



**future
for
nature**

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



**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 2024

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 IN ITS 17TH YEAR IN 2024

The first Awards were handed out 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

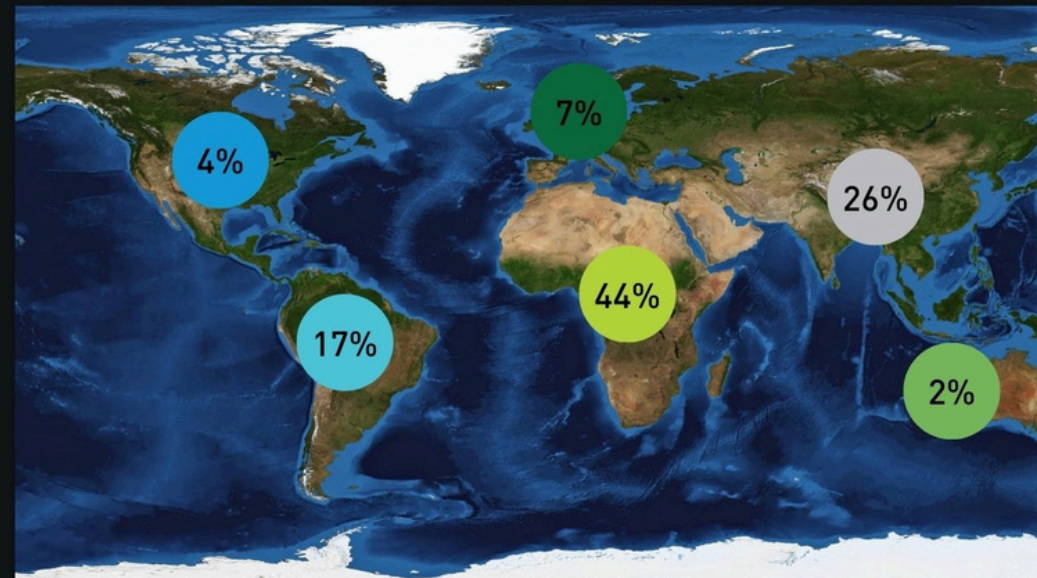
As the foundation continues to grow in prominence and capacity, we hope to reach, inspire and support more people and play our part to protect the planet. The Future For Nature Foundation is dedicated to bringing together talented and driven young nature conservationists and supporting their work. We also strive to support the Family of winners through our FFN Family Funding scheme. Family members received funding in 2024 to undertake project visits to learn from each other’s methods and approaches.



FFN Awards 2024

The Call to Apply for the 2024 Future For Nature Award reeled in a great number of applications. No less than 265 people from 64 countries applied to win the prestigious Award and join the FFN Family!

WHERE DO THEY WORK?



64 COUNTRIES

AND THE NOMINEES ARE

The FFN National Selection Committee (NSC) carefully reviewed all applications and shortlisted 7 stellar nominees for the 2024 FFN Award.



© José F. González- Maya

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 2024 Future For Nature Awards: Callie Annette Veelenturf, Hana Weaver, and Rinzin Phunjok Lama.

Callie Annette Veelenturf, Panama

Callie is a passionate conservationist who has dedicated her life to protecting the leatherback sea turtles in the East Pacific. She empowers fishers to safeguard the sea turtles’ coastal and oceanic habitat. Through her multi-level approach, from policy to practice, Callie is mitigating the human impact on the leatherback sea turtle and other endangered wildlife.

Hana Weaver, Puerto Rico

Hana is a conservationist dedicated to helping the Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned hawk bounce back from the brink of extinction. She leads a unique recovery programme that successfully raises and releases this beautiful endemic bird. To safeguard the Puerto Rican sharp-shinned hawk population, Hana developed a never-before-attempted breeding programme which she started by converting her bedroom into a fully functioning incubation and rearing facility.

Rinzin Phunjok Lama, Nepal

Rinzin Phunjok Lama is a Conservation Biologist who works closely with local communities to safeguard the elusive snow leopards in the remote mountains of Nepal. Through his community-led programme, he empowers youth, defuses human-wildlife conflicts, and strengthens people’s cultural connections with nature. Rinzin is a proud member of the Nyinba indigenous community of the Humla district of Nepal, a region where people and snow leopards share their space.



FFN Award EVENT 2024

The 17th 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. The ceremony took the audience on a virtual journey across the world, visiting several FFN Award laureates to highlight their recent achievements. To name a few: we encountered wild southern right whales along the coast of Chile with Barbara Galletti and visited Lucy King's project in Kenya, where she introduced a local elephant herd to us. We heard how Ofir Drori is fighting corruption and wildlife crime in West and Central Africa, and travelled to Australia to meet koalas in the Daisy Hill Visitor centre with Maggie Muurmans. In Vietnam, we met Thai Van Nguyen who founded Save Vietnam's Wildlife (SVW) to protect the endangered pangolin. Future For Nature is proud to represent its 51 (in 2024) Award winners and honoured to support and unite such a unique group of conservation talent!



FFN Award winners 2024 : Rinzin Lama, Callie Veelenturf, and Hana Weaver.

Over 350 people
came together in
Arnhem

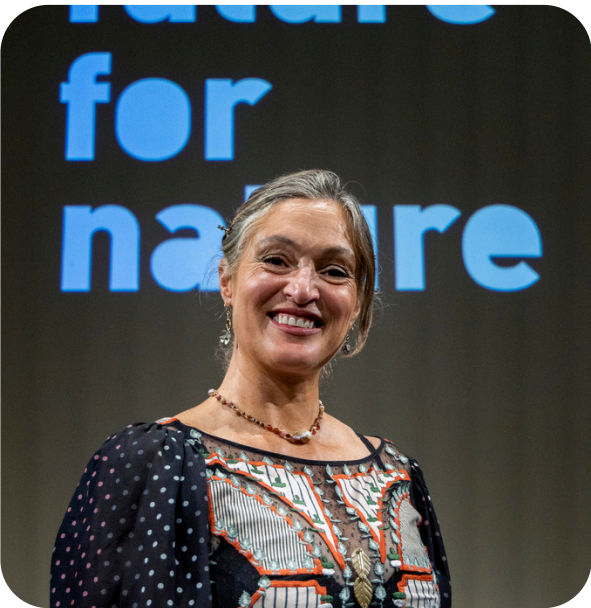
And 500
tuned in
online



INSPIRING SPEECHES

In their speeches, the 2024 Award Winners spoke about what drives them, the challenges they face and their hopes for the future.. Their testimonials motivated and inspired us all to invest in, and fight for, the future of nature.

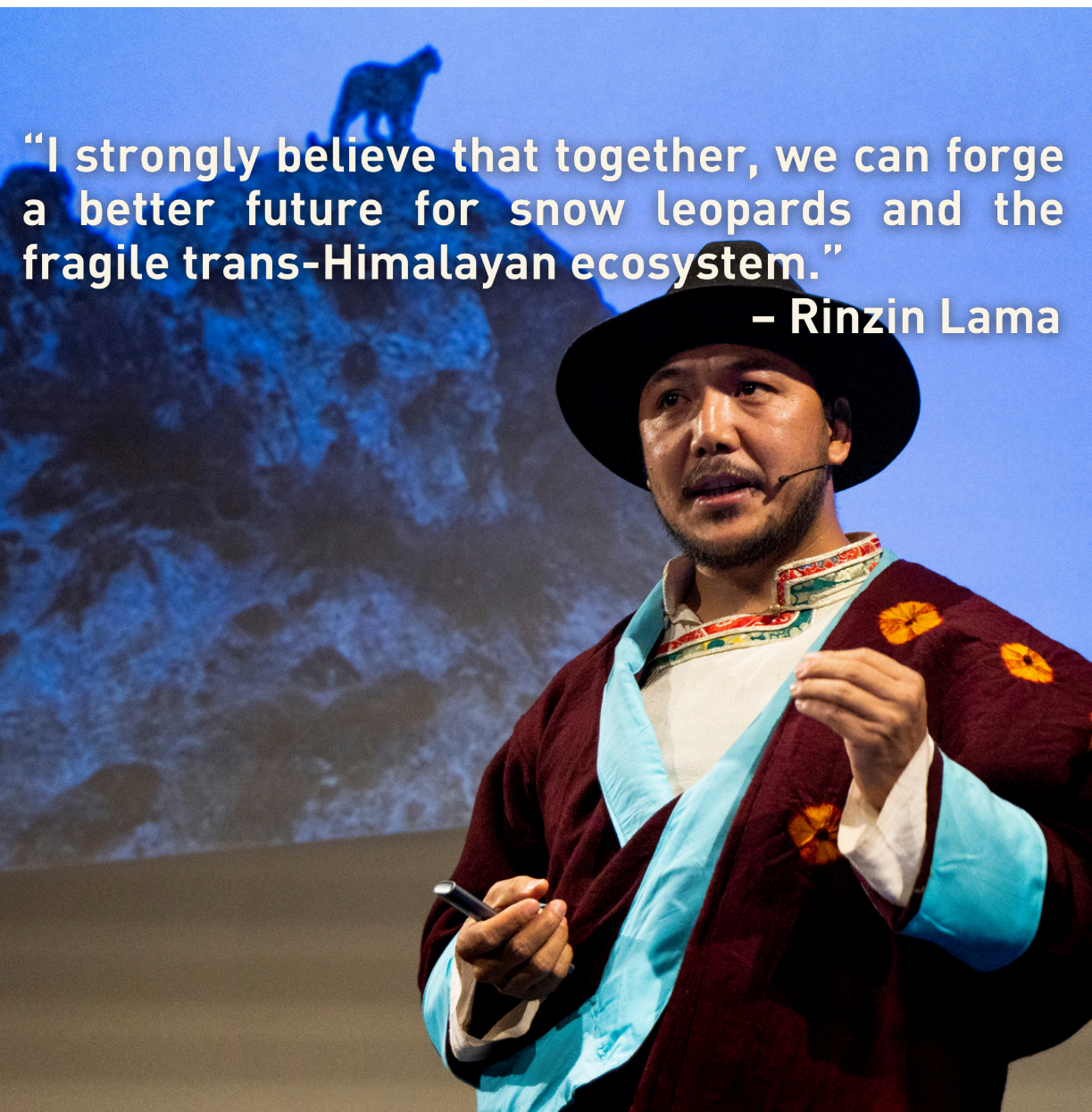
Chair of the International Selection Committee and FFN Event host Saba Douglas-Hamilton highlighted exciting and ground-breaking developments in understanding how other species communicate. We learned how AI is now used to gain understanding of their language. Did you know elephants name each other, just like we do? What an amazing discovery!



Guest of Honour John D. Liu - a visionary environmental filmmaker ecologist and sustainability advocate whose work has profoundly influenced global conversations on ecological restoration and regenerative development - held a thought-provoking speech on our Earth Stewardship and how we should strive to sustain and enhance Earth's life-support systems that we are a part of.

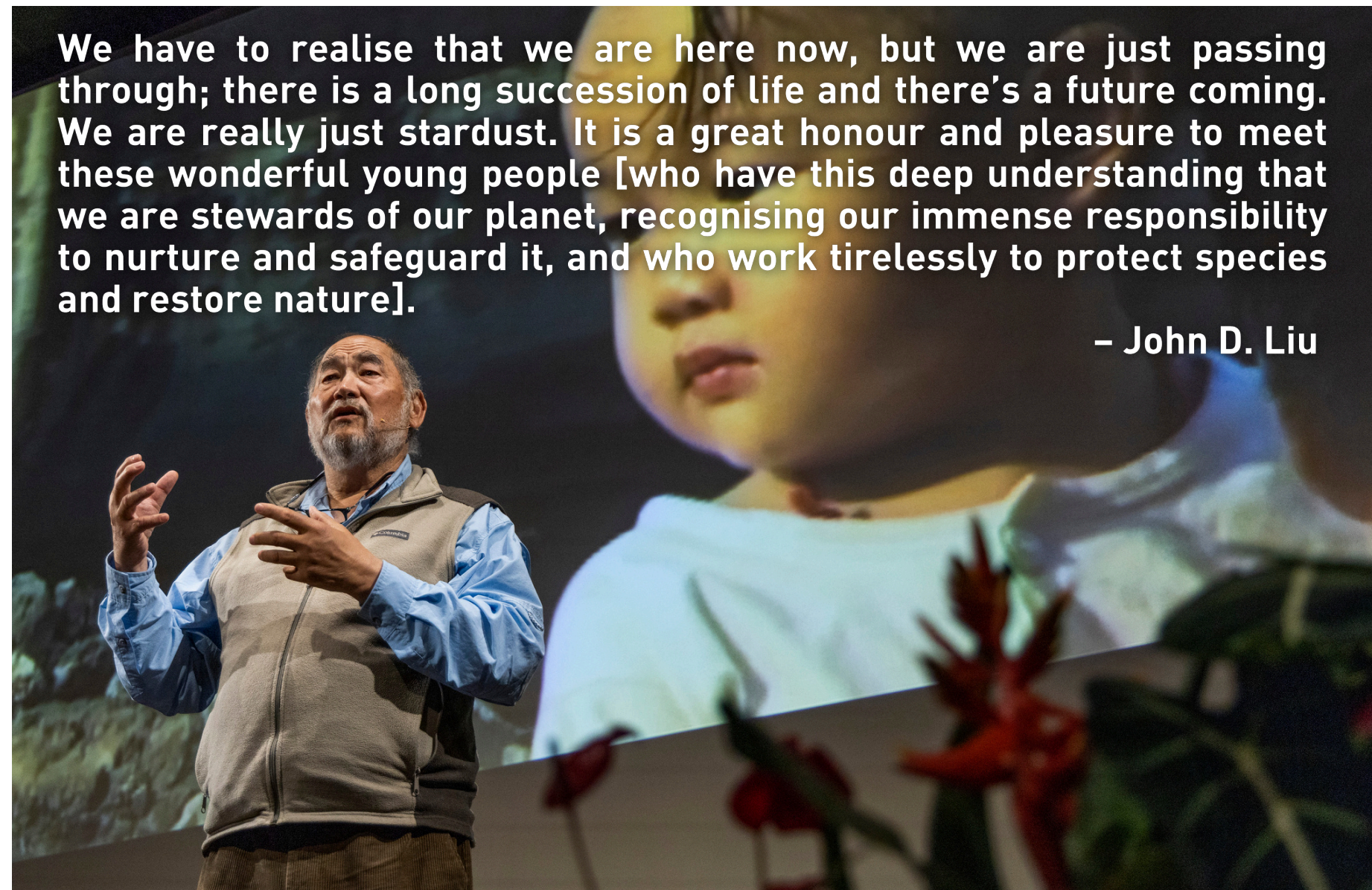


Callie Veelenturf taught us that leatherback turtles survived the 5th mass extinction that terminated the dinosaurs and are only now threatened with local extinction due to consistent pressures from the human race.



"I strongly believe that together, we can forge a better future for snow leopards and the fragile trans-Himalayan ecosystem."

– Rinzin Lama



We have to realise that we are here now, but we are just passing through; there is a long succession of life and there's a future coming. We are really just stardust. It is a great honour and pleasure to meet these wonderful young people [who have this deep understanding that we are stewards of our planet, recognising our immense responsibility to nurture and safeguard it, and who work tirelessly to protect species and restore nature].

– John D. Liu



Hana's message: "This project cannot tackle these landscape-level threats alone. We truly need everyone, in all places of the world, to help address climate change and be a force for nature."

FFN FAMILY: A GLOBAL NETWORK OF CONSERVATION EXCELLENCE



The Future For Nature Family of winners is now 51 conservationists strong and they are active all over the world. Throughout the year we follow their achievements and challenges and help promote their work. FFN also offers laureates financial support through our FFN Family Funding scheme with an annual call for applications. Family members can receive funding for a project visit or collaboration.

In 2024, we received an application for FFN Family Funding from Tomás Rivas Fuenzalida, FFN winner 2023, who protects South America's rare raptors. Tomás sought funding for a project visit in 2025 to learn from Hana Weaver (winner 2024) who is developing a pioneering propagation programme of the threatened Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk with successful results. FFN has granted this proposal, and the project visit is scheduled to take place in July 2025.



FFN offers the Award winners the opportunity to meet online and in person to exchange experience and know-how and collaborate where possible. Bringing the winners together as the FFN Family has proven to be an effective instrument for providing continued support.

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 which may include setting up new projects together.**



FFN FAMILY UPDATES

FFN funded project visits and collaborations

Marine conservation exchange visit

With the support of the FFN Family funding, Mohsen Rezaie-Atagholipour (FFN Award winner 2021) visited Divya Karnad (FFN winner 2019) in India in January 2024. They discovered areas for collaboration and knowledge exchange such as efficient monitoring methods for guitarfish breeding sites, and the use of drones to study the interactions between fishing and tourist boats and dolphins.

Reconnecta project in Suriname – collaboration Fernanda and Els

Fernanda Abra (FFN winner 2019) went to Suriname in August 2024 to work with Els van Lavieren (FFN winner 2011). Fernanda and Els set up a joint project, funded by FFN, to replicate Fernanda’s ‘Road kill monitoring scheme’ on several of Suriname’s roads with the highest number of animal casualties. Fernanda has been effectively combatting animal roadkill on the busiest roads in Brazil through mapping the problem and proposing and building ecoducts, culverts and canopy bridges at strategic locations.

More highlights in 2024

FFN laureate opens Richtersveld Botanical Garden and Nursery

In South-Africa, Pieter van Wyk (FFN winner 2023) has opened a conservation breeding botanical garden in response to widespread poaching of indigenous plants. To give an example of the scale: recently, the South African police confiscated almost half a million plants of rare species in just 10 days. The confiscated plants, if still alive, will go to botanical gardens in the country.

Pieter established one of such institutions. The first goal of this institute is to be a living gene bank and storage for seeds and plants of endangered or even extinct species. The collection of plant species provides a backup for future reintroductions. Additionally, it is an educational centre for local people and a provider of jobs.

Awards & Acknowledgements

Whitley Award for Fernanda Abra

Fernanda Abra (FFN Award winner 2019) received the Whitley Award on May 1, 2024. This Award ensures that Fernanda can continue one of her most important projects: the Reconnecta project in Brazil where vehicles annually kill about 475 million vertebrates — more than double the country's human population. Fernanda leads over 300 projects targeting roads with high wildlife casualties. For Reconnecta, she works with the indigenous peoples to build rope bridges that allows wildlife to cross roads safely.

Patrícia Medici honoured for 30 years tapir conservation

Patrícia Medici was recently honoured for her 30-year career in tapir conservation. The Brazilian conservationist and FFN Award winner (in 2008) received a "Lifetime Achievement Award" and has a fund named after her for the protection of the world's four tapir species. The ceremony was held on July 12, 2024, at the 8th International Tapir Symposium.

Callie Veelenturf named finalist Pritzker Award

Callie Veelenturf (FFN winner 2024) has been named a finalist for the 2024 Pritzker Emerging Environmental Genius Award in recognition of her pioneering efforts to protect leatherback sea turtles (The Leatherback Project)! A special congratulations also to Mohsen Rezaie-Atagholipour (FFN winner 2021) for his nomination.

Indianapolis Prize nomination for Alberto Campos

Alberto Campos (FFN Award winner 2010) was nominated for the Indianapolis Prize 2025. The Indianapolis Prize focuses attention on the inspiring work of distinguished animal conservationists who have had authentic success preserving animal species around the world. The winner will be announced mid 2025.

More highlights in 2024

Iroro Tanshi and the West African Mammal Fellowship

Thanks to FFN Family funding (Awarded in 2023), prize money from the Pritzker Award (2023) and support from the Otter Fund, Iroro and her organisation SMACON have set up a new cohort of the West African mammal fellowship through which she supports talented young conservationists from her region by teaching them skills and allowing them to gain experience in the field. The goal: long-term mentorship and successful grant applications from this group of ambitious people.

Wetland Ecology, Biodiversity and Conservation (WEBC) course

Tiasa Adhya, FFN Award winner 2022 and founder of the Fishing Cat Project, developed and delivered a course in partnership with the IUCN Species Survival Commission Freshwater Conservation Committee and the Future For Nature Academy. During the 6-month course, students were taught online by experts in the field of wetland biodiversity, ecology and conservation. Participants received certificates from IUCN.

Another success for Tiasa: on 30th November 2024, the Odisha government signed a 3-year agreement for the implementation of the Fishing Cat Action Plan for the Chilika lagoon in collaboration with the Fishing Cat Project. The fishing cat population will be actively monitored through counts and GPS transmitters. Tiasa’s organisation (the Fishing Cat Project) is actively participating by carrying out education and awareness campaigns.



FFN Coaching with Jean Thomas

In 2024, 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. 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 coaching session on offer.



Innovative Habitat Restoration for Campbell’s alligator lizard

Campbell’s alligator lizard (Abronía campbelli) is a species once thought to be extinct. But thanks to the dedication and optimism of Guatemalan conservationist Mónica Torres and her colleagues, there is new hope for this critically endangered lizard.

Winner of the Future For Nature Award in 2021, Mónica has been tirelessly working to restore the species’ habitat, bridging the gap between local communities and nature to secure a future for A. campbelli. Mónica’s latest work aims to recreate the intricate microhabitat that A. campbelli depends on, particularly focusing on the vascular epiphytes that thrive in the forest canopy. These epiphytes are essential for creating the complex structure and resources the lizard needs.



In November 2024, Future For Nature hosted the 4th FFN Family gathering – an inspiring get-together of all FFN Award winners.

In this week, filled with workshops, discussions, and excursions, laureates had the chance to recharge, (re-)connect and build stronger relationships.

FFN states it in its mission to organise this gathering every 2.5 years as we believe in in-person connections and the feeling of belonging. Being a conservation leader can sometimes be a lonely journey. By bringing together like-minded people who understand each other’s struggles on a deeper level, we create a space where they can exchange emotions, insights, and ideas while forging deeper connections.

“Absolutely fantastic gathering, unbeatable place, great agenda, time for sharing, time for pleasure, and time for exchanging ideas and training. Wonderful experience.”

“I felt privileged to be part of the gathering and the opportunity that was provided. It was incredible to be in this location and to connect with other winners at a personal and deeper level.

“The personal conversations were healing and anti-stressing. I arrived back home lighter and happier.”

“You give us motivation to keep going with the work we do (reigniting the passion), reconnecting with FFN team members, food for thought , some much needed down time with fellow conservationists, meeting new people.”

“THANKS A LOT FFN, FOR A LIFE EXPERIENCE, WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE ALL YOU DO FOR US.”

“For me personally, I think this is the only model that I've seen, of the largest conservation community that feels like Family.”



The 2024 FFN Family Gathering was held in Kenya

Kenya provided the perfect setting for this year's gathering. With three FFN Family members actively working in the country — Lucy King, Ofir Drori, and Leela Hazzah— and with our valued International Selection Committee Chair and host of the annual Awards event Saba Douglas-Hamilton based there, the decision to go to Kenya was an easy one to make.

A Week of Inspiration and Learning

Of the 51 FFN Award winners, the majority (37) joined us in Kenya for this unforgettable experience. In addition, the member of the National Selection Committee, three members of the International Selection committee, and four FFN board members also joined the gathering.

The interactions in the group of laureates, yet also between the Family, the board and the selection committee members strengthened the alignment and the relationships.

We had workshops on Rights for Nature, Ikigai, fundraising for nature conservation, carbon credits for biodiversity, IUCN network, and personal leadership (among many other topics). Most of the workshops were conducted by Family members themselves, sharing their expertise with the group.

In addition, we also went on several excursions such as a snare removal hike, a birding trip, and a visit to a local cheetah conservation project. Most of the group visited Lucy King's Elephants and Bees project, part of Save the Elephants, which was close to the venue.



Lucy's research revealed that elephants instinctively avoid the sound of disturbed bees, leading to an innovative and effective method for mitigating human-wildlife conflict. It was super inspiring for the group to see how Lucy's work unfolded after winning the FFN Award.

She proudly showed the group her land rover— bought with the Award money all those years ago and still going strong!

For a full report of the week, visit [our website](https://ourwebsite) and/or watch the recap video on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/SPRn86cK4zU>

Photos are credited to Mira Meijer.





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 organise 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 2024, the FFN Academy made strides in expanding its reach and engagement. Funding by the Otterfonds allowed us to develop and work on the professionalization of the FFN Academy.

One highlight was the launch of the FFN Academy Newsletter, which has already seen four editions and will be further developed in 2025 to enhance communication beyond social media.

City groups continue to grow, and we even established a new team in Almere! Increased involvement of teachers has also helped to stabilise and support these groups. To strengthen this involvement, a special teacher lunch was hosted before the FFN Awards event, which will be repeated in 2025.

This year, the FFN Academy organised 18 events, including a lecture by FFN Award winner Caesar Rhaman, a conservation career workshop, pub quizzes, a birding excursion, and a lecture on marine restoration. Additionally, a group of Academy members collaborated on a children's book inspired by FFN Award winners, set for release in May 2025. With an expanding network and exciting projects ahead, the FFN Academy looks forward to another impactful year in 2025!



FFN ACADEMY DAY 2024

The annual FFN Academy Day in Wageningen brought together around 130 participants for a day of inspiring talks, networking, and interactive workshops. Our hosts, both also FFN Academy members, opened the event and led the FFN Award winner Q&A.

Participants then joined two rounds of activities, including a 'whale poo seamulation' game (a game that simulates the nutrient cycle in the ocean), a lecture on wolves in the Netherlands, a talk by FFN Awards Guest of Honour Dr. John Liu, a conservation toolbox workshop, and a session on the vulture dating programme.

The event was a great success, fostering learning, discussion, and new connections!

**130 young and aspiring
conservationists joined the
FFN Academy Day 2024!**



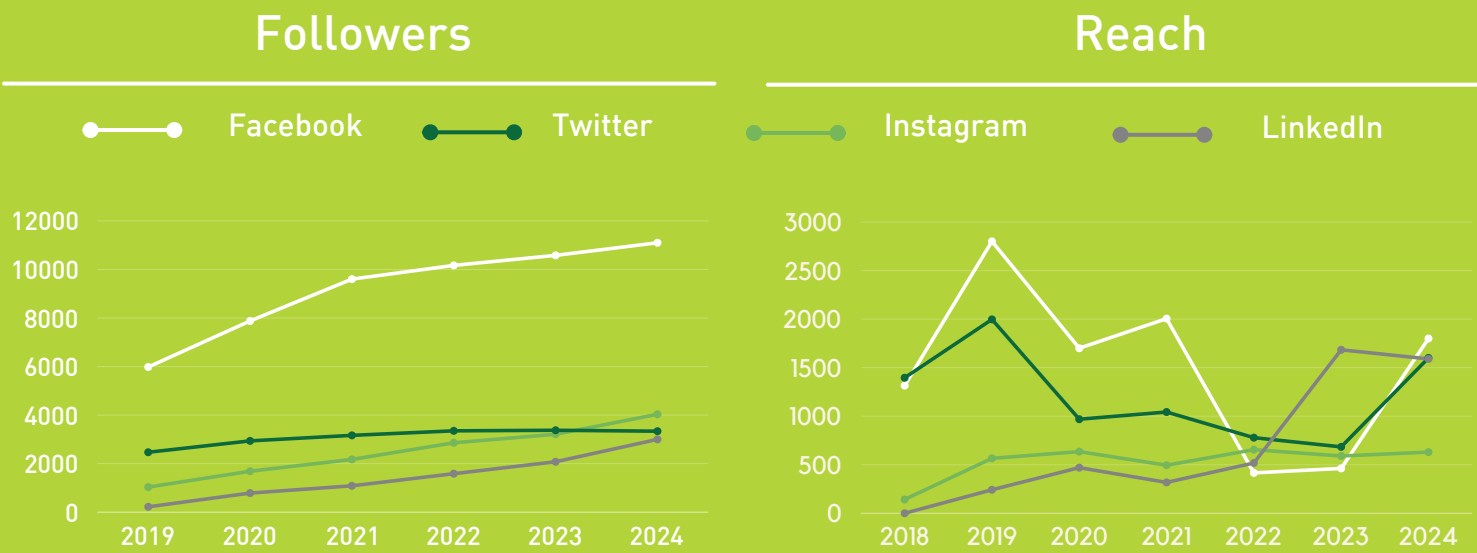


SOCIAL MEDIA STATS

FFN was active on the social media platforms Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn in 2024. With our content, we aimed to promote the 2024 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, except a slight decrease in followers on X as we are less active on this platform since Elon Musk took over this platform.

Our LinkedIn reach has further grown in 2024 due to the increased effort put into this platform.



Impact via our socials and the website

In 2024, we published three unique posts per week on our social media platforms and 12 website articles over the year.



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

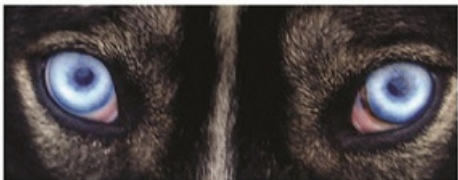
77 people are supporting us as FFN Friends, pledging a total of €5.250 in 2024. Many of the FFN Friends have been donating to our foundation for more than three years.



Donations

In addition to our sponsor base, Future For Nature receives independent donations through the website. Almost € 5.000 has been donated this way in 2024.

Our sponsors



FONDATION SEGRÉ



stichting
nieuwe waarde



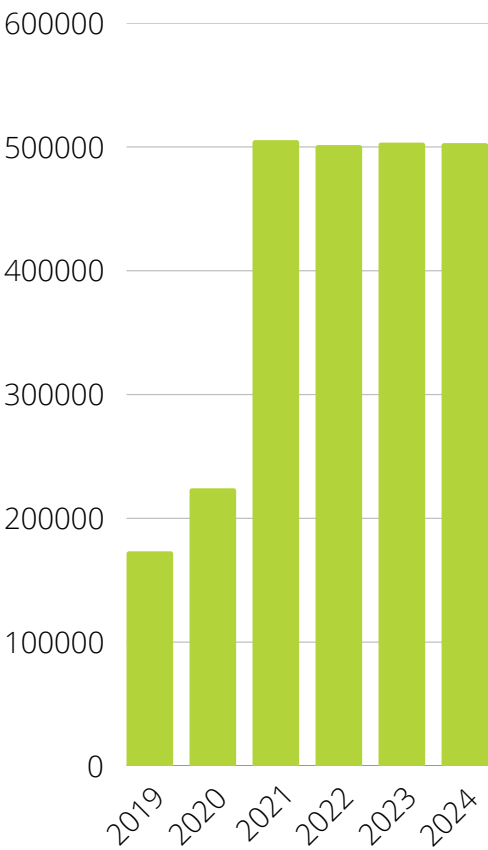
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Continuous growth

To support the foundation's ambition to develop and grow in our impact, Future For Nature successfully increased its fundraising in 2023 and has continued this in 2024.

For the full financial accounts, please see the 'Jaarrekening 2024' on our website.

Donations & contributions



Supporting the FFN Family 2024



FFN Award 2025 PROSPECTS



**ALL KINDS OF
DIFFERENT
SPECIES**

During the summer of 2024, the application for the 2025 Future For Nature Awards were open. A total of 307 people from 64 countries applied.

The National Selection Committee carefully reviewed them all and selected 7 dedicated, young conservationists as the 2025 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 2025 FFN Award Nominees and their work commenced. In March 2025, the three finalists were announced and they will receive their Awards on May 16th, 2025, at the annual FFN Awards Event in Arnhem.



National Selection Committee

- Gabriella Fredriksson
- Hans De longh
- Kees Lankester
- Jan van der Ploeg
- Pita Verweij
- Michou Weimar (FFN Academy student member)

International Selection Committee

- Saba Douglas-Hamilton (chair)
- Patricia Davis (FFN laureate)
- Annette Lanjouw
- Els van Lavieren (FFN laureate)
- 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 Rijksen en Hemmo Muntingh.

FFN OFFICE



Rascha Nuijten
Director



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Communication Manager



Reyhaneh Roohi
Coordinator FFN



Charlotte Betel
Coordinator FFN Academy

THANK YOU TO

Our volunteers

Mira Meijer, Mathijs Megens,
Linda Bloch, Jeroen Pouwels, Dieuwerke van de Ven,
Sandra Ploeg, Marloes Leeftang,
Christos Vlasakidis and Antoinette Bakker.

Thank you for your time, skills and dedication!

Photos of the 2024 FFN Award event are credited to
Robert Meerdink.

Photos of the 2024 FFN Family Gathering in Kenya
are credited to Mira Meijer.

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).

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The Foundation has ANBI-recognized status.

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