

The Harry Messel Award for Conservation Leadership

2019

Pritpal Soorae

In recognition of his more than 20 years of dedicated service to the SSC Conservation Translocation (formerly Reintroduction) Specialist Group, backstopping the work of three successive chairs of the group, advising and supporting countless reintroduction projects worldwide, and your leadership of the Global Reintroduction.

Andre Botha

In recognition of his determined leadership of vulture conservation in Africa since 2004, especially your work to highlight and combat the growing problem of illegal vulture poisoning on the continent, and co-chairing of the IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group.

Ariadne Angulo

In recognition of her strategic, focused and tireless leadership of amphibian conservation within the SSC, and your commitment to help and support amphibian conservationists throughout the world using a unique combination of dedication, integrity and good humour.

Malin Rivers

In recognition of her enthusiastic and highly successful management of the Global Tree Assessment, driving forward the IUCN Red List assessments of trees at a far greater rate than ever before; and your chairing of the IUCN SSC Red List Technical Working Group.

Laurent Tatin

In recognition for his pivotal role in developing and leading the Crau Plain Grasshopper conservation strategy in France, which has become a blueprint for insect conservation planning and a flagship example of successful conservation collaboration.

2015

Ms Elham Abtin

In recognition of her courageous leadership of crocodile conservation and scientific research in the Sistan and Baluchistan Provinces of Iran, and her participation in the SSC Crocodile Specialist Group.

IUCN Global Fungal Red List Initiative

In particular to Anders Dahlberg and Greg Mueller, in recognition of their vision to develop and lead the innovative work on the red listing of fungi, now resulting in a huge increase in the number of fungi species assessed for their extinction risk.

Ms Cathy Dean

In recognition of her passionate and committed leadership of Save The Rhino International, greatly benefitting rhinoceros conservation in Africa and Asia, and her long-term support of the SSC African Rhino Specialist Group.

Mr Quentin Luke

In recognition of his exceptional leadership of plant conservation in East Africa, and especially for founding and driving forward the SSC East African Plant Red List Authority.

Dr Goutam Narayan

In recognition of his pivotal role on leading the Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme in north-eastern India since 1995, thus saving a whole genus from extinction, and his long service to the SSC Wild Pig Specialist Group.

Dr Mijoro Rakotoarinivo

In recognition of his pioneering leadership on the conservation of palms in Madagascar, including his huge contributions to the SSC Madagascar Plant and Palm Specialist Groups.

Dr William Robichaud

In recognition of his extraordinary leadership in raising global attention for the conservation of the Saola through the SSC Saola Working Group, building a dedicated network of scientists and practitioners in Laos and Vietnam focused on saving this iconic species.

2012

Dr Viola Clausnitzer

In recognition of her leadership of Odonata Red List assessments, especially in Africa, and her chairing of the SSC Dragonfly Specialist Group.

Dr Richard Emslie

In recognition of his scientific leadership and support for rhinoceros conservation in Africa and Asia, and his long service as Scientific Officer of the SSC African Rhino Specialist Group.

Ms Sonja Fordham

In recognition of her leadership and her vision in shark conservation worldwide, and her long service as Deputy Chair of the SSC Shark Specialist Group.

Dr David Garshelis

In recognition of his leadership and vision in international bear conservation and management, his encouragement of bear conservationists worldwide, and his exceptional service as Co-Chair of the SSC Bear Specialist Group.

Dr Barbara Goettsch

In recognition of her pioneering, visionary and exemplary leadership of the SSC Global Cactus Assessment, and her support of the SSC Cactus and Succulent Specialist Group.

Dr Alexine Keuroghlian

In recognition of her innovative and energetic leadership of Peccary conservation and research in Brazil, and her valued participation in the SSC Peccary Specialist Group.

2008

Mr Craig Hilton-Taylor

In recognition of his conscientious management of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, his outstanding guardianship over the standards of the IUCN Red List process and his unstinting support to the contributing members of the IUCN SSC.

Dr Danna Leaman

IUCN SSC Plant Conservation Sub-Committee, in recognition of her inspirational role in the development of the International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP) and for ably assisting the work of the Plant Conservation Sub-Committee.

Dr Brooks Childress

Chair of the IUCN SSC Flamingo Specialist Group, in recognition of his active engagement in the challenges facing the Lesser Flamingo at Lake Natron, measurably demonstrating the power of the "One Programme" approach.

2006

Mr Robin Sharp

Chair of the European Chapter of the SSC Sustainable Use Specialist Group was awarded in recognition of his extensive contribution to the SSC's work on sustainable use. He has chaired the European Regional Group since its foundation in 1997, and it now has 140 members in 40 countries.

2004

Dr Perran Ross

SSC Crocodile Specialist Group. Dr Ross was given this award in recognition of his dynamism and dedication in creating one of the most active and successful Specialist Groups, and helping to secure the sustainable use of crocodilians.

Youth Section**Dr Patricia Medici**

Chair of the SSC Tapir Specialist Group, one of the network's most energetic and enthusiastic members was awarded for her tireless efforts in generating sustainable conservation action for the world's tapirs.