



WFN

**WHITLEY
AWARDS**

2019



WELCOME

The Whitley Fund for Nature is delighted to welcome you to the 2019 Whitley Awards Ceremony. Welcome to all of you – old friends and new – and thank you for joining us at the Royal Geographical Society to celebrate this evening.

One of the great legacies of WFN is our global Winner Network. This comprises all our winners since the start of the charity - now numbering just over 200 remarkably diverse and talented conservation leaders. It has been so rewarding to see collaborations develop over the years among this network who share knowledge to overcome common challenges, bring projects to scale, and support each other to deliver effective conservation solutions.

Tonight at our Ceremony we are thrilled to welcome six new inspiring leaders to this family – their commitment to working with local communities to protect wildlife and habitats in their home countries is truly admirable, and gives us reason to be optimistic about our shared future. Once they have joined the Winner Network, we look forward to staying in touch with them, supporting their work in future years with Continuation Funding and to seeing them collectively help each other to conserve wildlife with local communities.

”



Edward Whitley

EDWARD WHITLEY, OBE

FOUNDER | WHITLEY FUND FOR NATURE

OUR 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 resource-poor, biodiversity-rich countries.

2

Champion and repeat fund the most effective winners.

3

Support the replication and growth of 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.

CEREMONY PROGRAMME

- 7PM

DRINKS RECEPTION
- 8PM

CEREMONY

Kate Humble, 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
- 9.15PM

SUPPER AND MEET THE WINNERS

GUEST SPEAKERS



PATRON

HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL

2019 marks 20 years since The Princess Royal became Patron of the Whitley Fund for Nature. During that time 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 AND AMBASSADOR

KATE HUMBLE

WFN Ambassador Kate Humble 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 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. 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 over 200 grassroots conservationists in some 80 countries across the Global South. Edward was awarded an OBE in 2013 in recognition of his services to wildlife conservation.



WHITLEY GOLD AWARD WINNER

JON PAUL RODRÍGUEZ

Jon Paul is the Co-founder of Provita, a Professor at the Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research and Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. Founded in 1987 Provita takes action to protect wildlife in Venezuela, including the threatened yellow-shouldered parrot. He received a Whitley Award in 2003, and further funding from WFN in 2004, 2013 and 2016. Jon Paul has been recognised with the Whitley Gold Award for his outstanding contribution to conservation.



WFN TRUSTEE AND NARRATOR OF THE 2019 WINNER FILMS

MANY THANKS TO SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

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, and his new Netflix series, Our Planet, which is changing the way the world views the state of nature.

GRANTS FOR CONSERVATION ACTION



SETTING THE STANDARD

The Whitley Fund for Nature supports conservation leaders who, importantly, are nationals of the countries where they work, making them best placed to lead change and articulate solutions.

Whitley Award winners spearhead projects with passion, harnessing the latest available science on which to act, and through them, we support pragmatic, impactful work that is rooted in community involvement. 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. Today, 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 who also possess a collaborative approach and focus on bringing successful conservation methods 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', the high-profile prizes are presented by our Patron, HRH The Princess Royal at our Whitley Awards 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 and so our commitment to conservation leaders is long term. To help scale up effective conservation solutions, we offer opportunities for further funding to past Whitley Award winners. Applications are invited annually and applied for competitively. Over half of Whitley Award alumni go on to receive Continuation Funding, worth up to £100,000 over two years. With support, these winners become some of the most influential conservationists in their field, 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. This year, the Gold Award winner will also play an active role in supporting development of WFN's international Winner Network as part of their Gold Award project.

PROFILE BOOST



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 across print, radio and television. Through this training, they are able to capitalise on the media spotlight they receive following their win, shine in press interviews and inspire further philanthropic support.

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

WFN also promotes winners across our various social media platforms and on our website.

LEVERAGING SUCCESS



Funding is just part of what conservationists need to succeed. The Whitley Award seeks to bring unsung leaders to the world stage. From building local and national pride, to unlocking new funding opportunities, forging collaborations with NGO partners, and helping to influence policy - increased visibility and media coverage can help kick-start a snowball effect, growing a conservationist's reach and impact substantially.

The more people who read about their work, the more likely they are to receive additional accolades and awards. As their profile is raised, winners also have a better chance to connect with other conservationists to share knowledge and bring projects to scale. In turn, with greater credibility, they are in a better position to influence local, national, and international policy decisions. All of these factors help leverage stronger and more effective conservation work.



feel that receiving the Whitley Award increased their profile



said the Award increased access to in-country media



said the Award increased access to international donors



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



said the Award increased access to other conservationists internationally

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

LOCAL LEADERS GLOBAL NETWORK

Since its creation, the Whitley Fund for Nature has given nearly £16 million to support the work of 200 conservation leaders benefiting wildlife and local communities in more than 80 countries.

BUILDING A NETWORK

One of the key achievements of WFN is the Winner Network we have built together with your support. This international network is now over 200 strong, and is comprised of some of the most influential conservationists in their fields from 80 countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe.

Winners are increasingly working together to protect the planet. The network has extraordinary potential, and WFN is facilitating interactions among winners to ensure the sharing of best practice and the replication of successful conservation models. Through winner collaborations, we can maximize the collective impact of the network for wildlife and communities.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

The impact of our global Winner Network is tangible and far-reaching. These are just a few highlights of what our alumni were able to accomplish for conservation in 2018.

WFN seeks out local leaders on the ground, who are already engaged with their project and community, and provides support. . . 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



2012 winner **Josia Razafindramanana** and her team have discovered two new populations of crowned sifaka lemurs – also known as dancing lemurs – bringing renewed hope for these Endangered Madagascan primates.



Two pregnant giant squeaker frogs were discovered in Ghana's Sui Forest reserve by 2016 winner **Gilbert Adum** and his team providing hope for one of the world's most endangered frogs and affirming efforts to save this unique amphibian are yielding success.



< Gilbert Adum



Fernando Trujillo >



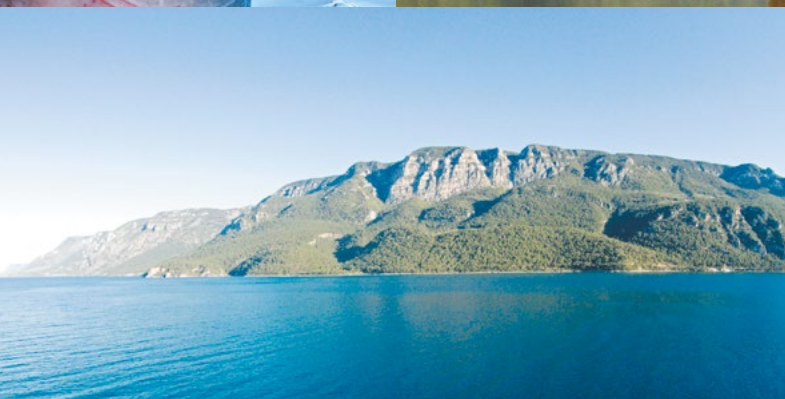
Expeditions led by 2007 Gold winner **Fernando Trujillo** in collaboration with 27 NGOs covering 30,000km of rivers in six countries have generated the first population estimate for the pink river dolphin (*Inia geoffrensis*). With 28-35,000 believed to remain in the Amazon and Orinoco Basins the species was reclassified from Data Deficient to Endangered in August 2018, filling a vital knowledge gap.



Aparajita Datta >



A 10 year Action Plan for the Helmeted Hornbill has been published with involvement from 2013 winner **Aparajita Datta** and colleagues in Indonesia providing a legally binding strategy for the conservation of these Critically Endangered birds threatened by poaching for their red casques to fuel demand in China.



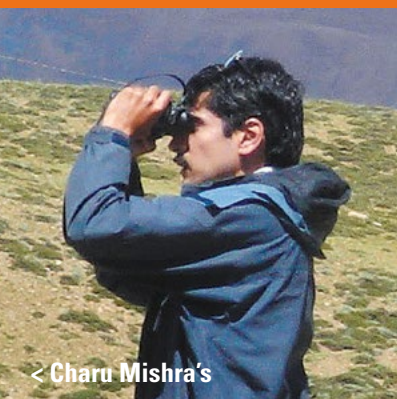
Today the world's most prized and endangered fish, the bluefin tuna, is swimming in Gökova Bay Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Turkey, fully protected from fishing by purse-seiners. The species was captured by underwater cameras installed by 2017 Gold Award winner **Zafer Kizilkaya**, making Gökova Bay the only MPA in the Mediterranean with proven presence of bluefin tuna, and demonstrating that well protected, sizable, marine reserves can turn the tide for endangered marine life.



< **Zafer Kizilkaya**



Snow leopard cubs were recorded for the first time in Shamshy Nature Reserve, Kyrgyzstan in March 2018. This milestone moment was the first time cubs had been sighted in the Kyrgyz Ala-Too Mountain range. A former hunting concession, Shamshy was converted into a reserve for snow leopards as a result of 2005 Gold winner **Charu Mishra's** work to protect these big cats.



< **Charu Mishra's**

Cuba's flora is better protected thanks to the development of 17 new Species Recovery Plans for threatened plants by 2014 winner **Luis Torres** and his team, making this a first for the Caribbean country which hosts some of the richest island flora diversity in the world.

< **Luis Torres**



Purnima Barman's >

400 Assamese women joined 2017 winner **Purnima Barman's** project to conserve the greater adjutant stork, which saw record numbers of women participate in 2018. Women involved with the project benefit from livelihoods and education initiatives; boosting local income, whilst transforming the image of a bird that has long been persecuted in India.



25 YEAR IMPACT

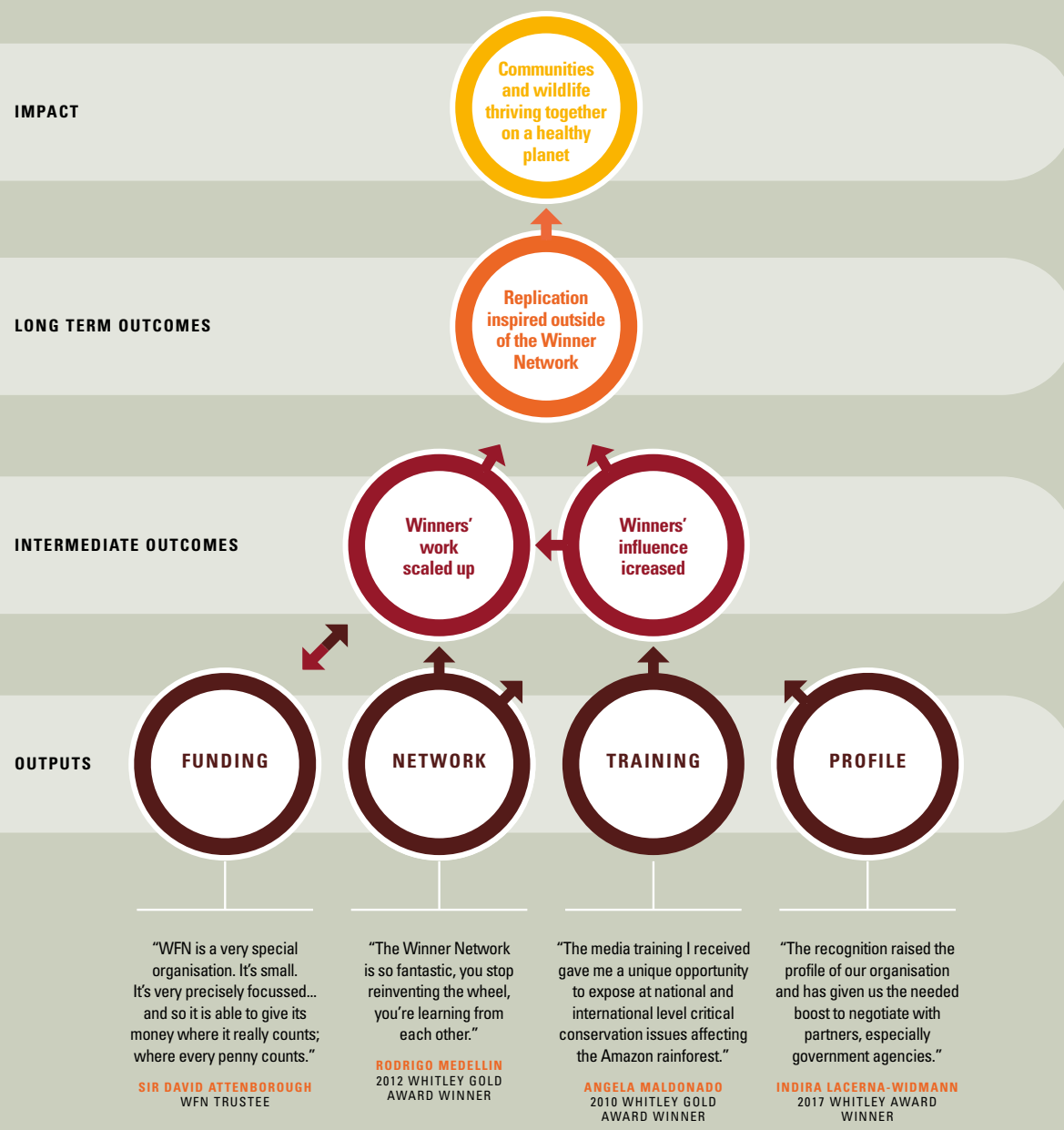
In 2018, WFN teamed up with Professor of Biodiversity, E.J. Milner-Gulland at Oxford University, and Consultant Brittany Sawrey, to undertake an independent impact assessment of our winners over the past 25 years.

This year we've been delving deeper into the results and putting recommendations into practice.

25 YEAR IMPACT

DEVELOPING OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

Key to the success of any charity is a clearly defined vision for the future and a strategy of how to get there. Simply put, WFN aims to drive change via the following pathways:



CONSERVATION TOOLS

Our winners tackle a vast range of threats facing wildlife globally; across marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems. They do this using a suite of conservation tools appropriate for the biological, economic and social context in which they work.

PROTECTED AREAS

91 MILLION HA

of marine, freshwater and terrestrial protected areas created and/or managed by winner projects

POLICY CHANGE

354 POLICIES

for improved environmental protection developed at national, regional or international scales

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

1.1 MILLION

people benefitted from new skills, improved livelihoods or female empowerment

14.3 MILLION

people received environmental education

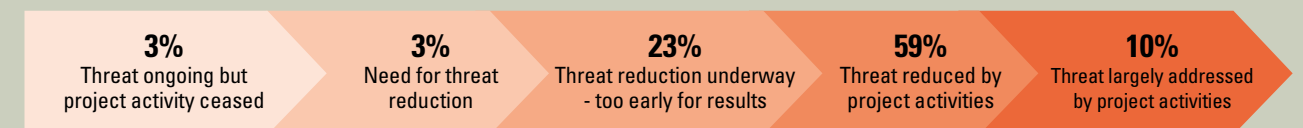
INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

Our winners have made a lasting commitment to their project sites. To measure their progress we asked them to place their projects along these pathways to impact.

REDUCED THREATS

69% OF WINNERS

reported threats to target ecosystems and wildlife were reduced through their project activities.



* 2% of participants responded N/A

STABLE POPULATIONS

69% OF WINNERS

reported populations of target species were either stable or increasing in their project sites.



WINNER SELECTION 2019

This year, WFN received 110 Whitley Award applications from 55 countries following our call for proposals. We would like to thank our Judging Panel and Application Scorers, who kindly offer their expertise voluntarily during the four stages of assessment to reach the final shortlist.

JUDGING PANEL

Edward Whitley
Chairman and Founder, WFN

Jon Paul Rodríguez
Co-founder, Provita; Chair, IUCN Species Survival Commission, 2019 Whitley Gold Award winner

Marianne Carter
Director, Conservation Capacity and Leadership, FFI

Damian Fleming
Director of International Programmes, WWF-UK

Matthew Hatchwell
Chair of the Advisory Board, Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology (DICE), University of Kent

Ian Lazarus
Trustee, WFN

Danni Parks
Director, WFN

Alicky Davey
Grants Manager, WFN

APPLICATION SCORERS

Dr Fernando Trujillo
Scientific Director, Foundation Omacha; 2007 Whitley Gold Award winner

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

Dr Simon Lyster
Chairman of Trustees, Conservation International (UK); Council Member, World Land Trust

Dr Charudutt Mishra
Science and Conservation Director, Snow Leopard Trust; Founder, Nature Conservation Foundation; 2005 Whitley Gold Award winner

Danni Parks, MSc
Director, WFN

Alicky Davey, MSc
Grants Manager, WFN

AWARDS WEEK TIMETABLE

SUNDAY

Arrivals

Week briefing and welcome dinner



MONDAY

Interviews with the Whitley Awards Judging Panel

Reception with the Friends of WFN



TUESDAY

Media training in print, radio and TV, sponsored by HSBC



WEDNESDAY

Speech training

Whitley Awards Ceremony



THURSDAY

Media Reception

Conflict Resolution Training

NGO Networking Reception



FRIDAY

Contract signing

Monitoring and Evaluation Session

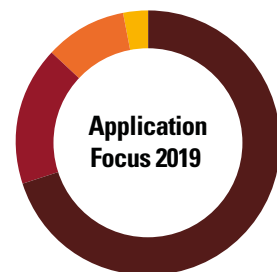
Farewell lunch and Departures



This year the chance of winning a Whitley Award was **1 in 18**



- Africa 35% (38)
- Asia 32% (36)
- Americas 28% (31)
- Europe 3% (3)
- Middle East 2% (2)



- Terrestrial 70% (77)
- Marine 17% (19)
- Freshwater 10% (11)
- Other 3% (3)

VATOSOA RAKOTONDRAZAFY

MADAGASCAR

I feel incredibly privileged to work on behalf of Madagascar's small-scale fishers and help them to defend their rights at a national scale.

VATOSOA RAKOTONDRAZAFY



In Madagascar 500,000 traditional fishers rely on marine biodiversity for livelihoods and food security.



Almost all of Madagascar's 18 ethnic groups are represented in the MIHARI network.

90%

of the species on Madagascar are found nowhere else on earth.



MIHARI: A CIVIL SOCIETY MOVEMENT TO SAFEGUARD MARINE RESOURCES

ISOLATED COMMUNITIES

While rich in biodiversity, many coastal communities in Madagascar are remote and lacking in basic amenities. Poor infrastructure means fishers struggle to sell their products, and children rarely have access to formal education. However, their intimate knowledge of the sea and their vested interest in its protection makes local communities best placed to guide management of their marine environment.

LOCALLY MANAGED MARINE AREAS

With few safeguards in place, marine resources have been rapidly depleted in recent decades. Under Vatosoa's coordination, the MIHARI network have taken steps to reverse this trend by connecting over 200 community associations and NGOs along the country's 5,000km coastline to share best practice and develop management guidelines. Some of the Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) established within the network have demonstrated that a shift towards more sustainable fishing practices can yield impressive benefits for both people and marine life.

A UNITED VOICE

Vatosoa is giving local fishers a voice. On the political stage, Vatosoa has championed the rights and needs of local fishers and their important role in marine management. In 2017 the network presented their proposal for fisheries policy reform to the Ministry of Fisheries and in 2018 the government made a commitment to work towards reserved areas for small-scale fishers.

With her Whitley Award Vatosoa will:

- + Expand the network to support fishing communities in three new coastal regions in Madagascar.
- + Bring together leaders of 40 LMMAs for comprehensive training in the management and governance of their marine resources.
- + Work with government to secure legal status for LMMAs including the creation of an exclusive zone for small-scale fisheries.
- + Promote knowledge sharing between the 200 participating community management associations ensuring best practice in marine conservation and sustainable use.

Visit mihari-network.org

JOSÉ SARASOLA

ARGENTINA



We need to be creative to find the smartest and most practical solutions to stop species extinctions.

JOSÉ SARASOLA



Less than 1,000 mature Chaco eagles remain.

70%

70% of Chaco eagles tagged since 2012 have died due to electrocution, illegal killing or drowning.



60 species of birds and mammal have been found drowned in water tanks in the project site.



THE CHACO EAGLE: A FLAGSHIP FOR SEMIARID WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

› CHALLENGING PERCEPTIONS

Birds of prey hold significance for many civilisations, including indigenous societies across the Americas. However, for the modern day gauchos of La Pampa and Mendoza provinces, the Chaco eagle was considered a threat to their livelihoods, perceived to predate young livestock. José's research over the last 15 years has proven this not to be the case. His extensive outreach work has begun to change the behaviour of farmers, slowing intentional persecution of these endangered raptors.

› EMERGING THREATS

Besides illegal killing, José's work has exposed other significant threats to the Chaco eagle, including electrocution on powerlines and drowning in water tanks. The semi-arid climate of the region means that ranchers store water in multiple, sheer-sided tanks all across this vast landscape. Local wildlife has learnt to make use of this resource, sometimes with disastrous consequences. Predictions based on José's research estimate that in La Pampa province 300,000 birds drown annually by falling into the tanks.

› SIMPLE SOLUTIONS

In a pilot study José showed that mortality due to drowning was reduced by 50% by the addition of a ramp inside the water tank. He has also built relationships with power companies willing to make their pylons safe for wildlife by making simple structural changes. With his Whitley Award José and his NGO - the Centre for the Study and Conservation of Birds of Prey in Argentina - will scale up to the broader landscape, covering 20,000 km² across the two provinces for the benefit of the Chaco eagle and the many other species affected by these threats.

With his Whitley Award José will:

- + Further reduce the illegal killing of the Chaco eagle by changing community perceptions of the eagles.
- + Work with farmers to implement simple solutions to prevent eagles and other wildlife from drowning in water tanks.
- + Engage power companies to take steps to reduce eagle mortality from electrocution.

Visit cecara.com.ar

CALEB OFORI-BOATENG

GHANA

The only world I knew for the first 7 years of my life, was one in which humans lived so successfully with wildlife in a protected area setting; a beauty that I now strive to recreate in my adult life.

CALEB OFORI-BOATENG



The Togo slippery frog is locally known as the whistling frog due to its whistle-like calls which can be heard at night.



The project site is home to 11 other threatened species, including two species of pangolin.



The Togo slippery frog is listed 18th in the top 100 most Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered (EDGE) amphibians - as genetically different from other amphibians as pigs are from humans.



CRITICAL REFUGE FOR THE TOGO SLIPPERY FROG

› FROG DOCTOR

The first formally trained herpetologist in Ghana, Caleb was part of an expedition in 2005 which discovered a population of the Togo slippery frog after it had been considered extinct by scientists for 40 years. Founder of the NGO, Herp Conservation Ghana, Caleb has worked tirelessly in the remote forests of the Togo-Volta Highlands to ensure this Critically Endangered amphibian's protection ever since.

› FORESTS UNDER THREAT

A stream and waterfall dweller, these frogs rely on healthy forests to protect the watershed and keep their freshwater habitat clean. Without formal protection, rapid agricultural expansion and widespread logging have put the frogs, and many other species, at risk. Together with local communities, Caleb and his team have succeeded in establishing Ghana's first protected area for endangered amphibians, and they have big plans for expansion.

› BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

Togo slippery frogs are also threatened by human consumption. It's said people moved to the region 5,000 years ago specifically because of this forest's edible frogs, with over 70% of local people having eaten them. Caleb's Whitley Award will allow him to expand his work to new communities, using innovative methods to engage with audiences and bring about behaviour change.

With his Whitley Award Caleb will:

- + Work alongside communities and government to gain legal protection for 60km² of forest where the Togo slippery frog is found.
- + Train local 'behaviour change champions' to raise awareness to reduce consumption of the frogs.
- + Restore degraded areas of former forest habitat, replanting 20,000 trees to prevent erosion and sedimentation of the frog's waterfall and stream habitat.

Visit herpghana.org

NIKOLAI PETKOV

BULGARIA



WETLANDS ON THE BRINK: CONSERVING THE RED-BREASTED GOOSE

› WETLANDS UNDER PRESSURE

The coastal lakes of Shabla and Durankulak provide critical habitat for 260 bird species. In winter, migratory water birds congregate in the thousands, placing the lakes among the most important stop over sites along the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. Despite this, mounting infrastructure development and economic growth in the area pose a significant challenge for conservationists, who aim to ensure the protection of these wetlands while meeting human needs.

› BUILDING BRIDGES

For 15 years, Nikolai and his team at the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds have worked to champion the conservation of the globally threatened red-breasted goose, a flagship species for these precious sites. By engaging with farmers to develop an agri-environment payment scheme, they have reduced conflict and persecution of geese due to crop damage, and have boosted perceptions of conservation as an opportunity to bring value to the region.

› MAINSTREAMING CONSERVATION

Nikolai is working alongside local institutions to improve understanding and enforcement of environmental legislation to address illegal hunting and fishing in the region. Together with his team, he will provide a strong and informed voice for the integration of conservation into the imminent Shabla Municipality development plan. Through extensive community outreach he will build local pride in the region's wildlife, creating an incentive for its conservation.

With his Whitley Award Nikolai will:

- + Address threats to the red-breasted goose from intentional and accidental hunting.
- + Ensure that conservation values are accounted for in the Shabla Municipality development plan.
- + Reduce disturbance to roosting red-breasted geese caused by illegal fishing.
- + Build local pride in the area's natural heritage through promotion of birdwatching ecotourism.

Now, we want to work to replicate this work and find similar solutions to this in other countries along the flyway.

NIKOLAI PETKOV



Shabla and Durankulak Lakes are declared wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.



42% of the bird species found at Durankulak are of European conservation concern.



The number of red breasted geese has nearly halved since 1990. In cold winters the two lakes have been known to support the species' entire global population.

Visit bspb.org

ILENA ZANELLA

COSTA RICA

I hope to engage the communities in the protection of the scalloped hammerhead shark and I would like the local people to feel proud of the sanctuary.

ILENA ZANELLA



At its mouth the Golfo Dulce is only 60m deep, but sheltered inland waters reach more than 200m in depth.



Whales and dolphins are easily observed in the calm waters of the fjord and threatened sea turtles breed along its shores.



Misión Tiburón is part of the Migramar network, involving collaborations with other Whitley Award winners, conserving migratory species in the Eastern Tropical Pacific marine corridor.



STRENGTHENED SANCTUARY FOR THE SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD SHARK

› TROPICAL FJORD

The Golfo Dulce is one of only four tropical fjords in the world. The unique nutrient cycling at this site means its waters are teeming with life. Nine years of research by Ilena, Co-founder of Misión Tiburón, has proven the further significance of the site as key nursery habitat for juvenile scalloped hammerhead sharks.

› HOPE FOR HAMMERHEADS

Hammerheads migrate thousands of miles each year connecting populations across Ecuador, Panama, Colombia and Costa Rica in the Eastern Tropical Pacific. The focus of conservation efforts on sharks around oceanic islands where adults congregate to breed and feed has demonstrated the critical need to protect sharks throughout their lifecycle. Based on the data collected by Ilena and her team, the coastal wetlands of Golfo Dulce were declared a Scalloped Hammerhead Shark Sanctuary in May 2018, including a 4,000Ha no take zone. This marks the first shark sanctuary in Costa Rica, and the first shark sanctuary globally to focus specifically on juvenile nursery habitat.

› INSPIRING A GENERATION

Building on this political good will, Ilena will continue to work with the local community to reduce the use of juvenile scalloped hammerheads as fishing bait and improve detection of illegal fishing activity. Misión Tiburón's new Education Station will provide an education programme for children in the community promoting a shift towards increased environmental awareness and sustainable fishing practices.

With her Whitley Award Ilena will:

- + Work with coast guards and local fishermen to halve illegal catch of hammerheads.
- + Double the number of students involved in Misión Tiburón's education programme to reach 1,000 school children.
- + Evaluate the impact of management decisions on the abundance of juvenile sharks in the Golfo Dulce.

Visit misiontiburon.org

WENDI TAMARISKA

INDONESIA

It is my mission to work with
communities to protect their
forests, natural resources, and
their traditional way of life.

WENDI TAMARISKA



Gunung Palung National Park is
also home to proboscis monkeys,
pangolins, hornbills and sun bears.

50%

Orangutan populations
have declined by over
50% in the last 60 years.



Gunung Palung National Park and
the surrounding area is home to
an estimated 5,000 Critically
Endangered Bornean orangutans.



PROTECTING ORANGUTANS AND RAINFORESTS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

› PRISTINE FORESTS

The mountains of Gunung Palung National Park make up some of the last stands of primary rainforest in the world. Supporting many endangered species, including the Bornean orangutan, they also play a vital role in regulating the local and global climate. Yet these forests are threatened by expanding oil palm plantations, mining activities and illegal logging. Not only does this impact the forest, but the indigenous people living around the National Park.

› SECURE MARKETS

Since Wendi joined the Gunung Palung Orangutan Conservation Programme in 2010, he has demonstrated to both community members and government officials that conservation goals can be achieved through the provision of genuine, sustainable, economic alternatives. He has connected traditional artisans to local and national markets and persuaded local restaurants to favour organic produce from the farmers he supports.

› SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

Wendi's work has enabled community members to put down their chainsaws and give up backbreaking jobs in mining and logging. For the last seven years the National Handicraft Association has purchased from Wendi's artisan groups on a monthly basis and in 2017, 11 former illegal loggers signed agreements to halt deforestation and protect orangutans in exchange for livelihoods support.

With his Whitley Award Wendi will:

- + Scale up this model to new sites and reduce the incidence of illegal logging and encroachment by villagers through the promotion of alternative livelihoods.
- + Increase the number of traditional artisans benefitting from the sale of non-timber forest products from 25 to 45 households.
- + Double the number of community members reached through awareness and education activities promoting the protection of orangutans.

Visit savegorangutans.org

CONTINUATION FUNDING

GROWING IMPACT

Winning a Whitley Award is a moment of great achievement for grassroots conservationists, and this is just the beginning of the journey. Winners stay in touch, and many apply for competitive repeat funding – exclusively for Whitley Alumni - at crucial moments during their project progression. In fact, over half of all previous Whitley Award winners have gone on to win WFN Continuation Funding!

INVESTING IN SUCCESS

Over the past 10 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 £590,000 in Continuation Funding was awarded to nine outstanding conservation leaders from our Winner Network.

Scientific rigour is a mainstay of the programme, but so too are winners encouraged to aim high and take calculated risks. By this stage, we increasingly see winners collaborating with a wide base of partners, including each other.

Proposals are assessed by expert reviewers from a range of conservation organisations who generously donate their time to identify the most compelling projects. Through our laddered funding approach - from Whitley Award, to Continuation Funding to, for an exceptional few, the Gold Award – we are giving leading grassroots conservationists a sustainable means of scaling their impact for wildlife.

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 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.

25TH ANNIVERSARY FUND

MEETING DEMAND

Demand for Continuation Funding far outstrips resources. Last year, we established our 25th Anniversary Fund in order to change this and get closer to meeting the £1.5 million being sought

by our winners annually. We're pleased to share that in 2018, thanks to the generous support of our donors and supporters, we met our target to raise an additional £1million for conservation!

A LANDMARK EVENING

2018 marked WFN's 25th anniversary. Last November, we held a Hope Gala at the Natural History Museum, to celebrate this milestone and raise vital funds to meet growing demand from our global Winner Network. We were joined by our Trustee, Sir David Attenborough, Ambassador, Kate Humble and 13 past Whitley Award winners for this special occasion. A heartfelt thank you to all our early

contributors to the 25th Anniversary Fund – Gala Partner the Corcoran Foundation, the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, LJC Fund, and Rabelais Trust who kick-started our campaign to raise £1 million for conservation. We could not have made our Hope Gala possible, nor reached our fundraising target without your support, as well as the support of all who gave to this cause at the Gala and subsequently.

FORWARD FACING

Effective conservation requires a sustained commitment; from WFN and our winners. We're humbled and grateful with the fundraising success of our 25th Anniversary Gala which enabled us to raise the bar for winners. We now have a growing network of 200 proven conservation leaders who are best placed to effect change for wildlife in their home countries. Looking to the future, we hope to keep the bar high beyond 2018, and maintain what we are able to offer alumni in Continuation Funding support in order to meet urgent demand from our Winner Network. With effective and large-scale wildlife conservation projects across the world in need of continued support, our impact is limited only by what we can raise.

FUNDING LARGESCALE PROJECTS

The funds raised will facilitate the development of strategic partnerships between winners as they unite to deliver largescale conservation initiatives. Phase one of the funds

raised will benefit sharks, snow leopards, mountain gorillas, bats, lions, and Sumatran orangutans, led by Whitley alumni.



2018 Continuation Funding winners



Sergei Bereznuik
Russia (2006 alumni)

Scaling up anti-poaching efforts for Russia's Siberian tigers and Amur leopards

£65,000
over 2 years



Christina Garcia
Belize (2011 alumni awarded to Lisel Alamilla)

Landscape level conservation of Belize's Maya Golden Landscape

£35,000
over 1 year



Rachel Graham
Panama (2011 alumni)

Reversing declines in hammerhead sharks in Panama and the Eastern Tropical Pacific

£70,000
over 2 years



Vivek Menon
India (2001 alumni)

Right of Passage for India's Asian elephants

£70,000
over 2 years



Bohdan Prots
Ukraine (2007 alumni)

Engaging communities to protect Europe's largest remaining old growth forests

£70,000
over 2 years



Marleny Rosales-Meda
Guatemala (2008 alumni)

Empowering young conservation leaders, Guatemala

£70,000
over 2 years



Çağan Hakkı Şekercioğlu
Turkey (2008 alumni)

Protecting globally Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in north-eastern Turkey

£70,000
over 2 years



Fernando Trujillo
Colombia and Ecuador (2007 alumni)

River dolphins and Ramsar sites: a strategy for the Amazon and Orinoco basins

£70,000
over 2 years



Eugene Simonov
North and Central Asia (2013 alumni)

Keeping rivers free and wild in the era of "Belt and Road"

£70,000
over 2 years

JON PAUL RODRÍGUEZ

VENEZUELA

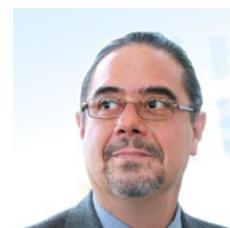
Gold Award Winner 2019
Donated by the Friends of WFN

Each year a member of our Winner 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.

From a personal, professional perspective, the support from WFN greatly contributed to increasing my international visibility and projecting me to the global conservation arena.

JON PAUL RODRÍGUEZ

A RANGE-WIDE PLAN FOR THE YELLOW-SHOULDERED PARROT



Jon Paul Rodríguez co-founded his NGO, Provita, 30 years ago to conserve threatened wildlife in Venezuela, including the nationally Endangered yellow-shouldered parrot (YSP). Focusing on Margarita Island in the Venezuelan Caribbean, this threatened species hotspot has seen much of its suitable habitat lost to development. Poaching of YSPs for the domestic and international pet trade is rife here; with more parrots in captivity than in the wild. After the local extinction of the YSP on neighbouring islands, Jon Paul set out to safeguard these aptly named parrots on Margarita. After receiving his Whitley Award in 2003, today the YSP is on the road to recovery in Margarita, but elsewhere populations continue to decline, making scale up of his successful approach to the species' entire range crucial.

In 2016 Jon Paul became the elected Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission - the first person from outside of Europe or North America to hold this title. This influential position has allowed him to convene leading experts, test new approaches locally and contribute to international species conservation and environmental policy. His work is now more important than ever in the face of the current challenge to make space for nature globally, against a backdrop of social and economic crisis in Venezuela which is forcing conservation and scientific research into the background.

A Whitley Award winner in 2003, and a recipient of further funding from WFN in 2004, 2013, and 2016, with the support of WFN and other partners, Jon Paul and his team have:

- + Decreased nest raiding by 83% since 2004. Fewer YSP chicks are now being lost to poachers each year thanks to round the clock surveillance involving communities, the police and national authorities.
- + Increased fledgling success, with 126 parrots flying the nest in 2018 - the highest number in the project's history!
- + Built partnerships with sand mining companies to safeguard and restore wildlife habitat, including a 700 ha Conservation Area.
- + Offered communities alternative livelihoods as Eco Guardians. Through this cooperative, local people receive income to monitor parrot nests during the breeding season to protect them from poaching. The scheme is successfully converting ex-poachers into parrot protectors.
- + Repaired nests damaged by poaching and planted 3,000 native trees to increase the availability of nesting and feeding sites for parrots and other species endemic to Margarita.
- + Conducted long term monitoring of the parrot's population and biology, providing vital information to support its ongoing conservation.
- + Environmental education has been integrated into the local curriculum, with 13 schools engaged with learning.
- + Begun work to examine the causal factors behind the pet trade in yellow-shouldered parrots on Margarita, working with conservation psychologists to develop outreach campaigns that facilitate positive behaviour and attitudinal change.
- + As a result of their collective efforts, the yellow-shouldered parrot population has more than doubled on Margarita, from 700 birds when work began to 1,700 today.

Visit provita.org.ve



With his Whitley Gold Award Jon Paul will:

- + Develop the first conservation Action Plan for the yellow-shouldered parrot using IUCN standards. This plan will act as a blueprint for YSP conservation throughout their entire range, and provide a model approach for other parrot species.
- + Actively engage other Whitley Award winners to develop and oversee this strategy, including input on design, invitation of feedback and visiting Jon Paul's team in the field. In this way, WFN alumni will work together to conserve this species and maximise their impact.
- + Scale up the project's reach from Venezuela to benefit parrots on the neighbouring island of Bonaire involving new NGO Partners as part of a species-wide conservation recovery plan.
- + Consolidate 30 years of work to continue to reduce poaching intensity, bolster fledgling success and increase the extent of suitable breeding habitat in order to improve the YSP's population status in Venezuela.
- + Establish and train a growing team of 12 Eco Guardians to safeguard and monitor nests at risk of poaching, alongside authorities.
- + Team up with local tree nurseries and sand mining companies to restore degraded habitat and assure conservation of breeding sites, focusing on corridors and high priority areas as part of a long term habitat restoration plan.
- + Use the results of the sociological investigation to shape future behaviour change interventions and expand the coverage of Provita's campaign to further discourage parrot poaching and illegal ownership.
- + Collaborate with Whitley Award alumni to publish on globally relevant issues in biological conservation; allowing the voices of those working at the coalface to be heard.

WFN FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2018

Income and expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2018

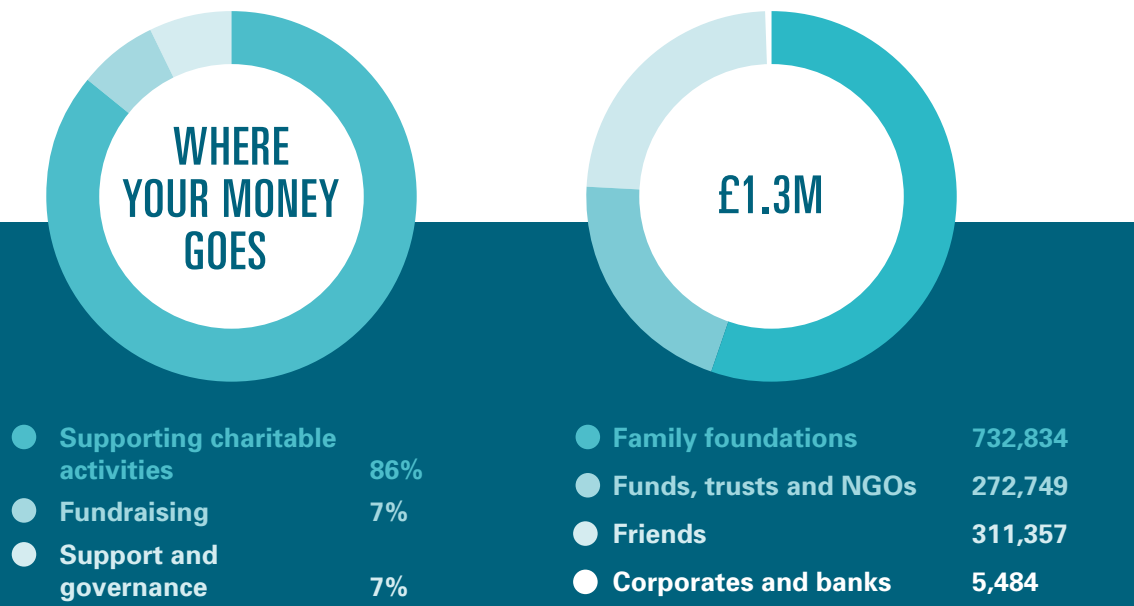
£'000	2018 FUNDS			2017 FUNDS
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
INCOME FROM:				
Donations	304	1,018	1,322	1,127
Grants	-	-	-	429
Trading activities	-	7	7	25
Investment income	-	2	2	3
Total income	304	1,027	1,331	1,584
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Grants awarded	167	745	912	1,694
Other charitable activities	77	95	172	165
Fundraising	58	41	99	73
Support & governance	58	35	93	87
Total expenditure	360	916	1,276	2,019
Net income/(expenditure)	(56)	111	55	(435)
Funds brought forward	120	1,497	1,617	2,052
Funds carried forward	64	1,608	1,672	1,617

Balance sheet at 30 June 2018

£'000	2018 FUNDS			2017 FUNDS
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
Cash	189	2,086	2,275	2,189
Debtors	3	57	60	120
Creditors due within one year	(117)	(493)	(610)	(433)
Net current assets	75	1,650	1,725	1,876
Creditors due after one year	(11)	(42)	(53)	(259)
Total net assets (= Total Funds)	64	1,608	1,672	1,617

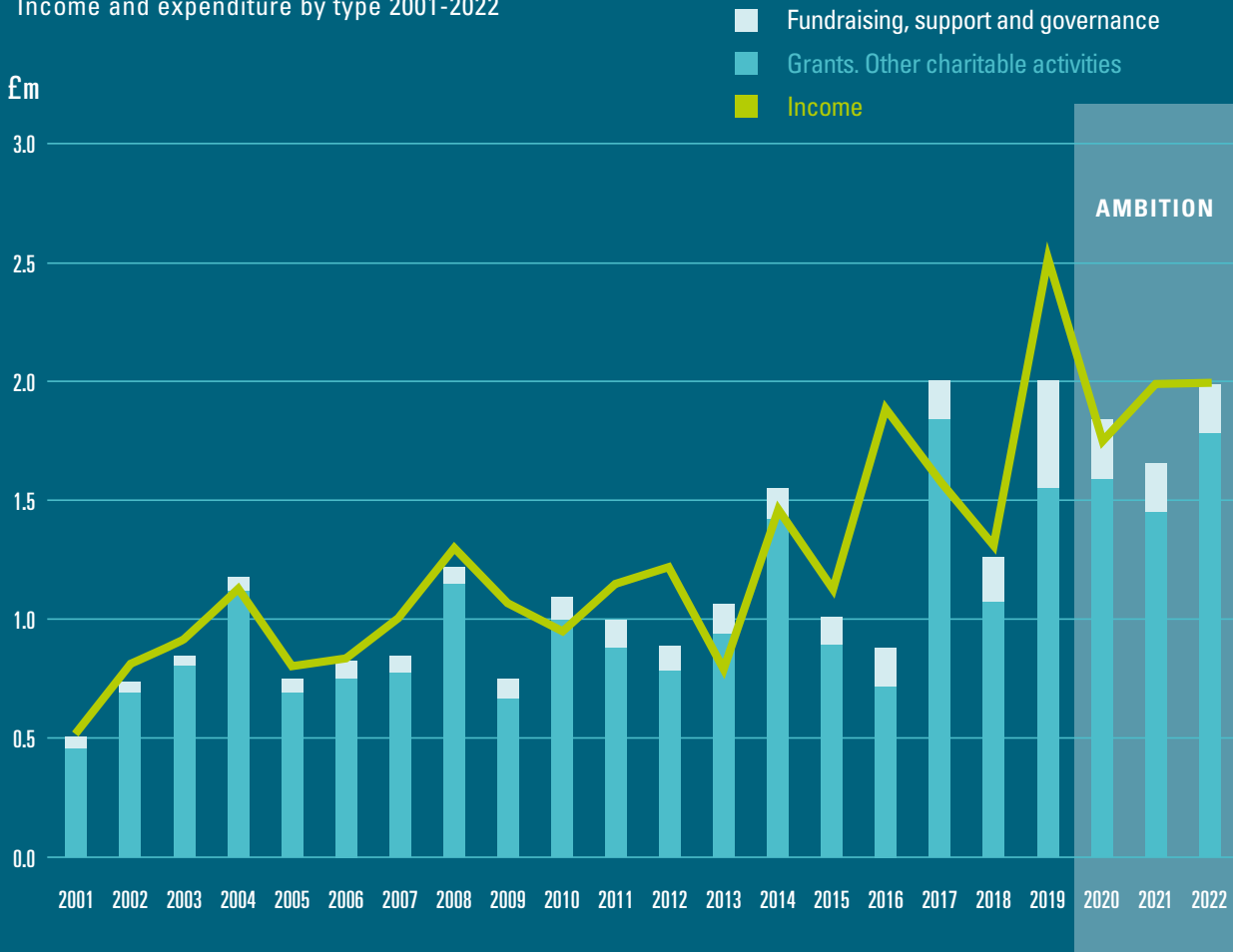
*Extracted from the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2018, a full copy of which is available on request

Where your money went in 2018



Ambitions for growth

Income and expenditure by type 2001-2022




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.

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The donations we receive from our Friends are the lifeblood of the charity and this year are supporting the Whitley Gold Award, given to Jon Paul Rodríguez. 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 April 3, 2018 – April 9, 2019

£10,000 - £19,999

Chris and Laura Caulkin
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Reed Family Foundation

The Waterloo Foundation

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Clare Carolan Taylor

Lida Cepuch

Katie Christie

Victoria Corcoran

Sarah Havens

Vanessa Kastner

Annie Newell

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Mandy Duncan-Smith

Programme Design

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Invite Design

DesignRaphael Ltd.

Media training

Boffin Media

Speech training

Caroline Black

Winner Films

Icon Films

Filming

Audio Visual Hub

Photography

James Finlay

PR

Liquid

Image credits

Front cover

Tim Laman (orangutan)

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Ganesh Raghunathan (elephant)

Page 6

Bryan Watt (children)

P. Oxford Mar Alliance

(hammerhead shark)

Page 7

Taylor Mickal (Pablo Borboroglu)

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Fireflies (Vatosoa headshot)

Les Films au Clair de Lune

(Caleb headshot)

Sean Southey (Jon Paul headshot)

BSPB (Nikolai Petkov)

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F-G Grandin (lemur)

Page 11

Yokyok Hadiprakarsa (hornbill)

Kalyan Varma (Aparajita Datta)

Emmanuel Keller (snow leopards)

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Les Films au Clair de Lune

(all images)

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Daniel Mitev (red-breasted geese)

BSPB (headshot)

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David Garcia (children)

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Tim Laman (orangutan in forest)

Page 31

Sean Southey (headshot)

Sam Williams (yellow-shouldered parrot)

Winner film credits

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