



CONSERVATION
OPTIMISM

MEET THE 2021 WHITLEY AWARD WINNERS



SUPPORTING
CONSERVATION
LEADERS

The Whitley Awards support grassroots conservationists who are acting on the latest science and leading projects with passion! Their work is benefitting wildlife, habitats, and human wellbeing.

Meet this year's inspirational winners:



Iroro
Tanshi



Kini
Roesler



Lucy
Kemp



Paula
Kahumbu



Nuklu
Phom



Pedro
Fruet





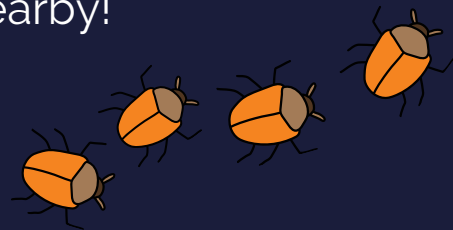
What is the short-tailed roundleaf bat?



The short-tailed roundleaf bat looks a lot like other bats, with their furry bodies and wings. These bats have short tails, big ears, and cute button noses. They are called **roundleaf** bats because their noses look like just that: round leaves!

Short-tailed roundleaf bats are **endangered**, and so there aren't many of them still alive. They **live together in caves** in Cameroon and Nigeria in Africa, about **here!**

Bats can be helpful to humans because they **eat insects**, which stops the bugs from eating the crops that grow nearby!



What's happening to the short-tailed roundleaf bat?

People in Nigeria often go into caves to **hunt bats for food**, which has caused the number of short-tailed roundleaf bats in Africa to drop.



Wildfires are also a big problem, because they burn down the fruit trees that the bats use for food.



What is Iroro's project?

Iroro wants to protect the bats in Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary and Cross River National Park to make sure that the short-tailed roundleaf bat doesn't go **extinct**.

Iroro is a **Whitley Winner**, and has been awarded some money from the 'Whitley Fund for Nature' so that she can:

DID YOU KNOW?

Lots of people in Nigeria are scared of bats, and even believe that they are witches!



IRORO TANSHI AND THE SHORT-TAILED ROUNDLEAF BAT

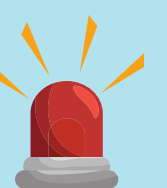
Fact File



Name: Iroro Tanshi
Job: Director of SMACON, leading the research into the bats
Hobbies: Swimming, travelling, and reading
Heroes: Her Dad, her teachers in SMACON, high-achieving Nigerian women, and Sir David Attenborough!



Create a **fire warning system**, so that people can stop wildfires from spreading



Tag bats, so Iroro can find new groups of bats in new caves



Show local people how to **keep caves safe** and undisturbed





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KINI ROESLER HELPS THE HOODED GREBE



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Whitley Award Winner 2021

Meet Kini



and the hooded grebe



Grebes are
known
for their
dances



Name: Kini Roesler

Job: Biologist

Hobbies: Birdwatching, football,
hiking, and rock climbing



Threats:

- climate change
- habitat destruction
- competition and
damages by invasive
species



rainbow trout



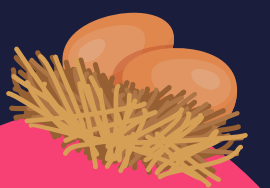
American mink



kelp gull



Kini's field site is near a glacier!



DID YOU KNOW?

The hooded grebe is the
symbol of the Patagonia
National Park in Argentina and
is only found in that country.

Habitat



rhea



Patagonian National Park



Patagonia National Park **protects almost 50%** of the grebes' breeding population. It has epic scenery, extreme weather, and is home to incredible wildlife including foxes and rheas.



gray fox

KINI'S PROJECT

With their Whitley Award, Kini and his team are planning to:

- ✓ Increase knowledge of the grebes' migration and habitat
- ✓ Work alongside park rangers to reduce the number of eggs and chicks being eaten by introduced species
- ✓ Inspire the next generation of young conservationists
- ✓ Reach out to people of all ages to raise awareness of the challenges faced by the species

DID YOU KNOW?

Protecting the hooded grebe also protects the **Patagonian Steppe**, a large and uncharted region!





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LUCY KEMP SAFEGUARDS THE SOUTHERN GROUND-HORNBILL



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Whitley Award Winner 2021



Meet Lucy

Lucy's parents worked to protect the southern ground hornbill in Kruger National Park, so she spent her childhood travelling all across Asia and Africa.

Lucy has worked with lots of other endangered species, including black rhino, wild dog, cheetah, and rare plants!

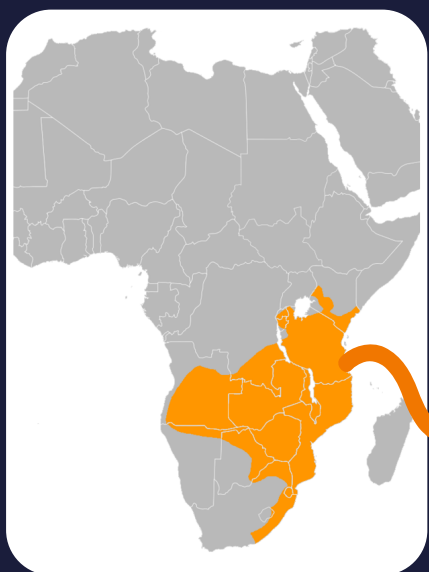


< ENDANGERED >

EN

Introducing the southern ground-hornbill

The southern ground-hornbill is a large, red and black bird from southern Africa - they can live for up to 60 years! They are locally known as "**Africa's thunderbird**" as locals believe ground-hornbills are the "bringers of rain".



Southern ground-hornbills live in the savanna - a grassy tropical plain, with large trees for nesting, and short grass for foraging.

Southern ground-hornbills are **territorial** and need their own space! This can mean they take up poor nest sites in favour of living alone, increasing their vulnerability to **predation** and **flooding**.



DID YOU KNOW?

The southern ground-hornbill can **kill snakes**!



Lucy and the hornbills

Lucy had a magical childhood because of the southern ground-hornbills, and this inspired her to conserve them.

Her favourite thing about the ground-hornbills is their **long luscious eyelashes**.



These eyelashes are actually **modified feathers** which protect their eyes from the sun, thorns, twigs, and sharp grasses.



DID YOU KNOW?

It's the largest species of hornbill, weighing **up to 4kg** (about the size of a turkey)!

Threats to ground-hornbills

DID YOU KNOW?

On average, ground-hornbills in South Africa have a territory of 100km².

Yet 70% of their habitat has been destroyed



Farming **only one type of crop** threatens ground-hornbills by reducing habitat diversity.



Ground-hornbills **break people's windows** as they mistake their own reflection for another hornbill. This is **expensive** so local people may **poison** hornbills, and **cut down the trees** they nest in.

Lucy's positive project

Lucy is one of the 2021 Whitley Award winners! She will make **artificial nests** to help the hornbills raise their chicks.

Lucy will **train local people** to **monitor** and **protect** hornbill nests.

She will also document the beliefs and culture of the local community, so they can be included in the conservation programmes.

Why we need to protect ground-hornbills

Ground-hornbills play an important role in southern Africa's **food webs**, and are a valuable part of the **savanna ecosystem**.



They are also an important part of the local people's **culture**, as they believe hornbills **predict the summer rains**, which are vital to the farmers' survival.



Working with the community

As ground-hornbills are so large, some people are afraid of them.

Lucy helps **educate people** about ground-hornbills, so people find it easier to care for them.

By explaining some of the more frightening behaviour of ground-hornbills, such as breaking windows, Lucy can encourage people to co-exist alongside them.



PAULA KAHUMBU:

JUSTICE FOR WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE

Whitley Gold Award Winner 2021



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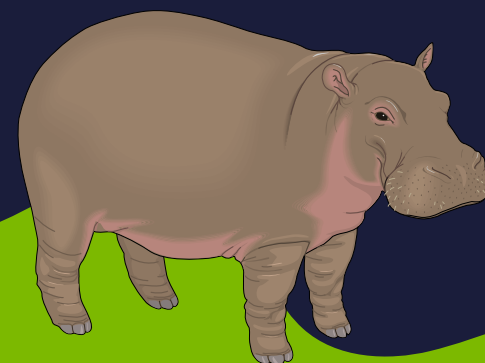
The African Elephant

Africa is home to two kinds of elephant: the **savanna elephant** and the **forest elephant**.

In Kenya, savanna elephants live alongside zebras, giraffes, buffalos, hippos, cheetahs and the Maasai people of Kenya.



This is a savanna elephant



DID YOU KNOW?

Elephants have multipurpose noses: they are the only animals that use them to smell, hold things, eat, breathe **and** talk!



Name: Paula Kahumbu

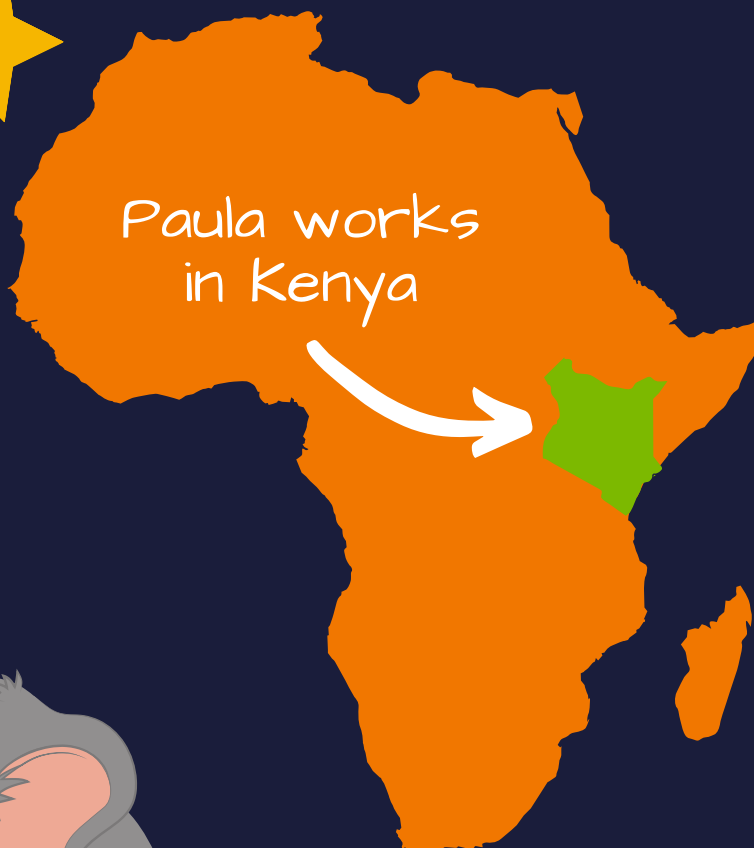
Job: wildlife conservationist

Hero: Margaret Kenyatta
(the First Lady of Kenya)

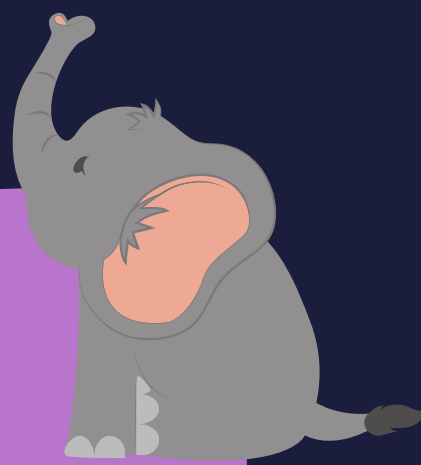
Hobbies: Reading &
photography



Paula works
in Kenya



The Maasai people believe elephants to be our ancestors.



In 2016 Paula convinced the Kenyan government to **burn all of the ivory** (elephant tusks) that they had captured from criminals to show that they cared more about elephants than money.



Elephants are primarily threatened by:

- X people killing them for their tusks, which are made of valuable ivory;
- X people destroying their homes to develop farms, roads, and mines.



How is Paula protecting them?

Paula is inspiring Kenyans **to take the lead in** protecting their own wildlife:

- she works with the government on laws that protect the environment and wildlife;
- she makes sure that criminal poachers face justice;
- she connects local people with experts to help solve problems and make communities part of the solution.



SUCCESS

After five years Paula and her team have reduced poaching **by 80%**!



"Wildlife Warriors" is a TV series presented by Paula, which shines a light on **the work of African conservation heroes**. It has been watched by millions of Kenyans.

Do you have a TV series that inspires you?



NUKLU PHOM: GUARDIAN OF THE AMUR FALCONS

Whitley Award Winner 2021



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Welcome to Nagaland



The Amur falcon

The world's furthest migrating
bird of prey

It is a part of **north-east India**. It is home to the **Phom, Ao, Chang and Khiamniungan Naga** peoples. Here you can find the sacred **Yingnyushang mountain** and **forests** full of **pangolins, hornbills and Asiatic black bears**.



They fly 22,000km
every single year



Why are they in danger?

Some people hunt the falcons for money

Slashing and burning the forest to create farmland kills the termites they eat



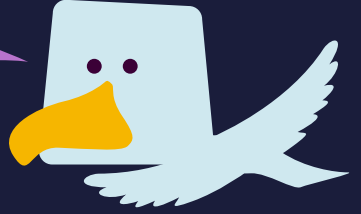
Did you know?

"Phom Naga" means Cloud People

MEET NUKLU PHOM



Some people call him Lo-I Sahib
or "Guardian of the Amurs"



Nuklu **grew up in Yaongyimchen** village
in Nagaland and he is **Phom Naga**.
His hero is his grandfather because he
taught him to respect and protect wildlife.

He likes to play badminton, go to church, and sing



Nuklu's Biodiversity Peace Corridor

Nuklu has inspired **16 villages** and **all four Naga groups** to take part.
Once complete it will be **twice the size of Disney World**

Nuklu is teaching his people how
to look after their forests



DON'T

hunt falcons
log (cut down)
and burn the
forest
fish with
dynamite

DO

keep pigs
learn traditional
knowledge from
elders
grow orchards
and ginger



**Nuklu, his team and the
villagers work together** to
make the forest more healthy.

Now there are **20 times more**
Amur falcons than 10 years ago





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PEDRO FRUET PROTECTS LAHILLE'S BOTTLENOSE DOLPHINS



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Pedro's conservation project aims to protect Lahille's bottlenose dolphins from major threats such as pollution, lack of food, and **bycatch**.



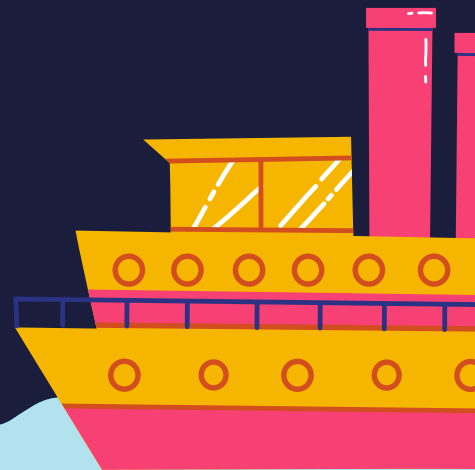
Lahille's bottlenose dolphin

What is bycatch?

Bycatch is any animal (like a dolphin, turtle, or bird) that gets **unintentionally** caught by a fishing net.

It is one of the greatest threats to aquatic animals.

Dolphins
love to greet
humans!



Pedro's project will provide these endangered dolphins with a fishing net-free habitat where they can swim, hunt, and play in **safety**!



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Habitat

Did you know?

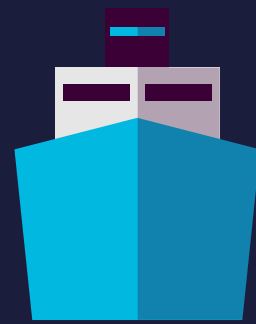
There are only 600
Lahille's bottlenose dolphins
left in the world.

BRAZIL
(South America)

Patos Lagoon
Estuary



interact
with surfers
like Pedro



wave at
passing
ships



help
fishermen
catch fish

Integrating the coastal community with the natural world

Pedro and his team are working
with fishermen to reduce the
bycatch of dolphins and bring
more **awareness** to the special
role that dolphins play in the
fishing community.

Together with local citizens and
environment agencies, Pedro plans
to reduce dolphin deaths
at Patos Lagoon Estuary by

40%

in just **5 years!**



WHICH WHITLEY AWARD WINNER ARE YOU?

2021

Quiz for kids



start here

Do you prefer...

water, earth, or air?

oceans or lakes?

rain or shine?

deserts or mountains?

sports or adventure?

sports or photography?

reading or sports?

socialising or singing?

camping or safari?

day or night?

swimming or badminton?



Pedro
Fruet



Kini
Roesler



Lucy
Kemp



Paula
Kahumbu



Iroro
Tanshi



Nuklu
Phom

Click on the photos above to learn more about your winner's wildlife conservation work!