

## Shortlist for the 2006 Whitley Awards

Over the past four months our Trustees and panel of conservation experts have assessed over 160 applications in detail to arrive at our Shortlist of 10. The standard of applications was extremely high and we are delighted to announce the finalists. In May, each finalist will present their proposal to the Judging Panel before being competitively interviewed. Those selected as Whitley Award Winners will receive their trophies from HRH The Princess Royal on May 10th at the Awards Ceremony at the Royal Geographical Society.



**Zhigang Jiang** –  
Ecosystem

approach to conservation of the Przewalski's Gazelle in pastoral areas around the Qinghai Lake, Tibetan Plateau, **China**



**Sergei Bereznuik** –

"Fighting for the Minds": Amur tiger conservation through law enforcement and outreach activities in Primorye, **Russia**



**Alexander Arbachakov** –

Conserving the cedar forests of the Shor People in Gornaya Shoriya, Kemerovskaya region, **Russia**



**Dmitry Lisitsyn** –

Vostochny wild salmon refuge: conservation of biodiversity, Sakhalin Island, **Russia**



**Nguyen Thi Phuong Dung** –

Mobilising the public through participation – a national programme to stop the wildlife trade in **Vietnam**



**Gerardo Ceballos** –

Ecology and conservation of the prairie dog grassland ecosystem of the Janos region, state of Chihuahua, **Mexico**



**Patricia Majluf** – Mapping

traditional fishing areas as a tool for developing proposals for marine protected areas, Punta San Juan, **Peru**



**Pedro Vaz Pinto** –

Conservation of the critically endangered Giant Sable Antelope, Malanje Province, **Angola**



**Manfred Epanda Aimé** –

Sustainable hunting for increased livelihood and great ape conservation at the periphery of the Dja Faunal Reserve, **Cameroon**



**Suprabha Seshan** – The

Green Phoenix: plant conservation, habitat restoration and community education in the Western Ghats, **India**

### Whitley Fund for Nature

50 Queensdale Road, London, W11 4SA

t: 020 7602 3443

e: [info@whitleyaward.org](mailto:info@whitleyaward.org)

w: [www.whitleyaward.org](http://www.whitleyaward.org)

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

Trustees: Sir David Attenborough CH FRS, Catherine Faulks, John Laing, Edward Whitley  
Company limited by guarantee, No. 3968699, registered in England and Wales. Registered office: Calder & Co., Regent Street, London SW1Y 4NW.

UK Registered Charity Number 1081455

To read more about the Finalists' projects please visit our website

[www.whitleyaward.org](http://www.whitleyaward.org)

## Dear Friends,

The past six months have been very busy at the charity. Following the deadline for applications in November, our Paper Screeners Morris Gosling and Bryn Green truly outdid themselves, delivering great insight into the assessment process. Both Professors have kindly lent their conservation expertise (and considerable amounts of time) to the charity for several years, for which we are deeply grateful.


In mid-March, the Trustees were joined at the first meeting of the Judging Panel by Mark Rose, CEO of FFI, Jill Bowling, Director of Conservation at WWF-UK, Adrian Darby, Chairman of the JNCC, Franca Scuito, Consultant to Sting & Trudie Styler, and Francis Sullivan of HSBC and WWF. We would like to thank them for their wise advice in the selection of our Shortlist, which I feel is one of the strongest we have ever seen.

Your support continues to be a great endorsement of our work, and each cheque you kindly send us brings us closer to the full amount required for the Friends Award. Since our last newsletter we have also been joined by several new donors whose generosity allows WFN to continue to support great grassroots conservation around the world. Robert Maxted and his colleagues are supporting six new Associate Award Winners this year, whilst George and Natasha Duffield are sponsoring a ninth Whitley

Award for marine conservation. In January, we also celebrated a new grant from the Big Lottery Fund to benefit the Indian NGO Pragya in their groundbreaking work to increase environmental sustainability in remote Himalayan communities. With the funds passing through WFN to Pragya, we shall be responsible to the BLF for monitoring the project's progress.

We have also had changes in the roles of our staff this year. In our last newsletter, we were delighted to announce the birth of a new baby for Louisa, who has since decided to move on from the charity to take up a new career in journalism. She will be greatly missed, but happily will remain as a consultant to WFN. I am delighted to announce that Georgina Ponder, who has been with WFN since July 2004, has been promoted to become our Director. Working hard with her in the shed is Annabel Lea, our Manager and Julia Mizen, our Finance Officer.

We hope that you enjoy this quick update on the charity. We look forward to bringing over our Shortlist and to celebrating their achievements with you all at our Awards Ceremony on 10th May.



Edward Whitley

## Amanda and Liza named Chevron Conservation Winners

**C**ongratulations to Amanda Vincent and Liza Gadsby, two previous Whitley Award Winners who have both won further recognition at the 2005 Chevron Conservation Awards. They each received a US\$15,000 cash prize at a ceremony at Chevron's global HQ in California in February.

Dr. Amanda Vincent (pictured left) was the first ever Whitley Award Winner in 1994 and is Director of the international marine NGO 'Project Seahorse'. She was the first biologist to study seahorses underwater and document



their extensive commercial trade for use in traditional medicines and aquarium displays. By generating regulations for international trade and increasing the number of protected seahorse habitats around the world, Amanda's

work has been critical to ensuring the survival of wild seahorse populations.

Liza Gadsby (pictured right) won a Whitley Award in 1996 and Continuation Funding in 2003 for her work with Peter Jenkins to protect the endangered drill primate from extinction. Together they established the NGO Pandrillus in 1988 to halt the decline of the last 3,000 drills. Active in Nigeria, Cameroon and on Bioko Island in Equatorial Guinea, Pandrillus has been involved in effective habitat protection and drill research for over 15 years. Congratulations to both of them!

## Pragya wins Big Lottery Funding

**T**he Big Lottery Fund has announced a grant of £516,429 to the Indian NGO Pragya via WFN to target the needs of vulnerable communities in the Himalayan cold deserts. The new funding will allow an expansion of Pragya's work to rehabilitate wastelands and improve people's access to water, food and livestock fodder in one of the world's most fragile and drought-prone ecosystems.

Pragya has worked closely with WFN for more than 5 years and is active across all five Himalayan States of India where few other NGOs operate. Pragya Director, Gargi

Banerji, won the Gold Award in 2000 for her work to conserve and cultivate high-altitude plants of medicinal and aromatic value. The new grant sets a precedent in how WFN helps previous Winners and their associated NGOs to scale-up their work, and will build upon existing efforts to reduce the dependence of remote communities on their natural environment for survival.

Stephen Dunmore, Chief Executive of the BLF said: "In the face of global environmental issues such as deforestation, pollution and degradation of land, achieving environmental sustainability has become a huge challenge.



*In this context, the project being undertaken by WFN in partnership with Pragya in the Himalayan desert will make a major contribution. We are delighted to be able to fund this project."*