



**CONSERVATION  
LEADERSHIP  
PROGRAMME**

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**Building the next generation  
of conservation leaders**  
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## Who we are

The Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) builds the next generation of conservation leaders. We are a partnership of three world-class biodiversity conservation organisations – BirdLife International, Fauna & Flora International and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Drawing upon the expertise of conservation professionals from across the globe, CLP directs project funding and training to early career leaders from developing countries who are tackling priority conservation challenges.

Since 1985 CLP has been providing vital career stepping-stones to an extensive global network of over 2,500 conservation practitioners. With CLP support, our alumni are discovering new species, designating protected areas, starting their own non-governmental organisations and creating mechanisms for long-term conservation.

Our approach includes offering a range of grants, ongoing training and professional development opportunities that help individuals gain skills, move up the conservation career ladder and deliver concrete conservation results.





What we do

CLP supports high-priority biodiversity conservation by building the 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 young conservationists








We invest in their professional development through grants, internships, training and mentoring

We help them to multiply their impact across the conservation sector

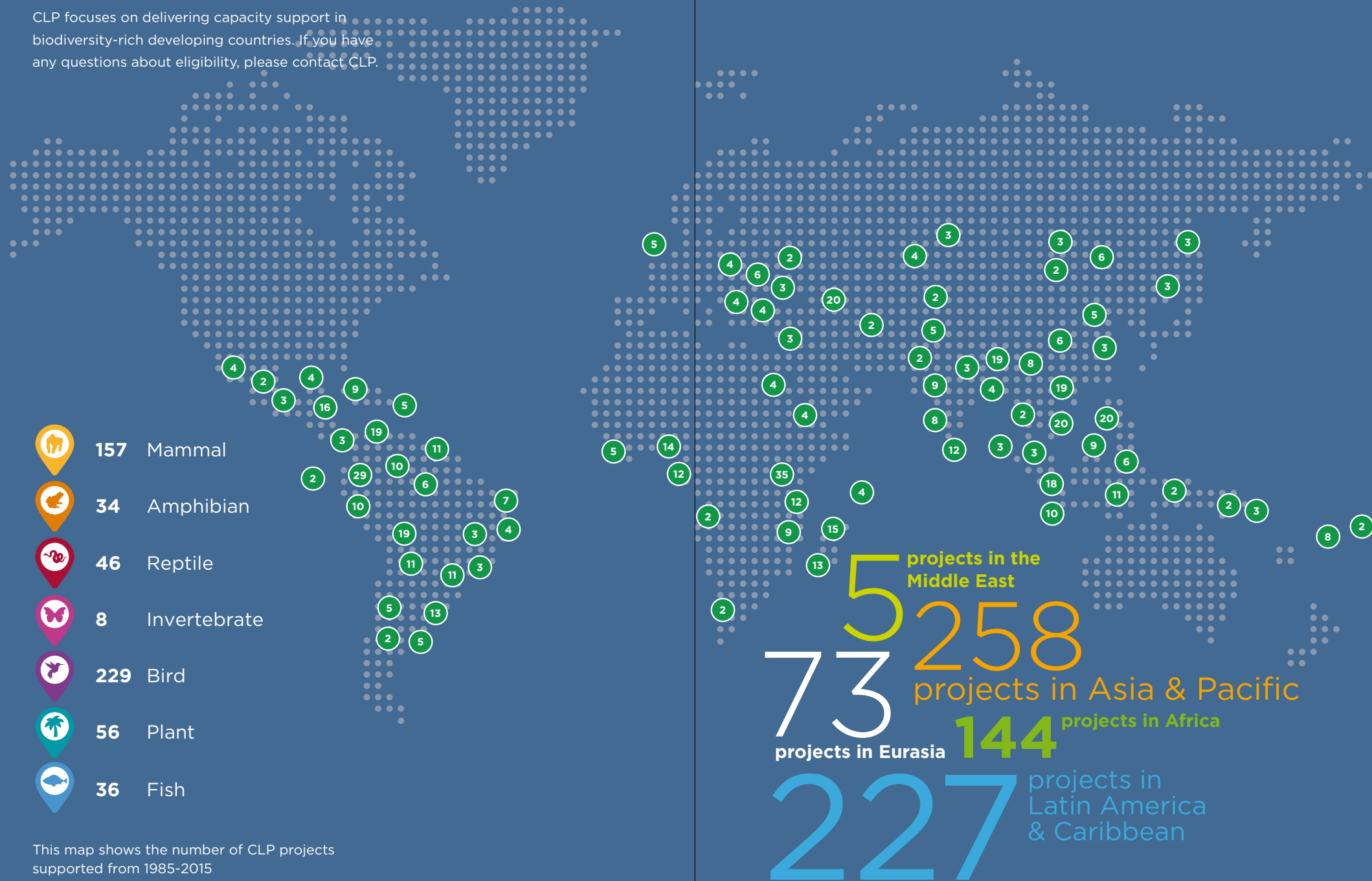


## Where we work

CLP focuses on delivering capacity support in biodiversity-rich developing countries. If you have any questions about eligibility, please contact CLP.

-  **157** Mammal
-  **34** Amphibian
-  **46** Reptile
-  **8** Invertebrate
-  **229** Bird
-  **56** Plant
-  **36** Fish

This map shows the number of CLP projects supported from 1985-2015



## Identify and engage: Conservation Awards & Internships

CLP selects exceptional teams of early career conservationists to receive project funding through our Conservation Awards on an annual basis. There are three grant levels which allow teams to scale up their initial projects over time. Starting with a Future Conservationist Award, teams are supported to undertake small-scale research and awareness-raising projects.

Through subsequent Follow-up and Leadership Awards teams can implement larger projects over a longer period of time and deliver practical solutions to conservation issues whilst learning to command more complex decision-making, communication and leadership skills.

CLP Internships allow opportunities for individuals to gain hands-on experience with a CLP partner.



## Future Conservationist Awards



“Our involvement in CLP was a genuine and much needed eye-opener. We tried new approaches and technologies for tackling local conservation issues and also understood that we all more or less share similar challenges in our respective fields of research – as future conservationists, budding scientists and citizens of the world.”

**Danka Uzunova, Macedonia**

Future Conservationist Awards fund early career teams to conduct small-scale, practical conservation projects focused on globally threatened species and landscapes. Teams of at least three people must exhibit leadership potential in biodiversity conservation and design a project that is feasible, builds team capacity and is methodologically sound.





Main photo: Slizard Bücs  
 Right photo: Juan Pablo Moreiras / FFI  
 Middle photo: Giovanni Chaves Portilla

## Conservation Follow-up Awards



“CLP is not only a partner who financially supports projects, but a partner who is interested in forming leaders and enabling a fantastic exchange of experiences among conservationists. Results from the two CLP projects supported proposals for a new mangrove Marine Protected Area (MPA), buffer zones for two existing coral reef MPAs and provided support for the expansion and adaptive co-management of the Abrolhos Bank MPA network.”

**Matheus Freitas, Brazil**

With Conservation Follow-up Awards, CLP provides continued support to outstanding teams who want to address conservation issues and recommendations identified in their original CLP project. This grant allows team members to go beyond basic surveying, analysis and awareness-raising, which is often the focus of initial projects. Through this progression, they will develop further leadership experience in networking, decision-making, advocacy and communications.







**Kate Stokes Memorial Award**



**KATE STOKES  
AWARD**

Kate Stokes worked as CLP Programme Officer from 2002 to 2006. She was instrumental in developing the programme and helping hundreds of young conservationists gain practical conservation experience. Through the Kate Stokes Memorial Trust, a \$5,000 grant is awarded on an annual basis to an exceptional CLP team, with a particular emphasis on teams that demonstrate passion, enthusiasm and a long-term commitment to conservation.

“We are so grateful that through this award we were able to reach out to communities beyond Kia, make valuable contacts, receive referrals and enquiries to expand the Reef Rangers network further than we ever dreamed possible.”

**Akosita Rokomate, Fiji**



**Conservation Leadership Awards**



**3 CONSERVATION  
LEADERSHIP  
AWARD**

Our highest accolade is the Conservation Leadership Award. This award enables a team that has proceeded through Future Conservationist and Follow-up Awards to build on previous work, creating projects with practical and conservation-oriented outcomes. It offers more substantial resources to first-rate innovative projects that build long-term capacity for conservation in the project area, whilst offering the team invaluable developmental experience.

“Through CLP support, Mpingo Conservation & Development Initiative was transformed from a student research expedition into a practical conservation organisation in 2004. Today MCDI is one of the most successful conservation organisations in Tanzania. It has supported communities to conserve more than 100,000 hectares of land.”

**Jasper Makala, Tanzania**



## Internships



### INTERNSHIP

CLP interns are placed with one of our world-renowned partner organisations and increase their conservation skills, experience and marketability through on-the-job training. By working with a CLP partner, interns learn new skills from experienced staff, gain training in office and field working environments and develop their conservation networks.

Internships are developed to specifically meet the learning needs and interests of individual applicants and the host organisation. Supervisors provide mentoring to orient interns to the organisation and help the intern achieve learning targets. Internship opportunities are developed by each of the CLP partner organisations. CLP does not solicit or accept applications from the general public.



“Because of the CLP internship, I was able to gain significant knowledge and field experience, which reinforced my aspiration of pursuing conservation as a profession. Moreover, the professional network built during the internship helped me to boost my career by offering me more opportunities.”

**Yufang Gao, China**



## Ongoing investment in professional development: Training

Each individual who is funded through a CLP Award or Internship becomes part of CLP's global Alumni Network. Membership in this network provides ongoing professional development via training, additional funding, networking and mentoring opportunities. CLP offers training through our annual international training course and local short-term training courses, where conservation leaders connect to learn, share experience and help each other achieve their professional goals.



Left photo: Fabio Nunes  
Middle photo: Jeremy Holden / FFI  
Right photo: Stuart Paterson

## International Training

CLP runs a two-week Conservation Management & Leadership Course annually for each award-winning cohort. This course focuses on topics that are relevant to all conservation practitioners and not typically taught through university programmes or other training institutions.

One person from each Conservation Award-winning team is invited to attend each year. Teams nominate a participant who is open to new ideas and committed to working in conservation. International experts teach practical sessions on a variety of subjects, including:

- Personal leadership development
- Project planning and management
- Behaviour change through education and outreach
- Communications and media
- Fundraising
- Gender and conservation
- Best practices of training

Upon returning home, participants train their team members and other stakeholders in what they have learned, extending the reach of the training. With approximately 25 participants each year from 15 to 20 countries, this training is truly a unique opportunity for sharing ideas, cultures and experiences.

“The international training course was my first time away from the Philippines and exposed me to different cultures, countries and ideas: environmental campaigns, and the development of a logical framework, for instance. Being among a group of conservationists also provided me with confidence.”

**Cynthia Layusa, Philippines**





## Local Training

CLP alumni and early career conservationists have the opportunity to participate in short training courses, delivered within their regions, to fill skills gaps on high priority topics which include:

- Personal leadership development
- Project design and fundraising
- Writing for conservation publications
- Statistics of biological monitoring
- Climate change

Participants gain practical skills and knowledge that enable them to become more effective conservation practitioners and help advance their careers.

“Three months after the CLP fundraising workshop I submitted my proposal and it was successful. I have continued applying the skills and knowledge gained in the workshop to get more support from different stakeholders to continue the project. I’m happy to say that the project —initially funded for just one year— is still growing thanks to the training!”

**Mariana Da Silva Loayza, Bolivia**





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### Multiplying impact: Networking and Mentoring

Networking support for our alumni comes in many forms, including alumni travel grants, networking grants, mentoring grants, results sharing and access to our online social network. Alumni can also become Alumni Ambassadors offering guidance and mentoring to prospective CLP grantees.

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### Alumni Travel Grants

Alumni travel grants are awarded throughout the year to members of the network who require funding to attend short-term training courses or present their work at local or international conferences.

“As part of the CLP alumni network I received two travel grants. The first was to attend the Student Conference for Conservation Science in Cambridge in 2005 where I gave a presentation on bats. Attending the SCCS was very exciting as it was the first time I had travelled out of Madagascar!”

**Julie Hanta, Madagascar**

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### Networking Grants

Networking grants are awarded to enable groups of alumni working in the same region to gather and address a local conservation need. For example, alumni can apply funds to self-organize a mini training or regional symposium. Implementation of networking events enables alumni to build stronger local connections which can lead to more in-depth collaboration in the future.





## Learning Exchange Grants

There is a vast amount of expertise between CLP partner organisations, the CLP management team and within the alumni network. To facilitate and fund the exchange of experiences across our network, CLP encourages alumni to identify their learning gaps and apply for a peer-to-peer learning exchange grant to enable a visit between mentor and mentee. These exchanges promote collaboration within the network, increase quality of project implementation on the ground and build the capacity of mentors and mentees through the exchange.

“During Felipe’s visit, we were able to exchange ideas and discuss points from our personal points of view. Together, we were able to lay down our challenges, look at them objectively, dissect and analyze the issues and arrive at solutions. We realized that some of our conservation challenges are almost identical and it was essential to share such cross-country knowledge and experience to arrive at holistic solutions.”

**Martina Anandam, India**



Left photo: Jeremy Holden / FFI  
Middle photo: Martina Anandam  
Top right photo: Jeremy Holden / FFI

## CLP partner organisations

**BirdLife International** is the world’s largest nature conservation Partnership, with over 120 BirdLife Partners worldwide and growing. It is driven by its belief that local people, working for nature in their own places but connected nationally and internationally through its global Partnership, are the key to sustaining all life on this planet. This unique local-to-global approach delivers high impact and long-term conservation for the benefit of nature and people.



**Fauna & Flora International (FFI)** is the world’s longest established international conservation body. Founded over 100 years ago, FFI acts to conserve threatened species and ecosystems worldwide, choosing solutions that are sustainable, are based on sound science and take account of human needs. Renowned for its science-based approach, FFI has pioneered sustainable conservation work that tackles problems holistically, providing solutions that simultaneously help wildlife, humans and the environment.



**The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)** saves wildlife and wild places worldwide through science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature. WCS envisions a world where wildlife thrives in healthy lands and seas, valued by societies that embrace and benefit from the diversity and integrity of life on earth.







## CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

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