



# CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

2016 Annual Report



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## Executive Summary

The Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) owes its success to the enduring and coherent relationships that have been built between three conservation partner organisations: **BirdLife International**, **Fauna & Flora International** and the **Wildlife Conservation Society**. We work in the same sector, have compatible goals, and add value to the partnership by drawing on the collective expertise of our respective organisations, in particular the capacity building, leadership and education programmes.

Looking back over 2016, it is gratifying to take stock of the astonishing range of achievements that have been accomplished by CLP alumni around the world. From the discovery of new species of tree and frog in India, and a new group of rare primates in Brazil, to the expansion of a marine protected area in Colombia, there is ample evidence of genuine conservation impact. There are also numerous examples of CLP alumni giving back to the programme and supporting each other, and an impressive number of career accomplishments, demonstrating the programme's success in developing leaders.

New collaborations have been initiated with the Global Trees Campaign (GTC) enabling us to support one MSc student's research in 2016. In the future GTC will fund a CLP Team Award focused on threatened tree conservation. This year we also initiated a project funded by the American Express Foundation to run leadership courses in 2017-2019

We are grateful for the support of CLP donors, most notably BP plc, Fondation Segré, Arcadia, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and the American Express Foundation. Special thanks to colleagues at BirdLife International (BLI), Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and external experts and collaborators who continuously support the programme and our grantees by reviewing our grant applications, mentoring our project teams and interns, and supporting programme delivery around the globe.

## 2016 in Figures

**18 awards** granted to support high-priority projects in 10 countries involving **69 team members**

**12 internships** supported to build on-the-job skills

**2 scholarships** awarded for studying the MPhil in Conservation Leadership, University of Cambridge

**33 conservationists** trained during **2 workshops**

**22 alumni travel grants** awarded to present research at conferences or attend training courses

**1 networking grant** funded to strengthen country level networks

The impacts of this support can be found on pages 9-10.

## Programme Staff

**Executive Committee:** Marianne Carter, Director of Conservation Capacity & Leadership (FFI)  
 Hazell Thompson, Director for Partnership, Capacity and Communities (BLI)  
 Matthew Hatchwell, Director, International Policy & Program Devt. (WCS)  
 Kathrina Mannion, Environmental Policy Manager (BP plc)

**Management Team:** Stuart Paterson, Executive Manager (FFI)  
 Kiragu Mwangi, Programme Manager (BLI)  
 Christina Imrich, Program Officer (WCS)  
 Laura Owens, Programme Officer (FFI)  
 Tim Knight, Communications Specialist (FFI)  
 Charlotte Klinting, Programme Officer (BLI)

## How We Work

CLP supports high-priority biodiversity conservation by building leadership skills of early-career conservationists who are striving to overcome major threats to nature in places where capacity and access to resources are limited.

To achieve this we:

- **Identify and engage** exceptional early-career conservationists
- **Invest in their professional development** through grants, internships, scholarships, training and mentoring
- Help them to **multiply their impact** across the conservation sector



## Conservation Awards

CLP selects exceptional teams of early-career conservationists that are granted project funding through our Conservation Awards. There are three grant levels, which allow teams to scale up their initial projects over time. In 2016, CLP granted 18 awards worth a total of \$264,650, comprising 15 Future Conservationist Awards, two Conservation Follow-Up Awards and one Conservation Leadership Award. For more information about each project, including project abstracts and final reports, please visit the CLP website.



Locations of 2016 projects and internships ([www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/our-projects/project-map](http://www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/our-projects/project-map))

### Future Conservationist Awards

- Wildlife inventory of two national parks in south-eastern Angola - \$12,500
- Conservation of the Vulnerable rufous-spotted torrent frog in China - \$12,500
- Breeding ecology of Baer's pochard in central and north China - \$12,500
- Corridor capacity building programme in north-east China for Amur leopard - \$12,500
- Conservation of raptors in Batumi Flyway, Ajara Region, Georgia - \$12,500
- Western tragopan population assessment in Darahanghati Wildlife Sanctuary, India - \$12,275
- Population status and threat assessment of vultures in Uttarakhand - \$12,500
- Conservation of Indian skimmer in the National Chambal Sanctuary, India - \$12,495
- Watershed assessment for threatened fish in Halgurd-Sakran Park, Iraqi-Kurdistan - \$12,500
- Humpback dolphin social ecology under anthropogenic threats in Langkawi, Malaysia - \$12,500
- Innovative ecological research for high-priority aquatic reptiles in Sarawak, Malaysia - \$12,340
- Preventing the disappearance of three frog species from Oaxaca, Mexico - \$12,495
- First characterisation of mesophotic coral ecosystems in Cozumel, Mexico - \$12,300
- Monitoring and conservation strategies of dugong in northern Mozambique - \$12,500
- Protecting the endangered flora of Papenkuils Wetland in South Africa - \$12,450

### Conservation Follow-Up Awards

- Promoting sustainable fishing in Sumbawa, Indonesia - \$19,945
- Agrosilvopastoral systems: a win-win strategy for tropical Mexico - \$19,830

### Conservation Leadership Award

- Sustainability of conservation agreements in IBAs, north Western Ghats, India - \$38,020



## Internships

CLP grants several fully-funded internships to each of the CLP partner organisations each year. These are seen as an important mechanism to deliver on-the-job skills development and training to interns who are supervised and mentored by CLP partner staff. Internships can be field- or office-based depending on the need of the partner, and have been proven to increase employment prospects for early-career conservationists seeking work within the sector.

### Internships supported in 2016:

- Contributing to fruit and nut forest conservation and snow leopard conservation in Kyrgyzstan
- Contributing to fruit and nut forest conservation in Tajikistan
- Butterflies of Vietnam and their role in tropical nature conservation
- Vulture conservation intern in Africa
- Promoting local community effective participation in conservation efforts in protected areas
- Building capacity in biodiversity conservation and support to implement the transition plan of BirdLife International Cambodia Programme
- Supporting capacity development and delivery of the IBA Programme in Africa
- Developing Americas partners' capacities for IBA and KBAs
- Developing capacity to fundraise with corporates and High Net Worth Individuals in Africa
- Assessing the impact of fuelwood and charcoal production on forest cover changes in the Ituri forest
- Contributing to conservation activities in the field to save the Cross River gorilla
- Evaluating participatory fish catch landing monitoring in Soariake Marine Protected Area, southwest Madagascar

*The result of the internship programme was fruitful and its impact is widely felt throughout Zone 1 [in Sapo National Park] and surrounding areas where both the ecological research and conservation education programme were carried out. This internship has further smoothed my career path and created an avenue to network and interact with diverse groups of people from different cultural, social, ethical and professional backgrounds. It has developed my research skills, enhanced my personality traits, allowed me to develop strong communication skills and work in difficult terrain of high conservation value. I am confident that these skills will be essential for me in the future.*

~ James Gbeaduh, 2015 intern at FFI, Liberia

*This internship was an enriching experience because I acquired new knowledge that I will apply in future plans, jobs and projects. The internship process also allowed me to develop my work with autonomy while still following general guidelines. This internship helped me to affirm and solidify my interest on environmental issues.*

~ Julianna Aguilar, 2016 intern at WCS, Colombia



© Julianna Aguilar

## Scholarships

Two scholars were selected to study the MPhil in Conservation Leadership at the University of Cambridge and will receive support through the CLP alumni network.

- Teona Karchava, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Georgia
- Roberta Kamille Pennell, Ya'axché Conservation Trust, Belize

## Training for 2016 CLP Award Winners

Participation in CLP's annual Conservation Management & Leadership Training Workshop was offered to one representative from each 2016 CLP award-winning team. The course offers a unique opportunity for our grantees to connect, reflect and share support and advice for existing and future work. The two-week course covered a variety of topics including leadership, project planning, media and messaging, behaviour change, fundraising, gender and conservation and training of trainers. Eight months after the 2015 training, 100% of participants reported that they applied skills and knowledge gained at the course. Course participants held post-course training for their teams and trained an additional 150 people.



Chandra Rasiardhy, a member of the Indonesia team that won a 2016 Follow-up Award, described his experience at the course.

*This was beyond the wildest dreams and expectations of the son of a fisherman like me, living on the undeveloped Sumbawa Island in Indonesia. I wanted to have something great to tell my little brothers, to make my late mother proud of me...but also to prove to myself and to others that everything in life is possible, no matter who you are.*

*The methods of learning were so easy to understand and to apply in real conservation work. After the training I felt really energised and motivated to apply all the things I had learned to our ongoing CLP project. I am more confident now to take on a bigger role in our project and in other conservation initiatives.*

## Building Capacity in Project Planning & Fundraising in East Africa

This was the third year of a project aimed at building the capacity of conservationists within the Eastern Afrotropical Hotspot to better plan and raise more funds for their projects in Key Biodiversity Areas. In 2016, CLP delivered a workshop to 16 early-career conservationists from Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania, bringing the total number of people trained in East Africa during this project to 44 since 2014.

Last year, workshop participants submitted 39 proposals worth approximately \$970,000 and successfully raised \$185,000. These proposals had been prepared during their training, or prepared using knowledge and skills received during the training. Workshop participants have also trained at least 210 additional people in 2016.

The manual used in this training course is available in several languages and can be freely downloaded at <http://www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/grants/project-manuals/>

## Networking

Since the programme was initiated in 1985, over 2,600 conservationists have become part of the CLP alumni network. All those who have been funded through a Team Award, internship, scholarship or Research Fellowship Program grant are part of this network and are encouraged to learn about each other's work, share advice to overcome challenges and explore opportunities to connect. CLP facilitates this network through a dedicated online social network<sup>1</sup> and awards a range of grants to enable interaction and support professional development.

## Travel Grants

CLP provided 22 travel grants to alumni in 2015 to advance their professional development through attendance at conferences, workshops and short-term training courses. Amongst those supported was Pramod Kumar Yadav who travelled from India to China to attend an "Advanced Field Course in Ecology and Conservation" in China at the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden.

*Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden has magnificent tropical rainforest, limestone forest and various man-made ecosystems that provide a natural laboratory for the conservation biologist. The field course involved 36 young conservationists from 14 different countries and 19 instructors.*

*During the course, I learnt how to use modern techniques like GIS, remote sensing, camera trapping, thermal imaging and drones for conservation and natural resource management. The course also aims to facilitate the formation of conservation networks with peers, improve research capability and build a regional consortium to encourage and educate young conservation biologists in tropical Asia.*

*The knowledge I acquired and the networks I developed on the course have enhanced my leadership skills and inspired me to pursue other biodiversity conservation initiatives in the Himalaya. For me, it was a great motivational award to get trained with modern conservation skills and build strong professional networks across Asia.*



<sup>1</sup> <http://rootsup.ning.com>



## Networking Grants

CLP funded one networking grant to encourage and support local network development and conservation.

### China Conservation Expo 2016: Fostering Chinese Talent in Nature Conservation

In July, CLP alumni organised an event to support the professional development of conservationists in China, and to establish and promote the establishment of a mutually supportive national conservation community. The event was attended by 60 people including 28 CLP alumni and CLP partner staff, and was broadcast across China through a webcast. The first day involved speeches, thematic panels, speed talks, workshops and a career fair. On the second day, two small-group workshops were held: “Pursuing a conservation career in China: obstacles and opportunities” and “Fundraising for conservation projects,” facilitated by senior experts from WWF, Alibaba Foundation, and National Geographic Society.

## CLP Alumni Ambassadors

A select number of CLP alumni are recruited every year to become CLP Ambassadors who provide advice and feedback to CLP applicants. Before applying for a 2016 Future Conservationist Award, Edna Leticia González Bernal sought help from CLP Ambassador Mauricio Sebastián Akmentins - a fellow Spanish-speaking amphibian specialist and leader of a 2013 award-winning project.

*For me, the most rewarding parts of the programme are the feedback generated from the applicants, sharing my personal experiences as a conservationist, and the possibility of learning about different points of view and approaches in conservation. The Ambassador programme has made it possible for me to put into practice most of the skills learned at the CLP international training course.*

~ Mauricio Sebastián Akmentins

*I thought it was a great opportunity that someone could read my proposal and send me feedback before I submitted it. I've always thought that having supporting people around you is an important aspect to achieve your goals. My goal in this case was to get my proposal financed and it was such a big opportunity to get it read and commented on by someone who was an expert in amphibians, a previous award-winner, but more than anything someone keen to help others in an altruistic way.*

~ Edna González Bernal



## Conservation Impacts

CLP-funded projects completed in 2016 reported that **1,240 stakeholders** were trained through these projects. The projects delivered new **knowledge and skills** (92%), improved stakeholder **attitudes** towards conservation (66%), **altered activities** to benefit conservation (66%) and **reduced threats** to biodiversity (83%). Teams also reported that CLP training and participation in CLP-funded projects helped them in their careers (95%).

Below are conservation impacts reported from CLP-funded project in 2016. Further information on these impressive achievements, can be found following the links to the CLP and BirdLife International websites.

### Survey and assessment of three red listed trees, Western Ghats, Karnataka (2014)

In January 2016, Navendu Page and his CLP funded team published the discovery of a **new species of evergreen tree**, *Milium malnadensis*, in a peer-reviewed international journal of botanical taxonomy. It is thought that the species is probably restricted to forests at elevations above 1,000 m in the so-called Shola-Grassland ecosystem of India, which harbours significant numbers of species found nowhere else on the planet.

<http://www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/news/new-species-of-evergreen-tree-for-india/>

### Conservation of slender-snouted crocodile in the Lake Region of Gabon (2014)

Support to local leaders and law enforcers, along with a successful behaviour change campaign led to a dramatic fall in the trade of **Critically Endangered slender-snouted crocodile** in Lambaréné, Gabon, where the mayor passed a law banning the sale of threatened species.

<http://www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/news/removing-rare-crocs-menu/>

### Effect of landscape change on mammals in Eastern Ghats, India (2014)

A new **Important Bird Area** was designated at Papikonda National Park, India. The team also published the region's **first records** of smooth-coated otter, leopard cat and rusty-spotted cat.

<http://www.birdlife.org/worldwide/news/new-vital-bird-habitat-identified-india>

### Taxonomic and conservation status assessment of salamanders in Santander, Colombia (2014)

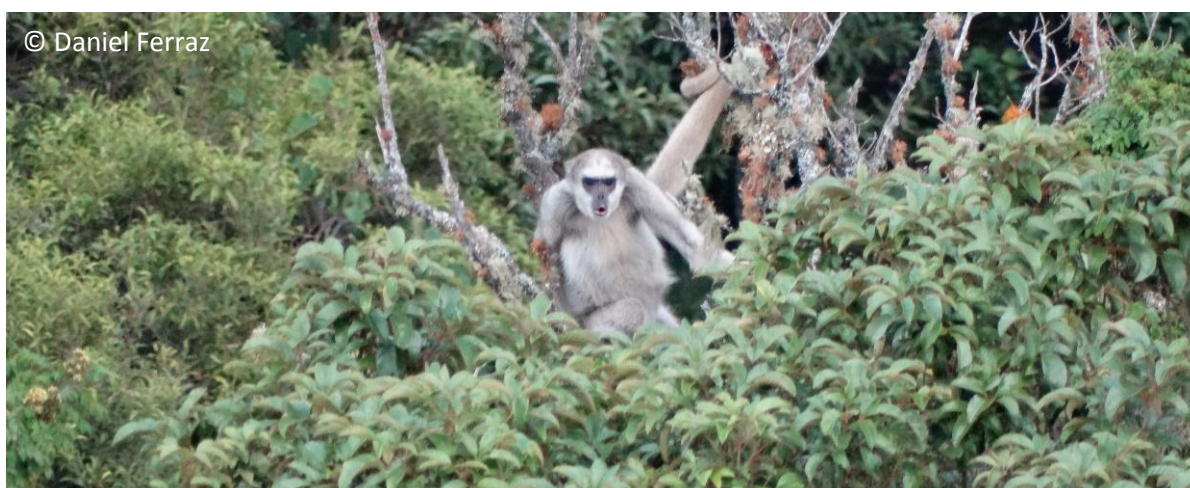
A **new NGO**, Asociación Colombia Endémica, was established by a team of herpetologists in Colombia to research and conserve salamanders in Santander, Colombia.

<http://www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/project/tsalamanders-santander-colombia/>

### Population viability of northern muriqui at Caparaó National Park, Brazil (2015)

A **new group of northern muriqui**, one of the world's most threatened primates, was discovered in Caparaó National Park, Brazil. The discovery of this previously unknown sub-population is even more significant because of its size. Team leader Mariane Kaizer said, "The group is big and healthy! We had the opportunity to count at least 50 individuals including seven juveniles and five infants."

<http://www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/news/new-group-of-vanishingly-rare-monkey-discovered/>





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#### **Preventing the extinction of the Critically Endangered blue-throated macaw (2014)**

The first ever systematic population survey of **blue-throated macaw in Bolivia** was conducted to contribute to a reliable global population size estimate. The team built 55 artificial nests from which 16 hatchlings were bred, improving the survival rate of this Critically Endangered bird.

<http://www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/project/blue-throated-macaw-bolivia/>

#### **Connectivity of whale sharks between Mexico and Colombia (2015)**

Vital data generated by the satellite and acoustic tagging work undertaken by a CLP-funded project team monitoring the movements of **whale sharks** and other migratory species between remote offshore islands in Mexico and Colombia has helped to persuade the Colombian government to quadruple the size of Malpelo marine protected area.

<http://www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/news/greater-protection-marine-migrants/>

#### **Monitoring harlequins frogs in Sierra Nevada, Colombia (2014)**

The threat status of two species of **harlequin toad**, *Atelopus laetissimus* and *A. nahumae*, was re-categorised from Critically Endangered to Endangered on the IUCN Red List thanks to research conducted by CLP alumni in Santa Marta, Colombia.

<http://www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/project/harlequins-frogs-colombia/>

#### **The effect of fragmentation and climate change on amphibian assemblage in the South Western Ghats, India (2010)**

A **new species of frog**, the Karaavali skittering frog, which has a call resembling that of the white-throated kingfisher, was discovered and described by CLP alumni in India.

<http://www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/news/frog-kingfishers-clothing/>



Karaavali skittering frog © Seshadri K. S.

## CLP Alumni Accomplishments

CLP alumni strive to develop their skills, take on responsibilities and further their leadership qualities. Several CLP alumni have been recognised for awards and positions of responsibility in 2016. The year in which alumni received CLP support is shown in parentheses.

**Matthew Shirley** (2003, 2008) won a 2016 **Future for Nature Award** for his work conserving the West African slender-snouted crocodile.

Three CLP alumni won 2016 **Whitley Fund for Nature Awards**: **Gilbert Adum** (2010, 2013), **Makala Jasper** (1996, 2004) and **Alexander Rukhaia** (2016). **Makala Jasper** was also awarded the 2016 **National Geographic Society/Bufett Award for Leadership in African Conservation**.

**Yufang Gao** (2009) and **Alejandro Fallabrino** (2001, 2004, 2007) won **Marsh Awards** for Terrestrial and Marine Conservation Leadership. **Yufang Gao** also won **National Geographic Society's Emerging Explorer** award.

**Urias Goll** (2010) was nominated by the President of Liberia as the new **Deputy Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia**.

**Purnima Devi Barman** (2009, 2012, 2015) and the "Hargila Army" won a 2016 **UNDP India Biodiversity Award**. Purnima also received a 2016 **Royal Bank of Scotland Earth Hero Award** in the Save the Species category and the **Green Guru Award** from the Balipara Foundation.

**Abhishek Gopal** (2015) was made a full member of the **IUCN/SSC Otter Specialist Group**.

The organisation **C3** (2006, 2009, 2014) was awarded the **National Winner** prize by the Energy Globe Foundation in Austria for the project "Mobilising youth for mangrove reforestation across remote northern Madagascar."

**Diogo Veríssimo** (2008, 2014) received a 2016 **IUCN Commission on Communication and Education Young Professional Award**.

**Kanchana Weerakoon** (2003, 2008) became the **President of Journeys for Climate Justice in Melbourne, Australia**.



## CLP Alumni Publications

Acevedo, A. A., Franco, R. & Carrero, D. A. (2016) Diversity of Andean amphibians of the Tamá National Natural Park in Colombia: a survey for the presence of *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*. *Animal Biodiversity and Conservation* 39(1): 1–10.

Aditya, V. & Ganesh, T. (2016) Camera trap records of Rusty-spotted Cat *Prionailurus rubiginosus* and Leopard Cat *Prionailurus bengalensis* (Mammalia: Carnivora: Felidae) from Papikonda National Park, northern Eastern Ghats, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 8 (5).

Andradi-Brown, D.A., Gress, E., Wright, G. et al. (2016) Reef Fish Community Biomass and Trophic Structure Changes Across Shallow to Upper-Mesophotic Reefs in the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef, Caribbean. *PLoS ONE*.

Atuo, F.A., Ivande, S.T., Wala, Z.J., et al. (2016) Current distribution, breeding population and habitat use of the globally threatened grey-necked picathartes *Picathartes oreas* in south-eastern Nigeria: a call for conservation action. *Ostrich* 87 (2).

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Kanagavel, A., Parvathy, S., Nameer, P. O. et al. (2016) Conservation implications of wildlife utilisation by indigenous communities in the Southern Western Ghats of India. *Journal of Asia-Pacific Biodiversity*.

Khanal, G., Suryawanshingh, K.R., Awasthi, K.D. et al. (2016). Irrigation demands aggravate fishing threats to river dolphins in Nepal. *Biological Conservation* (In press).

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**Financials**

