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The St Andrews Prize for the Environment

*An extraordinary global initiative
supporting environmental innovation*



THE ST ANDREWS PRIZE
FOR THE
ENVIRONMENT



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The University of St Andrews has placed the environment at the heart of its strategy. At the centre of that commitment lies The St Andrews Prize for the Environment, a major international initiative led by the University that recognises and supports innovative and inspirational responses to environmental challenges, including the climate crisis.

The Prize has been running for 25 years, and since 2021 it has been funded through a consortium of individual donors and philanthropic foundations. We are looking to extend our donor base for 2024 and beyond, which includes the possibility of a corporate sponsorship of the prize.

- We invite support for this major international prize led by the University of St Andrews, ranked top university in the UK in the Guardian University Guide 2024 and the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024.
- More than US\$2.5 million has been awarded in prize money, with over 6,000 entries from 100 countries, and 25 prize winners to date.
- A prize of US\$100,000 is awarded to the winner each year, with runner-up prize money of \$25,000 also awarded.
- Previous prize winners have reduced human-animal conflict, promoted environmental justice, developed new solutions to reduce and eliminate waste, and championed urban regeneration.

THE PRIZE

The St Andrews Prize for the Environment celebrates people with great projects to share. Since its inception, the Prize has attracted over 6,000 entries from 100 countries. More than \$2.5 million has been awarded in prize money to more than 70 projects around the world, providing crucial support to established projects which have reduced human-animal conflict, promoted environmental justice, developed new solutions to reduce and eliminate waste, and championed urban regeneration.

The Prize's goal is to stimulate and support innovative solutions to environmental challenges across the world by helping the prize winners leverage a significant change in the reach and scalability of these proven projects. The solutions must be practical, scalable and replicable in other places, combining good science, economic reality and political acceptability.

We invite entries from individuals, multi-disciplinary teams or community groups. The entries are initially assessed by a Screening Committee, comprising University of St Andrews staff and PhD students, who draw up a shortlist for the judges' consideration. The winner is selected by a panel that includes the Professor Sir Ian Boyd FRS FRSE PRSB, and eminent external judges working in conservation and sustainability.

Successful projects must demonstrate to the judges that their ideas are replicable or scalable and must outline how they impact the communities in which they are based, both socially and economically.

The winning project receives funding of US\$ 100,000, with runner(s)-up receiving \$25,000.

TRANSFORMATIONAL IMPACT

Our innovative and inspiring finalists have transformed their communities by protecting the environment, encouraging a more sustainable society and responding to the refugee crisis. In doing so, these leaders have improved the lives of the people who live and work within those communities.

Notable winners include Conservation Through Public Health, led by Uganda's first wildlife veterinarian Dr Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, who were recognised in 2020 for their unique One Health approach to conserving the endangered mountain gorillas of Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable Park and improving health and livelihood outcomes for local communities. The following year Dr Kalema-Zikusoka received international acclaim after being appointed as the [2021 United Nations Environment Programme Champion of the Earth in Science and Innovation](#).

Discover more about the prize winners [here](#).



2023 WINNER

The calibre of entries in 2023 was exceptional with projects spanning issues such as food security, sustainable housing and plastic waste. It was however a project that is working to empower Indigenous communities to conserve and protect their rainforest territories and cultures from a growing wave of threats, including oil extraction, mining, poaching, and logging.

Alianza Ceibo are a non-profit alliance of four Indigenous nationalities of the Upper Amazon of Ecuador, Colombia and Peru. They have equipped and trained hundreds of Indigenous monitors and mappers to detect, document, and deter illegal activities, and are currently protecting nearly 600,000 hectares of forests and strengthening the capacity of 17 communities to protect the rainforest.

"We extend our sincere gratitude to the University of St Andrews for awarding us with this invaluable prize – a crucial support for the tireless efforts of Alianza Ceibo. This award pays tribute to the unwavering commitment of all those Indigenous communities across the Amazon who daily and courageously risk their lives to advance the crucial mission of protecting one of the last and most vital carbon sinks on Earth.

In a global context where we, as Indigenous peoples, receive less than 1% of all climate funding, this prize serves as a beacon, emphasizing the critical need for recognising and supporting Indigenous climate action. We appreciate the University's acknowledgment of our vital role as guardians of the Amazon, advocates for the climate and, ultimately, stewards of life itself"

Alicia Salazar, Co-founder of Alianza Ceibo





HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can transform lives in communities around the world by becoming one of our new consortium partners in The St Andrews Prize for the Environment. Your commitment will enable us to embark on the next phase of the Prize's story, providing vital funding for groundbreaking projects and extending their impact to a wider audience.

We must now secure funding of £200,000 per year to ensure continuity of the Prize competition in the years ahead. This sum comprises project screening; prize money; the annual awards seminar and dinner; management of the programme; and funding for student visits to projects.

We invite you to consider joining our growing consortium of supporters who have committed to the Prize's future and who are helping us to open up opportunities for projects and communities alike. A range of lead sponsor and consortium sponsor opportunities is available and we would be pleased to discuss these with you further.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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