



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). **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).
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!

Emanuel Baltag - ebaltag.clpambassador@gmail.com

I am involved in conservation projects on birds, mammals and habitats in Eastern Europe. My experience is related with monitoring protocol development, data analysis, GIS, habitat and distribution modelling and database management. I work as a researcher at the Marine Biological Research Station of “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi and I collaborate with other research and educational institutions nationally and abroad. I joined the Conservation Leadership Programme community in 2013 and I became an Ambassador for this program that year.



Mauricio Sebastian Akmentins - 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 interests also include biodiversity inventories, monitoring techniques and bioacoustics of anuran amphibians.



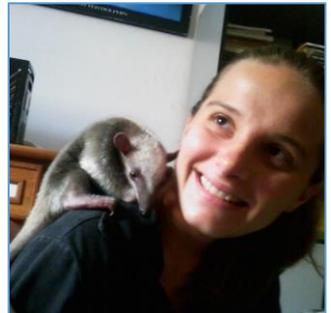
Reshu Bashyal - reshu.clpambassador@gmail.com

I am a recent graduate of Central Department of Environmental Science, Tribhuvan University, Nepal. I have over five years of exemplary service to national and international organizations, government and civil society in various environmental issues. Currently, I am involved with Greenhood Nepal as its Executive Member and am undertaking a 2018 CLP project on an endangered species of yew, *Taxus mairei*, in Nepal. I am also keen to understand issues related to conservation of medicinal and high value plants like orchids.



Alice Reisfeld - alicereisfeld.clp@gmail.com

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 in 2014 for our work in an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area in Northeastern Brazil.



Seshadri KS - seshadri.clpambassador@gmail.com

Seshadri KS grew up in Bangalore, India and is an avid naturalist with interests across various taxa. In recent years, he has studied amphibian ecology and hopes to make a career by continuing to study ecology with a strong conservation focus. He won a 2010 CLP award to study amphibians in the canopy and has continued to study amphibians since then. He is currently based out of Bangalore post his PhD from National University of Singapore.



Zoya Tyabji - zoya.clpambassador@gmail.com

I am a research associate working with 'Andaman Nicobar Environment Team' and 'Wildlife Conservation Society' in India. My broad interests lie in marine ecology, coral reefs, elasmobranchs, conservation, education and outreach. I am currently working on the conservation status of elasmobranchs in the Andaman Islands, India, funded by CLP in 2017 and Rufford Foundation.



Vu Dinh Thong - vdthong.clpambassador@gmail.com

Vu Dinh Thong is a mammologist and the first bat expert in Vietnam. He has a PhD from the University of Tuebingen, Germany. His other specializations are in animal taxonomy, ecology, bioacoustics, and biological systematics. Dr. Thong has published over 84 papers, including the descriptions of 10 new bat taxa. He is an accomplished researcher, lecturer and student supervisor and is eager to collaborate, support, and train the next generation of leaders.



Bunmi Jegede - bunmi.clpambassador@gmail.com

I currently run a start-up consultancy with focus on environmental sustainability. I have a MPhil in Conservation Leadership from the University of Cambridge, UK and my taxonomic expertise is tropical ornithology, while my interests are sustainability and biodiversity development, rural/participatory resource governance and capacity building.



Parveen Shaikh – parveen.clpambassador@gmail.com

I joined CLP in 2016 as leader of the project “Conservation of Indian skimmer in the National Chambal Sanctuary, India.” I am a researcher associated with Bombay Natural History Society, India. Since 2016, I have been working on understanding the conservation needs of riverine nesting birds with main focus on Indian Skimmer *Rynchops albicollis* and Black-bellied Tern *Sterna acuticauda*. My interests are behavioral ecology of birds, conservation biology, conservation through community participation and citizen science.



Dilek Sahin - dilek.clpambassador@gmail.com

I am an ornithologist with a particular interest in seabirds. Currently, I am a PhD student at Bogazici University Institute of Environmental Sciences. My research focuses on understanding the movements of an endangered seabird species in the Mediterranean Basin. Most of my work is field-based and to answer my questions I am planning to use a range of techniques including bio-logging, computer vision and quantitative modelling. Along with my PhD research project I am also coordinating a conservation project on a certain type of seabird - fisheries interaction that was funded by CLP in 2015.



Upma Manral - upma.clpambassador@gmail.com

Currently, I am a project scientist at Wildlife Institute of India and part of the team preparing the National Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan. My experience includes conducting ecological surveys that helped in taking management decisions and interactions with various stakeholders, particularly local communities dependent on natural resources, and decision makers in various government authorities. Upma is part of a 2017 CLP project on threatened fish taxa in the Eastern Ghats of India.



Subhajit Saha - subhajit.clpambassador@gmail.com

I am a conservation biologist with interests in primates, birds and the Himalayas. My present research focuses on primate conservation in the Himalayas and mitigating human-nonhuman primate conflict. I am also interested in natural history, especially of birds and plants, human-animal interface, indigenous livelihoods and conservation policy research. Currently, I am an independent researcher and a freelance environmental consultant. My association with CLP started in May 2015 when our team from India got a Future Conservationist Award for a conservation project on the Caterpillar Fungus (*Ophiocordyceps sinensis*).



David Amaning Kwarteng - david.clpambassador@gmail.com

I am a passionate conservation leader who has co-founded a conservation organisation in Ghana. I am passionate about amphibian conservation and have worked extensively to save threatened species and their habitats. I have also carried out projects on pangolins, human-wildlife conflicts, monkeys and odonata. Recently my interest borders more on community engagement and sustainable livelihoods. I am also exploring how religion and traditional beliefs influence local conservation decisions. I was a CLP team member in 2010 and team leader in 2012. I am also a proud recipient of the Kate Stokes Memorial Award.



Anand Chaudhary - anand.clpambassador@gmail.com

Working with rural communities, indigenous and minority groups, and landscape-scale biodiversity conservation has helped cultivate my interests in community-based conservation, coupled human-natural systems, and macrosystems ecology. I am a member of IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group and take great pride in being part of a team that developed the concept of 'Vulture Safe Zones' for conservation of Critically Endangered vulture species in South Asia. Currently I am working towards a Ph.D. with focus on influence of cross-scale interaction of global drivers on forest birds at the Institute of Ecological, Earth, and Environmental Sciences, Baylor University.

