



CONSERVATION
LEADERSHIP
PROGRAMME

2017

ANNUAL REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2017, the Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) supported **22 teams** to deliver projects that conserved a diverse spectrum of species and habitats: from roses in the Egyptian mountains to hornbills in the forests of Borneo, from conifers in east Mexico and cetaceans in the waters off Georgia. Our renowned Conservation Management & Leadership Workshop was attended by **21 award-winners** in Indonesia. CLP trained an additional **54 people** at short courses in India, China and Mexico.

Demonstrating the collaborative nature of CLP, we combined efforts with several organisations to help deliver three successful events at the International Congress of Conservation Biology. This conference was attended by **23 CLP alumni**, 11 of whom were funded by CLP to present their work.

CLP alumni were enabled to present their results at conferences and receive further training thanks to **29 travel grants** awarded throughout the year. In

India, CLP alumni received a grant to organize their own networking and training session on statistics. We also encouraged peer-to-peer mentoring by selecting **four learning exchange** grants connecting CLP alumni from Romania and India; Oman and Egypt; India and Nepal; and Russia and Kazakhstan.

As a partnership programme, CLP values the support and expertise of three leading conservation organisations – BirdLife International (BLI), Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

We are grateful for the support of donors who are supporting CLP grants and training including BP plc, Fondation Segré, American Express, Arcadia - a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, British Birdfair and Aage V. Jensen Foundation.

CLP Management Team:

Stuart Paterson, Executive Manager (FFI)
Laura Owens, Programme Officer (FFI)
Tim Knight, Communications Specialist (FFI)
Kiragu Mwangi, Snr Capacity Development Manager (BLI)
Charlotte Klinting, Programme Officer (BLI)
Christina Imrich, Program Officer (WCS)

CLP Executive Committee:

Marianne Carter (FFI)
Director, Conservation Capacity & Leadership
Hazell Thompson (BLI)
Director for Partnership, Capacity & Communities
Peter Zahler (WCS)
Snr Advisor Asia; Director, Training & Capacity Building
Kathrina Mannion (BP plc)
Environmental Policy Manager



HOW WE WORK



Since CLP was initiated in 1985, the programme has:

- ◆ Supported approximately **2,700** early-career conservationists in over **100** countries. This includes those involved in **612 team projects** and **35 Research Fellowships**
- ◆ **Trained 478 participants** at our annual, two-week Conservation Management & Leadership workshop.
- ◆ **Delivered 34 short training courses to 479 participants** to build capacity in leadership, project planning and fundraising, publication writing, biostatistics, climate change and adaptive management.
- ◆ **Funded 119 internships** at CLP partner organisations.
- ◆ **Awarded 488 alumni grants** worth over **\$727,000** so that alumni could present their results at conferences and attend workshops.
- ◆ Enabled CLP alumni to organise their own conservation events by awarding **14 networking grants**.
- ◆ Supported **23 learning exchanges** where CLP alumni visited and mentored one another.

Over three decades, CLP has been providing vital career stepping stones to an extensive network of over 2,700 conservation practitioners who have delivered outstanding results, contributed to the advance of scientific knowledge and delivered practical actions to overcome threats to species and habitats. CLP alumni have discovered new species, started their own non-governmental organisations and used their results to designate important conservation sites. Their ongoing initiatives are also helping to monitor the state and health of the planet.

CONSERVATION IMPACTS reported in 2017

Expanding protected areas on the Russia-China-Mongolia border

In 2007 and 2008, CLP funded projects focused on wetlands and bird monitoring. Following 10 years of research, advocacy and international collaboration, the landscape of Dauria (9,000 km²) was designated a World Heritage Site.

First characterization of mesophotic coral ecosystems in Cozumel, Mexico

The 2015 project conducted the first surveys of Mesophotic Coral Ecosystems in Cozumel. The data is now being used to generate a holistic reef management plan. The team has been asked by the authorities to help protect black corals at a national level.

Conserving Endangered silvery-brown tamarin in degraded forests, Colombia

The team built relationships with farm owners to seek win-win strategies for meat production and conservation. They also formalized an agreement with a state run environmental corporation to design habitat corridors for tamarins.

Reducing human-snow leopard conflict in upper Spiti Valley, India

Community-based conservation programmes were initiated in nine villages.

Efforts to reduce human-wildlife conflict were successful and the project reported no incidences of retaliatory killing of wild carnivores despite losses of livestock.

Conservation actions for the imperial eagle in Kakheti region, Georgia

The 2015 CLP project found only eight pairs of imperial eagles, down from 35 in 2010. For the first the time in the Caucasus, imperial eagles were attached with GPS tags to understand more about threats and potential breeding places.

Project Seabirds Argentina: conservation through community involvement

The team leader of this 2003 project now coordinates the Albatross Task Force which has pushed new legislation, approved last year, to reduce seabird bycatch in trawler fishing lines.

River dolphin population assessment in Yarinacocha Lagoon, Peru

The CLP team raised awareness about the plight of two freshwater dolphin species and worked with government officers to ensure that river dolphins are protected under a National Action Plan approved by the Peruvian Ministry of Production.



CLP ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Through completing CLP-funded projects, internship and training courses, CLP alumni develop skills and assume responsibilities that build their leadership qualities. In 2017, the commitment of CLP alumni was rewarded through awards and new roles to support biodiversity conservation:

Whitley Awards were won by **Purnima Devi Barman** (2009, 2012, 2015) and **Indira Lacerna-Widmann** (2003)

Edna Gonzalez Bernal (2016) received a L'Oréal Award for Women in Science

Jamal Galves (2012) won the WWF Planet Hero Award for Belize

Roderick Juba (2016) has won the National Wetlands Award for Young Professionals, South Africa

Nachamada Geoffrey (2013) was shortlisted as a finalist for the Tusk Award

Szilárd Bücs (2015) founded a bat-themed NGO in Romania, the Centre for Bat Research and Conservation, and became part of the IUCN Bat Specialist Group

Fauna & Flora International employed **Seiha Hun** (2012) as Technical Project Support and **Trang Nguyen** (2014) as Illegal Wildlife Trade Technical Adviser

Aimy Cáceres (2010, 2015) is Director of Science and Research at Peruvian NGO Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazónica

Daniel Camilo Thompson Poo (2011) is an Attorney with the Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense

CLP alumni at **AQUASIS** (2004, 2007, 2010, 2012) celebrated winning the National Biodiversity Prize, the highest recognition awarded by the Brazilian government.

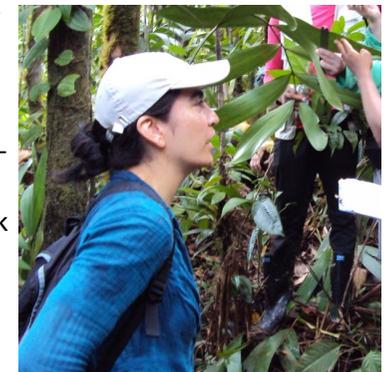
Santiago D'Alessio (1999, 2003, 2005), Director of Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation, Ministry of Environment & Sustainable Development, Argentina

"CLP has been an outstanding contributor for my career development. First, because being selected and supported by such important institutions gave me strength and energy to work harder. But mainly because the training courses and the network of colleagues that I made through CLP gave me the tools that I still use every day on national conservation projects or when representing my country at global conferences organised by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species or Convention on Biological Diversity."



Cristina Lopez-Gallego (2009) was invited to be part of the Plant Conservation Subcommittee of the IUCN Species Survival Commission

"Our CLP award was one of the first projects in which I was involved that focused more on conservation practice than on research, which encouraged me to keep mixing my research with more applied approaches. CLP opportunities for training, attending meetings and exchanging experiences with other conservationists was very important for me to broaden my horizons in conservation. Being part of a network of people with such amazing conservation projects all over the world is very inspirational and important to me!"



CONSERVATION AWARDS



In 2017, 22 projects were selected by CLP and BirdLife's Young Conservation Leaders programme and granted funding worth a total of \$272,500. Please visit the CLP website and search through [2017 projects](#) to read project abstracts and final reports.

Future Conservationist Awards: \$12,500

- Using light to reduce mobula ray bycatch in Indonesia's small-scale fisheries
- Citizen science with Mexican artisanal fishers in Community Marine Reserves
- Conservation assessment of Arabian dragon tree (*Dracaena Serrulata*) in Oman
- Conservation status of the red-handed howler monkey in Amapá, Brazil
- Zoning, conservation and research on Brazilian coral reefs
- Empowering tree nurseries to grow threatened species in southern Brazil
- Conservation of two Endangered conifers in eastern Mexico
- Conservation of velvet scoter on Tabatskuri Lake in Georgia
- The conservation of Bornean hornbills in Malaysia
- White-lipped peccary conservation in and around Amazonian extractive reserves
- Conservation status of Craveri's murrelet in Mexico

- Conservation actions of cetaceans in the Georgian territorial waters
- Assessing the status of threatened elasmobranchs in the Andamans, India
- Conserving periled "tiger of the river": golden mahseer in upper Ganga, India
- Conservation status of threatened fish taxa of Eastern Ghats, India
- Conservation of spoon-billed sandpiper in Leizhou Peninsula, China
- Conservation of the muriquis along Serra do Mar, Brazil

Follow-up Awards: \$20,000

- Long-term conservation planning for endemic plant species in Egypt
- Conservation of southern Amazonian marmosets in Brazil

BirdLife Young Conservation Leaders Awards (YCL): \$12,500

- Assessing breeding probability of slaty egrets, Barotse floodplain, Zambia
- Enhancing conservation of Akanyaru and Nyaborongo wetlands, Rwanda
- Fostering community capacity and partnership for raptors conservation in Nigeria

TRAINING

CLP offers [training courses](#) to early career conservationists to help them develop professionally, build networks, and grow as leaders. Over 90% of the people trained this year evaluated their experience on a CLP course as “Excellent.”

2017 training courses	Country	# Days	# Trained
Writing for Conservation	India	4.5	13
Leadership	China	5	22
Management & Leadership	Indonesia	14	21
Leadership	Mexico	4	18
Total Trained			74

“The most important things I learned from this workshop were: Focus your story on key messages and back them with clear results. Maps and graphics are important to support the message.”

~ Ajay Bijoor, Writing for Conservation course, India

“This course helped me learn how to lead a team, how to bring out the best in each member, and how important it is to address interpersonal obstacles.”

~ Lucero Vaca, Leadership course, Mexico



CLP’s fourteen day Conservation Management and Leadership Workshop is an integral component of our capacity building approach and brings together our new grantees each year. Professional contacts and friendships formed during these two weeks often last long into the careers of CLP alumni.

“During the workshop, we had sessions where various modules were covered – leadership skills, project planning, behaviour change and communication, and gender and equality. These modules were held unconventionally with activities, ice-breakers and interactions that honed and developed skills both personally and professionally. Additionally, it was inspiring for me to spend time networking, sharing ideas and listening to the experiences of like-minded people, coming from different places in the world and facing difficult issues – some the same and some different, be it development, management or pollution.”

~ Zoya Tyabji, Conservation Management and Leadership course, Indonesia

A useful tool for the project planning and fundraising component of this workshop is Institutional Fundraising for Conservation Projects, which was translated this year into Portuguese and Arabic. This manual can also be downloaded in English, French and Spanish from the CLP website.



INTERNSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS



CLP funds internships at each CLP partner organisation. These are unique opportunities for the intern to develop on-the-job skills within the conservation sector. Internships are proven to increase employment prospects; many interns accept contracts once their internship is over.

Pacifique Madibi Mubamba completed his internship with WCS in 2017. He assessed the impact of fuelwood and charcoal production in the Ituri landscape of the Democratic Republic of Congo:

“Undertaking this internship was a chance for me to understand the extent of threats and an opportunity to support global and regional efforts to conserve threatened species. I am confident that in the future I will be able to make a positive contribution to conservation, involve different stakeholders and above all, provide plausible avenues for management and other conservationists to come forward for a sustainable management of natural resources.”

2017 Internships

BirdLife International

- Mauritania: Supporting the updating of IBA information in West Africa
- Develop capacity to raise funds through digital and innovative fundraising platforms, Kenya
- Mobilising support for conservation of migratory birds through online tools and media, Kenya

Fauna & Flora International

- Conserving Okoubaka death tree in West Africa, Liberia/Sierra Leone
- Support development of FFI Vietnam’s work on tree conservation
- Contributing to conservation projects focused on trees and bees of São Tomé & Príncipe

Wildlife Conservation Society

- Blakiston’s fish owl conservation in Russia: Assessments of habitat suitability and recommendations for population restoration
- Siamese crocodile Species Conservation Officer/CLP Program Officer
- Documenting community-based conservation in Pakistan
- Promoting community-based natural resource conservation in Pakistan

Scholarships

One scholar was selected to study the MPhil in Conservation Leadership at the University of Cambridge and will receive support through the CLP alumni network.

- Susan Sekirime, African Wildlife Foundation, Uganda

“The knowledge I have gained on this course has increased my confidence about how to manage conservation projects and organisations and I now feel as though I could actually start and run an NGO.” ~ Teona Karchava, 2016 scholar, Georgia

NETWORKING

CLP supports our alumni network to magnify their impact throughout their careers by providing ongoing funding opportunities. Our support comes in a variety of forms.

Travel Grants

We offered travel grants to 41 alumni from 21 different countries in 2017. Alumni used funds to attend a course (34%) or to present at a conference (66%). CLP alumni valued this funding as an important opportunity to establish new collaborative relationships.

CLP had a strong presence at the 2017 International Congress of Conservation Biology in Cartagena, Colombia. CLP alumni presented or were contributors in 27 conference presentations.

Networking Grants

CLP awarded a networking grant to alumni in India to organize a five-day workshop for 15 participants entitled “Quantitative Data Analysis and Statistics.” The group learned how to visualize, collect, analyse, and interpret data.

Learning Exchange Grants

To facilitate the exchange of knowledge



and experiences across the alumni network, four peer-to-peer learning exchanges were conducted in 2017.

- ◆ Two alumni from India travelled to Romania to develop species distribution modelling skills and understand the impacts of climate change on montane bird species.
- ◆ One alumna from Egypt travelled to Oman to offer support on methods for ecological and conservation assessment for the Endangered dragon tree.
- ◆ One alumna from India was mentored by an alumna at Bird Conservation Nepal. They visited vulture nesting and feeding sites and developed an advocacy and outreach programme to support vulture conservation in India.
- ◆ Two CLP alumni from Russia worked with ornithologists from Kazakhstan, including two CLP alumni, to support research on the Endangered white-headed duck. The team tagged four ducks with geolocators. Camera traps revealed for the first time that feral dogs are a threat to breeding ducks.

CLP ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS

A selection of some of the published papers resulting from CLP support. A full list can be found on the [CLP website](#).

Abrahams, M.I., Peres, C.A., Costa, H.C. (2017). Measuring local depletion of terrestrial game vertebrates by central-place hunters in rural Amazonia. *PloS one*, 12(10): e0186653. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0186653>.

Aditya, V., & Ganesh, T. (2017). Mammals of Papikonda Hills, northern Eastern Ghats, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 9(10): 10823-10830.

Cáceres, A., Melo, M., Barlow, J., et al. (2017). Drivers of bird diversity in an understudied African centre of endemism: The Angolan Central Escarpment Forest. *Bird Conservation International*, 27(2): 256-268.

Campbell, E., Alfaro-Shigueto, J., Godley, B. J., et al. (2017). Abundance estimate of the Amazon River dolphin (*Inia geoffrensis*) and the tucuxi (*Sotalia fluviatilis*) in southern Ucayali, Peru. *Latin American Journal of Aquatic Research*, 45(5): 957–969.

Chaves, W.A., Valle, D.R., Monroe, M.C., et al. (2017). Changing Wild Meat Consumption: An Experiment in the Central Amazon, Brazil. *Conservation Letters*, doi:10.1111/conl.12391.

Fernández, M. G., Muench, C., Gómez-Hoyos, D. A., et al. (2017) Wild felid species richness affected by a corridor in the Lacandona forest, Mexico. *Animal biodiversity and conservation*, 40(1): 115-120.

Ferrari, R. (2017). The hidden structure in coral reefs. *Coral Reefs*: 1-1. doi:10.1007/s00338-017-1540-6

Ferreira, G. B., Ahumada, J. A., Oliveira, M. J. R., et al. (2017). Assessing the conservation value of secondary savanna for large mammals in the Brazilian Cerrado. *Biotropica*, doi:10.1111/btp.12450.

Jére, C., Bücs, S., Csósz, I., Szodoray-Parádi, F., et al. (2017). The northernmost *Rhinolophus blasii* colony in Europe: permanent presence in the Pădurea Craiului Mountains, Romania. *North-Western Journal of Zoology*, 13(1): 163-168.

Kanagavel, A., Parvathy, S., Nirmal, N., et al. (2017) Do frogs really eat cardamom? Understanding the myth of crop damage by amphibians in the Western Ghats, India. *Ambio*, 1-11. doi:10.1007/s13280-017-0908-8

Kumar, Y.P., Kumar, M.A., Manendra, K., et al. (2017). Caterpillar fungus gold rush: Growing dependence on a lucrative trade with disputes among communities in the Himalaya. *Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability*, 5(1): 92-96. doi: 10.5958/2320-642X.2017.00010.2.

Nguyen, T., & Frechette, J.L. (2017). The market for elephant ivory in Cambodia. *TRAFFIC Bulletin*, 29(2): 65–72.

Roberto, I.J., Araújo-Vieira, K., Carvalho-e-Silva, et al. (2017). A new species of *Sphaenorhynchus* (Anura: Hylidae) from Northeastern Brazil. *Herpetologica*, 73 (2):148-161.

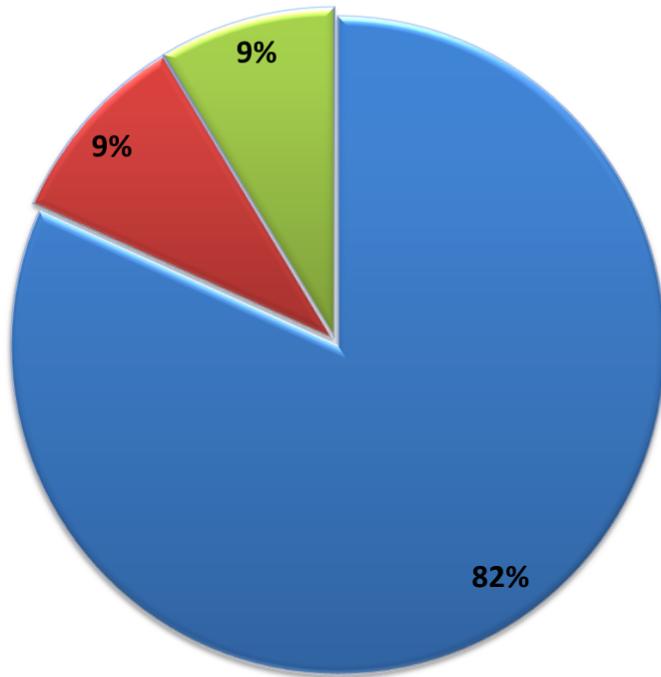
Rocha Usuga, A.A., Vargas-Salinas, F., & Rueda Solano, L.A. (2017). Not every drought is bad: quantifying reproductive effort in the harlequin frog *Atelopus laetissimus* (Anura: Bufonidae). *Journal of Natural History*, 51 (31-32): 1913-1928.

Suryawanshi, K. R., Redpath, S. M., Bhatnagar, Y. V., et al. (2017). Impact of wild prey availability on livestock predation by snow leopards. *Royal Society Open Science*, 4: 170026. doi: 10.1098/rsos.170026.

Yav, N., Seng, K., Nhim, S., et al. (2017). The impact of shrimp farming on water quality in Anlung Pring, a protected landscape in Cambodia. *Cambodian Journal of Natural History*, (June): 49–54.

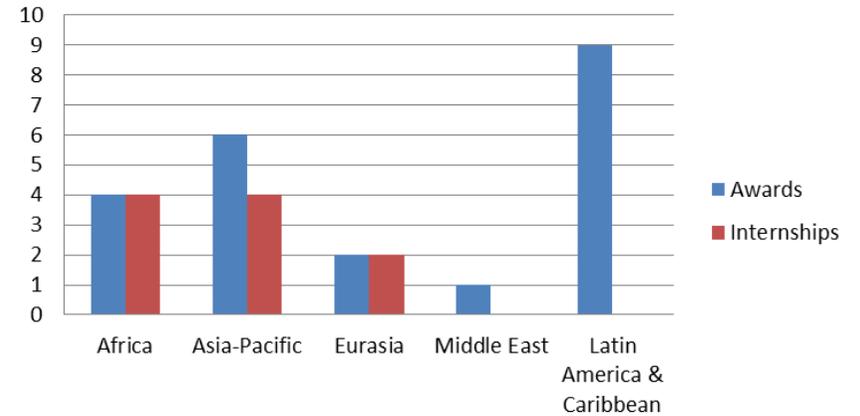
FINANCIALS & SUPPORT DISTRIBUTION

2017 budget by category (\$1.2M)



- Grants, Internships, Training & Support (\$991,417)
- Management (\$116,832)
- Overheads (104,967)

awards/ internships by region



awards/ internships by taxa

