and Johannesburg in one of the world's most arid nations. These grasslands support a plethora of endemic plants and animals including golden moles and the charismatic sungazer lizard. Despite their importance, intensive livestock farming, coal mining and rapidly increasing gas exploration are inflicting untold damage – with fracking now an imminent threat.

CONNECTING CORRIDOR

Ian has been working to understand and improve grassland management practices for over a decade, firstly to provide the science and latterly to develop pragmatic management recommendations with farmers. His vision is to establish a corridor of legally protected areas and restore grassland habitat along the escarpment, linking the uKahlamba Drakensberg World Heritage site with existing protected areas along the border between the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal provinces.

"THE MOST EXCITING MOMENT SO FAR WAS WHEN OUR FIRST LANDOWNER SHOWED GENUINE INTEREST IN SIGNING THEIR PROPERTY UP FOR FORMAL PROTECTION."



IAN'S PROJECT AIMS TO:

- Work with landowners to safeguard at least a further 30,000 hectares of the Eastern Great Escarpment
- Train farmers in improved management practices including less intensive grazing and burning regimes to decrease pressure on grasslands and boost productivity
- Strengthen rural capacity for sustainable farming, working with over 50 families and tribal leaders



Demand for fresh water is **expected to outstrip supply** in South Africa by 2025



South Africa is the planet's **3rd most biodiverse** country



Less than 3% of grasslands in South Africa are protected, with **over 60%** already **irreversibly transformed**



PURNIMA BARMAN



www.aaranyak.org

Inspiring women to protect Assam's greater adjutant and its wetland habitat

NOISY NEIGHBOURS

Greater adjutant storks, or Hargila as they are known locally, have an image problem. These giant scavenger birds have a reputation as unwelcome neighbours with their noisy, messy and smelly nesting habits. With a global population of 1,200 mature individuals, 75% of which are found in Assam, the greater adjutant needs help to prevent degradation of their wetland habitat and the felling of nesting trees by landowners wishing to rid themselves of storks.

MOBILISING A MOVEMENT

The species nest in the same colonies year-on-year, but villagers' propensity to cut nesting trees has decimated numbers. To restore populations, Purnima Barman of the NGO Aaranyak, is rallying the people of Assam's Brahmaputra valley, turning bird haters into bird lovers. Working with landowners and a grassroots women's group known as the 'Hargila Army', Purnima is changing perceptions and the number of nests has risen from just 30 in 2008 to over 150 today.

REVERSING THE TREND

Purnima's next step is to scale up this success to four new districts in Assam and secure important wetland habitat. She plans to conduct research into the impact of wetland pollution and garbage consumption on stork health and reproduction. Alongside these studies, Purnima will help women to access training and develop textile businesses, and enthuse school children to instil a sense of commitment to these unusual birds.



WITH HER AWARD PURNIMA WILL:

- Work with 10,000 villagers, schools and government to increase the greater adjutant population; protect nesting sites and rescue fallen chicks
- Expand the Hargila Army, engaging 300 women with conservation and helping them to pursue sustainable livelihood and education opportunities
- Seek legal protection of wetland habitat home to the largest nesting colony of greater adjutants
- Use research findings to make recommendations for more environmentally-friendly waste disposal



"THE HARGILA ARMY WOMEN ARE THE CONSERVATION HEROES OF TODAY!"



Over 50 wetlands occur in the project site acting as a **life-support system** for other species



Purnima is improving the **livelihoods of 1,000 people** and is giving marginalised women a voice



Storks receive **relatively little conservation** attention



SANJAY GUBBI

 INDIA

www.ncf-india.org

Reducing deforestation in Karnataka's tiger corridors

EMERGING LEADER

Sanjay saw his first tiger 30 years ago and was instantly captivated. Compelled to pursue his passion, he left his job as an electrical engineer and began working in conservation. Today he is spearheading efforts in Karnataka State, home to 20% of India's Bengal tigers. A Scientist at the Nature Conservation Foundation, Sanjay collaborates with authorities and stakeholders to protect and connect tiger habitats. Working closely with the government, in 2012 Sanjay helped legally secure 2,385km² of tiger habitat. This represented the largest expansion of protected areas in India since 1970, enhancing connectivity across 23 sites.

TIGER CORRIDORS

With his Whitley Award Sanjay is working to reduce forest degradation in two important Wildlife Sanctuaries which connect multiple protected areas, forming one of the largest contiguous tiger habitats in the country. The area has the potential to support more than 100 tigers and acts as a corridor, allowing individuals to move between territories to prevent in-breeding. Its conservation will also benefit other wildlife including elephants, leopards, pangolins and honey badgers.

"CONSERVATION IS AN ART OF THE POSSIBLE, WITH COLLECTIVE EFFORTS AND NOT BEING AFRAID TO TRY, WE CAN SUCCEED."

REDUCING PRESSURE

People are central to Sanjay's approach. Local communities rely on firewood from the forest as fuel for domestic cooking. Through the provision of alternatives to firewood Sanjay will strengthen protection of these corridors eliminating the need, risk and hardship incurred by people who extract firewood. The introduction of stoves that use alternative energy will reduce indoor air pollution, benefitting the health of women and families. Sanjay will also speed up compensation payments to farmers whose livestock have been lost to tiger and leopard attacks, helping tackle human-carnivore conflict and boosting support of conservation from those living alongside wildlife.



WITH HIS WHITLEY AWARD SANJAY WILL:

- Scale up distribution of forest-friendly stoves to decrease pressure on tiger corridors and benefit over 1,000 families
- Empower young people through skill development and training to help them become employed in professions that are not reliant on forest resources
- Mobilise support for conservation through outreach campaigns
- Enable people affected by livestock and crop depredation to access government support



There are **less than 4,000 wild tigers** worldwide with approx. 50% living in India



Over 100,000 people depend on protected areas for their daily needs and livelihoods where Sanjay works



Using alternative energy stoves will reduce smoke inhalation – a major cause of respiratory disease



INDIRA LACERNA-WIDMANN



www.philippinecockatoo.org

Partnering with prisoners to safeguard the Critically Endangered Philippine cockatoo

DRAMATIC DECLINE

The Philippine cockatoo has declined by a staggering 80% over the last 40 years. Decimated by the caged bird trade and habitat loss since the late 1980s, it is now extinct from much of its former range. Since 1998, the Katala Foundation has undertaken conservation work to safeguard this species. Since work began, four reserves have been established which have seen the recovery of cockatoo populations, including one by more than tenfold. But there is more to do. Indira aims to undertake actions over the next five years that will see the parrot's conservation status improve markedly.

NOVEL PARTNERS

In the city of Puerto Princesa, Central Palawan, an important population of cockatoos nest in the forested grounds of Iwahig prison – a large open air penal farm – and forage over both military and private land. Indira will be working with these new partners in order to secure the future of this urban population of cockatoos; training prisoners and the army as wildlife wardens to address poaching in breeding sites and working with landowners to secure feeding corridors which are under threat from development.

BUILDING PRIDE

Katala is the local name for the Philippine cockatoo. The NGO that Indira co-founded of the same name uses endemic threatened species as flagships for community-based conservation to ensure species survive and ecosystems continue to provide services for dependent human populations. By using specifically developed 'PRIDE' campaigns and reaching out to city-dwellers, Indira hopes to raise awareness and build pride in the Philippine cockatoo.



INDIRA'S WHITLEY AWARD PROJECT AIMS TO:

- Tackle poaching by training prisoners and the army in wildlife law enforcement: giving prisoners the opportunity to learn new skills whilst taking part in conservation
- Build support within the city using a 'PRIDE' campaign to engage local people and schools
- Identify cockatoo flight routes to support protection and restoration of feeding habitat, working with landowners and government

"COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN CONSERVATION EFFORTS IS NOT OPTIONAL, BUT AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY."



Most people do not realise these parrots are endangered, with **fewer than 1,200 left** in the wild

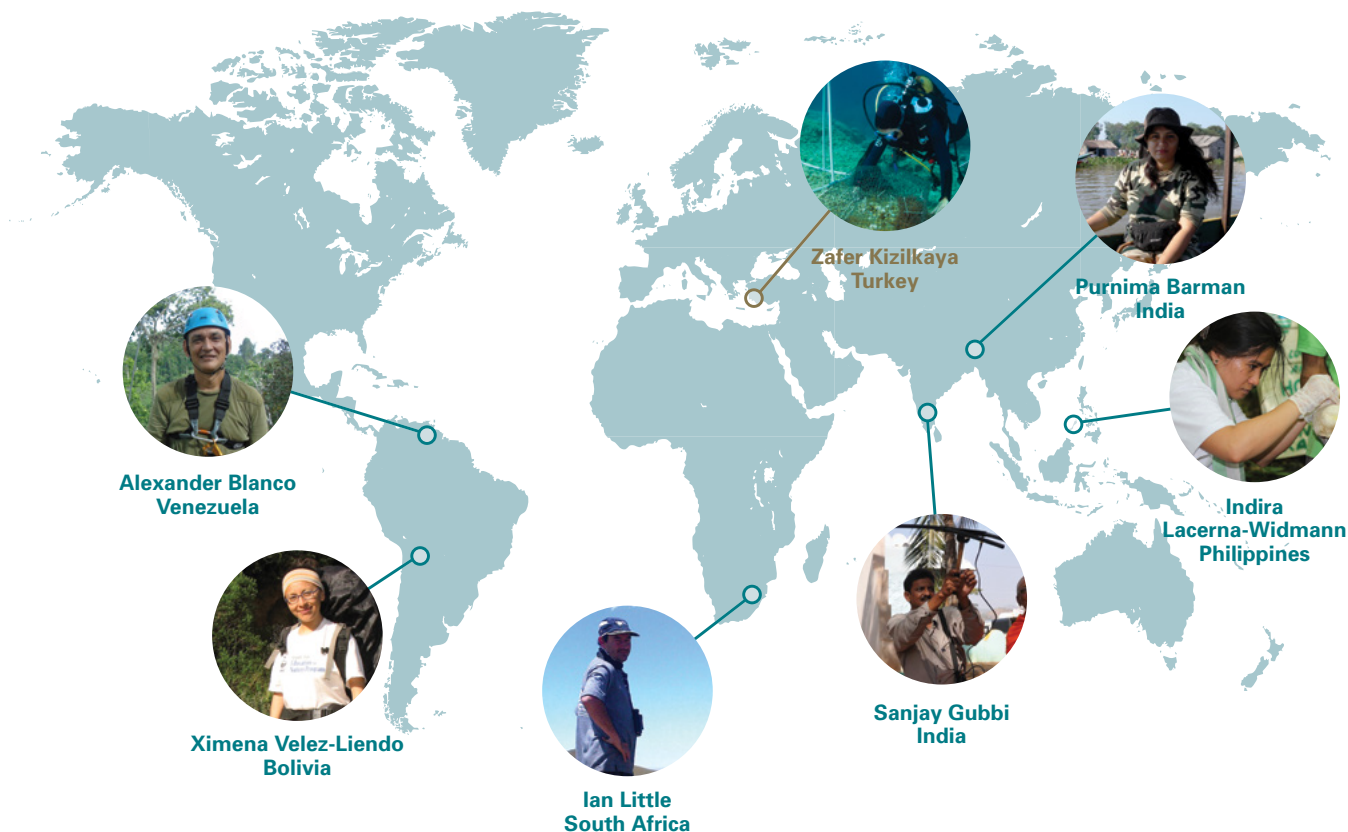


4,000 trees will be planted to restore cockatoo habitat



Prisoners and ex-poachers will have the **opportunity to gain qualifications** and build a brighter future

FINALIST PROJECT LOCATIONS 2017



WINNER SELECTION 2017

WFN received 166 Whitley Award applications from 66 countries following our call for proposals. We would like to thank our Judging Panel and Application Screeners, who kindly offer their expertise voluntarily during the four stages of assessment to reach the final shortlist.

JUDGING PANEL

Edward Whitley
Chairman & Trustee, WFN

Marianne Carter
Director, Conservation Capacity & Leadership, FFI

Dr. Glyn Davies
Executive Director Global Programmes, WWF-UK

Georgina Domberger
Director, WFN

Catherine Faulks
Trustee, WFN

Zafer Kizilkaya
President, Mediterranean Conservation Society;
2017 Whitley Gold Award winner

Ian Lazarus
Trustee, WFN

Dr. Simon Lyster
Chairman, World Land Trust

Danni Parks
Deputy Director, WFN

APPLICATION SCREENERS

Dr. Pablo Borboroglu
President, Global Penguin Society;
Whitley Award winner 2010

Dr. Heather Koldewey
Head of Marine & Freshwater Conservation Programmes, ZSL

Prof. E.J. Milner-Gulland
Tasso Leventis Professor of Biodiversity, University of Oxford

Dr. Charudutt Mishra
Science & Conservation Director, Snow Leopard Trust; Whitley Gold Award winner 2005

Danni Parks
Deputy Director, WFN

Dr. Alison Rosser
Grants Officer, WFN

AWARDS WEEK TIMETABLE



MONDAY

Interviews with the WFN Judging Panel; Reception with the Friends of WFN



TUESDAY

Media training in print, radio and TV sponsored by HSBC; NGO networking reception



WEDNESDAY

Press conference; Media interviews; Visiting collaborators; Group activity



THURSDAY

Professional speech training; Rehearsals; Whitley Awards Ceremony



FRIDAY

Contract signing; Pro-bono legal advice via the Thomson Reuters Foundation; Farewell lunch; Departures

FURTHER FUNDING INVESTING IN A GLOBAL NETWORK

In 2016, donations made to WFN's Continuation Funding programme were generously matched by Fondation Segré via the Whitley-Gré Conservation Fund (WSCF).

Thanks to your support we raised £1.1m through this partnership to award in grants to previous Whitley Award winners to scale up their successful work.

A total of 43 applications were made to the WSCF and 10 winning projects were selected, providing grants worth a total of £1,042,000 over 2-3 years.

HELP US DO MORE!

This one year partnership allowed winners to push the boundaries but funding for this programme has now ended. Demand for grants greatly outstrips resources and what we can give is limited by how much we are able to raise. This year our Continuation Funding programme received a total of £1,825,500 in grant proposals from previous winners seeking support. In order to grant two fifths of funds requested, we are setting a target to raise £700,000. We need to raise a further £175,000 to close the funding gap.

CONTINUATION FUNDING TIMETABLE

Jun	Deadline for applications
Aug	Fundraising consolidated: target £700,000
Sep	Decision on winners and grant distribution

THE WINNING PROJECTS ARE:



LUIS TORRES

Planting the seed of conservation across Cuba
£150,000 OVER 3 YEARS



PEDRO VAZ PINTO

Safeguarding the planet's remaining giant sable antelope from poaching in Angola
£150,000 OVER 3 YEARS



CARLOS VÁSQUEZ, ALMAZÁN

Amazing amphibians: protecting Guatemala's Critically Endangered frogs
£100,000 OVER 3 YEARS



APARAJITA DATTA

Hornbills: working with communities and government to save helmeted hornbills and expand the nest adoption programme in India and Indonesia
£150,000 OVER 3 YEARS



SHIVANI BHALLA

Extending Warrior Watch: promoting coexistence between people and lions in Kenya
£92,000 OVER 3 YEARS

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO
FONDATION SEGRÉ, WHO
DOUBLED DONATIONS THROUGH
THIS PROGRAMME IN 2016



FONDATION SEGRÉ



GLOBAL NETWORK

We now have a network of 185 conservation leaders working in some of the most remote, under-resourced and biodiversity-rich places on the planet. Winning a Whitley Award is a moment of great achievement for conservation leaders, but for many this is not the end of the journey, but the beginning. 55% of our winners have been repeat funded by WFN since winning their first Award.

GROWING DEMAND

With each passing year new Whitley Award winners join the network. After winning their initial Award, we stay in touch, competitively repeat funding the most effective via Continuation Funding to support project expansion. Our winners have an entrepreneurial spirit and we have seen many of them go from succeeding at the local and regional level to achieving national and even international impact. But we can do more.

PLEASE JOIN US IN SUPPORTING THIS EXCITING PROGRAMME

The investment boost from future Continuation Funding grants will enable Whitley Awardees to deliver crucial projects to bring about lasting change for threatened wildlife, local communities and the environment they share.



JON PAUL RODRIGUEZ

Increasing yellow-shouldered parrot numbers: using conservation psychology, nest protection and reforestation techniques in Venezuela
£100,000 OVER 3 YEARS



JOSIA RAZAFINDRAMANANA

Safeguarding Madagascar's dancing lemurs: extending protection for the crowned sifaka
£100,000 OVER 2 YEARS



PAULA KAHUMBU

HANDS OFF OUR ELEPHANTS! Tackling wildlife crime in Kenya
£100,000 OVER 2 YEARS



MELVIN GUMAL

Bringing 95% of Sarawak's orangutans under protection, Malaysian Borneo
£50,000 OVER 3 YEARS



DIDIHER CHACON-CHAVERRI

Restoring coastal habitats for threatened marine turtles in Costa Rica
£50,000 OVER 2 YEARS

"ONE THING THAT PUTS THE WFN APART FROM THE OTHER FUNDERS I HAVE WORKED WITH IS THAT THEY DON'T JUST PLANT A SEED, THEY WATER IT, THEY FERTILIZE IT AND THEY HELP THE SPROUT TO GROW. MOST FUNDERS DON'T DO THAT."

2004 WHITLEY GOLD AWARD WINNER, RANDALL ARAUZ

WHITLEY GOLD AWARD WINNER 2017

Donated by the Friends & Scottish Friends of WFN

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

ZAFER KIZILKAYA

TURKEY

“ONCE COMMUNITIES STARTED SEEING THE POSITIVE RESULTS OF MARINE PROTECTION WE GAINED THEIR SUPPORT.”

Guardians of the sea: securing and expanding marine reserves along the Turkish coastline

Gökova Bay harbours important species including the **Critically Endangered** Mediterranean monk seal and Vulnerable sandbar shark. There are over 200 small-scale fishermen and women depending on fisheries in the Bay. Severe **depletion of marine stocks** in recent years has had a serious economic impact on local livelihoods.

Following a successful community conservation project led by Zafer and his team at the Mediterranean Conservation Society, the Turkish government declared six **No Fishing Zones** (NFZs) in 2010 to protect breeding and nursery grounds. These no-take zones represented the country's first network of **community-managed** marine reserves. Due to the size of the area however, effective enforcement by the coastguard was difficult, so a locally-based

marine ranger system was introduced to patrol the reserves against illegal activities.

Climate change has already taken its toll, with water temperatures rising in the eastern Mediterranean over the past decade. This has led to an increasing migration of **invasive marine species** to the area, with profound effects on the local ecosystem and fisheries sector. To address this, a campaign to promote the consumption of marine stowaways and transform their sale into a commercially viable sector of the local fisheries industry is underway.

Against a backdrop of challenging **political circumstances** and mass immigration of refugees from Syria and Iraq, Zafer is ensuring conservation efforts continue alongside humanitarian work, and is having a **positive impact** on both fishers and marine life in Turkey.

www.akdenizkoruma.org.tr



A WHITLEY AWARD WINNER IN 2013 AND A RECIPIENT OF CONTINUATION FUNDING IN 2015, WITH THE SUPPORT OF WFN AND OTHER DONORS ZAFER'S PROJECT HAS:

- Increased the size of NFZs by 25%, protecting a total of 3,000km² of marine habitat in Gökova Bay.
- The coastguard and Ministry are now cooperating and effectively patrolling the reserves in partnership with local rangers. Patrol boats are equipped with specialist police cameras and GPS, allowing illegal activity to be live streamed to authorities so they can respond immediately.
- Fish stocks have recovered and biomass has risen by 800% as a result of the reserves and spill-over into fishing grounds.
- New technology is at the heart of Gökova's transformation. Zafer's team have employed a new SMART monitoring system to aid research and law enforcement. It is the first of its kind to be used in the marine environment.
- Zafer has assisted communities to implement more sustainable fishing practices that reduce by-catch, and trawling has been banned in sensitive sites across an area covering 2,676km² – the largest in Europe for biodiversity and fish stock conservation.
- The community now keep detailed reports on the number and species of fish caught. It is the only Bay to do so in Turkey. They even have a mobile app for recording data!



- Following a campaign promoting the consumption of invasive species, fisher income has risen by 400% and native grouper species are on the rise.
- Critically Endangered monk seals have recently returned to the Bay and sandbar sharks and loggerhead turtles are being recorded in increased numbers; a sign that this once damaged ecosystem is on the road to recovery.

WITH HIS WHITLEY GOLD AWARD ZAFER AND HIS TEAM WILL:

- Consolidate work in Gökova Bay and expand marine protection along the Turkish coastline through work with local partners to improve policy and practices in order to address wide scale threats to species and habitats and help conserve marine wildlife.
- Replicate this successful project and its fishing cooperative in Turkey's Fethiye Bay, designating 2,000 hectares of new no-take zones and targeting invasive species.
- Deliver effective site-based protected area, fisheries and species conservation by rolling out SMART marine monitoring technology for use in all patrols in Gökova to further decrease illegal fishing activities by 50%.
- Develop financing mechanisms for the Gökova Bay marine protected area capable of supporting at least 25% of ongoing activities to cement project sustainability.
- Scale up threatened species and habitat monitoring in the Gökova and Fethiye Bay areas and use data to secure connectivity and protection of viable breeding populations across a 10,000 hectare sea-scape.
- Explore project expansion to new sites internationally throughout the Mediterranean, working with government and international partners.



THANK YOU

We are so grateful for the generous support of our major donors, sponsors and Friends, including those who choose to remain anonymous. We are a charity that is completely reliant on donations; the more we raise, the bigger the impact we can have.

WHITLEY AWARD DONORS

The William Brake
Charitable Trust
In memory of William Brake



In memory of Trevor Shears



The Friends and Scottish
Friends of the Whitley Fund
for Nature

MAJOR DONORS



The Byford Trust
In memory of Camilla Maxwell

Sarah Chenevix-Trench

The G D Charitable Trust



A charitable fund of
Peter Baldwin & Lisbet Rausing



The Britta & Jeremy Lloyd
Family Charitable Trust



The Schroder Foundation

The Constance Travis
Charitable Trust



HDH Wills 1965
Charitable Trust

SPONSORS

With many thanks for the kind
support of our sponsors in 2017
for their donations of time,
premises and goods.



Winner media training



Ceremony film production



Website support



Legal support to winners



Wine sponsors

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 Zafer Kizilkaya and WFN's Continuation Funding programme, which supports previous Whitley Award winners.

Donations received between
19th April 2016 – 3rd May 2017

£10,000 - £20,000

Benindi Fund
The Frank Brake Charitable Trust
The LJC Fund

£5,000 - £9,999

Edward and Sally Benthall
Diego and Veronique De Giorgi
Sarah and Mark Evans
Catherine and Edward Faulks
Dr Sarah Greaves
Richard Reed
Professor Heather Stevens CBE
and David Stevens CBE
Henry and Madeleine Wickham

£1,000 - £4,999

Janet Andrews
Sir Francis and Lady Brooke
Elizabeth and Rory Brooks
Richard and Eleanor Buxton
Lord Simon and Lady Amanda Cairns
Chris and Laura Caulkin
Lida Cepuch and Ian Richmond
Victoria and James Corcoran
Marianne and Michael De Giorgio
Jerry and Jane Del Missier
Nicola and Bertrand Facon
Chris and Fiona Fleming-Brown
Richard Hains
Sarah Havens and Gregg Sando
Tom Heap

Graham Hedger and
Samia Murgian Hedger
Reggie Heyworth
Jill Philippa Holah
Lucy and Will Holt
Ian and Sandy Lazarus
Piers and Annabel Lea
Mark and Sophie Lewisohn
Simon and Penelope Linnett
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Annika Murjahn
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Anthony Nolan
Jan-Peter and Carol Onstwedder
Justin Ripman
Andrew and Ariana Rodger
William Salomon
Richard Strang
Francis and Jackie Sullivan
Matthew Travis
Justin Wateridge
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WITH MANY THANKS TO **SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH**

WFN TRUSTEE AND NARRATOR OF THE 2017 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.



COMPÈRE **TOM HEAP**

Tom is a television and radio presenter specialising in the environment, energy and rural affairs. Tom is best known as the investigative journalist on the BBC One television programme 'Countryfile', a reporter on Panorama and presenter of the BBC Radio 4 series 'Costing the Earth', which recently interviewed Gold Award winner Hotlin Ompusunggu. He has also featured winners on BBC Newsnight. Tom is passionate about conservation and has competed on 'Celebrity Mastermind' and 'Celebrity Pointless' in aid of WFN.



WHITLEY GOLD AWARD WINNER **ZAFER KIZILKAYA**

Zafer is an engineer, photographer and President of the Mediterranean Conservation Society, an NGO that aims to conserve Turkey's marine and coastal ecosystems. Zafer's team collaborate with fishing communities, coastguards and government to promote ocean conservation and sustainable fishing practices. He received a Whitley Award in 2013 and has been recognised with the 2017 Whitley Gold Award for his outstanding contribution to marine conservation.



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