



CLP Alumni Ambassadors Process

Role of the Applicant

We encourage applicants to contact CLP Alumni Ambassadors for support as they prepare their CLP application. Please keep in mind the following guidelines and let us know if you have any questions (clp@birdlife.org). **Having a proposal reviewed by a CLP Ambassador and/or CLP staff does not guarantee that the proposal will be funded, but it will likely make your proposal more competitive.**

1. Please review the profiles for each Ambassador and contact the Ambassador you would like to receive support from. You may contact an Ambassador in a different country or region as they may have expertise in your area of research. Please do not contact more than one Ambassador unless your first choice Ambassador is unavailable to help.
2. Ambassadors may be contacted to provide feedback on proposals in the following areas: clarity of concept, English grammar, cohesion of proposal, and research design (if within Ambassador's area of expertise). Ambassadors will not write proposals for applicants and will review a proposal at most two times.
3. You will receive Ambassador comments via email.
4. Applicants are responsible to read [CLP eligibility criteria](#) carefully **before** contacting Ambassadors. Ambassadors may advise on eligibility, however if there is any uncertainty on the eligibility of a project, contact CLP staff directly for a final decision (clp@birdlife.org).
5. Ambassador feedback will likely improve the quality of applications. However, applicants **are not required** to incorporate Ambassador recommendations. Applicants are 100% responsible for the content of their proposals and must use their good judgment when deciding whether or not to incorporate Ambassador advice.
6. Alumni Ambassadors volunteer their time to review proposals. Please be respectful and patient. Ambassadors aim to acknowledge receipt of proposals within 48 hours and provide feedback within one week. If you are unsure of the status of your proposal with an Ambassador, contact CLP (clp@birdlife.org).
7. Plan ahead! The sooner you start developing your proposal and soliciting feedback, the better!
8. If you encounter any challenges when working with an Ambassador, contact CLP (clp@birdlife.org).
9. Applicants may send proposals to CLP staff and/or Ambassadors for review prior to submission up to two weeks before the deadline. You may request feedback from both an Ambassador and CLP staff member. If you choose to contact both, please conclude the review process with one audience before initiating a review process with a second.

Thank you and good luck!

Ambassador Biographies & Contact Information

Natia Javakhishvili - n.javakhishvili.clpambassador@gmail.com

Languages: Georgian, English, Russian

Taxonomic areas: Birds

Experience in the following countries: Georgia

I am currently running the CLP project: "Conservation Actions for the Imperial Eagle in Kakheti Region, Georgia." I finished a BSc in Biology and started MSc in Ecology. For this moment I am working for SABUKO (Society for Nature Conservation). I took part in the "Natura Conservation" course organized by Batumi Raptor Count in 2013. I also participated in TC "Environmental Training for Eco-Trainers" organized by "Youth and Environment Europe" in March 2015. I am founder and president of the Young Biologists Association. I lead Nature Camps for children living in the bottleneck villages in Georgia.



Emanuel Stefan Baltag - ebaltag.clpambassador@gmail.com

Languages: Romanian, English

Taxonomic areas: birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles

Experience in the following countries: Romania, Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria, Germany, Ukraine, France, Poland and Turkey

I joined the Conservation Leadership Programme community in 2013 and I became an Ambassador for this programme in the same year. I am involved in conservation and research projects on birds, mammals and habitats from Eastern Europe. My experience is not related only with field activities but also with data analysis, GIS, predictions for actual or future animal distribution and databases design. My interests deal with habitat selection, conservation strategies, monitoring protocols and training young conservationist. I am involved in education projects and I believe that if you want to protect nature you have to involve people.



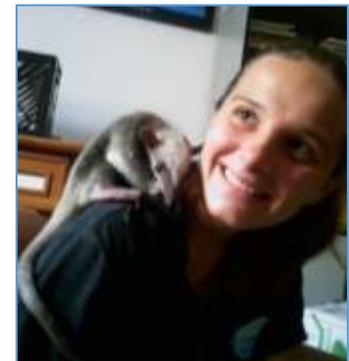
Alice Reisfeld - alicereisfeld.clp@gmail.com

Languages: Portuguese, English, Spanish (Medium)

Taxonomic areas: Birds and Mammals

Experience in the following countries: Brazil, short experience in Belize

I have a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Management and a background working in zoological institutions (both zoo and aquarium). Currently, I work in SAVE Brasil, BirdLife International's partner in Brazil, and I'm involved in different projects of the organization. I joined the CLP after my project team won a Follow-up Award for our work in an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area in Northeastern Brazil. Thanks to this award, in 2014 I was able to attend CLP's International Training Course in Canada, where I gained new skills, exchanged a lot of experiences, and made great friends. I have a passion for wildlife for as long as I can remember and this has developed into a great interest for biodiversity conservation.



Mauricio Sebastián Akmentins -
makmentins.clpambassador@gmail.com

Languages: Spanish, English, Portuguese

Taxonomic areas: Amphibians, Freshwater Fishes, Aquatic Turtles

Experience in the following countries: Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico, Canada, Bolivia



I have a PhD in Biological Sciences and my main areas of expertise are in conservation biology and ecology of anuran amphibians. My interest and experience also include biodiversity inventories, monitoring techniques and bioacoustics of anurans. Since 2008 I am working towards the conservation of endangered species of marsupial frogs (genus *Gastrotheca*) and aspects of ecology and distribution of direct developing frogs (genus *Oreobates*) in Yungas Andean Forest of NW Argentina. Also, I worked in Ecuador, Mexico, Canada and Bolivia. Currently, I'm full time researcher of Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET) of Argentina. I was leader of the project "Saving the Endangered Marsupial Frogs in Yungas Forests of Argentina", winner of the 2013 CLP Future Conservationist Award.

Choo Poh Leem - pohleem.choo.clpambassador@gmail.com

Languages: English, Malay, Mandarin, Cantonese, Hokkien

Taxonomic areas: Marine invertebrates, coral reef, reef fish

Experience in the following countries: Malaysia



My background is in ecology and biodiversity especially marine tropical biology and coral reefs. I am presently part of WWF-Malaysia, which facilitates the discussion and data collection from various government agencies and partners in Marine Spatial Planning for Semporna, Malaysia. At the same time, I am a PhD student and work on marine resource mapping, stakeholder consultation, and community empowerment for coral reef conservation. Previously, I led environmental data collection on seawater quality, migratory species, seagrass and coral reef monitoring. Lastly, I am an active coach in Conservation Coaches Network (CCNET) and assist conservation project planning using the open standards and logical frameworks. I have experience building the capacity of community based organizations and other conservation NGOs to improve conservation practices and program management.

Bandana Aul Arora - barora.clpambassador@gmail.com

Languages: English, Hindi, Nepalese, French

Taxonomic areas: Birds, Mammals

Experience in the following countries: India, Malaysia



I am very passionately driven for research in the Indian subcontinent. Being fond of shy and elusive creatures, bats have been foremost on my list. My strength has also been to work with communities for effective conservation primary in the Nicobar Group of Islands. My main Research Interests are as follows: 1) Bat diversity and study of distributions in little known and understudied areas. 2) Biogeographic studies to map species distribution. 3) Liaise and network with scientists, researchers and student to build a database across the country for effective mapping of species and their habitats. 4) Awareness campaigns to sensitize the

public on unsustainable resource use and conservation issues in the country. I have done most of my pre and doctoral work in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and have the honor of being the first one to initiate and complete the first ever systematic survey of the islands for recording bat species and their habitats. I was successful in rediscovering the endemic Nicobar Flying fox after 100 year and recording its day roost.

Lu Zhang - l.zhang.clpambassador@gmail.com

Languages: Chinese, English

Taxonomic areas: Amphibians, mammals

Experience in the following countries: China, United States

Lu Zhang is a post-doctoral fellow at the Memphis Zoo/Mississippi State University, working on reintroduction of the Chinese giant salamander. She received her Ph.D. from Peking University (China) in 2011. Together with her colleagues, she won a CLP Future Conservationist Award in 2009 to evaluate the impact of rangeland fencing on the endangered Przewalski's gazelle. She is interested in conserving endangered wildlife, from mammals to amphibians, through studying their population status, movement and dispersal, and habitat selection to understand their crucial demands, which may help them to better survive in a world altered significantly by human. She has been working in both China and the U.S. but always conducted field work in China.



Vu Dinh Thong - vdthong.clpambassador@gmail.com

Languages: Vietnamese, English

Taxonomic areas: Mammals

Experience in the following countries: Cambodia, China, England, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam

Vu Dinh Thong is a mammalogist, the first and leading bat expert of Vietnam. He studied in Vietnam, England, Germany, and received his PhD degree (Dr.rer.nat.) from the University of Tuebingen, Germany. He also attended a range of international training courses in Conservation Biology, Biological Systematics, Bat Taxonomy and Echolocation, and international conferences on biodiversity conservation and related aspects. Since 1999, he has successfully conducted many projects and contributed greatly to both academic research and conservation of Vietnamese mammals with particular emphasis on bats. Dr. Thong has published sixty-six papers containing descriptions of eight new bat taxa in national and international peer-reviewed journals, two books; lectured on animal taxonomy, mammalogy and ecology at institutes and universities in Vietnam; and co-supervised and supervised eight students, six MSc and three PhD candidates. Dr. Thong is always responsible and eager to collaborate, support, train, and supervise colleagues and students from a variety of universities and institutes in China, Vietnam and other countries in mammal research and conservation.



Matt Shirley - mshirley.clpambassador@gmail.com

Languages: English, French

Taxonomic areas: Birds, Reptiles

Experience in the following countries: Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Niger, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, DR Congo, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Egypt.



Matthew (Matt) H. Shirley received his PhD in Wildlife Ecology & Conservation from the University of Florida in the spring of 2013. He previously earned a Master of Science, also in wildlife ecology and conservation from the University of Florida, in 2007 and Bachelor of Science in ecology and evolutionary biology from Yale University in 2003. Matt first visited Central Africa - Equatorial Guinea - when he implemented bird surveys with funding from the BPCP (now CLP). Before starting graduate school he was a bird guide in Brazil, continued bird surveys in Equatorial Guinea, and lived in Dominica for a year scuba diving and looking for endemic parrots. While at the University of Florida he has had the good fortune of visiting 13 additional African countries (mostly throughout West and Central Africa). He participated in another CLP project in 2008 initiating a crocodile management unit for the Egyptian government. While his research has focused on many aspects of crocodile evolution, he has enjoyed expanding the conservation focus of his work by prioritizing research on the status, distribution and ecology of the least known crocodylians in the world, as well as working to develop capacity and enthusiasm for conservation amongst African students and technicians.

Jennifer Agaldo - jagaldo.clpambassador@gmail.com

Languages: English, Hausa

Taxonomic areas: Mammals, Plants, Birds

Experience in the following countries: Nigeria, Tanzania



My background is in Botany and a Conservation Biology. I am presently part of the Nigerian Montane Forest Conservation group working on Forest Restoration Project by looking at the dynamics of seed dispersal. I am a PhD Ecology student at the University of Canterbury Christchurch, New Zealand. I have a passion for biodiversity conservation as well as community based conservation as I believe effective conservation requires grass roots participation of local communities in biodiversity rich regions. I however have strong interest in invasive species, plant-animal interaction, ornithology and primate research and conservation. I joined CLP after winning an award to work on Chimpanzees in South East Nigeria and since then I have gained from the CLP programme through its continuous support and mentorship. Hence I am working to continue to initiate, participate and foster biodiversity conservation in Nigeria and Africa as a whole.