



**CONSERVATION  
LEADERSHIP  
PROGRAMME**

2014 annual report





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# about CLP

## CLP partnership

### BirdLife International

BirdLife International is the world's largest nature conservation partnership. Together we are 120 BirdLife Partners worldwide – one per country or territory – and growing with 13 million members and supporters, over 7,000 local conservation groups and 7,400 staff. BirdLife's vision is a world rich in biodiversity, where people and nature live in harmony. We are driven by our belief that local people, working for nature in their own places but connected nationally and internationally through our 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.

[www.birdlife.org](http://www.birdlife.org)

### Fauna & Flora International

Fauna & Flora International (FFI) protects threatened species and ecosystems worldwide, choosing solutions that are sustainable, based on sound science and take account of human needs. Operating in more than 40 countries worldwide, FFI saves species from extinction and habitats from destruction, while improving the livelihoods of local people. As the world's oldest international conservation organization, FFI has been instrumental in establishing much of the current conservation infrastructure and best practice. Our flexible approach and extensive experience in conservation ensures we are able to work together with local partners in challenging areas, respond rapidly to new circumstances and seek to create improved practice.

[www.fauna-flora.org](http://www.fauna-flora.org)

### Conservation International\*

Every human life on Earth depends on a natural world capable of supporting our needs. But we are taking more from nature than it can replace, weakening the Earth's ability to provide the clean air, fresh water and food we depend on. That is why Conservation International (CI) is working at every level—from remote villages to the offices of presidents and CEOs—to help move whole societies toward a healthier, more sustainable development path that values and accounts for nature's role in our well-being. Through science, policy and fieldwork, CI is applying smart, innovative solutions to protect the biodiversity and the ecosystems we all depend on.

[www.conservation.org](http://www.conservation.org)

### Wildlife Conservation Society

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) saves wildlife and wild places worldwide through science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature. With long-term commitments in dozens of landscapes, presence in more than 60 nations, and experience helping to establish over 150 protected areas across the globe, WCS has amassed the biological knowledge, cultural understanding and partnerships to ensure that vibrant, wild places and wildlife thrive alongside local communities. Working with local communities and organizations, that knowledge is applied to address threats to species, habitats and ecosystem services, and issues critical to improving the quality of life of local people whose livelihoods often depend on natural resources.

[www.wcs.org](http://www.wcs.org)

## The Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) is a training and capacity building programme that targets individuals from developing countries who are early in their career in conservation and demonstrate leadership potential.

Global conservation challenges are increasing, yet human capacity to implement change is limited – there is a critical need to build capacity, particularly in places where biological diversity is threatened.

CLP fills an important niche by focusing on young people and providing them with training, support and opportunities that are otherwise inaccessible or hard to find. This investment early in careers opens the door to decades of impactful work.

The mission of the Conservation Leadership Programme is to advance high-priority biodiversity conservation globally by building the leadership skills of early-career conservation professionals working in places with limited resources to address conservation issues.

To achieve this mission, CLP has the following objectives:

- Identify and engage individuals from around the world who are early in their career, display a strong commitment to conservation and sustainable development and demonstrate leadership potential
- Invest in leadership development of these individuals to expand their capabilities in areas that will make them effective conservation leaders at all stages in their career
- Position these individuals to multiply their impact across the conservation sector

CLP draws its strength and credibility from four internationally renowned conservation organizations: BirdLife International, Conservation International, Fauna & Flora International, and the Wildlife Conservation Society. For 25 years, CLP has benefitted from financial support from BP plc, which has been essential to the programme's long history of success.

These partners are working together to implement CLP with a common vision to empower conservationists to lead and effect change for a sustainable world and a better future for all life on Earth.



\*As of January 2015, Conservation International is no longer a participating organization in the Conservation Leadership Programme partnership.

Based on CLP's Theory of Change, this infographic displays the six main stages through which CLP supports professional development which leads to conservation action.

**Fig. 1) We identify top talent, which includes:**

- Young professionals
- Early in their careers
- Developing country nationals
- Show leadership potential

**Fig. 2 & 3) We invest in leadership development through:**

- Conservation Awards & Internships
- Leadership Training & Networking

**Fig. 4 & 5) We position individuals to multiply their impact through:**

- Local stakeholder engagement
- Peer-to-peer mentoring

**Fig. 6) As a result, individuals:**

- Progress to influential careers
- Advance nature conservation efforts globally



# key highlights

## 2014 totals:

**124 individuals** identified and involved in CLP conservation projects and internships

**25 conservation awards** granted to teams from **15 countries**

**17 internships** granted for individuals to work with one of the four CLP partnering organizations; **3 interns** were offered contracts to continue their work at the conclusion of their internship in 2014

**49 individuals** trained through **2 courses** in Canada and Ethiopia and a workshop in the USA

**33 travel grants** awarded to alumni to present at national or international conferences or to attend short training courses

**3 networking grants** awarded for short courses organized by alumni in Cambodia, Romania/Moldova and Colombia

**2 learning exchange grants** awarded for peer-to-peer mentoring exchanges

## Totals to date:

**2,600+ individuals** identified and involved in CLP conservation projects and internships

**552 conservation awards** granted to teams from **100 countries**

**99 internships** granted for individuals to work with one of the four CLP partnering organizations; **25 interns** were hired at the conclusion of their internship

**765 individuals** trained through **44 different courses** and workshops held globally

**218 travel grants** awarded to alumni to present at national or international conferences or to attend short training courses

**9 networking grants** awarded for alumni to organize training or networking events to meet a local need

**13 learning exchange grants** awarded since 2008 for peer-to-peer mentoring exchanges

## 2014 conservation awards



# conservation awards

## Project highlights



© Martina Anandam/CLP

**Human-primate conflict is a burning issue in Chamba, northern India, with 76 of 244 surveyed sites reporting conflict with Chamba sacred langurs, otherwise known as Himalayan grey langurs (*Semnopithecus ajax*), due to crop raiding.**

This project seeks to address the conservation issue through methodological study of temporal and spatial dynamics influencing raiding, analysing raider behaviour and quantifying damage suffered after raiding events have taken place. The team were visited by a member of another CLP team, also working on primates, as part of a learning exchange this year.



© Luis Alberto Rueda Solano/CLP

**The decline of Harlequin frog populations (*Atelopus* spp) has been documented as the most alarming case of species loss in recent history.**

The main threats to their populations are the fungal disease chytridiomycosis and climate change. Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta in north Colombia is an important sanctuary for harlequin frogs due to the presence of several species with healthy populations. This project will create the base-line for a monitoring and conservation programme of *Atelopus laetissimus* and *A. nahumae* which are both found in this region. The results will contribute to understanding the long-term population dynamics of these species and how climate change, ecological and ecophysiological factors affect the survival of the harlequin frog in Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. In early 2015 this team had success in contributing to the description of the Carriker Harlequin Frog (*Atelopus carrikeri*) tadpole.



© Szilard Bucsi/CLP

**All five European horseshoe bat species are listed in the European Union's Habitats Directive, and are threatened by multiple factors, which are related to human activity and lack of awareness.**

This project aims to improve the status of horseshoe bat populations in Southern Romania. This will be achieved by updating the scientific knowledge about horseshoe bat colonies in target sites, by raising awareness in local schools about bats and bat protection, and by advising decision makers about long-term measures to protect horseshoe bats. With funding from CLP, the team was able to organize a field trip in Southern Romania, during which they identified one of Europe's largest horseshoe bat colonies, with over 7,000 bats.

**CLP provides grants to outstanding teams conducting research on threatened species and implementing practical conservation projects. Grants are aimed at early to mid career professionals from lower-income countries.**

### FUTURE CONSERVATIONIST AWARDS

**Conserving West Indian whistling duck on Antigua and Barbuda's offshore-islands, \$15,000**

**Preventing extinction of the Critically Endangered blue-throated macaw, \$14,800**

**Unraveling the occupancy patterns of Guiana dolphin in Southeastern Brazil, \$14,850**

**Monitoring harlequin frogs in Sierra Nevada, Colombia, \$14,500**

**Conserving Endangered silvery-brown tamarin in highly degraded forests, Colombia, \$15,000**

**Conservation status assessment of salamanders in Santander, Colombia, \$14,800**

**Status surveys of focal species in the Magdalena Medio, Colombia, \$14,900**

**Promoting local participation in habitat conservation of black-breasted puffleg, Ecuador, \$13,700**

**Conservation of slender-snouted crocodile in the Lake Region of Gabon, \$14,900**

**Baird's tapir conservation in Nombre De Dios National Park, Honduras, \$15,000**

**Tackling invasive alien species in the Western Ghats hotspot, India, \$15,000**

**Conservation of otter habitat through stakeholder participation, India, \$14,600**

**Survey and assessment of threatened trees in Western Ghats, India, \$11,300**

**Effect of landscape change on mammals in Eastern Ghats, India, \$15,000**

**Assessing extinction risk of Kenya's exploited coral reef fish, \$15,000**

**Combining research and local community involvement to save lemur in Madagascar, \$15,000**

**Conservation assessment of Ibadan malimbe in Nigeria, \$13,300**

**River dolphin population assessment in Yarinacocha Lagoon, Peru, \$14,450**

**Protecting horseshoe bats of Romania, \$14,250**

**Toward sustainable logging in São Tomé, \$12,000**

### CONSERVATION FOLLOW-UP AWARDS

**Conserving Siberian cranes in China through sustainable water management China, \$25,000**

**Promoting conservation of threatened birds in Western Colombia, \$25,000**

**Conserving livelihoods and *Semnopithecus ajax*: resolving conflicts around Khajiar-Kalatop Sanctuary - Chamba, India, \$25,000**

**Promoting conservation through ecotourism and education in Serra Do Urubu Important Bird Area, Brazil, \$25,000**

### CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP AWARDS

**Dugongs for life: engaging Malagasy communities in marine ecosystem stewardship, \$50,000**

### KATE STOKES MEMORIAL AWARD

**Improving livestock production and biodiversity conservation in Mexico, \$5,000**

# internships

**A CLP internship gave Yufang Gao knowledge and experience which reinforced his aspiration to pursue conservation as a career.**

I am a Chinese graduate student at Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. I was selected by the CLP for an internship in 2008 when I was a second year undergraduate student majoring in Biology. This opportunity allowed me to take a year off from school and work as a full-time intern for the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in China from July 2008 – July 2009.

During my CLP internship with WCS, I was given a large amount of responsibility. With the support of my WCS colleagues, I conducted social science research to understand the conflict between people and endangered species in different areas, including the Amur tiger (*Panthera tigris altaica*) in Northeastern China, the Chinese alligator (*Alligator sinensis*) in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, and the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) in Northern Tibet.

Based on the findings about inhabitants' knowledge, attitude, and behaviour toward such endangered species, several education activities were launched; these activities raised public awareness in these regions on endangered species. I presented the results of this project at the 23rd International Congress for Conservation Biology and the 11th Student Conference on Conservation Science in Cambridge, UK.

In my motherland, conservation is seldom considered a possible career path even though conservation practitioners are desperately needed given the tremendous environmental challenges facing China. 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 helps me to boost my career by offering me more opportunities.



In 2011, partly in recognition of my achievement during the CLP internship, I was given a fellowship by the Shanshui Conservation Center – the most professional Chinese conservation NGO – to spend one year with a group of Tibetan Buddhist monks in a remote village on eastern Tibetan Plateau. Here, I collected indigenous ecological knowledge and helped manage a local conservation group.

In 2012, with recommendations from Dr. George Schaller of WCS and Robyn Dalzen of CLP, I was accepted to pursue a master's degree at Yale University. In 2013 while doing my master's research project on international ivory trade, WCS and CLP also offered great help for my fieldwork in Asia and Africa by introducing me to potential interviewees in their extensive networks. I am indebted to the Conservation Leadership Programme.

**Since 2006, CLP internship funding has increased conservation skills, experience and marketability of individuals through on-the-job training with our world-renowned partner institutions.**

## 2014 Internships

### Wildlife Conservation Society

**Testing efficacy of inexpensive, simple deterrents and repellents to reduce livestock-carnivore conflict, Argentina, \$6,250**

**Assessing fencing impacts and local community attitudes in Changtang Nature Reserve, Tibetan Autonomous Region, China, \$6,250**

**Ecosystem accounting in WCS priority landscapes in Madagascar, \$6,250**

**Photographic mark-recapture of coastal dolphins in Madagascar to inform population conservation measures, \$6,250**

**Coral reef monitoring intern, Mozambique, \$11,050**

**Field internship on monitoring wildlife, tourism impact and chimpanzee habituation in Nyungwe National Park, Rwanda, \$11,006**

### Conservation International

**Samoa protected areas intern, \$12,500**

**Seascape and marine program support – Fiji, \$12,500**

### BirdLife International

**Generating public support for bird conservation in Cambodia, \$11,567**

**Building Americas partnership capacity for mapping and remote-sensed IBA monitoring, Chile, \$12,500**

**GIS climate change resilient altitudinal gradient mapping and modeling, Kenya, \$11,050**

**Preliminary population assessment and monitoring of Baer's Pochard in Central Myanmar, \$11,050**

### Fauna & Flora International

**Gauging the impact of conservation education: An evaluation of conservation capacity building projects in Liberia, \$14,002**

**FFI Cambodia programme Species Conservation Internship, \$13,065**

**Developing effective conservation communications to support FFI conservation programs in Nicaragua, \$14,025**

**Press and Media Officer at the Ministry of Fisheries, Forestry and Sustainable Development, Belize, \$14,025**

**Programme Officer, Caucasus, Georgia, EUR11,400**



© Martin Fowle/BirdLife International



# leadership training

**The aim of CLP training courses is to build capacity of individuals by providing them with skills and knowledge that will help them to be successful in their CLP-funded projects and as future leaders in the conservation sector.**

## International training course, Canada

CLP's Conservation Management & Leadership Training aims to equip award-winning teams with the skills necessary to reach the objectives of their CLP-funded project, have conservation impact now and into the future, and advance as leaders in the conservation sector.

This unique training took place in Alberta, Canada and was a fantastic success. The training, held annually for Conservation Award-winning teams, brought together 24 participants from 14 countries.

Through a series of short modules, the workshop brought in expert facilitators to introduce participants to key concepts using hands-on, applied exercises. The modules cover topics that are often excluded from university curricula, are critical to success in the conservation sector and are applicable to all CLP award winners. Topics included personal leadership development, project planning, behavior change, communications and fundraising.

"I came for this training with very little expectation and mostly looked at it as an opportunity to meet other conservationists from across the globe. But I was so pleasantly surprised with the structure and the overall effort that was put into the course. I have learnt so much, I feel so much more clear and confident about my project. It was truly a wonderful experience."

**2014 participant from India**

The training consistently receives high scores from participants and this year was no exception. 96% of participants rated the course as excellent, demonstrating CLP's continued commitment to leadership development of the next generation of conservation practitioners.

Participants returned to their countries with new tools that can be used to improve their CLP projects. More than 90% of participants passed on their skills to their fellow team members and other stakeholders, reaching more than 135 people, multiplying the impact of the training



## Training the Trainers

Participants at CLP's Management & Leadership course are asked to return to their teams and train them in the skills and knowledge they received. Throughout the course, they learn training and facilitation techniques.

During a "Best Practices of Training" session on the final day, each participant designs a training to meet the specific needs of their team and stakeholders. Participants reported back to CLP on the results, and a total of 130 team members and stakeholders were trained.

## Project planning & proposal writing course, Ethiopia

The ability to fundraise for projects is a key skill needed by all conservationists, yet it is not typically taught in universities. CLP led a five-day Project Planning & Proposal Writing workshop in Ethiopia in October 2014 to fill this gap for early-career conservationists.

Funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), 15 participants attended who are working on threatened species conservation in Key Biodiversity Areas across the country. This represented a unique opportunity to bring together researchers working across Ethiopia to discuss their work and challenges.

The training was a great success with 97% of participants rating it as excellent. Participants were guided through the entire project development and proposal writing process and acquired in-depth information on a range of fundraising-related topics.

The course included a session on alternative fundraising methods and presentations on small grant donors. Participants received substantive feedback on their proposals, which ranged from Endangered Ethiopian wolf, to African wild dog and several species of crane. At the end of the course, participants were prepared to submit their proposals to an identified donor.

"The training benefited me in multi-dimensional ways: skill enhancements, networking with the other training participants to share experiences and also to help each other in buddy review before sending our proposals to donors."

**Dessalegn Obsi Gemed, training participant**



© Stuart Paterson/CLP

50 individuals who attended the CLP Project Planning and Proposal Writing Course from 2009 - 2013 reported that they cumulatively raised more than **\$2.8 million dollars** using the skills and knowledge gained from the CLP training course to write successful proposals.



© Stuart Paterson/CLP

## The CLP Alumni Network provides ongoing professional development to our emerging leaders and positions them to multiply their impact in the conservation sector.

Network resources are available to CLP alumni during CLP supported work and after projects have completed. The network supports an expanding community where conservation leaders connect to learn, share experience and help each other achieve their professional goals. Alumni Network support comes in many forms, including alumni travel grants, learning exchange and networking grants, as well as access to social networks and results sharing. Alumni can give back to CLP through becoming Alumni Ambassadors.

### Alumni travel grants

Individual grants are awarded to CLP alumni four times per year to attend conferences, workshops, or short-term trainings offered by universities or other institutions.

In 2014, 33 individuals were supported with a travel grant, 25 of whom used the support to attend a conference, such as the Student Conference on Conservation Science in China and Australia. Six individuals used the CLP travel grant to attend a short-term training course and one individual participated in a formal professional exchange.



© Luis Alberto Rueda Solano/CLP

Diego Gomez Hoyos attended the IV Colombian Zoological Congress in Cartagena, Colombia with help from CLP. He shares:

“I am currently doing a conservation project in biological corridors. The [travel] grant from CLP allowed me to interact with colleagues who are very experienced, feedback ideas with working groups, and share my own experiences. I am sure that these activities will enhance my performance as a researcher in the conservation project on biological corridors. My [conference] participation marked a before and after in my conservation work.”

With a network of 2,600 individuals spanning 100 countries, the depth and breadth of expertise contained in our network is vast. CLP facilitates network members to share their expertise with one another through peer-to-peer Learning Exchange Grants and Networking Grants.

Learning Exchange grants provide an opportunity for CLP alumni to act as mentors to less experienced individuals or teams that have a specific training need. Networking grants, on the other hand, enable groups of alumni working in the same country or region to work collaboratively to design an event of their choosing to meet a conservation or training need.

### Learning exchange grants

In 2014, two Learning Exchanges were funded, both supporting the work of primatologists. Felipe Ennes swapped the Brazilian Amazon for the Indian Himalayas for two weeks. He and Martina Anandam worked together to develop a strategy to study threatened and sparsely researched primates inhabiting difficult terrain.

This learning exchange was an opportunity to discuss and evaluate conservation tools, such as drones for satellite tracking, visit remote sites and conduct practical research involving local communities. The researchers were also able to converse at length about the taxonomic challenges for their focal species *Mico marcai* and *Semnopithecus ajax*.

“We all start out as nature enthusiasts and look forward to adventure and some real nature experience before we evolve into conservationists. I think the learning exchange was our evolution moment. We started listing what we have done so far and realized how much more we had to scale. The reality was hard to digest but we were soon talking about solutions.”

### Martina Anandam

The second exchange enabled Ladsamy Phanthamixay, who is vying to become the first qualified female primatologist in Laos, to visit a site managed by CLP alum Fan Pengfei and research Cao-vit gibbons in southern China. This was an ambitious project in difficult terrain, which gave Ladsamy practical insight into the challenges of transboundary primate conservation work.

Ladsamy gained experienced in mapping survey areas, patrolling research sites for gibbon and collecting data. This will inform her work in setting up a long-term research site, raising awareness for gibbon conservation among local communities, and developing long-term education projects.

“Dr Fan showed me the boundary of the gibbon group in the area before training me in how to find the gibbons in the forest. Everyday we walked and followed the gibbons to another site by tracking them by listening to the gibbon morning singing, observing their feeding and sleeping trees.”

### Ladsamy Phanthamixay



© Martina Anandam/CLP

### Alumni ambassadors

For the second year in a row, CLP implemented Alumni Ambassadors to encourage our network members to mentor the next generation of conservation leaders. We recruited 19 alumni as volunteers to provide feedback to CLP applicants during the proposal writing process.

Ambassadors had a profile on our website and prospective CLP applicants had the opportunity to reach out to them directly for guidance on their application before submitting online. By the deadline for applications, Ambassadors had responded to at least 46 inquiries from potential applicants.

# alumni network

## Networking Grants

Three networking events were supported in 2014 in Cambodia, Romania and Colombia and a fourth event awarded in 2013 was implemented in the Philippines. The events were organized by CLP alumni and included a short course for alumni in Cambodia, a course to enhance skills for conservation efforts in Romania and Moldova, and a course to help individuals design and plan conservation projects in Colombia.

### CLP alumni in Romania and Moldova collaborate to build skills

To address training needs in statistics, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and visual communication, Romanian and Moldovan CLP alumni applied for a CLP Networking Grant to finance a short training focused in these areas.

Important skills gained include: visual expression of scientific results in GIS, analysis of field data with statistical tools using the R programming tool, and planning ideas visually to create an emotional impact on the general public.

With grant funds, the partnership of the Sistemis Group, the Romanian Bat Protection Association, and the Administration of the Vânători-Neamț Nature Park organized a course from 4-8 November 2014. Sixteen participants, including three trainers, worked intensively to analyze data obtained during CLP projects using biostatistics and GIS methods and to plan educational activities using visual communication techniques.



### Building a stronger network in the Philippines

In April 2014, CLP alumni from the Philippines organized a two-part event with funds from a 2013 Networking Grant.

Part one was a CLP-Philippines Alumni Night at the 23rd Philippine Biodiversity Symposium. Part two was a four day workshop on scientific publications and presentations held from August 6-9, 2014 at Cagayan State University.

At the Alumni Night, thirty participants shared how they started their careers and how CLP helped to either jumpstart careers or support professional development. The group brainstormed how they can help students outside CLP's network in the Philippines develop their careers as conservationists.

Thirty-six individuals attended the Publication Writing Course, which was an opportunity for the group to improve skills giving oral and poster presentations, writing abstracts, and preparing scientific papers. In their final networking grant report, organizers Cynthia Adeline Layusa and Apolinario Carino share:

“These events taught us the value of networking with our peers, and to look into what we can do for broader conservation in the country. It strengthened our linkage with fellow biodiversity researchers and conservationists. The variety of expertise among CLP alumni makes for exciting possibilities when it comes to forming partnerships with each other or seeking advice on organizational development.”

# conservation outcomes

## 2014 Results: Twenty-eight teams completed CLP projects in 2014 and reported on results



### Benefits to local communities:

- **14,825 stakeholders trained** and actively engaged in environmental education activities
- **3.15 million beneficiaries** reached through a wide variety of outreach activities
- 100% of projects reported **improved attitudes of stakeholders** toward conservation
- 100% of projects reported that stakeholders **altered their activities** to benefit conservation objectives
- 71% of projects reported their work helped to **reduce threats to the biodiversity** elements they targeted “quite a lot” or “substantially”
- 89% of team members reported that their **work influenced conservation** “quite a lot” or “substantially”



### Benefits to conservation science:

- Discovery of a **new species of Titi Monkey** (*Callicebus miltoni*) and **rediscovery of Marca's Marmoset** (*Mico marcai*) after 20 years by a 2012 project team in Brazil
- 7th **new population of Darevesky's Viper** (*Vipera darevskii*) was discovered by a 2011 project team in Armenia, who have successfully lobbied the site to be included in Lake Arpi National Park; all known populations are now included in the National park boundaries with protection measures in place (fences/new watering holes) around each area of known viper habitat to reduce pressure from livestock grazing which was identified as the main threat facing the species
- **33 peer-reviewed scientific articles published** by CLP alumni in 2014, 12 related directly to CLP project results



### Results to date:

To date, CLP has supported 650 projects through Conservation Awards and Internships. As a result, CLP alumni have:

- Contributed to conservation science, with **147 species discovered or rediscovered**
- Influenced the designation of **81 globally important sites for conservation**
- **Established nongovernmental organizations**, with 46 currently attributing their inception to CLP support

After more than a decade of constant advocacy, scientific research, stakeholder meetings and an on-going communications campaign, conservationists in Chile are delighted that their government has recently declared three new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) encompassing more than 120,000 hectares.

“Few of the world’s environments are under as much stress today as the coastal ocean. Current exploitation of the oceans has reached dangerous levels of unsustainability and many marine species could be on the brink of extinction,” said Francisco ‘Chico’ Viddi, marine conservationist, co-founder of Chilean NGO Centro Ballena Azul. “The establishment of a marine protected area in southern Chile, finally, is a big boost to conservation efforts along our coastline.”

Part of this work was initiated under a CLP-funded project that was led by Chico in 2002. This project undertook the first long-term study on the status and behavioural ecology of Chilean and Peale’s dolphins and analysed their critical habitat selection and use. Additionally, the project identified the main anthropogenic threats to the species caused primarily by salmon farming and significant increases in maritime traffic.

By selecting Chilean and Peale’s dolphins, and blue and humpback whales as flagship species, the project involved researchers, NGOs, community groups and politicians in conservation activities. Ultimately, the significant time and energy invested by all stakeholders has now paid big dividends that will benefit marine biodiversity in southern Chile.

This positive outcome marks the end of one process and the beginning of something more long-term as Chico explains: “With this outstanding result, we are currently aiming to promote the establishment of a network of new MPAs along the Patagonian coast and consolidate a holistic conservation model that includes effective MPA management, fostering economic sustainable alternatives at the local level, improving industrial salmon farming practices, and improving scientific capabilities. What follows will be critical to ensure the reduction of environmental impacts to conserve the fragility, integrity, uniqueness and remarkable biodiversity of southern Chile’s marine ecosystems.”

Chico Viddi is co-founder and board member of the Chilean NGO Centro Ballena Azul. He currently works as Marine Conservation Program Coordinator at WWF Chile and is a member of the Cetacean Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. He has more than 15 years of experience in marine conservation, completed a PhD in environmental science in Australia from 2006-2010 and is an active member of the CLP alumni network since 2002.



©Francisco Viddi/CLP

## The greater adjutant stork found in Assam, India, was not often regarded as an important species until Purnima Devi Barman came along and started to change that.

Purnima has led two CLP funded projects focused on protecting the incredible greater adjutant stork. Before receiving the first award in 2009, she had completed a master's degree and a course in environmental education. At the time she applied for the award she was teaching environmental science at a girls' college.

"I was born in a village amidst greenery and enjoyed my childhood on the lap of nature. We had a paddy field where we went on daily walks. I used to see vultures and adjutants feeding on carcasses. It was a regular scene on my walk to school but when I grew up I no longer saw the birds. When I studied ecology during my master's, I came to know about the importance of these birds, and the threats that greater adjutants faced from being killed for meat."

Purnima attended the CLP International Training Course in China in 2009, and following this she had the opportunity to attend several Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) events, which included presenting at SCB meetings in Canada and New Zealand. Both of these trips were funded through CLP travel grants.

In 2012 a CLP Follow-up Award gave Purnima the opportunity to fulfill her dream of studying greater adjutant storks in Cambodia, the only other country with a breeding population of the bird. She was then able to bring her research findings back to Assam to better inform the team's work there.

"The biggest achievement of the project is the development of an ownership feeling for the bird by the local villagers of Dadara-pacharia-Singimari nesting colony – the biggest nesting colony for great adjutant storks in the world. In the last five years not a single nesting tree has been cut down."

Purnima has twice led a multi-disciplinary team and recognizes that this can be a big challenge. This experience has taught her to manage misunderstandings and work to combine the ideas and values of all team members. She is currently undertaking a PhD based on her research into the greater adjutant stork.

"My goal for the future is to make the greater adjutant one of the flagship species for wildlife conservation in Assam. I am very hopeful that in the near future this bird will come out of the danger zone with a joint effort of community and government protection mechanisms."



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## 2014 CLP Alumni Publications

Ajder, V., Roşca, I., Bolboacă, L.E., Petrencu, L., & Baltag, E.S. (2014). White-Tailed Eagle (*Aves: Accipiteriformes*) status in Republic of Moldova. *European Scientific Journal*, May. ISSN: 1857 – 7881 (Print) e - ISSN 1857- 7431

Akmentins, M. S., Bonduri, Y. V., Contreras, P., Francisconi, L. E., Massabie, P. J. & Santillán, J. (2014). Redescrición del canto de anuncio de *Gastrotheca gracilis* Laurent, 1969 (*Anura: Hemiphractidae*) y primer registro para el Parque Nacional Campo de Los Alisos, Tucumán, Argentina. *Cuadernos de Herpetología*.

Atuo, F.A., Ivande, S.T., Wala, Z., & O'Connell, T.J. (2014). Effects of hunting camps on breeding grey-necked picathartes *Picathartes oreas* in south-east Nigeria. *Oryx*, 48: 460-464. doi:10.1017/S0030605313000719.

Aul, B., Bates, J.P., Harrison, D. & Marimuthu, G. (2014) Bat assemblages in the Andaman & Nicobar Archipelagos in relation to Island biogeography. *Oryx*, 48(2): 204-212.

Baltag, E. Ş., Zaharia, G., Fasolă, L., Ion, C. (2014) European Ground Squirrel (*Mammalia: Rodentia*) population from Eastern Romania: density, distribution and threats. *European Scientific Journal*, May 2014 Special Issue: 94-101.

Cáceres, A., Melo, M., Barlow, J., Cardoso, P., Maiato, R., & Mills, M.S.L. (2014). Threatened birds of the Angolan Central Escarpment: distribution and response to habitat change at Kumbira Forest. *Oryx*, available on CJO2014. doi:10.1017/S0030605313001415

Cuyckens, G.A.E., Morales, M.M., & Tognelli, M.F. (2014) Assessing the distribution of a Vulnerable felid species: threats from human land use and climate change to the kodkod *Leopardus guigna*. *Oryx*, available on CJO2014. doi:10.1017/S003060531300135X

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Farhadinia, M.S., Moqanki, E.M., & Hosseini-Zayarei, F. (2014) Predator-prey relationships in a middle Asian Montane steppe: Persian leopard versus urial wild sheep in Northeastern Iran. *European Journal of Wildlife Research*, 60(2): 341-349. DOI 10.1007/s10344-013-0791-y.

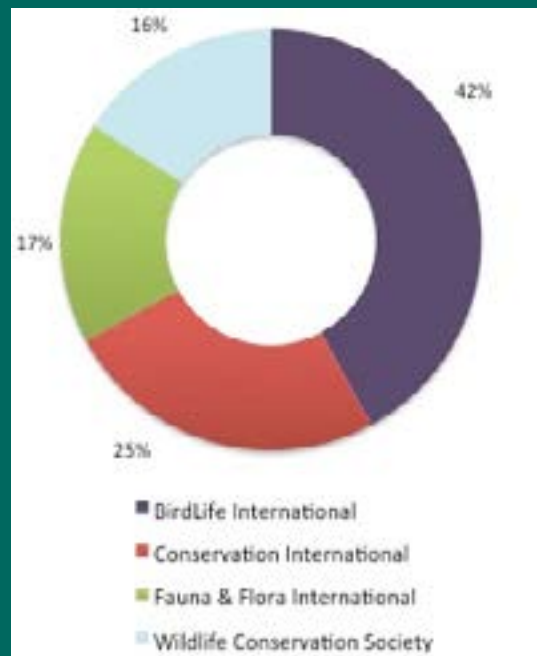
Ferreira, G.B., Oliveira, M.J.R., de Paula, R.C., Rodrigues, F.H.G., & Carmo, E.D.C. (2014) Regionally extinct species rediscovered: the bush dog *Speothos venaticus* in Minas Gerais, south-eastern Brazil. *Oryx*, available on CJO2014. doi:10.1017/S0030605314000118

Kamel, M., Ghazaly, U.M., & Callmander, M.W. (2014) Conservation status of the Endangered Nubian dragon tree *Dracaena ombet* in Gebel Elba National Park, Egypt. *Oryx*, available on CJO2014. doi: 10.1017/S0030605313001385.

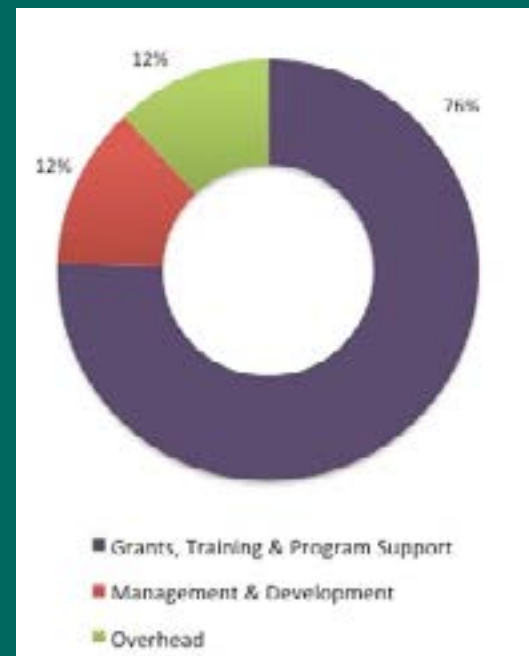
Zhang, L., Liu, J., Mcshea, W. J., Wu, Y., Wang, D. and Lü, Z. (2014), The impact of fencing on the distribution of Przewalski's gazelle. *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, 78: 255-263. doi: 10.1002/jwmg.653.

# financials

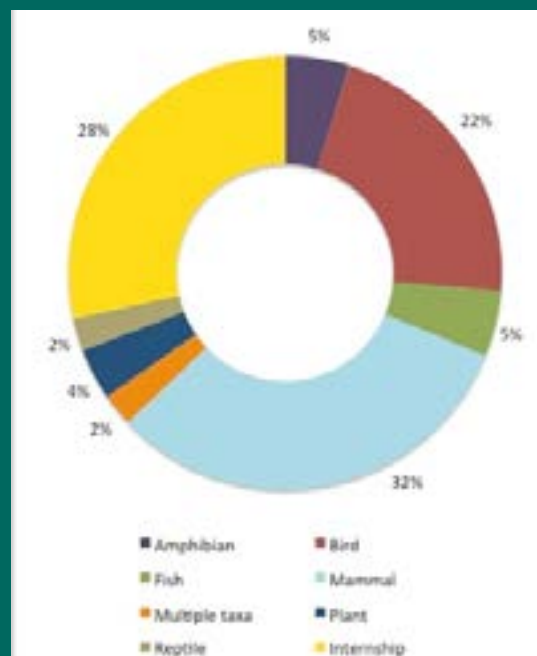
2014 funding allocation by partner (\$1.78 million total)



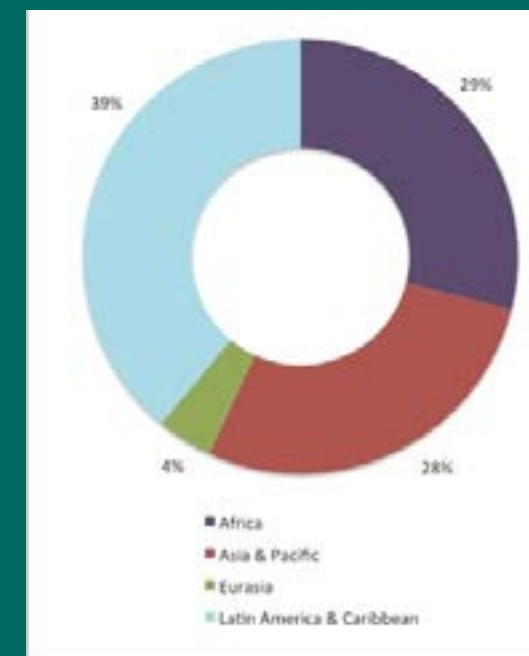
2014 expense breakdown by category (\$1.78 million total)



2014 conservation awards & internships by taxonomic group (\$611 thousand total)



2014 conservation awards & internships by region (\$611 thousand total)



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