

The Whitley Award Scheme for International Nature Conservation

The 2000 winners of the Whitley Award Scheme for International Conservation were announced on 9 February by HRH The Princess Royal at an awards ceremony held at the Royal Geographical Society in London. Gargi Banerji won the Whitley Award for Nature Conservation (£50,000) for her work to save the estimated 1000 species of medicinal plants in the Himalayan region of Lahaul and Spiti from extinction. These plants are mainly exploited to satisfy the increasing demands of the international medical and perfume industries. Dr Damayanti Buchori, a pioneer in the field of insect conservation, received the Iris Darnton Award of £20,000. She is seeking to demonstrate that agricultural lands adjacent to forests on Java are better able to withstand damage from pest insect plagues than the clear-cut expanses of croplands. The Rufford Award (£20,000) went to Daniela Hamidovic for her efforts to bring conservation into the lives of schoolchildren in Croatia. Dr Patricia Moehlman won the Daniel Kelly Award (also £20,000) in recognition of her work to save the critically endangered wild ass in the desert ecosystem of the Horn of Africa.

The annual Whitley Award Scheme is a joint initiative by the Whitley Animal Protection Trust, the Iris Darnton Foundation and the Rufford Foundation, administered by the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers). In 2001, the Ashden Trust will become a partner in the scheme and will launch the first-ever award for community-level renewable energy projects in the developing world.

The Whitley Award Scheme for International Nature Conservation is not restricted to the conservation of animals in their habitat, but is concerned with wider nature conservation issues, for example, conservation work focusing on threatened habitats, or on specific organisms, such as plants, fungi or insects. The Iris Darnton Award, in particular, seeks to reward projects involving botanical work, especially the protection of endangered endemic plant species.

The Whitley 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 as 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 programme involving team members from the host country. Appli-

cants will not be restricted to qualified scientists but candidates must be able to compile a written report, with references, to describe and quantify the success of their work. Undergraduate and school-level expeditions are not eligible.

The closing date for the 2001 Whitley Award Scheme is 15 October 2000. Information about how to apply is available from The Whitley Award Scheme, Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers), 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR, UK. Tel.: +44 20 75913073; fax: +44 20 75913031; e-mail: grants@rgs.org; website: www.whitleyawards.org

Protecting the environment—the Environment Project Fund

The UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office's Environment Project Fund is used to support projects that contribute towards tackling global environmental problems (excluding climate change), in particular those for which there are ongoing international negotiations. The objectives are threefold, specifically:

- to promote constructive participation in international efforts to tackle environmental problems and to support implementation of international environmental agreements;
- to support efforts at a local or regional level to tackle global environmental problems; and
- to raise the profile of the UK in international environmental issues, to promote co-operation between the UK and other countries on these issues and to promote support for the UK's approach in negotiations.

Examples of ways in which projects might provide support include:

- projects that tackle directly at a local or regional level global environmental problems (e.g. conserving a particular species or habitat);
- support for implementation of international commitments;
- raising public awareness relating to a particular environmental issue;
- research, exchanges, seminars and scholarships; and
- assisting with participation in events related to the negotiations, e.g. an international workshop or seminar (but not the negotiations themselves).

Priority will be given to proposals from developing countries, and where appropriate, to those from economies in transition. However, applications from

developed countries are also encouraged, where a convincing case can be made for support on the basis of the objectives above. Applications in the following areas are particularly welcome:

- projects relating to environmental security, e.g. sustainable use of cross-border water and other natural resources;
- marine environment projects (including wetlands projects, particularly those leading to the designation of an area of international importance);
- sustainable forestry projects;
- projects contributing to the implementation of CITES, for example, through enforcement of controls on trade in endangered species, measures to limit domestic demand for products containing parts or derivatives of listed species, or conservation of listed species; and
- biodiversity projects (including research, protection of habitats, etc.).

For further information about the Environment Project Fund please contact Beverley Darkin, Room K213, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH, UK. Tel.: +44 20 72701500.

The International Foundation for Science—call for applications from scientists in developing countries

The International Foundation for Science (IFS) provides support to young scientists of merit in developing countries by awarding research grants and providing grantees with additional services, such as travel grants and equipment.

The IFS supports projects dealing with the management, use and conservation of biological resources. The IFS organizes its activities into six research areas, namely forestry and agroforestry, natural products, aquatic resources, crop science, food science and animal production. Research grants are awarded up to a maximum value of \$US 12,000 for a period of 1–3 years and may be renewed twice.

Applicants must be citizens of, and carry out the research in, a developing country. In addition, applicants should work at a university or national research institution in a developing country (countries in Europe, including Cyprus and Turkey, or the former Soviet Union do not qualify for support). As well as being under the age of 40 (under 30 for applicants from China) and at the start of their research career, candidates must possess a higher academic degree, which should be at least an MSc or equivalent.

Further information and application forms, in English and French, may be obtained from: IFS, Grev Turegatan 19, S-114 38 Stockholm, Sweden. Fax: +46 8 54581801; e-mail: info@ifs.se; website: www.ifs.se

Lincoln Park Zoo funding opportunities

The Lincoln Park Zoo Africa/Asia Fund supports field research in conservation biology throughout Africa, Asia and the Pacific. The fund emphasizes support of graduate students and other young researchers, particularly those from Africa and Asia. The fund, launched in 1997, supports between 5 and 15 projects each year. Awards are seldom greater than \$US 7500, and most awards fall in the range of \$US 3000–\$US 6000. Initial support is for up to 12 months from the date of award. The maximum duration of support is 2 years. The deadline for receipt of Africa/Asia proposals is 1 September 2000. For additional information and application procedures contact Lincoln Park Zoo Africa/Asia Fund, Department of Conservation and Science, Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, IL 60614, USA. E-mail: conservation@lpzoo.org; website: www.lpzoo.com/conservation

The Lincoln Park Zoo Neotropic Fund supports field research in conservation biology throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. The fund emphasizes support of graduate students and other young researchers, particularly those from Latin America. Since 1986, the fund has awarded over 126 grants in 19 countries. All other information, including the closing date for applications and contact details, is as above.

Research grants in Hawaiian or Pacific natural history

The Hawaii Audubon Society offers grants for research in Hawaiian or Pacific natural history. Awards are oriented towards small-scale projects and generally do not exceed \$US 500. Special considerations are given to those applicants studying dryland forests or aeolian systems in Hawaii.

Grants are reviewed twice a year. The deadline for winter/spring grants is 1 October 2000 and for summer/autumn projects it is 1 April 2001. Application guidelines are available from Hawaii Audubon Society, 850 Richards Street, Suite 505, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-4709, USA. Tel.: +1 808 5281432; fax: +1 808 5375294; e-mail: hiaudsoc@pixi.net