



CLP Alumni Reviewer Guidelines – For Applicants

CLP has selected a group of volunteers from our alumni network to support applicants as you prepare to apply for a CLP Future Conservationist Award. CLP Alumni Reviewers are not employed by the CLP partnership. They are conservationists from a range of countries, with a range of expertise, who have an interest in supporting the next generation of conservation leaders around the world. Please read the following guidelines prior to contacting an Alumni Reviewer. If you have any questions about the program, write to CLP staff at clp@birdlife.org. **Having a proposal reviewed by a CLP Reviewer and/or CLP staff does not guarantee that the proposal will be funded, but it will likely make your proposal more competitive in our review process.**

1. Reviewer emails, biographies, language, and taxonomic areas are listed at the bottom of this document. Please review the profiles for each Reviewer and contact the person you would like to receive support from. All Reviewers have experience reviewing applications so they will have valuable feedback even if their taxonomic expertise is different from yours.
2. Please engage with one Reviewer at a time; do not initiate simultaneous conversations with more than one Reviewer.
3. Reviewers may provide feedback in the following areas: clarity of concept, English grammar, feasibility, and research design (if within Reviewer's area of expertise). Reviewers will **not** write proposals for applicants and will review a proposal at most two times.
4. You will receive Reviewer comments via email.
5. Please read the [CLP eligibility criteria](#) carefully **before** contacting Reviewers. Reviewers 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).
6. Reviewer feedback will likely improve the quality of applications. However, you **are not required** to incorporate Reviewer recommendations into your proposal. Each applicant is 100% responsible for the content of their proposal and must decide whether or not to incorporate Reviewer advice.
7. Alumni Reviewers volunteer their time to review proposals. Please be respectful and patient. Reviewers aim to acknowledge receipt of proposals within 48 hours and provide detailed feedback within one week. If you are unsure of the status of your proposal with a Reviewer, contact CLP (clp@birdlife.org).
8. Plan ahead! The sooner you start developing your proposal and soliciting feedback, the better!
9. If you encounter any challenges when working with a Reviewer, contact CLP (clp@birdlife.org).
10. Applicants may send proposals to CLP staff and/or Reviewers for review **up to two weeks before the CLP application deadline**. You may request feedback from both a Reviewer and CLP staff member. If you choose to contact both, please conclude the review process with one person before contacting someone else.
11. If you contact a CLP Alumni Reviewer, your name, email and basic information on your project will be shared with the CLP management team in order to track usage of this program and ensure applicants are engaging with one CLP Alumni Reviewer at a time. You may receive a survey from CLP at the conclusion of the process with a request for feedback on your experience working with an Alumni Reviewer.
12. CLP Alumni Reviewers agree to keep your draft proposal confidential and delete it at the conclusion of the process this year.

Thank you and good luck!

Alumni Reviewer Biographies

Vikram Aditya – vikram.clpalumreview@gmail.com

Vikram is currently a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) in India. He has a PhD in conservation science, focusing on mammal diversity and distribution patterns, with taxonomic expertise in mammals. His broad research interests include ecology, biodiversity and conservation, mammal community ecology and species interactions, hunting and wildlife trade, landscape ecology, GIS/RS, and mapping and geospatial analysis for conservation. He is a 2014 CLP Future Conservationist Award recipient, as well as the recipient of the National Geographic Society Young Explorers Collaboration Grant (2015), and the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund – UAE Species Conservation Grant (2020). He speaks Telegu, Hindi, English, Kannada and Urdu, and has worked in India, China and Thailand.



Zahidah (Zaidy) Afrin – zaidy.clpalumreview@gmail.com

Zaidy is a Marine Biologist from Fiji, with specialization in environmental management and ocean affairs. Zaidy conducted her study on community-based coastal management within the framework of ocean governance reforms as part of the CLP awards in 2011. She later advanced her research and work in ocean affairs and the law of the sea under UN Nippon fellowship. She is also a PADI dive instructor and has taught diving courses in the Caribbean and Pacific region. Zaidy's underwater field of work involves coral reef monitoring, designing and setting coral, seaweed, pearl farms, reef restoration efforts, lionfish invasion programs (Caribbean region) and Crown of thorns removal program (Pacific region). Zaidy is currently a PhD Candidate at the Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute, World Maritime University within the framework of the International Maritime Organization, a Specialized Agency of the United Nations. Her current research focuses on SDG 14 and Blue economy for SIDS.



M. Firoz Ahmed - Firoz.CLPAlumReview@gmail.com

M. Firoz Ahmed is a postgraduate in Zoology with a specialization in Animal Ecology and Wildlife Biology. Since 1994, he has been involved in Conservation Research and Outreach projects of Aaranyak (www.aaranyak.org). He joined Aaranyak in a professional capacity in 1999, and has studied amphibians and reptiles of India since 1997. Dr. Ahmed is a CLP Alumnus (2006) and received several capacity building and professional trainings in research and conservation of wildlife in India and abroad. He discovered several new species of amphibians in Assam. The herpetology team is working on amphibian ecology in the Dibang River Basin, specifically looking at the effects of climate change on amphibians. Currently, he is leading Manas Tiger Conservation Program and the Participatory Natural Resource Management Program at the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Landscape of Assam, which focuses on conservation livelihoods and natural resources management by local communities. An experienced fundraiser and project manager, he has published 40 research articles, and has represented statutory bodies of MoEFCC (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) from 2014-2018. He speaks English, Assamese, and Hindi, with taxonomic expertise in amphibians, reptiles, and conservation biology. He has working knowledge on conservation issues in India, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.



Mauricio Akmentis – mauricio.clpalumreview@gmail.com

Mauricio has a doctoral degree in Biological Sciences and his main areas of expertise are conservation biology and ecology. He is a full-time researcher at Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET) of Argentina. His research interests include biodiversity inventories, monitoring techniques and bioacoustics of anuran amphibians. Since 2008, he has worked towards the conservation of amphibian diversity of Andean ecoregions of northwest Argentina, with special interest in the endangered species of marsupial frogs of genus *Gastrotheca*. He was the leader of the project "Saving the Endangered Marsupial Frogs in Yungas Forests of Argentina," which was awarded the 2013 CLP Future Conservationist Award. He speaks Spanish, English, and Portuguese, and has worked in Argentina, Ecuador and Mexico. His taxonomic expertise includes amphibians, fish, and reptiles.

**Emanuel (Manu) Stefan Baltag** – manu.clpalumreview@gmail.com

Manu joined the Conservation Leadership Programme community in 2013 and became an Alumni Reviewer for this program the same year. He is involved in conservation and research projects on birds, mammals and habitats in Eastern Europe. Manu's experience is with field activities, but he also has experience with data analysis, GIS, predictions for actual or future animal distribution, and database design. His research interests deal with habitat selection, conservation strategies, monitoring protocols, climate influences, ecotoxicology, zoonoses and training young conservationists. He is involved in education projects and believes that if you want to protect nature you have to involve people. Manu is a Scientific Researcher at Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi and coordinates the Marine Biological Station "Prof. Dr. Ioan Borcea" from Agigea, as well as coordinates the Agigea Ringing Station, the first permanent ringing station of Romania. His taxonomic expertise includes birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles. He speaks English and Romanian, and has worked in Romania, Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria, Germany, Ukraine, France, Poland and Turkey.

**Hongying Li** – hongyingli.clpalumreview@gmail.com

Hongying Li is a Research Scientist at EcoHealth Alliance, and has an interdisciplinary background in ecology, public health, and human behavior, coupled with extensive on-the-ground experience working with communities, governmental and academic partners in China. Li obtained her Master's Degree in Public Health at Emory University, a Bachelor's Degree in Biosciences from Sun Yat-sen University, where she became a member of CLP to conduct a conservation project in southern China on reptiles in 2011. Li's current work at EcoHealth Alliance is focusing on community research in China and Southeast Asian countries to understand the health and ecological impacts of human interactions with animals to develop mitigation strategies. Li is active in conservation as a member of the IUCN Pangolin Specialist Group, and she is also interested in science communication and writes articles on conservation, disease ecology, and environmental health. She speaks Chinese (Mandarin) and English, and has worked in China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.



Federico Kacoliris - federicokacoliris.clpalumreview@gmail.com

Federico's research and conservation interests are framed by (but not limited to) the recovery of endangered vertebrates - mainly herpetology. He is currently a researcher at La Plata Museum (Argentina) and an auxiliary teacher at the University of La Plata, as well as leads several conservation projects for endangered vertebrates. These projects started after he won a CLP Future Conservationist Award in 2013. Now, through obtaining a CLP Conservation Follow Up Award in 2020, he and his committed team are running an ambitious conservation plan aimed at helping endangered amphibians in the Somuncura Plateau, Patagonia. He speaks both Spanish and English, has worked in Argentina and Bolivia, and his work focuses on amphibians and reptiles.

**Mariane C. Kaizer - mariane.clpalumreview@gmail.com**

Mariane is a Brazilian conservation scientist interested in understanding how human impacts affect species persistence and animal behaviour. Most of her research includes the use of non-invasive conservation technologies and focuses on terrestrial mammals and Neotropical primates. Mariane leads the Save The Muriqui Project, designed to promote the conservation of a Critically Endangered primate, the northern Muriqui, at the Caparaó National Park, Brazil. This initiative includes scientific research, capacity building of local communities and training for young conservationists. In 2015, Mariane received a CLP Award, and has since led two CLP-funded projects on northern Muriqui's conservation. She has an undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences, an MSc in Animal Behaviour, and a PhD in Wildlife Conservation. She speaks Portuguese and English, her work focuses on mammals, and she has worked in both Brazil and the United Kingdom.

**Roberta Kamille - robertakamille.clpalumreview@gmail.com**

Kamille currently works for Wildlife Conservation Society (Belize) as the Terrestrial Coordinator, responsible for the implementation of the organization's terrestrial components of Belize's conservation strategy, with the main focus of combating wildlife trafficking- ensuring thriving wildlife, wild places and healthy and productive ecosystems. Prior to this, she worked at a local organization in Southern Belize, which implemented people-focused conservation and evidence informed conservation in and around terrestrial protected areas, in development and leadership positions. She is skilled in grant writing, fundraising and leadership in conservation. She also has experience in social science research in conservation and rights-based conservation, gained through the implementation of her Master's thesis, which focused on the O'Sum Commune in Cambodia. She has worked in Belize and Cambodia.

**Dr. Levy Otwoma - levy.clpalumreview@gmail.com**

Dr. Levy Otwoma currently works in the Oceanography and Hydrography department at Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI). His focus is on identifying corals, fish, clams, mollusks, mangroves and seagrass species at risk of extinction and their genetics, evolutionary biology and ecology in marine environments. He was the leader of a 2014 CLP project aimed at identifying fish species threatened with local extinction in Kenyan reefs. He speaks English and Swahili, and has worked in Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar, South Africa, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Poland and Germany. His taxonomic expertise includes cetaceans, fish, invertebrates, plants, corals, mollusks, clams, sea grass, and mangroves.



Sylviane Volampeno – sylviane.clpalumreview@gmail.com

Sylviane studied Animal Biology at the University of Antananarivo in Madagascar. She received her Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa), focusing on the Blue-eyed black lemur in the Sahamalaza-Iles Radama National Park, Madagascar. Her areas of interests include primate conservation and biological research, sustainable use of ecosystem services and local community development, and environmental education. Sylviane is the founder and currently the president of the Madagascar-based conservation association "Mikajy Natiora." She is a member of Malagasy Primate Group (GERP) and the IUCN/SCC Primate Specialist Group.

Sylviane received a CLP grant in 2014. She is teaching part-time at the University of Antananarivo. Sylviane speaks English, French, and Malagasy, and has worked in Madagascar and Italy. Her taxonomic expertise is mammals.

