



**WHITLEY  
AWARDS**

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**2022**



## FOREWORD

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*Dear Friends,*

**Welcome to the 2022  
Whitley Awards Ceremony**

We are delighted to welcome you to the Royal Geographical Society this evening, as we come together to celebrate our Whitley Award winners in person for the first time in three years!

The past few years have seen remarkable challenges for us all, and this certainly holds true for our international network of winners. Now 200 strong across 80 countries, they have shown extraordinary tenacity to effect change against the odds; their perseverance and achievements in the face of adversity fill us with hope and admiration.

Tonight, we welcome six new Whitley Award winners to this network. These individuals are inspiring leaders spearheading community-based conservation work in their home countries. This week, we are hosting a series of events to celebrate their achievements for people, wildlife and climate. In addition to £40,000 in project funding for their Whitley Award, they also receive PR support, communications and speech training, and networking opportunities to enable them to strengthen their work and leverage success. We look forward to seeing all that they accomplish over this coming year and in the future.

The theme for this evening's Ceremony is #OurLocalPlanet, in recognition that each of us, wherever we live, can take action for conservation; and that through these changes – no matter how large or seemingly small – our collective impact will be global.

While the environmental challenges we face are daunting, our winners show us that many of the most effective, sustainable, and equitable solutions are indeed local. We hope that tonight, you all feel inspired that together and through support of our winners, we can turn things around for our planet.

Thank you once again to our fantastic donors, who have been so generous and steadfast in their support of the charity during these times. We hope you all enjoy hearing about this year's fantastic cohort of conservation leaders and join us in applauding their achievements.



*Edward Whitley*

**EDWARD WHITLEY, OBE**  
FOUNDER | WHITLEY FUND FOR NATURE

# OUR MISSION

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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.

# OUR OBJECTIVES

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1

Find, recognise, and fund grassroots conservation leaders across countries rich in natural resources but lacking in financial backing for conservation.

2

Champion and repeat fund impactful winners.

3

Support the replication and growth of conservation solutions.

4

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

# GRANTS FOR CONSERVATION ACTION



**My Whitley Award was a catalyst for change.**

JAYSON IBAÑEZ,  
2015 WHITLEY AWARD WINNER

Three types of grants enable grassroots conservationists to scale up their work and protect threatened wildlife.

A pioneer in the sector, WFN was one of the first charities to channel funding to locally-led projects in the Global South. We support courageous changemakers who are collaborating with communities in their home countries to conserve wildlife and habitats. Our rigorous and renowned application process identifies inspiring individuals with staying power, who can combine the latest science with participatory action and tenacious leadership. Through our laddered funding approach, we provide conservationists with a sustainable means of scaling their impact.

# SHINING A SPOTLIGHT



**The Whitley Award has opened doors to very big stages that were not accessible to me in the past.**

CALEB OFORI-BOATENG,  
2019 WHITLEY AWARD WINNER

WFN accelerates the careers of conservationists by welcoming them to the world stage.

In addition to receiving project funding, Whitley Award winners are championed through a global PR campaign to garner media coverage of their work. Tailor-made films narrated by WFN Trustee, Sir David Attenborough, and endorsement from high profile supporters including WFN's Patron, HRH The Princess Royal, further raises their profile, alongside WFN's digital communications which are seen by thousands internationally.

This increased visibility draws attention to environmental issues and builds pride and local participation in projects on-the-ground. It helps winners to inspire philanthropic support from new sources, kick-starting a snowball effect that continues to bolster project funding. As their profile is raised, winners also have the chance to connect with other conservationists to share successes, failures, and resources. In turn, with greater credibility, they are in a better position to influence environmental policy on a regional, national and international scale.

## WHITLEY AWARDS



## CONTINUATION FUNDING



## GOLD AWARD



The charity's flagship prizes, Whitley Awards are won competitively each year following a worldwide search. Applications are assessed by an expert Judging Panel, and winners receive £40,000 in project funding over one year. In addition the awards provide elevated profile, new connections and training – all tools that winners can use to better protect the natural world.

Continuation Funding is available to Whitley Award alumni. These follow-on grants enable winners to expand effective projects, respond to changing needs, and collaborate with other conservationists. Applications are invited annually and applied for competitively, with grants worth up to £100,000 over two years. Some of these grants directly support projects delivering nature-based solutions to address climate change and biodiversity loss simultaneously, working with communities.

Each year, we recognise a past Whitley Award and Continuation Funding winner for their outstanding contribution to conservation. Gold Award winners are international advocates for biodiversity, delivering large scale projects and acting as mentors to new Whitley Award winners. Our most prestigious prize, the Gold Award is worth £100,000.



of winners tell us that winning a Whitley Award increased their profile



of winners felt the Award boosted their engagement with local people



of winners say the Award increased access to international donors



of winners reported that winning increased access to national decision makers

\* Source: WFN 25 Year Impact Assessment, 86 respondents out of 129 Whitley Award winners surveyed

# GLOBAL REACH

Each year, new Whitley Award winners join our international network of influential conservationists, leading projects in some of the most biodiverse places on Earth, with groups of alumni emerging in hotspots across the globe.



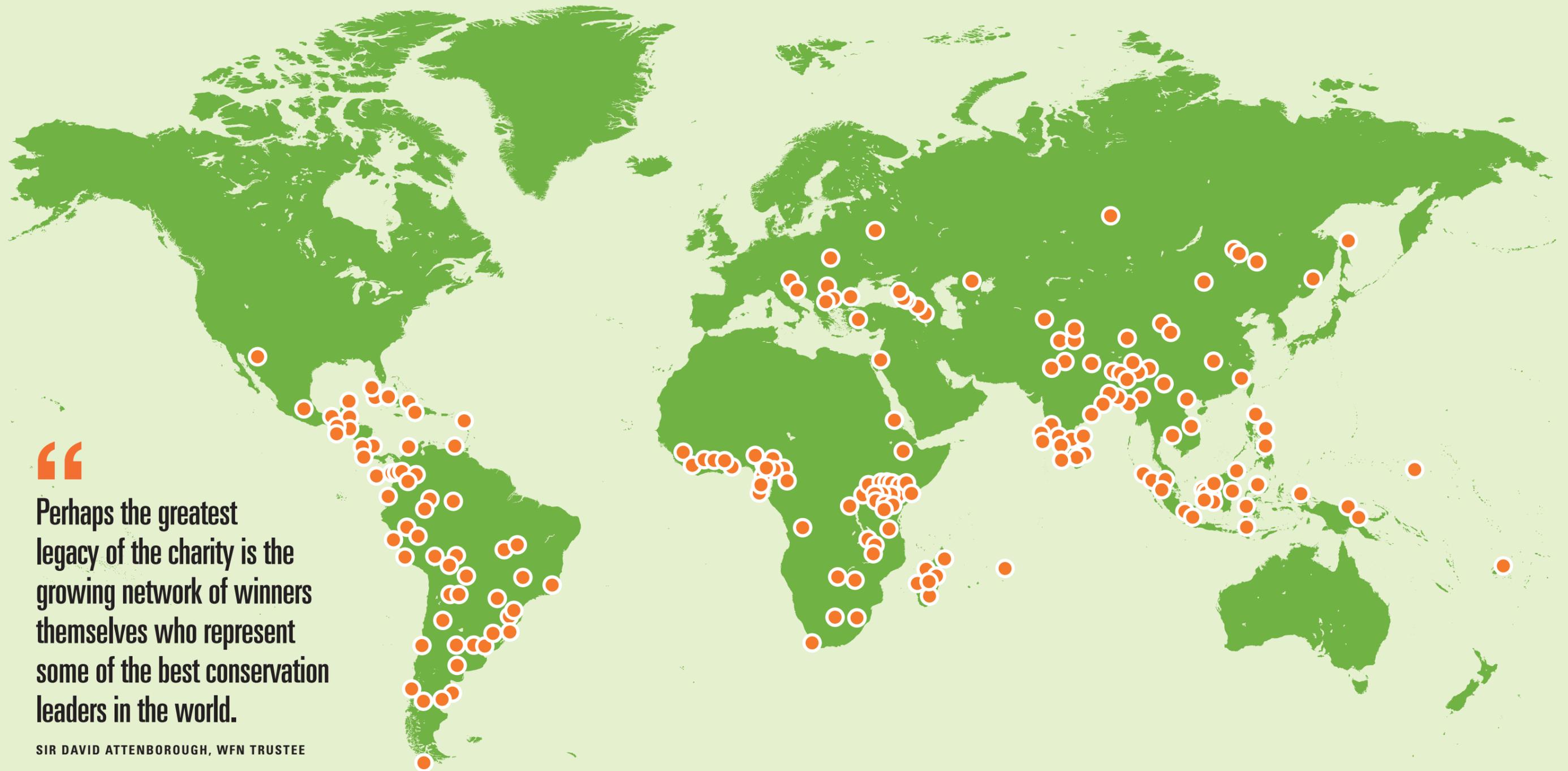
**£19M**  
awarded in funding



**200**  
conservationists



**80**  
countries



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.

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH, WFN TRUSTEE

# CATALYSING SUCCESS

“ I developed a public voice, and it was my voice.

ERNESTO RAEZ-LUNA,  
2008 WHITLEY AWARD WINNER

WFN seeks to incubate leader talent and help catalyse conservation progress. During the Awards week, we provide winners with training and networking opportunities to help them leverage their success.



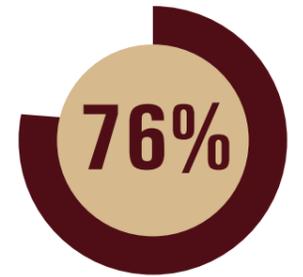
of alumni reported that they returned home having learnt new things as a result of the media training during the Awards week\*

# WINNER NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

“

We learn so much from each other's work. I have gleaned information and lessons that I have incorporated into my own conservation practice. That kind of South-South 'cross-pollination' has become a trademark of my work.

RODRIGO MEDELLIN,  
2012 GOLD AWARD WINNER



of alumni felt they had been introduced to a network of conservation practitioners through winning a Whitley Award\*

As a collective, our winners have real potential to bring about global environmental change. Harnessing our network of alumni, WFN aims to drive conservation impact through South-South cooperation.

## COMMUNICATION

## PROJECT DELIVERY

## CONTACTS



Whitley Award winners receive media training in print, radio, and TV and professional speech coaching. This helps them to effectively communicate their work to an international audience and capitalise on the media spotlight following their win; with recipients often making their way onto the front page of their local or national newspapers.

WFN provides online and in-person training in some of the core skills necessary for the delivery of successful projects such as monitoring and evaluation, in addition to on-going career development support to enable project growth. Winners also gain access to pro-bono legal assistance from the Thomson Reuters Foundation, bolstering their capacity to handle issues on the frontline.

We hold events for winners to network with potential funders, collaborators, journalists, their country Ambassadors and members of UK and international conservation NGOs – all contacts they could partner in future to cultivate success. Whitley Award winners spend the week together forming strong bonds within their cohort that flourish well beyond the ceremony.

Following the Awards week, winners join a global community of peers with whom they can share knowledge, experiences, and encouragement, based on the ethos that we are stronger together. To maximise the collective impact of this network, WFN facilitates collaborative projects, exchange visits, information sharing and training so that conservation solutions can be replicated around the world.

Winner consultations have allowed us to understand alumni needs. In August 2021, for the first time and based on winner feedback, we organised a week of free webinars for WFN alumni and their teams. We are also connecting winners with regional or thematic synergy, enabling the cross-pollination of ideas, active collaboration and project expansion.

Building on these foundations, we plan to organise in-country training weeks covering technical and operational skills for winners at key locations in Africa, South America, and Asia over the coming years. With winners setting the agenda based on their needs, WFN will work with trainers and alumni to organise a week of learning exchange and capacity building starting in 2022.

\* Source: WFN 25 Year Impact Assessment, 86 respondents out of 129 Whitley Award winners surveyed.

\* Source: WFN 25 Year Impact Assessment, 86 respondents out of 129 Whitley Award winners surveyed.

# Welcome to the WHITLEY AWARDS 2022

## CEREMONY PROGRAMME

7PM

RECEPTION

8PM

CEREMONY

Tom Heap & Kate Humble, Compères

Edward Whitley, Founder

Finalist speeches, and films narrated by Sir David Attenborough

Presentation of the Awards by HRH The Princess Royal

Announcement of the Whitley Gold Award

HRH The Princess Royal, Patron

9PM

CANAPÉS & MEET THE WINNERS

## SPEAKERS



**PATRON,  
HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL**

The Princess Royal has been Patron of the Whitley Fund for Nature since 1999. During her 23 years as Patron, she has met over 100 Whitley Award winners, and has visited recipient projects in Brazil, Croatia, Colombia, Malaysia, China, and Ghana to see their work first-hand.



**COMPÈRE,  
TOM HEAP**

WFN Ambassador Tom Heap is a well-known television and radio presenter, using his platform to draw attention to the issues facing our planet and to advocate for solutions. He is an investigative journalist on BBC1's Countryfile, the principal voice of Costing the Earth on BBC Radio 4, and author of the 2021 production and book, 39 Ways to Save the Planet.



**COMPÈRE,  
KATE HUMBLE**

WFN Ambassador Kate Humble is best known for her work on programmes such as Springwatch, Countryfile, Lambing Live and recently, Kate Humble's Coastal Britain. Kate was recognised on the Woman's Hour Power List 2020 for inspiring multiple generations of viewers. She also runs Humble by Nature, a rural skills school on a working farm in the Wye Valley.



**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 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,  
DR. CHARUDUTT  
MISHRA**

Dr. Charudutt Mishra is the Executive Director of the Snow Leopard Trust. The world's foremost expert on snow leopard conservation in the high mountains of Asia, Charudutt received a Whitley Award in 2005, and subsequent WFN funding in years since. He has been recognised with the Whitley Gold Award for his outstanding contribution to snow leopard conservation, and particularly his emphasis on placing communities at the heart of his approach.



**WITH MANY THANKS  
TO SIR DAVID  
ATTENBOROUGH,  
WFN TRUSTEE AND  
NARRATOR OF THE 2022  
WINNER FILMS**

Britain's best-known natural history filmmaker, Sir David Attenborough's distinguished career in broadcasting spans 70 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 feature documentary, *A Life on Our Planet*, outlining humanity's devastating impact on nature and a vision for the future, and his new BBC series, *The Green Planet*, which delves into Earth's remarkable plant life.

# APPLICATION ASSESSMENT

This year, WFN received 71 Whitley Award applications from 39 countries. We would like to thank our Judging Panel and External Assessors, who kindly offer their expertise voluntarily to decide the final shortlist.

## JUDGING PANEL

**Edward Whitley, OBE**  
Founder and Chair of Trustees, WFN

**Marianne Carter, MSc**  
Director, Conservation Capacity and Leadership, FFI

**Damian Fleming, MSc**  
Deputy Practice Leader for Forests, WWF International

**Matthew Hatchwell, MSc**  
Advisory Board Chair and Conservation Consultant, DICE

**Janice Law, MSc**  
Head of Grants, WFN

**Ian Lazarus, MBA**  
Trustee, WFN

**Dr. Charudutt Mishra**  
Executive Director, Snow Leopard Trust; 2022 Whitley Gold Award winner

**Danni Parks, MSc**  
Director, WFN

**Dr. Andrew Terry**  
Director of Conservation and Policy, ZSL

## EXTERNAL ASSESSORS

**Dr. Paul Barnes**  
Social Dimensions Specialist, ZSL's EDGE of Existence Programme

**Olivia Couchman, MSc**  
Conservation Capacity Manager, ZSL's EDGE of Existence Programme

**Dr. Claudia Gray**  
Conservation Science Manager, ZSL's EDGE of Existence Programme

**Dr. Sanjay Gubbi**  
Senior Scientist, Nature Conservation Foundation; 2017 Whitley Award winner

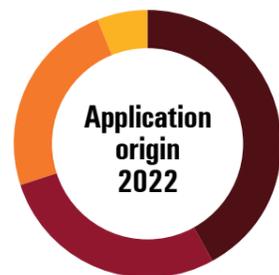
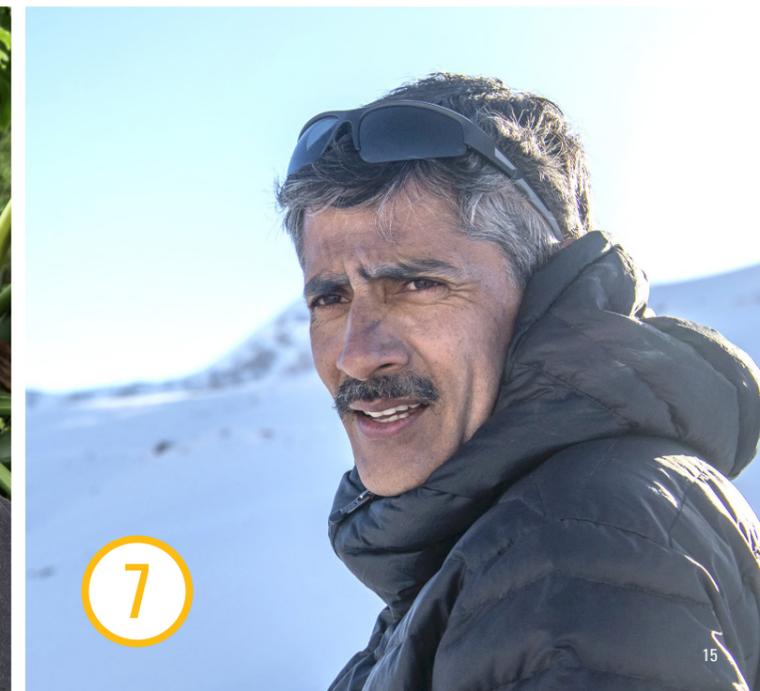
**Dr. Simon Lyster**  
Chair of Trustees, Conservation International UK; Council Member, World Land Trust

**Dr. Charudutt Mishra**  
Executive Director, Snow Leopard Trust; 2022 Gold Award winner

# INTRODUCING THE WINNERS

1. MICAELA CAMINO, ARGENTINA
2. SONAM LAMA, NEPAL
3. DEDY YANSYAH, INDONESIA
4. ESTRELA MATILDE, SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

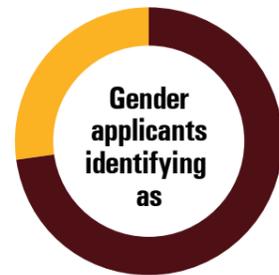
5. EMMANUEL AMOAH, GHANA
6. PABLO HOFFMANN, BRAZIL
7. CHARUDUTT MISHRA, HIGH MOUNTAINS OF ASIA (GOLD AWARD WINNER)



- Africa 42% (30)
- Asia 28% (20)
- Americas 24% (17)
- Europe 6% (4)



- Terrestrial 63% (45)
- Marine 23% (16)
- Freshwater 14% (10)



- 52 males (73%)
- 19 females (27%)

Total applications - 71

# MICAELA CAMINO

ARGENTINA



If we succeed in conserving the Chacoan peccary, it is because we succeeded in saving these forests and preserving their biological and cultural richness.

MICAELA CAMINO



The Chacoan peccary acts as an umbrella species, with its conservation benefitting many other animals including the giant anteater, giant armadillo and jaguar.



The Chacoan peccary has a large portion of unique evolutionary history and is #61 on the Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered (EDGE) mammals list.



The Chaco Forest spans 650,000 km<sup>2</sup> across Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, and Brazil.



## EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO DEFEND THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONSERVE ARGENTINA'S DRY CHACO

In northern Argentina lies an impressive breadth of forest home to communities as well as endemic species, such as the Critically Endangered Chacoan peccary. But as the forest is cleared for agricultural development, local people are losing their homes and livelihoods, and the region's cultural and biological richness is disappearing. With her Whitley Award, Micaela and her team will:

- + Identify priority areas for the conservation of Chacoan peccary and restoration of its habitat to connect 35,500 km<sup>2</sup> of the Argentinian Dry Chaco Forest
- + Co-develop an emergency action plan and long-term Chacoan peccary conservation strategy, and increase the number of people working on the project and research groups in the area
- + Foster cultural identity and empower indigenous communities in decision-making processes concerning land-use change to reduce deforestation, ensuring they know their legal rights and are enabled to resist unethical corporate land grabs
- + Scale up non-violent resistance and awareness raising action to reach people in the cities of Resistencia, Salta and Formosa

### THE DRY CHACO

The Dry Chaco is the largest sub-tropical dry forest in the world. It is under threat, yet it receives relatively little conservation attention. Here resides the Chacoan peccary, an endemic pig-like mammal perfectly adapted to this dry habitat, where it plays an important role as an umbrella species for this biocultural landscape. The region also has one of the highest deforestation rates in the world, driven by advancing industrial agriculture, mainly for soy and beef production for export to other countries. In just 20 years, 25% of the forest has been lost. If these trends continue, the Chacoan peccary will be extinct in less than 30 years.

### A FORGOTTEN SOCIETY

The Chaco is also home to the indigenous Wichí and Criollo people who live in isolated communities in the forest. The traditional inhabitants of this region, their livelihoods are closely linked with nature as their subsistence is based on the ecosystems around them. Sadly, these people are being displaced by foreign companies who take advantage of their uncertain land tenure and lack of awareness of their human rights. Companies capitalise on this to drive expansion of industrial agriculture, which often violates Argentinian law in its own right. After displacing families, forests are cleared for production, creating a landscape where most species cannot survive.

### COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Founder of Proyecto Quimilero, Micaela will work with communities on co-constructing solutions to address the environmental and social problems in the region, using scientific and traditional knowledge. Applying a grassroots approach, she will strengthen networks of local leaders, professionals and other stakeholders supporting traditional inhabitants. Micaela will empower local people with tools and information about their legal rights, to help them make informed decisions to stay in their homes, conserve the forest and improve their livelihoods. In doing so Micaela will increase visibility of this forgotten region, make government more accountable for its actions and equip indigenous groups to stand up for what is theirs.

# SONAM LAMA

NEPAL



The goal of the project is red panda conservation - but it is equally important to address the livelihood needs of communities.

SONAM LAMA



The red panda was discovered almost 50 years before the giant panda.



The internet browser Mozilla Firefox was named after the red panda, where Firefox was derived from its nickname.



Studies indicate that one red panda is now being poached every 10 days in Nepal.



## PEOPLE AND RED PANDAS: MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL CONSERVATION IN THE HIMALAYAS

Eastern Nepal is home to Mt. Kangchenjunga, the world's third largest mountain. It is also the residence of one of Asia's most charismatic species, the red panda, though its future is uncertain in the face of habitat degradation and an increase in poaching. Using his Whitley Award to manage red panda habitat and increase forest patrols with a community-based approach, Sonam and his team will:

- + Train restoration stewards and provide income-generating opportunities to families as nursery guardians, with an emphasis on up-skilling female community members and youth
- + Restore 100 hectares of degraded and isolated habitat patches, creating a corridor for the red panda and other wildlife
- + Establish 6 anti-poaching units and train 300 local conservation stewards on forest patrolling to reduce illegal poaching in community forests by 40%
- + Reduce the seizure cases of red panda pelts by 30% through education and awareness campaigns reaching 100,000 in communities where trade is prevalent

### THE FIRST PANDA

Endemic to the eastern Himalayan broadleaf forests, the red panda is a herbivorous carnivore. Shy and charismatic, they are globally endangered and are regarded as a living fossil. The red panda is a flagship species, meaning that if it thrives, so will other species including the Himalayan black bear, leopard, and the Asiatic wild dog. Sonam's team at the Red Panda Network operate across three districts whose collective habitat could form an important corridor linking conservation areas in India and Nepal.

### PANDEMIC IMPACTS

Habitat loss, degradation and poaching have been persistent threats to the species, with red panda habitat now so severely fragmented that it is separated into more than 400 isolated patches. Forests stand largely unprotected, and face overexploitation by market-driven land-use pressures. Here, rates of annual deforestation are more than double the national average. While illegal trade and poaching of red panda pelts have been negligible, COVID-19 has changed the status quo: in 2021, Nepal witnessed record seizures, with 37 red panda skins confiscated from the black market. With other livelihood opportunities in ecotourism extinguished by the virus, illegal activities have surged.

### A MULTI-PRONGED STRATEGY

Sonam is committed to the conservation of red pandas and has led the longest running monitoring project for the species in the wild. Using a community-based approach, the team will strengthen conservation interventions in habitat management, and educate communities on the impact of poaching and the illegal pelt trade. Sonam will diversify livelihood opportunities for marginalised groups, with a focus on socially and economically at-risk women and youth; scaling up work to reach three new districts. Poised to expand, the project's success has great potential for replication in other range countries.

[redpandanetwork.org](https://redpandanetwork.org)

[@redpandanetwork](https://www.facebook.com/redpandanetwork)

[@RedPandaNetwork](https://www.instagram.com/RedPandaNetwork)

[@redpandanetwork](https://www.instagram.com/redpandanetwork)

# DEDY YANSYAH

INDONESIA



There is a huge probability this project will be our last chance to save the remaining Sumatran rhino.

DEDY YANSYAH

2.2m ha

The Leuser Ecosystem is one of the largest conservation areas in Southeast Asia, spanning 2.2 million ha in Aceh and supporting 4m Acehese people.

70%

Sumatran rhino have declined by 70% in the past two decades.



Patrol teams have dismantled over 3,000 wildlife snares in the last 5 years and maintained a zero-poaching rate for rhino.



## LAST STAND FOR THE SUMATRAN RHINO: LOOKING OUT FOR LEUSER'S ECOSYSTEM ENGINEERS

The island of Sumatra is the last place on Earth where orangutans, rhinos, elephants, and tigers co-exist, but this may not be the case for much longer: habitat loss and poaching have left rhino populations on the brink of extinction. With his Whitley Award, Dedy and his team will:

- + Establish an extra anti-poaching patrol team to upscale frontline efforts to protect isolated rhinos, deter poachers, dismantle snares, and prevent habitat loss
- + Create a new monitoring and survey team to gather vital data on Sumatran rhinos to inform recovery of the species in the Leuser Ecosystem

### SEED DISPERSERS

Sumatran rhinos are Critically Endangered and perilously close to extinction. The Leuser Ecosystem in Aceh is home to the highest number of remaining Sumatran rhinos and represents their last hope for survival. Although small in comparison to their African relatives, these rhinos are important eco-engineers, swallowing big fruits whole and depositing nutrient-rich dung piles across the landscape. Evidence shows that neither elephants nor other animals can fully replace their role – and as their population dwindles, the consequences are unfolding in real time.

### LIMITED BREEDING

Poaching for rhino horn was the initial cause of their rapid decline and remains an ongoing threat, but this has been preceded by their inability to breed in recent years, with limited numbers impeding reproductive success, and shrinking habitat due to oil palm plantations and timber extraction exacerbating the problem. There are three isolated populations in eastern Leuser. Each is small, estimated to be in single figures, and therefore not viable. One viable population remains in western Leuser and Dedy and his team are working hard with government authorities to ensure this population can thrive in the wild. However, with fewer than 80 individuals remaining, the Sumatran rhino is at risk of extinction due to reproduction problems, small genetic variation, and unbalanced sex ratios decreasing encounters between males and females – even without poaching.

### THE LAST STAND

The national Sumatran Rhino Emergency Action Plan has concluded that the isolated rhino populations in the eastern Leuser Ecosystem must be rescued and that a captive breeding programme is necessary to save the species. The government has proceeded with plans to construct a conservation breeding centre in eastern Leuser, but protection is still required in the coming years. To bridge this gap, Dedy and his team at Leuser Conservation Forum will continue their successful patrolling efforts to protect these precious populations from poaching and their habitat from illegal logging. They will gather accurate data and map the locations of isolated individuals to ensure all is prepared for the next stage of the national conservation programme, giving the species the best chance of survival.

[leuserconservancy.or.id](http://leuserconservancy.or.id)

@forumleuser

@leuserconservationforum

@leuserconservationforum

# ESTRELA MATILDE

SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE



I want to change the world, one island at a time.

ESTRELA MATILDE



Turtles belong to the most ancient line of living reptiles, first appearing more than 200 million years ago in the late Triassic - but without conservation action, they now face extinction.



Nearly 60% of the island's population live below the poverty line; women are disproportionately affected, with illiteracy among women 186% higher than men.



Príncipe is a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in recognition of its endemic fauna and flora, and unique culture.



## STEMMING THE TIDE OF PLASTIC POLLUTION: AN ISLAND-WIDE EFFORT TO SAVE SEA TURTLES

Even this ancient and pristine archipelago is seeing the rippling effects of humankind, where waves of single-use plastic are having negative impacts on wildlife and fishing communities. Estrela will use her Whitley Award to combat plastic pollution by developing waste-based enterprises and gathering plastics data to inform policy. She will:

- + Map and quantify plastic pollution and accumulation within areas used by sea turtles in Príncipe and use the findings to raise community awareness and prompt a political response
- + Inform development of a legal framework by publishing a report on plastic use, pollution, and consumption by turtles
- + Submit a strategy to regional government, targeting a 50% reduction in the entry of plastic bottles to the island
- + Double the number of waste-based sustainable enterprises to 4, focusing on female-led initiatives which use at least 20% of the washed-ashore plastics, turning them into jewellery that can be sold to tourists

### PRISTINE PARADISE

São Tomé and Príncipe is situated in the Gulf of Guinea, 200 km west of Central Africa. A 31-million-year-old rainforest surrounded by crystal, turquoise waters, Príncipe holds 140 km<sup>2</sup> of greenery and diversity, with over 50% designated as a natural park. Known for its terrestrial beauty, it also hosts a wealth of marine biodiversity, including coral reefs, cetaceans, fish, sharks, and rays. Príncipe's beaches are important nesting grounds for four of the seven species of sea turtles; hawksbill, green, leatherback and Olive Ridley. The surrounding waters are also feeding grounds for loggerhead turtles.

### A PLASTIC SOCIETY

For seven years, Estrela has led Fundação Príncipe to address threats to the marine ecosystem, using sea turtles as a flagship to encourage sustainable practices. With the regional government and community's involvement, they have achieved a near zero turtle poaching rate and are in the final stages of establishing the first marine protected area network in the country. Despite these successes, plastic pollution represents a growing problem. Plastic debris are entering the marine environment at an alarming rate and are estimated to interact with over 700 species, presenting a major threat to wildlife through ingestion, entanglement, and degradation of coastal habitat. Plastic waste also impacts small-scale fisheries, which provide one of the main sources of protein for households in Príncipe.

### INNOVATIVE EFFORTS

Local efforts alone are not enough to rid Príncipe of its plastic; in addition to consumption by residents, it is also washed ashore from further afield. Addressing the plastic problem therefore requires a global solution. Estrela's team will use GPS tracking technology to determine the movements and aggregation of surface plastics in and around Príncipe and São Tomé. This data will inform policymaking and encourage the development of waste-based sustainable solutions, with a focus on creating opportunities for female entrepreneurs to improve livelihoods, income, and gender equality, while keeping waters plastic free.

[fundacao Principe.org](https://fundacao Principe.org)

[@FundacaoPrincipe](https://www.facebook.com/FundacaoPrincipe)

[@FundaPrincipe](https://www.instagram.com/fundacao Principe)

[@fundacao Principe](https://www.instagram.com/fundacao Principe)

# EMMANUEL AMOAH

GHANA



I feel a sense of responsibility to work towards securing a better future for children and even the next generation.

EMMANUEL AMOAH



The West African slender-snouted crocodile is 45th on the Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered (EDGE) reptile list.



Parts of the Tano River are already highly urbanised, having lost over 80% of its original riparian buffer.



Tree planting will improve watershed protection for the Tano River, benefitting 30,000 households.



## TALES FROM THE RIVERBANK: SAFEGUARDING THE LAST STRONGHOLD OF THE WEST AFRICAN SLENDER-SNOURED CROCODILE

The West African slender-snouted crocodile is one of the rarest crocodilians in the world and is in danger of disappearing for good, as rapid degradation of nesting areas and water pollution threaten their survival. Emmanuel and his team will expand work with communities to restore critical habitat and raise conservation awareness, using his Whitley Award to:

- + Reduce vegetation loss on riverbanks where this species nests by at least 40% in 4 communities
- + Train 14 conservation champions across 4 communities to monitor threats and dovetail with awareness raising to halve illegal logging activities
- + Replant 30 hectares of degraded nesting habitat to boost crocodile breeding success

### CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

The West African slender-snouted crocodile is Critically Endangered, experiencing a 70-90% population decline in the last 75 years. They are feared extinct in many distribution countries, including Nigeria, Togo, Benin, and Senegal. Recent surveys suggest that the remaining populations are fast deteriorating, with the Techiman-Tanoso stretch of the Tano River holding the highest known population outside a protected area, numbering approx. 400 individuals. Without intervention, this stronghold looks set to suffer the same fate as its counterparts.

### CULTURAL HISTORY

Indigenous groups living in the area have unique cultural beliefs and have long held traditions that are strongly linked to the Tano River. The river is worshipped and aquatic species are strictly protected against consumption. When a West African slender-snouted crocodile dies, locals pour libations and organise befitting burials as a sign of respect to the river god. The West African slender-snouted crocodile also has a disproportionately unique genetic history, where extinction will not only mean a big loss of evolutionary history, but also of indigenous cultural heritage.

### CONTINUING SUCCESS

Rapid riparian forest depletion of nesting riverbanks and freshwater pollution by domestic waste threaten the species' survival. Emmanuel founded the Threatened Species Conservation Alliance in 2016 to safeguard the slender-snouted crocodile's last refuge and have already achieved a reduction in vegetation loss and illegal logging rates. Building on this success, he and his team will expand work with volunteers to mitigate habitat disturbance, replant degraded nesting sites and build local capacity and awareness. This project integrates science, practical action, and traditional beliefs, reaching at least 20,000 people to protect one of the most endangered crocodiles in Africa.

[threscoal.org](https://www.threscoal.org)

[@threscoal](https://www.facebook.com/threscoal)

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[@threscoal.gh](https://www.instagram.com/threscoal.gh)

PABLO  
HOFFMANN

BRAZIL



Hope is my favourite feeling.  
Hope brings resilience, resistance and  
makes us work towards a better world.  
Of course, there is hope.

PABLO HOFFMANN



Sociedade Chauá's nursery now covers more than 80% of the known tree species in the Araucaria Forest, making it the most diverse Araucaria's nursery in the world.



Diverse tree planting schemes are estimated to sequester up to 40 times more carbon than temporary monoculture plantations, such as soy and corn.



Pablo and his team have built capacity among over 1,000 people through seminars, workshops, and technical visits to the Chauá nursery.



## ROOTING FOR THE FUTURE: NURTURING WILD PLANT DIVERSITY IN THE ARAUCARIA FOREST REGION

There are hundreds of rare and threatened plants in the Araucaria Forest, many of which are embedded in the history of local and regional communities' food, crafts and culture. With high deforestation rates rampaging the country, restoration efforts which integrate a diversity of tree species are essential in preventing biodiversity loss and mitigating climate change. With his Whitley Award, Pablo and his team will:

- + Produce seedlings of wide-ranging and threatened plant species that are genetically diverse to supply to key stakeholders for replanting
- + Distribute 60,000 seedlings to 20 reforestation sites, working with NGO partners and nurseries
- + Engage farmers and landowners in habitat restoration activities, rebuilding diverse forest from the ground up, to support wildlife and sequester carbon
- + Branch out to reach 10,000 people through awareness raising campaigns and reconnect them with the forest

### › RARE AND THREATENED

The Araucaria Forest in southern Brazil is one of the world's most degraded and endangered ecosystems. Part of the Atlantic Forest region and covering three states, it is estimated that less than 1% of its primary forests remain today. Seen predominantly as a source of economic gain, just 60,000 ha of advanced secondary forests remain in small fragments, scattered among cattle farms, monoculture plantations and continual urban expansion, putting the ecosystem's plant species under threat as rates of deforestation accelerate.

### › GENETIC BOTTLENECK

While forest restoration activities exist, most do not capture the diversity and endemism of plant species essential for the region's recovery. Nurseries normally produce a small selection of species, with almost none that are rare or threatened. Simultaneously, sites left for natural regeneration lack a diversity of plants. Pablo's team at Sociedade Chauá seek to change this. Their nursery holds more than 215 species – 80 of which are rare or threatened – to restore dwindling wild populations, setting them apart.

### › RESTORING PLANTS AND CULTURE

Working across private properties and state and federal protected areas, Pablo and his team will map wild tree populations and collect seeds from "mother trees" in more than 40 sites. Using these he will produce over 60,000 seedlings of native species for reintroduction into 20 sites. He will collate scientific information, sharing best practices on how to increase species richness and diversity in seedling production with other budding institutions. This work will contribute to restoring an extremely threatened ecosystem that not only benefits wildlife but mitigates climate change, and will preserve people's connection to their land.

[sociedadechaua.org](https://sociedadechaua.org)

[@sociedadechaua](https://www.facebook.com/sociedadechaua)

[@Chauaorg](https://www.instagram.com/Chauaorg)

## CHARUDUTT MISHRA

12 SNOW LEOPARD RANGE COUNTRIES

Each year a past Whitley Award winner is selected to receive the Whitley Gold Award – worth £100,000 of project funding – in recognition of their outstanding contribution to conservation.

Donated by the Friends of WFN.



“ Conservation is really about teamwork. The Whitley Fund for Nature has been an incredible supporter of snow leopards and snow leopard conservation across Asia.

CHARUDUTT MISHRA

### BUILDING GLOBAL CAPACITY FOR COMMUNITY-LED CONSERVATION

Renowned conservationist Charu Mishra is the Executive Director of the International Snow Leopard Trust, and Co-Founder of India's Nature Conservation Foundation. As the world's foremost expert on snow leopard conservation and a pioneer of the community-based conservation approach, Charu has spent 25 years working to increase protection for snow leopards across all 12 of their range countries, with the vital support of local people.

Charu believes that people and wildlife can lead a harmonious co-existence. Top-down conservation has historically led to the marginalisation of communities, with an estimated 130 million people displaced by conservation globally. Along with restrictions on traditional access and natural resource use, these actions have resulted in local opposition to conservation efforts in many parts of the world. It is clear a more inclusive framework is needed.

As global biodiversity targets to protect 30% of the planet by 2030 are implemented, conflict will only increase if communities are not seen as part of the solution. Practitioners sensitive to human rights and well-being try to achieve conservation in ethical and inclusive ways, but lack training in community engagement, or access to the necessary tools. They often learn through trial and error, leaving much room for improvement.

In 2016 Charu published the PARTNERS Principles with funding from WFN and other organisations to fill this gap, through Presence, Aptness, Respect, Transparency, Negotiation, Empathy, Responsiveness, and Strategic support. The Principles integrate ideas from ecology, natural resource management, community health, psychology, development, negotiation theory and ethics. By providing a strategic framework for community-based conservation, Charu aims to help improve the way conservation is practiced by bringing knowledge and skills to conservationists globally, including via the WFN Winner Network, with his methods applicable across continents. He epitomises the grassroots work WFN supports.

**A Whitley and Gold Award winner in 2005, Charu was the recipient of Continuation Funding in 2008, 2010, 2014 and 2019. With the support of WFN, Charu and his team have:**

- + Studied and conserved snow leopards and high mountains in the Himalayas and Central Asia, combining multi-disciplinary research on social and ecological sciences with ethical grassroots empowerment
- + Collaborated with local people to set up community wildlife reserves and conflict management and livelihood initiatives, such as innovative community-based livestock insurance programmes to reduce retaliatory killing
- + Helped establish the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme, an intergovernmental alliance of all 12 snow leopard range countries working towards their protection
- + Focused on building support and changing perceptions at the grassroots level, creating sustainable economies through a snow leopard-friendly cashmere and handicrafts programme
- + Worked with communities in five of the most important snow leopard range countries, where locals are protecting more than 150,000 km<sup>2</sup> of prime snow leopard habitat
- + Created the PARTNERS Principles approach which was recognised as “outstanding conservation practice” at the 15th Meeting of the Convention of Biological Diversity Conference of Parties in 2021



**With his Whitley Gold Award, Charu and his team will help improve the practice of nature conservation across the globe by assisting conservation practitioners to enhance their skills in effective and ethical community engagement. They will:**

- + Equip and support a cadre of at least 20 established conservationists, including WFN alumni, as trainers and advocates in community-based conservation
- + Build knowledge and skills in community-based conservation among 250 frontline practitioners within and beyond the snow leopard range through a multi-pronged training initiative
- + Set up ongoing mentorship and support to those in training and host needs-based sessions
- + Enhance government buy-in for respectful and ethical community-based conservation in the snow leopard range countries

🌐 [snowleopard.org](http://snowleopard.org)

📘 @snowleopardtrust

🐦 @snowleopards

📷 @snowleopardtrust



# CONTINUATION FUNDING

“Continuation Funding from WFN is incredibly important because it allows ideas the time to mature and demonstrate they can be effective in conservation.”

DINO MARTINS, 2015 GOLD AWARD WINNER & WFN TRUSTEE



In 2021, we awarded:

OVER

£1 MILLION

in Continuation Funding to 15 Whitley Award alumni

OF THIS,

£340k

is specifically supporting projects delivering nature-based solutions

PROJECTS ARE COLLECTIVELY BENEFITTING:

OVER 623k

people across

236,496km<sup>2</sup>

of the Global South

## Follow-on grants enable past Whitley Award winners to expand effective conservation solutions and respond to changing needs.

Continuation Funding grants are worth up to £100,000 over two years and are awarded to past Whitley Award winners poised to scale up.

Recognising that conservation doesn't happen overnight and requires sustained support, winners tell us that the ability to reapply for further funding provides a vital lifeline.

## 2021 Continuation Funding winners:

**Ekwoge Abwe**  
2013 alumni

Growing Support to Secure a Fair Future for Cameroon's Ebo Forest

**Joanna Alfaro Shigueto**  
2012 alumni

Working with Fishers to Conserve the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtle in Peru

**Muhammed Ali Nawaz**  
2016 alumni

Landscape-level Support for Snow Leopards and People in Pakistan

**Vivek Menon**  
2001 alumni

Rite of Passage for Elephants Through Three Indian States

**Olivier Nsengimana**  
2018 alumni

Cross-boundary Collaboration to Conserve Grey Crowned Cranes, Rwanda & Tanzania

**Sean Privett**  
2001 alumni

Nurturing the Green Economy within South Africa's Walker Bay Fynbos Conservancy

**Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy**  
2019 alumni

The 'Blue Agora of Madagascar': Channelling Support to Locally Managed Marine Areas

**José Sarasola**  
2019 alumni

Ensuring Chaco Eagle Conservation Takes Flight in Argentina

**Eugene Simonov**  
2013 alumni

Safeguarding Siberia's Waterways

**Fernando Trujillo**  
2007 alumni

River Dolphins: Scaling up the Search, Amazon & Orinoco River Basins

**Anjali Watson**  
2018 alumni

Expanding Leopard Forest Corridors in Sri Lanka

## Nature-based solutions

Through many of these grants, WFN supports work delivering nature-based solutions that address climate change and biodiversity loss simultaneously, and in collaboration with local communities.

These projects are protecting habitats such as forests, wetlands, peatlands, grasslands, mangroves, and seagrasses that conserve wildlife, store carbon, and offer an equitable and just future for society.

**Nicole Auil Gomez**  
2005 alumni

Saving the Maya Forest Corridor from Sugarcane Plantations in Belize

**Jargal Jamsranjav**  
2004 alumni

Community-led Climate Change Mitigation in Mongolia's Eastern Khangai Mountains

**Bohdan Prots**  
2007 alumni

Rewilding the Radioactively Contaminated Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, Ukraine

**Ximena Velez-Liendo**  
2017 alumni

Bear Necessities: Making Space for Communities and Carnivores in Bolivia

# OUR IMPACT

Whitley Award winners lead effective and socially-just conservation work across marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems. Together, they deliver positive results for wildlife, landscapes and people.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WINNERS' ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021 INCLUDE:

When surveyed in 2019 for WFN's 25 Year Impact Assessment\*, our winners reported the following collective success:

\*This data is from an independent assessment conducted in 2018, reviewing 25 years of the charity's impact. There were 86 respondents out of a total 129 Whitley Award winners surveyed.



2020 winner Abdullahi Ali led efforts to successfully reinstate Kenya's 500km<sup>2</sup> Arawale National Reserve, vital habitat for hirola antelope – one of the top ten species at risk of imminent extinction.

Lobbying by 2004 Gold winner Randall Arauz led to threatened shark species, such as the hammerhead and thresher, being added to Costa Rica's National Endangered Species List, strengthening their protection under law.

An awareness campaign led by 2001 winner Vu Thi Quyen was so successful that 3,524 new wildlife crime cases were reported to her NGO in 2021: a collaborative effort that is accelerating an end to Vietnam's illegal wildlife trade.

2002 Gold winner Laury Cullen is restoring Brazil's Atlantic Forest as a nature-based solution to climate change. In 2021, this generated £350,000 in income for rural families who were trained in restoration and monitoring.

### PROTECTED AREAS

# 91 MILLION HA

of protected areas have been created and/or managed by winner projects

### POLICY CHANGE

# 354

environmental policies have been developed or improved at national, regional or international scales

### EDUCATION

# 14.3 MILLION

people have received environmental education

### ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

# 750,000 HA

have been restored with over 13 million trees and 500,000 mangroves

### ANIMAL POPULATION

# 69%

of winner projects are succeeding in stabilising or increasing target species populations

### WILDLIFE PROTECTION

# 50,000

species are benefiting from improved protection and management

### DECREASING THREATS

# 69%

of winner projects have successfully reduced threats to target ecosystems and wildlife

### NEW SKILLS

# 1.1 MILLION

people are benefiting from new skills or improved livelihoods

## LOOKING AHEAD



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### › DONATE TO WFN

We are a charity completely reliant on donations, with no capital endowment. The more we raise, the more support we can channel to wildlife conservationists leading solutions for people and planet in their home countries. Together, we can protect and restore **#OurLocalPlanet**.

To support WFN, visit [whitleyaward.org](https://whitleyaward.org) or get in touch with WFN's Head of Partnerships, Georgie White [georgie@whitleyaward.org](mailto:georgie@whitleyaward.org).

### › SUPPORT NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

As international travel reopens, consider offsetting your carbon footprint through a Whitley Award winning project that offers a nature-based solution to climate change. 2002 winner Laury Cullen is leading a tree planting scheme in Brazil's Atlantic Forest. This holistic project is not only mitigating carbon but saving precious endemic wildlife and yielding social benefits for people. Visit [whitleyaward.org](https://whitleyaward.org) to learn more about this offsetting scheme.

### › JOIN WFN NEXTGEN

Our newest programme, WFN NextGen offers young people who are passionate about conservation an opportunity to help raise vital funds through sporting challenges, arts events, or comedy nights, channelling the energy and enthusiasm of youth into tangible change for nature.

To register your interest, please email [info@whitleyaward.org](mailto:info@whitleyaward.org).

**While the scale of environmental challenges are global, some of the most impactful, sustainable, and equitable solutions are local. Together, we can safeguard and protect #OurLocalPlanet.**

### Gains for grassroots

As inextricably linked environmental emergencies continue to unfold around us, the need for nature conservation has never been greater. That's why WFN is working hard to support grassroots leaders who are restoring landscapes, protecting wildlife, and supporting stable climate systems. **With key biodiversity targets being negotiated in 2022, WFN will continue to amplify our call for increased support of locally-led nature conservation to reverse biodiversity loss, mitigate climate change, and increase human wellbeing.**

### WFN'S 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**2023 provides a special opportunity for WFN to celebrate 30 years of supporting inspiring wildlife conservation leaders**, and to look to our Winner Network to share their wisdom, needs and conservation successes as we cast ahead to the next 30 years. Please stay tuned to **@WhitleyAwards** and sign up to our e-letter for updates as plans develop.

### Increased funding ambition

Demand from our Winner Network for Continuation Funding exceeds £2m annually, and each year new conservationists join this network. We need to increase our ability to support our alumni, through project funding and the growth of opportunities offered through our Winner Network Development Programme. That's why we're increasing our fundraising target and seeking to raise **£3m per year by 2025 in response to conservation need.**

# WFn FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2021

## Income and expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2021

£'000	2021 FUNDS			2020 FUNDS
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>				
Donations	396	1,301	1,697	1,711
Trading activities	-	4	4	24
Investment income	-	2	2	8
<b>Total income</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>1,307</b>	<b>1,703</b>	<b>1,743</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>				
Grants awarded	202	1,079	1,281	1,059
Other charitable activities	88	122	210	153
Fundraising	10	70	80	94
Support and governance	46	67	113	96
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>1,338</b>	<b>1,684</b>	<b>1,402</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>341</b>
Funds brought forward	225	2,152	2,377	2,036
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>2,121</b>	<b>2,396</b>	<b>2,377</b>

## Balance sheet at 30 June 2021

£'000	2021 FUNDS			2020 FUNDS
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
Cash and deposits	406	2,753	3,159	2,881
Debtors	-	57	57	33
Creditors due within one year	(131)	(689)	(820)	(537)
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>2,121</b>	<b>2,396</b>	<b>2,377</b>
<b>Total net assets (= Total Funds)</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>2,121</b>	<b>2,396</b>	<b>2,377</b>

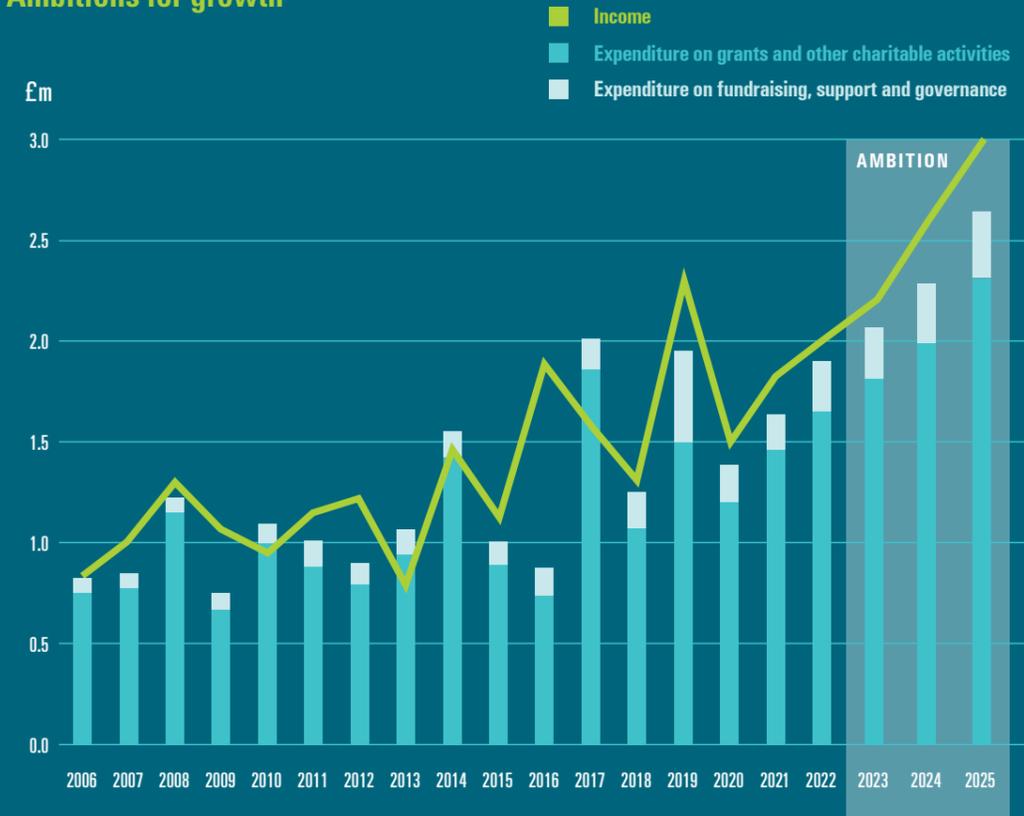


Family foundations and trusts	£641,800
Friends	£605,192
Funds and NGOs	£270,082
Corporates	£180,000



Supporting charitable activities	89%
Support and governance	6%
Fundraising	5%

## Ambitions for growth



\* Extracted from the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021, a full copy of which is available on the WFn website

# THANK YOU

We are so grateful for the generous support of our donors, sponsors and partners, including those who choose to remain anonymous.

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The Friends of the Whitley Fund for Nature



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# FRIENDS' DONATIONS

The donations we receive from our Friends are the lifeblood of the charity and this year are supporting our Gold Award. Funds raised additionally to this are vital to the charity as general funds and for bolstering WFN's Continuation Funding programme.

\* Donations received between 1 April 2021 – 1 April 2022

## £10,000 - £19,999

Ella Cornish  
The LJC Fund  
Champions of the Green Big Give

Piers and Annabel Lea  
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Eugénie White

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# WHITLEY AWARDS

Whitley Fund for Nature  
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**Victoria Thompson**  
Deputy Director

**Amy Forshaw**  
Head of Communications

**Brian Johnson**  
Head of Finance

**Lydia Johnson**  
Operations Manager

**Janice Law**  
Head of Grants

**Georgie White**  
Head of Partnerships

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##### Speech training

Olha Madylus

##### Livestream

Floating Harbour

#### Image credits

##### Front image

Fundação Príncipe and Dario Paraiso

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Pena Sherpa

##### Page 10-11

TED Global (Patricia Medici on stage)

Pro Delphinus (Man in rowboat)

Gita Defoe (Orangutan)

##### Page 12

Fundação Príncipe and Vasco Pissarra

##### Page 13

Prasenjeet Yadav

(Charudutt Mishra headshot)

##### Page 15

Janam Shrestha (Sonam Lama headshot)

FKL (Dedy Yansyah headshot)

Fundação Príncipe and Vasco Pissarra

(Estrela Matilde headshot)

Threscoal (Emmanuel Ainoa headshot)

Prasenjeet Yadav (Charudutt Mishra

headshot)

##### Page 18-19

Pema Sherpa

##### Page 20-21

Jun Ha

##### Page 22-23

Fundação Príncipe and Vasco Pissarra

##### Page 24-25

Vladimir Wrangel

##### Page 28-29

Prasenjeet Yadav (Snow leopard,

Charudutt Mishra)

Snow Leopard Trust (Group)

##### Page 30-31

IPÉ

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Paul Hilton (Pygmy slow loris)