

Endangered, primarily because of the effects of habitat conversion and invasive alien species. This species was considered extinct by the 1940s but was rediscovered in 1990 in the Hellshire Hills, a tropical dry forest ecosystem in south-east Jamaica. This galvanized the local and international zoo and conservation community, resulting in a successful recovery programme.

Early surveys, conducted by the Jamaican Iguana Recovery Group, a consortium of local and international stakeholders, chaired by Jamaica's National Environment and Planning Agency, identified two communal nesting areas frequented by the relict population. Nest site monitoring in 1991–1992 found only six adult females nesting in these depressions. In 1993 a population viability analysis outlined subsequent interventions that continue today, including nest site protection, habitat and iguana monitoring, and control of invasive alien species. These activities focused on the nesting areas, expanding the iguana's core protected area to c. 2 km<sup>2</sup>. However, despite recovery efforts, depredation by invasive alien species continues, reducing natural recruitment to unsustainable numbers.

Concurrent with field activities in the Hellshire Hills is a head-start programme at the Hope Zoo in Kingston, Jamaica. Each year as the new cohort of wild iguanas hatch, a subset is transferred to the head-start facility, where they can grow to a size at which they are better able to defend themselves against invasive alien species before being returned to Hellshire.

After 30 years of effort and intensive head-start improvements in recent years, resulting in a reduced 4.5 years in captivity (7–15 years historically), the programme reintroduced the 500th individual in March 2021 and is on track to release the 1,000th individual to Hellshire by 2026. Future plans include reintroducing Jamaican rock iguanas on the Goat Islands, part of their historical range. The Goat Islands were recently saved from detrimental development and are now slated to become a sanctuary. Fundraising is underway for the first phase of the project, eradicating invasive alien species and restoring habitat.

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## Conservation Leadership Programme 2021 Team Awards announced

In April, the Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) announced the winners of its 2021 Team Awards, which will provide support for 22 teams of early-career conservationists leading critical projects on globally threatened

species. These local biodiversity champions will receive project funding worth a combined total of USD 437,405, thanks to support from Arcadia—a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin.

As part of the award, one member from each team will participate in CLP's international Conservation Leadership & Management course, which aims to bolster trainees' careers by building their professional skills and peer-to-peer networks. For the second consecutive year, the course will be held online, followed by an in-person reunion when it is safe to do so. The awardees will also benefit from long-term mentoring from experts working within the conservation sector and will join CLP's global alumni network to gain access to learning resources, grants, and other key information to further sustain their future as conservation leaders.

This year's award-winning projects will take place in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and Africa, undertaking research and conservation action for threatened species, including the black softshell turtle *Nilssonia nigricans*, red panda *Ailurus fulgens* and lion-tailed macaque *Macaca silenus* in India; blue-winged goose *Cyanochen cyanoptera* in Ethiopia; sand-dune lizard *Liolaemus multimaculatus* in Argentina; and horseshoe crab *Tachypleus tridentatus* in Indonesia. Other marine-related projects will focus on conserving coral reefs in Brazil and the last remaining population of the Ganges river dolphin *Platanista gangetica* in Nepal.

Two Conservation Leadership Awards (USD 50,000 each) were granted this year. These 2-year projects will support CLP alumni to build on their previous work and ensure long-term conservation outcomes. One project will expand its conservation work on the Togo slippery frog *Conraua derooi* from Ghana into Togo, and the other will continue conserving threatened endemic bat species in Viet Nam.

To view a full list of the funded projects, visit [conservation-leadershipprogramme.org/our-projects/latest-projects-2021](https://conservation-leadershipprogramme.org/our-projects/latest-projects-2021).

The Conservation Leadership Programme was initiated in 1985 and is a partnership between BirdLife International, Fauna & Flora International and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

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## Establishment of community-led fish conservation zones in Meghalaya and Manipur, India

In India there is no formal framework for community-based protection of freshwater ecosystems, unlike in some South-east Asian countries, such as Laos and Myanmar, where community co-managed models of freshwater fish conservation have been successfully implemented. Driven