

The Whitley Award Scheme for International Nature Conservation

The 1999 winners of the Whitley Award Scheme for International Conservation were announced on 10 February by HRH The Princess Royal at a reception held at the Royal Geographical Society in London. Lindy Rodwell won The 1999 Whitley Award for developing the Crane Conservation Programme in South Africa and Dr Claudio Padua received The Whitley Continuation Award 1999 for his pioneering conservation work on lion tamarins in Brazil. Dr Jenny Daltry won The Iris Darnton Award 1999 for her efforts to save the Antiguan racer from extinction and Dr Claudio Ciofi received The Rufford Award 1999 for his work on Komodo dragons in Indonesia.

The annual Whitley Award scheme is a joint initiative by the Whitley Animal Protection Trust, the Iris Darnton Foundation, the Rufford Foundation, the Swire Group and the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers). In this, its sixth year, the scheme attracted applications from over 50 projects in almost 40 countries.

The award scheme is open to leaders of projects that make a pragmatic, substantial and lasting contribution to nature conservation. Conservationists from any country working anywhere in the world are welcome to apply. Applicants should note that a single visit to a country is probably insufficient to be short-listed because preference will be given to those who commit a considerable period of their life to working in their chosen field and have established a viable operation involving team members from the host country. Applicants will not be restricted to qualified scientists, but candidates must be able to compile a written report to describe and quantify the success of their work with appropriate references. Undergraduate and school-level expeditions are not eligible.

The Whitley Award Scheme is not restricted to wildlife protection but is looking at wider nature conservation issues. The Iris Darnton Award in particular seeks to reward projects involving botanical work, especially the protection of endangered endemic plant species. Applicants will be asked to: explain the origin of their project; set out a financial statement; provide evidence of support from the host government and local non-governmental organizations; and set out their plans for the future.

Information about how to apply for next year's Whitley Award Scheme is available from: The Whitley Award Scheme, Royal Geographical Society (with The

Institute of British Geographers), 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR, UK. Tel: 0171 591 3073; Fax: 0171 591 3031. E-mail: grants@rgs.org; Web: <http://www.whitley-award.org>

New media award launched

During the IUCN's 50th anniversary celebrations in November at Fontainebleau, France, Reuters, the leading global news and information group, and IUCN—the World Conservation Union launched a new media award for the best environmental reporting. The annual awards will be open to press journalists from all countries and the first awards will be presented in late 1999. In judging entries, special attention will be paid to the ability of journalists to show how environment-related issues have impacts on mainstream socio-political and economic matters. Winners will be offered fellowships and training opportunities organized by the Reuter Foundation, the educational and humanitarian arm of Reuters. Each year a winner will be selected by regional juries from each IUCN-designated region: Africa; East Europe and North-Central Asia; Meso and South America; North America and the Caribbean; Oceania; South and East Asia; West Asia; West Europe. An international jury will choose one global winner from the regional winners.

The Media Awards secretariat launched the awards by recognizing the life achievements of two journalists who have brought environmental issues to the general public. Geoffrey Lean, 51, who has been writing about environment and development for 29 years, was recognized for his 'highly regarded contribution to environmental reporting'. He was environment correspondent for *The Observer* and the *Independent on Sunday* and writes for leading papers and journals including *The New Statesman*. He is author of *Rich World, Poor World* and coauthor of *Chernobyl, the End of the Nuclear Dream*. Busani Bafana, 27, born and raised in Zimbabwe, was selected because of his 'contribution to environmental reporting and as an incentive to those embarking upon a career in this important field'. His stories for the *Zimbabwe Independent* include coverage of a spill of cyanide-tainted sludge in a large gold mine, which created water contamination panic in the city of Boyle.

The award, in the form of a carved wooden trophy representing the tree of life, was created and donated by Zimbabwe artist Chaz Maviyane-Davies.

For further information contact: Stephen Somerville, Director, The Reuter Foundation, 85 Fleet Street,

London ESPY 4AJ, UK; Tel: + 44 171 542 6864; Fax: + 44 171 542 8599; E-mail: rtrfoundation@easynet.co.uk or Mr Javed Ahmad, Director of Communications, IUCN, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland; Tel: + 41 22 999 0001; Fax: + 41 22 999 0010; E-mail: jaa@hq.iucn.org

The Henry Award for Coral Reef Conservation

On 20 January 1999, The Henry Foundation of Washington, DC, announced that Conservation International, in partnership with Instituto Baleia Jubarte of Brazil (IBJ), was the 1998 winner of The Henry Award for Coral Reef Conservation, Caribbean Division, for the Conservation Education Campaign for Abrolhos Coral Reefs, Brazil.

Located just off the south-east of Brazil's Bahia State, the Abrolhos bank comprises the largest area of coral reefs in the southern Atlantic Ocean. The area is threatened by forest removal, dangerous fishing practices, anchor damage to reefs and increased tourism. Conservation International, along with collaborating institutions, launched Abrolhos 2000 in 1996 to save the coral reefs and associated marine environment. The project has drawn participants from various sectors, including government, local fishing communities, academic institutions, businesses and the local NGO community. Instituto Baleia Jubarte is Conservation International's local partner in administering a multi-year action plan for Abrolhos. The goal of the project is to conserve the biodiversity of the Abrolhos coral reefs and associated marine and coastal environments. Conservation International and IBJ are enacting immediate measures to protect the biodiversity in Abrolhos park, and are establishing a local infrastructure to manage a conservation programme that will be effective in preventing environmental threats while also promoting local economic development that is environmentally sound.

Conservation International is a private, non-profit international organization whose mission is to conserve the Earth's living heritage and to demonstrate that human societies are able to live harmoniously with nature. Instituto Baleia Jubarte started with a focus on conserving the seasonal population of humpback whales found in the waters of Abrolhos and has taken a leadership role in advancing marine and coastal conservation in southern Bahia state. As the capacity of IBJ increases as a result of its partnership with Conservation International, the goal is to turn over administration of the project to IBJ.

The Henry Foundation is a private foundation whose primary programme area is coral reef conservation. The Henry Award is given annually to recognize outstanding partnerships in coral reef protection efforts. The eligible partnerships are between US-based non-government

organizations (NGOs) and local NGOs working toward the protection of coral reef resources at a specific site or in a specific country. Applications are reviewed by an independent panel of judges made up of representatives from the philanthropic, scientific and conservation communities. There are two categories for the award (Pacific and Caribbean), of which each may provide \$25,000 to the winning partnership. Of the \$25,000, \$10,000 is awarded to the US NGO and \$15,000 to the foreign NGO.

For information on the Henry Foundation, contact Wolcott Henry, Tel: + 1 202 298 7879.

Martha J. Galante Award: International Primatological Society

The Martha J. Galante Award is given each year by the International Primatological Society for the conservation training of professionals of primate habitat countries. Candidates are reviewed by the IPS Conservation Committee, currently chaired by Ernesto Rodríguez-Luna, Universidad Veracruzana, México. In 1998 the award went to Dr Mukesh Kumar Chalise of Kathmandu University, Dhulikhel, Nepal, who is studying *Macaca assamensis* in the Makalu-Barun Conservation Area. For more information write to: Dr Ernesto Rodríguez-Luna, Vice-President for Conservation, International Primatological Society, c/o Instituto de Neuroetología, Universidad Veracruzana, Xalapa, Veracruz 91000, Mexico. Tel: + 52 28 125 748; Fax: + 52 28 176 539 or + 52 28 125 746; E-mail: saragat@speedy.coacade.uv.mx

MSc in wild animal health

Applications are invited from European Community or overseas graduates in veterinary or relevant sciences for a 12-month taught course in wild animal health starting in October 1999. The course includes practical and theoretical instruction in the husbandry and nutrition of wild animals, taxonomy, population biology, conservation genetics, utilization of wildlife, welfare and ethical aspects, epidemiology, immunology, infectious and non-infectious diseases, disease investigation, therapeutics, imaging and preventative medicine, together with an individual research project. Training will be given by staff at the Royal Veterinary College (University of London) and the Institute of Zoology (Zoological Society of London) as well as by invited speakers from other veterinary and zoological centres. Full particulars and an application form are available from the Head of Registry or Dr M. T. Fox, The Royal Veterinary College, Royal College Street, London NW1 0TU, UK. Tel: + 44 171 468 5000; Fax: + 44 171 388 2342.

Marine scientist volunteers wanted

The Watershed-Reef Interconnectivity Scientific Study in Belize needs volunteer marine scientists to manage surveys of the inner margins of the barrier reef. There are vacancies on the Belize 99H expedition (July–September 1999). The position offers the chance for successful candidates to take part in a major research programme as well as developing leadership and field-work skills. Applicants are required to have a relevant degree and field experience, to be qualified divers and, ideally, to be aged at least 25. Further information and application details are available from Raleigh International, 27 Parsons Green Lane, London SW6 4HZ, UK. Tel: +44 171 371 8585; Fax: +44 171 371 5116; E-mail: sonia@raleigh.org.uk; Web: <http://www.raleigh.org.uk>

Introduced waterbirds—request for information

I am working at the British Trust for Ornithology to assess the status and effects of introduced waterbirds on native waterbird species in the area covered by the African–Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement. I would like to receive data or anecdotal evidence on whether introduced waterbirds are having actual or potential effects on native waterbird species. I can supply general and specialist questionnaires, in English or French, on request, but briefly, I am seeking information on numbers, location, movements and histories of introduced populations. I would like to know whether these populations are breeding, self-sustaining, or hybridizing and, if so, whether the resultant hybrids

are fertile. I would also like to know the nature and significance of any threat that the introduced species may present: is it hostile to native waterbirds; is it dominant; has it reduced survival or breeding success of native waterbirds; has it responded to or caused changes to native waterbird habitat? I am also interested in collating information on the existence and effectiveness of local conservation legislation and protection measures within the AEW countries.

If you can help please contact Mike Blair, BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2TE, UK. Tel: +44 1842 750 050; Fax: +44 1842 750 030; E-mail: mike.blair@bto.org; Web: <http://www.wcmc.org.uk/aewa>

The Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme

The Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme run by Oxford University Wildlife Conservation Research Unit and The Born Free Foundation is seeking three experienced conservation biologists (with at least 3 years' experience in Africa and a proven field record) to fill the following posts:

- Programme Coordinator (long-term – start Summer 2000)
- North Ethiopia Field Officer (long-term – start September 1999)
- Bale Mountains Field Assistant (October 1999 – March 2000)

For further details send CV and SAE to: Dr Claudio Sillero, Zoology Department, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PS. Closing date 30 June 1999.