

WHITLEY AWARDS



YEARS

2018



CEREMONY PROGRAMME

7PM	DRINKS RECEPTION
8PM	CEREMONY KATE HUMBLE, COMPÈRE EDWARD WHITLEY, FOUNDER CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF WFN 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
9.15PM	SUPPER & MEET THE WINNERS

SPEAKERS



PATRON
HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL

The Princess Royal became patron of the Whitley Fund for Nature in 1999. Since then she has met over 100 Whitley Award winners, and has visited recipient projects in Brazil, Croatia, Colombia, Malaysia and Ghana to see their work first-hand.



COMPÈRE
KATE HUMBLE

WFN Ambassador Kate is one of the UK's most loved wildlife presenters. She is best known for her work on programmes such as *Animal Park*, *Springwatch*, *Lambing Live* and most recently, *Off the Beaten Track*. As well as presenting, Kate runs her farm in Monmouthshire as a rural skills teaching centre, connecting people with farming in the countryside. www.humblebynature.com



FOUNDER
EDWARD WHITLEY

The Whitley Awards were established by Edward Whitley in 1993. Since then, the Whitley Fund for Nature has grown to become an established charity, funding nearly 200 grassroots conservationists in some 80 countries around the developing world. Edward was awarded an OBE in 2013 in recognition of his services to wildlife conservation.



WHITLEY GOLD AWARD WINNER
PABLO BORBOROGLU

Pablo is President of the Global Penguin Society – the world's first coalition for the protection of penguins. Founded in 2009, GPS takes action to conserve penguins across the Southern Hemisphere. He received a Whitley Award in 2010 and further funding from WFN in 2012 and 2014. Pablo has been recognised with the 2018 Gold Award for his outstanding contribution to marine conservation.



WITH MANY THANKS TO
SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

WFN TRUSTEE AND NARRATOR OF THE 2018 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. Sir David inspires audiences around the world to preserve our planet, most recently with his BBC series, *Blue Planet II*, drawing attention to the serious problem of plastic pollution in the ocean.

“Over the last 25 years it has been wonderful to celebrate and help to magnify the success of our winners. Their work is rooted in local communities, but the ramifications of their success spread far and wide. Nature conservation is always precarious, but the work of our winners is strengthened by the support they receive not only from our donors, but also from our growing network of other winners each of whom is facing similar problems. It is so inspiring for us and our donors to be involved with these leaders who are dynamic and visionary. They provide us all with confidence and hope.”



Edward Whitley

EDWARD WHITLEY, OBE
FOUNDER, WHITLEY FUND FOR NATURE

MISSION

THE WHITLEY FUND FOR NATURE (WFN) IS A FUNDRAISING AND GRANT-GIVING NATURE CONSERVATION CHARITY OFFERING RECOGNITION, TRAINING AND GRANTS TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF PROVEN GRASSROOTS CONSERVATION LEADERS ACROSS THE GLOBAL SOUTH.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- 1

To find, recognise and fund proven grassroots conservation leaders in developing 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 that we can all make a difference to the conservation of wildlife and wild places.

GRANTS FOR CONSERVATION ACTION

SETTING THE STANDARD FOR AWARDS IN CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP

WFN supports conservation leaders who, importantly, are nationals of the countries where they work, making them best placed to lead change and articulate solutions. We champion local environmental heroes who lead projects with passion, harnessing the latest available science on which to act. Through them we support work rooted in community involvement that is pragmatic and has lasting impact. WFN is all about finding unsung leaders, bringing them to the world stage, and continuing to support the expansion of effective projects.

An early pioneer in the sector, the Whitley Award was one of the first awards to be given in recognition of effective conservation leadership in the Global South. 25 years on, the need for recognition of grassroots leadership has never been stronger. WFN has developed one of the world's most respected application processes for conservation awards, designed to identify amazing individuals with staying power and drive who also possess a collaborative approach and focus on bringing successful conservation models to scale.



WHITLEY AWARDS

These coveted Awards are won competitively following assessment by an expert panel and are worth £40,000 in project funding over one year. Often referred to as 'Green Oscars', these high-profile prizes are presented by our patron, HRH The Princess Royal at a ceremony in London each spring. Winning a Whitley Award is not just about gaining financial support; it comes

with a significant boost in profile and provides an international platform for winners to draw attention to the environmental issues they face. Receiving a Whitley Award increases visibility, generates local and national pride and catalyses action from decision-makers to support conservationists and their NGOs.



CONTINUATION FUNDING

Change doesn't happen overnight. Our commitment to conservation leaders is long term. All winners benefit from membership of the global network of Whitley Award alumni, providing opportunities for sharing and learning. We also offer further funding to winners, after the conclusion of their Whitley Award, to scale up their effective work. Over 60% go on to win our Continuation

Funding grants, worth up to £70,000 over two years. Applications are invited annually and applied for competitively. With support, many winners become some of the most influential conservationists in their field, their projects making a difference from the grassroots to the national and international level.



WHITLEY GOLD AWARD

Each year a previous Whitley Award winner is chosen to receive the Whitley Gold Award in recognition of their outstanding contribution to conservation. Our Gold Award winners are international advocates for biodiversity with the passion and ambition to spread conservation messages to a wider audience, as well as acting

as a mentor to new Whitley Award winners in the year they win. The Gold Award is worth up to £60,000 in funding and considered our most prestigious prize.

PROFILE BOOST

92%

of winners feel that receiving the Whitley Award increased their profile

79%

of winners said the Award increased access to international donors

70%

of winners said the Award increased access to decision makers in their home countries

79%

of winners said the Award increased access to in-country media

68%

of winners said the Award increased access to other conservationists internationally

* 86 survey respondents out of 129 Whitley Award winners surveyed.

“The award gave credence to our conservation work. It’s like, if this programme got a Whitley Award, it must be good!”
Jayson Ibañez, 2015 Whitley Award winner

PROVIDING A PLATFORM

As well as providing winners with significant financial support, we work to accelerate the career paths of Whitley Award recipients by helping to raise their profile. During the Awards week, winners receive professional media and speech training to enable them to effectively communicate their important work and inspire further philanthropic support.

To raise awareness and champion their success, tailor-made films narrated by WFN Trustee, Sir David Attenborough, and publicity materials are distributed to the UK and overseas media with the support of an external PR agency. The Ceremony is live-streamed and images of the winners receiving their Award from The Princess Royal often make it onto the front page of local and national newspapers in winners’ home countries.



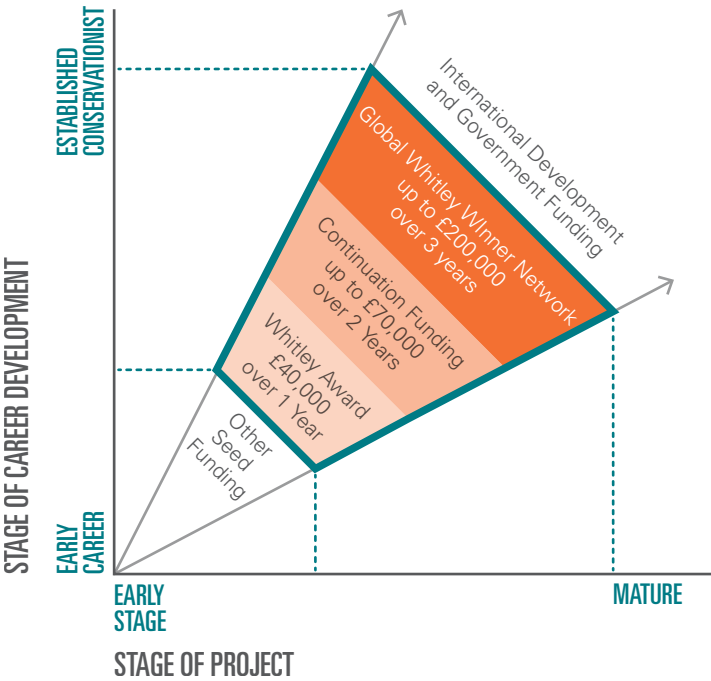
BUILDING A NETWORK

Whitley Award winners join a growing network of more than 190 conservationists in 80 countries who share knowledge and ideas, working together to protect the planet. Through events, conferences and social media, winners learn from each other, and partnerships are forged between alumni, potential donors, NGOs and collaborators – ensuring the sharing of best practice, support and replication of successful conservation models.

FUNDING AT THE RIGHT TIME

Winning a Whitley Award is a moment of great achievement for grassroots conservationists. For many this is not the end of the journey, but just the beginning. It is the start of an ongoing relationship where they know they can come back to us at crucial moments during their project progression, to seek further funding and assistance. Each time we support a leader and their project, we do so where they are able to evidence success and are ready to scale up their approach.

SUPPORTING THE CAREER PATH OF GLOBAL CONSERVATION LEADERS



WFN FUNDS AT THE RIGHT MOMENT — HELPING CONSERVATION LEADERS GROW THEIR IMPACT

LOCAL LEADERS, GLOBAL NETWORK

SINCE ITS CREATION 25 YEARS AGO, THE WHITLEY FUND FOR NATURE HAS GIVEN NEARLY £15 MILLION TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF OVER 190 CONSERVATION LEADERS BENEFITTING WILDLIFE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN MORE THAN 80 COUNTRIES.

2018 FINALISTS:



Pablo Borboroglu
(Gold Award)

Argentina

Kerstin Forsberg

Peru

Dominique Bikaba

DRC

"The secret of the Whitley Fund for Nature is that they find exceptional grassroots conservation leaders. Whitley Award winners hail from all over the world and come from a range of backgrounds, but they all have in common a fierce commitment and determination to make a real difference to local people and wildlife in their home countries."

HRH The Princess Royal,
WFN Patron

"I think what makes WFN unique is their ability to not only identify amazing social entrepreneurs and change-makers in the environmental space, but then to invest in their programmes, augment their professional development, and also give them a public endorsement of the importance of their work."

Charles Knowles,
President, Wildlife
Conservation Network

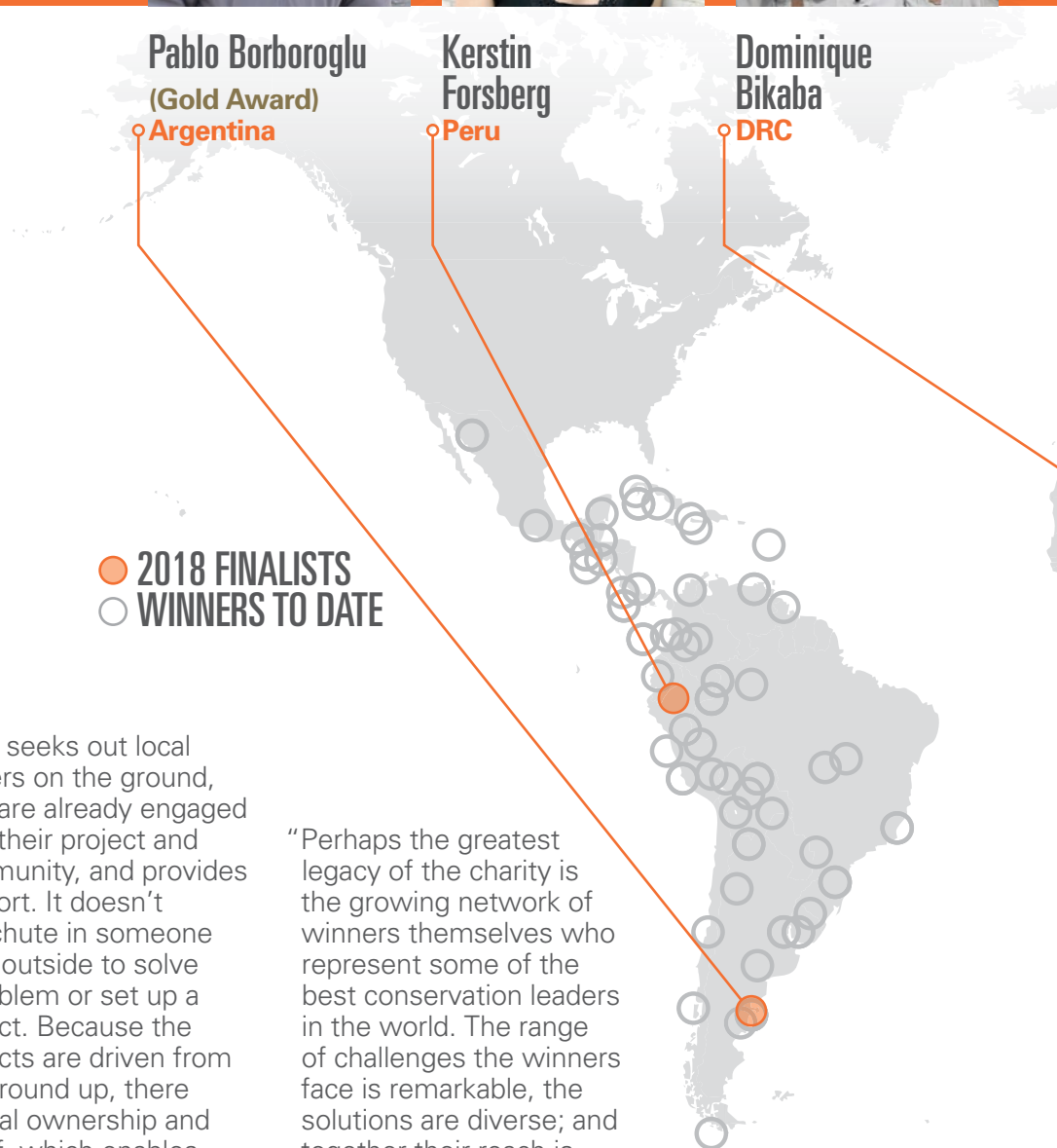
"WFN seeks out local leaders on the ground, who are already engaged with their project and community, and provides support. It doesn't parachute in someone from outside to solve a problem or set up a project. Because the projects are driven from the ground up, there is local ownership and belief, which enables long-term sustainability."

Victoria Corcoran,
Whitley Award donor

"Perhaps the greatest legacy of the charity is the growing network of winners themselves who represent some of the best conservation leaders in the world. The range of challenges the winners face is remarkable, the solutions are diverse; and together their reach is truly global."

Sir David Attenborough,
WFN Trustee

● 2018 FINALISTS
○ WINNERS TO DATE





Olivier Nsengimana

Rwanda

Munir Virani

Kenya

Anjali Chandraraj Watson

Sri Lanka

Shahriar Caesar Rahman

Bangladesh

"The Whitley Award brought overwhelming exposure to my project. Winning this prestigious award placed us on international and regional radars as champions in environmental protection and sustainable development. Locally, we are considered a model project from which to learn and an invaluable partner to the government and local communities."

Karau Kuna, 2016 Whitley Award winner

"Every time I am in the company of the Whitley family it's like a major battery charge! I always come out fully recharged and ready for the next years of work, knowing that there are so many of us doing so much stuff wherever we go!"

Rodrigo Medellin, 2004 Whitley Award winner

"I think every Whitley winner is an explorer in their own right, but they also have to be a politician and a leader, a game player, a scientist and a teacher – they play a lot of roles."

Nigel Winsor, Fellow, Royal Geographical Society & Earthwatch Europe Ambassador

"WFN are genuinely reversing trends of bad news you get in conservation. We need to be aware about getting captured by a constant narrative of gloom and peril, which makes people powerless. What we see from Whitley Award winners is that you can do something about it."

Tom Heap, WFN Ambassador

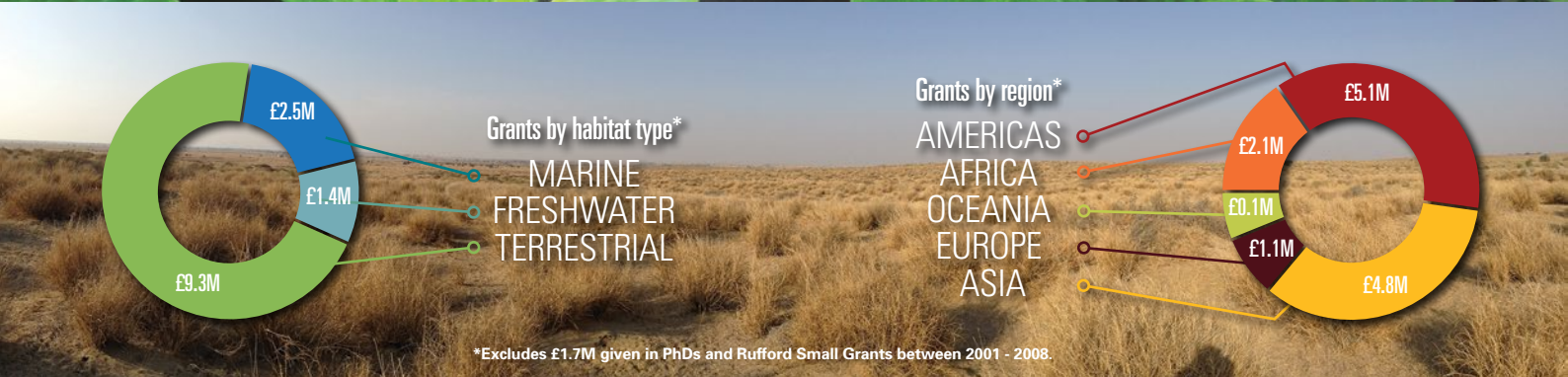
"The Whitley Awards recognise work that's breaking down barriers, work that allows everyone to share in, and benefit from nature."

Kate Humble, WFN Ambassador

25 YEAR IMPACT

IN 2018, WFN TEAMED UP WITH PROF OF BIODIVERSITY, E.J. MILNER-GULLAND AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY, AND CONSULTANT, BRITTANY SAWREY, TO UNDERTAKE AN INDEPENDENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF OUR WINNERS OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS.

25 Y



EAR IMPACT



1.1 MILLION

People have received training and support

SKILLS: 740,000
LIVELIHOODS: 330,000
WOMEN EMPOWERED: 60,000

14.3 MILLION

People reached through
environmental
education activities



Media outreach to

556 MILLION

People including TV, print, radio and social media

WFN projects address

16 AICHI
BIODIVERSITY
TARGETS



12 SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS



WFN is

4 STAFF

(full time equivalent)

*Impact Assessment: 128 participants out of 191 potential respondents

WINNER SELECTION 2018

This year, WFN received 136 Whitley Award applications from 48 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.

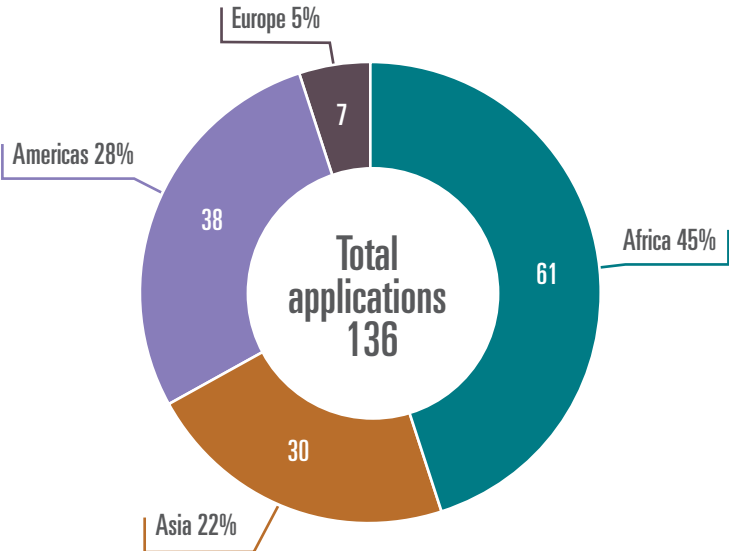
JUDGING PANEL

- Dr. Pablo Borboroglu**
President, Global Penguin Society;
2018 Whitley Gold Award winner
- Marianne Carter**
Director, Conservation Capacity & Leadership, FFI
- Georgina Domberger**
Director, WFN
- Damian Fleming**
Director of International Programmes, WWF-UK
- Matthew Hatchwell**
Director of Conservation, ZSL
- Dr. Chloe Hodgkinson**
Senior Programme Manager, Conservation Capacity & Leadership, FFI
- Danni Parks**
Deputy Director, WFN
- Francis Sullivan**
Trustee, WFN
- Edward Whitley**
Chairman & Trustee, WFN

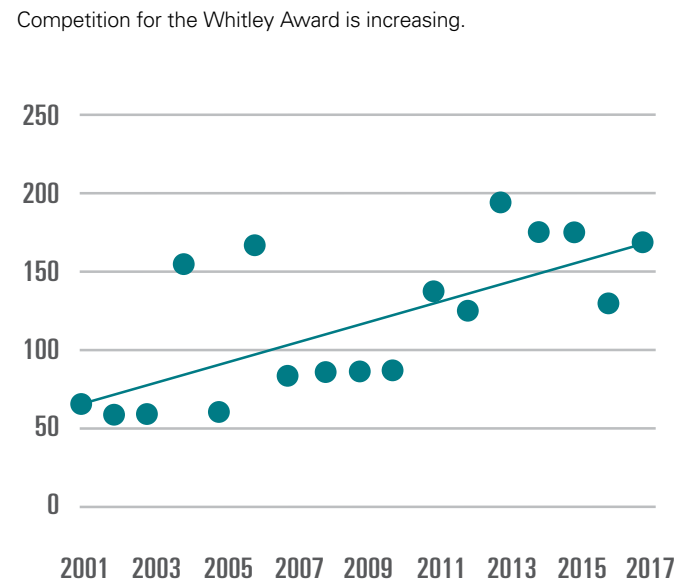
APPLICATION SCREENERS

- Dr. Deepak Apte**
Director, Bombay Natural History Society; 2008 Whitley Award winner
- Dr. Heather Koldewey**
Head of Marine & Freshwater Conservation Programmes, ZSL
- Prof. E.J. Milner-Gulland**
Tasso Leventis Professor of Biodiversity, University of Oxford
- Dr. Claudio & Suzana Padua**
Founders, Institute for Ecological Research Brazil (IPÊ); 1999 Whitley Award winner
- Danni Parks, MSc**
Deputy Director, WFN
- Dr. Alison Rosser**
Grants Manger, WFN

APPLICATION ORIGIN 2018



APPLICATIONS OVER TIME



AWARDS WEEK TIMETABLE

SUNDAY

Arrivals;
Meet and greet



MONDAY

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



TUESDAY

Media training in
print, radio and TV
sponsored by HSBC



WEDNESDAY

Professional speech
training; Rehearsals;
Whitley Awards Ceremony



THURSDAY

Press conference;
Media interviews;
Alumni knowledge
sharing workshop;
NGO reception
& networking



FRIDAY

Contract signing;
Introduction to pro-bono legal advice via
The Thomson Reuters Foundation;
Farewell lunch;
Departures



MUNIR VIRANI



www.peregrinefund.org

Game of poisons: a strategy to save Kenya's threatened vultures

VALUING VULTURES

The Serengeti-Mara ecosystem is renowned for its wildlife: lion, elephant, wildebeest, zebra and giraffe. Encircling them all is an overlooked guardian – the vultures, comprising six threatened species, four of them Critically Endangered. This “clean-up crew” is vital to the health and hygiene of the plains. Referred to locally as “Serengeti soap,” these scavengers swiftly consume rotting carcasses, preventing the spread of disease. However the value of vultures is only really understood once they start disappearing.

POISONING PERIL

Suffering a precipitous decline in numbers of over 70% in 30 years, East African vultures are collateral damage in the war between livestock herders and predators. In retaliation for the loss of livestock to big cats, farmers resort to poisoning carcasses in the hope of reducing predator numbers. The subsequent incidental killing of vultures is catastrophic, with effects reverberating throughout the entire ecosystem.

AFRICA-WIDE ACTION

Bowled over by raptors, Munir swapped his early cricketing ambitions for a lifetime studying the drivers of vulture declines in Asia and Africa to inform conservation action. He now leads The Peregrine Fund's Africa programme. His successful scheme to mitigate vulture poisoning by engaging communities in the Masai Mara saw cases drop by nearly 50% in 2016 and he is now poised to scale up.

“OUR PROJECT OFFERS SOLUTIONS THAT SAFEGUARD PEOPLE’S WAY OF LIFE, ENABLES CHAMPIONS, AND TAKES ON A CONTINENT-WIDE THREAT THAT IS UNPRECEDENTED FOR ANY OTHER SPECIES.”



WITH HIS WHITLEY AWARD, MUNIR WILL:

- Expand into Kenya's Southern Rift Valley, focusing on reducing poisoning in five high-risk areas.
- Work with pastoralists and an alliance of NGOs to reduce livestock predation using predator deterrents and fortified livestock enclosures.
- Train 30 conservation leaders to champion anti-poisoning programmes in their communities and respond to incidents.
- Tag 20 vultures to increase understanding of habitat use, monitor fatalities and target future conservation interventions.



The project will serve as a model for **other African countries**.



Munir is **training the next generation of leaders** to drive campaigns throughout Kenya.



A poisoning incident **killed 40 vultures** in early 2018, making this work urgent.

KERSTIN FORSBERG



www.planetaoceano.org

Majestic giants: safe passage for manta rays

MAGNIFICENT MANTAS

Manta rays gliding through the ocean on their seven meter wingspan are a spectacular sight. Yet, these plankton-eating giants are easily tangled in fishing gear, and are targeted for local consumption and their gill plates, which are used in Chinese medicine. Globally the species is classified as Vulnerable with a suspected population reduction of 30% over the last 75 years, however localised declines can be as high as 80%.



PROMOTING PROTECTION

Kerstin established Planeta Océano in 2009 to conserve marine life in the waters surrounding Peru. Working with coastal communities, Kerstin has built support for the protection of mantas, reaching over 200,000 people to date. Thanks to her team's work, it is now illegal to capture, retain, commercialize or consume mantas in Peru.



ENCOURAGING ECOTOURISM

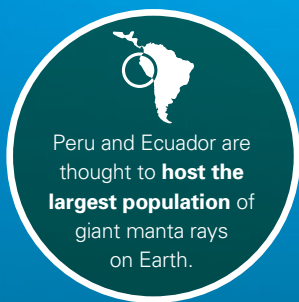
Whilst a dead manta is worth \$40-500 USD, manta ray tourism can bring in \$1 million USD during the life of a single ray. For the first time in Peru, local fishers are being supported by Planeta Océano to develop responsible manta ecotourism. An association of entrepreneurial fishers has been set-up and over 50 fishers have received training. With new income streams from tourism, fishers are starting to release incidentally-captured mantas with the knowledge that they are worth more alive.

"WE ARE ALL PART OF THIS PLANET OCEAN... IT DEPENDS ON ALL OF US TO CONSERVE IT."



WITH HER AWARD KERSTIN WILL:

- Strengthen capacity for community-based manta ecotourism, giving fishers in Peru the technical and financial support to become conservation ambassadors.
- Involve 100 citizen scientists with data collection and monitoring to enhance understanding of manta ecology in this region.
- Expand environmental awareness and education activities to inspire appreciation of rays among 700 youth in Peru and Ecuador.
- Ramp up efforts to reduce accidental by-catch, bringing together organisations for the first time to address the issue.



DOMINIQUE BIKABA

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

www.strongrootscongo.org

Ensuring the survival of DRC's eastern lowland gorillas

INFORMED CHOICES

Mobile phone, laptop, and electric car ownership require us all to make environmental trade-offs. Over 60% of global cobalt supplies for manufacture of these appliances and other minerals important for modern lives, are produced in DRC. Yet resources from this nation often come at a high human and ecological price. Mining is often associated with wildlife exploitation, including gorillas, which are caught in snares set by miners to capture bushmeat.

FUTURE HOPE

Numbers of Grauer's gorillas have fallen to just 3,800 individuals. Fortunately in the Burhinyi Community Forest (BCF) of eastern DR-Congo, Dominique, Founder of the NGO Strong Roots, is working to empower people and give gorillas a chance. Communities have agreed to commit 3,000 km² of forest to great ape conservation, but for wildlife to survive, people must have access to livelihoods and future development.

PROTECTED CORRIDOR

Strong Roots are improving food security to reduce pressure on forest resources. Dominique is re-planting degraded habitat and using education to spread the conservation message. The vision is to establish a protected forest corridor to allow gorilla movement between the Kahuzi-Biega National Park and the Itombwe Reserve. By enabling communities to claim their land title, he aims to secure the future of both wildlife and people.



DOMINIQUE'S WHITLEY AWARD PROJECT AIMS TO:

- Improve farming techniques and crop production, training people in agro-forestry to help reduce poverty and dependency on the forest.
- Grow membership of the Primate Monitoring Team – made up of ex-poachers and local women – to collect data on gorillas.
- Establish six community committees to create a management plan for the BCF with the aim of increasing gorilla numbers and ensuring their long term protection.
- Seek legal protection of a vital habitat corridor for this great ape.



"EDUCATION IS KEY TO CONSERVATION, AS IT TAKES TIME FOR PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND, ENGAGE AND CHANGE THEIR BEHAVIOUR."



At least half of South Kivu families are involved in exploitation of timber, hunting and artisanal mining.



Demand for cobalt is growing, with **prices rising 127%** during 2017.



The area also supports the eastern chimpanzee, okapi and forest elephants.

SHAHRIAR CAESAR RAHMAN

 **BANGLADESH**

www.conservationalliance.org

Tortoises in trouble: community conservation of Asia's largest tortoise

REDISCOVERED WILDLIFE

Bangladesh is the planet's most populated country with over 160 million people in an area half the size of the UK. Yet, a hidden jewel remains in the Chittagong Hill Tracts bordering Myanmar. Due to its remote location and political challenges, this jungle has remained relatively untouched and its future lies in the hands of local communities. The forest is home to 30 globally endangered species, including seven species of rare freshwater turtle and tortoise, and the continent's largest chelonian, the Asian giant tortoise.

BUILDING TRUST

Co-Founder of the Creative Conservation Alliance, Caesar, is taking a holistic approach to conservation in these old-growth forests. Threatened by illegal logging, shifting agriculture and unplanned development, Caesar is building trust with indigenous tribes and working with them to maintain the forest and their ancestral lands. Dialogue with government has also been initiated to gain support for conserving the area.

"I REALISED THAT THESE FASCINATING SPECIES WERE UNDER TREMENDOUS PRESSURE AND COULD SOON BE LOST FROM THE AREA WITHOUT INTERVENTION."

MOBILISING ACTION

Twenty-first century technology is being combined with traditional knowledge. Over the past seven years Caesar has trained former Mro hunters as biologists who are helping to deter poachers and document the region's wildlife. Five Indigenous Community Conservation Areas (ICCAs) have been established and turtle hunting has fallen 50% since work began. In partnership with Bcraft Initiatives, Caesar's team have set-up indigo processing centers and created a market for the sale of indigenous crafts – reviving cultures on the verge of being lost.



WITH HIS AWARD, CAESAR WILL:

- Establish another five ICCAs with Mro communities to safeguard forest habitat.
- Scale up the production of handicrafts sold through ethical business platforms, benefitting women from 12 villages who receive training and income from the programme.
- Put a stop to turtle hunting by doubling the number of ex-hunter 'parabiologists' employed to monitor and protect turtles.



Chelonians are poached for use in **Chinese medicine, for food and as pets.**



The area is a stronghold for **elephants, sun bears and pangolins.**



Reptiles that co-existed with the dinosaurs now **face a human-induced mass-extinction.**

ANJALI CHANDRARAJ WATSON



www.wwct.org

Leopards as a flagship for wildlife corridors

CARNIVORE COEXISTENCE

Sri Lanka, part of the Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot, hosts an incredible diversity of wildlife with over one in five species found nowhere else on the planet. As the world's second largest exporter of tea with a population of 21 million, space is at a premium. Whilst competition for land grows, conservation increasingly depends on human-wildlife coexistence, but this is not straightforward when carnivores such as the Sri Lankan leopard are involved.

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

People and leopards extensively overlap, with the potential to result in losses to both parties as catchment forests disappear. Anjali, Co-Founder of the Wilderness & Wildlife Conservation Trust, aims to enable coexistence and reduce encounters by helping stakeholders to establish a protected corridor for leopards in the Central Highlands. Doing so will connect two reserves and deliver landscape-level solutions in this UNESCO World Heritage site.

INCREASING INCOMES

The proposed corridor will also help maintain water catchment services and reduce human-wildlife incidents. Using models from Africa, Anjali will train locals as 'leopard watchers' to respond to village incursions and reduce incidental snaring of big cats. Participation in conservation will help tea estates meet the criteria for environmental certification schemes, with the price premium channelled to local people. The corridor will also increase tourism opportunities and potential for payments for ecosystem services, such as downstream water provision.



WITH HER WHITLEY AWARD, ANJALI WILL:

- Secure protection of a 40km² wildlife corridor and buffer zones adjacent to existing protected areas.
- Determine leopard abundance, population density and land use in this ridge area using GPS collars and remote cameras.
- Foster coexistence by conducting 50 outreach events in tea estate communities.
- Increase the network of community 'leopard watchers' to reduce leopard mortality from snares by 50%, and respond to incidents.



"ENABLING HUMAN WILDLIFE COEXISTENCE IS KEY TO LONG TERM CONSERVATION IN SHARED LANDSCAPES."



Sri Lanka is home to **over 700 leopards.**



The area is the watershed for the Kelani River, **providing drinking water for over 4m people.**



Leopards are a **conservation umbrella:** their protection benefits other species.



OLIVIER NSENGIMANA



www.rwandawildlife.org

Conserving Rwanda's emblematic grey crowned crane

SYMBOL OF HOPE

A symbol of wealth and longevity, the grey crowned crane is emblematic in a country rebuilding after the devastating genocide of 1994. Globally Endangered, these birds have suffered a drastic decline over the last 45 years, and now less than 500 remain in Rwanda. These majestic cranes are threatened by capture for domestic and international trade as pets for the rich, and by destruction of the wetlands they inhabit.

RAPID DEVELOPMENT

Rwanda, one of Africa's smallest countries, is also one of the most densely populated with high poverty rates and over 70% of the population engaged in farming. But with rapid economic development, Rwanda now has the fastest growing economy in central Africa. As human populations increase, wetlands are frequently being converted for agriculture and poverty continues to drive illegal poaching.

CRANE DOCTOR

Olivier is determined to save these birds. Trained as a vet, he eschewed the role of livestock veterinarian to establish his own NGO, the Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association, in 2014. His team have already registered all captive cranes in the country to ensure that no more are brought into captivity, and his veterinary skills are proving vital to re-habilitate these birds to the wild. Olivier's team are raising awareness of the crane's plight to tackle trade and restore populations.



OLIVIER'S WHITLEY AWARD PROJECT AIMS TO:

- Scale up outreach to reduce demand for illegal trade by raising awareness of the conservation status of cranes and the laws protecting them, reaching 4,000 people.
- Train a network of volunteers to help combat poaching and monitor crane populations across the country.
- Restore roost sites, with communities planting over 500 native trees – as this is one of only two crane species adapted to tree-roosting.



"RWANDESE ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO REBUILD OUR COUNTRY. AS A CONSERVATIONIST, THIS IS WHAT I HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE TO MY COUNTRY AND I AM PASSIONATE TO DO IT AS BEST AS I CAN."



Rwanda forms a watershed between Africa's two major rivers, the Nile and the Congo.



Both men and women are key to conservation in Rwanda. **Women fill 64%** of parliamentary seats.



The project will increase protection of **four wetlands**.

CONTINUATION

INVESTING IN SUCCESS

Over the past 5 years, 70% of WFN's annual grant giving has been distributed through Continuation Funding, enabling the continued growth of high-impact projects. Last year, a total of £595,000 in further funding was awarded to nine outstanding conservation leaders from our global network of previous Whitley Award winners. Continuation Funding grants of up to £70,000 each will now support another two years of vital conservation action led by each winner, helping to scale up their successful conservation work.

LONG TERM SUPPORT

After winning their initial Awards, we stay in touch, competitively repeat funding alumni with Continuation Funding to support project expansion. Over half of all previous Whitley Award winners have gone on to win Continuation Funding. Effective environmental leadership requires a sustained commitment, from winners and from WFN. Scientific rigour is a mainstay of the programme, and winners are encouraged to diversify their funding, aim high and take calculated risks. By this stage, we increasingly see winners collaborating with a wide base of partners, and creating the next generation of

leaders. In this way we invest not just in individuals, but in the growth and capacity of their locally-based NGOs.

Proposals are assessed by expert reviewers from a range of conservation organisations who generously donate their time to identify the most compelling projects. Such funding – which is greater in value and over a longer time period than the Whitley Award – is given to some of the most influential conservationists in their field, contributing measurable impact at the grassroots, national and international level.

"One thing that puts WFN apart from other funders I have worked with is that they don't just plant the seed, they water it, they fertilise it, and they help the sprout to grow. Most funders don't do that."
Randall Arauz, 2004 Whitley Gold Award winner

"The fact that we can come back to WFN and present our ideas as they evolve and continue to receive support makes a big difference."
Jon Paul Rodriguez, 2003 Whitley Award winner

2017 CONTINUATION FUNDING WINNERS:



Randall Arauz
Costa Rica
(WA 2004)

Halting extinction of Eastern Pacific sharks
£70,000 OVER 2 YEARS



Gargi Banerji
India
(WA 2000)

Ecosystem conservation & disaster risk reduction in the Himalayas
£70,000 OVER 2 YEARS



Rosamira Guillen
Colombia
(WA 2015)

Restoring forest for cotton-top tamarins in northern Colombia
£70,000 OVER 2 YEARS



Panut Hadisiwoyo
Indonesia
(WA 2015)

A real life Jungle Book: safeguarding orangutans in the Leuser Ecosystem
£53,000 OVER 2 YEARS

FUNDING

GROWING DEMAND

Demand for Continuation Funding far outstrips resources – we want to change this! With new winners joining the network every year, the number of grantees we support grows steadily. There's demand from our winners for £1.5m annually, only a third of which we were able to fund last year. In order to meet growing need, we are setting a target to raise **£1m in addition to what we normally raise to mark our 25th anniversary.**

25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

We are excited to announce that we are holding a fundraising Gala at the Natural History Museum on 14th November 2018 to generate vital support for this programme. In attendance will be Trustee, **Sir David Attenborough**, and pledge leader, the **Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation**, who are partnering WFN in our 25th year. The evening will be a celebration of wildlife and conservation successes attended by winners, for which **Fashion for Conservation** is creating a spectacular show. We hope, with your invaluable support, to reach our target of £1m in additional conservation funding in 2018.



If you would like to learn more about the Gala or are interested in taking a table at the event, please contact WFN's Director, Georgina Domberger: **georgina@whitleyaward.org** or Gala Committee Chair, Catherine Faulks: **catherinefaulks@btinternet.com**

THANK YOU

We are extremely grateful to the generous donors who have chosen to give exclusively to our Continuation Funding programme. Our winners tell us that the ability to re-apply for funds when they need them to expand their work or address emerging threats is a vital source of support.



Jayson Ibañez
Philippines
(WA 2015)

Conserving the
Philippine's Bird King
£70,000 OVER 2 YEARS



Inaoyom Imong
Nigeria
(WA 2015)

Community conservation of
Cross River gorillas in the
remote Mbe Mountains
£52,000 OVER 2 YEARS



Zahirul Islam
Bangladesh & Myanmar
(WA 2013)

Expanding sea turtle
conservation in the
Bay of Bengal
£70,000 OVER 2 YEARS



Ananda Kumar
India
(WA 2015)

Sharing space: using
communications technology
to reduce human-elephant
conflict in southern India
£70,000 OVER 2 YEARS



Angela Maldonado
Colombia & Peru
(WA 2010)

Tackling illegal trade in
night monkeys at the
Colombia-Peru border
£70,000 OVER 2 YEARS

WHITLEY GOLD AWARD WINNER 2018

Donated by the Friends & Scottish Friends of WFN

Each year a member of our alumni network is selected to receive the Whitley Gold Award, a profile prize worth £60,000 in project funding, awarded in recognition of their outstanding contribution to conservation.

www.globalpenguinsociety.org

PABLO GARCIA BORBOROGLU

 HQ, ARGENTINA

"PEOPLE LOVE PENGUINS BUT THEY DO NOT KNOW ABOUT THEIR FRAGILE CONSERVATION STATUS. INCREASING AWARENESS IS CRUCIAL TO HELP NOT ONLY PENGUINS BUT ALSO THE OCEANS ON WHICH WE, AND THEY, RELY."



Global Penguin Conservation

In 2009, Pablo Borboroglu founded the Global Penguin Society (GPS) – the world's first coalition for the protection of penguins. Using a multi-faceted approach that combines science, management and education, GPS conserve penguins across the Southern Hemisphere and use them as a flagship for wider conservation of the marine environment.

Over half of the world's 18 species of penguin are listed as Vulnerable or Endangered by the IUCN. Threatened by poor fisheries management, pollution and climate change in the oceans, penguins also face pressure on land from coastal development, irresponsible tourism and introduced predators.

Pablo is spearheading largescale action to address these threats; balancing local guardianship with strengthening national and international protection. Over the past 29 years, Pablo's work has brought together over 125 organisations and benefitted 1.2 million penguins in four continents.

Pablo's data is helping to justify ocean protection and underpin management for penguins and other marine wildlife. The results are a great example of how science can increase conservation problem visibility, inform decision makers, influence management and catalyse grassroots, national and international action.





A Whitley Award winner in 2010 and a recipient of additional funding in 2012 and 2014, with the support of WFN Pablo and GPS have:

- Established the IUCN Penguin Specialist Group to provide a science-policy platform for informing international penguin conservation.
- Partnered with the Government of Argentina to designate the UNESCO Blue Patagonia Biosphere Reserve. The largest in the country, it covers 3.1 million ha of marine and coastal habitat across an area the size of Belgium!
- Campaigned successfully for the inclusion of ocean conservation on the list of UN Sustainable Development Goals for the first time. These inter-governmentally agreed targets have been adopted by 193 countries agreeing to the UN 2030 Agenda.
- Increased protection and improved management of penguin habitat based on data collected in Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, South Africa and New Zealand, and published in scientific journals.
- Secured creation of a 100,000

ha Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Argentina, benefitting one of the largest Magellanic penguin colonies in the world, while creating revenue and jobs for local people in sustainable tourism.

- Published 'Penguins: Natural History and Conservation', bringing together information on all penguin species in a book, accessible in Spanish and English.
- Educated 6,000 children who have participated in lessons and school trips to visit penguin colonies, strengthening connections with nature and groundswell support.
- Raised the profile of threats facing wildlife. Armed with information, communities and land owners have been engaged with conservation activities and politicians convinced to act.
- Given penguins a voice: the project has received extensive coverage including print, TV, radio, digital and social media, reaching international audiences in their millions.



WITH HIS WHITLEY GOLD AWARD PABLO WILL:

- Collect data on the population status and trends of Magellanic, Fiordland and King penguin colonies in Argentina, New Zealand and Chile to continue to improve management and evidence protected area creation in the face of development and climate change.
 - Collaborate with governments, landowners and NGOs to foster designation of five new MPAs in Argentina and provide data to support establishing a network of MPAs in New Zealand.
 - Continue to help tourist operations to minimize colony disturbance through sustainable management while generating income for local people, placing a value on conservation.
 - Lead cutting-edge research to identify penguin feeding corridors and assess overlap with human activity
- to advise MPA designation and fisheries legislation.
 - Create management recommendations for core areas of Argentina's Biosphere Reserve, consolidating Pablo's earlier work to secure this coastal region.
 - Scale up school visits to colonies, education and awareness raising to mobilize public support.
 - Initiate community beach cleans to address litter and plastic pollution in penguin colonies.
 - Explore ways to tackle the growing issue of illegal trafficking and trade in penguins fueled by demand in Asia.
 - Consolidate a global conservation agenda to identify emerging challenges and drive forward action to address them via the IUCN Penguin Specialist Group.



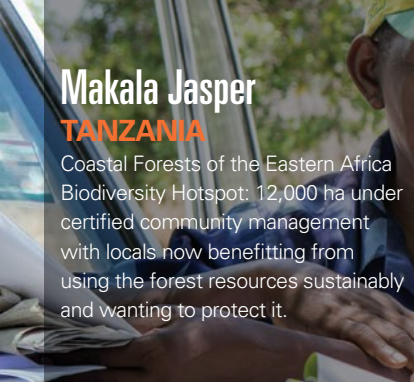
ACHIEVEMENT



Fernando Trujillo

COLOMBIA

Colombia bans the trade of mota fish which Fernando's research revealed contain toxic levels of mercury from illegal gold mining, making them unsafe for human consumption. The move will also stop the killing of the Amazon's pink river dolphins for fishing bait.



Makala Jasper

TANZANIA

Coastal Forests of the Eastern Africa Biodiversity Hotspot: 12,000 ha under certified community management with locals now benefitting from using the forest resources sustainably and wanting to protect it.



Hotlin Ompusunggu

BORNEO

Illegal logging reduced by 90% in Gunung Palung National Park, home to clouded leopards and 10% of the global population of orangutans.



Eugene Simonov

RUSSIA-MONGOLIA

New World Heritage Site created in the Dauria Landscape, a crucial stopping point for three million migratory birds.

VITS 2017

Juliette Veloso MADAGASCAR

Lake Ambondrobe declared a Ramsar Site protecting extraordinary Madagascan biodiversity, including freshwater turtles, and the valuable ecosystem services this area provides for local communities.



Çağan Şekercioğlu TURKEY

Ground-breaking discovery of world's first migratory brown bears due to Çağan's research. He is leading a movement to create a 28,543 ha protected habitat corridor between Turkey and Georgia.



Panut Hadisiswoyo SUMATRA

More Sumatran rainforest protected for tigers, elephant, rhino and orangutans as over 50ha of forest has been restored and another 100 ha reclaimed in the only place in the world where these four Critically Endangered species still survive together.



Rachel Graham BELIZE

Four Caribbean countries come together to protect sharks by developing standard protocol across Belize, Guatemala, Honduras & Mexico, to monitor populations of these threatened top predators.



2017 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Income & Expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2017

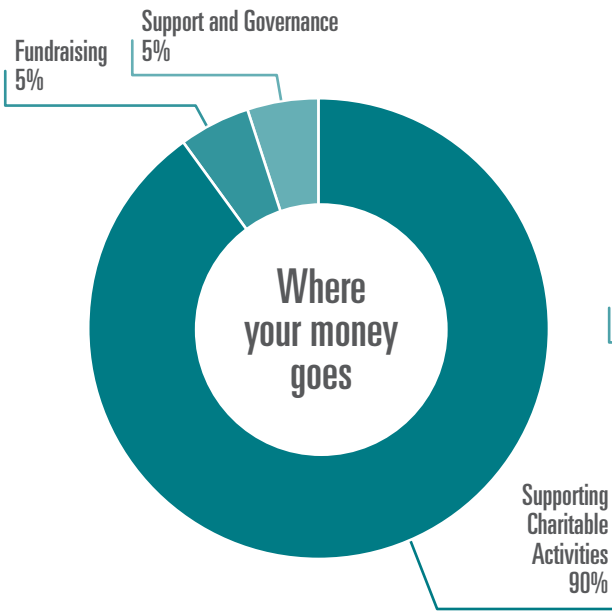
£'000	2017 Funds			2016 Funds
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
INCOME FROM:				
Donations	317	810	1,127	1,534
Grants	429		429	356
Trading activities		25	25	8
Investment Income		3	3	5
Total Income	746	838	1,584	1,903
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Grants awarded	566	1,128	1,694	576
Other charitable activities	119	46	165	157
Fundraising	47	26	73	51
Support & governance	71	16	87	107
Total Expenditure	803	1,216	2,019	891
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(57)	(378)	(435)	1,012
Funds brought forward	177	1,875	2,052	1,040
Funds carried forward	120	1,497	1,617	2,052

BALANCE SHEET at 30 June 2017

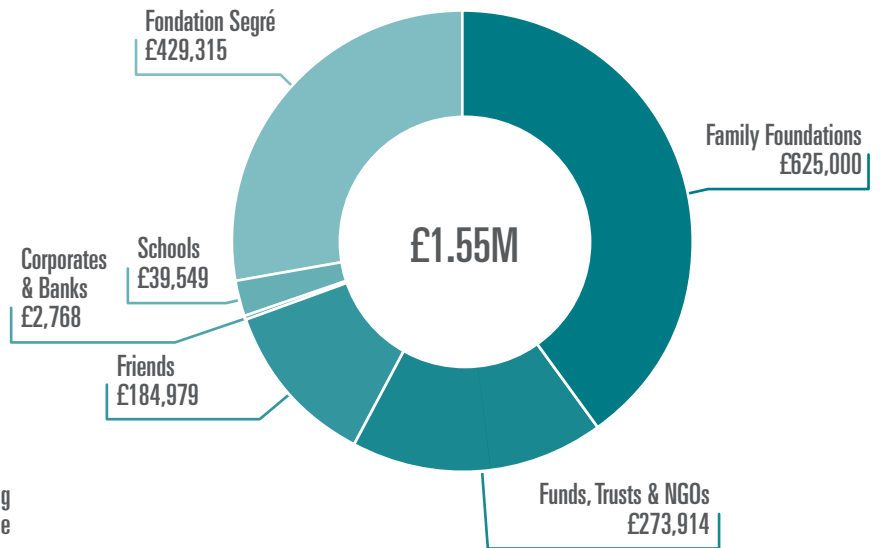
£'000	2017 Funds			2016 Funds
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
Cash	246	1,943	2,189	2,092
Debtors	3	117	120	83
Creditors due within one year	(72)	(361)	(433)	(123)
Net current assets	177	1,699	1,876	2,052
Creditors due after one year	(57)	(202)	(259)	-
Total net assets (= Total Funds)	120	1,497	1,617	2,052

Extracted from the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2017, a full copy of which is available on request.

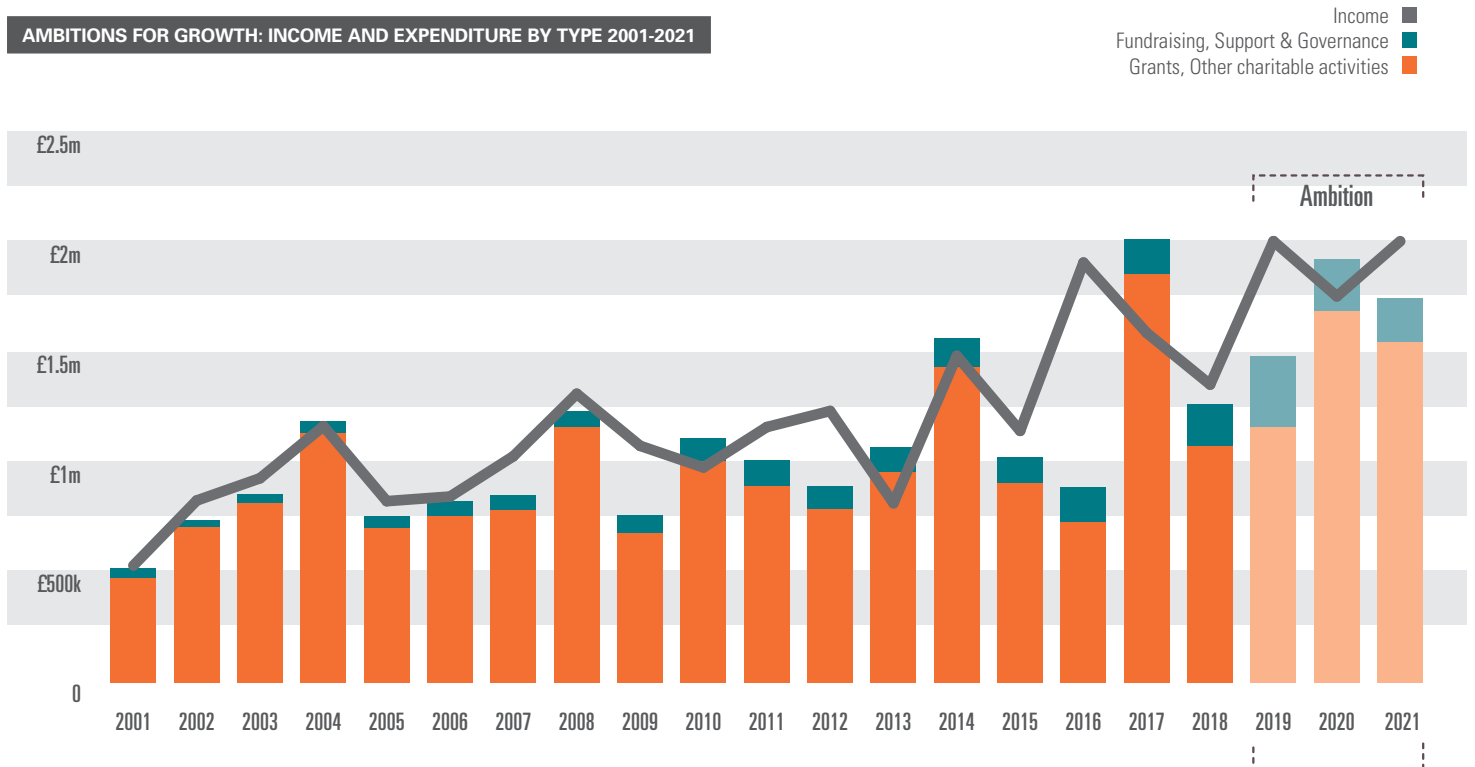
WHERE YOUR MONEY WENT IN 2017



TOTAL DONATIONS RECEIVED 2017



AMBITIONS FOR GROWTH: INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BY TYPE 2001-2021



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, with no capital endowment. The more we raise, the bigger the impact we can have.

WHITLEY AWARD DONORS



The William Brake
Charitable Trust
In memory of William Brake

The Corcoran Foundation



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The Balcombe Charitable Trust

The Constance Travis
Charitable Trust



The G D Charitable Trust

The Britta & Jeremy Lloyd
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MAJOR DONORS

The Byford Trust
In memory of Camilla Maxwell



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The LJC Fund



The Schroder Foundation



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

Caroline Black



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FRIENDS' DONATIONS

The donations we receive from our Friends are the lifeblood of the charity and this year are supporting the Whitley Gold Award, given to Pablo Borboroglu. Funds raised additionally to this are vital to supporting the charity as general funds and for WFN's Continuation Funding programme, which supports previous Whitley Award winners.

Donations received between
4th May 2017 and 3rd April 2018.

£10,000 – £19,999

The Frank Brake Charitable Trust
Sarah Greaves and Nick Harrison
Hylton Murray-Philipson
Points Family Trust
The Waterloo Foundation

£5,000 – £9,999

The Benindi Fund
Edward and Sally Benthall
Diego and Veronique De Giorgi
Judith Kennedy
Robin Crispin and Nichola Odey
The John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust

£1,000 – £4,999

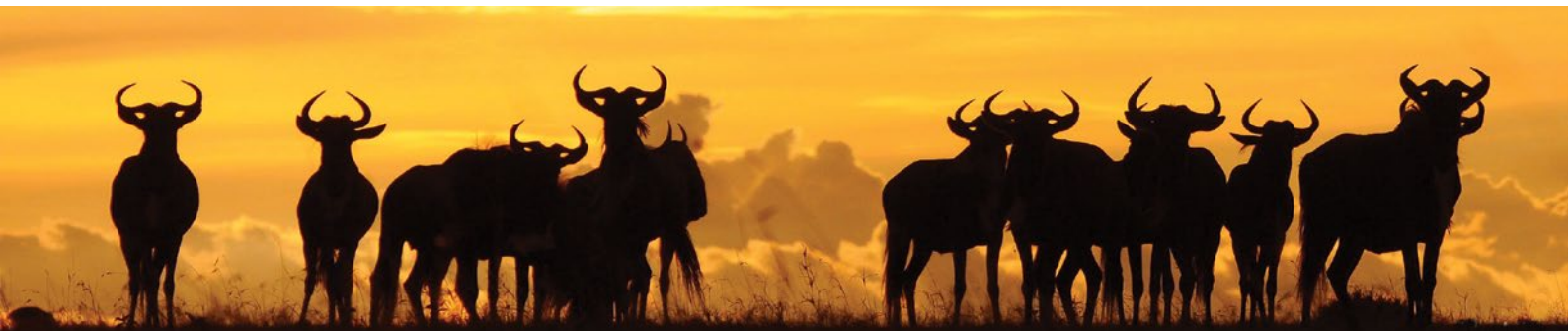
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£300 – £999

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