



## CLP Alumni Ambassadors Process

### Role of the Applicant

We encourage applicants to contact a CLP Alumni Ambassador 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](mailto: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. All Ambassadors have experience reviewing applications so they will have valuable feedback even if they have different taxonomic expertise. Please do not contact more than one Ambassador unless your first choice Ambassador is unavailable to help.
2. Ambassadors may 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 should 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

**Emanuel Stefan Baltag** - [ebaltag.clpambassador@gmail.com](mailto:ebaltag.clpambassador@gmail.com)

I am involved in conservation projects on birds, mammals and habitats from Eastern Europe. My experience is related with monitoring protocol development, data analysis, GIS, habitat and distribution modelling and databases management. I am involved in education projects and I believe that if you want to protect nature you have to work with people. Now, I work as a researcher at “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi, but I collaborate also with other institutions and NGO's from Romania and neighboring countries. I joined the Conservation Leadership Programme community in 2013 and I became an Ambassador for this program that year.



**Cristina López-Gallego** - [C.LopezGallego.CLPambassador@gmail.com](mailto:C.LopezGallego.CLPambassador@gmail.com)

Cristina is currently a professor at Instituto de Biología – University of Antioquia in Colombia. She is interested in exploring the variation in life-history and other ecologically-relevant traits in populations responding to environmental changes, particularly anthropogenic habitat changes. She uses tools from population biology and evolutionary ecology to address potential mechanisms underlying patterns of variation in life history. Her research focuses on plant species of conservation interest, like threatened and invasive species, with a special interest in Neotropical Cycads. She teaches semester-long basic courses in ecology and conservation, and also participates regularly in field-based intensive courses in conservation biology (OTS & Alianza Andes Tropicales). Her team working with Cycad conservation got a CLP grant in 2009 to conduct basic population biology research to review the status of an endangered Cycad and propose a conservation action plan. This work has been an important input for the currently ongoing effort of designing a National conservation action plan for Cycads in Colombia.



**Mauricio Sebastián Akmentins** - [makmentins.clpambassador@gmail.com](mailto:makmentins.clpambassador@gmail.com)

I have a doctoral degree in Biological Sciences and my main areas of expertise are in conservation biology and ecology. Currently, I'm full time researcher of Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET) of Argentina. My research interest also include biodiversity inventories, monitoring techniques and bioacoustics of anuran amphibians. Since 2008 I am working towards the conservation of amphibian diversity of Andean ecoregions of NW Argentina, with a focus on the endangered species of marsupial frogs (genus *Gastrotheca*). I was leader of the project "Saving the Endangered Marsupial Frogs in Yungas Forests of Argentina", winner of the 2013 CLP Future Conservationist Award.



**Parveen Shaikh – [parveen.clpambassador@gmail.com](mailto:parveen.clpambassador@gmail.com)**

I joined the Conservation Leadership program in 2016 and I am currently leading the CLP project “Conservation of Indian skimmer in the National Chambal Sanctuary, India.” I am a post graduate in Environment Science and since 2012 have been working on various avian survey projects in the Bombay Natural History Society (BirdLife International’s partner in India). My interests are behavioral ecology of birds, conservation biology, conservation through community participation and citizen science. I am passionate about conservation of threatened bird species in India and have always been curious to understand the ecological and anthropological factors driving this species to these threatened categories.



**Rebecca Stirnemann – [rebecca.clpambassador@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.clpambassador@gmail.com)**

For seven years, I have been focused on conservation projects in the Pacific Islands. Currently, I work for ANU under a Darwin Initiative grant I successfully proposed in 2014. This award followed our CLP project on the same species. The Darwin project was established to develop recovery strategies for a critically endangered bird species, the Manumea, and its habitat. Building the capacity of a local Samoan conservation NGO I co-founded in 2012, was also a key goal. The project has been a successful collaborative effort with local communities, the government, international and domestic NGOs and universities. While managing this project, I have successfully brought in eight additional grants and trained the local staff in bird conservation techniques and project management. Furthermore, I have gained partnerships that will continue to develop and support the project into the future, ensuring long-term sustainability. The knowledge that I acquired in fundraising and donor management, I now teach to other NGOs and conservation groups.

