



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

### **Zahidah (Zaidy) Afrin** – [zaidy.clpalumreview@gmail.com](mailto: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.



### **Mauricio Akmentis** – [mauricio.clpalumreview@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.



**Mariane C. Kaizer** - [mariane.clpalumreview@gmail.com](mailto: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.



**Dr. Levy Otwoma** - [levy.clpalumreview@gmail.com](mailto: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.



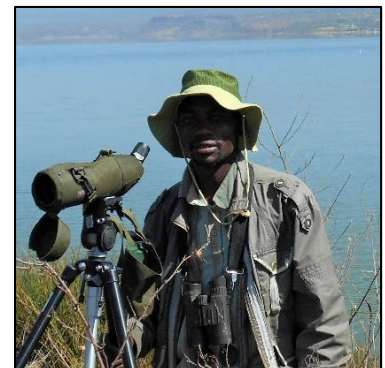
**Sylviane Volampeno** – [sylviane.clpalumreview@gmail.com](mailto:sylviane.clpalumreview@gmail.com)

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 Natoria." 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.



**Martin Mwangi** - [martin.clpalumreview@gmail.com](mailto:martin.clpalumreview@gmail.com)

I am a Conservation Scientist with over 11 years of experience. My expertise is in avian research and conservation, grassland and forest rehabilitation and community engagement for behavioral change. Currently a Program Coordinator at Friends of Kinangop Plateau where we have secured 8 grants in 2 years including a CLP one in 2020. I am passionate about wildlife and work as a Lead Tour Guide for safaris in Kenya Uganda and Tanzania. I have previously worked for World Wide Fund for Nature-Kenya and Intercontinental Consultants and Technocrats Limited an international environmental consultation Firm developing proposals, engaging communities and advising development agencies on sustainable development.



**Suresh Jones** - [suresh.clpalumreview@gmail.com](mailto:suresh.clpalumreview@gmail.com)

Suresh is a naturalist from India interested in ecology and biodiversity conservation. He is working for the conservation of threatened species in the Eastern Ghats of India outside protected areas by involving local communities. He has considerable experience as an independent researcher and a field biologist and is currently engaged in working with an indigenous community for conservation. He has been associated with CLP since 2008, beginning as a project leader of a team that won the Future Conservationist Award and later through various training and capacity building programs of CLP. He is also the founder of a non-profit conservation society that focuses on protecting a critical landscape connectivity between two protected area in southern India. Over the years, he has built a good professional network of conservationists from far and wide that he says was made possible by CLP.



**Togarasei Fakaryi** - [togarasei.clpalumreview@gmail.com](mailto:togarasei.clpalumreview@gmail.com)

Togarasei Fakarayi works for BirdLife Zimbabwe as the Program Manager-Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas. He has fourteen years' experience in bird and biodiversity conservation. Areas of expertise include species and site monitoring, community engagement and empowerment, wetland conservation, and ecosystem services. Research interests for Togarasei are centered on linkages between birds, habitats and people. Togarasei did vast work on crane and wetland conservation in Zimbabwe. In 2010, Togarasei and his team were awarded a Future Conservation Leadership Programme Award, on a project 'Mitigating human-crane conflict in Driefontein Grasslands, Central Zimbabwe'. Togarasei led a team of three on the successful implementation of CLP Award project. In 2013, Togarasei and his team were awarded a CLP Follow-up award. Togarasei holds an MSc in Tropical Resource Ecology, and a Bachelor of Environmental Science Honours Degree in Wildlife and Rangeland Management. In addition, Togarasei has done various professional courses as he built his career.



**Dr. Vu Dinh Thong** - [thong.clpalumreview@gmail.com](mailto:thong.clpalumreview@gmail.com)

Dr. Vu Dinh Thong is a mammalogist, the first Vietnamese expert in bat research and conservation. He studied in Vietnam, England, Germany, and is always active in international networks for biodiversity research and conservation. Dr Thong is experienced in Biodiversity Conservation, Animal Taxonomy, Bioacoustics and related aspects; experienced in publications in well-known international peer-reviewed journals including Mammal Review, Journal of Mammalogy, Acta Chiropterologica, Mammal Study, Zoological Sciences and many others. Since 1999, he has successfully conducted every project and contributed important findings to both academic research and conservation of bats and other mammals in Vietnam. Dr Thong is an author and co-author of 96 papers containing descriptions of 10 new bat taxa, 3 books; lectured on subjects related to biodiversity conservation at different universities in Vietnam; supervised 3 PhD, 6 MSc, and 8 BSc. He is also an active member of the Southeast Asian Bat Conservation Research Unit (SEABCRU); always responsible and willing to collaborate, support, train, and supervise young colleagues and students in both academic research and conservation.



**Borwen Levi Sayon** – [borwen.clpalumreview@gmail.com](mailto:borwen.clpalumreview@gmail.com)

Mr. Borwen Sayon is a performance-driven conservation and natural resource management practitioner with over 13 years of experience designing and implementing programs and building partnerships for sustainable conservation, natural resource management, and socio-economic outcomes in high-pressure environments. He is a licensed Environmental Impact Assessment Practitioner experienced in delivering capacity building and diverse participatory approaches in project management and monitoring, coupled with proficient knowledge of Protected Area management, Integrated LandUse Systems Design, Biomonitoring Protocol development, RSPO-Oil Palm principles and practices, REDD+, and forestry issues. He is currently the founder and Team Leader of The Nature Compact - a conservation research organization - and mentors 17 emerging conservationists. Mr. Sayon provides overall technical management of the activities including Research and Enhanced capacity of civil society and research organizations, the government of Liberia institutions, and rural communities to sustainably manage and benefit from Protected Areas, Community Forests, and buffer zone (BZ) natural resources. Taxonomic expertise: primates and avians.

