

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023





**future  
for  
nature**

## **AIM**

Future For Nature aims to protect threatened animal and plant species. Therefore, we support young, talented and ambitious conservationists. Young people with vision and purpose, who think and act out of the box. Trailblazers who inspire, galvanise and mobilise communities, governments and the public at large, to safeguard species and ecosystems. It's those individuals that bring hope for nature and our future.

**As Sir David Attenborough put it when he was the Guest of Honour at the FFN Award event in 2009: "You can form all the committees, all the working groups, all the charities you like, but you know that in the end, it is that one individual, that one individual that has fire in the belly, that one individual that is determined that something should be done!"**

## **ACTION**

Every year our selection committees of top international conservationists select three of these young heroes. We give Future For Nature Award winners our unconditional trust and support, showcase their work and award them with € 50,000 each. Once they are part of the growing family of Future For Nature winners, we continue supporting them to boost their impact on the environment and species. FFN facilitates alliances and meetings, continues to put the winners' work in the spotlight and matches individual winners with interested donors.



# Future For Nature in 2023

## SUPPORT NETWORK FOR YOUNG CONSERVATIONISTS

FFN brings together young, trailblazing conservationists from all over the world, forming a partnership that brings a unique richness of talent and experience to work on pressing global issues that affect us all.

## THE ANNUAL FFN AWARD CEREMONY NOW IN ITS 16TH YEAR

The first awards were handed out 16 years ago, back in 2008, in Royal Burgers’ Zoo, Arnhem. This event was the start of an amazing yearly inspiring experience, which hosted many impressive Guests of Honour, such as Sir David Attenborough, Dame Jane Goodall and his majesty the King of the Netherlands. The FFN Awards concept, with its rigorous selection process by two selection committees followed by a renowned awards ceremony, has proven to be a successful formula for attracting young committed and inspiring wildlife heroes and motivating the wider audience for our cause.

## CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE FFN FAMILY OF LAUREATES

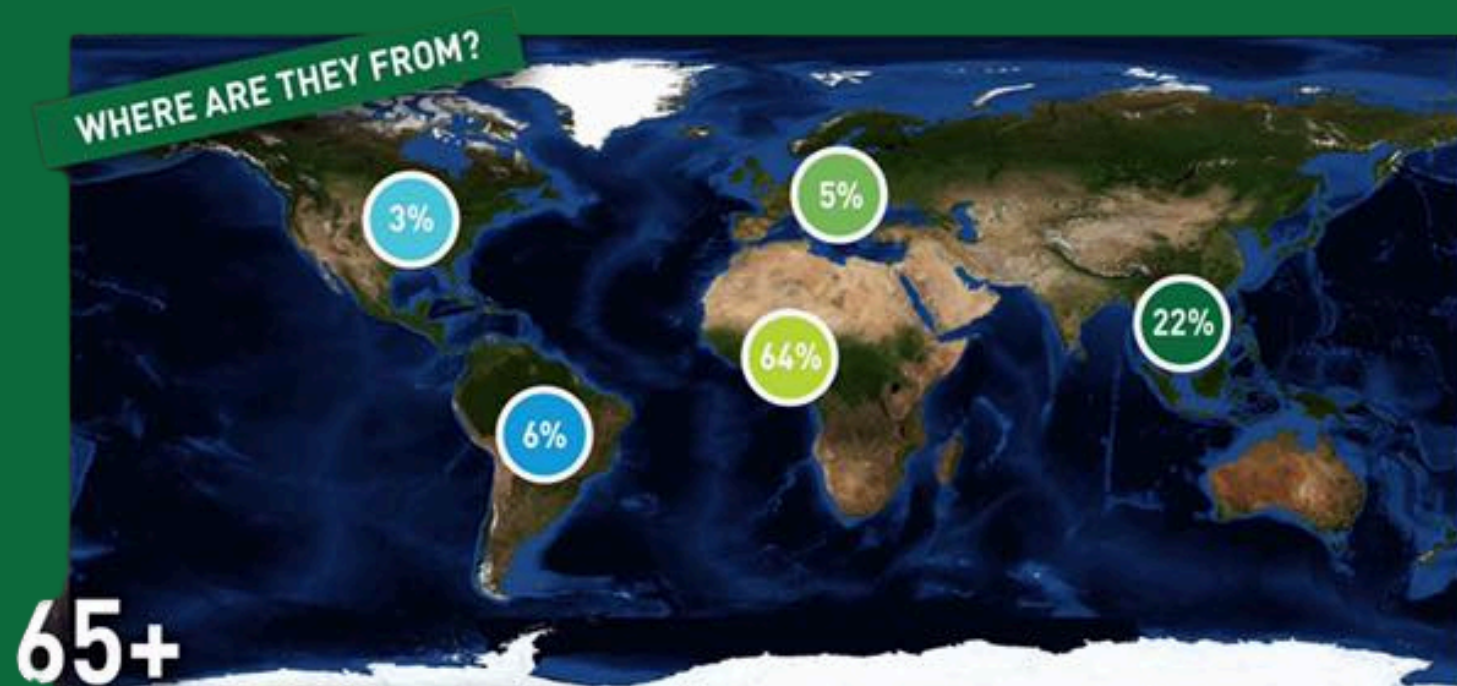
As the foundation continues to grow in prominence and capacity, we hope to reach, inspire and support more people and play our part to protect the planet. The Future For Nature Foundation is dedicated to bringing together talented and driven young nature conservationists and supporting their work. We also strive to support the Family of winners through our FFN Family Funding scheme. Multiple Family members received funding in 2023 to undertake collaborative projects, or project visits to learn from each other’s methods and approaches.





# FFN AWARDS 2023

The Call to Apply for the 2023 Future For Nature Award reeled in a great number of applications. 218 people from over 65 countries applied to win the prestigious award and join the FFN Family.



## AND THE NOMINEES ARE

The FFN National Selection Committee (NSC) carefully reviewed all applications and shortlisted 8 stellar nominees for the 2023 FFN Award.







## AND THE WINNERS ARE

In the final phase, the FFN International Selection Committee reviewed the nominees. Each committee member scored the candidates and gave a qualitative evaluation. Based on these scores, the FFN Board decided on the three winners of the 2023 Future For Nature Awards: Pieter Van Wyk, Tomás Rivas Fuenzalida and Alona Prylutska.

### Pieter van Wyk, South Africa

Pieter is a South African botanist committed to conserving the unique flora of the Richtersveld region in South Africa. Pieter is not holding back when it comes to environmental crimes and armed with knowledge and dedication, he works to preserve precious succulent species. Pieter managed to save over 100,000 poached succulents and many other plants from mining.



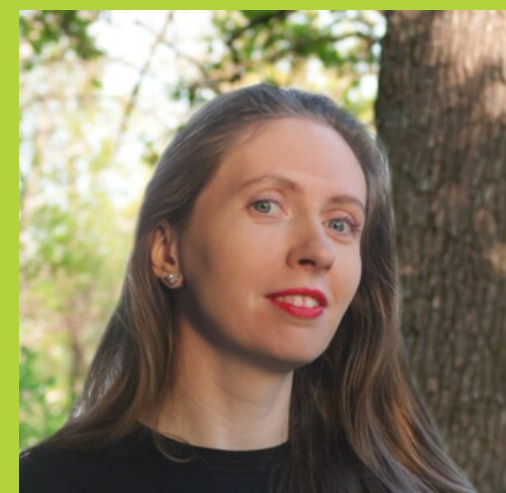
### Tomás Rivas Fuenzalida, Brazil

Tomás is a Chilean conservationist dedicated to protect South America's rare raptors. He tracks down bird nests to study their populations and trains local people on novel agroecological techniques to minimise human-raptor conflict. Tomás co-founded Fundación Ñankulafkén aimed to set up long-term and large-scale conservation efforts for the rufous-tailed hawk and other threatened South American raptors, such as the black-and-chestnut eagle.



### Alona Prylutska, Ukraine

Alona Prylutska is a Ukrainian conservationist dedicated to the rehabilitation of microbats in an urban environment. She rescues bats trapped in buildings, helps bust bat-myths and works towards creating safe-spaces for bats in the cities. Despite the dire circumstances in Ukraine, Alona and her team have persevered and continued their important bat conservation work. They have rescued many migrating bats from abandoned buildings and organise outreach activities.





# FFN AWARD EVENT 2023

The 16th edition of the FFN Award Event celebrated not only the 3 winners, but also took us on a virtual journey visiting laureates across the world to highlight their achievements and share their challenges. This year's ceremony took the audience on a journey across the world, travelling past FFN Award laureates to highlight their recent achievements and share their challenges. We visited Colombia where José Gonzalez-Maya presented his jaguar-friendly ecolabel. We met wild southern right whales along the coast of Chile with Barbara Galletti. We listened to mesmerizing forest sounds of the Leuser ecosystem in Indonesia with Rudi Putra, and even crawled through caves looking for new bat roosts with Iroro Tanshi. Future For Nature is proud to represent its 48 (in 2023) Award winners and honoured to support and unite such a unique group of conservation talent.



FFN Award winners 2023 Tomás Rivas Fuenzalida, Alona Prylutska and Pieter Van Wyk

Over 350 people  
came together in  
Arnhem

Over 400  
people tuned  
in online



## INSPIRING SPEECHES

In their speeches, the 2023 Award Winners spoke about what drives them, the challenges they face and what their dreams for the future are. Their stories captivated the audience and we hope they went home motivated and inspired to invest in the future of nature.

## HEART OF A LIONESS

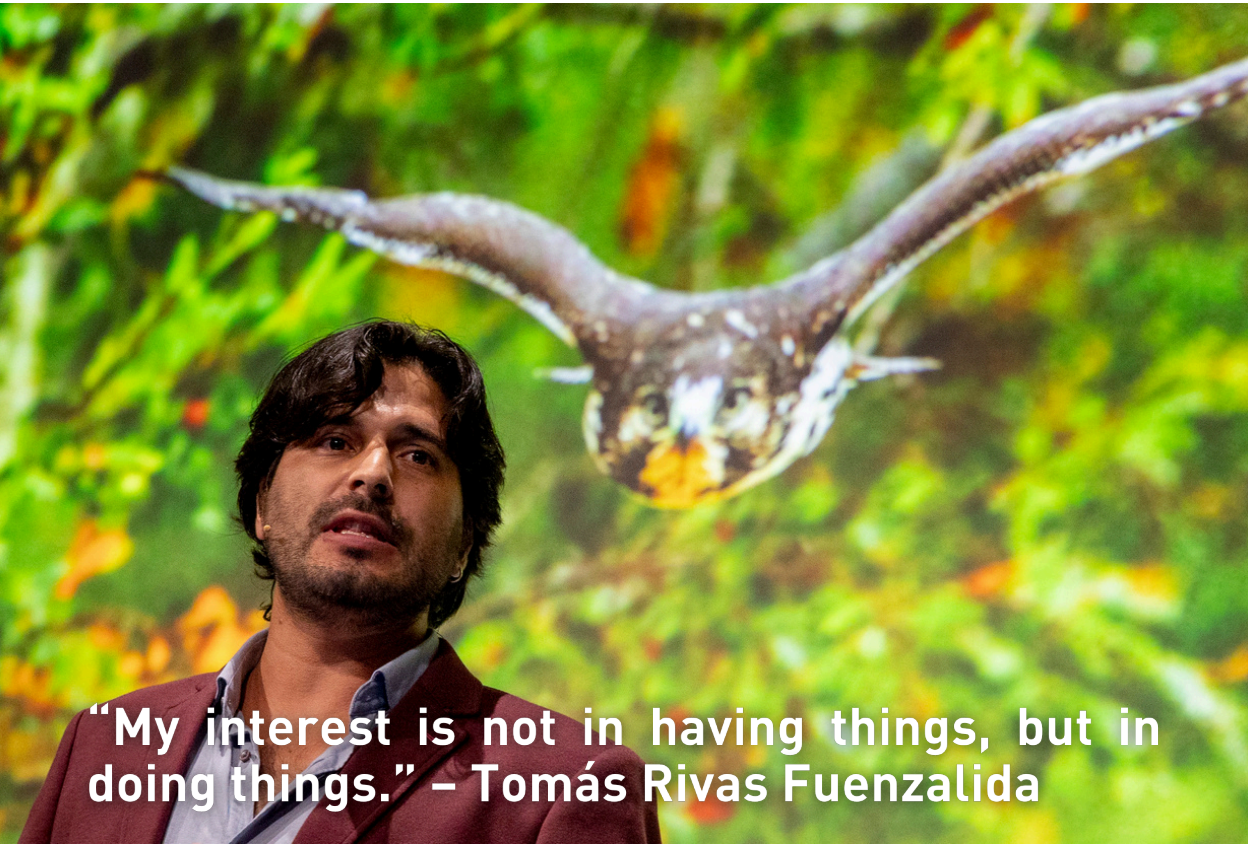
Event host Saba Douglas-Hamilton warmly congratulates Alona Prylutska: "She has the heart of a lioness. In the devastating face of war in Ukraine, Alona has continued her work 24/7 trying to improve the situation for her beloved bats."



Guest of Honour Pavan Sukhdev is a scientist by education, an international banker by training, and an environmental economist by passion. Moved by the stories of the three winners, he urged them to "stay with the fight and keep the love burning inside you" and spoke about how nature provides so much of value into our lives every day, but that these invisible economics of nature need to become visible.

“  
*Stay with the fight  
and keep the love burning inside you.*  
”

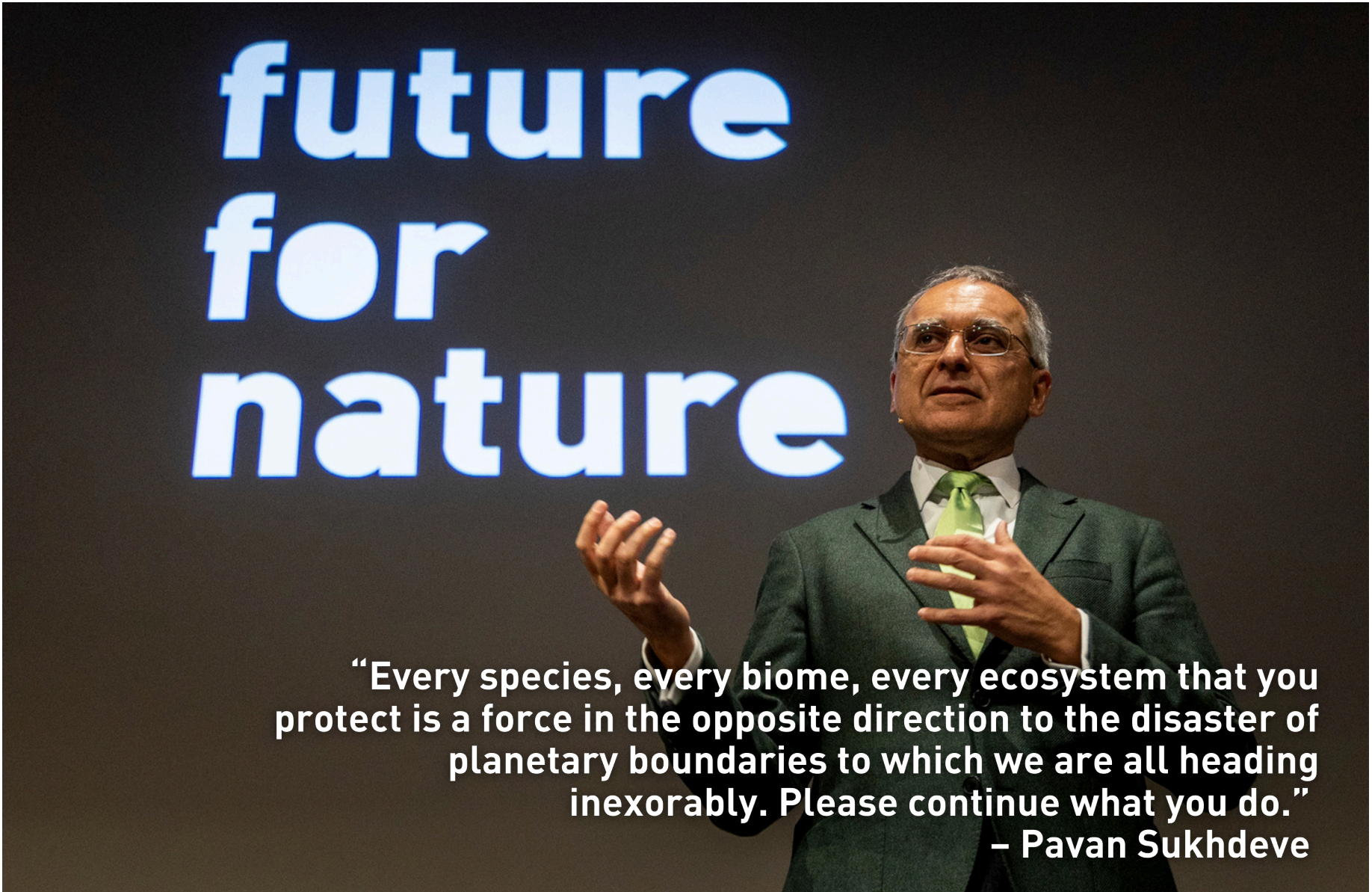




**"My interest is not in having things, but in doing things." – Tomás Rivas Fuenzalida**



**"After 21 years of visiting this very rare species, I finally found it in flower. This was a very emotional moment for me - it flowered because it fought for its future. This is why nature gives me hope. And this event gives me hope that there's a future for our environment and we are part of it." – Pieter van Wyk**



# **future for nature**

**"Every species, every biome, every ecosystem that you protect is a force in the opposite direction to the disaster of planetary boundaries to which we are all heading inexorably. Please continue what you do."  
– Pavan Sukhdev**



**I had to do something for these vulnerable animals and started rehabilitating bats at home. But now I'm here representing my team. Working day and night, we now have up to 3,000 rescued bats per year ."  
– Alona Prylutska**

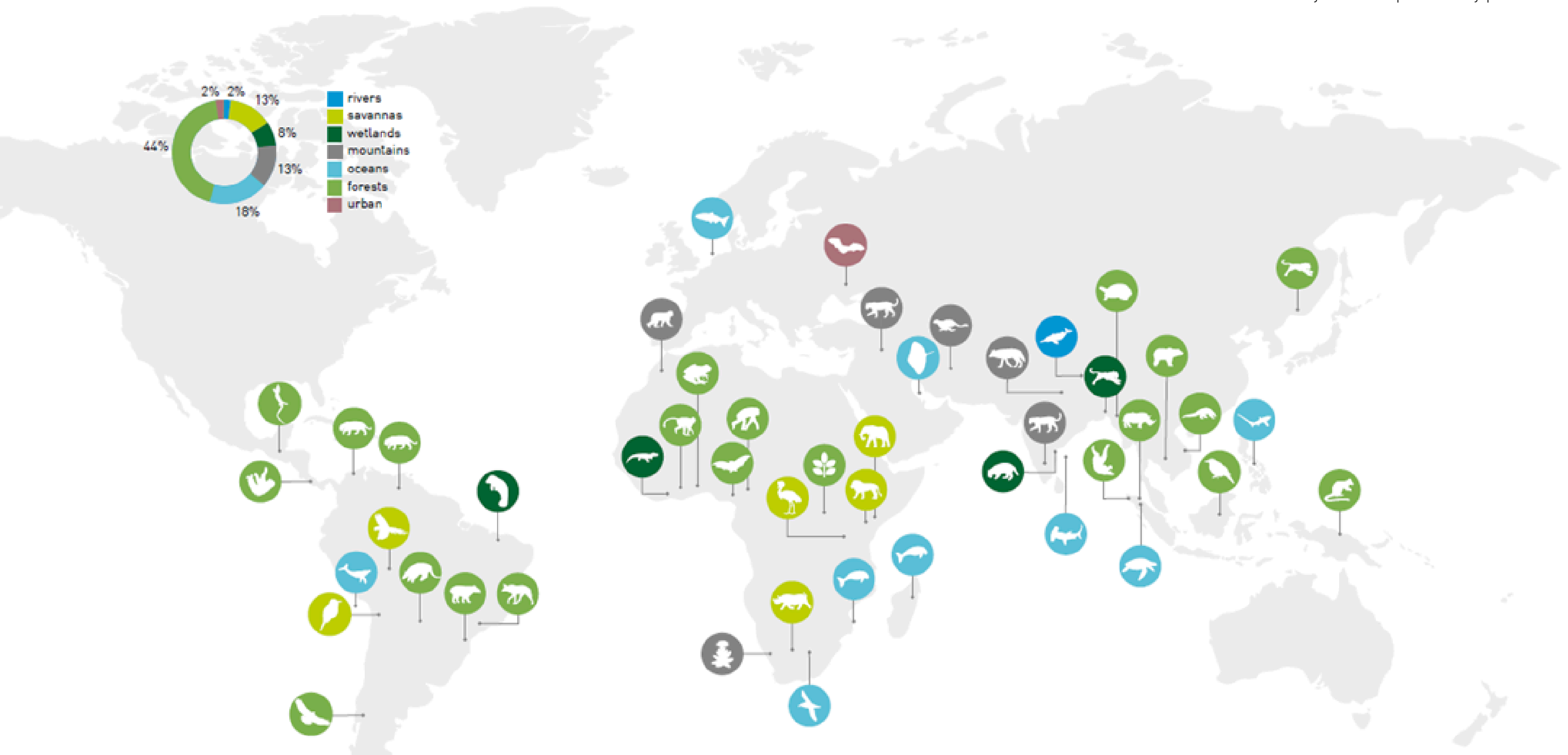




# FFN FAMILY: A GLOBAL NETWORK OF CONSERVATION EXCELLENCE

The Future For Nature Family of winners is now 48 conservationists strong and they are active in 31 countries, all over the world. Throughout the year we follow their achievements and challenges and help promote their work. In 2023, FFN spent more on Family support than ever before through our FFN Family Funding scheme (from 66,000 euro in 2022 to 117,089 euro in 2023) and laureates met each other whenever the opportunity arose. For example, at international conferences and workshops in their field.

Overview of the FFN Family and the species they protect





FFN Family members met each other in 2023 at conferences & workshops around the globe to protect biodiversity and visited each other with support of FFN funding



Trang Nguyen and Irero Tanshi met at the ICCB meeting in Kigali, Rwanda



Olivier Nsengimana and Irero Tanshi at Umusambi Village, a restored wetland area founded by Olivier's Rwanda Wildlife Conservation.



José Gonzalez Maya and Fernanda Abra spotting spider monkeys that were recently released back into their natural habitat by Els van Lavieren. Els works in Suriname with Conservation International.

Tjalle Boorsma, Patricia Medici and Gabriel Massocato in Barba Azul Nature Reserver, Bolivia



Els van Lavieren and Adam Miller at the Joint Meeting of the International Primatological Society (IPS) and the Malaysian Primatological Society (MPS)





# FFN FAMILY UPDATES

To increase the support from the Future For Nature Foundation to the growing family of winners, all previous FFN Award winners are eligible to apply for FFN Family funding, aimed at strengthening the collaboration within the Family through supporting visits and projects.

### Aims of Future For Nature’s Family Funding

- To encourage FFN Award winners to learn from each other. For example by visiting each other’s projects in order to exchange knowledge and experience.
- To encourage collaborations between FFN Award winners, to set up new projects together.

2023 Family Funding numbers

8 projects were granted

enabling 3 project visits and 5 collaborations to further strengthen the network

€ 117,089 in total was allocated

### FFN funded project visits

Further to the exchange of knowledge and best practice between FFN laureates, project visits may consist of activities such as field and research site visits, presenting work, e.g. through guest lectures and conference participation, and engagement in training sessions in one’s field.

### Exchange visit

José Gonzalez-Maya and Els van Lavieren visited Fernanda Abra’s project in Brazil. They went to the Amazon and José and Els learned about Fernanda’s roadwork. They were invited to give a guest lecture at the University of Manaus (photo far right).



### New Organisations Were Established

Karen Allen (2015 winner) was “overwhelmingly inspired by her fellow FFN laureates” at the FFN Family Gathering in 2022 and went home to set up Foundation Likhulu. This young ambitious organisation focuses on improving marine conservation effectiveness in Mozambique by training the next generation of conservationists. Likhulu’s list of active projects has grown exponentially throughout 2023 and the current focus is on launching the Marine Conservation Leadership Programme (MCLP). We follow the developments with excitement and support!

Hana Raza (2017 winner) has also established her own organisation, Leopards Beyond Borders, to continue her conservation work for the Persian leopard and other threatened wildlife in Kurdistan and Iraq. Leopards, vital ecosystem engineers, face a critical threat from habitat loss, poaching, and human encroachment. Hana’s organisation collaborates with communities, governments, and partners to implement targeted initiatives that directly impact the preservation of habitats and the protection of wildlife, from reforestation projects to anti-poaching measures.

### Awards & Acknowledgements for laureates in 2023 included:



Inza Koné and Trang Nguyen



- Maria Fernanda Puerto Carrillo was honoured at the Las Protagonistas festival in Venezuela. This festival is co-organised by the Dutch embassy and this edition focused on women who fight for human rights, gender equality and female leadership.
- Trang Nguyen was selected as an Obama Leader by the Obama Foundation.
- Inza Koné won the Rolex Award.
- Iroro Tanshi won the Pritzker Award.
- Adam Miller and Farwiza Farhan were both included in the Mulago Foundation’s Henry Fellows programme (in the 2022-2023 programme).
- Charudutt Mishra won the Whitley Golden Award which helped him launch the Ethical Conservation Alliance.

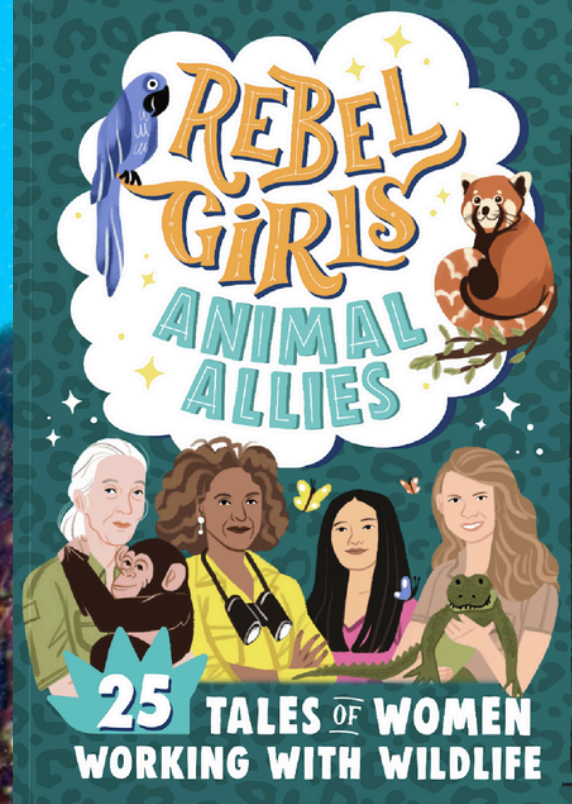
### What do giant armadillos in Brazil and blue-throated macaws in Bolivia have in common?

Tjalle Boorsma, who protects blue-throated macaws, and Gabriel Massocato, a giant armadillo conservationist, went on an exchange to see how they can learn from, collaborate with, and help each other. The main aspect that connects these two species is that both live in the tropical savannas of South America where fire is a recurring threat. Sponsored by the FFN Family Funding, Tjalle and Gabriel visited each other’s conservation project to exchange knowledge about how to prevent, minimise and combat fires.



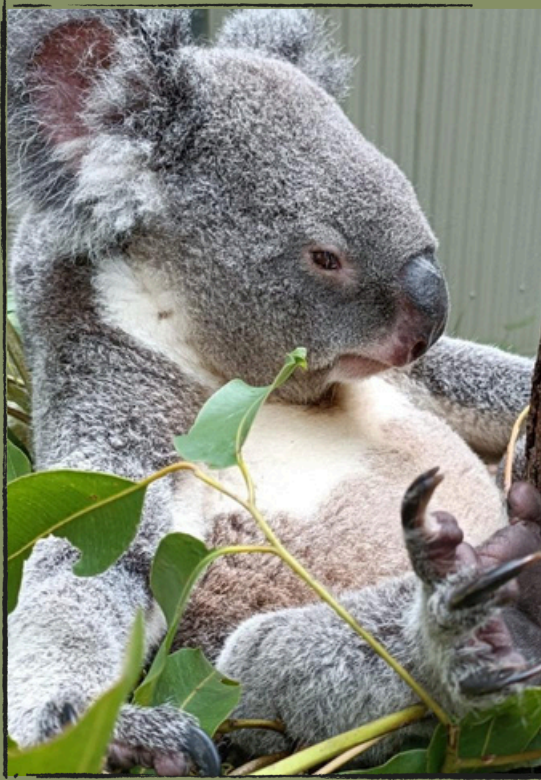


# More highlights in 2023



Lucy King (winner 2013), Leela Hazzah (winner 2014) en Hana Raza (winner 2017) star in the book series “Rebel Girls Animal Allies: 25 Tales of Women Working with Wildlife” featuring 25 brave, compassionate scientists, veterinarians, activists, and others who fight for animal rights and conservation. It takes readers around the globe: to the tops of trees and the bottom of the ocean, deep into the jungle and high into the mountains. With a foreword by Lucy King and activities curated by Bindi Irwin, this book is sure to inspire animal lovers everywhere! Now also available as a podcast.

**QWildlife App enables citizens to help protect koalas in Queensland, Australia**  
In 2023, Maggie Muurmans started her new job as Senior Conservation Officer at Queensland Environment to protect the koala across Australia. With the award-winning app QWildlife, she encourages people to become ‘citizen scientists’ by taking pictures of koalas and reporting sightings. Koalas are threatened by forest fires and disease among other things, and reporting sightings helps to monitor and research their population.



In 2023, FFN continued to run the monthly FFN Family coaching sessions by FFN laureate Jean Thomas. Jean is a conservationist with 25 years of experience under her belt and a certified coach specialising in the conservation sector. Each session covers a different topic, and 2023 topics included “Passion, Purpose, and Prosperity”: how passion can manifest, how purpose can be rediscovered, and how we can improve our relationship with money in the NGO world. Laureates are highly appreciative of the support FFN offers for developing the skills and capacity needed to deal with the most difficult conservation and environmental issues and we will keep this monthly complimentary mini-course on offer.



**FFN COACHING**  
learn - build - connect  
With Jean Thomas





# THE NEXT GENERATION

The Future For Nature Academy is a growing and evolving network of students and young graduates with a passion for nature conservation. Inspired by the accomplishments of FFN winners and other conservation heroes, they come together to organize a variety of events such as lectures, workshops, and excursions about all facets of nature conservation. This creates a powerful platform for young people to meet, discuss, and make plans together for a brighter future for nature.

In 2023, the FFN Academy saw notable growth and development. Thanks to the funding by the Otterfund, the role of FFN Academy coordinator was able to expand. The Academy is working hard to engage more educators by creating a network of involved teachers, which will create stability within the city teams and extend the reach of the FFN Academy. Despite some city teams still dealing with after effects of the pandemic, the FFN Academy has organized a total of 19 events this year! One of which was the first ever FFN Academy Alumni day, which was a great success with over 30 participants and inspiring talks by several alumni. Other events included a workshop about dealing with climate anxiety, a discussion evening about offshore windfarms, a hike in the Utrechtse Heuvelrug, and a lecture by FFN winner Tjalle Boorsma!

## FFN ACADEMY DAY 2023

The 6th edition of the Future For Nature Academy Day was great! For the first time, the event was held in Utrecht, and more than 120 young and aspiring conservationists joined. The day started with the introduction of the FFN Award winners and time for students to ask them all their questions. After this plenary opening, there were many different sessions to join such as a debate about bat conservation, a workshop on reptile conservation, a lecture on falconry techniques, a creative theater show, and even tours through the botanical gardens!

**120 young and aspiring  
conservationists joined the  
FFN Academy Day 2023!**

future  
for  
nature  
academy





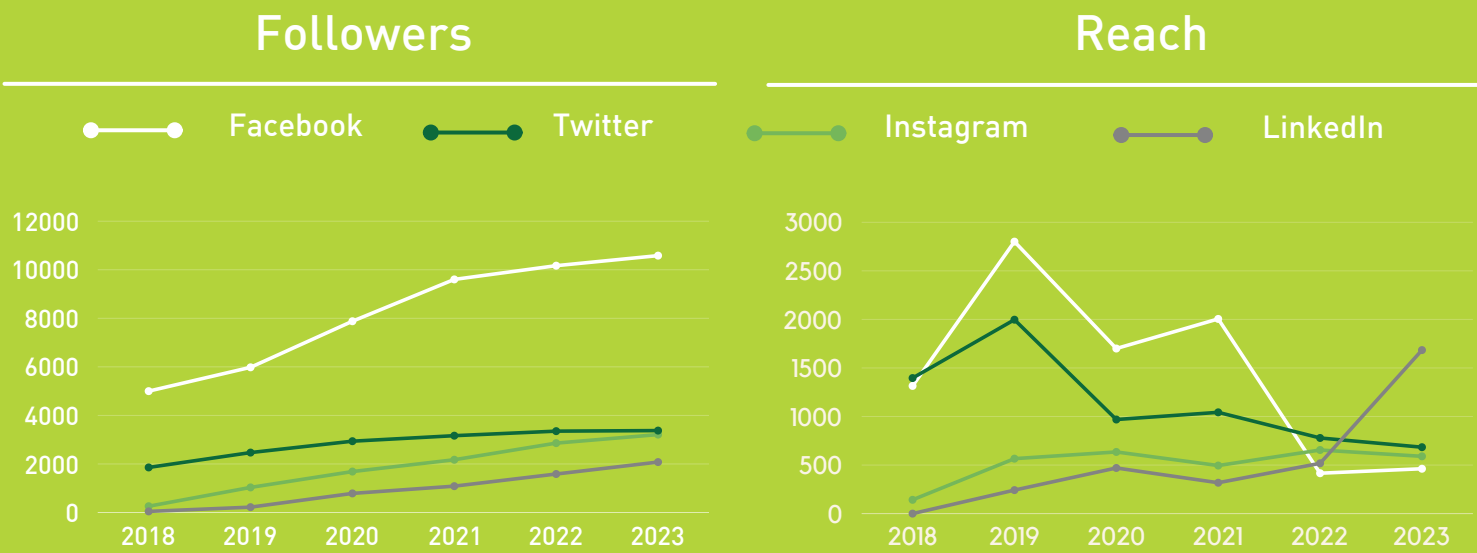


# SOCIAL MEDIA STATS

FFN was active on the social media platforms Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn in 2023. With our content, we aimed to promote the 2023 FFN Award Winners and the Award Event, as well as highlight projects and achievements of the FFN Family.

Our followers on all platforms are continuously increasing throughout the years. Facebook remains the most popular platform.

Our LinkedIn reach has further grown in 2023 due to the increased effort put into this platform. We are less active on X since the takeover by Elon Musk.



## Impact via our socials and the website

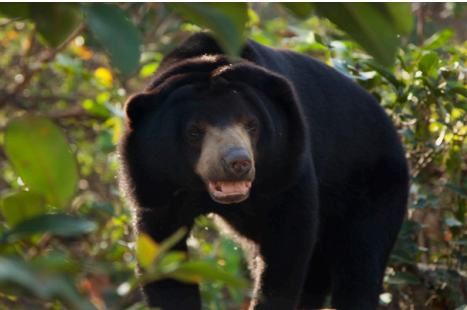
In 2023 we published more than 160 unique posts on our social media platforms and 1-2 website articles per month (17 in total). In the fall of 2023 we onboarded two new volunteers to help with content creation for the website to keep a steady stream of comprehensive Family updates on the website.





# SUPPORT

The Future For Nature Foundation receives continuous support from sponsors and donors.



## Major Donors

Future For Nature can operate effectively thanks to our Major Donors: Burgers' Zoo, Fondation Segre, Van Wijhe Verf, Vat Foundation, Askja Reizen, Stichting Nieuwe Waarde and the Fred Foundation.



## FFN Friends

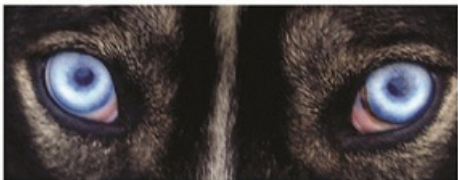
75 people are supporting us as FFN Friends, pledging a total of €4.535 in 2023. Many of the FFN Friends have been donating to our foundation for more than three years.



## Donations

Besides our steady sponsors, Future For Nature receives independent donations through the website. Over €1100,- has been donated this way in 2023.

## Our sponsors



FONDATION SEGRÉ



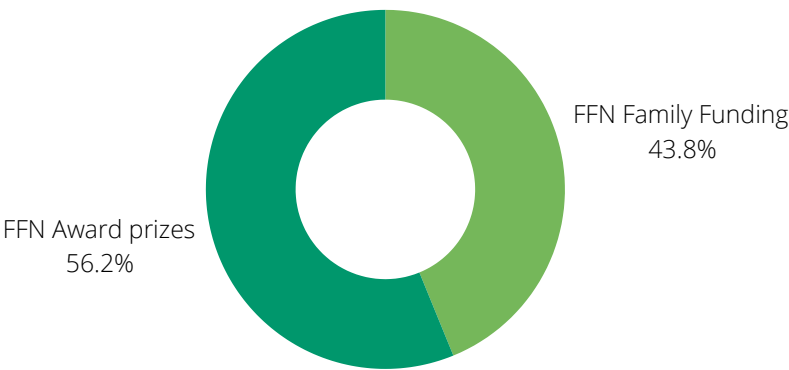
# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## Continuous growth

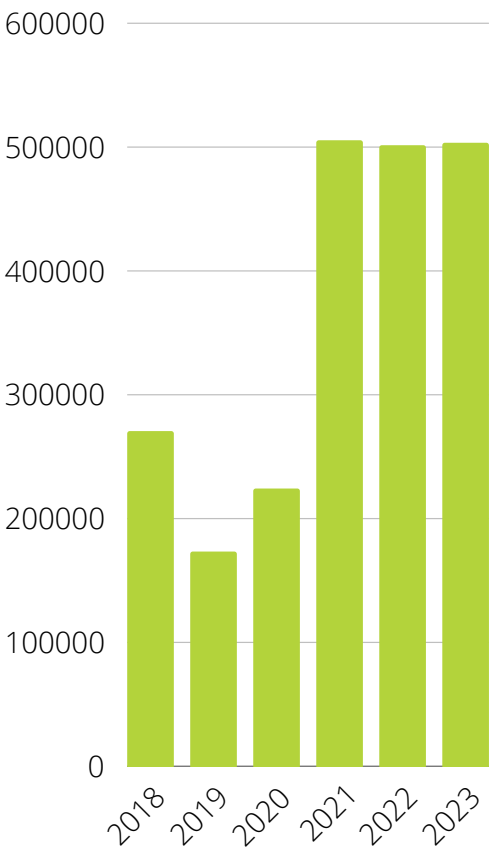
To support the foundation's ambition to develop and grow in our impact, Future For Nature successfully increased its fundraising in 2022 and has continued this in 2023.

For the full financial accounts, please see the 'Jaarrekening 2023' on our website.

## Supporting the FFN Family 2023



Donations & contributions





# FFN AWARD 2024 PROSPECTS



**ALL KINDS OF  
DIFFERENT  
SPECIES**

During the summer of 2023, the application for the 2024 Future For Nature Awards were open. A total of 265 people from 64 countries applied.

The National Selection Committee carefully reviewed them all and selected 7 dedicated, young conservationists as the 2024 nominees.

After approval from the board, the nominee applications were passed on to our International Selection Committee and a social media campaign to promote the 2024 FFN Award Nominees and their work commenced.



**National Selection Committee**

- Gabriella Fredriksson
- Hans De longh
- Kees Lankester
- Pita Verweij
- Margje Voeten

**International Selection Committee**

- Saba Douglas-Hamilton (chair)
- Mohammad Farhadinia (FFN laureate)
- Annette Lanjouw
- Els van Lavieren ((FFN laureate))
- Brian Huntley
- Vivek Menon
- Hugh Possingham
- Simon Stuart
- Masha Vorontsova







## FFN BOARD



**Marlies van Wijhe**  
Chair



**Alex van Hooff**  
Vice Chair



**Joost Leeftang**  
Treasurer



**Willem Ferwerda**  
General boardmember



**Rob van den Dool**  
General boardmember



**Hilde Eggermont**  
General boardmember

Honorary members of the board are Niels Halbersma, Herman Rijkse en Hemmo Muntingh.  
In 2023 board meeting were held on February 9, May 30, September 5 November 7 and November 28 .

## FFN OFFICE



**Rascha Nuijten**  
Director



**Marloes Leeftang**  
Coordinator FFN



**Reyhaneh Roohi**  
Coordinator FFN



**Charlotte Betel**  
Coordinator FFN Academy

In September 2023, Marloes Leeftang started a new role as Project Leader at the Zoogdierverseniging. A huge thanks to Marloes for her invaluable contributions as FFN Coordinator – we are thrilled to keep you on board in our exceptional and valued team of volunteers! !



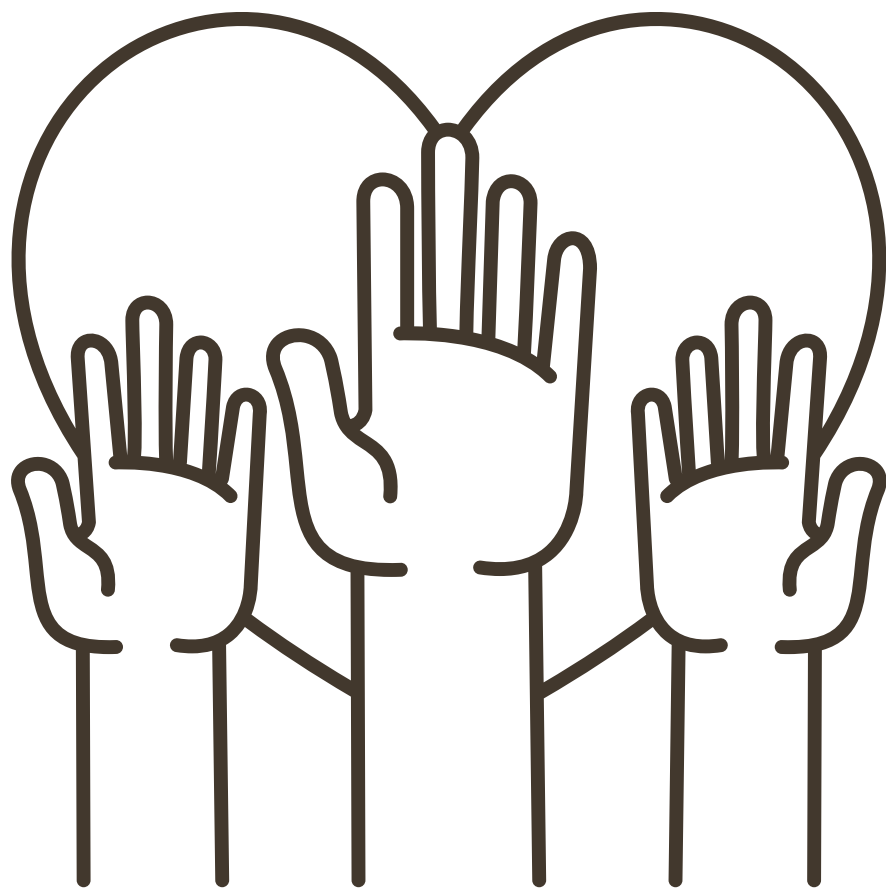
# THANK YOU TO

## Our volunteers

Mira Meijer, Mathijs Megens, Françoise Winkels,  
Lotte Uijtendaal,  
Linda Bloch, Jeroen Pouwels, Dieuwerke van de Ven,  
Sandra Ploeg,  
Christos Vlasakidis and Antoinette Bakker.

Thank you for your time, skills and dedication!

Photos of the 2023 FFN Award event are credited to  
Robert Meerdink.



# ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

The Foundation aims to protect endangered animal and plant species  
(as laid down in the Articles of Association on 9 December 2008).



The address of the Foundation is:  
Antoon Van Hooffplein 1  
6816 SH Arnhem  
the Netherlands  
phone +31 26 353 7207  
info@futurefornature.org

The Foundation's tax identification code is 8056.52.383.  
The Foundation has ANBI-recognized status.

**future  
for  
nature**

© Picaflor de Arica



future  
for  
nature